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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**SOUTH CHINA SEA**  
The U.S. Navy will continue patrolling the disputed South China Sea, a top Navy official said yesterday, after a Chinese destroyer came dangerously close to an American Navy ship during a "freedom of navigation" sail-by near a Chinese-occupied reef. **More on p11**

**PHILIPPINES** The President put the Bureau of Customs temporarily under military control after two large shipments of illegal drugs slipped past the agency through the port of Manila.



**MYANMAR** Genocide is still taking place against Rohingya Muslims remaining in Myanmar and the government is increasingly demonstrating it has no interest in establishing a fully functioning democracy, U.N. investigators say.

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# Questions left unanswered over Macau's role in Greater Bay Area

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HKZMB

# Bridge drawing new hopes for tourism in Lantau Island



**L**AST week's opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) has started to draw the attention of visitors from the three cities now connected by the road link. Additionally, tourism officials and local entrepreneurs in Hong Kong have expressed hopes that the new link will boost local tourism from a 2015 downturn.

Stella Kwan, local entrepreneur and managing director of the Ngong Ping 360 Cable Car, believes that the HKZMB will be the boost that the region, and particularly the Island of Lantau, needs.

Kwan told the South China Morning Post (SCMP) that she has been in a long wait of 12

years for the cross-border bridge, believing that such infrastructure will have the power to "reshape the tourism industry on Lantau Island."

Kwan believes that Lantau could emerge as a new tourism hub, encouraging tourists to visit parts of the city other than the traditionally popular Tsim Sha Tsui and Causeway Bay.

"Since we started our business on Lantau Island 12 years ago, the development has been relatively slow, and Hong Kong hasn't built any major new attractions in the past two or three years," Kwan said, adding, "We have waited for the bridge for a long time, and look forward to the completion of

the third runway, and the Skycity [at Hong Kong International Airport]."

Kwan hopes that Lantau can become a "self-contained destination" where "visitors can shop, eat, go to concerts, hike, visit the Tai O fishing village,

take the cable car, tour the island, and stay overnight at Disneyland," she said.

The Bridge can work together with the aforementioned ongoing projects at the airport area, namely the Skycity development – a huge commercial,

hotel and retail project located right next to the airport. The first phase of Skycity's construction is expected to be completed by 2023, with full completion planned for 2027.

The Hong Kong Tourism Board has predicted the bridge and the new cross-border high-speed rail link will boost tourist numbers to the city by 3.6 percent, to about 60 million people.

Allan Zeman, founder of Central's entertainment district Lan Kwai Fong, also said the Bridge could reposition Lantau, which used to be heavily dependent on farming, to become "a very important part" of the city's tourism sector.

"The Greater Bay Area has 67 million people, Lantau will become the entrance point for people coming from there," Zeman said.

Zeman added that tourism packaging to the whole "bay area" would certainly appeal to tourists and could open up a new market not just for Chinese tourists but also those from other countries.

"Many people, foreigners from overseas, from South Asia, Southeast Asia, from Korea have come to Hong Kong or Japan," he said to SCMP, "But now we have something new to offer to get people to come to the Greater Bay Area, to come to all these cities." **RM**

## HKZMB: 59,000 PASSENGERS DURING ONE DAY

**ACCORDING TO** data from the Immigration Department of Hong Kong, the number of people using the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge (HKZMB) on October 27 was about 59,000, the highest since the opening of the bridge. On Saturday, the number of arrivals at the Hong Kong port of the HKZMB was 26,804, while departures amounted to 31,906. The total, 58,710, marked a new high since the bridge's opening.



# Beijing mourns Zheng Xiaosong with praise

**T**HE Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau issued a statement mourning the death of Zheng Xiaosong, the head of Beijing's liaison office in Macau. Zheng Xiaosong died after a fall in his home in what central authorities implied was suicide.

"Comrade Zheng Xiaosong has worked in various fields, such as diplomacy and finance, and in such

places as Fujian Province, Hong Kong and Macau. He had a strong sense of professionalism and responsibility, he was devoted to his duties, dared to take responsibility, adhered to principles, he was clean and honest, and had done a lot of productive work in different positions," the statement reads.

"In office since September 2017, he earnestly implemented the One Coun-

try, Two Systems policy and the Macau Basic Law, while actively planning the long-term development of Macau. Despite having battled illness, he made positive contributions to the cause of One Country, Two Systems," the statement reads.

"His unfortunate death is deeply regretted by and saddens us," the Liaison Office said. Related departments in Beijing, in

addition to the Macau SAR government and other parties, also expressed their "deep condolences over his death and expressed cordial condolences to his relatives."

According to the statement, Zheng Xiaosong's body will be cremated in the near future in mainland China and the ashes will be placed in the Babaoshan Revolutionary Cemetery in Beijing.



Zheng Xiaosong

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AL PLENARY

# Questions left unanswered over Macau's role in Greater Bay Area



Aspect of yesterday's AL plenary session

**T**HE Greater Bay Area was one of the topics debated during yesterday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly (AL). Several representatives from the government replied to spoken enquiries, with lawmakers demanding to know more details about Macau's participation in the plan. The director of the Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau, Mi Jian, said that the region should have an active role in the plan. However, he said he could not disclose more details.

"Macau has advantages [to offer] to the Greater Bay plan. We are assuming a relevant role and not only the role of a contact person [intermediary]. Between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries we have that role [intermediary], but for the Greater Bay we are subjects. We make part of it. We

are more than a mere contact agent," Mi Jian said.

Pereira Coutinho was one of the lawmakers who criticized what he deemed as government inaction, doubting if the region has "people capable of leading Macau in the Greater Bay integration [process]." According to him, many of the consultative bodies created in Macau "produce zero results."

Also during yesterday's debate session at the AL, the Secretary for Economy and Finance was unable to provide concrete answers to lawmakers' questions regarding the controversial case of an airline that went bankrupt in 2010. The airline, Viva Macau, is now under investigation by the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC).

Several lawmakers asked Secretary Lionel Leong to detail what assurances the government was given when the Industrial Deve-

lopment and Commercial Fund approved a MOP212 million loan to the company.

Without offering a precise reply to the lawmakers, Leong stated that the government had followed its normal procedures with regards to considering loans to private companies.

However, he also suggested that the government improve its supervision of such procedures in future, as well as making the process more transparent in order to promote the necessary public scrutiny.

"In relation to these companies, in fact, there is every need to do more in the management aspect," said Leong, as cited by Radio Macau. "We have to have a management solution, to make sure public money is well spent. And also to enhance transparency and make everything easier for public scrutiny."

## SECRETARY ADMITS FLOODS WILL CONTINUE

**DURING YESTERDAY'S** plenary session, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, admitted that the problem of the floods at the Inner Harbor will not be completely solved, although improvements have been made. "In the short-term floods will continue," Rosário said, quoted by TDM. "I can't solve the problem. I will try everything to see if we can minimize the losses, but if you ask me if I can solve the problem of the Inner Harbor within one or two years, I say it is impossible." Susana Wong, director of the Marine and Water Bureau, added that the plan to build floodgates at the Inner Harbor will be implemented in the long term. Wong said that there are preparatory works - such as the installation



of groundwater pipes - that need to be done before the floodgates start to be built. She added that the construction of the floodgates is expected to occur in 2021.

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## News At Hand



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## Irene Lau and Casimiro Pinto replace suspended officials

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, has appointed two officials to replace the suspended Jackson Chang, president of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), and Gloria Batalha Ung, member of the executive committee of IPIM and deputy secretary-general of the Permanent Secretariat of the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and the Portuguese-Speaking Countries (Forum Macau). Both replaced officials are under investigation for corruption in the case of the attribution and vetoing of residency applications based on investment schemes. For the position of Chang, Leong choose Irene Lau, executive director of IPIM while for the position left open at Forum Macau, the choice fell on Casimiro Pinto, currently an advisor in the Secretary's Office.



Irene Lau

## DSAT criticizes Pearl Oriental transport plan

The director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San, is unhappy with the transportation plan for the area of the Pearl Oriental. Lam expressed his dissatisfaction towards the preliminary research on the transportation plan delivered by the responsible design company. However, DSAT will still try to complete its research on said area's transportation improvements. According to Lam, after the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge started operations, the transportation in the vicinity has become more congested, slowing traffic by about one to five minutes.

# Heritage protection report to be delivered to UN body

Julie Zhu

**B**y December 1, the local government will deliver a report on the Macau Historical City's Protection and Management Plan (the Management Plan) to the UNESCO World Heritage Centre (WHC).

Yesterday, the city's Cultural Heritage committee held a meeting where the work in progress and the major content of the plan were introduced.

The report consists of a routine document made to comply with the reporting mechanism between the heritage locations and the WHC.

Primarily, the report includes updates on Macau's legislation in regard to the cultural heritage protection, and updates on Macau's master plan of urban development.

The report also informs the WHC that the Macau government, in 2019, will legislate regarding the Management Plan.



In 2014, the local government conducted 12 public consultation activities on the Management Plan, having received 5,913 submissions from the public.

In 2015, a conclusion report was drafted. In 2016 and 2017, the Macau SAR government conducted the second phase of public consultations of the Management Plan.

By March 20 of 2012, the government had received 2,050 different submissions regarding the plan.

Besides the historical city's protection and management progress, the WHC also required Macau

to deliver a work report on the master plan concerning the new urban zone.

In response to the WHC's request, the local government will submit documents about the new urban zone, with these documents including a technical report and a draft plan of the concerned land plot.

A second overall report relating to Macau's urban master plan will also be delivered to the WHC. In that report, the relationship between the overall urban master plan and the plan of the new urban zone will be elaborated upon.

In addition, the Macau government will also provide an updated evaluation of any other construction or architectural project involving any of Macau's historical heritage.

In regards to this specific aspect, the government promised to first submit an impact evaluation to the WHC of any construction projects that could pose an influence on outstandingly valuable historical heritage. The government will do so before it makes an irreversible decision.

The report contains renewals relating to a total of eight areas.

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said that "[they] will certainly be open to be public in the future."

The Management Plan draft was supported by the National Cultural Heritage Administration of China, which will also be the party responsible for submitting the report to the WHC on behalf of Macau.

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**RANKING**

# HK most 'sustainable' among Chinese cities in urban competitiveness

BLOOMBERG



Macau is included among the world's 200 most competitive urban districts

**T**HE latest report on global urban competitiveness has shown that Hong Kong is still the best-performing city in the greater China region, ranking 11th in economic competitiveness and 6th in sustainable competitiveness. Macau is included among the world's 200 most competitive urban districts as are 38 other Chinese cities, according to the South China Morning Post (SCMP), though the MSAR's precise ranking was not mentioned.

A collaboration between the United Nations Human Settlements Program and the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences (CASS), the report examines global urban competitiveness using an index that includes components such as social innovation, global connection, human resources, economic vitality and infrastructure.

The findings of the report were presented at the International Conference of New Global Cities in the mainland city of Nanjing yesterday.

In total, 40 Chinese cities were included in the ranking of the 200 most competitive urban areas, including the two special administrative regions and Taipei.

The mainland city of Shenzhen topped the economic competitiveness index among Chinese cities in 5th position worldwide, while Hong Kong trailed in 11th place. But the Hong Kong SAR was the strongest Chinese city in terms of sustainable competitiveness, in 6th place globally.

Last year, Shenzhen's gross domestic product amounted to 2.24 trillion yuan (USD323 billion), only marginally behind Hong Kong's economy. That gap looks set to close in the next few years, with the mainland city growing more than twice as fast as its se-

mi-autonomous neighbor.

