



**ALONE AGAIN**  
Neto Valente to continue his decades long tenure at the Macau Lawyers Association helm

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**NINE SITES WAITING FOR LISTING**

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**AUTHOR LOUIS CHA DIES**  
Louis Cha, a Hong Kong journalist and best-selling Chinese martial arts novelist, has died at age 94

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**PHILIPPINES** Rescuers pulled out four bodies and four survivors but at least 19 others remained missing yesterday after a massive typhoon-triggered landslide crashed down on two government buildings in the northern Philippines, officials said. [More on p12](#)

**INDONESIA**'s armed forces chief says a possible location of the crashed Lion Air jet fuselage has been identified.



**JAPAN** A fire broke out yesterday in a building in downtown Tokyo in an area crowded with Halloween celebrants, paralyzing traffic, but no one was reported injured.

**RUSSIA** A man set off a bomb at the entrance of the local branch of Russia's main intelligence agency in a northern city yesterday, injuring three security officials and killing himself, authorities said.



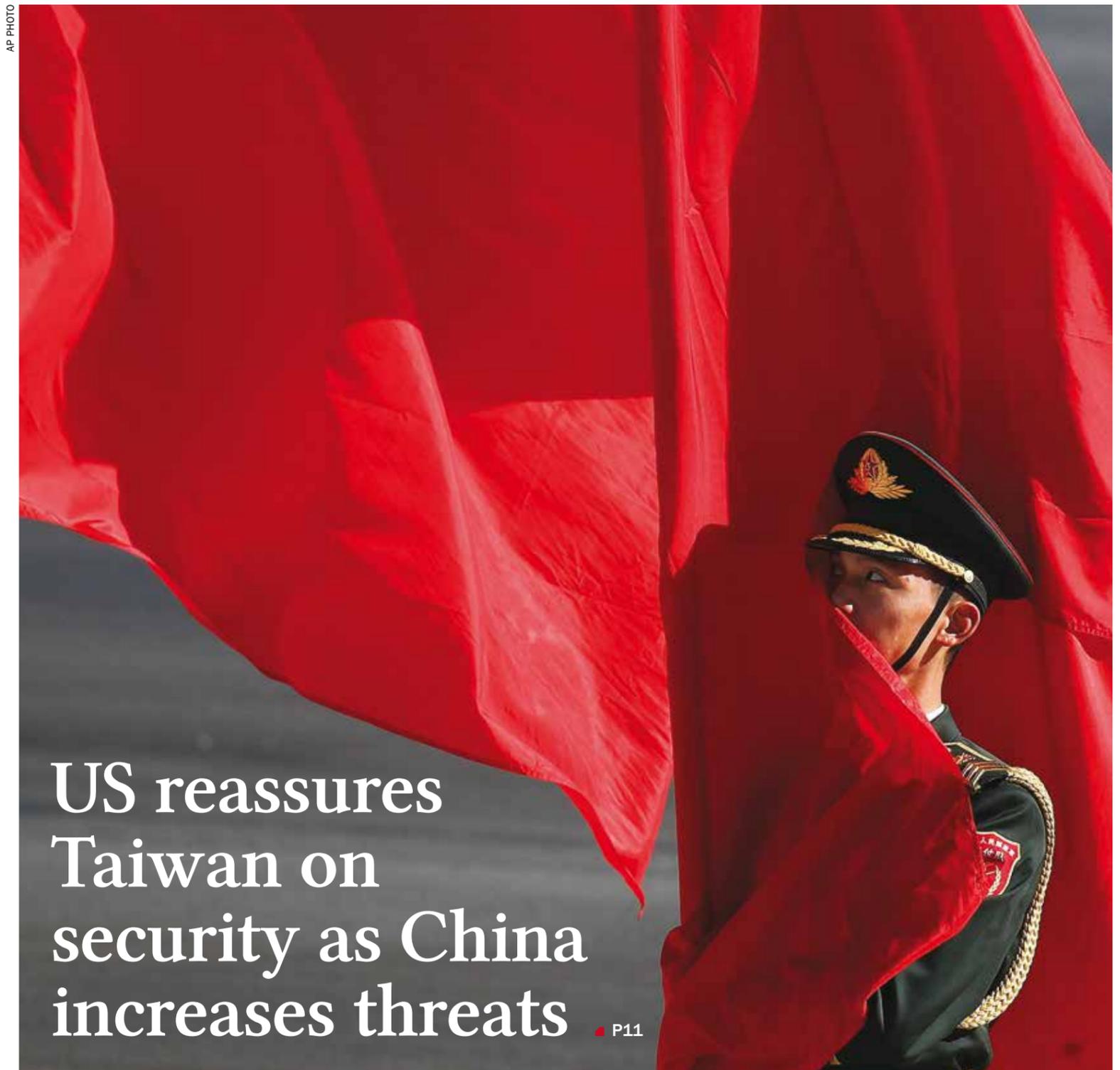
**IRAN** yesterday summoned the Danish ambassador to Tehran over Copenhagen's allegations about an Iranian plot to kill an opposition activist in Denmark, the official IRNA news agency reported.

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**AL PLENARY**

# Border Gate terminal ready by year-end

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# US reassures Taiwan on security as China increases threats

■ P11

Daniel Beitler

**LAWYER** Sérgio de Almeida Correia has withdrawn his candidacy for president of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM), leaving the way open for incumbent Jorge Neto Valente to continue his decades-long tenure at the Association's helm.

Yesterday was the deadline for the submission of lists for the December election. As the deadline passed, the only formalized list was that of Neto Valente, now likely to add two more years to the decades he has served as president.

Valente previously said that he did not approve of Correia's candidacy and would oppose the challenger's bid by putting himself forward for another term. The reason, he stated in simple terms, was precisely to oppose Correia, though he admitted his decision to run had been at the request of several of his peers.

Other lawyers, such as Jorge Menezes, Rodrigo Mendia de Castro and João Miguel Barros, had openly supported Correia's candidacy, while Miguel de Senna Fernandes, Frederico Rato and former lawmaker Leonel Alves had welcomed the competition as a sign of the Association's vitality.

In a letter provided to the media on Tuesday night, Correia, who was unable to formalize a list for the election by yesterday's deadline, declared his withdrawal while denouncing what he saw as inappropriate attacks on his character in the campaign mustered by Valente.

"Immediately after my pre-candidacy was known, the current president made a series of statements and set off a series of actions that aimed to attack me and my practice, designed to discredit me in the eyes of my peers, which generated a climate of fear around the intentions of my candidacy," wrote Correia.

"Although he has been in power virtually uninterrupted since the mid-1990s, and has taken advantage of this rostrum for numerous political statements, the President of AAM decided to re-apply, even as an alternative emerged, capable of bringing together most of Macau's lawyers, including many who were being ostracized over the years. It was and it is your right to do so," he said in the letter addressed to his colleagues and later distributed to the media.

However, "eternalization in power weakens institutions," the letter continued in reference to the successive, uncontested elections of Neto Valente. "From the very first moment, instead of

## MACAU LAWYERS ASSOCIATION

## Valente running unopposed again



Neto Valente



Sérgio de Almeida Correia

accepting a dispute with nobility and loyalty, he was aggrieved, [...] anticipating a list of 'rupture and confrontation' that only he saw."

"The president of the AAM criticized the lack of renewal of the TUI [Court of Final Instance] but he himself will only leave the scene when he is to choose the successor and when this corresponds to the profile that he wishes."

Valente has repeatedly implored other candidates to run for the presidency of the Macau Lawyers Association, on occasion suggesting that he was ready to step down.

That was the case earlier this year when Valente hinted in a Radio Macau interview that he would not run for another two-year term. However, the incumbent president reversed his stance after hearing of Correia's intention to run, explaining that he had been approached by several lawyers who considered Correia's bid "not to be appropriate at this moment."

According to Correia, Valente's actions speak louder than words. The challenger wrote in the letter that Valente's decision had ultimately "demonstrated the uselessness of the speeches

he uttered over the years, each time invoking fatigue to continue to preside over the AAM."

Valente recently confirmed that he favors a particular profile for the next AAM president. He said that he would prefer his successor to be Chinese, while implying that the next president should not be too hostile toward the government – or, like Correia, "aggressive and corrosive with the comments he makes towards the Chief Executive and the Legislative Assembly President" – nor does he wish his successor to be "angry with everybody."

Valente's opinion is shared by other lawyers, including Rui Cunha, who associated Correia's candidacy with change as opposed to the stability brought about by the status quo. The lawyer and AAM supervisory board chairman told Macau Business that now was not the right moment for such change given that society is adjusting to a "sensitive period of Macau becoming a part of China."

But for others, Valente's response to Correia's bid was a sign that the long-standing president was having trouble letting go.

In an email to the Times, Jorge Menezes said yesterday that

"what should have been an exchange of ideas and a democratic election was perceived as a battle following the personal attacks on Correia. A battle to be won by the strength of power, not by the merit of reasons."

Menezes also said that lawyers who privately supported Correia were afraid to come forward and have their names added to the challenger's list.

"[Valente's] whole campaign strategy, it seems, was to bar Correia from finding a team and therefore avoid undergoing a secret vote," said Menezes. "The key question is, why was the president so worried about facing a secret ballot?"

"Instead of instilling debate and lead by example, the president lowered the standards to an all or nothing fight to retain power, showing that his decade-long claims of alleged sacrifice in running the AAM are not be taken seriously. It is sad, because he did a lot for the AAM and Macau's justice system in the past, and we all owe him that. We really do. He could have left on a high moral ground, but sadly power changes people and he couldn't let go."

