



#### JUDICIAL YEAR OPENS

According to Sam Hou Fai, local courts have never received more attention from all sectors of society than last year

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#### BLOCKCHAIN-BACKED CASINO CLUB

Macau-based company De Club is looking to raise USD1 billion in an initial coin offering (ICO)

P3 GAMING



#### LUSOFONIA FESTIVAL CLOSES WITH PRAISES

P7 MDT REPORT

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#### WORLD BRIEFS



**TAIWAN** At least 22 people were killed and 171 others injured yesterday when one of Taiwan's newer, faster trains derailed on a curve along a popular weekend route, officials said. The train was carrying more than 366 passengers from a suburb of Taipei in the north to Taitung, a city on Taiwan's southeast coast, when it went off the tracks.

**CHINA** Two people died and 18 were trapped in a coal mine in eastern China yesterday after a rock burst destroyed part of a mining tunnel, state broadcaster China Central Television reported.

**PHILIPPINES** Gunmen killed nine members of a farmers' group who occupied part of a privately owned sugarcane plantation in a central Philippine province, police said yesterday. [More on p12](#)



**INDIA-PAKISTAN** Three local rebels were killed in a gunbattle with Indian government forces in disputed Kashmir yesterday, and six civilians were killed in an explosion at the site after the fighting was over, officials and residents said.

**AFGHANISTAN** Parliamentary elections in Afghanistan have entered a second day following violence and chaos that caused delays and interruptions on the first day of polling. [More on p12](#)

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#### LIAISON OFFICE

## China's top Macau official found dead

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## DSAT working on traffic plan to cope with new bridge

P4





## PJ cracks down on fraudulent mobile base station

A fraudulent mobile base station which was sending out messages to people near the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's Macau entrance, has been uncovered by the Judiciary Police (PJ). Three local male residents, aged 19, 20 and 21, have been arrested. In total, four different operational sites were cracked down on and 15 sets of equipment were seized. The group is believed to have been operating for a minimum of five months. Two suspects claimed they were paid RMB10,000 and RMB12,000 for the job. The PJ is still looking for the mastermind.

## Transport, storage sector records MOP22.3 billion revenue in 2017

Macau's transport and storage sector revenue grew by 11.7 percent year-on-year to MOP22.33 billion (approx. USD2.77 billion) in 2017, the SAR's statistics service said on Saturday. The latest report from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) showed that the increase was mainly generated by passenger transport (MOP9.58 billion) and services rendered (MOP8.15 billion), up by 7.9 percent and 20.3 percent respectively. The number of establishments in the sector increased by 101 year-on-year to 3,054. The number of persons engaged went up by 9.7 percent to 19,489, while those in land transport and auxiliary transport activities rose by 19.1 percent to 8,120 and 6.1 percent to 7,957 respectively.

## 2017/18 JUDICIAL YEAR

# Courts drew highest public attention, Sam Hou Fai says

Julie Zhu

**T**he president of the Court of Final Appeal, Sam Hou Fai, stressed that the past judicial year (2017/18) was likely to become the judicial year which has received the most attention from all sectors of society and media since the handover, in terms of the operations of judicial organs and of judicial decisions.

Sam made these remarks on Friday during a speech at the ceremony marking the start of the 2018/19 judicial year.

As Sam explained, some of the cases that went to court "did not only have a long history, but also involved huge and complex interests or were even related to the interests of thousands of citizens and corporate legal persons, [and] chose to resort to the judicial proceedings and seek judicial relief."

Sam also pointed out that in recent years, there have been some disturbing phenomena surrounding trials of certain cases. For instance, "some people have deviated from the basic requirements of fairness and justice, have accused judges of mechanical justice, and even



Sam Hou Fai

openly asked the main judicial officer of the relevant cases to adjust the mainstream judicial opinions in order to accommodate different interests." Others have tried to impact the police system regarding the relationship of the main organ of state power stipulated in the Basic Law through legal proceedings or trials.

Sam also put forward requirements for the integrity of judicial personnel. He hoped that the judges and judicial assistants of the courts at all levels could

bear in mind that honesty is the foundation of fair justice.

According to the president of the Court of Final Appeal, the three levels of the courts registered a total of 21,765 cases, a decrease of 2,747 cases from the previous judicial year, representing a drop of 11.21 percent.

However, the total number of cases remained high, as it has now exceeded 20,000 cases for four consecutive years.

The total number of concluded cases exceeded the number of cases registered by the courts for the first time, with 23,426 cases concluded in total, 557 more than in the previous judicial year.

Additionally, 11,954 cases remained unresolved, 1,662 fewer than in the previous judicial year.

During a speech at the opening of the judicial year, Chief Executive Chui Sai On pledged the government would strive to ensure the creation of conditions to allow dedicated infrastructure to support judicial institutions when formulating overall plans for the city's new urban reclamation areas next year.

Additionally, the CE pledged

the Macau government's full support in enhancing operations of the city's judicial system, in a bid to improve the efficiency of the judiciary and of the city's prosecutors.

Chui said the government would strive to optimize Macau's legal system according to the specific needs of the judicial system.

According to Chui, an example of the government's support was an amendment to the Judicial Organization Framework Law – based on opinions gathered from the judiciary – which had been submitted for readings at the Legislative Assembly.

"Macau courts and the Public Prosecutions Office were respectively vested – by the Basic Law – with the ability to exercise their various powers independently and free from any interference," Chui stressed in his speech.

"The Government has, as always, paid great attention to training a greater number of judicial professionals and building more facilities to cope with development of the judicial system."

Approximately 300 officials and guests attended the event.

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### CAUSES OF PUPPY SNEEZING

**P**UPPY sneezing may be a symptom of allergies or a respiratory infection. Usually sneezing is not a serious medical condition, and can be treated or go away without medication. Make sure you notice any additional symptoms, so as to be able to pinpoint the real cause behind the sneezing.

#### 1. Respiratory diseases

Dogs can get respiratory illnesses. Colds and sinus infections are common in puppies. Parainfluenza and the Adenovirus are frequent causes of sneezing in puppies.

A respiratory infection may also cause other symptoms such as:

- Swollen eyes
- Inflamed lymphatic glands
- Mucus in excess
- Coughing
- Breathing difficulties
- Lethargy

Puppies that have been in contact with a shelter environment may often display kennel cough syndrome, which will be accompanied by symptoms such as sneezing.

If the dog has a bacterial, viral or fungal infec-

tion of the nose, sneezing is common. These infections may become chronic, if you fail to treat them.

#### 2. Foreign bodies

If your puppy has a foreign object stuck in the nasal cavity, he may sneeze frequently, as he will try to get the object out of his nose. The puppy may sneeze blood if the object has injured his nasal cavity or the pharynx.

However, the object may block the nasal cavity, so you need to go to the vet immediately.

The vet can extract the foreign object. If the object is too large, surgery may be needed. Anti-inflammatory medication may be prescribed, and the puppy is likely to have a fast recovery.

#### 3. Allergies

Puppies can be allergic to different environmental factors, including:

- Pollens
- Dust
- Grains
- Mold
- Smoke
- Inhaled fibers

#### • Grass

Household products or chemicals

Sneezing occurs as a natural response of the body trying to eliminate the source of irritation from the nose or pharynx.

Other symptoms will include nasal discharge, skin irritations, itchiness and hair loss. Some allergies are seasonal, depending on the source.

Dogs typically develop allergies after the age of 2, but there are cases of puppies that are allergic.

Sneezing caused by allergies can be treated by administering medication. The treatment will consist of antihistamines, steroids or allergy shots.

#### 4. Tooth infection

Tooth infections may cause frequent sneezing in puppies. Check your puppy's mouth for foul odor, swollen gums or pus pockets.

Tooth infections are rare in puppies, but can be present.

#### 5. Tumors

Tumors can also cause sneezing. However, puppies are very unlikely to have tumors at such a young age.

If your dog sneezes often and he eliminates blood, take him to the vet to rule out tumors. Some x-rays of the sinuses will be needed.



Remember that a bleeding nose is always a reason for concern in puppies.

A puppy sneezing on occasion is normal, but if the sneezing is frequent, you need to detect the cause.

Some puppy breeds with flat noses will sneeze more frequently, due to the anatomy of the nose.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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## GAMING

# Local firm wants to build blockchain-backed casino club

Daniel Beittler

**M**ACAU-BASED company De Club is looking to raise USD1 billion in an initial coin offering (ICO) to build a casino club backed by blockchain technology and a cryptocurrency token known as DEC.

Founded by Kennis Wong, former CEO of Jimei Group, De Club describes itself as a "casino management veteran with global experience," providing gambling management and technology services for licensed casinos. Partnering with Malta-based Wide Rich Global Company Ltd., De Club is planning to issue 10 billion DEC tokens through the ICO, which will launch for pre-sale in mid-November.

The firm wants to have the first prototype for the blockchain system ready for launch at the beginning of next year.

DEC, a cash-backed token, will be able to be converted into various fiat currencies as well



as some cryptocurrencies. The company wants it to form the backbone of "a global consensus and alliance of casinos so as to securely share all casino client-centric and lending-related data through a decentralized network."

According to a white paper authored by De Club, the company intends to use about one-third of the USD1 billion it hopes to raise from the ICO to apply for a Macau junket promoter license, and acquire land-based casinos

in Macau and other jurisdictions around the world, ranging from the Caribbean to East Asia.

Specifically, some 15 percent of the USD1 billion will be reserved for land-based casino buyouts in Macau, according to the white paper, along with smaller shares reserved for similar buyouts in locations that might include Curaçao, Busan, Manila and Singapore.

The company then hopes to extend its blockchain technology club to land-based and digital

casinos other than those acquired by De Club.

De Club also wants to develop a DEC app that will allow holders of the tokens to host games via an online platform. It says it wants to work closely with regulators, such as the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau and PAGCOR of the Philippines, to abide by local laws on the matter.

"From a technical point of view, everyone can become a casino dealer and host one's own game, but due to legal and regulatory barriers, it is not easy for them to do it," notes De Club in the white paper. "Under the premise of complying with laws and regulations, we will design a dedicated mechanism so that DEC holders can crowdfund through smart contracts and earn money from these regulated and licensed table games as hosts."

De Club's proposal is not the first time an investor has sought to connect the gambling industry with cryptocurrencies and blockchain technology.

Analysts say that blockchain technology, which relies on a decentralized and public digital ledger to record transactions, can offer numerous benefits to the reputedly shady casino industry - among them increased privacy and quicker, more reliable payments. A decentralized, public ledger makes it more difficult for fraudsters to alter or delete transactions, and as personal information is not linked to specific transactions, holders of cryptocurrencies can benefit from increased anonymity.

Last year, Macau Dragon Corp. and Thailand-based partner Wi Holding Company announced plans to develop a \$300 million floating casino off Macau's shoreline that would exchange cryptocurrency coins for gaming chips.

As of yet, there is no indication that Macau regulatory authorities will permit such a project.

In a statement issued at the start of the year, the Monetary Authority of Macao says it disapproves of cryptocurrencies and does not allow actors in the financial services industry "to participate in or provide, directly or indirectly, any financial services in relation to such trading." The comment was made as news broke that Macau might have the conditions to become a regional hub for cryptocurrencies.

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## HK-Macau shuttle bus adult fare set at HKD65 and HKD70

The adult fare for the Hong Kong-Macau bus route across the soon-to-be inaugurated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge is to be HKD65 during daytime and HKD70 during nighttime. Half-fare concessions are offered to children, and disabled and elderly passengers, according to Hong Kong's deputy commissioner for Transport. The shuttle bus will be the key transport mode linking the three ports, Hong Kong-Zhuhai and Hong Kong-Macau. It operates 24 hours daily and passengers can buy tickets in the departure hall or through its website in advance. The facilities offering boundary crossing services for passengers and vehicles travelling between Macau and Hong Kong will be open 24 hours a day once the bridge is open. The headway will be maintained at an interval of less than five minutes during peak hours, 15 minutes during off-peak hours and 15 to 30 minutes at night (midnight to 6 a.m.). The Macau government will introduce two new bus routes once the bridge is launched. Route 101X links the HKZMB Macau port to Macau Peninsula, and 102X links the HKZMB Macau port to Taipa. Route 101X will be available 24 hours a day, and the headway will be maintained at an interval of eight to 30 minutes. Route 102X will be available from 7 a.m. to 11 p.m., and the headway will be maintained at an interval of 12 to 20 minutes.