According to the ranking, however, Shenzhen has a lot of catch-up to do if it wants to overtake Hong Kong in terms of the sustainability competitiveness. The former fell in this year's ranking to 48th place from 35th last year, while Hong Kong reached 6th place.

One of the authors of the report, Professor Ni Pengfei, director of the CASS Centre for City and Competitiveness, told the South China Morning Post that new measurements and adjusted weightings were mostly responsible for Shenzhen's slip.

"We brought in new elements including the human resources potential this year and adopted a different weighting system," he told the SCMP. "The new calculating system also uncovered the great development potential in Hong Kong. [...] No mainland city can easily beat Hong Kong in the near future."

However, notable mainland cities like Shanghai, Guangzhou and Beijing are improving. This year they ranked 28th, 59th and 27th place, respectively, in terms of sustainable competitiveness.

Meanwhile, in global terms, the highest-ranked competitive cities continued to be New York, Los Angeles, Singapore, Tokyo and London.

According to the SCMP, the study also found that China's Greater Bay Area project - encompassing Hong Kong, Macau and nine cities of the Pearl River Delta area - was far from challenging the world's wealthiest bay areas in Japan and the U.S.

It noted that, although the Greater Bay Area is growing fast, its base was far lower than its Japanese and North American rivals, meaning it would take some time to catch up.

# MELCO Initiatives to support SMEs

**M**ORE than 90% of Macau businesses are small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs). Over the years, the dynamic SME sector has played an integral part in boosting the economy and creating jobs, among many other contributions to the community.

It's not surprising, then, that corporations such as Asian gaming and leisure leader Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited (Nasdaq: MLCO) - part of Macau's booming gaming sector - are compelled to do their part to support local brands and help them evolve with the times.

With support from the Macau Productivity and Technology Transfer Centre (CPTTM), Melco hosted a sustainability workshop last week for local SMEs at their integrated entertainment resort Studio City. Guest speakers from CPTTM and Melco introduced the Green Key - a global standard for sustainability in hospitality and tourism, of which Melco is the first local recipient - as well as occupational safety and health certification standard ISO 14001 and other procurement sustainability initiatives.

This workshop is not a one-time deal for Melco - it has had its finger on the pulse of the thriving SME community for many moons. Just this June, it held a similar outreach and networking event to explore the latest trends in occupational safety and health management, and even offered its own extensive expertise on the matters at hand.

Workshops aside, the team at Melco isn't afraid to roll up its sleeves for a hands-on demonstration. In March, it organised an experiential behind-the-scenes tour for 40 local vendors from various industries, ranging from marketing and furniture to maintenance and equipment. The tour kicked off with a briefing on sourcing needs and standards; followed by visits to Melco's loading docks and dining outlets, including Michelin-starred Chinese restaurant Pearl Dragon, to observe the kitchen and supply chain operations firsthand.

These Melco events invariably conclude with pitching sessions by participating SMEs, showcasing the best of their products and services for the chance

to be named a Melco vendor or partner. For Melco, however, such events are much more than 'Shark Tank'-style contests where entrepreneurs jostle for a prize: they are invaluable opportunities to meet small businesses, get a sense of their perspectives and forge connections that may open doors to future collaboration.

Melco appreciates that at the end of the day, much of Macau's economic growth has been due to the efforts of local SMEs working hand in hand with gaming giants. Even as the SAR pushes forward with its Smart City dreams, it cannot afford to neglect the small businesses which made it the tourism and gaming mecca that it is today.



Melco regularly hosts seminars providing the latest industry information updates, networking sessions and behind-the-scenes tours to foster a supportive and beneficial environment for local SMEs.



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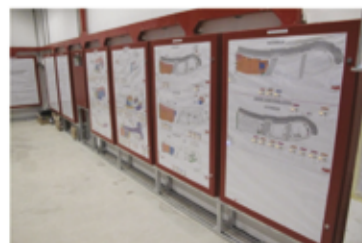
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CRIME

# Taxi driver assaulted and robbed by passenger



RENATO MARQUES

Renato Marques

A taxi driver was reportedly assaulted and robbed by a passenger during the early hours of last Friday, a Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson stated during a press conference yesterday.

According to the case report, the taxi driver was driving around the roundabout of Istmo in Cotai at 3 a.m. when a passenger hailed the taxi and asked for the driver to take him to the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal.

During the trip, the passenger, who was identified as a 20-something-year-old hairstylist, started an argument with the driver, accusing him of trying to take the longer route to reach the destination.

Upon arrival at the Ferry Terminal, the taximeter displayed a fee of MOP70, which the driver requested from the passenger. The passenger handed him a HKD100 bank note. After receiving the change, the passenger started to shout, saying that he had not given a HKD100 bill but, instead, a HKD1,000 bill, and initiated an argument that

escalated quickly, with the passenger pushing the driver several times.

At this moment, the driver rushed out of the car and tried to search for a police officer nearby. The passenger took the opportunity to steal some cash that was stored near the driver's seat.

After noticing that the passenger was trying to reach for something in the car, the driver rushed back, but the passenger had already fled, taking with him a sum of about MOP2,500, according to the driver's statement.

After the driver filed a complaint with the police, the police force initiated a search for the suspect, and caught him trying to reenter Macau through the same ferry terminal the very next evening.

Questioned by the PJ, the suspect admitted to the crime, stating that he had done it "out of anger."

He also said that he had immediately spent the money that he had stolen from the driver.

In a separate report by the police, on the night of October 27 at the Estrada da Baía de Nossa Senhora da Esperança, a man

from the mainland claims to have been robbed by an attacker who used a knife to threaten him.

The man said he had been walking around that street and knelt down to tie his shoelaces, placing a bag that he was carrying on the floor next to him. When he was preparing to stand-up, he noticed a man standing before him, pointing a knife and calling for him to hand over the bag.

The victim resisted, but under the threat of the knife, he eventually let the bag go and started shouting for help.

The attacker then tried to flee the scene by running towards the pedestrian flyover located on that street.

Realizing the situation, a taxi driver passing by tried to pursue the attacker by car, stopping near the flyover and continuing to pursue the attacker alongside the victim on foot.

The attacker, feeling under threat by the two men, eventually dropped the bag and ran away.

There was no report of any loss by the victim and the PJ is still trying to identify and locate the robber.

MUSIC

# OM travels to Shanghai to take part in Arts Festival



THE Macao Orchestra (OM) travelled to Shanghai between 20 and 25 October to perform at the 20th China Shanghai International Arts Festival. The orchestra took to the stage of the Shanghai Symphony Hall, together with the Shanghai Philharmonic Orchestra, to interpret Bruckner's Symphony No.8 in C minor.

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), OM took part in the China Shanghai International Arts Festival for the first time in 2013. Considering Austrian composer Anton Bruckner's

works are rarely presented in Asia, OM offered the Shanghai audience a rare chance to attend to a performance of the composer's longest work. The concert took place on October 24 and "earned enthusiastic praise and applause from the local audience," the IC stated.

The China Shanghai International Arts Festival is hosted by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism of the People's Republic of China and is co-organized by the Shanghai Municipal People's Government. According to the IC, it is "the only comprehensive arts festival in China at a national level."

# Couto back winning ahead of Macau return



MACAU driver André Couto came up victorious in Sunday's second race of the weekend of the China Touring Car Championship (CTCC). The local racer had been invited by KIA team to race in the Shanghai event, finishing in 11th position in the first race on Saturday at Tiama Circuit.

In the second race and although struggling to manage the tires, Couto managed to finish in the top spot of the podium.

After the race Couto wrote on social media: "It feels good to come back on top! Thanks for your support!"

The Macau racer has been


racing in different touring car events this year to return in best form after recovering from a serious injury in July 2017, resulting from a China GT racing accident at Zhuhai Circuit.

With this race, Couto finishes his preparation for the Macau Grand Prix where the driver is set to return heading a six wild card pack of local drivers who will join the grid for the final rounds of the FIA World Touring Car Cup.

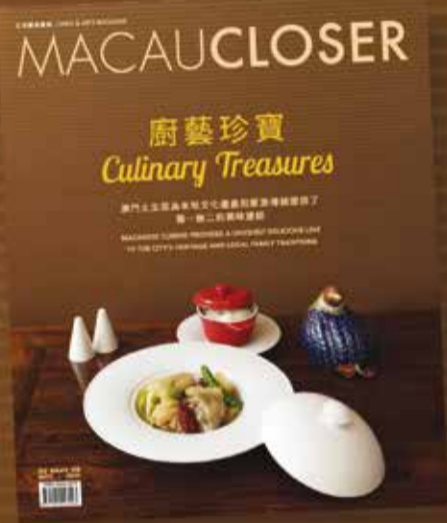
Couto will race in Macau at the driving wheel of a Honda Civic Type R TCR from the Macau flag team MacPro Racing Team. **RM**

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# Indonesian airline whose plane crashed a low-cost high flyer

**L**ION Air, the airline whose plane crashed early yesterday while traveling from Jakarta to an island off Indonesia's Sumatra with 189 people on board, is a fast-growing low cost airline with a mixed safety record.

The privately-owned carrier was founded in 1999 to provide access to air travel to everyone. It offers dozens of flights a day both internationally and within the archipelago's more than 17,000 islands.

The biggest airline in the country in terms of passenger numbers and one of the largest low-cost carriers after Malaysia-based AirAsia, it mostly flies Boeing 737s.

Before yesterday's crash the airline had not reported a fatal accident since 2004, when 25 people died when the DC-9 they were on crashed amid heavy rain at Solo City in central Java.

Yesterday's disaster was a blow to the country's aviation safety record after the lifting of bans on its airlines by the European Union and U.S.

The European Union barred Indonesian airlines from flying to Europe in 2007 due to safety concerns. Lion Air was allowed to resume flights to Europe as of June 2016, and the ban on all other Indonesian airlines was lifted earlier this year.

The U.S. lifted a decade-long ban in 2016.

Last month, two Lion Air-owned aircraft had a wingtip strike while they were on the tarmac at Jakarta's airport. An investigation attributed the incident to a rushed departure. In April, a Lion Air Boeing 737-800 overran the runway at Gorontalo Airport on the island of Sulawesi. Afterward, investigators and the airline is-

AP PHOTO



## The airline has been expanding bullishly in Southeast Asia

sued instructions on improving safety awareness and procedures.

No one was reported injured in either of those incidents, according to reports on the website Aviation Safety Network.

Lion Air announced early this year that it was among three major Indonesian airlines, including Garuda Indonesia and Batik Air, that were upgraded to the highest level of safety rating after Indonesia passed a key international audit under the International Civil Aviation Organization's Universal Safety Oversight Audit Program.

Lion Air has been expanding bullishly in Southeast Asia, a fast-

growing region of more than 600 million people. Earlier this year it confirmed a deal to buy 50 new Boeing narrow-body aircraft worth an estimated \$6.24 billion.

In a record transaction, Lion Air signed a deal to buy 230 Boeing jets for \$21.7 billion during a visit by then-President Barack Obama in November 2011.

The carrier was founded by Indonesian-Chinese brothers Rusdi and Kusnan Kirana, who pooled money to set up a travel agency and then began their airline with one leased aircraft. Rusdi Kirana, chief executive officer of the airline, was named Indonesia's ambassador to Malaysia in 2017 after serving as an advisor to Indonesian President Joko Widodo.