The Valente-Correia feud has revealed deep divisions within

the society of Macau lawyers. This is touched upon several times by Correia in the letter, who noted "from the outset it became clear that my goal was to strengthen the AAM. And not to split it. Because divided already it is. And those who go to general assemblies have long seen this."

In an apparent response to Valente's suggestion that the next AAM head should be of Chinese ethnicity, Correia wrote, "there are no first and second lawyers. There are no Portuguese and Chinese. There are only lawyers. People who work, people who are honorable, people who fulfill."

Neto Valente was out of town yesterday and could not be reached for comment, a representative at his office informed the Times. Several other lawyers who were contacted for their opinion did not reply by press time.

Asked to expound on the points made in his letter, Correia wrote to the Times, "I don't want to comment any further on the election for now. I reserve my opinion for the election period [during the first fortnight of December]. All I have to say for the time being is in my letter sent Tuesday night."

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A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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Raimundo do Rosário (left) and Lam Hin San



Sulu Sou proposed the debate

## AL PLENARY

# Rosário assures that Border Gate bus terminal will be a 'Christmas gift'

Renato Marques

**T**HE Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, assured yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session that the works being done at the Border Gate bus terminal will be ready by Christmas, noting that "it will be a Christmas gift to the population."

The Secretary was speaking at the AL replying to lawmakers on a debate proposed by lawmaker Sulu Sou almost one year ago, before Sou's mandate was suspended.

In the presentation, Sou noted that the part of his original debate proposal, in which he questioned whether works should continue, had become outdated given a year had elapsed and the project is now almost concluded. However, he noted that the second part of his proposal which suggested a broader discussion on the future developments of the area, "can benefit from the fact that one year has passed and now we have a more clear picture about what happened during this time."

According to the Sou, "the go-

vernment has spent a lot of money on different occasions to improve the terminal but, in fact, the facility does not look like it has improved that much."

During the portion of the debate where lawmakers can question the government directly in a question and answer system, many lawmakers wanted to know about the current status of the works as well as the decision on which bus routes will return to the Border Gate terminal after the conclusion of the works. Ma Chi Seng and Ip Sio Kai were two of the first to ask questions on the topic, asking similar questions to Sou's proposal about the plan of the "transport hub" to be built in the Border Gate area.

Rosário replied saying, "regarding the transport hub, we had a plan [which resulted from a study from 2012] but it was good that we did not move forward right away." He elaborated that the initial project planned for a significant part of the infrastructure to be built on underground levels, which the Secretary noted was out of the question for safety reasons, especially after the effects of the recent typhoon strikes. He noted, "it was good

that we didn't do it right away. Now we have a chance to improve. Two months ago we initiated a new study [for the new transport hub project]."

According to the Secretary, the fact that damage caused by Typhoon Hato forced the government to close the terminal and redistribute the bus routes and stops in the area "was, in fact not that bad. I think we can conclude that not all 24 routes should return to the terminal [when it reopens]."

Lawmaker Sou insisted to know exactly which bus routes will, in the near future, return to bus terminal and which ones would not, questioning also how much the government invested in the works of the terminal, and the status of the relocation of the headquarters of the Police Tactical Intervention Unit (UTIP) from the Border Gate to Pac On area.

To these questions, Rosário replied, "small works about MOP1 million, the medium-size works around MOP20 million and for the large ones, MOP120 million."

He replied to several lawmakers that is not yet possible to be certain which bus routes will return or not return to the terminal

since the decision is not in the hands of the government alone. "We are discussing and negotiating with the bus concessionaires [too]," Rosário said, noting also that these decisions must pass through the Transport Advisory Committee.

**It was good that we didn't do it [the transport hub] right away, now we have a chance to improve.**

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

Speaking on the differences between the transport hub study of 2012 and expected changes, Rosário noted, "we may continue to use B1 and B2 [levels] but not [dig] 27 meters under." He pointed out that one of the bigger changes has to do with a planned station of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) that was initially planned to be on an underground level,

but will no longer be located underground.

On the relocation of the headquarters of UTIP to Pac On, the Secretary announced the works would cost around MOP100 million, noting in reply also to Angela Leong that, "As for the Workers Sports Ground, we need to ask you to be a little more patient; we are finding a solution."

In relation to the performance of the public works, Rosário said, "we are not that bad, nor too good, we are in the middle." He additionally remarked that the advances which will allow the opening of the bus terminal earlier than expected are directly related to an order from the Chief Executive regarding the exemption from the "noise law" in that area, which allowed the construction works to run round the clock.

Although he announced the opening of the terminal as a "Christmas gift," Rosário warned, "It will open in Christmas but the works will not be [at that time] fully complete. There will be minor works that will still continue. We hope that we can have it fully operational by the Chinese New Year."

## Shop found to be selling medicines without license

**A** shop located in a local mall has been caught selling medicines without a license issued by the health authority, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM).

The name of the shop was not revealed by the SSM. However, as stated

by the bureau, the SSM conducted a joint investigation with the Macau Customs Service, having seized medicines from the shop, with the provenance of the medicinal products still unknown.

Meanwhile, the SSM has already penalized the shop, and Customs will

file a complaint against the shop for the illegal importation of medicines.

The shop's violation was reported by a local news outlet, which indicated that the bureau had been informed of the shop's misconduct by a member of the public.

In response to the news report, the health authority claimed that the bureau initiated an investigation immediately after it received the report.

"The SSM investigators had already initiated: a search for statistics; an analysis; and, an evaluation [right after the bu-

reau] received the report. The SSM also immediately planned a joint inspection action with Customs. The relevant case has always been followed up on," the bureau declared.

"The verification and investigation of the sales of medicines without

a license on the market requires, in most cases, a thorough arrangement with the SSM also needing to articulate the actions with the customs department when necessary. The investigation is strictly confidential," the bureau says in the statement.

## Tap Seac Craft Market registration is open

The Tap Seac Craft Market will be held from November 16 to 18 and from November 23 to 25, at Tap Seac Square, featuring thirty-eight handicrafts workshops. The fee for each workshop is MOP50. All interested parties can register through the "Activity Registration System" on the IC's website. The Deadline for registration is November 8 at 5 p.m. Organised by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Craft Market features thirty-eight themed workshops, including "Double sided 4-pocket leather card holder", "3D leather pouch", "Modern English calligraphy", "Hand-sewn baby shoe keychain", and "Sterling silver wreath necklace".

## DSEC blames typhoon for tourist drop

Visitors on package tours decreased by 8.9 percent year-on-year to 687,000 in September 2018, and registered a drop of 12.1 percent month-to-month. The Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) attributes the drop to the impact of Typhoon Mangkhut. Package tour visitors from mainland China (526,000) went down by 16.6 percent year-on-year, while those from South of Korea (52,000) and Taiwan (60,000) surged by 58.8 percent and 64 percent respectively. In the first three quarters of 2018, visitors on package tours totalled 6,495,000, up by 8.2 percent year-on-year. Outbound residents using services of travel agencies increased by 17.1 percent year-on-year to 124,000. The number of residents travelling on package tours dropped by 3.9 percent to 36,000, with those going to mainland China rising by 19.6 percent to 29,000 (78.6 percent of total). According to DSECM, in the first three quarters of 2018, outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totalled 1,159,000, up 14 percent year-on-year.

# Record-high 2,700 people to join Eco TrailHiker this Saturday

**T**HE MGM Macau Eco TrailHiker will take place this Saturday at MGM Cotai, with 2,700 participants registered and 250 volunteers assisting throughout the event.

Organized by Macau TrailHiker Ltd., the annual team challenge event is title-sponsored by MGM, and is supported by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and other government departments. Participants will be challenging themselves and building their team spirit in the 10km Family-Fun Course, 30km Corporate Challenge, and the newly-introduced 20km Corporate Challenge.

The race will commence at the Lion Lobby of MGM Cotai and traverse the natural trails in Coloane. All entry fees will be donated to the charity organizations Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macao (ARTM) and Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau (AFEDMM).



According to a statement issued by the event organizers yesterday, ARTM will use the donation to support the daily operational expense of the Treatment Center and the association's upcoming projects, while AFEDMM will utilize this year's donations to help dual-aging families (people with intellectual disabilities and their parents), the assistance of families who have a severely or extremely severely mentally handicapped member, and early treatment support for mentally

handicapped persons.

This will be the ninth edition of Macau Eco TrailHiker and it will top the growth of previous years. From 150 teams in 2010, this year's event has a record high of 675 teams with 2,700 total participants, all of which were registered within 60 minutes. The event has accumulated nearly MOP2.6 million in donations for charity over the past eight years.

Macau TrailHiker continues to focus on growing a Wellness Community wi-

thin Macau – putting an emphasis on the proper ways to become healthy, treating wellness as a lifestyle, and sharing wellness with the community. Event organizers aim to continue to promote eco-friendly concept throughout the event by reducing the use of paper and plastic, encouraging participants to bring their own bottles and using digital certificates instead of paper.