# DSAT working on traffic plan following HKZMB opening

**T**HE Transport Bureau has announced that it aims to implement a traffic plan within 120 days of tomorrow's opening of the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge (HKZMB).

In a press conference on Friday, the DSAT explained that the plan aims to improve traffic conditions in the vicinity of Rotunda da Amizade, which is the crux of the road network connecting to the bridge. Linking roads between Rotunda da Amizade, the reclamation area Zone A on Macau Peninsula and the Macau boundary crossing area will be open in order to serve traffic using the bridge.

DSAT director Lam Hin San said, "The traffic in the surrounding area will also face more pressure during the construction. The preliminary idea is to construct a two-way flyover to connect the Avenida do Nordeste and reclamation Zone A."

"There will also be a flyover from Avenida do Nordeste to [the road connecting to the] Friendship Bridge, which will relieve the pressure on the Friendship Bridge in the future," he added, as cited in a TDM report.

He then warned that this plan



The Macau frontier inspection building of the HKZMB Bridge

would cause some obstruction of views of the Oriental Pearl monument.

According to Lam, the bureau will also attempt to utilize the land plot of the now-defunct residential property Pearl Horizon to alleviate stress on the road network.

Meanwhile, two bus routes connecting the checkpoint, Macau Peninsula and Taipa will also be available.

One of the routes, 101X, which will connect Macau and the reclaimed area, will operate 24 hours a day. Meanwhile bus route 102X will run from 7 a.m. to 10 p.m. between Taipa and the reclaimed land. The Macau and Hong Kong checkpoints will be open 24 hours a day, while the Zhuhai/Macau

checkpoint will initially only operate between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m.

During that time, Macau travelers bound for Zhuhai (and vice-versa) can instead use the Zhuhai-Macau boundary point vehicle clearance channels or the Hong Kong-Macau boundary crossing point.

Regarding immigration processing, residents will only have their documentation checked once as customs clearance between Macau and Zhuhai will be carried out on a "Joint Inspection and One-time Release" principle, in order to make the process efficient for travelers. Under the new inspection system, travelers will be required to pass border control only once to complete departure and arrival formalities, via either the

automatic, semi-automatic or manned channels, depending on their identification documents.

Checkpoint shuttles will be available to move people between boundary checkpoints. Furthermore, government spokesperson Victor Chan noted that the bridge's inauguration ceremony will take place 9 a.m. tomorrow at the Zhuhai border checkpoint, with operations commencing Wednesday.

"The [opening] of the bridge will foster the flow of people, goods and capital between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau. It will certainly have an important influence in aspects such as Macau's economic development and the territory's participation in regional co-operation," said Chan.

The two HKZMB public car parks at the SAR's boundary crossing area are located respectively at the east and west ends of the artificial island serving the checkpoint. The east car park has a capacity of 3,000 private vehicles and the west one has room for 3,089 private vehicles and 2,054 motorcycles.

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, will attend the opening ceremony of the HKZMB, to be held in Zhuhai at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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# Macau liaison office head falls to death in apparent suicide

**T**HE head of Beijing's liaison office in Macau has died after a fall in his home, in what central authorities yesterday implied was a depression-related suicide.

The 59-year-old Zheng Xiaosong, who replaced Wang Zhi-min as the head of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau SAR about one year ago, was said to have been "suffering from depression," according to a statement from the Beijing-based Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO).

The office said that Zheng "died on Saturday from a fall from his Macau residence [...] because he suffered from depression." The statement did not elaborate further on the circumstances surrounding the official's death, but did show that Zheng met with the head of a think tank the day before his death.

Officials in both Macau and Hong Kong sent their condolences to Zheng's family over the weekend, including Chief



Zheng Xiaosong

Executive Chui Sai On, who issued a statement to express his deep regret.

"It was with deep consternation that I received word of the director's death," wrote Chui in the statement. "On behalf of the Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region, I offer the deepest regret and our heartfelt condolences to your family."

According to the South China Morning Post, Hong Kong's top official, Carrie Lam, said she met Zheng years earlier when he served in a previous post in Fujian province. He was previously the vice governor of the province, before being appointed liaison office head just last year.

His death comes as the long-anticipated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-

Macau Bridge opens tomorrow and senior officials from the mainland – possibly including Chinese President Xi Jinping – travel to neighboring Zhuhai.

It is not yet known whether local police authorities deem the death suspicious, nor whether they intend to investigate.

Professor Lau Siu-kai, who sits on think tank the Chinese Association of Hong Kong and Macao Studies, told the SCMP that he doesn't think the circumstances of Zheng's death are suspicious.

"I don't think there is anything suspicious," he said, but added that it might dampen the celebratory mood of tomorrow's bridge inauguration.

In October 2017, anti-corruption authorities on the mainland placed Li Gang, former head of the Macau liaison office, on year-long probation, citing "severe violations" of party discipline. Li had been suddenly transferred back to Beijing in 2016. He was replaced as liaison office head by Wang Zhi-min.

## Kiang Wu stops receiving phone call appointments

Starting from November, the Kiang Wu Hospital will no longer accept appointments made by phone call, the hospital announced. At the beginning of the year, Kiang Wu started an online appointment service. The hospital said that this service received positive feedback from the public and that it has also helped to reduce the number of appointments made by telephone. The online service further solved the longstanding problem in the hospital regarding appointment difficulties. After canceling phone call appointments, Kiang Wu will arrange for specific helpers at the hospital to instruct the public on how to make an online appointment.

## Second batch of special taxis starts operations in Q3

A second batch of 100 special taxis will be put into operation, at the earliest, in the third quarter of 2019, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced last week. The DSAT also announced the results of the tender for the operation of 200 radio taxis. In total, five companies submitted their tenders to the DSAT in order to obtain a license. All these vehicles, which are required to be electric, will start their service by 2020. The DSAT will consider whether more special taxis are needed based on market demand.

AD



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# Portuguese Foreign Affairs Minister tours Macau to strengthen ties

**T**HE Minister of Foreign Affairs of Portugal, Augusto Santos Silva, toured Macau over the weekend and met with several local representatives, including Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On as well as Portuguese representatives in the region and other community representatives.

During his visit the Portuguese official highlighted the constant development and furthering of relations between Portugal, China and Macau.

When questioned by TDM Radio during his visit to the 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (MIF) on Saturday, Santos Silva commented on the lack of Portuguese representatives in the Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation Between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries (Forum Macao). "We have at the moment the Deputy Secretary General of the Forum (Rodrigo Brum), which represents the Portuguese-speaking countries.



Augusto Santos Silva speaks during an event at the Portuguese consul residence

He is Portuguese," Santos Silva said, noting that the Portuguese Trade and Investment Agency (AICEP) delegate in Macau, Maria João Bonifácio, "also works very closely with the Fo-

rum and we are progressing and consolidating, also in [regards] to the human resources need." During his visit, the minister also announced that President of Portugal Marcelo Rebelo de

Sousa is planning a trip to China and Macau "soon," although he declined to provide a more concrete date for said visit. Santos Silva also announced five projects between Portugal

and Macau related to consumer law, the creation of a joint fund to finance scientific and technological projects, as well as the furthering of Portuguese companies' presence in the region and the continuation of tertiary education exchange relations.

Santos Silva co-chaired the fifth meeting of the Macau-Portugal Joint Committee, which was held Saturday morning at Government Headquarters. During the meeting, Chui said that the local government would encourage more young business people from Macau to explore opportunities in Portugal regarding innovation and entrepreneurship.

Regarding the promotion of the Portuguese language, it was said that Macau has the capabilities and experience to become the best training base in Asia for Portuguese language skills. Macau authorities pledged to establish more courses and academic entities focusing on the Portuguese language. **RM**

## Hong Kong media urged to work against 'external forces'

**C**HINESE officials urged Hong Kong media to help prevent "external forces" from challenging Beijing's authority, in the latest sign that the Communist Party was laying the ground for a tough new security law.

Hong Kong media executives received the warning during a visit to Beijing in the wake of the city's decision not to renew the visa of a Financial Times editor who hosted a Foreign Correspondents' Club speech by a pro-independence activist.

Huang Kunming, the party's propaganda minister and a member of the 25-seat Politburo, said last week that he hoped the media would help "prevent external forces from turning the city into a base for interfering with the mainland." The comments were relayed by Siu Sai-wo, a Hong Kong newspaper publisher who led the media delegation to the Chinese capital.

Zhang Xiaoming, the director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, defended the comments during a subsequent meeting Thursday, Siu said. "It is nothing unusual for state leaders to send out kind reminders that Hong Kong should not be used as an anti-China and anti-Communist



Party base," Siu cited Zhang as saying.

The comments highlighted the growing pressure on Hong Kong's media in the Beijing government's widening campaign to limit dissent in the former British colony.

While the pro-Beijing officials have long complained about the influence of "external forces" - presumably U.S. and U.K. organizations - the warnings carry greater weight after the city's rare decision not to renew Financial Times journalist Victor Mallet's work visa.

Underscoring such concerns was a controversy over Siu's

account of Huang's remarks. The newspaper executive initially said Huang had warned the media against becoming a base itself for foreign interference, only to later retract and revise the comment. The Hong Kong Journalists Association released a statement Wednesday demanding participants explain what Huang had said.

Still, the remarks fanned concerns that President Xi Jinping intends to use the controversy to pressure Hong Kong to enact security legislation that could put new limits on freedom of speech guaranteed before the city's return to China.

The legislation, known as Article 23, requires the administration to enact laws that "prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the region."

In his meeting with media executives, Zhang noted Hong Kong's failure to pass Article 23, as required by the city's Basic Law. He also expressed support for Hong Kong's visa decision, which the city has so far declined to explain.

"They are laying the framework for Article 23," said Willy Lam, an adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

The city's leader Carrie Lam last week said she wants "to create a favorable social environment" before advancing the legislation. The government abandoned plans to enact the laws in 2003 after half a million people took to the streets in protest.

Beijing and the Hong Kong administration have invoked the specter of foreign interference in attempts to undercut local opposition before. During mass pro-democracy protests in 2014, then-Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying said without producing evidence he was convinced foreign forces had been meddling in the city's politics. **Bloomberg**

### CRIME

## Local resident arrested for arson

**A** local female resident has been arrested on suspicion of arson, according to the Judiciary Police (PJ).

The incident occurred on October 12. The suspect is a Thai Macau resident aged 41 years old, who was once a croupier.

The incident took place in a residential house located in Rua de Miguel Aires. Five people inside the house were taken to hospital due to distress caused by the fire.

The house belongs to the suspect's former superior.

According to the PJ, the suspect was moved from her dealer position to the catering department within her company. Unhappy with the change, and having also been involved in unpleasant situations with her superior at the catering department, she went to his residence to set it on fire.

The suspect bought two bottles of alcohol from a supermarket near the house and one lighter. Afterwards, she lingered for about 10 minutes.

The fire burnt more than 10 umbrellas. The suspect denied the accusations, declaring she had only been drinking alcohol in front of the house.

However, the PJ believes that there is strong evidence to suggest that the suspect had a plan to commit to the crime.



# Food, fun and Portuguese language return to Taipa Houses–Museum

Renato Marques

**H**ELD for the 21st time, the Lusofonia Festival this year brought once more a lot of food, entertainment and the Portuguese language to the Taipa Houses–Museum.