The carrier operates with regional partners Thai Lion Air, Malindo Air, Wings Air, Batik Air and Lion Bizjet. It also has a freight business, Lion Parcel. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Household debt flashes red in Morgan Stanley report

BLOOMBERG



Piotr Skolimowski

**A**USTRALIA'S economy is most at risk in the developed world from household debt reduction because of weak house prices and potential tax changes that could curb property investments, according to Morgan Stanley.

That's the conclusion from the bank's Household Deleveraging Risk Indicator, which looks at relative debt and structural weaknesses. The study of the world's 10 leading developed economies puts Sweden and Canada as the second-most at risk, followed by Norway.

"These economies now face a crucial juncture as housing markets weaken, forcing a reappraisal of leverage and wealth, and global financial conditions tighten, increasing the consumption drag from debt service and rising savings," the bank's strategists said in a report.

Morgan Stanley notes that households in the U.S., Japan, European Union and U.K. cut debt since the global financial crisis. But it says that masked record debt build-ups in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, Swe-

den and Switzerland.

The report suggests that Australia will probably enter a "benign deleveraging phase" because of its strong global economy and public infrastructure spending. Still, the risk of a longer than usual recession "remains elevated" as regulators impose so-called macroprudential measures that will tighten lending standards and slow credit growth.

In the case of Canada, the risks come from a combination of falling house prices, rising interest rates and weaker credit growth. In Sweden, the flashpoint is a drop in property prices.

Morgan Stanley estimates that household debt in the 10 largest developed economies has surged to 160 percent of income from 98 percent over the past two decades. That could have consequences for monetary policy if the trend is suddenly thrown in reverse.

"The increasingly proactive use of macroprudential tools and greater inflation-target flexibility in some countries will lead to more gradual rate-hiking cycles, with lower neutral rates in the medium term," it said. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA HOLDS RESPONSIBLE GAMING ACTIVITIES



Sands China's Responsible Gaming 2018 activities began in October, with the company's internal campaign lasting until December. The promotion seeks to foster responsible gaming practices and to continue increasing team members' awareness of

problem gambling. The Sheng Kung Hui Macau Social Services Coordination Office, YMCA Macau, Associação de Juventude Voluntária de Macau (AJVM) and the Gaming Employees' Home held roadshows between October 10 to 31 at

Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao.

The roadshows helped team members learn more about the organisations' responsible gaming services, including Sheng Kung Hui's 24-hour gambling counselling hotline and its online gambling counselling services, as cited in a press release issued by the gaming operator.

These roadshows aim to enhance team members' awareness of responsible gaming and to encourage those dealing with gambling disorders to seek help as soon as possible. The roadshows also included responsible gaming-related games and activities for team members.

### RATO, LING, LEI & CORTÉS – ADVOGADOS SIGNS COOPERATION AGREEMENT WITH UCP



Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortés – Advogados signed a cooperation agreement yesterday with Universidade Católica Portuguesa (UCP), which includes, among other areas, teaching collaboration in undergraduate programs and seminars, internships, scholarships, excellence prizes, the promotion of academic programs, specialized legal courses and the

promotion of conferences.

Through this protocol, the new course "Law of the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR)" started last September. The course is chaired by Professor Jorge Pereira da Silva, Dean of Católica Lisbon School of Law, and by lawyers Frederico Rato, Pedro Cortés and Óscar Alberto Madureira, as well as by Beatriz

Madureira.

The subject aims to provide students with knowledge of basic concepts of Macau Law, serving as preparation for those who intend to pursue their professional activity in Macau. The course will focus on the areas of Public Law – in particular, Constitutional Law – as well as Civil, Criminal, Commercial and Labour Law. In the second semester, students can also attend a course on Gaming Law, which aims to teach them about this core and undeniably important sector of Macau's economy.

Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortés – Advogados was established in Macau more than 30 years ago and is the only Macau office present in mainland China (Hengqin), having, since last year, a Portuguese office in Lisbon. As part of its strategic plan, it intends to open offices in Hong Kong, East Timor and Brazil.

# Regulator is said to propose 50 percent car purchase tax cut

CHINA is considering cutting a tax on most cars in half to jumpstart flagging sales in the world's largest automotive market, triggering a surge in stocks from Volkswagen AG to Daimler AG.

The country's top economic planning body submitted a plan to key policymakers to lower the purchase tax to 5 percent for passenger vehicles with engines no bigger than 1.6 liters, according to people familiar with the matter. No decision has been made on implementation, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information isn't public.

Chinese car sales are on track for their first annual drop in two decades as the trade row with the U.S. weighs on growth and fuels losses in the stock market. After racking up record sales over the past few decades as China's emergent middle class bought their first cars, consumers are retreating from big-ticket buys, a pullback exacerbated by the phasing out of a car purchase tax rebate.



The decline is being felt by the world's top carmakers, with Volkswagen to Ford Motor Co. on the back foot as demand in what has become a key market fizzles.

Volkswagen, which last year sold some 39 percent of its vehicles in China, rose 6 percent to 145.04 euros, the biggest intra-

day gain in more than two years, and traded up 5.3 percent at 11:12 a.m. in Frankfurt trading. BMW AG and Mercedes-Benz maker Daimler, who count China as their biggest market, also rose sharply.

The National Development and Reform Commission, which also

acts as China's top regulator, didn't immediately respond to a fax seeking comment. Cars of that engine size accounted for some 70 percent of the total number of passenger vehicles sold last year, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers.

Should the tax-cut plan go ahead, it could be seen as the latest effort by China to support the \$12 trillion economy, which has slowed this year amid the ongoing trade friction. In recent weeks, policy makers have tried to calm ructions in the stock market and acted to bolster private businesses by supporting bond issuance. Banks' reserve-requirement ratios have been cut four times this year as a way of encouraging them to lend.

## Chinese car sales are on track for their first annual drop in two decades

China put the purchase-tax incentive in place in 2015, and reduced the rebate last year before phasing it out at the start of 2018.

Passenger-car purchases by dealerships declined 12 percent to 2.06 million units in September, according to the car manufacturers body. For the first nine months of this year, the industry eked out a sales gain of just 0.6 percent, and the association said the fourth-quarter outlook was challenging. **Bloomberg**

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1. "Worry-Free Data Usage" will provide infinite data amount at throttling speed not less than 384kbps upon basic data usage is fully consumed. - The two products from the left on the picture are HUAWEI Mate20. The remaining one is HUAWEI Mate20 Pro. - Colour choices for HUAWEI Mate20 are Midnight Blue, Twilight and Black; for HUAWEI Mate20 Pro, Emerald Green, Twilight and Black. The picture above is for reference only; the real product should be considered as final. - Product will only be available while stock lasts. Please contact 3shop staff for any enquires.\*Support HUAWEI SuperCharge with TÜV Safe Fast-Charge System and is only applicable to HUAWEI Mate20 Pro with the 40W Charger.

# US to press patrols in disputed sea, Beijing warns 'meddlers'

**T**HE U.S. Navy will continue patrolling the disputed South China Sea, a top Navy official said yesterday, after a Chinese destroyer came dangerously close to an American Navy ship during a "freedom of navigation" sail-by near a Chinese-occupied reef.

Admiral John Richardson, who heads U.S. naval operations, said in a news conference with Philippine military officials in Manila yesterday that such patrols highlight the U.S. position against "illegitimate maritime claims."

"We will continue to progress this program of freedom of navigation operations," Richardson said. "We do dozens of these operations around the world to indicate our position for ... illegitimate claims, maritime claims."

While Washington has no claims to the strategic waterway, it has declared that freedom of navigation and the peaceful resolution of the disputes are in the U.S. national interest. The U.S. has also questioned China's expansive claims, bringing it into a collision course with Beijing as the countries' ties deteriorate.



Carlito Galvez Jr. (left) and Adm. John Richardson

A Chinese destroyer came close to the USS Decatur in late September in an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver" near Gaven Reef in the South China Sea, forcing it to maneuver to prevent a collision, according

to the U.S. Pacific Fleet.

U.S. Pacific Fleet spokesman Lt. Cmdr. Tim Gorman said the Chinese destroyer approached within 45 yards (41 meters) of the Decatur's bow. China said the Luoyang, a Chinese missile

destroyer, was deployed to identify the U.S. warship and drive it away near Chinese territory.

Gaven is claimed by China, the Philippines, Vietnam and Taiwan. Malaysia and Brunei

also have claims in the South China Sea.

Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi, who is on a visit to southern Davao city in the Philippines, said in a separate news conference that some "non-regional countries" were stirring up trouble in the disputed waters and "have been showing off their force."

Wang said China and Southeast Asian nations should guard against foreign interference. China has repeatedly criticized what it says is U.S. meddling in an Asian territorial dispute.

"We shall work together to be vigilant against and prevent interferences and disruptions coming from the outside as China and the Philippines and other littoral states of the South China Sea are cooperating to uphold peace and cooperation," Wang said.

The Chinese and Philippine coast guards have set up telephone hotlines to allow them to communicate rapidly to prevent any conflict from getting out of control in the disputed waters. Other possible arrangements are being discussed for ships and aircraft, he said.

"Mechanisms of this kind can effectively avoid misjudgment, prevent unexpected incidents," Wang said. "China is also willing to build similar mechanisms with other claimant states so as to enhance communication and timely handle the emergencies should they happen." AP

## HONG KONG

# New-home sales tumble in first data since rate rise

Shawna Kwan

**H**ONG Kong's new-home sales cooled, another sign of weakness in a property market that may be at risk of a correction.

The transaction value so far in October is HKD11.2 billion (\$1.4 billion), the lowest level in 16 months once holiday distortions are excluded. The number of transactions stood at 1,130, down by almost half from the total for all of September, according to the data from Midland Realty.

The sales figures are the first since Hong Kong banks began closing the chapter on a decade of ultra-low borrowing costs by last month raising their best lending rates. Buyers are also stepping back because of unaffordable prices and concerns over the economy, according to Nicole Wong, regional head of property research at brokerage CLSA Ltd.



**Buyers now have to rethink that the cheaper prices are not cheap at all.**

NICOLE WONG  
CLSA HEAD OF PROPERTY RESEARCH

"The developers tried the tactics of pricing it low, it has worked for a while, but it's no longer working," Wong said. "Buyers now have to rethink that the cheaper prices are not cheap at all."

Prices for existing homes have fallen by about 2 percent since the beginning of September, after more than quadrupling since 2003, according to the Centaline Property Centa-City Leading Index. **Bloomberg**

# Chinese tourists to Vietnam surge in 10 months



**V**IENTIANA welcomed roughly 4.2 million Chinese visitors in the first 10 months of this year, or 32.6 percent of the total international arrivals, posting a year-on-year rise of 28.8 percent, the Vietnam National Administration of Tourism said yesterday.

Meanwhile, Vietnam hosted a total of more than 12.8 million international arrivals, up 22.4 percent on-year, with the highest growth of 48.3 percent in the number of visitors

from South Korea, trailed by Finland, up 33.3 percent, and China, up 28.8 percent.

Of the foreign visitors in the first 10 months of this year, nearly 10.4 million came to Vietnam by air, up 26.7 percent; roughly 2.3 million by road, up 62.5 percent; and 200,100 by sea, down 2.3 percent.

Meanwhile, roughly 10 million visitors were from Asia, up 26.5 percent; nearly 1.7 million from Europe, up 9.8 percent; 754,200 from the

Americas, mainly from the United States, up 12.4 percent; 372,600 from Oceania, up 5.7 percent, and 34,800 from Africa, up 19.7 percent.