Macau Daily Times is Eco TrailHiker's official media partner

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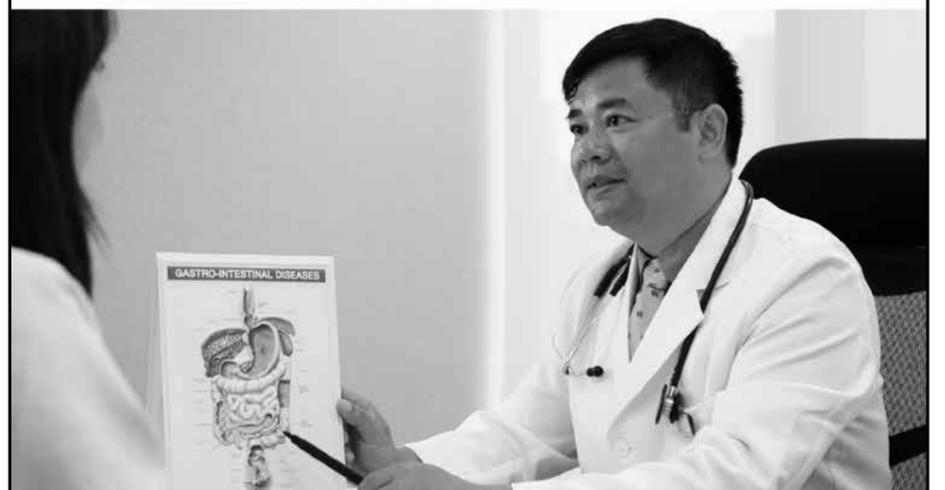
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# Nine sites waiting for heritage listing

Julie Zhu

**T**HE public consultation of the second batch of the proposed immovable property classification started yesterday, as announced by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) during yesterday's press conference.

The second batch includes nine sites, namely: the Patane Night Watch House (built around 1940); the Sin Fong Temple (built around 1827); the St. Paul's College Archaeological Site (built in 1606); the number 6 building on Calçada do Gaio (built around 1929); the number 30 building on Estrada da Vitória (built around 1930); the Moosa House (built before 1880); the St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery (built in 1854); the Old Tarrafeiro Municipal Market (built in the middle of 19th century) and, the Feira do Carmo (built around 1886).

Eight of these sites are located in the Macau Peninsula with only the Feira do Carmo situated in Taipa.



The Moosa House was built before 1880

The Macau SAR government currently owns six of these properties, while the remaining three are privately owned.

For each batch of classification of immovable properties, the IC normally chooses around ten properties.

Originally, the second batch of the proposed immovable properties had 13 in total. However, due

to a lack of sufficient documents, the IC decided to only put nine properties up for public consultation in order not to delay their classification progress.

Before the cultural authority placed these nine properties into the classification, the owners of the three private properties were consulted, according to the acting director of the IC, Leong Wai Man.

The public consultation started yesterday and will last until January 5. After the completion of the public consultation, the IC will have 180 days to prepare the final reports of the consultation.

The entire classification procedure will be completed within 12 months (October 30 of 2019), and the results will be announced soon after.

In total, Macau currently has 137 classified immovable properties, including monuments, buildings of architectural interest, ensembles, and sites.

Buffer areas have been provided for four of the above-mentioned nine properties, according to a dispatch published yesterday in the Official Gazette.

The four buildings are Sin Fong Temple, number 6 building on Calçada do Gaio, St. Michael the Archangel Cemetery, and Feira do Carmo.

According to Macau's law, IC should establish a buffer area for immovable properties waiting to be classified if there is a need to protect the properties' urban structure and view.

The buffer area serves as a temporary control over the surrounding spaces and the environmental condition nearby, therefore preventing great negative changes in the environment between the properties and their surroundings.

## Unlicensed driver injures six people

An accident that occurred in a car wash at R. da Serenidade injured six Filipino workers. It is suspected that one of the shop's employees, who is believed not to possess a driving license, operated a car and accidentally stepped on the accelerator. Two people were dragged underneath the vehicle and sustained injuries to their heads and legs. These two victims and a third needed to be hospitalized after the accident.

## Infant dies from flu-related brain disease

On October 28, a 4-year-old local resident died from a brain disease related to influenza, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM). The girl had a congenital heart disease and did not receive all necessary vaccines. Seven students (four boys and three girls) in the same class were also diagnosed with the flu. Two of them required hospitalization. One was discharged after recovering from the illness, and the other is in stable condition. As a preventative measure to reduce the spread of infection, the SSM required the class to suspend activities until November 2.

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# Airport expansion might make Macau a goods transfer center

**T**HE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge could help Macau to become a transfer center for certain goods, according to the president of the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport in Macau, Kou Kun Pang. Pang said that many goods, such as luxury products, can first be transported to Macau before being sent on to Hong Kong through the HKZMB. However, Kou believes that Macau must expand the Macau International Airport if the city wants to achieve this goal, in addition to improvements made to the connection between ports and the city.

In view of the latest statistics from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Authority, on 30th October, the traffic volume across HKZMB was around 2,244 vehicles, which translates to 93 vehicles per hour.

The traffic volume to Hong Kong is 1,081, and to Zhuhai



is 1,163.

The traffic volume of both shuttle and cross-border buses was 1,483, while light vehicles amounted to 705.

The volume for common trucks and cargo trucks was 48 and

8 vehicles, respectively.

On average, the daily traffic volume of light vehicles, shuttle bus and cross border bus, common trucks, and cargo trucks is 885, 1,435, 28 and 6, respectively.

# Imports rise 17 percent in third quarter

**T**OTAL merchandise imports rose 7.6 percent year-on-year in September 2018 to reach MOP7.6 billion, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service, while merchandise exports fell 8.5 percent to MOP935 million during the same period. The value of domestic exports decreased by two-thirds to MOP120 million.

September rounds out the third quarter of the year, during which total merchandise imports (MOP22.67 billion) rose 17.1 percent year-on-year and total merchandise exports (MOP2.87 billion) slipped 2.3 percent, resulting in a trade deficit of MOP19.8 billion.

For the first three quarters of the year, exports increased by 5.9 percent year-on-year to MOP9.07 billion, with domestic exports (MOP1.16 billion) declining by 13.5 percent. Meanwhile, imports increased 21.6 percent year-on-year to reach MOP65.94 billion. Accordingly, the trade deficit widened to MOP56.87 billion during the first nine months of 2018.

Analyzed by place of origin, merchandise imports from mainland China (MOP22.51

billion) and the European Union (MOP16.52 billion) increased 26.1 percent and 18 percent year-on-year respectively in the first nine months of 2018. Meanwhile, imports from Portuguese-speaking countries (MOP582 million) and countries within the Belt and Road Initiative framework (MOP5.81 billion) rose by 22 percent and 18 percent year-on-year, respectively.

Analyzed by destination, merchandise exports to the nine provinces of the Pan-Pearl River Delta area (MOP1.51 billion) increased 5.1 percent year-on-year in the first nine months of 2018, but exports to Shanghai (MOP21 million) notably dropped by 87.4 percent, resulting in a 5.1 percent decrease in exports to mainland China (MOP1.54 billion).

Exports to Hong Kong (MOP5.63 billion) and the EU (MOP148 million) rose by 11.9 percent and 3.3 percent respectively, whereas exports to the U.S. (MOP97 million) declined by 27.9 percent. Exports to Portuguese-speaking countries (MOP24 million) surged by 3,524.7 percent year-on-year within the same period.

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# NHL partners with MGM to share data for sports betting

**T**HE NHL announced a multiyear agreement this week to provide MGM Resorts International with data for use in betting, the second major U.S. professional sports league to strike a deal with the casino giant since the Supreme Court opened the way for expanded gambling last spring.

Las Vegas-based MGM is the league's first official sports betting partner, just as it is with the NBA and WNBA. That deal was reached in July.

As part of the agreement, MGM gains access to proprietary NHL data that could eventually include puck and player tracking information once that goes through a testing phase. Access to that data will allow MGM to provide customized game details along with betting opportunities for U.S. customers where gambling is legally available.

The data will not be exclusive to MGM. The NHL is not getting a cut of gambling profits, but other terms were not disclosed.

"The new sports betting landscape presents a unique opportunity for fan engagement utilizing technology and data that are exclusive to our league," NHL Commissioner Gary Bettman said. "Fan engagement, technological advancement and innovation are paramount to our progressive approach and will be at the forefront of everything we do."

MGM and other casino operators are moving aggressively to capitalize on the U.S. sports betting market, which is expanding after the Supreme Court ruled in May that states could take sports bets if they wanted. MGM has made a series of significant moves, including the multiyear deal with the NBA and WNBA.



Gary Bettman (right) and James Murren, CEO of MGM Resorts International, participate in a news conference in New York

Bettman and MGM Resorts Chairman and CEO Jim Murren said the NHL's agreement differs from that with the NBA.

"I'm led to believe by Jim that our deal is more encompassing and includes basic sponsorship that we have together," Bettman said.

The deal will include promotions during the league's marquee events, including the Stanley Cup playoffs, the All-Star game and the Winter Classic.

"We couldn't be more excited to enter into this historic partnership with the NHL," Murren said.

Bettman said player tracking will be implemented next season.

"That's been the plan," he said. "While we've tested it in some forms at the World Cup, that was 16 games in two weeks at one arena. Having to scale this for 1,271 regular season games in 31 arenas is a little bit harder."

There are no plans to change the way teams report player injuries, which are often described only in generic terms like upper-body or lower-body.

"Our players tend to play hurt," Bettman said. "I'm not sure we have any interest in changing our reports. We're comfortable with the way things are because it's important to the well-being of our players. We don't want them targeted when they're playing injured."

Bettman said the league and the NHL Players' Association will split the "fixed revenue" generated by the partnership with MGM, as the collective bargaining agreement calls for. Bettman cited a report commissioned by the American Gaming Association that estimated expanded sports betting could increase league revenue by more than \$200 million.

Bettman also said the deal with MGM would not preclude teams from striking deals with individual sports books. Earlier this year, bookmaker William Hill struck deals to do promotional work and post odds at the home arenas of the Las Vegas Golden Knights and the New Jersey Devils.