The event, which ran for three days over the weekend, came to a close yesterday evening with participants and visitors agreeing unanimously that it had been successful.

Although it was not possible to accurately quantify the number of visitors, several of the participants held the impression that the number of visitors this year was at least identical to the previous edition, with some noting that the biggest crowds of the three-day festival were seen on Saturday. This year the festival was expanded to cover the area from the Houses–Museum to the upper level of Carmo area and Garden, allowing for a better dispersion of people and leading to a more comfortable stay, as one of the vendors noted. “This up here [by the garden] allows people to stay longer, sit, relax, talk...” he said, adding that it is also more comfortable for meals and snacks, “which of course benefits business.”

In the same area, another booth vendor remarked to the Times, “the sales on Saturday almost tripled that on Friday.” The vendor said that on Saturday night there were many people in the evening queuing up for some time to buy



vouchers for hot meals. “Today many people came to buy tickets earlier, in advance,” she said.

Visiting the area in the company of her parents was also Vicky, a 25-year-old Hong Kong resident. She told the Times that she had not been aware of the festival, but had just decided to show the area to the parents who had never visited it when they stumbled across it. “It’s really different; this [place] is usually dead,” she said remarking on the crowds and festivities in the area. Questioned on the event and after being informed that it would be held only for the weekend, Vicky said, “Oh, it’s only for the weekend. Well maybe they should keep some [of the booths] permanently. I think it’s really more lively like this.”

Also visiting the area was Johna, a non-resident worker from the Philippines. To the Times she said it was the second or third time she has attended the event.

Like the other participants, Johna said, “I came last night and today [returned] with my friend. There were a lot more people last night,” she said, referring in the latter mention to Saturday.

**■ Alexis Tam said during this year’s festival that the 2019 edition might again be held for four days**

Questioned on her opinion about the event she said, “It’s nice. It’s a good gathering place. [An opportunity] to see new things and meet new people.”

The main path of the festival housed many of the booths represented Portuguese-s-



peaking countries, including those representing the Indian territories of Goa, Daman and Diu, which presented a very refreshing and modern look.

On the same stretch, the booth representing Portugal (Casa de Portugal Association) and another from the Brazilian Association, depicted a ship and a traditional Brazilian “boteco” (pub) respectively. Both attracted many visitors while the Times visited, with the first offering a free tasting of Portuguese cheese and chorizo and the second offering to visitors several Brazilian delicacies, from sweet “brigadeiro” to the famous “caipirinha.”

A different project was staged at the Mozambique Association booth. The association joined hands with the project “Dress a Girl Around the World Macau”, which aims to provide at least one dress for every underprivileged and vulnerable girl across the most

deprived countries.

The project is led in Macau by Ana Cristina Vilas, who organized during the Lusofonia Festival a catwalk dresses made with a traditional Mozambique fabric – capulana. To the Times, Vilas also noted the strong turnout although, in her opinion, last year’s edition might have seen bigger crowds, especially on Saturday. Still, she said she was pleased with the event.

This year the festival returned to its previous form of being a three-day event after the last edition had been extended to four days. Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said during this year’s festival that the 2019 edition might again be held for four days; an idea that garnered a positive reaction among association representatives even as it raised concerns regarding budgeting and resources.

## MIF highlights forums promoting Greater Bay opportunities

**T**HE “23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair” (MIF) and the “2018 Portuguese Speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macao)” (2018 PLPEX) concluded on Saturday.

According to a statement issued by the organizers during the three-day events, a total of 75 agreements were signed in the Signing Centre, covering co-operation between governments and associations, MICE, cross-border e-commerce, tourism, cultural and creative industries, environmental protection technologies, talent development, research into healthcare big data, and

product manufacturing, promotion and agency. In addition, over 400 matching sessions were held in the Business Matching Area.

MIF featured a series of activities such as the “Forum of Excellence in Achievement of World Chinese Youth Entrepreneurs,” the “New Patterns and Challenges of Leadership,” and the “Inspection Tour of Representatives of Chinese Entrepreneurs to the Greater Bay Area.”

Themed sessions looked into the potential influence of the upcoming Outline Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and the Hong Kong-

Zhuhai-Macau Bridge on the future development of the Greater Bay Area.

The forum also encouraged Chinese entrepreneurs to integrate their business development with the growth and the future of the Greater Bay Area.

This year’s forum was joined by over 1,500 representatives of Chinese entrepreneurs from 38 countries and regions worldwide. Meanwhile, the 4th Young Entrepreneurs Forum of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries attracted over 300 participants.

At the forum, Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac said that the collaborations throu-

gh the platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries were deepening, and the implementation of the Outline Plan for the Development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area was expected shortly.

Thus this year’s “Young Entrepreneurs Forum of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries” focused on the “co-operation and development of featured finance in the business sector in China and Portuguese-speaking countries” and “advantages and opportunities of Portuguese-speaking countries and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.”



Meanwhile, executive director of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute, Sam Lei, said that the bureau will provide more assistance to deepen the co-operation between Congjiang county and Macau, for example using other MICE (meetings, incen-

tives, conferences and exhibitions) platforms in Macau to promote investment in Congjiang county, as well as by organizing for relevant companies to visit Congjiang county, especially those engaged in agricultural products, tourism, traditional Chinese medicine and souvenirs.



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#### The Manhattan, Unit D, Mid - High Floor - Taipa

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Rate: HKD 6,941

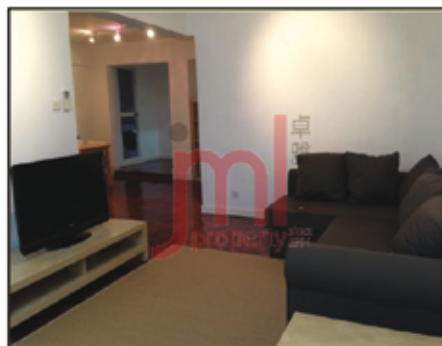
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# Adelsons add USD25m to their midterm campaign spending

John McCormick, Bill Allison

**B**ILLIONAIRE casino owner Sheldon Adelson and his wife, Miriam, delivered another USD25 million to help Republicans try to hold control of the U.S. Senate in the Nov. 6 election, adding to the more than \$87 million they previously gave to bolster the GOP's midterm campaign.

The Las Vegas Sands Corp. chief executive officer and his wife were among the big-dollar donors who lavished tens of millions on political committees during September ahead of the first national elections of Donald Trump's presidency.

The couple's latest contribution was to the Senate Leadership Fund, a super political action committee affiliated with Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, Federal Election Commission filings show.

They have already surpassed the \$82.5 million they gave to conservative causes and candidates in the 2015-16 election cycle, according to the Center for Responsive Politics. For that cycle, the couple ranked second in the U.S. for individual donors, behind liberal billionaire Tom Steyer.

The national parties and some of the super PACs spending most heavily on the campaign are required to file information with the FEC on their September fundraising and spending by midnight Saturday. Some groups filed well ahead of that deadline.

The two parties and their allies are furiously raising and spending money as the 2018 campaign for control of Congress enters its final stage. Democrats are threatening to overturn the Republican majority in the House, while Republicans are positioning to hold control of the Senate. The election will determine whether Trump can continue to push his agenda or be challenged by congressional investigations during



the second half of his first term.

Against that backdrop, political organizations shored up their bank balances for dozens of House and Senate races thought to be competitive.

Other top donors to the Senate Leadership Fund included Andrew Beal, a Texas banker and real estate investor who contributed \$1 million during September. Billionaire Robert Rowling and his company, TRT Holdings Inc., each gave \$1 million.

The House Majority PAC, which backs Democratic candidates, reported raising \$14.9 million during September. It spent \$12.5 million and started October with \$34.6 million.

Billionaire James Simons, the founder of hedge-fund company Renaissance Technologies LLC, gave \$2.7 million to the group. Other top donors included the daughters of the late Melvin Simon, the billionaire shopping mall and real estate developer. Deborah Simon and Cynthia Simon-Skjodt each contributed \$1 million. Hollywood mogul David Geffen gave \$500,000.

Simons also gave \$2 million to the Senate Majority PAC, which backs Democrats. The group raised \$17.7 million during the month and started October with \$38.9 million in the bank after spending \$8 million in September. Facebook co-founder Dustin Moskovitz gave \$1 million.

Marsha Laufer, a speech pathologist and the wife of Henry Laufer, who is a director of Renaissance Technologies, also gave \$1 million.

Former New York Mayor Michael R. Bloomberg gave \$1.5 million to the super-PAC arm of Planned Parenthood. Bloomberg is the founder and majority owner of Bloomberg LP, the parent company of Bloomberg News. He has pledged to give millions of dollars in 2018 to help Democrats retake control of the U.S. House and told the New York Times that he's considering a campaign for president as a Democrat.

Jennifer Allan Soros, the daughter-in-law of billionaire George Soros, gave \$400,000 to Planned Parenthood Votes, which raised \$3.9 million in September and ended the month with \$7.1 million cash on hand. It spent \$2 million.

The Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, which supports the party's House candidates, out-raised and outspent its Republican counterpart for the seventh straight month. The DCCC brought in \$22.2 million, spent \$61.3 million and started October with \$30.7 million. The National Republican Congressional Committee started the month with more cash in the bank, at \$44 million, but raised only \$12.5 million and spent \$33.1 million.

The National Republican Senatorial Committee brought in \$23.4 million, spent \$19.5 million and started October with \$15.6 million in the bank. The committee also received \$12 million in new lines of credit after restructuring loans taken out from the Chain Bridge Bank, a Virginia-based financial institution that services Republican committees.

The Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee raised \$10.6 million, spent \$20.7 million, and started October with \$22.4 million in the bank. **Bloomberg**

## Euro may take lower path into ECB as Draghi to maintain rhetoric

**T**HE euro could revisit its year-to-date low as persistent political risks may lead Mario Draghi to refrain this week from painting a rosier picture for the bloc's economy.

Market dynamics have shifted only slightly since the European Central Bank's last meeting, yet not in a supportive way for the common currency. Data may be suggesting the forecasts for growth are broadly on track with the Governing Council's projections, but on the other hand subdued inflation, early signs of contagion in peripheral bonds, deadlocked Brexit negotiations and a hawkish Federal Reserve could mean the euro could test its \$1.1301 mid-August low.

Draghi said he sees a "relatively vigorous" pickup in underlying euro-area inflation following the September monetary policy decision and while wage pressure is building, the pass-through to prices is yet to be seen. At a time when the market looks behind the curve when it comes to additional U.S. tightening, there may be little room for the ECB president to downplay monetary policy divergence projections at the next gathering on Oct. 25.

Price action in the spot market this month showed that the euro could benefit from a Brexit resolution. U.K. and EU officials keep kicking the can down the road however as obstacles remain, with focus now turning to a December EU summit, as volatility shows. European Council President Donald Tusk and European Commission President Jean-

Claude Juncker present conclusions from the Oct. 18-19 summit to the EU Parliament this week, with the bar high for a positive surprise.

For the short-term, investors are looking closely at the performance of euro-area peripheral bonds as the rift between Italy and the EU widens. Italy's 10-year yield spread over Germany touched the highest in more than five years following a letter from the European Commission to Rome that said its spending plans were excessive. While resilience was the name of the game initially, Spanish bonds led the widening versus bunds on Thursday and the 10-year Portugal yield rose by 8 basis points Friday to 2.11 percent, highest since May.

The euro hit \$1.1433 on Friday, flirting with a two-month low. Bloomberg's fear-greed indicator shows bears are in firm control of price action, while a crossover in short-term moving averages suggests the latest rally for the dollar has legs to follow.