Between January and October, Vietnam also welcomed 67.9 million domestic tourists. The country plans to receive some 16 million foreign visitors and 78 million domestic ones, and gain tourism revenues of 27.5 billion U.S. dollars in 2018, said the administration. **MDT/Xinhua**

Cecilia Yap, Brian K. Sullivan

## PHILIPPINES

# Typhoon prompts evacuation in storm-prone provinces

**P**HILIPPINE authorities started to move people to safer grounds as Typhoon Yutu approaches, tracking a path similar to last month's storm that devastated rice-producing provinces in the main island of Luzon.

Yutu, which last week became the strongest storm since 1950 to hit the U.S. territories in the Northern Mariana Islands, is now the equivalent of a Category 2 storm on the U.S. Saffir-Simpson scale. Its maximum winds have slowed to 167 kilometers per hour, according to the latest Joint Typhoon Warning Center forecast, compared with 121 miles per hour earlier yesterday.

The typhoon is forecast to make landfall on today either in the province of Isabela or Aurora in northern Philippines, according to the local weather bureau. Mangkhut, which killed more than 120 people in the Philippines and damaged about 26.7 billion pesos (USD498 million) of the nation's farm output, slammed into Cagayan province, also in north Luzon, in September.

Storm signal No. 3 was raised in the provinces of Isabela, Quirino and Aurora. Under the third-hi-



ghest alert, rice and corn crops may suffer heavy losses and widespread disruption of power and communication lines may happen, according to the Philippine weather bureau.

More than two dozen areas including the capital region of Me-

tro Manila are under lower alert levels. About 20 cyclones pass through disaster-prone Philippines each year. In 2013, Super Typhoon Haiyan killed more than 6,300 people in the Southeast Asian nation.

As many as 12 million people in

290 cities and towns in Luzon are along the storm's path, Edgar Posadas, spokesman for the Philippine disaster-monitoring agency, said at a televised briefing.

Cebu Air Inc. canceled several local flights ahead of the Halloween break. Yutu, named

Rosita in the Philippines, was about 355 kilometers from Luzon's east coast on Monday afternoon.

Last month, Mangkhut hit the Philippines main island before striking Hong Kong. At their peak, both Mangkhut and Yutu had winds of 180 miles per hour, making them the strongest in the world this year.

"Manila will get a little bit of rain but the worst of it is well to the north," said Jason Nicholls, a meteorologist with AccuWeather Inc. in State College, Pennsylvania.

The mountains of Luzon will tear at Yutu's structure and significantly weaken the storm before it emerges into the South China Sea Wednesday, Nicholls said.

Yutu is forecast to drift north, possibly bringing rain to China's southeast coast in the coming days. **Bloomberg**

## JAPAN

# Princess Ayako marries commoner at shrine ceremony



Princess Ayako (center right) dressed in traditional ceremonial robe, and groom Kei Moriya (center left)

**J**APAN'S Princess Ayako married a commoner in a ritual-filled ceremony yesterday at Tokyo's Meiji Shrine.

Ayako and groom Kei Moriya were shown on national news walking slowly before guests at the shrine. The wedding took place in one of the pagoda-like buildings in the shrine complex and included an exchange of rings and a sharing of a cup of sake, according to Japanese media.

Both rituals are relatively

routine for Shinto-style weddings, including those of regular Japanese.

Ayako, 28, is the daughter of the emperor's cousin, and Moriya, 32, works for major shipping company Nippon Yusen.

She wore a Heian-era style hairdo, which is swept back into a ponytail, and a traditional robe splashed with red and green patterns, while Moriya wore coattails. She later changed into a red Japanese robe. "I am filled with

happiness," she told reporters after the ceremony.

Women who marry into the imperial family become members of the family, but those who marry commoners, like Ayako, must leave. Moriya said he hoped to help Ayako adjust to a commoner's life.

"I want us to work together, hand in hand, to create a family filled with smiles," he said.

Ayako bid farewell to Emperor Akihito last week. She said Monday she hoped to continue to help the emperor and empress as a former member of the imperial family.

The eldest granddaughter of the emperor is set to marry a commoner in 2020.

Akihito has said he will abdicate next year. His eldest son, Crown Prince Naruhito, will ascend to the Chrysanthemum Throne on May 1.

Ayako and Moriya said when they announced their wedding plans that they met because their mothers were friends and hit it off immediately.

"It didn't feel as though we had met for the first time," Ayako told reporters at their engagement.

Moriya said he had been attracted to her gentle spirit. "And I knew I wanted to spend the rest of my life with her," he said.

Ayako's father, Prince Takamado, who was active in supporting Japanese soccer, died in 2002. **AP**

## MALAYSIA

# Sale of superyacht linked to graft scandal launched

**M**ALAYSIA'S government launched a one-month auction yesterday for a luxury yacht bought with money stolen from the multibillion-dollar looting of a state investment fund.

The sale came nearly three months after Indonesia returned the USD250 million yacht, Equanimity, after it seized off Bali in February in cooperation with the U.S. FBI. The U.S. Justice Department, one of several foreign agencies investigating a massive graft scandal at the 1MDB fund, had listed the yacht among the assets it could seize and sell to recover stolen funds.

U.S. investigators said Malaysian financier Low Taek Jho, better known as Jho Low, who the Justice Department alleges was a key figure in the theft and international laundering of \$4.5 billion from 1MDB, bought the yacht with proceeds diverted from 1MDB.

Ong Chee Kwan, a lawyer for 1MDB, says the government opened bids for the 300-foot (91.5 meter) yacht

following a lengthy court process.

Low, who has so far evaded investigators, has through statements issued by his U.S. lawyers slammed the handover of the yacht to Malaysia as illegal but didn't claim ownership of the vessel in the Malaysian court. The court awarded ownership of the yacht to 1MDB and the government as no one challenged their claim.

Ong said advertisements were placed in international and local media on the yacht sale that will be handled by London-based brokerage Burgess Yachts. He said interested parties must put in a \$1 million deposit to bid for the vessel.

Once the auction ends Nov. 28, he said the government could make a decision on the sale within a week.

Burgess said on its website that the "judicial sale will provide the buyer with an internationally recognized ownership title free of mortgage, attachment and all encumbrances."

Former Prime Minister Najib Razak set up

1MDB when he took power in 2009 but it accumulated billions in debts. The 1MDB fiasco led to Najib's electoral defeat in May's general elections and ushered in the country's first change of power since independence from Britain in 1957.

Najib and his wife have been charged with multiple counts of corruption and money-laundering over the 1MDB case. Both have pleaded not guilty and their trials will start next year.

The new government has said corruption by Najib's administration caused national debt to pile up. The yacht, currently docked at Port Klang outside Kuala Lumpur, is being sold to recover as much money as possible.

The Equanimity's lavish amenities include a helicopter landing pad, plunge pool, gymnasium and a cinema. It was built in 2014 by the Dutch yacht manufacturer Oceano, which received detailed instructions from Low about its outfitting, according to the Justice Department's asset recovery case. **AP**



A member of Indonesian Search and Rescue Agency inspects debris recovered from the plane crash

Police officers carry a body bag

# Indonesia says survivors unlikely from Lion Air plane crash

Achmad Ibrahim, Stephen Wright

**A** Lion Air plane crashed into the sea just minutes after taking off from Indonesia's capital yesterday, likely killing all 189 people on board, in a blow to the country's aviation safety record after the lifting of bans on its airlines by the European Union and U.S.

The national search and rescue agency said human remains have been recovered from the crash area. Its director of operations, Bambang Suryo Aji, told a news conference the search effort is focusing on finding bodies, and survivors are not expected.

More than 300 people including soldiers, police and local fishermen were involved in the search that has also recovered ID cards, personal belongings and aircraft debris. At least a dozen ambulances were parked at a nearby beach.

Indonesia's disaster agency posted photos online of a crushed smartphone, books, bags and parts of the aircraft fuselage that had been collected by search and rescue vessels.

President Joko Widodo ordered the transport safety commission to investigate and urged Indonesians to "keep on praying" as rescuers search for victims.

An air transport official, Novie Riyanto, said the flight was cleared to return to Jakarta after

the pilot made a "return to base" request two to three minutes after taking off. It plunged into the sea about 10 minutes later. Weather conditions were normal but the brand new aircraft had experienced a technical issue on its previous flight.

Lion Air said the jet, on a 1 hour and 10 minute flight to Pangkal Pinang on an island chain off Sumatra, was carrying 181 passengers, including one child and two babies, and eight crew members. It said there were two foreigners on board the plane: its pilot, originally from New Delhi, and an Italian citizen.

## Weather conditions for the flight were safe

Distraught friends and relatives prayed and hugged each other as they waited at Pangkal Pinang's airport and at a crisis center set up at Jakarta's airport. Indonesian TV broadcast pictures of a fuel slick and debris field in the ocean.

At the search agency's headquarters in Jakarta, family members arrived, hoping desperately for news. Feni, who uses a single name, said her soon to be married sister was on the flight, planning to meet relatives in Pangkal Pinang. "We are here to

find any information about my younger sister, her fiance, her in-law to be and a friend of them," said Feni.

"We don't have any information," she said, as her father wiped tears from reddened eyes. "No one provided us with any information that we need. We're confused. We hope that our family is still alive."

Indonesian Finance Minister Sri Mulyani also arrived at the agency and met with its chief, seeking information about 20 ministry staff who were on the flight after attending a ministry event in Jakarta. Photos circulating online showed the distraught minister trying to comfort stunned colleagues.

The search and rescue agency said the flight ended in waters off West Java that are 30 to 35 meters deep. The agency's chief, Muhammad Syaugi, told a news conference that divers are trying to locate the wreckage.

Weather conditions for the flight were safe, according to the Indonesian meteorology agency. It said the type of clouds associated with turbulence was not present and winds were weak.

The Boeing 737 Max 8 was delivered to Lion Air in mid-August and put in use within days, according to aviation website Flightradar24. Malindo Air, a Malaysian subsidiary of Jakarta-based Lion Air, was the first airline to be using the 737 Max 8 last year. The Max 8 replaced the similar 800 in the Chicago-

based plane maker's product line.

Lion Air president-director Edward Sirait said the plane had a "technical problem" on its previous flight from Bali to Jakarta but it had been fully remedied. He didn't know specifics of the problem when asked in a TV interview. The pilot of Flight 610 had more than 6,000 flying hours while the co-pilot had more than 5,000 hours, according to the airline.

"Indeed there were reports about a technical problem, and the technical problem has been resolved in accordance with the procedures released by the plane manufacturer," he said. "I did not know exactly but let it be investigated by the authorities."

Boeing Co. said it was "deeply saddened" by the crash and was prepared to provide technical assistance to Indonesia's crash probe.

In a statement, the Chicago

-based manufacturer expressed its concern for the 189 people onboard and offered "heartfelt sympathies to their families and loved ones."

The Transport Ministry said the plane took off from Jakarta at about 6:20 a.m. and crashed just 13 minutes later. Data from FlightAware showed it had reached an altitude of only 1,580 meters.

The crash is the worst airline disaster in Indonesia since an AirAsia flight from Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea in December 2014, killing all 162 on board.

Indonesian airlines were barred in 2007 from flying to Europe because of safety concerns, though several were allowed to resume services in the following decade. The ban was completely lifted in June this year. The U.S. lifted a decadelong ban in 2016.

Lion Air, a discount carrier, is one of Indonesia's youngest and biggest airlines, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations.