NHL executive vice president and chief revenue officer Keith Wachtel said being able

to provide enhanced data and analytics to MGM will allow "some creative and unique things that don't really exist in the sport right now."

"The more data and analytics that a gaming operator can have, the better it will be in enabling them to set odds," Wachtel told The Associated Press. "Whether or not they're using the data for actual purposes of creating prop bets and things like that certainly is something [that's possible]. But more importantly, they're going to use it to be able to set odds and proper odds that they're going to be able to create."

Scott Butera, MGM Resorts' president of interactive gaming and a former Arena Football League commissioner, outlined how the puck and playing tracking data will help bettors.

"If I know one player is faster than the other, if I know one expends less energy than the other, if I know one has a faster slap shot than the other, it gives me information that I can bet," he said. "If I'm betting on who will score the most goals, I have that tool. Ultimately when enough data is collected on that, we'll be able to actually bet on that data itself. So you could have a bet on which player's going to have the highest average slap shot throughout the game."

Butera said MGM believes expanded sports betting will eventually be available in 25 to 30 states. The 24 U.S.-based NHL teams play in 18 different states, with seven more in Canada, which does not allow single game betting. The league is moving toward adding a 32nd team, in Seattle in what would be its 19th state (Washington). **MDT/AP**

## TAIWAN

### Growth slows as trade tensions prompt consumer caution

**T**AIWAN'S export-driven economy is cooling as escalating trade tensions between the U.S. and China weigh on local consumers.

The expansion slowed to 2.3 percent in the third quarter from a year earlier, according to Taiwan's statistics bureau, falling below 3 percent growth for the first time since the second quarter of 2017. That missed the average estimate of 2.5 percent in a Bloomberg survey of 19 economists.

Taiwan's Directorate General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics attributed the slowdown to lower-than-expected consumer spending. And while overseas orders for Taiwan's chemical and mineral products remained strong in the third quarter, they weren't sufficient to overcome concerns about growing tensions between Taiwan's two biggest trading partners. The White House is said to be ready to place tariffs on all remaining Chinese exports to the U.S.

The trade war "will start to impact the Asia supply chain of which Taiwan has played a pivotal role," Raymond Yeung, chief greater China economist for Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. in Hong Kong, said via instant message before the data was released yesterday. "The economic outlook will prompt the central bank to stay put for the rest of this year."

Taiwan's central bank maintained its benchmark interest rate at 1.375 percent for a ninth straight quarter last month, signaling uncertainty and concerns of collateral damage from the trade tensions.

"Our outlook for Taiwan's economy is for stable growth," said Chen Yamei, from the Directorate-General of Budget, Accounting and Statistics. "It looks like the only impact the trade war has had so far is on confidence. Consumers are more conservative than they were. We are still evaluating what the actual economic impact of the trade war is." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM INTERNATIONAL LION DANCE CHAMPIONSHIP TO BE HELD THIS MONTH



MGM and Wushu General Association of Macau are co-hosting their signature event "MGM Lion Dance Championship – Macau International Invitational 2018" on November 10 and 11, with the support of Macao Government Tourism Office, Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, and Dragon & Lion Dances Federation of Asia. The event will be taking place at the MGM Cotai Theater, which will be transformed into a space for the competition.

The event was first launched in 2010 by MGM as a way to transform this significant piece of Chinese culture into an internationally recognized sport. In addition to the "Male Lion Dance Championship" and the "Female Traditional Lion Dance Championship",

MGM will start a new tradition this year by hosting Macau's first ever "Junior Lion Dance Performance Competition". The MGM International Lion Dance Championship 2018 will feature the very best lion dance troupes from 13 countries and regions, including China, Hong Kong SAR, Macau SAR, Chinese Taipei, Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. It also gathers lion dance teams from Australia, Myanmar and the United States, which will make it the competition with the widest range of participating nations to date.

The two-day action-packed event will start with the "Female Traditional Lion Dance Championship" featuring 10 female lion dance troupes. The

troupes, including 2016 champion Wushu Federation from Philippines, will strive for first place with their awe-inspiring and flexible moves. The "Junior Lion Dance Performance Competition" will take place in the afternoon on the first day of the event. A total of seven junior teams will be fiercely competing for the win in Macau's first junior lion dance competition.

On November 11, the "Male Lion Dance Championship" will feature 12 teams from 11 countries and regions. The troupes include 2016 champion Yi Wei Athletic Association from Singapore, as well as two local lion dance teams; Hong Wai Dragon & Lion Dance Association Macau, and Associação de Artes Marciais e Educação Física dos Operários de Macau.

# Angola expected to grow at an average rate of 3pct

**A**NGOLA'S economy is expected to record annual average growth of 3 percent in real terms, according to forecasts included in the National Development Plan (PDN) for 2018/2022, said the Minister of State for Economic and Social Development.

Minister Manuel Nunes Júnior, who presented the PDN to members of parliament this week, also said that the average annual growth of the non-oil sector will be more robust than the general one, with a rate of around 5.1 percent.

During the five-year period the oil sector is expected to experience a negative annual average growth of about 1.8 percent, which means that the non-oil sector will have to grow at a higher rate in order to offset this contraction.

Júnior, quoted by Angolan state news agency Angop, also said that in the non-oil sector the main drivers of



The offices of Angola's central bank stand in Luanda

growth will be agriculture with an average growth rate of 8.9 percent, fisheries with an average rate of 4.8 percent, manufacturing industry with a rate of 5.9 percent, services including tourism with 5.9 percent and construction with an average of 3.8 percent.

"In order for these goals to be achieved, it is important

that the government is focused on implementing the program to support domestic production, export promotion and import substitution, which is one of the essential points of the 2018/2022 PDN," said the Minister of State.

The minister said that all this work would be mainly carried out by the private sec-

tor, with the State being the coordinating and regulating agent of the whole process, creating the necessary conditions for investments, especially for those of the national and international private sector, to find the environment necessary to ensure a satisfactory and adequate return on the capital they have invested. **MDT/Macauhub**

# Mozambique, Portugal end monopoly on air links

**M**OZAMBIQUE and Portugal have put an end to the monopoly of Linhas Aéreas de Moçambique (LAM) and TAP – Air Portugal on direct flights between the two countries, said the president of the Civil Aviation Institute of Mozambique.

João de Abreu also told Portuguese news agency Lusa that the two countries have opened the way for more airlines could explore the route by reviewing an agreement signed in 2010. "This review consisted essentially of the modification of the point on 'mono designation' to 'multiple designation', that is, each State could now designate more than one airline for the air link between the two countries," said Abreu.

The review of the document, known as the Air Transport Agreement, resulted from work carried out in May in Lisbon by technical groups of the two states' regulatory authorities. It was signed in June during the visit of the Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa to Mozambique, but only released now.

In addition to this amendment, the review of the agreement also includes aspects related to the routes, eliminating the obligation for flights between the two countries to pass through the airports of their respective capitals. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD

## 2018 盛世之友 CESL Asia and Friends Sport Fun Day 運動同樂日



### Thank you!

The CESL Asia and Friends Sport Fun Day held on 28 October at the Workers Stadium was a tremendous success. Thanks to all our sponsors, volunteers and more than 200 participants, the event was able to double the amount of donations from last year and a total of MOP 160,000 is being donated to the Macau Special Olympics to empower its mission of transforming lives through sports. Together we promote an inclusive society and stimulate institutional, corporate and public awareness for the untapped potential of the community. We sincerely wish to thank all those entities that participated and donated.





## American embassy uses WeChat to air criticism of China on home turf

**W**EEKS after President Donald Trump accused China of interfering in its domestic politics, U.S. diplomats are airing criticisms about sensitive issues on the Communist Party's home turf.

The U.S. Embassy in Beijing has in recent days posted Chinese translations of critical statements by top American officials on its official WeChat, the Tencent Holdings Ltd. social network with more than 1 billion users.

First, the embassy shared with its 2 million followers excerpts of Vice President Mike Pence's

speech alleging election-meddling by China.

Then, on Monday, the account started publishing comments from a recent Secretary of State Michael Pompeo interview, in which he criticized the country for violating people's human rights by detaining as many as 1 million members of its Muslim minority in "re-education camps."

"These camps are clearly a Chinese effort to reduce the capacity for Chinese people to exercise their religious freedom," Pompeo said in the interview, which originally aired

on the Salem Radio Network's Hugh Hewitt Show.

The posts send a signal that the Trump administration is willing to appeal directly to the Chinese people as its trade stand off with Beijing drags on, a strategy it has also used in dealings with Tehran.

The posts come after Pence complained that China was attempting to influence next week's midterm elections by purchasing a newspaper advertisement criticizing his trade policies in Iowa and directing tariffs at key districts.

How long China will allow the

practice to continue is unclear, since the Communist Party maintains tight internet censorship and restricts coverage of sensitive issues such as its treatment of the predominantly Muslim Uighur minority to a few state-run media outlets. China's foreign ministry didn't immediately reply to faxed questions.

In May, the U.S. used its account on the Twitter-like Weibo service to post a White House statement criticizing as "Orwellian nonsense" China's demands for airline booking sites to stop treating Taiwan as an independent country.

The U.S. has irked Chinese authorities with its social media accounts before, posting hourly air quality readings from monitoring stations at its local consulates on Twitter, calling official data into question and fueling debate about the country's notorious pollution.

While the Chinese government initially criticized the practice, it eventually started publishing more reliable data and President Xi Jinping declared pollution one of the government's three most pressing problems.