Leveraged names may be short the euro already, yet model names are seen selling technical breaks, according to two traders in Europe, who asked not to be identified because they are not authorized to speak publicly. As the market looks short gamma below \$1.1400, further weakness for the common currency could mean traders will need to chase the market lower. As long as the euro stays below its 55-daily moving average, currently at \$1.1579, bulls will be kept on their toes. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SAM SMITH PERFORMS AT MGM



Sam Smith performed two concerts at the MGM Theater of MGM Cotai on Friday and Saturday night, as part of his "The Thrill of it All" tour to nine

cities across Asia.

Smith sang his popular hits "I'm Not the Only One," "Too Good at Goodbyes," "Lay Me Down," his Grammy Award

-winning song "Stay With Me," an acoustic version of "Latch," the James Bond "Spectre" theme song "Writing's on the Wall," "Restart" and "I Sing Because I'm Happy."

"We were thrilled to have Sam Smith choose to perform in our new MGM Theater at MGM Cotai," said Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China. "He has masterfully delivered two powerful performances that were so emotional and uplifting, he moved everyone in the theater."

Since the release of "The Thrill of it All" in November last year, the album has hit the top of the UK Albums Chart and the US Billboard 200.

### SANDS RESORTS MACAO LAUNCHES FASHION WEEK



Sands Resorts Macao has launched the second Sands Macao Fashion Week (SMFW18) with an exclusive gala event for 220 guests, featuring the Emporio Armani Fall/Winter 2018 collection.

SMFW18's headline brand, Emporio Armani, in colla-

boration with Rainbow Group, presented an exhilarating full-scale trunk show featuring looks from the label's "see now, buy now" ready-to-wear collections.

Held from Oct. 18 to 24, SMFW18 will showcase the many leading luxury and lifestyle

brands at Sands Shoppes Macao through fashion parades and other special events.

The first "Walk on Water" show, which took place at Shoppes at Venetian on a catwalk across the Grand Canal itself on Oct. 19, featured the debut 2019 Spring/Summer collection from talented local Macao designer Nuno Lopes. This was followed by a series of runway shows at Shoppes at Parisian's Avenue Champs-Élysées and Shoppes at Venetian's Grand Canal.

The closing show, hosted by the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Center, will pay homage to more local designers, with ten Macau fashion brands presenting innovative new collections.





A tourist posing before the Baishui Glacier No.1 atop of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain



A couple posing for photographs at the Valley of the Blue Moon glacial lake

## ENVIRONMENT

# Melting glacier draws tourists, climate worries

Sam McNeil, Olivia Zhang

**T**HE loud crack rang out from the fog above the Baishui No. 1 Glacier as a stone shard careened down the ice, flying past Chen Yanjun as he operated a GPS device.

More projectiles were tumbling down the hulk of ice that scientists say is one of the world's fastest melting glaciers. "We should go," said the 30-year-old geologist. "The first rule is safety."

Chen hiked away and onto a barren landscape once buried beneath the glacier. Now there is exposed rock littered with oxygen tanks discarded by tourists visiting the 4,570-meter-high blanket of ice in southern China.

Millions of people each year are drawn to Baishui's frosty beauty on the southeastern edge of the Third Pole - a region in Central Asia with the world's third largest store of ice after Antarctica and Greenland that's roughly the size of Texas and New Mexico combined.

Third Pole glaciers are vital to billions of people from Vietnam to Afghanistan. Asia's 10 largest rivers - including the Yangtze, Yellow, Mekong, and Ganges - are fed by seasonal melting.

"You're talking about one of the world's largest freshwater sources," said Ashley Johnson, energy program manager at the National Bureau of Asian Re-

search, an American think tank. "Depending on how it melts, a lot of the freshwater will be leaving the region for the ocean, which will have severe impacts on water and food security."

Earth is today 1 degree Centigrade hotter than pre-industrial levels because of climate change - enough to melt 28 to 44 percent of glaciers worldwide, according to a new report by the U.N. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change. Temperatures are expected to keep rising.

Baishui is about as close to the Equator as Tampa, Florida. And the impacts of climate change already are dramatic.

The glacier has lost 60 percent of its mass and shrunk 250 meters (820 feet) since 1982, according to a 2018 report in the Journal of Geophysical Research.

Scientists found in 2015 that 82 percent of glaciers surveyed in China had retreated. They warned that the effects of glacier melting on water resources are gradually becoming "increasingly serious" for China.

"China has always had a freshwater supply problem with 20 percent of the world's population but only 7 percent of its freshwater," said Jonna Nyman, an energy security lecturer at the University of Sheffield. "That's heightened by the impact of climate change."

For years, scientists have ob-

served global warming change Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the Chinese province of Yunnan.

**Depending on how it melts, a lot of the freshwater will be leaving the region for the ocean, which will have severe impacts on water and food security.**

ASHLEY JOHNSON  
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ASIAN  
RESEARCH

One research team has tracked Baishui's retreat of about 30 yards (27 meters) per year over the past decade. Flowers, such as snow lotus, have rooted in exposed earth, says Wang Shijin, a glaciologist and director of the Yulong Snow Mountain Glacial and Environmental Observation Research Station, part of a network run by the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

Nestled into a suburb of Lijiang, population 1.2 million, the station is home to Wang and his team: geologist and drone operator Chen, postgraduate glaciology student Zhou Lanyue and electrical engineer Zhang Xing, a private contractor.

After breakfast, the team heads off by van for the day's mission. A cable car carries them up to a majestic view of the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain.

The team shuffles past a line of tourists — many in red ponchos, most sucking oxygen canisters, a few vomiting from altitude sickness — before descending to replace a broken meteorological station.

The team operates remote sensors that collect data on temperature, wind speed, rainfall, and humidity. Other sensors measure water flow in streams fed by melted ice. Cold, downpours, rock slides, gales and glacier movement break the equipment.

"It is not easy to encounter good weather here," Wang said.

This weather will ensure Yunnan has plenty of freshwater while other glacier loss poses serious risk of drought across the Third Pole, he said.

The next day, the team wore crampons while repairing more sensors scattered across the glacier's crags.

"Where we're at right now was back in 2008 all covered with ice," Wang said. "From here to there at the side, the glacier shrank about 20 to 30 meters. The shrinking is very remarkable."

The team forded streams and jumped crevasses in search of long iron bars they previously embedded in the ice. GPS tells them how much the bars, and thus the glacier, have moved. They also measure how much

height the glacier has lost during the summer.

Back on the viewing platform, Che launched a buzzing camera drone over the white expanse. The photographs help tell a story of staggering loss. A quarter of its ice has vanished since 1957 along with four of its 19 glaciers, researchers have found.

Changes to the Baishui provide the opportunity to educate visitors about global warming, Wang said.

Last year, 2.6 million tourists visited the mountain, according to Yulong Snow Mountain park officials.

On blustery day recently, hundreds of tourists climbed wooden stairs through grey fog to snap selfies in front of the glacier.

Hou Yugang said he wasn't too bothered over climate change and Baishui's melting. "I don't think about it now because it still has a long way to go," he said.

To protect the glacier, authorities have limited the number of visitors to 10,000 a day and have banned hiking on the ice. They plan to manufacture snow and to dam streams to increase humidity that slows melting.

Security guard Yang Shaofeng has witnessed a warming world melting this mountain, which his local Naxi minority community considers sacred.

Yang remembers being able to see the glacier's lowest edge from his home village. No longer.

"Only when we climb up can we see it," he said sadly, as tourists lined up to have their names engraved on medallions bearing the glacier's image.

The etching is already outdated. **AP**



# Chinese broadens its propaganda drive to heartland America

Josh Funk, Omaha

**C**HINA'S propaganda machine has taken aim at American soybean farmers as part of its high-stakes trade war with the Trump administration. The publication last month of a four-page advertising section in the Des Moines Register opened a new battle line in China's effort to break the administration's resolve. U.S. farmers are a key political constituency for Trump, and Beijing has imposed tariffs on American soybeans as retaliation for Trump's tariffs on hundreds of billions in Chinese imports.

China regularly disseminates propaganda in the West through its China Daily newspaper to try to influence public opinion. But the advertorial in the Register was unusual for deploying not a national publication in New York or Washington but a newspaper in the farm state of Iowa.

"It's the first time I've ever seen anything like this in a heartland city," said Matt Schrader, who edits the China Brief newsletter for the Jamestown Foundation, a Washington research institute that monitors China's actions.

The Iowa newspaper section was explicitly labeled a product of China Daily, China's official English language newspaper. The articles were clearly geared to try to soften the image of China and its president, Xi Jinping.



A copy of the four-page advertising section Chinawatch along with a copy of The Des Moines Register

With headlines ranging from "Dispute: Fruit of a president's folly" and "Book tells of Xi's fun days in Iowa" to Kung Fu skill helps light up life path" and "China seeks pacts on robotics," the message was a not-very-subtle one about the friendly way Beijing wants to be seen in the farm belt.

Ken Doctor, a longtime media analyst, noted that newspapers have been struggling to replace revenue lost from declining subscriptions and print advertisements moving online. He suggested that when publications run propaganda like the "China Watch" sections, they should take care to be fully explicit about the source.

"I'd like to see newspapers that run this include an editor's note to be transparent about what this is," said Doctor, who runs the Newsonomics website.

Many experts say they doubt the propaganda drive in the United States will likely succeed. Chinese officials are used to operating at home, where the central government controls all major

media outlets.

"U.S. farmers and manufacturers are smart enough to understand their self-interest," said Elizabeth Economy of the Council on Foreign Relations. "They don't need a Chinese newspaper insert to tell them how to think about the relationship between tariffs and their exports to China."

Stanley Chao, a business consultant who has written a book called "Selling to China," said it's not entirely surprising that China would try to take its trade arguments directly to American farmers, whose crops have been hit by Beijing's retaliatory tariffs.

"This is the norm for the Chinese propaganda machine," Chao said. Chao noted that when a Chinese dissident won the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize — chosen by the Norwegian Nobel Committee and an embarrassment for Beijing — China responded by placing propaganda ads in Scandinavian newspapers.

In addition to its connection to the tariffs China imposed on American soybeans and other crops, Iowa is also home to Terry Branstad, a former governor of the state who is now the U.S. ambassador to Beijing. And in the past, President Xi has visited Iowa, whose caucuses serve as the first contest in every presidential election year.

Trump tweeted a photo of the "China Watch" edition that ran in

the Register, calling it propaganda and asserting that Beijing was trying to interfere in U.S. elections.

Chinese officials defended the advertising section and said it didn't violate any U.S. laws. Geng Shuang, a spokesman for the foreign ministry, said the Chinese government doesn't interfere in other countries' internal affairs or elections.

"I think there has been a long-standing effort to influence Americans across the United States," said Sarah Cook, a research analyst with the Freedom House watchdog group. "Just this particular form of influence — the China Watch paid supplement — may only be appearing in places like Iowa now."

Other countries, like Saudi Arabia and Taiwan, typically hire public relations firms and place ads to try to improve their images, in contrast to China's more direct approach of placing ads in newspapers or posting videos online. The 2016 elections brought attention to foreign influence after U.S. intelligence agencies concluded that Russia had meddled in the elections. Federal prosecutors have charged a Russian firm with interfering through bogus Facebook posts.

It's not yet clear whether or how much Beijing will continue to try to shape public sentiment in the farm belt states.

"I imagine we will see some additional efforts by the Chinese government to directly influence public opinion in the heartland," said Walter Hutchens, a global business professor at the University of Redlands in California. "However, it seems more likely their economic muscle, rather than their clumsy PR efforts, will have actual impact." **AP**

## HONG KONG

# Property billionaire Walter Kwok dies, family says

**W**ALTER Kwok, the former chairman of Hong Kong real-estate developer Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd., died Saturday morning at the age of 68, according to a statement from his family.

"We are saddened to announce the passing of Mr. Walter Kwok, who left this world peacefully on the morning of October 20, with his loving family by his bedside," the statement said, adding that church service arrangements will be announced in due course. It didn't disclose details of his death.