In 2013, one of its Boeing 737-800 jets missed the runway while landing on Bali, crashing into the sea without causing any fatalities among the 108 people on board. **AP**

### CHINESE COMPANY OWNED CRASHED LION AIR PLANE

**THE OFFICIAL** China News Service says a Chinese company, China Minsheng Investment Group Leasing Holdings Ltd., owned the Lion Air plane that crashed and leased it to the airline. CNS quoted CMIG Leasing as saying it was extremely sad about the accident and was in close contact with Lion Air, Boeing and other organizations. The company

said it is a common practice for airlines to obtain large aircraft through leasing arrangements with third companies. The statement was not on the company's website and calls to it were unanswered Monday afternoon. CMIG Leasing is part of the sprawling CMIG group, which has interests in fields including logistics, energy and health care.

Philip Issa, Hadi Mizban

**M**ILLIONS of Shiite Muslims from around the world are making their way this week to their sect's holy shrines in the Iraqi city of Karbala, a pilgrimage that is as much about community as it is about religion.

The shrines are of two revered Shiite imams: Hussein, the grandson of the Prophet Muhammad, and his half-brother Abbas. The annual commemoration, called Arbaceen, draws more pilgrims each year — according to Iraqi figures — than the hajj in Saudi Arabia, a pilgrimage required once in a lifetime of every Muslim who can afford it and is physically able to make it.

Pilgrims stream toward Karbala on foot from the cities of Najaf, 70 kilometers away, Baghdad, 90 kilometers to the north, and other places farther afield, resting along the way in tents lined with foam mattresses and fleece blankets.

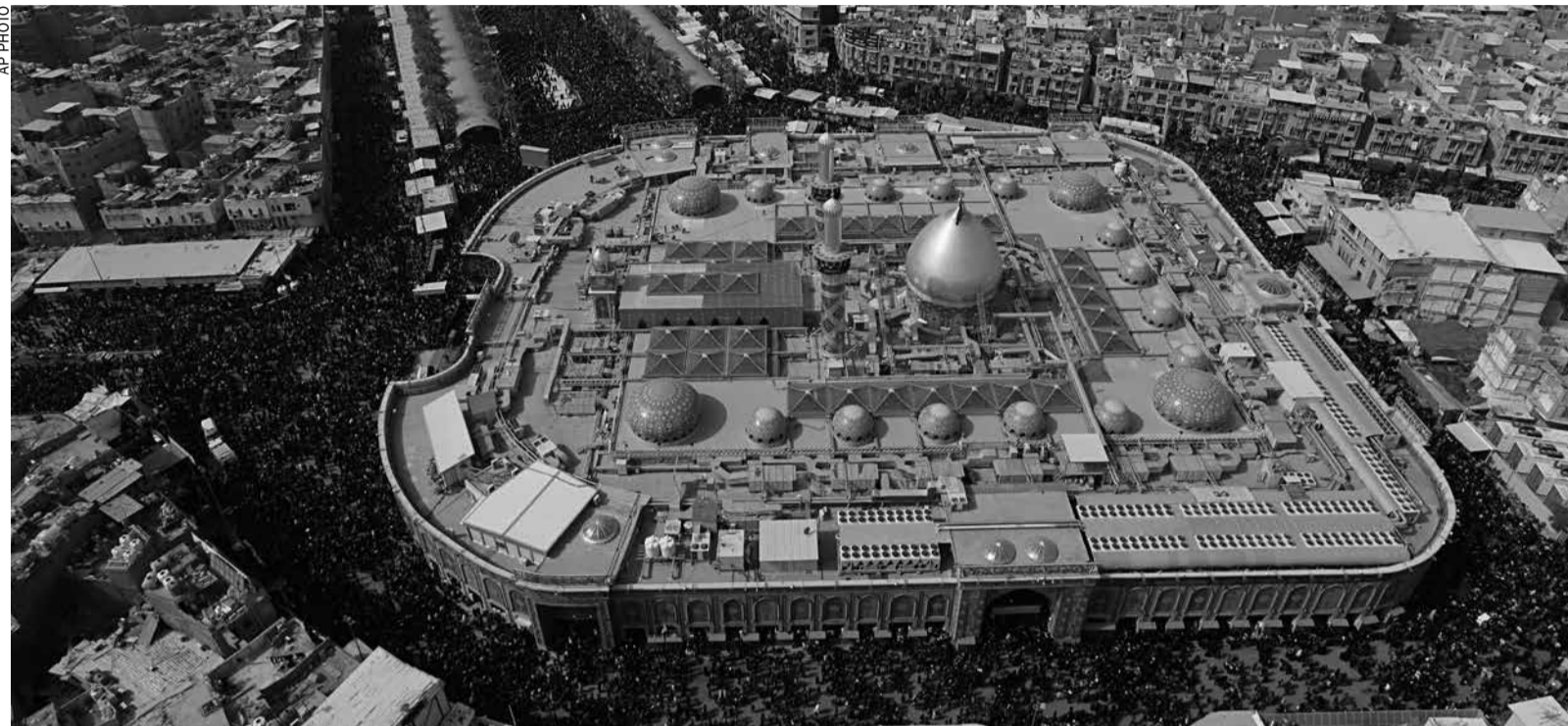
"Our fathers and our grandfathers walked to Karbala, and God willing, our children will, too," said Karrad Karim, a 24-year-old pilgrim journeying with four friends from Baghdad. They brought with them large flags bearing devotional sayings to the Shiite saints, but little in the way of supplies for the four-day journey.

That's because along the roads, stalls set up by charities, mosques, and devotional groups see to it that no traveler goes hungry. Cooks prepare vast amounts of stewed lamb, grilled fish, fresh bread, and rice for the pilgrims, refusing payment for the meals.

The pilgrimage, known in Arabic as the Ziara, marks the 40th day of mourning of the anniversary of Hussein's 7th century death at the hands of the Muslim Umayyad forces in the Battle of Karbala, during the tumultuous first century of Islam's history.

Hussein was seen by his followers as the rightful heir of the prophet's legacy. When he refused to pledge allegiance to the Umayyad caliphate, he was killed in the battle, cementing the schism between Sunni and Shiite Islam. Hussein's half-brother Abbas was also killed in the battle.

# 'Walk to heaven': Shiite pilgrims trek to Iraq's Karbala



Shiite pilgrims gathering between the holy shrine of Imam Hussein

Modern depictions of Hussein, stitched on banners displayed along the pilgrimage, show him with blood on his brow and bearing a Christ-like countenance.

But the mood is not all somber among the pilgrims. Spirits were high as travelers approached Karbala, and improved further with generous helpings of dates and tea. "This is a walk to heaven," said Alaa Dadi, 45, who was making his way with his wife and three children.

Sunnis outnumber Shiites by a wide margin among the world's estimated 1.5 billion Muslims, and Shiite rituals are far less known. The hajj is considered one of the five pillars of Islam, and an obligation for all Muslims — Sunni and Shiite. The Ziara is voluntary and holds little significance in Sunni tradition.

In recent years, the Iraqi government says Karbala received 10-20 million visitors during the event, with many Shiite pilgrims coming from Iraq. No figures have yet been released for 2018.

Our fathers and our grandfathers walked to Karbala, and God willing, our children will, too.

KARRAD KARIM  
24-YEAR-OLD PILGRIM

This year's pilgrimage is the first since Iraq's government declared victory over the Islamic State group in January, but the threat of insurgent attacks still lingers. The militant group has deliberately targeted Shiites in Iraq and elsewhere to destabilize the region. Thousands of Iraqi soldiers and special police forces have been deployed to protect the pilgrims along the routes.

Iranian religious affairs official Hussein Zulfighari said 1.7 million Iranians had already

crossed into Iraq for the pilgrimage, and predicted the number could reach 2 million by the event's climax today. Zulfighari, quoted in Iran's Fars news agency, said the visitors include 50,000 Afghan Shiites living in Iran.

Muhammad Thiqawi, 57, from Iran, said he was initially hesitant about making the journey this year. A month ago, protesters in Iraq's southern city of Basra burned down Iran's Consulate over what they felt was the country's undue influence over Iraqi affairs. Iran, the region's Shiite power, exerts considerable sway over Iraqi politics through its support for Shiite parties and government-backed militias.

But, he said, "the Iraqis hosted us in their homes and welcomed us. They said Iranians are our friends and guests of Hussein." On his child's stroller, he pinned a poster of the two countries' flags.

Ali al-Alizi, 35, traveled from Qatif, a Shiite province in eastern

Saudi Arabia that has been the target of repression by the Sunni monarchy.

Lord Maurice Glasman, a Labour peer in Britain's House of Lords who was raised Jewish, said he came at the encouragement of his Iraqi friends to better understand the country that defeated the Islamic State group's insurgency.

"Politically, ethically, spiritually, it has been an extremely elevated visit," said Glasman, who arrived in Karbala on Sunday, after walking several days from Najaf.

The hajj saw 2.4 million pilgrims this year but Saudi authorities regulate the tradition tightly, driving up costs for pilgrims and depriving it of some of the spontaneity seen in the Ziara. For many Muslims who cannot afford to go on the hajj or cannot get the Saudi visa, the Ziara is a satisfying alternative.

"The hajj is required by God, but the Ziara is voluntary," said Sayyid Abdelmir Mousawi, 46. "Those who go do it out of love." AP

## Saudi, Turkish prosecutors discuss Khashoggi killing

**T**OP Saudi and Turkish prosecutors yesterday discussed the investigation into the killing of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi, a show of cooperation despite differences over which country should try 18 suspects who were detained in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia's top prosecutor, Saud al-Mojeb, met Istanbul's chief public prosecutor, Irfan Fidan, for one hour and 15 minutes at the main courthouse in Turkey's biggest city,

Turkey's state-run Anadolu news agency said.

The two countries are jointly investigating the killing in Saudi Arabia's consulate in Istanbul, though Turkey has leaked evidence to the media in an apparent effort to pressure its regional rival for full disclosure. Turkey also says a trial in Turkey would be transparent, reflecting concerns about official Saudi attempts to dodge responsibility for the killing.

Turkey's foreign minister,

Mevlut Cavusoglu, yesterday welcomed the cooperation between Turkish and Saudi investigators and said he hoped there would be no delays.

"The investigation should be concluded as soon as possible," Cavusoglu said. "The whole world is curious. All the truth should be revealed."

Turkey is seeking the extradition of the Saudi suspects detained for the killing, which happened after Khashoggi entered the

consulate on Oct. 2. Saudi Foreign Minister Adel al-Jubeir, however, says the kingdom will try the perpetrators and bring them to justice after the investigation is completed.

Saudi officials characterize the killing as a rogue operation carried out by agents who exceeded their authority. Some of those implicated in the killing are close to Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, the kingdom's heir-apparent whose condemnation of the killing

has failed to ease suspicions that he was involved.

Khashoggi, a onetime Saudi insider and U.S. resident who lived in self-imposed exile for almost a year before his death, had written critically of the crown prince in columns for The Washington Post.

Under mounting international pressure, Saudi Arabia has changed its narrative about Khashoggi's killing several times, recently acknowledging that Turkish evidence shows it was pre-

meditated. Turkey alleges a 15-member hit squad traveled to Istanbul to kill the journalist, and then tried to cover it up.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan says his country will reveal more evidence about the killing but is not in any rush to do so. U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis has said the killing undermines regional stability and has urged Saudi Arabia to conduct a full and complete investigation. AP

# Brazil elects far-right president, worrying rights groups

**I**N some of his first words to the nation as president-elect, far-right politician Jair Bolsonaro promised to defend the constitution and unite a bitterly divided populace.