The comments from Pence and Pompeo have been more pointed, offering local internet users rare criticism of their leaders. For instance, Pompeo was quoted accusing Xi's flagship Belt and Road infrastructure initiative of promoting corruption overseas.

"China shows up with bribes to senior leaders in countries in exchange for infrastructure projects that will harm the people of that nation," he was quoted as saying in one comment posted by the Embassy. The U.S. Embassy in China did not respond to an email seeking comment. **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

## Journalist, martial arts novelist Louis Cha dies



Louis Cha during a speech at Peking University in Beijing in July

**L**OUIS Cha, a Hong Kong journalist and best-selling Chinese martial arts novelist, has died at age 94 after a long illness.

The Hong Kong newspaper founded by Cha, Ming Pao Daily News, said he passed away Tuesday at a Hong Kong hospital.

Cha's novels about ancient Chinese swordsmen have sold millions and are among the most widely read in the Chinese-speaking world. They inspired film adaptations, TV and radio dramas, comic books and videogames, and greatly influenced Hong Kong popular culture.

They include "The Heaven Sword and the Dragon Saber," about a kindhearted hero who is indecisive but uses his kung fu skills to unify a divided gang and is elected its leader, and "The Eagle-Shooting Heroes," about a tragic hero who sacrifices his life in guarding the country against invading Mongolians.

Cha was born in 1924 in Hangzhou in mainland China and graduated from the Law School of Suzhou in 1948, the South China Morning Post said. He had planned to become a diplomat, but began work as a journalist in 1947 to support his studies. The communist revolution in 1949 closed off his opportunities to enter diplomacy.

Cha's first novel, "The Book and the Sword," was published in 1955 and became an instant hit. He went on to write 14 martial arts novels, often under the pen name Jin Yong. **AP**

## Chinese intelligence officers charged in US aviation hacking

**C**HINESE intelligence officers and hackers working for them have been charged with commercial espionage that included trying to steal information on commercial jet engines, federal prosecutors said yesterday [Macau time].

The indictments named two officers working for the Nanjing-based foreign intelligence arm of China's Ministry of State Security and six other defendants who allegedly conspired from 2010 to 2015 to steal sensitive turbofan engine technology used in commercial aviation.

The hackers used

spear phishing to deploy malware and other means to intrude into a French aerospace company that was developing the engines with a U.S. company, prosecutors said. The suspects also hacked into aerospace companies in Massachusetts, Oregon and Arizona that manufactured engine parts.

A Chinese state-owned aerospace company was working at the time to develop a similar type of engine for use in commercial aircraft.

"This action is yet another example of criminal efforts by the (Ministry of State Security)

to facilitate the theft of private data for China's commercial gain," U.S. Attorney Adam Braverman said in a statement. "The concerted effort to steal, rather than simply purchase, commercially available products should offend every company that invests talent, energy, and shareholder money into the development of products."

The Justice Department in recent years has brought similar prosecutions against Chinese military or government officials accused of hacking into American corporations to steal secrets and prosecutors vowed

to redouble those efforts.

In 2014, for instance, the department announced an indictment against five military officers accused of breaking into the computer systems of big-name makers of nuclear and solar technology and stealing confidential business information, sensitive trade secrets and internal communications for competitive advantage.

Earlier this month, an accused Chinese spy, was charged with attempting to steal secrets from several American aviation and aerospace companies and extradited to the U.S. Federal au-

thorities said it was the first time that a Chinese Ministry of State Security intelligence officer had been extradited to the United States for trial.

None of the eight defendants named in the indictment unsealed in San Diego federal court were in custody and the U.S. doesn't have an extradition treaty with China.

Prosecutors said the hackers had tried to infiltrate 13 companies, including two aerospace based in the United Kingdom.

The indictment only named one of the companies targeted, saying the first alleged hack in January 2010 aimed at stealing data from Los Angeles-based Capstone Turbine, a gas turbine manufacturer. **AP**

# US reassures Taiwan on security as Beijing increases threats

Johnson Lai  
& Christopher Bodeen, Taipei

**A**NY attempt to determine Taiwan's future by "other than peaceful means" is a threat to regional security and a matter of "grave concern" to the United States, Washington's de facto ambassador to Taipei said yesterday, in a nod to Chinese military intimidation against the island.

Brent Christensen also said Washington would continue military sales to Taiwan while promoting its participation in the international community that Beijing increasingly seeks to restrict.

China considers Taiwan its own territory to be absorbed using force if necessary. It has lately stepped up its threats in an attempt to undermine President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to bow to Beijing's demand that she recognize Taiwan as a part of China.

The U.S. cut formal ties with Taiwan in 1979 to recognize Beijing but the two maintain robust unofficial military and diplomatic ties. Those relations are underpinned by the Taiwan Relations Act, which requires the U.S. to ensure that Taiwan has the ability to defend itself and U.S. policy



American Institute in Taiwan director Brent Christensen

"has not changed" in the 40 years since its passage, Christensen said at a news conference.

"Any effort to determine the future of Taiwan by other than peaceful means represents a threat to the peace and security of the Western Pacific area and is of grave concern to the United States," said Christensen, who heads the American Institute in Taiwan, which functions as an embassy in all

but name. "We are opposed to unilateral attempts to change the status quo."

Christensen pointed to a recent USD330 million arms sale to Taiwan as evidence of Washington's fulfilling its obligation to support Taiwan in "maintaining a sufficient self-defense capability against coercion."

"Promoting security cooperation and improving Taiwan's self-defense capability go hand in hand," he said.

A Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman yesterday reiterated Beijing's strong opposition to arms sales and "any kind of official exchanges and military interactions between the U.S. and Taiwan."

"We hope the U.S. will deal with Taiwan-related issues with caution so as to avoid the impacts on China-U.S. relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Lu Kang said at a daily briefing.

While the U.S. encourages dialogue between China and Taiwan, it will at the same time cooperate to promote shared democratic values and improve economic relations with the island, Christensen said.

That includes ensuring Taiwan has a voice in international organizations from which Taiwan has been excluded. China has used its economic might and diplomatic clout to keep Taiwan out of the United Nations, and has increased the pressure by blocking Taipei's representatives from attending international meetings such as the World Health Assembly, while pressuring multinational companies ranging from fashion brands to airlines to describe Taiwan as part of China.

Alarmed by the deteriorating situation, the U.S. in September recalled its envoys to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador and Panama after decisions by those nations to cut ties with Taiwan in favor of diplomatic relations with China. Taiwan now has just 17 diplomatic allies as China ratchets up pressure on the island's government to endorse its "One-China" principle.

"The United States has long been a vocal supporter of Taiwan's meaningful participation in international organizations, and we continue our informal consultations and engagement to allow Taiwan to have a more substantive role in the international community," Christensen said.

Taiwan, a former Japanese colony, split from the mainland in 1949 after Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists fled there following defeat by Mao Zedong's Communist army. **AP**

## ECONOMY

# Manufacturing weakens to two-year low amid trade battles

**C**HINA'S manufacturing activity fell to a two-year low in October as domestic demand weakened, an official measure showed yesterday, adding to pressure on Beijing to shore up economic growth amid a tariff war with Washington.

The purchasing managers' index of the National Bureau of Statistics and an industry group, the China of Logistics and Purchasing, fell to 50.2 from September's 50.8 on a 100-point scale on which numbers above 50 show activity expanding.

Export orders weakened but the biggest impact was from cooling domestic demand. Auto and real estate sales have slumped since Beijing tightened lending controls last year to rein in a debt boom.

"Short-term downward economic pressure is relatively large," economist Zhang Liqun said in a statement released with the PMI.

Beijing needs to cut taxes, ease lending curbs and take others steps to "boost confidence in China's private sector," Citigroup economists said in a report.

Chinese exports to the United States have been unexpectedly resilient since U.S. President Donald Trump's first tariff hikes took effect in July in a battle over Beijing's technology policy.

Some of that is due to exporters rushing to fill orders ahead of duty increases. But producers of higher-value-added goods such as factory and medical equipment express

confidence they can keep their U.S. market share even with higher prices.

"Softer foreign demand doesn't appear to be the main culprit," said Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics in a report.

The monthly measure for new orders tumbled 1.2 points to 50.8, according to NBS and the logistics federation. The new export order index declined 1.1 points to 46.9.

The report gave no details on U.S. demand for Chinese goods, but exports to the United States have risen by at least 13 percent over a year earlier each month since Trump's first tariff hikes.

The tariff impact "could become more material" if companies start to shift supply chains out of China to avoid higher U.S. char-

ges, said the Citigroup economists.

China's USD12 trillion-a-year economy already was cooling as communist leaders tried to steer it toward more self-sustaining growth based on domestic consumption instead of exports and investment.

Economic growth in the three months ending in September slipped to 6.5 percent over a year earlier from the previous quarter's 6.7 percent. It was the slowest rate since early 2009 during the global financial crisis.

The relative strength of China's economy has allowed President Xi Jinping's government to reject pressure for changes in initiatives such as "Made in China 2025" that call for state-led creation



of champions in robotics and other technologies.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners say those plans violate Beijing's market-opening obligations.

The International Monetary Fund and other forecasters expect this year's economic growth to fall to about 6.5 percent from 2017's 6.8 percent.

Beijing tightened lending controls last year to rein in surging debt. But

the downturn was unexpectedly abrupt, prompting the ruling party to reverse course and pump money into the economy by easing lending controls and boosting government spending on public works.