Kwok suffered a heart attack on Aug. 27 and had been transferred to Hong Kong's Adventist Hospital, according to local media reports. Kwok was the oldest of three sons who inherited the fortune of Kwok Tak-



seng, a grocery wholesaler from Guangdong province, China, who immigrated to Hong Kong after World War II. Kwok Tak-seng joined Fung King-hey and Lee Shau Kee to found Sun Hung Kai Properties in 1963. The company sold shares in an initial public offering in Hong Kong in August 1972 and became one of the world's largest real-estate developers by

market value. Sun Hung Kai's business has stretched into other areas including logistics and telecommunications.

The three sons — Walter, Thomas and Raymond — took over the company after their father died from a heart attack in 1990. Walter, also known by his Chinese name Ping-sheung, ran the company until 2008. He was kidnapped in

1997 by a Hong Kong gang leader nicknamed "Big Spender," who also held Hong Kong billionaire Li Ka-shing's son Victor Li for ransom.

A public family squabble led to Walter's extended leave and, subsequently, his ouster as chairman in 2008. Walter said Thomas and Raymond had him removed from his position because they thought he was suffering from a mental illness, which he had denied. Hong Kong's Standard newspaper reported Walter was forced to go on leave after a disagreement with his brothers over a female friend's growing influence in the company. He later sued his siblings for libel.

Their mother Kwong Siu-hing took over as chairman, and Thomas and

Raymond later became co-chairmen of Sun Hung Kai. Walter applied to the High Court in 2008 to prevent the board from removing him from his post, alleging that his brothers opposed his questioning of the way the company awarded construction contracts, and other corporate governance issues. Walter and the family settled their dispute amicably in January 2014.

In 2010, Walter began pursuing his own property projects with his company Empire Group Holdings. Empire this year was awarded a redevelopment project in the tourist area Tsim Sha Tsui, on which it planned to spend HKD6 billion (\$765 million), according to the South China Morning Post.

Thomas and Raymond were arrested in March

2012 by Hong Kong's anti-graft agency, and were charged with bribery and misconduct four months later. According to the Independent Commission Against Corruption, Thomas, Raymond and two other men conspired to provide Rafael Hui, the city's former No. 2 government official, with free use of two apartments and two unsecured loans for unspecified favors. The Kwoks denied any wrongdoing and pleaded not guilty in March 2013.

The company later named Adam Kwok, Thomas's son, and Edward Kwok, Raymond's son, as alternate directors. Thomas was sentenced to five years in jail in 2014, and lost an appeal in 2017. His brother Raymond was found not guilty. **Bloomberg**



## INDIA

# Most train disaster victims were migrant workers

Ashok Sharma, New Delhi

**M**OST of the casualties in a train disaster that killed dozens of people in northern India were migrant workers, a former state government official said Saturday.

R.C. Yadav, former chairman of Punjab state's Workers Welfare Board, said that many of the 60 killed and dozens injured when a speeding train ran over a crowd celebrating the Hindu festival of Dussehra on Friday night had left their families in neighboring states to work in factories and shops in Punjab.

Most "of those killed are these poor workers," Yadav said, adding that some earned as little as 7,000 rupees (USD95) per month. A local branch of the Indian National Congress party had organized the event at a clearing near the railway tracks on the outskirts of Amritsar.

Organizers erected a huge LED screen for the hundreds of people who gathered to watch the burning of the effigies of Ravana and other demons, said



Bodies of victims of Friday's train accident are carried in for cremation in Amritsar, India

Yadav, who lives just a kilometer from the disaster site. As the fireworks started, the crowd moved backward onto the tracks for a better view when two trains crossed in opposite directions, giving people little opportunity to escape.

Police are investigating whether

the organizers had a permit for the event and at what speed the train that ran over the crowd was traveling, said Amritsar's police commissioner, S.S. Srivastava.

Navjot Kaur Siddhu, a local Congress party politician who was the chief guest at the reli-

gious function, said Friday that the celebrations take place in the area every year and railroad authorities are alerted to run the trains at slow speeds. A large number of people live in the area with homes on both sides of the railroad track, she said. **AP**

## AFGHANISTAN

# Vote enters second day after attacks, technical issues

**A**FGHANISTAN'S Parliamentary elections entered a second day after delays caused by violence and technical issues, as a roadside bomb killed nearly a dozen civilians on Sunday, including several children.

Independent Elections Commission Chairman Abdul Badi Sayat said more than 3 million people out of 8.8 million registered voters cast their ballots on Saturday. The biggest turnout was in Kabul and the lowest in the southern Uruzgan province.

Polling on Sunday continues in 401 voting centers, including 45 in Kabul. Polls close at 4 p.m. (1130 GMT). The results of the polling will not be released before mid-November and final results will not be out until December.

The first parliamentary elections since 2010 are being held against a backdrop of near-daily at-



An Afghan woman casts her vote in a polling station during the Parliamentary election in Kabul

tacks by the Taliban, who have seized nearly half the country and have repeatedly refused offers to negotiate with the Kabul government. The U.S.-backed government is rife with corruption, and many Afghans have said they do not expect the elections to be fair.

Officials at polling stations struggled with voter registration and a new biometric system

that was aimed at stemming fraud but instead created enormous confusion because many of those trained on the system did not show up for work. The biometric machines arrived just a month before polls and there was no time to do field testing.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan praised those who had made an effort to vote despite the te-

chnical issues, many of whom waited in long lines for hours as polling stations remained open late. "Those eligible voters who were not able to cast their vote, due to technical issues, deserve the right to vote," it said in a statement.

The Taliban had vowed to attack the election, and on the first day of polling at least 36 people were killed in nearly

200 attacks, including 27 civilians, according to Deputy Interior Minister Akhtar Mohammed Ibrahim. He said security forces killed 31 insurgents in gun battles.

On Sunday, a roadside bomb in the eastern Nangarhar province struck a vehicle filled with civilians, killing 11 people, including six children, according to Attahullah Khogyani, spokesman for the provincial governor.

No one immediately claimed the attack. The Taliban and an Islamic State affiliate are both active in Nangarhar. Afghan civilians are often killed by roadside bombs intended to target security forces.

In the northern Balkh province, insurgents shot and killed four men who were on their way to a polling station late Saturday, said Sher Jan Durani, spokesman for the provincial police chief.

Durani says the men were carrying their national IDs with stickers proving they had registered to vote. He blamed the attack on the Taliban, who have warned people not to participate in the election. **AP**

## PHILIPPINES

# Gunmen kill 9 people who occupied farm

**G**UNMEN killed nine members of a farmers' group who occupied part of a privately owned sugarcane plantation in a central Philippine province, police said yesterday.

The victims were resting in a hut Saturday night when about 10 gunmen opened fire, police said. At least four farmers survived the attack at the plantation in Sagay city in Negros Occidental province, which has a history of bloody land feuds.

"There are groups fighting over that land," Sagay police Chief Inspector Roberto Mansueto said.

At least two of the victims may have fired back at the attackers because spent pistol and shotgun casings were found in the area, Mansueto said.

"Witnesses say they heard only a few initial shots. Apparently the victims were just being threatened," Mansueto told reporters. "But later there seemed to have been an exchange of fire."

The National Federation of Sugar Workers condemned the killings of its members, who included four women and two minors. The group said the victims were forced to plant vegetables and root crops to feed their families on idle land that's covered by the government's land reform program but remained undistributed to poor farmers.

Two other peasant leaders belonging to the federation were killed in Sagay city last December and in February this year by suspected pro-government forces, the group said. It said that about 45 farmers asserting their land rights have been killed on Negros island under President Rodrigo Duterte's administration.

Instead of offering an effective land reform program, Duterte's government "red baits those who assert their rights to the land," the group said, referring to pronouncements by civilian and military officials linking protesting farmers to communist guerrillas.

There was no immediate government reaction. Regional police chief Superintendent John Bulalacao condemned Saturday's attack and said everything was being done to ensure the rapid arrest of the killers.

In September 1985, government forces opened fire on protesters, many of them farmers, in Negros Occidental province as they were commemorating the 1972 declaration of martial law by then-President Ferdinand Marcos. Several died in an event that left-wing activists still mark each year. **AP**



## AUSTRALIA

# Ruling coalition forced into minority government

Trevor Marshallsea, Sydney

**A**USTRALIA'S ruling coalition was forced into minority government on Saturday after a massive swing against its senior partner, the Liberal Party, in a by-election for the seat of the prime minister the party itself had dismissed.

In a stinging backlash from the electorate after the fourth toppling of an Australian leader by internal party vote in just eight years, a swing of more than 20 percent against the sitting Liberals propelled independent candidate Kerryn Phelps to a decisive victory.

The result cost the conservative Liberal-National party coalition its one-seat majority in the House of Representatives, forcing Prime Minister Scott Morrison to rely on deals with independent lawmakers to guarantee confidence in his government, enact legislation and ensure money supply.

The next general election is due in seven months, and there was



Australian Prime Minister Scott Morrison (left) speaks next to Liberal candidate Dave Sharma

no immediate talk Saturday that it would be held any sooner.

With Phelps saying she has "no intention of bringing down the government," and other independent lawmakers also vowing to support Morrison's administration, it would seem unlikely that any no-confidence motion brought against the government between now and the election would succeed.

Australian Broadcasting Corp. projections hailed Phelps as the winner after just 9 percent of votes had been counted, forecasting she would gain a 57 percent share

of votes on a two-party preferred basis.

Liberal candidate Dave Sharma conceded defeat soon afterward, saying: "Tonight's result has been over a little sooner than I expected. I'm certainly glad I kept my day job."

Of the 150 seats in the House of Representatives, the Liberals now hold 75, including that of the speaker. The opposition Labor Party holds 69 seats, while independents have six.

The by-election was triggered when Malcolm Turnbull quit politics after being deposed as prime

minister in August.

There was no comment from Turnbull on the election result as of late Saturday night.

It's the first time in their 117-year history the Liberals have lost the Wentworth seat, showing the depth of voter reaction to Australia's latest change of leadership without the people having their say.

Morrison said that while the loss was not unexpected given opinion polls, his party had received a loud message from voters.

"They have looked at Canberra and the Liberal Party has paid a big price tonight for the events of several months ago," he said, before adding defiantly, "But as a party, we will continue to rise again."

Morrison pledged that his government would continue as usual — even without a majority — when Parliament returns today, promising to work closely with independent lawmakers.

"We will work constructively with all of those who sit on the cross bench as we always have," he said.

Speaking to reporters, Phelps declined to say how she might vote should a no-confidence motion be moved in Parliament against the government, but indicated she wants the government to run its full term, which expires next May.

Phelps, a doctor and former head of the Australian Medical Association, said the result should count as a warning to lawmakers.

"People have been concerned about the direction of government for a very long time and we've seen a lack of decency, a lack of integrity, and we have to look at what the House of Representatives is about," Phelps said. "It is about representing the people and the people have spoken loud and clear."

The by-election campaign, in a seat with a large Jewish population, drew international attention this past week when Morrison raised the prospect of following the United States by relocating Australia's embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. Morrison said the idea was suggested to him by Liberal candidate Sharma, a former Australian ambassador to Israel.

Slammed by critics as a cynical bid to garner Jewish votes in the by-election, Morrison's statement was welcomed by Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, but sparked concern among Palestinian officials and leaders in Indonesia, the world's largest Muslim-majority nation. **AP**

AD

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Mexican navy personnel hand out food to Central American migrants stuck in no man's land



A group of Central American migrants cross the Suchiate River

# Migrant caravan re-forms in Mexico, members vow to reach US

Mark Stevenson, Sonia Perez D.

**D**ESPITE Mexican efforts to stop them at the border, about 2,000 Central American migrants swam or rafted across a river separating that country from Guatemala, re-formed their mass caravan in Mexico and vowed to resume their journey toward the United States.