His left-wing rival immediately vowed to mount a vigorous opposition, while rights groups warned against a rollback of civil liberties.

That juxtaposition underscored the reality that the end of the election was not the end of acrimony and that myriad challenges lay ahead for Latin America's largest nation.

Bolsonaro appeared to try to allay those concerns yesterday [Macau time], saying he would "pacify" Brazil following a race that revealed deep divisions and was repeatedly marred by violence. The candidate himself was stabbed and almost died while campaigning in early September, and there were numerous reports of politically motivated violence, especially directed at gay people.

"This country belongs to all of us, Brazilians by birth or by heart, a Brazil of diverse opinions, colors and orientations," he said, reading off a sheet of paper in a live television address.

His victory moved Brazil, the world's fourth-largest democracy, sharply to the right after four consecutive elections in which candidates from the left-leaning Workers' Party won.

Like other right-leaning leaders who have risen to power around the globe, Bolsonaro built his popularity on a mixture of tough talk and hardline positions. And, like many, he is sure to face stiff pushback from groups concerned that his strong views will



A supporter of Jair Bolsonaro salutes during a celebration in front of his residence

lead to policies that threaten democratic institutions.

Bolsonaro spent much of the campaign exploiting divisions, taking to Twitter to lambaste the rival Workers' Party as unethical and dangerous. In recent weeks, Brazilians were bombarded with WhatsApp messages that condemned Workers' Party candidate Fernando Haddad, often making outrageous claims.

Ultimately, Bolsonaro's messages resonated with Brazilians hungry for change: He got just over 55 percent of the votes Sunday, compared to right under 45 percent for Haddad.

Haddad promised a fight while saying he would respect the country's institutions.

"We have the responsibility to mount an opposition, putting national interests, the interests of the entire Brazilian people, above everything," Haddad said in a speech to supporters. "Brazil has possibly never needed the exercise of citizenship more than right now."

In a sign of how tense the race got, Haddad did not congratulate Bolsonaro, whom he had accused of spreading lies about him and his family.

Amid the celebrations by Bolsonaro's supporters, there were also reports of some clashes between his backers and opponents.

The rise of Bolsonaro, who cast himself as a political outsider despite a largely lackluster 27-year career in Congress, parallels the emergence of hard-right leaders in many countries. But his extreme messages were rendered more palatable by a perfect storm in Brazil: widespread anger at the political class after years of corruption, an economy that has struggled to recover from a punishing recession and a surge in violence.

In particular, many Brazilians were furious with the Workers' Party for its role in the graft scheme revealed by the "Operation Car Wash" investigation, which uncovered billions of

dollars in bribes paid to politicians via inflated construction contracts.

Haddad struggled to build momentum with his promises of a return to the boom times by investing in health and education and reducing poverty. It didn't help that the man who appointed Haddad as the party's candidate, former President Luiz Inacio da Silva, is serving a 12-year sentence for a corruption conviction.

Bolsonaro's candidacy raised serious concerns that he would roll back civil rights and weaken institutions in what remains a young democracy. He has frequently disparaged women, gays and blacks, and said he would name military men to his Cabinet.

Within minutes of his victory being declared, international civil rights groups expressed concerns. Human Rights Watch called on Brazil's judiciary and other institutions to "resist any attempt to undermine human rights, the rule of law and de-

mocracy under Jair Bolsonaro's government."

Steve Schwartzman of the Environmental Defense Fund warned that Bolsonaro's promises about the environment would be "dangerous to the planet."

Bolsonaro has repeatedly said he would pull Brazil from the Paris agreement on climate change, though last week he backed off on that. He has also promised to cut environmental regulations and make Brazil friendlier to international investors.

The past few years in Brazil have been exceptionally turbulent. In 2016, then-President Dilma Rousseff of the Workers' Party was impeached and removed from office on charges that many on the left felt were politically motivated. The economy suffered a two-year recession and is only now beginning to emerge, with growth stagnant and unemployment high.

Dozens of politicians and executives have been jailed in the corruption investigation.

Many observers had predicted a newcomer would emerge to harness the anti-establishment anger. Instead, support coalesced around Bolsonaro, who at the margins in Congress painted himself as just the strong man Brazil needed to dismantle a failing system.

Bolsonaro has promised to crack down on violent crime and drastically reduce the size of Brazil's state. But many of the details of his positions remain unclear since he has largely conducted his campaign via blasts on social media. After he was stabbed, he declined to debate Haddad and gave interviews only to largely friendly media who rarely asked tough questions.

"Tomorrow we start a new country," said Mario Marcondes, a 61-year-old pilot who gathered with other supporters outside Bolsonaro's house. "This was like a football game, a dispute that is over. Now we will all know to unite." **AP**

## REPORTS

# Germany's Merkel prepares to give up party job

**A**NGELA Merkel told her conservative party yesterday that she intends to step down as its leader but remain Germany's chancellor following a pair of state election debacles, German media reported.

Merkel had previously indicated that she planned to seek another two-year term as leader of her Christian Democratic Union at a party congress in December, but appeared to be moving quickly to acknowledge pressure for renewal.

Merkel has led the CDU since 2000 and has been Germany's chancellor since



ce 2005.

News agency dpa cited unidentified party sources as saying Merkel told

an ongoing CDU leadership meeting that she's prepared to step down as party leader but intends

to remain chancellor. The mass-circulation daily Bild also reported that she said she won't run again as party leader.

Merkel's predecessor, Gerhard Schroeder, stepped down as leader of his center-left Social Democrats in 2004 as his government struggled, but remained chancellor. For years, Merkel insisted that the chancellor should also be party leader.

Merkel currently governs Germany in a "grand coalition" of what traditionally have been the country's biggest parties — the CDU, its Bavaria-only sister, the

Christian Social Union, and the Social Democrats. Her fourth-term government took office only in March but has become notorious for squabbling.

Sunday's election in the central state of Hesse saw both Merkel's conservative Christian Democratic Union and the center-left Social Democrats lose significant ground, while there were gains for both the Greens and the far-right Alternative for Germany. Merkel's party managed an unimpressive win, narrowly salvaging a majority for its regional governing coalition with the Greens.

The debacle followed a battering in a state election in Bavaria two weeks ago for the CSU and the Social Democrats.

The Social Democrats' leader, Andrea Nahles, demanded Sunday a "clear, binding timetable" for implementing government projects before the coalition faces an already-agreed midterm review next fall.

Nahles declined to comment yesterday on the reports that Merkel might step down as CDU leader. The chancellor was scheduled to hold a news conference later in the day. **AP**

## what's ON



## TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## 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

## 'FRENCH SPIDERMAN' BARRED FROM CLIMBING UK BUILDINGS

AP PHOTO



French urban climber Alain Robert has been banned from climbing any building in Britain after scaling one of London's tallest skyscrapers without ropes — and without permission.

Robert climbed the 662-foot (202-meter) Heron Tower on Thursday as police cordoned off the building, closed roads and ushered spectators away.

He was arrested after the climb and appeared in a London court on Friday. Robert pleaded guilty to causing a public nuisance and received a 20-week suspended sentence and a 5,500 pound (\$7,000) fine. He was also barred from climbing all buildings in Britain "until further notice."

The 56-year-old daredevil, known as "the French Spiderman," has climbed many of the world's tallest structures.

Before Thursday's climb, he told reporters "I fully feel alive when my life is at stake."

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:50 Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue

16:15 Nelo & Idália

16:45 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:40 Depois do Adeus

18:30 TDM Desporto (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Entrevista

21:50 Viajante da Música

22:25 Filha da Lei

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Filhos da Nação Sr.2

00:30 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:15 RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

27 - 31 Oct



## HUNTER KILLER

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Donovan Marsh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman

Language: English

Duration: 112min



## HALLOWEEN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Gordon Green

Starring: Jamie Lee Curtis, Judy Greer, Will Patton

Language: Japanese

Duration: 130min

## CAFE FUNICULI FUNICULA

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Ayuko Tsukahara

Starring: Kasumi Arimura, Kentaro, Haru, Hiroko Yakushimaru

Language: Japanese (Chinese, english)

Duration: 130min



## VENOM

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Ruben Fleischer

Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 112min

## this day in history



## 1961 WORLD CONDEMNS RUSSIA'S NUCLEAR TEST

Russia has exploded the world's largest ever nuclear device provoking widespread condemnation from around the world.

The device believed to be 50 megatons, equivalent to be 50 million tons of TNT, caused the biggest ever man-made explosion.

The test, the 26th in the current series, was carried out over the Arctic island of Novaya Zemlya despite repeated objections from the West.

Shockwaves from the explosion were first picked up at the seismological institute at Uppsala in Sweden at 0830 hours GMT.

They were two-and-a-half times as powerful as Russia's last test, which was carried out a week ago using a 30-megaton weapon.

A spokesman at the Kew Observatory in Britain where shockwaves from the explosion were recorded at about 1151 hours GMT said: "This was a big one alright. It's the largest such recording I have ever known."

A Foreign Ministry spokesman in Russia refused to make any comment.

Earlier today the United Nations had sent an official appeal asking Russia not to continue with its nuclear testing programme.

Lord Home, British Foreign minister, said, in a statement: "The British Government wholeheartedly deplores the news of this latest and largest of the Russian nuclear explosions.

"Eighty-seven nations appealed to the Soviet leaders to spare the world the explosion of the 50-megaton bomb, which endangers the health of many millions of people.

"The British Government shares the indignation which will be universally felt at this wanton disregard for the welfare and safety of the human race."

The United States Government insists it has known for many years how to make 50 and 100-megaton bombs but remains convinced that smaller weapons are more effective.

A White House spokesperson said: "It is a scientific fact that five 20-megaton weapons will cause more damage than one 100-megaton weapon."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

It was subsequently revealed the Soviet bomb was 58 megatons - the world's biggest explosion to date and nearly 4,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

The explosion came at the height of the arms race between Russia and America during which time each country successfully produced bigger and more sophisticated thermonuclear weapons.

Between 29 August 1949, when it exploded its first nuclear bomb, and 25 October 1990, the Soviet Union carried out 715 nuclear tests.