Such support "has yet to fully offset broader downward pressure," said Evans-Pritchard. He said Beijing will need to ease credit controls and step up spending "help put a floor beneath growth." **AP**

## HAWAII

# Supreme Court upholds permit for giant telescope

Jennifer Sinco Kelleher, Honolulu

**A**FTER years of delay, including lengthy court battles and passionate protests from those willing to be arrested for blocking construction crews, builders of a giant telescope plan to move forward with constructing the USD1.4 billion instrument on a Hawaii mountain that is considered sacred.

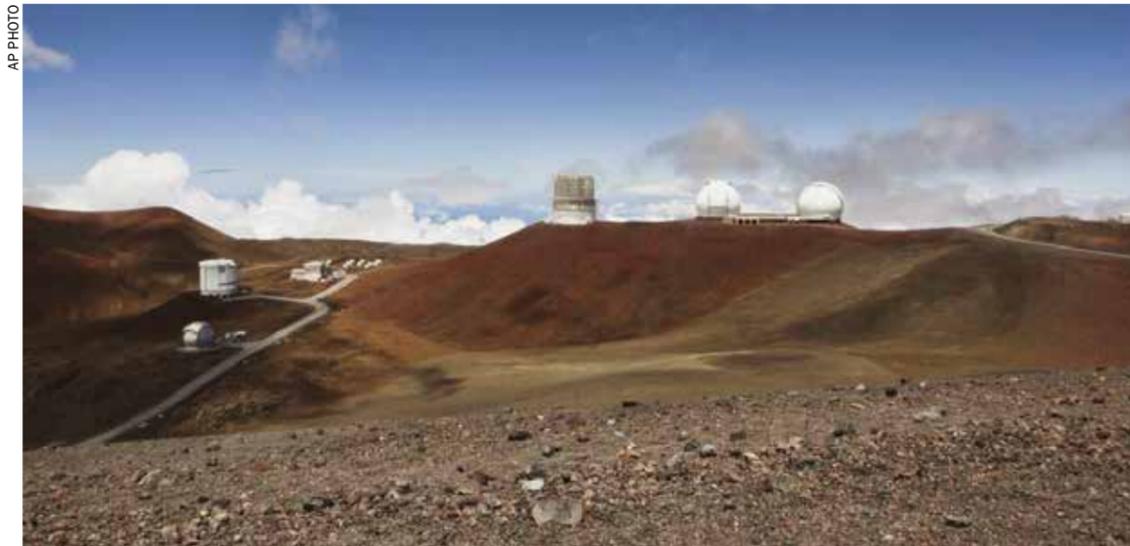
The state Supreme Court's 4-1 ruling upholding the project's construction permit yesterday [Macau time] is a victory for the contentious Thirty Meter Telescope planned for Hawaii's tallest mountain, Mauna Kea. Opponents say the telescope will desecrate sacred land on the Big Island. Supporters say it will bring educational and economic opportunities to the state.

Astronomy and Native Hawaiian "uses on Mauna Kea have co-existed for many years and the TMT Project will not curtail or restrict Native Hawaiian uses," the ruling said. The advanced telescope will answer some of the most fundamental questions of the universe, and Native Hawaiians will also benefit from it, the ruling added.

Associate Justice Michael Wilson dissented but didn't immediately release his opinion.

Further legal action is still possible, state Attorney General Russell Suzuki said. There can be a motion for reconsideration filed within 10 days and following that, a request can be made to the U.S. Supreme Court to review the decision, he said.

Kealoha Pisciotta, one of the



Telescopes on the summit of Mauna Kea on Hawaii's Big Island

main leaders against the telescope, said she's doesn't know what their next steps will be, but she's not hopeful that more legal wrangling will help.

"The court is the last bastion in democracy," she said. "The only other option is to take to the streets. If we lose the integrity of the court, then you're losing normal law and order, and the only other option is people have to rise up."

Opponents and supporters have been awaiting the ruling because it was expected to help determine whether the project is built in Hawaii or moves to a backup location in Spain's Canary Islands that is less desirable to scientists hoping to use the instrument for groundbreaking discoveries.

Henry Yang, chair of the TMT International Observatory Board of Governors, said in a statement they are grateful the

ruling will allow the telescope to be built on Mauna Kea.

Gov. David Ige, who said he is pleased with the ruling, vowed to protect rights of protesters and telescope builders. "The court's decision will allow Hawaii to continue to lead the world in astronomy," Ige said.

State Department of Land and Natural Resources Chairwoman Suzanne Case said the next steps involve telescope builders submitting construction plans. The department will review the plans before issuing permission to proceed.

Plans for the project date to 2009, when scientists selected Mauna Kea after a five-year, around-the-world campaign to find the ideal site.

The project won a series of approvals from Hawaii, including a permit to build on conservation land in 2011.

Protests disrupted a ground-

breaking and Hawaiian blessing ceremony at the site in 2014. After that, the protests intensified.

Construction stopped in April 2015 after 31 protesters were arrested for blocking the work. A second attempt to restart construction a few months later ended with more arrests and crews retreating when they encountered large boulders in the road.

Scientists revere the mountain for its summit above the clouds that provides a clear view of the sky with very little air and light pollution.

The telescope will allow astronomers to reach back 13 billion years to answer fundamental questions about the advent of the universe, touts a website for the project.

In December 2015, the state Supreme Court revoked the permit, ruling the land board's approval process was flawed.

That meant the application process needed to be redone, requiring a new hearing.

After oftentimes emotional testimony for the hearing that spanned 44 days, the retired judge presiding over the proceeding recommended granting the permit.

Opponents appealed again after the land board approved the permit. They complained about various due process issues, including that the hearings officer had a conflict of interest because she was a member of a Big Island astronomy center.

The connection was "too attenuated," and membership doesn't lead to supporting the telescope, the Supreme Court ruling said.

A group of universities in California and Canada make up the telescope company, with partners from China, India and Japan. The instrument's primary mirror would measure 98 feet (30 meters) in diameter. Compared with the largest existing visible-light telescope in the world, it would be three times as wide, with nine times more area.

Telescope parts have been built in California and partner countries while construction on Mauna Kea was halted.

Reactions to the ruling from two Native Hawaiians showed how the issue has divided the community.

Telescope opponent Kahookahi Kanuha, who was arrested twice for blocking construction, said Hawaiians need to be ready to resist construction with non-violent protests. He had a message for them: "Hoomakaukau," get ready.

Richard Ha, a Native Hawaiian farmer who supports the telescope, said the long process that led to the ruling was "pono," or righteous. He said he wants to sit down with opponents, "talk story" and find common ground. **AP**

## PHILIPPINES

# Four rescued, at least 18 missing in landslide

**R**ESCUERS have pulled out four survivors and three bodies but several more were missing after a massive landslide set off by a typhoon crashed down on two government buildings in a northern Philippine mountain province, officials said yesterday.

Regional police Chief Superintendent Rolando Nana said at least 18 more people still are missing from the landslide in the far-flung town of Natonin in Mountain province. Smaller land- and rock-slides on roads leading to Natonin have slowed the advance of more rescuers



and earth-moving equipment.

Disaster response officer Jennifer Pangket said there could be up to 24 people still trapped in the landslide, which occurred

as Typhoon Yutu pummeled the region Tuesday. At least nine people have died due to the typhoon, which blew out of the northern Philippines.

"It's a massive landslide

and boulders also came rolling down from the mountain. The buildings got demolished and entombed. They're gone," government engineer Junel Emengga told The Associated Press by phone from the site of the landslide.

More than 100 workers, police, firefighters and volunteers were scrambling to find more survivors in the avalanche using shovels and their hands because earth-moving equipment could not go through roads blocked by smaller landslides, he said.

One new building was

being constructed and an old one was being expanded, he said.

Emengga said he and other staffers of the Department of Public Works and Highways did not work at the four-story buildings because of the typhoon but other workers from a private company continued to work. Nearby residents also sought shelter in the buildings when their homes were hit by the landslides and fierce wind, he said.

Typhoon Yutu weakened considerably from its earlier super typhoon status over the Pacific Ocean before slamming into the

Philippines' northeastern Isabela province before dawn Tuesday. Aside from the landslides, it also knocked down trees and power posts and ripped roofs off houses and stores, officials said.

The storm weakened further as it blew across mountains and then barreled westward through provinces still recovering from the deaths and devastation wrought by Typhoon Mangkhut in mid-September.

Yutu blew out into the South China Sea later Tuesday and weakened into a storm, Philippine forecasters said. **AP**

# Pacific rim trade pact goes ahead after Australia ratifies

Elaine Kurtenbach, Bangkok

**T**HE Pacific rim trade pact abandoned by President Donald Trump will take effect at the year's end after Australia became the sixth nation to ratify it.

Australia announced yesterday that it had completed procedures needed for the trade arrangement, the Comprehensive and Progressive Trans-Pacific Partnership, to progress. It will take effect Dec. 30.

The deal is aimed at streamlining trade and slashing tariffs to facilitate more business activities between member nations with a combined population of nearly 500 million people and GDP of USD13.5 trillion.

"Our ratification means we are guaranteeing maximum benefits for our farmers and businesses," Simon Birmingham, minister for Trade, Tourism and Development, said in a statement. He said the deal would bring annual benefits of up to \$15.6 billion to the Australian economy by 2030.



The 11 nations remaining after the U.S. withdrawal in early 2017 amended the pact to enable it to take effect even without its participation. Japan, Canada, Mexico and Singapore also have ratified it.

"The signal that it sends to the rest of the world that there's a new rules-based order out there in the world that people can buy into if they want as an incredibly powerful signal at this parti-

cular time," David Parker, New Zealand's minister of Trade and Export Growth, told reporters.