The migrants, who said they gave up trying to enter Mexico legally because the asylum application process was too slow, gathered on Saturday at a park in the border city of Ciudad Hidalgo. They voted by a show of hands to continue north en masse, then marched to the bridge crossing the Suchiate River and urged those still on it to come join them.

"We are going to reach the United States," said Erasmo Duarte, a migrant from Danli, Honduras, despite warnings to turn back this week from U.S. President Donald Trump, who has sought to make the caravan and border security in general into a campaign issue a little over two weeks before midterm elections.

The decision to re-form the migrant caravan capped a day in which Mexican authorities again refused mass entry to migrants on the bridge, instead accepting small groups for asylum processing and giving out 45-day visitor permits to some of them. Authorities handed out numbers for people to be processed in a strategy seen before at U.S. border posts when dealing with

large numbers of migrants.

But many became impatient, and circumventing the border gate, swarmed across the river on rafts, swimming or wading in full view of the hundreds of Mexican police manning the blockade on the bridge. Some paid locals the equivalent of USD1.25 to ferry them across the muddy waters. They were not detained on reaching the Mexican bank.

"We couldn't wait because we had already waited too long and they only told us lies," said Duarte, who joined the caravan with his wife and children six days ago.

Sairy Bueso, a 24-year old Honduran mother of two, was another migrant who abandoned the bridge and crossed into Mexico via the river. She clutched her 2-year-old daughter Dayani, who had recently had a heart operation, as she got off a raft.

"The girl suffered greatly because of all the people crowded" on the bridge, Bueso said. "There are risks that we must take for the good of our children."

Group leaders said the caravan, which will be smaller than the original one, would strike out Sunday morning for the city of Tapachula.

Where easily 3,000 people were on the bridge the previous day, the crowd had thinned out considerably by Saturday. In addition to those who crossed the river, immigration agents processed migrants in small groups and then bused them to an open

-air, metal-roof fairground in Tapachula, where the Red Cross set up small blue tents on the concrete floor.

Each time a small side gate opened to allow people to pass for processing, there was a crush of bodies as migrants desperately pushed forward.

Scarleth Cruz hoisted a crying, sweat-soaked baby girl above the crowd, crying out: "This girl is suffocating." Cruz, 20, said she was going to ask for political asylum because of threats and repression she faced back in Honduras from President Juan Orlando Hernandez's governing party. "Why would I want to go to the United States if I'm going to be persecuted" there as well, she said.

Mexico's Interior Department said in a statement that it had received 640 refugee requests by Hondurans at the border crossing. It released photos of migrants getting off buses at a shelter and receiving food and medical attention.

At least half a dozen migrants fainted. Some tore open a fence on the Guatemala side of the bridge and threw two young children, perhaps age 6 or 7, and their mother into the muddy waters about 40 feet below. They were rafted to safety in on the Mexican bank.

Mexican workers handed food bottled water to the migrants on the bridge. Through the bars, a doctor gave medical attention to a woman who feared her young son was running a fever.

Sustenance also came from Guatemalan locals — for Carlos Martinez, a 24-year-old from Santa Barbara, Honduras, the plate of chicken with rice was the first bite to eat he'd had all day.

**■ Migrants cited widespread poverty and gang violence in Honduras, one of the world's deadliest nations by homicide rate**

"It is a blessing that they have given us food," Martinez said. "It gives me courage to keep waiting, as long as I can."

Migrants cited widespread poverty and gang violence in Honduras, one of the world's deadliest nations by homicide rate, as their reasons for joining the caravan.

"One cannot live back there," said Fidelina Vasquez, a grandmother traveling with her daughter and 2-year-old grandson, standing next to the main border gate.

The caravan elicited a series of angry tweets and warnings from

Trump early in the week, but Mexico's no-nonsense handling of the migrants at its southern border seems to have satisfied him more recently.

"So as of this moment, I thank Mexico," Trump said Friday at an event in Scottsdale, Arizona. "I hope they continue. But as of this moment, I thank Mexico. If that doesn't work out, we're calling up the military — not the Guard."

"They're not coming into this country," Trump added.

"The Mexican Government is fully engaged in finding a solution that encourages safe, secure, and orderly migration," State Department Spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Saturday, "and both the United States and Mexico continue to work with Central American governments to address the economic, security, and governance drivers of illegal immigration."

After an emergency meeting in Guatemala, presidents Hernandez of Honduras and Jimmy Morales of Guatemala said an estimated 5,400 migrants had entered Guatemala since the caravan was announced a week ago, and about 2,000 Hondurans have returned voluntarily.

Morales said a Honduran migrant died in the town of Villa Nueva, about 20 miles (30 kilometers) from Guatemala City, when he fell from a truck.

Some Hondurans were weary of the journey and disappointed by the violence at the crossing, and just wanted to head home.

"We thought the caravan was passive but there were unruly people, I was disappointed," said Gonzalo Martinez, a 37-year-old farmer, as he boarded a bus in Tecun Uman, Guatemala to take him back to Honduras. **AP**



# Europe, Japan send spacecraft on 7-year journey to Mercury

EUROPEAN and Japanese space agencies said an Ariane 5 rocket successfully lifted a spacecraft carrying two probes into orbit Saturday for a joint mission to Mercury, the closest planet to the sun.

The European Space Agency and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency said the unmanned BepiColombo spacecraft successfully separated and was sent into orbit from French Guiana as planned to begin a seven-year journey to Mercury.

They said the spacecraft, named after Italian scientist Giuseppe "Bepi" Colombo, was in the right orbit and has sent the first signal after the liftoff.

ESA says the 1.3 billion-euro (USD1.5 billion) mission is one of the most challenging in its history. Mercury's extreme tempe-

ratures, the intense gravity pull of the sun and blistering solar radiation make for hellish conditions.

The BepiColombo spacecraft will have to follow an elliptical path that involves a fly-by of Earth, two of Venus and six of Mercury itself so it can slow down before arriving at its destination in December 2025.

When it arrives, BepiColombo will release two probes — Bepi and Mio — that will independently investigate the surface and magnetic field of Mercury. The probes are designed to cope with temperatures varying from 430 degrees Celsius (806 F) on the side facing the sun, and -180 degrees Celsius in Mercury's shadow.

The ESA-developed Bepi will operate in Mercury's inner orbit, and JAXA's Mio will be in the outer orbit to

gather data that would reveal the internal structure of the planet, its surface and geological evolution.

Scientists hope to build on the insights gained by NASA's Messenger probe, which ended its mission in 2015 after a four-year orbit of Mercury. The only other spacecraft to visit Mercury was NASA's Mariner 10 that flew past the planet in the mid-1970s.

Mercury, which is only slightly larger than Earth's moon, has a massive iron core about which little is known. Researchers are also hoping to learn more about the formation of the solar system from the data gathered by the BepiColombo mission.

"Beyond completing the challenging journey, this mission will return a huge bounty of science," said Jan Wörner, ESA Director Ge-



neral, in a statement.

JAXA President Hiroshi Yamakawa, who earlier managed the project, said, "We have high expectations that the ensuing detailed observations of Mercury will help us better understand the environment of the planet, and ultimately, the origin of the Solar System including that of Earth."

It is the second recent cooperation between the Europeans and the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency. JAXA's Hayabusa2 probe dropped a German-French rover on the asteroid Ryugu earlier this month. AP

## UK minister backs Trump move to exit nuclear pact

Britain's defense secretary says the U.K. stands "absolutely resolute" with the United States as President Donald Trump announced he will pull out from a landmark arms control agreement with Russia. Gavin Williamson blamed Russia for endangering the arm control pact, agreed between the U.S. and the Soviet Union in 1987, and called on the Kremlin to "get its house in order." Trump said he will exit the pact because Russia has violated it "for many years" and it's preventing the U.S. from developing new weapons. Backing Trump, Williamson told the Financial Times on yesterday that Moscow had made a "mockery" of the Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces Treaty. The 1987 pact prohibits the United States and Russia from possessing, producing or test-flying a ground-launched cruise missile with a range of 300 to 3,400 miles.

## Vote in Poland tests support for ruling conservatives

Polish voters were casting ballots in local elections yesterday that were the first nationwide test of support for the conservative ruling party, whose policies have produced street protests and repeated clashes with European Union leaders. The election is for offices from city mayors to village councilors. The ruling right-wing Law and Justice party is hoping to strengthen its firm grip on power, which has been buoyed by handing out social benefits and questioning how much authority the EU should have over member nations. EU leaders say changes the ruling party has made to Poland's judiciary threaten the rule of law in the country and have triggered a sanctioning procedure.



### BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast

Thursday, 1 November 2018

Guest Speaker: **Grant Goversen**

Union Gaming Managing Director, Head of Asia Equity Research, Macau

#### Gaming's road ahead: Macau concessions, Japan's first IRs, and the outlook on Asia

An update on the trajectory of Macau's gaming industry and the outlook on licenses, how we expect Japan's gaming industry to evolve, and a peek into regional gaming trends



Venue: Jade Room, Level 5, The St. Regis Macao, Cotai

7.45 am: Registration

8.00 am: Sit-down for breakfast

8.15 am: Presentation and Q&A session

9.00 am: Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event  
Vegetarian option to be requested before Monday October 29

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## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

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ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

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## MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

## KEITH HARING MAZE MACAU

TIME: 1pm – 9pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2018

VENUE: Cotai Expo Hall F, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP150

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

## Offbeat

## 12-POUND LUNAR METEORITE SELLS FOR MORE THAN USD600,000

AP PHOTO



A 12-pound (5.5 kilogram) chunk of the moon that fell to the Earth as a lunar meteorite has been sold at auction for more than USD600,000.

Boston-based RR Auction announced Friday the \$612,500 winning bid for the meteorite, composed of six fragments that fit together like a puzzle, came from a representative working with the Tam Chuc Pagoda complex in Ha Nam Province, Vietnam.

RR predicted it would get \$500,000 at auction.

The meteorite was found last year in a remote area of Mauritania in northwest Africa.

It is considered one of the most significant lunar meteorites ever found because of its large size and because it has "partial fusion crust" caused by the tremendous heat that sears the rock as it falls to Earth.

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:55 Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue

16:25 Grande Entrevista - Herman José

17:20 Depois do Adeus

18:15 Contraponto (Repetição)

19:20 Aqui Há História (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Desporto

22:25 Dentro

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Resumo Liga das Nações 2018/2019

00:45 Magazine Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019

01:20 Telejornal (Repetição)

02:05 RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

17 - 25 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



## DESTINATION WEDDING

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Victor Levin

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Winona Rider

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 130min



## PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2

9:15pm

Director: Felix Chong

Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 130min

## SEARCHING

ROOM 3

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

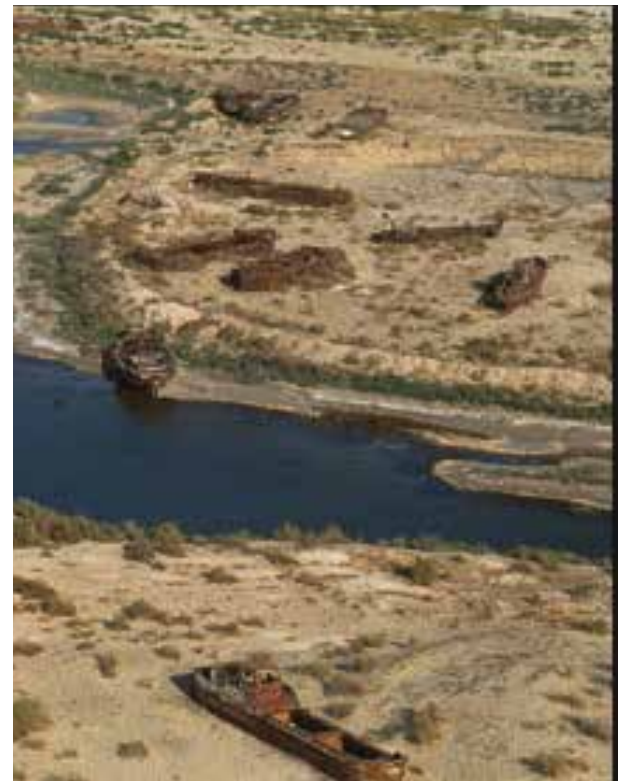
Director: Aneesh Chaganty

Starring: Michelle La, Debra Messing

Language: English

Duration: 88min

## this day in history



## 1990 ARAL SEA IS 'WORLD'S WORST DISASTER'

The Royal Geographical Society has unveiled evidence that the devastated region around the Aral Sea in Central Asia is the world's worst ecological disaster.