Although successive international treaties have sought to reduce the nuclear stockpile, there are still enough hydrogen bombs in the world to destroy mankind many times over.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You have too many little details to handle today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 All this good energy is helping your mood in a big way...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your good advice is a blessing to those around you today...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You tend to rely more on intuition than deep analysis...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You are less willing than usual to break out of your shell...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Tidy up and take care of the smallest details today...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You are great when it comes to making people feel heard...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your sources are more informative than ever...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try to tackle the details of your projects and problems today...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone spills a moderately big secret early today...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Other people are key to your success today - much more so than usual...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You are feeling a little down on yourself - probably too much so...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

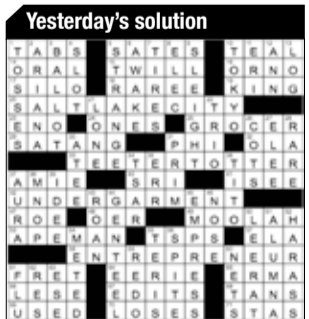
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-It's a wrap; 6- Big book; 10- Small batteries; 14- Have \_\_\_ to pick; 15- Part of QED; 16- Dudley Do-Right's org.; 17- Sierra \_\_\_; 18- Diner's card; 19- Calculus calculation; 20- Lockable metal box; 23- Mornings, for short; 24- Chinese "way"; 25- Tear; 26- Barracks bed; 27- Underground cemetery; 32- Role for Ingrid; 35- New Zealand evergreen tree; 36- Mauna \_\_\_; 37- In spite of; 41- Turkish honorific; 42- Cool!; 43- Ballpark figs.; 44- Note well; 46- No-win situation; 48- Compass dir.; 49- Three sheets to the wind; 50- Menu phrase; 53- Fate; 58- Adverse fate; 59- Challenge to complete a task; 60- Mr. Moto portrayer; 61- "The Time Machine" people; 62- Prince William's school; 63- "Goodnight" girl; 64- Deep unconscious state; 65- Actor Beatty and others; 66- Photographer Adams; DOWN: 1- Tortilla chip dip; 2- Perpendicular to the keel; 3- Summits of buildings; 4- Green Gables girl; 5- Must; 6- Rhythm; 7- Cream-filled cookie; 8- \_\_\_ best friend; 9- Needle case; 10- Semitic language; 11- The citadel of Athens; 12- U.S. trading place; 13- Health haven; 21- Chow down; 22- Habituate; 26- Crow call; 27- Class of Indian society; 28- Car; 29- Song syllable; 30- \_\_\_ Blanc; 31- Sacks; 32- \_\_\_ uproar; 33- Trademark; 34- Accommodation at sea; 35- Asian prince; 38- Sacked out; 39- Type of shirt; 40- Gidget portrayer Sandra; 45- Hemoglobin deficiency; 46- Metal, often used as a container; 47- Roma's land; 49- Property claims; 50- Buenos \_\_\_; 51- TV producer Michaels; 52- Slippery as \_\_\_; 53- Ralph Lauren brand; 54- Shangri-la; 55- Fill to the gills; 56- Walked heavily; 57- Ripped; 58- Last mo.;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' listings for various properties in Macau, including Helene Garden, Ocean Garden Elm Court, and Coloane Village.

# Hamilton beats Vettel to F1 title again

Jim Vertuno, Mexico City

**L**EWIS Hamilton and Sebastian Vettel hugged in a gesture of mutual respect between two drivers with nine Formula One championships between them.

Then Hamilton talked about winning the 2018 season title, his place in history and the tough fight with Vettel to earn a fifth career championship that tied him with Argentina's Juan Manuel Fangio for second-most in F1 history.

"This is a precious moment for me," Hamilton said after securing the title Sunday at the Mexican Grand Prix.

Vettel cradled his head in his hands and wiped his brow, bracing for hard questions about how a title chase he once led had once again slipped away. The defeat may have been expected, but it was still painful.

"It's a horrible moment," said Vettel, a four-time champion who has finished second two years in a row and three times in his career.

"You put in a lot of work [...] you hang in there as long as you can. I've had three times now in my life that sort of disappointment," Vettel said



Hamilton (left) and Vettel embrace at the end of the F1 Mexico Grand Prix

Hamilton came into the race with a lead so big that Vettel had to win and Hamilton had to finish lower than seventh just to push the championship to the next race in Brazil.

Vettel made a fight of it, finishing second to Red Bull's Max Verstappen. Hamilton finished fourth, sparking a cham-

pionship celebration in the high altitude of Mexico City for the second consecutive year.

The 2018 season has been defined by the battle between Hamilton and Vettel and their Mercedes and Ferrari teams.

In a year Hamilton admits he often hasn't had the strongest car, he ranks his fifth career

championship among his best and hardest. Their teams are still battling for the constructor's championship.

"We have not had the fastest car in the majority of races, but we won races," Hamilton said. "I've had some of the best races of my career."

Vettel stormed into 2018 by winning in Australia and Bahrain to put the pressure on Hamilton, who didn't win until the fourth race. Vettel's season came undone with a series of driver and team mistakes. None was bigger than Vettel crashing out of the lead in a rainy German Grand Prix to let Hamilton win.

That Ferrari calamity started a streak of six wins in seven races for Hamilton, who hit his usual second-half stride. Vettel hasn't won since the Belgian Grand Prix in August.

"I can't be too hard on myself what I did in Germany. It was the most costly one, but it's part of racing," Vettel said. "We just didn't have the pace to keep up with Mercedes for a couple of races."

But a Ferrari resurgence of late only worsens the frustration of a championship lost.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen won the U.S. Grand Prix. Vettel mi-

ght have won if not for a three-spot starting grid penalty for driving too fast under a red flag in practice.

And Mercedes has seemed to slip back the last two weeks. Hamilton was third in Texas and struggled with his car all weekend in Mexico City. A strong start Sunday was followed by a clunky race just to ensure a fourth for the championship.

After the finish, Vettel got out of his car and approached Hamilton to congratulate him.

"He drove superb all year. He was the better one of us two," Vettel said. "Five [championships] is something incredible. I asked him to keep pushing for next year. I need him to be at his best to fight him again."

Ferrari hasn't won the driver's championship since 2007. Vettel won all his championships with Red Bull from 2010-2013. He signed with Ferrari in 2015 with the goal of bringing the championship back to F1's most famous team.

Hamilton gave a nod of respect to his title fight with Vettel.

"He fought so hard this year," Hamilton said. "The pressure that he would be under [...] that's a lot to ride on one's shoulders." AP

AD

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OCT 31

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10月31日

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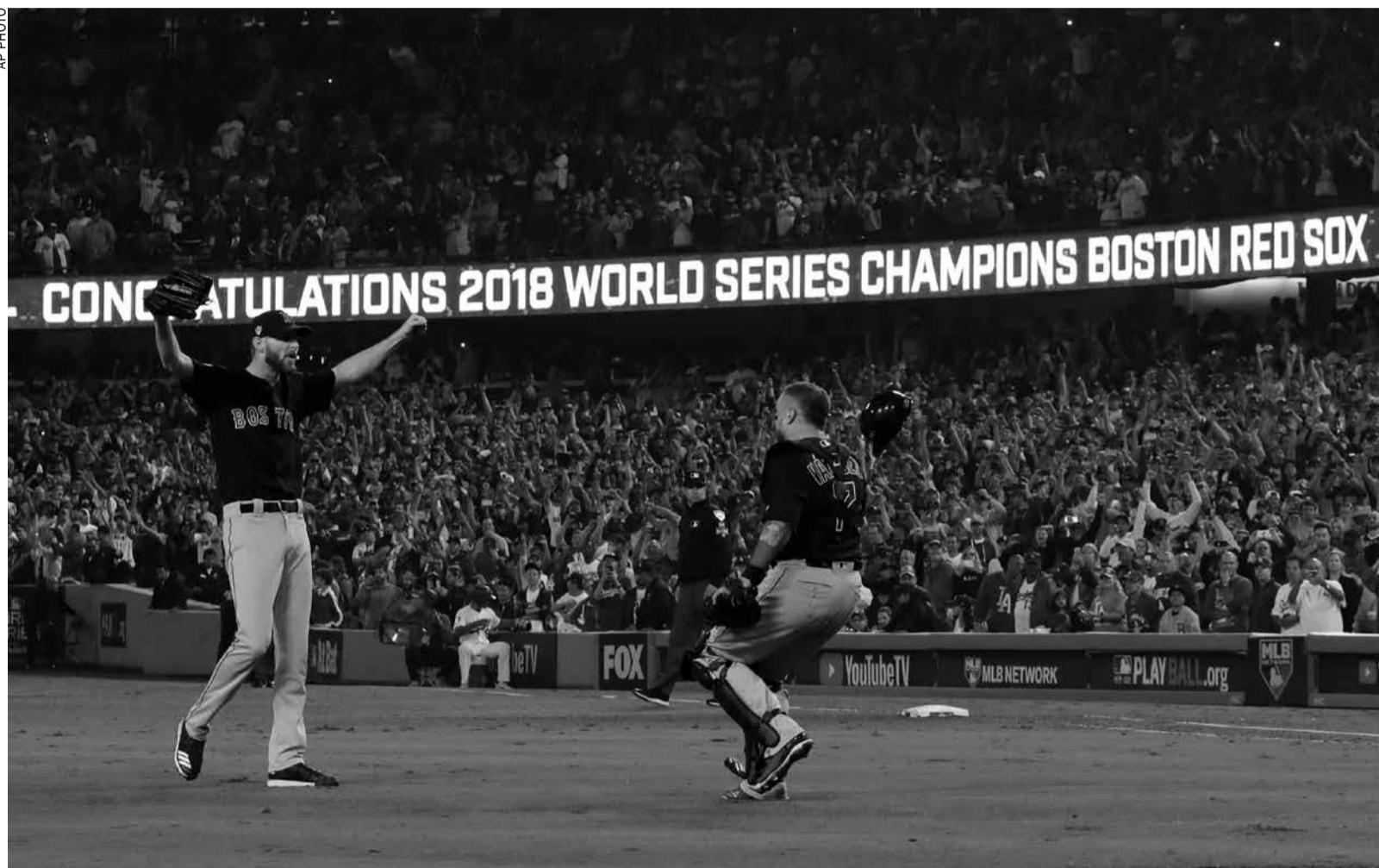
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BASEBALL

# Red Sox top Dodgers for 4th World Series title in 15 seasons

AP PHOTO



Ronald Blum, Los Angeles

**C**HRIS Sale's final pitch for this Boston juggernaut triggered a celebration on the Dodger Stadium infield, among thousands of fans who made their way to California — and even outside Fenway Park back home. The quest is complete. Yes, these 2018 Red Sox really are that great.

A team to remember from top to bottom. A season to savor from start to finish.

David Price proved his postseason mettle, Steve Pearce homered twice and Boston beat the Los Angeles Dodgers 5-1 yesterday [Macau time] to finish off a one-sided World Series in five games.

A tormented franchise during decades of despair before ending an 86-year championship drought in 2004, the Red Sox have become baseball's team of the century with four titles in 15 seasons.

"Seeing all these grown men over there, just acting like kids, that's what it's all about," Price said after pitching three-hit ball into the eighth inning on short rest. "This is why I came to Boston."

After losing on opening day, Alex Cora's team romped to a 17-2 start and a club-record 108 wins, then went 11-3 in the postseason, dispatching the 100-win New York Yankees and

the 103-victory and defending champion Houston Astros in the playoffs. Cora, a player on Boston's 2007 champions, became the first manager from Puerto Rico to win a title and just the fifth rookie skipper overall.

"I don't know where we stand in history and all that," said Dave Dombrowski, the club's president of baseball operations. "If somebody would say you're going to win 119 games and lose 57, we'd never, ever fathom that."

Pearce hit a two-run homer on Clayton Kershaw's sixth pitch. Solo homers by Mookie Betts in the sixth inning and J.D. Martinez in the seventh quieted the Los Angeles crowd. Pearce added a solo drive off Pedro Baez in the eighth, then was selected the Series MVP after the game.

"Best feeling in my life," Pearce said.

Acquired in June from Toronto, Pearce had three homers and seven RBIs in the final 11 innings of the Series. Thousands of Boston fans remained on the first-base side of the stadium long after the final out, chanting "Let's go Red Sox!" and singing "Sweet Caroline."

Of course, they let loose a few choice words about the rival Yankees, too. "I never knew there were so many Red Sox fans here," Martinez said.

Players' families, many dressed in red, congregated on the field to join the celebration,

some holding babies, some watching children run across the outfield in glee.

"This is the greatest Red Sox team in history," owner John Henry proclaimed after receiving the Series trophy.

After losing to Houston in Game 7 last year by the same 5-1 score, the Dodgers became the first team ousted on its home field in consecutive World Series since the New York Giants by the New York Yankees at the Polo Grounds in 1936 and '37. Los Angeles remains without a championship since 1988.