"It has benefits that will spread throughout the economy to every person in New Zealand from the factory floor to the farm owner, to all of the other service industries that rely upon our export industries," he said.

The U.S. departure was a huge loss given the size of the American market. However other

countries are said to be interested in joining the trade deal, which is seen as a first step toward a pan-Pacific free trade zone.

Trump said he was putting "America first" in seeking bilateral deals rather than broader ones like the Trans-Pacific Partnership. But U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said earlier this year that the U.S. would consider rejoining the

pact after it deals with other priorities.

Other TPP member countries have said they hope the U.S. will rejoin, while emphasizing their commitment to the global trading system that has enabled many of them to build thriving modern economies.

Nearly two-dozen stipulations sought by the U.S. in the original TPP deal reportedly were shelved after Washington withdrew, watering down somewhat the plan proclaimed by the Obama administration of being the "gold standard" for 21st century trade rules.

Birmingham, the Australian trade minister, said the deal would help farmers gain better access to Canada's market for grains, sugar and beef, and to Mexico's market for pork, wheat, sugar and other farm products.

It will also help iron and steel, leather, paper products and medical equipment manufacturers who export \$19 billion annually to other markets within the trade pact, he said.

For New Zealand, the trade arrangement will bring duty-free access for its exporters of wine, meats, wool, timber and fisheries products, the government said in a statement.

The countries that have not yet ratified the agreement are Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, Peru and Chile. AP

AD



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USA

# High hopes & hype for experimental depression drug ketamine

Lindsey Tanner, Chicago

It was launched decades ago as an anesthetic for animals and people, became a potent battlefield pain reliever in Vietnam and morphed into the trippy club drug Special K.

Now the chameleon drug ketamine is finding new life as an unapproved treatment for depression and suicidal behavior. Clinics have opened around the United States promising instant relief with their “unique” doses of ketamine in IVs, sprays or pills. And desperate patients are shelling out thousands of dollars for treatment often not covered by health insurance, with scant evidence on long-term benefits and risks.

Chicago preschool teacher Lauren Pestikas long struggled with depression and anxiety and made several suicide attempts before trying ketamine earlier this year.

The price tag so far is about USD3,000, but “it’s worth every dime and penny,” said the 36-year-old.

Pestikas said she feels much better for a few weeks after each treatment, but the effects wear off and she scrambles to find a way to pay for another one.

For now, ketamine has not received approval from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for treating depression, though doctors can use it for that purpose.

Ketamine has been around since the 1960s and is widely used as an anesthesia drug during surgery because it doesn’t suppress breathing. Compared to opioids such as morphine, ketamine isn’t as addictive and doesn’t cause breathing problems. And some studies have shown that ketamine can ease symptoms within hours for the toughest cases.

Its potential effects on depression were discovered in animal experiments in the late 1980s and early 1990s showing that glutamate, a brain chemical messenger, might play a role in depression, and that drugs including ketamine that target the glutamate pathway might work as antidepressants.

Conventional antidepressants like Prozac target serotonin, a different chemical messenger, and typically take weeks to months to kick in — a lag that can cause severely depressed patients to sink deeper into despair.

Ketamine’s potential for almost immediate if temporary



Lauren Pestikas sits as she receives an infusion of the drug ketamine during a 45-minute session at an outpatient clinic in Chicago

relief is what makes it so exciting, said Dr. Jennifer Vande Voort, a Mayo Clinic psychiatrist who has treated patients with depression since February.

“We don’t have a lot of things that provide that kind of effect. What I worry about is that it gets so hyped up,” she said.

The strongest studies suggest it’s most useful and generally safe in providing short-term help for patients who have not benefited from antidepressants. That amounts to about one-third of the roughly 300 million people with depression worldwide.

“It truly has revolutionized the field,” changing scientists’ views on how depression affects the brain and showing that rapid relief is possible, said Yale University psychiatrist Dr. Gerard Sanacora, who has done research for or consulted with companies seeking to develop ketamine-based drugs.

But to become standard depression treatment, he said, much more needs to be known.

Last year, Sanacora co-authored an American Psychiatric Association task force review of ketamine treatment for mood disorders that noted the benefits but said “major gaps” remain in knowledge about long-term

effectiveness and safety. Most studies have been small, done in research settings and not in the real world.

When delivered through an IV, ketamine can cause a rapid increase in heart rate and blood pressure that could be dangerous for some patients. Ketamine also can cause hallucinations that some patients find scary.

“There are some very real concerns,” Sanacora said. “We do know this drug can be abused, so we have to be very careful about how this is developed.”

Dr. Rahul Khare, an emergency medicine specialist in Chicago, first learned about ketamine’s other potential benefits a decade ago from a depressed and anxious patient he was preparing to sedate to fix a repeat dislocated shoulder.

“He said, ‘Doc, give me what I got last time. For about three weeks after I got it I felt so much better,’” Khare recalled.

Khare became intrigued and earlier this year began offering ketamine for severe depression at an outpatient clinic he opened a few years ago. He also joined the American Society for Ketamine Physicians, formed a year ago representing about 140 U.S. doctors, nurses, psychologists and others using ketamine for

depression or other nonapproved uses.

There are about 150 U.S. ketamine clinics, compared with about 20 three years ago, said society co-founder Dr. Megan Oxley.

**Lauren feels much better for a few weeks after each treatment, but the effects wear off and she scrambles to find a way to pay for another one**

Khare said the burgeoning field “is like a new frontier” where doctors gather at meetings and compare notes. He has treated about 50 patients with depression including Pestikas. They’re typically desperate for relief after failing to respond to other antidepressants. Some have lost

jobs and relationships because of severe depression, and most find that ketamine allows them to function, Khare said.

Typical treatment at his clinic involves six 45-minute sessions over about two weeks, costing \$550 each. Some insurers will pay about half of that, covering Khare’s office visit cost. Patients can receive “booster” treatments. They must sign a four-page consent form that says benefits may not be long-lasting, lists potential side effects, and in bold letters states that the treatment is not government-approved.

At a recent session, Pestikas’s seventh, she leaned back on a reclining white examining-room chair as a nurse hooked her up to a heart and blood pressure monitor. She grimaced as a needle slipped into the top of her left palm. Khare reached up with a syringe to inject a small dose of ketamine into an IV bag hanging above the chair, then dimmed the lights, pulled the window curtains and asked if she had questions and was feeling OK.

“No questions, just grateful,” Pestikas replied, smiling.

Pestikas listened to music on her iPhone and watched psychedelic videos. She said it was like “a controlled acid trip” with pleasant hallucinations. The trip ends soon after the IV is removed, but Pestikas said she feels calm and relaxed the rest of the day, and that the mood boost can last weeks.

Studies suggest that a single IV dose of ketamine far smaller than used for sedation or partying can help many patients gain relief within about four hours and lasting nearly a week or so.

Exactly how ketamine works is unclear, but one idea is that by elevating glutamate levels, ketamine helps nerve cells re-establish connections that were disabled by depression, said ketamine expert Dr. Carlos Zarate, chief of experimental therapies at the National Institute of Mental Health.

A small Stanford University study published in August suggested that ketamine may help relieve depression by activating the brain’s opioid receptors.

Janssen Pharmaceuticals and Allergan are among drug companies developing ketamine-like drugs for depression. Janssen leads the effort with its nasal spray esketamine. The company filed a new drug application in September.

Meanwhile, dozens of studies are underway seeking to answer some of the unknowns about ketamine including whether repeat IV treatments work better for depression and if there’s a way to zero in on which patients are most likely to benefit.

Until there are answers, Zarate of the mental health institute said ketamine should be a last-resort treatment for depression after other methods have failed. **AP**

HERITAGE

# 1 of 3 Great Pyramids of Giza to reopen after restoration



EGYPT'S Antiquities Ministry says the second of Egypt's three famed pyramids of Giza will open to tourists this week after the completion of restoration work that lasted about two months.

Yesterday's statement says the pyramid of King Khafre, one of the three Great Pyramids gracing the Giza province south of Cairo, will be ready to receive tourists starting Thursday.

Ashraf Mohi al-Din, director of the Giza Plateau, said the restoration process included the staircases leading to the pyramid, changes to its internal lighting system and the bolstering of weak spots in its corridors and burial chamber.

The ministry says it will close down the third pyramid, that of King Menkaure, to start restoration there.

The famed Giza pyramids, listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site, date to the 4th dynasty during the Old Kingdom.

SYRIA

# Group documents Russian attacks on civilians

A Syrian-led human rights group said yesterday it has documented more than 1,400 incidents in which Russian forces indiscriminately targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure in the three years since Moscow intervened in the civil war in Syria.

The Berlin-based Syrian Archive has created a database of more than 3,000 verified videos of the incidents, reported between September 2015, when Russia began its airstrikes on behalf of President Bashar Assad's forces, and September 2018.

Hadi al-Khatib of the group said the searchable database is the first visual documentation of alleged Russian airstrikes in Syria and is essential for "advancing justice." The database, which includes more than 700 incidents in which civilian casualties were reported and some 35 hospitals were struck, can help lawyers build cases against perpetrators of



A destroyed ambulance is seen outside the Syrian Civil Defense main center after airstrikes in Ansari neighborhood

violence, he said.

The database includes videos from citizens, journalists, humanitarian groups and even the Russian Defense Ministry.

Russia denies targeting civilians and has often said the airstrikes are aimed at "terrorist infrastructure." In a recent report on its three-year involvement in Syria, the Russian military lists the number of airstrikes and the types of aircraft and weapons

used, but doesn't say anything about casualties.