Three British scientists have just come back from a visit to the lake that straddles the former Soviet republics of Kazakhstan and Uzbekistan.

What was once the fourth largest area of fresh water in the world has shrunk by two-thirds. It has fallen in depth by more than 14 metres (45 feet) in the past 30 years endangering the lives of the four million inhabitants of the region.

Soviet irrigation policies from the early 1960s diverted water from its two sources, the Amu Darya, or Oxus, and the Syr Darya in order to supply vast areas of cotton fields to the south of the Aral.

David Brundsen, professor of Geography at Kings College London, said the situation was far worse than they had anticipated.

What was once a thriving fishing industry has been destroyed and the climate has changed, with shorter dryer summers and longer colder winters.

Chemical pollution has caused serious illnesses.

Infant mortality is worse than any other developing country in the world, with 10% of children dying in their first year.

Death from chronic gastritis and kidney disease has increased by 15%, heart disease has doubled and incidences of kidney disease have risen 15-fold as drinking water becomes ever more salty and polluted.

Cancer has increased tenfold and death from TB is 21 times higher than it was in the 1960s.

Abandoned ships lie on the 80km (50 miles) of exposed seabed, now encrusted with salt and agricultural chemicals that are causing illnesses.

In the late 1980s the water level fell so low that the ancient sea split into two bodies of water.

Tony French, senior lecturer in geography at University College London, said that at this rate there would be very little left of the Aral Sea by the millennium.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

In spite of calls for international assistance to save the Aral Sea, efforts to stop the sea's evaporation by reducing water wastage or reducing irrigation have not yet materialised.

In June 2004, scientists predicted the sea would vanish within 15 years. The people of the region continue to suffer as a result - malnutrition is rife, as is TB and anaemia. Cancer of the oesophagus is the highest in the world.

Most worrying is the discovery that local people are suffering genetic damage.

This means their children and grandchildren might be more susceptible to cancer as a result of the pesticide residues from the cotton fields.

Cotton continues to be Uzbekistan's largest export earner.



YOUR STARS

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Patience is especially important today — so make sure that you're taking all the time you need with that one person or problem. Your energy is ready for some downtime, anyway!

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21

It's time for you to get really serious about something — which may require a certain amount of focus. There's nothing wrong with that, and while it may not be a day at the circus, it's still satisfying.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your ego isn't the problem — but someone close might start to think it is. Show them they're wrong by taking a hit for the team or letting someone else hog all the credit later today.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22

A party may offer more temptation than it's worth — but that doesn't mean you have to stay home. As long as you've got someone looking out for you, overindulgence shouldn't be a big problem.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The big picture is wearing you down — so take a second look at the small stuff. Your energy is better spent cleaning up spreadsheets and making sure that your bills all add up anyway.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Learning comes naturally to you, but today you may feel as if you need to deal with something that seems like more of a grind. Your big brain needs this new stuff, but it takes work.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20

Your love life is about to get a boost, so make sure that you're ready for it! Your energy is terrific, and you may be able to either score a date with that hottie or sweep your partner off their feet all over again.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Teams suit you better than pairs or going solo today — you'd rather mix it up with many minds than focus on just one. It's a good time to volunteer for a group activity or join a work team.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Today is the perfect day to try something foreign — or even alien. You are well prepared for novelty, and should find it easier than ever to accommodate new ways of seeing the world.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You feel thrust into an unusual situation — which is actually pretty doggone normal for you! Adjust to the weirdness and see if you can take advantage of the aura of incongruity.

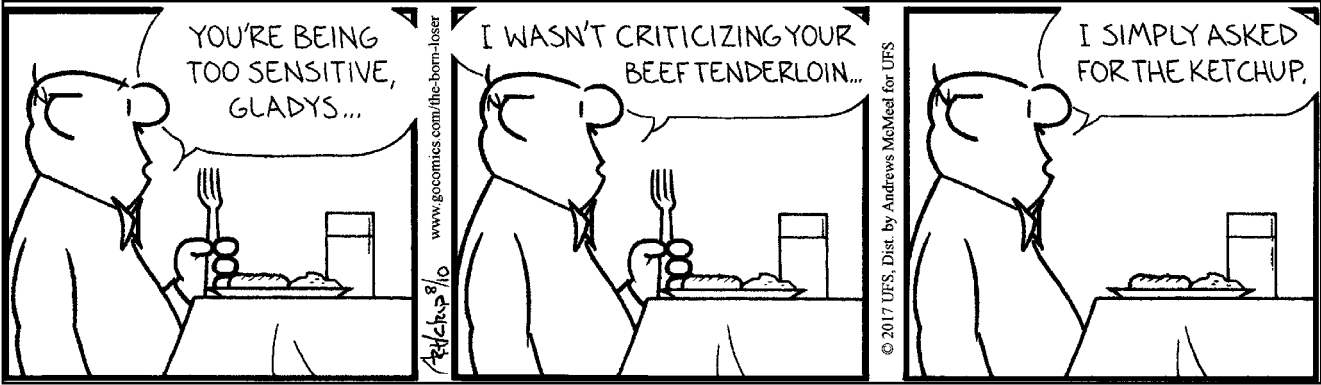
**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19

A child plays an important role in the day's activities, so make sure that you're paying attention to your own kids or to those nearby. It may be advice or a question, but it really sticks with you.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20

Romance is in the air today, so get out there and indulge! Wink at someone cute or buy flowers for your sweetie — do whatever it takes to ride this wave and enjoy what you've got!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	6	19	clear/cloudy
Harbin	6	16	cloudy/shower
Tianjin	10	21	cloudy
Urumqi	3	13	clear
Xi'an	6	20	cloudy
Lhasa	3	16	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	drizzle/clear
Chongqing	16	18	drizzle
Kunming	12	21	cloudy/shower
Nanjing	16	20	drizzle/overcast
Shanghai	17	20	moderate rain/drizzle
Wuhan	12	22	cloudy
Hangzhou	17	21	drizzle
Taipei	21	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	22	28	cloudy/drizzle
Hong Kong	24	28	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	3	8	overcast/cloudy
Frankfurt	2	16	clear/drizzle
Paris	8	16	clear/drizzle
London	6	17	drizzle
New York	5	12	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lady of the house; 6- As \_\_\_ resort; 11- Morse symbol; 14- Deadly virus; 15- Flies alone; 16- Able was I \_\_\_ I saw Elba; 17- Embroidery upon canvas; 19- Person, slangily; 20- Make narrow; 21- About; 23- Laughing syllable; 24- Earache; 25- Predaceous insect; 29- Nonsense; 30- Crazy as \_\_\_; 31- Actor Connery; 32- Actress Zadora; 35- In spite of; 39- Primate with a short tail or no tail; 40- Routine; 41- Noted spokescow; 42- Woody inhabitants of forests!; 44- Narcotic; 45- Girl on film; 48- \_\_\_ roll; 49- Administer; 50- Catamaran, for one; 55- Adam's madam; 56- Adrenal gland hormone; 58- Fleur-de-\_\_\_; 59- Now you \_\_\_\_; 60- Trig functions; 61- Cooling units, for short; 62- Romanov rulers; 63- Les \_\_\_-Unis;

DOWN: 1- Department store department; 2- Encourage in wrongdoing; 3- Person of action; 4- "Betsy's Wedding" star; 5- Newcomer to Hawaii; 6- According to; 7- Crazy as a \_\_\_; 8- Clay today; 9- Short composition; 10- Woman's shoe style; 11- Rid of insect pests; 12- Rice-\_\_\_; 13- Hopper of Hollywood; 18- LAX guesstimates; 22- Cheer for Manolete; 24- Make a speech; 25- "Give that \_\_\_ cigar!"; 26- Hanging to one side; 27- E or G, e.g.; 28- Haul; 29- Quizzes, trials; 31- Clogs, e.g.; 32- Galileo's birthplace; 33- Monogram ltr.; 34- "A Death in the Family" author; 36- Table supports; 37- Sherpas, e.g.; 38- Half of MCIL; 42- Quattro minus uno; 43- Overhaul; 44- Put a lid \_\_\_; 45- Journalist \_\_\_ Rogers St. Johns; 46- Honda model; 47- Long lock of hair; 48- Brewery kilns; 50- French evening; 51- Londoner, e.g.; 52- A Chaplin; 53- Work without \_\_\_; 54- Hardy lass; 57- Narc's org.;

Friday's solution

S	A	L	E		I	T	E	M		R	W	E
O	P	E	N		T	O	G	G	A	S		E
R	O	A	D		E	G	G	O	N		L	E
A	P	P	E	A	R		G	R	I	L	A	N
S	T	L	I	T	I	S		I	P	O	S	
C	E	E		A	E	T	N	A		V	I	N
A	N	T	H		S	L	A	P	S		G	L
M	O	B	I	L		E	R	I	C	A		T
P	R	E	S	E	T		E	N	O	L		I
L	E	M	O	N	A	D	E		T	E	L	L
O	M	A	R		M	I	A	M	I		S	T
C	I	T									P	Y
O	R	A									U	T

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081

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**"The Beach House"**  
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# Ethiopian marathoner who made Rio protest returns from exile

Elias Meseret, Addis Ababa

**T**HE Ethiopian marathon runner who made global headlines with an anti-government gesture at the Rio Olympics finish line returned from exile yesterday after sports officials assured him he will not face prosecution.

Feyisa Lilesa's return from the United States came several months after a reformist prime minister took office and announced sweeping political reforms. He received a warm welcome at the airport from the foreign minister and other senior officials.

Feyisa said the new government is "a result of the struggle by the people" and he hopes it will address concerns after years of repression in Africa's second most populous nation.

The silver medalist crossed his wrists at the finish line in 2016 in solidarity with protesters in his home re-

AP PHOTO



Feyisa Lilesa (right) and Kenenisa Bekele stand in front of the Tower Bridge in London

gion, Oromia, who like many across Ethiopia were demanding wider freedoms.

Feyisa later said he feared he would be imprisoned or killed if he returned home. But he became a symbol of resistance for many youth until the pressure on the go-

vernment led to a change of power, with 42-year-old Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed taking office in April.

Abiy is the country's first leader from the Oromo ethnic group since the ruling coalition came to power 27 years ago.

Ethiopia's government did not immediately comment yesterday on the runner's return. Asked by The Associated Press if he has any political ambitions, Feyisa said: "I don't have any ambition in politics! Actually I didn't get close to politics, politics gets close to me."

Feyisa broke down in tears while speaking about youth who lost their lives during the years of protests. "I will continue to remember those who lost their lives for the cause. Many people lost their lives for it."

Turning his attention to running, he said his next race will be the Dubai Marathon in January.

"My training while I was in exile was not good, so it has affected my performance," Feyisa said. He missed two races in recent weeks as he prepared to return to Ethiopia. "I will resume my regular training after a week." **AP**

MOTOGP

## Marquez win Japanese secures championship title



Spanish rider Marc Marquez

**H**ONDA rider Marc Marquez won the Japanese MotoGP yesterday to secure the championship with three races left in the season.

Marquez took the lead with four laps to go and crossed the finish line in a time of 42 minutes, 36.438 seconds, 1.573 seconds ahead of Honda rider Cal Crutchlow. Alex Rins was third on a Suzuki, 1,720 seconds off the pace.