"Ran up against a very good ballclub — and just a little bit too much for us," said manager Dave Roberts, who played for Boston's 2004 champions.

Boston outscored the Dodgers 28-16 and had only a slightly better batting average at .222 to .180. But the Red Sox got timely hitting and won their ninth title, tying the Athletics for third-most behind the Yankees (27) and Cardinals (11).

All that stood between the Red Sox and a sweep was an 18-inning loss in Game 3, the longest World Series game ever. They trailed 4-0 in the seventh inning of Game 4 when Sale rose from the dugout bench for a fiery, profane, motivational rant, and his teammates woke up in time to rally for a 9-6 win.

Boston never trailed in Game 5. "I didn't say anything that anyone didn't know," Sale explained.

"Just rallying the troops and letting them know — we're the best team on the planet, and to start playing like it."

The 33-year-old Price, a Cy Young Award winner in 2012, long pitched under an October shadow cast by his regular-season success. He had been 0-9 in 11 postseason starts before defeating Astros ace Justin Verlander in the clinching Game 5 of the AL Championship Series. The left-hander won his third straight start Sunday and became the first pitcher to beat Cy Young winners in the finale of an LCS and the World Series in the same year.

**This is the greatest Red Sox team in history.**

JOHN HENRY  
RED SOX OWNER

"I've been through a lot in three years since I came here, but this is why I came," said Price, who like Kershaw can opt out of his lucrative contract in the coming days and become a free agent.

After allowing two runs over six innings to win Game 2 last Wednesday, Price got two outs in the ninth inning of Friday's marathon game. He became

the first to pitch into the eighth inning of a Series game on one day of rest since the Yankees' Bob Turley in 1957.

"All the haters, it's time to be quiet and show the guy some respect," Martinez said.

Price gave up a home run to David Freese on his first pitch, then allowed just two more hits — the last a triple to Freese that Martinez lost in the third-inning twilight and allowed to drop behind him on the right field warning track. Price struck out five and walked two, retiring 14 in a row before a leadoff walk to Chris Taylor in the eighth ended his night after 89 pitches. He tapped his heart several times to Red Sox fans behind the first base dugout while walking to the bench.

Joe Kelly struck out three straight pinch hitters and Sale, originally scheduled to start Game 5, fanned three more in the ninth. Sale ended by throwing a slider past a falling Manny Machado, a meager 4 for 22 (.182) in the Series, and raised both arms. Boston catcher Christian Vazquez ran out to jump on him with glee, and teammates from the dugout and bullpen followed.

While Price rewrote his own October legacy, Kershaw was unable to do the same as he fell to 1-4 with a 6.06 ERA in postseason elimination games. Plagued at times by an aching back, the 30-year-old lefty no longer is the dominant pitcher who won three Cy Young Awards, his famous 12-to-6 breaking ball now more 10 to 4:30.

Kershaw allowed four runs and seven hits — three of them homers — in seven innings. He is 9-10 with a 4.32 ERA in 30 postseason appearances, a huge drop from his 153-69 record and 2.39 ERA during the regular season.

"It just hurts worse when you make it all the way and get second place," he said.

Kershaw began aggressively, throwing strikes on his first six pitches, and the Red Sox were ready.

Andrew Benintendi hit a one-out single and Pearce pulled a fastball over the middle of the plate and sent it 405 feet into the left-field pavilion.

While the crowd of 54,367 was stunned, Freese woke up fans in the bottom half. He drove Price's first pitch 402 feet to the opposite field and into the right field pavilion.

Betts homered on a slider that stayed in the strike zone after going 0 for 13 in Los Angeles this weekend, the first postseason home run of his career coming in his 87th at-bat. Martinez homered in the seventh, driving a fastball to straightway center.

By then, Red Sox fans had started planning for the April 9 home opener against Toronto, when the championship flag will be raised over Fenway after Boston opens with an 11-game trip out West. "It wasn't as easy as what people think," Cora said. **AP**

opinion

**Our Desk**  
 Renato Marques



**MACAU: UNDER TERROR ATTACK**

Ladies and Gentlemen, this is the right time to panic. Macau is currently under a silent “terrorist attack” that is making (innocent) victims all over town.

No, this attack is not perpetrated by any of the well-known worldwide terrorist groups but, instead, by a local group of scammers called the “Former Kind of Real Estate Agents.” (FKREA)

As I will explain, the FKREA is a very complex organization because their members operate solo, in groups, and in random partnerships with other members of the group – or even in cooperation with real Real Estate Agents, who are so difficult to track that everyone gave up, or at least that is, in my view, the logical reason that justifies their existence.

In fact, it all comes from the long-awaited New Rental Law passed by the Legislative Assembly (AL) in August last year, which took effect a whole six months after its promulgation in the Official Gazette.

The idea, according to the proposal initiated by nine lawmakers, was to tackle disputes between landlords and tenants as well as to improve the legal framework that regulates the real estate agencies.

Well, after a few months of enforcement; I must say, it worked! But only in favor of those who were already the most protected (the landlords), as the new rules did not establish any maximum cap on rental increases, while “easing” the process for landlords to deal with tenants.

But, besides the amendments to the Civil Code Articles 969-1056, which relate to lease agreements, and besides immediate consequences that were even perceived as “good for everyone,” there are other indirect consequences to the enforcement of the New Rental Law on the real estate market.

In practical terms, it resulted in the closure or semi-closure of a high number of “fake agencies” that were popping up like mushrooms in every, and I mean, on every single street.

Any corner shop was able to set up a desk with a bunch of A4 printed papers hanging on the windows advertising presumed apartments to rent or sell. If many of those closed doors, the fact is almost all of them would continue to operate in even more secrecy than before, becoming just phone numbers and WeChat contacts passed from phone to phone and through word of mouth.

Contrary to what happened before, these people now have no name, no physical location, no “company” name and can “mediate” deals between landlord and tenants that are not registered anywhere. If, before, they were mostly categorized as just a “witness” signature, now they are not even that. They simply do not technically exist.

As for the others, the “real ones,” the properly registered agencies operating allegedly according to the applicable laws, they have become almost out of reach for most (but not to say all) working class people, selling at “market rates” only achievable at a CEO level.

At the end of the day, the working class becomes forced to cope with the “terrorists” if they want a roof above their heads; that is, being led to pay heavy commissions like a fiefdom to everyone with absolutely no guarantee of anything, living with their hearts in their mouths, waiting for the day that an SMS from an unknown number arrives, stating in a language that you cannot read: “The owner wants the house back. You need to leave on ‘X’ day.”

On the other hand, we will soon have a few dozen less straws in our landfill and we all hope and strive for all Canidrome greyhounds to be adopted, preferably out of Macau, otherwise they will get evicted too and that, yes, can cause a major societal issue and a rampage (not underestimating, just prioritizing).

**THE 70 PERCENT OF VENICE COVERED BUZZ IN WATER BY FLOODING**

Around three-quarters of the Italian lagoon city of Venice has been flooded after strong winds raised the water level by 156 centimeters before receding, officials said Monday.

Venice frequently floods when high winds push in water from the lagoon, but yesterday’s levels were exceptional. The peak level was the highest reached since December 2008, according to

Venice statistics. The last time levels topped 160 centimeters, which had been forecast, was in December 1979.

Venice Mayor Luigi Brugnaro said a series of underwater barriers being erected in the lagoon, nicknamed Moses, would have prevented the inundation. The project is long overdue, beset by cost overruns and corruption scandals.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**How old is cacao? New research pushes back date**

**Candice Choi,**  
 AP Food & Health Writer

**N**ew research strengthens the case that people used the chocolate ingredient cacao in South America 5,400 years ago, underscoring the seed’s radical transformation into today’s Twix bars and M&M candies.

Tests indicate traces of cacao on artifacts from an archaeological site in Ecuador, according to a study published yesterday. That’s about 1,500 years older than cacao’s known domestication in Central America.

“It’s the earliest site now with domesticated cacao,” said Cameron McNeil of Lehman College in New York, who was not involved in the research.

The ancient South American civilization likely didn’t use cacao to make chocolate since there’s no established history of indigenous populations in the region using it that way, researchers led by the University of British Columbia in Canada said.

But the tests indicate the civilization used the cacao seed, not just the fruity pulp. The seeds are the part of the cacao pod used to make chocolate.

Indigenous populations in the upper Amazon region today use cacao for fermented drinks and juices, and it’s probably how it was used thousands of years ago as well, researchers said.

Scientists mostly agree that cacao was first domesticated in South America instead of Central America as previously believed. The study in Nature Ecology & Evolution provides fresh evidence.

Three types of tests were conducted using artifacts from the Santa Ana-La Florida site in Ecuador. One tested for the presence of theobromine, a key compound in cacao; another tested for preserved particles that help archeologists identify ancient plant use; a third used DNA testing to identify cacao.

Residue from one ceramic artifact estimated to be 5,310 to 5,440 years old



A worker holds dried cacao seeds



The inside of a cacao pod

tested positive for cacao by all three methods. Others tested positive for cacao traces as well, but were not as old.

How cacao’s use spread between South America and Central America is not clear. But by the time Spanish explorers arrived in Central America in the late 1400s, they found people were using it to make hot and cold chocolate drinks with spices, often with a foamy top.

“For most of the modern period, it was a beverage,” said Marcy Norton, a historian at the University of Pennsylvania and author of “Sacred Gifts, Profane Pleasures: A History of Tobacco and Chocolate in the Atlantic World.”

The chocolate drinks in Central America often contained maize and differ from the hot chocolate sold in the U.S. They did not contain milk, Norton said, and when they were

sweetened, it was with honey.

By the 1580s, cacao was being regularly imported into Spain and spread to other European countries with milk being added along the way. It wasn’t until the 1800s that manufacturing advances in the Netherlands transformed chocolate into a solid product, Norton said.

Michael Laiskonis, who teaches chocolate classes the Institute of Culinary Education, said he’s seeing a growing interest in cacao flavors, indicating a return to a time when chocolate wasn’t just an ingredient buried in a candy bar.

He said he tries to incorporate chocolate’s past into his classes, including a 1644 recipe that combines Mayan and Aztec versions of drinks with European influences.

“It’s something that’s always been transforming,” he said.

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**JAPAN**’s Princess Ayako married a commoner in a ritual-filled ceremony yesterday at Tokyo’s Meiji Shrine. The wedding took place in one of the pagoda-like buildings in the shrine complex and included an exchange of rings and a sharing of a cup of sake. [More on p12](#)



**ISRAEL-PALESTINE** Israeli aircraft struck dozens of militant sites across the Gaza Strip early Saturday as militants fired some 30 rockets into Israel, in the heaviest exchange of fire between the bitter enemies in several weeks.

**EGYPT-SUDAN** Sudan has lifted a ban on agricultural imports from Egypt, the latest sign of mending relations between Cairo and Khartoum.



**GERMANY** Angela Merkel has confirmed that she plans to step down as leader of her conservative party after 18 years but says she will remain German chancellor for the rest of the current parliamentary term. [More on p15](#)

**SPAIN-VENEZUELA** A Spanish court has given preliminary authorization for an aide of late President Hugo Chavez to be extradited to Venezuela. Claudia Diaz is being sought along with her husband Adrian Velasquez for alleged money laundering.



**MEXICO** Several thousand Central American migrants planned to resume their trek through southern Mexico before dawn yesterday, while authorities in that country and Guatemala tried to sort out a killing of a migrant at a border crossing.