Marquez won for the eighth time this season to capture his fifth MotoGP world championship.

Pole sitter Andrea Dovizioso led for most of Sunday's race and could have denied Marquez the title with a win but crashed out of second place with two laps to go and ended up with no points.

Yamaha rider Valentino Rossi was fourth while Alvaro Bautista rounded out the top five on a Ducati. **AP**

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Messi looks painfully injured during the Spanish La Liga match between FC Barcelona and Sevilla

## FOOTBALL

# Messi breaks arm as Barcelona regains lead in La Liga

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**B**ARCELONA ended its slump and regained the Spanish league lead but there was little to celebrate as Lionel Messi broke his right forearm and will be sidelined for three weeks.

Also, Real Madrid lost again while suffering its worst scoring drought.

Messi scored and walked off injured in the first half of Barcelona's 4-2 win over Sevilla at Camp Nou Stadium, while Real Madrid players and coach Julen Lopetegui were jeered off the field after they lost to Levante 2-1 at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Messi was taken to a clinic, and Barcelona said he broke the radial bone. At the least, he

will miss the Champions League match against Inter Milan on Wednesday, and the clasico against Barcelona next Sunday.

"We will notice his absence," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "But we've played without him in the past. We will be prepared to overcome this."

Messi was trying to reclaim the ball when he ran into the back of a defender and fell in the 17th minute. Trying to cushion his fall, his right elbow bent badly and he was in visible pain. Doctors wrapped his arm with bandages and the playmaker tried to continue but gave up.

"We shouldn't let Messi's injury affect us," defender Gerard Pique said. "We have a team good enough to do well in the matches that we have ahead."

Messi scored their second goal

with a shot from outside the area in the 12th, about 10 minutes after Philippe Coutinho opened the scoring. Luis Suarez added the third by converting a second-half penalty kick.

Sevilla replied through Pablo Sarabia, Ivan Rakitic increased Barcelona's lead in the 88th, and Sevilla netted again thanks to Luis Muriel in injury time.

Barcelona struggled more than the scoreline showed, with goalkeeper Marc-Andre ter Stegen having to make a pair of remarkable double-saves, but the result was enough to give Valverde's team a one-point lead over surprising Alaves.

Sevilla, which had won four in a row in the league, including 3-0 against Real Madrid, dropped to third place, two points off the lead.

Atletico Madrid, which drew at Villarreal 1-1, also was two back after nine matches.

Real Madrid was four points behind Barcelona, in fifth place.

## REAL MADRID'S DEBACLE

Real Madrid fans ran out of patience after seeing their team suffer its worst scoring drought and lose for the fourth time in five matches.

Fans loudly jeered after Madrid reached 481 minutes without finding the net in the loss to Levante, which entered the game with the league's third-worst defense.

Levante scored early with goals by Jose Luis Morales in the sixth minute and Roger in the 13th after a penalty awarded following a video review. Marcelo pulled one back in the 72nd.

Madrid began the match without Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema, who are coming off injuries. It still created enough chances, striking the woodwork three times and having a goal by Mariano Diaz disallowed for offside in the final minutes. Marco Asensio also had a first-half goal disallowed by VAR.

Madrid finished with 70 percent possession and more than 30 attempts.

Local media immediately questioned whether Madrid should fire Lopetegui before the clasico next weekend at Barcelona or give him a chance to try to save his job against the rival.

"Football matches are won by scoring goals and not according to who deserves to win," said Lopetegui, who is only three months into his stint with the club after being fired from Spain's national team.

Before the clasico, Madrid hosts Viktoria Plzen tomorrow in the Champions League to try to rebound from a 1-0 loss at CSKA Moscow.

## ATLETICO HELD

Atletico struggled against Villarreal and goalkeeper Jan Oblak pulled off difficult saves to keep Diego Simeone's team from defeat.

Luis Felipe put Atletico ahead in the 51st and Mario Gaspar equalized in the 65th.

Villarreal, 14th in the standings, remained winless after six home matches in all competitions this season.

## ANOTHER DRAW

Valencia couldn't manage more than 1-1 against struggling Leganes at home, being held winless for the fifth time in six matches.

Valencia has only one win this season, 1-0 at Real Sociedad two rounds ago.

Jose Gaya scored in the 85th minute to keep the hosts from losing after Gerard Gumbau put Leganes ahead with a second-half penalty kick. **AP**

# Agent says Usain Bolt has contract offer, coach not aware

**U**SAIN Bolt's longtime agent Ricky Simms said yesterday that the eight-time Olympic sprint gold medalist had received an A-League contract offer from the Central Coast Mariners, but did not provide any further details.

"In response to the media stories, yes, Usain has been offered a contract. I do not want to make any further comment at this stage," Simms told Fairfax Media.

If so, no one told Mari-

ners coach Mike Mulvey, who, speaking after his side's 1-1 draw with the Brisbane Roar, not only denied any knowledge of a contract offer, but wondered if Bolt could fit into the team.

"You have a look at our front line today and you wonder whether he could get into any of those positions, wouldn't you?" Mulvey said. "I do appreciate how important this story is for the rest of the world.

"You're just talking

about speculation, I don't know anything about what you're talking about and that's the honest truth."

Bolt, who retired from track and field last year, was in Melbourne during the Mariners' opening match, with News Corp. Australia earlier saying he was considering his options after being offered a contract.

He has been training with the Mariners for several months, and scored two goals in a trial match 10 days in his

first start.

Mulvey, who said several weeks ago that it might take until January to determine if Bolt can make it in professional soccer, added that the former sprinter was not on his radar for now.

"We're going to go back, have some dinner, have a little look at the game that's on [...] then get on a plane tomorrow, go home and start preparing for Melbourne City next week," he said. "That's the plan." **AP**





opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



BLOWING OFF SOME STEAM

Since Denis Papin's digester everybody knows that you cannot manage a pressure cooker without something to let off some steam ...whether screamingly high or low pitch! This technical breakthrough is of no use today unless we take it as a good metaphor of politics or social engineering, otherwise known as the art to prevent early discontent or discomfort from becoming uncontrollable dissent.

This said, we come to the point and that time of the year when the United States Congress discloses its annual report crafted under its US-China economic and security review. And a point can be made from within the MSAR geography because it is our scope of commentary and intervention, and also because we discount the fact that Beijing has been downgrading and discarding the report as an abusive interference in China's internal affairs.

The actual report brings together old concerns such as the electoral system under development - New Macau submitted a document to the UN Human Rights Council calling for direct elections for the top job and the full Legislative Assembly - with some fresh worries on the proposed Judicial Law which prevents foreign judges from deciding on cases deemed to be matters of national security, the law on cybersecurity and the ill-explained decisions made by immigration authorities to ban pro-democracy politicians from Hong Kong and to deny the entry to authors. And of course this congressional report did not ignore the suspension of lawmaker Sulu Sou. And did not fail on presenting a concise summary: "This past year, proposed legislative amendments, the suspension of pro-democracy legislator, Sulu Sou, and the denial of entry to Macau of political figures and writers raised concerns regarding Macau autonomy and the rule of law".

From all the above-mentioned issues we can discern a pair of premises: each and every step taken by the New Macau democrats was bounded by the geography of the Basic Law; to each and every matter highlighted by the congressional report, the MSAR government gave a sole statement: contains groundless and baseless claims, and are inappropriate comments.

MSAR has to find the champions and the mechanisms to debate all issues within the framework of the Basic Law; not only because of the above-titled steam allegory, but because the segmentation of society within the system and without the system is suffocating and utterly undemocratic. There is no (fair) way out of this sort of huis clos.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou, despite his suspension and the alleged four criminal cases hanging like the Sword of Damocles, has his act together within the geography of the Macau Basic Law, so much so he makes the case to belong to the system. Maverick legislator Sou, despite underlining the New Macau agenda of advocating democratic reform, has no problem admitting that what is going on in Hong Kong stays - as NM is concerned - in Hong Kong, despite, and pardon us the spite, the situation in the sister SAR making the development in Macau "not likely".

Sou called a press conference to show his commitment to the second term of the Legislature; vowing to press for more transparency in the committee meetings, more supervision of the government, more means and resources for lawmakers, and pluralism in legal and technical discussions.

We should take this as a decent and dignified call to debate MSAR issues with civil society within the Basic law without prejudice. He who shies away from debate should step down gracefully.

THE MURAKAMI: JOY OF WRITING IS TO START NOT KNOWING END

Best-selling Japanese author Haruki Murakami says he enjoys writing novels because he doesn't know how they'll end up. Murakami, hosting a special radio show yesterday, said he starts writing without deciding how the story should end. Ideas pop up as he writes and he goes with the flow while the stories take shape.

Murakami made the comment on "Murakami Radio," a pre-recorded 55-minute show broadcast only in Japan - his second this year on

Tokyo FM after his first in August was a big hit. Music serves as important motifs in his stories. An avid listener and collector of music, he has also written books on the topic. During the show, Murakami played a selection of cover versions from jazz and pop. He opened the show paying tribute to Aretha Franklin, playing her version of Frank Sinatra's "My Way". Murakami, 69, began writing while running a jazz bar in Tokyo after graduating from university.

TAIWAN

Thousands of pro-independence demonstrators rally

AP PHOTO



THOUSANDS of pro-independence demonstrators gathered in Taiwan's capital on Saturday to express their disapproval with China's stance toward their island.

China cut off contact with Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's government shortly after her inauguration in 2016 and has been ratcheting up diplomatic, economic and military pressure on Taiwan in a bid to compel her to agree to Beijing's insistence that the self-governing island democracy is a part of China.

"I want to loudly say no to China," said 43-year-old

demonstrator Ping Cheng-wen, who is self-employed. "I just don't agree with China's rhetoric. We have our own sovereignty, and Taiwan is a country."

Another demonstrator at the rally in Taipei, Kuo Jung-min, an 85-year-old Presbyterian church pastor and Hebrew language professor at Taiwan Theological College and Seminary, said pro-unification advocates should move to China if they think it is a better place to live.

"We have to be real Taiwanese, not fake Chinese," Kuo said. "There is no use being Chinese. Those who advocate pro-unification

still live in Taiwan. If China is that good, why don't they just move to China?"

In an Oct. 10 National Day address, Tsai called on China not to be a "source of conflict" and pledged to boost Taiwan's defenses against Beijing's military threats. Tsai said the best way to defend Taiwan was to "make it indispensable and irreplaceable to the world," while remaining nonconfrontational in its attitude toward China.

China and Taiwan separated amid civil war in 1949 and China considers the island part of its territory to be taken control of by force if necessary. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Cheong Kam Ka



Ready to go: The customs inspection area in the Macau frontier inspection building for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, which will be inaugurated tomorrow (see more on page 4).

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	80-100 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	
Ambient	80-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**SAUDI ARABIA's** crown prince "crossed a line" in the killing of journalist Jamal Khashoggi and must pay a price, a leading U.S. Senate Republican said yesterday, in a sign of growing tensions between the United States and its Gulf ally.

**ISRAEL** Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said yesterday he has decided to postpone the planned demolition of a West Bank hamlet to allow time for a negotiated solution with its residents, in a move that appeared aimed at staving off the fierce international condemnation such a demolition would likely entail.

AP PHOTO



**CONGO** Rebels killed 15 civilians and abducted a dozen children in an attack at the center of the latest deadly Ebola outbreak, Congo's military said yesterday, as the violence threatened to again force the suspension of crucial virus containment efforts.

**NIGERIA's** government says 55 people have been killed in the latest eruption of communal violence in north-central Kaduna state.

AP PHOTO



**RUSSIA-UKRAINE** The imminent creation of the new Ukrainian church raises deep concerns about what will happen to the approximately 12,000 churches in Ukraine that are now under the Moscow Patriarchate.

**BRAZIL** Thousands of people took to the streets in Brazil Saturday to protest the candidacy of presidential front-runner Jair Bolsonaro, shouting "Not him!"