Syrian Archive said it has documented and verified at least 704 incidents in which there were civilian casualties as a result of alleged Russian attacks. The verified videos show that at least 35 hospitals, 27 mosques, 23 schools and 27 markets were struck in Russian airstrikes, it said.

In one incident, Russia's Defense Ministry released a video identifying a target as

an oil refinery, which upon further investigation turned out to be a water treatment facility, according to the report and other investigations.

The group also identified 63 incidents in which cluster munitions were used and 39 incidents in which incendiary weapons were used. Russia denies using those weapons.

"The whole point of the report is to advance justice," al-Khatib said. "Lawyers can use this kind of data, corroborate them with other evidence, to build their cases."

Syrian Archive has been working to document and preserve the history of the civil war, uploaded mostly on YouTube. As the tech giant introduced new technology to rein in violent content on the internet, hundreds of thousands of videos from the conflict suddenly disappeared. Syrian Archive worked with YouTube to retrieve some of the videos and ensure that violent videos were marked for graphic content. AP

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## what's ON



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

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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

## PEOPLE FIND SEVERED HEAD IN OAKLAND YARD, TAKE IT TO POLICE

Police investigators were trying to determine whether a decaying human head found this week in an Oakland backyard belongs to a recently discovered headless corpse.

People visiting an Oakland apartment complex last week found the head in the grassless yard with a couple of trees and took it to a police station, Oakland Officer Johnna Watson said.

Officers at the police station initially thought it was a Halloween prank but then saw the head inside the car of the people who found it, Sgt. Michael Cardoza told reporters after the Friday discovery.

"I can say in my years of service, I've never had a human skull delivered to the police station," Cardoza told KGO-TV.

Homicide detectives interviewed all the residents of the three-apartment building, and it didn't appear they were involved, he said.

It's unclear how long the head had been in yard, but Cardoza said it was decomposed and "had a little bit of flesh on it."

The Alameda County coroner's office is working to identify the remains and determine whether it's connected to a decapitated body found in "close proximity" in late September.

A resident interviewed by KTVU said he had no idea how the head got to an area of the backyard that tenants don't frequent.

"They come into my house while I'm eating dinner — they come in and tell me something about a head. I don't know nothing about no head," Manul Adrow told the station about police.

## TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

16:20 Nelo & Idália

16:55 Quem Quer Ser Millionário

17:50 Fotobox

18:05 Depois do Adeus

19:00 TDM Interview (Repeat)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 LiteratAqui

22:25 Filha da Lei

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Curso de Cultura Geral Sr.2

00:45 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:30 RTPi live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

27 - 31 Oct



## GOOSEBUMPS 2: HAUNTED HALLOWEEN

ROOM 1

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

Director: Ari Sandel

Starring: Madison Iseman, Wendi McLendon, Jeremy Ray

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: English

Duration: 130min



## HUNTER KILLER

ROOM 1

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

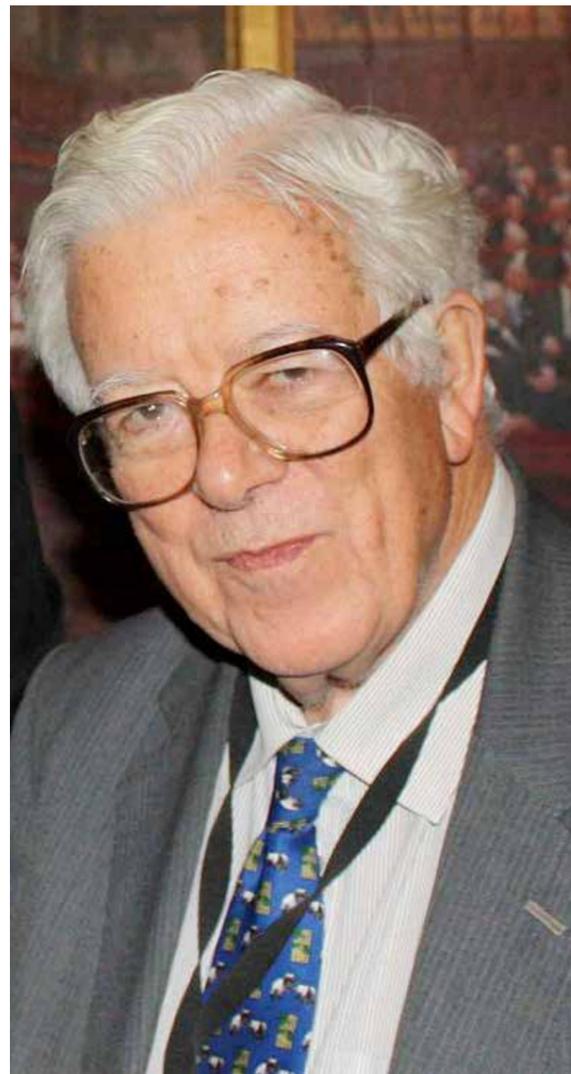
Director: Donovan Marsh

Starring: Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman

Language: English

Duration: 112min

## this day in history



## 1990 HOWE RESIGNS OVER EUROPE POLICY

The UK's deputy Prime Minister, Sir Geoffrey Howe, has resigned.

He informed the Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of his decision at around 1800 on Thursday.

Sir Geoffrey said the reasons for his resignation were the prime minister's policies towards Europe and her opposition to a single European currency.

He is the fourth member of the cabinet to leave after disputes over Europe.

The prime minister is said to have had no prior warning that Sir Geoffrey had decided to go.

A statement from the prime minister's office said Mrs Thatcher and Sir Geoffrey had talked for 30 minutes before she accepted his resignation "more in sorrow than in anger".

Sir Geoffrey, 63, was the last remaining member of Mrs Thatcher's original 1979 cabinet.

He served as both chancellor and foreign secretary.

A short statement from Sir Geoffrey was read to journalists by his parliamentary private secretary, David Harris.

There were few details but Mr Harris told reporters Sir Geoffrey had no intention of challenging for the party leadership.

"I have absolute authority from Sir Geoffrey to say that there is no question of his standing against Mrs Thatcher in a leadership election," Mr Harris said.

Labour leader Neil Kinnock said Mrs Thatcher had got what she deserved and had been bitten by the man she had treated as a "doormat".

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Labour MP Dennis Healey once famously said being attacked by Geoffrey Howe was "like being savaged by a dead sheep". But the former deputy PM's attack on Mrs Thatcher in a dramatic resignation speech on 13 November ultimately led to her downfall. The speech spurred Mrs Thatcher's long-time adversary, Michael Heseltine, to stand against her in a leadership contest. When she failed to win the contest outright in the first round, Mrs Thatcher resigned. Geoffrey Howe retired from the Commons in 1992 and was given a life peerage taking the title Baron Howe of Aberavon.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your softer side is out in the open today, and you should find that your people are making life easier on you as a result.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You are much more open today - both your heart and your mouth! Try to communicate with the most important people in your life about the things that really matter.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Your finances are more or less in order - but they could always be tightened! Now is a great time to do just that, as your forward thinking meets your eye for detail in a confluence of smart decisions.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your energy is off the charts today - so do something terrific with it! You should find that you've got more time on your hands than usual, and that hard tasks seem much, much simpler.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You feel a sense of self-control that should help quite a bit with any stressful social situations you've been avoiding. Dive into them now and you should emerge more or less unscathed.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Try not to let others interfere with your plans - in fact, you may need to pull rank by the end of the day. Things are good, but your energy and organizational skills can make them so much better.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Things aren't quite going your way today - in fact, you should expect one interruption after another almost all day long! That can be okay, as long as you are willing to lose focus.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Now is the time to get your way, even if you're not quite sure what you want or need. Things are sure to improve in some way as long as you push yourself to go for what you really want once you find it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You and a friend or coworker may be at odds over something that seems petty or silly to outsiders. It's real, though - so stand your ground! It may not get resolved today, though.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can plainly see what's going on today - so make sure that you're dealing with the issues that need your attention. It's a good day for you to be practical and show others how to do the same.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your emotional side is dominant today, so make sure that you're paying close attention to matters of the heart. It's a really good time for you to mend fences with family members or estranged friends.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your sweet, romantic side is dominant today. Show your sweetie what they mean to you or ask out that cutie you've been crushing on for weeks or longer. Your energy means you can't fail!

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-Orig.; 5- Wished; 10- Japanese syllabic script; 14- \_\_\_ lay me...; 15- Gladiator's venue; 16- Ear-related; 17- Wings; 18- Kingdom; 19- Xylem stem; 20- Male domestic feline; 22- Postmortem examination; 24- North Pole aide; 25- Kissers; 26- Cutting instrument for paper; 30- Inner self, to Jung; 35- Likewise; 36- Unburden; 37- Ignited again; 38- "CHiPs" star; 41- Gathering of pus in body tissue; 43- Maker of Pong; 44- Half and half; 45- Maiden name preceder; 46- Cowboy's tool; 47- And so forth; 50- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 53- Tint; 54- Baby; 58- Turkey's highest peak; 62- Baseball's Felipe; 63- Birdlike; 66- Dress often worn by Hindu women; 67- Neighbor of Cambodia; 68- Doctor; 69- Figure skater Lysacek; 70- Sea birds; 71- Eat into; 72- Nerve network; DOWN: 1- Med. school subj.; 2- Alone; 3- Did the butterfly; 4- Sisters' daughters; 5- Capital of Connecticut; 6- Metal-bearing mineral; 7- Seed of a legume; 8- China's Zhou \_\_\_; 9- Block; 10- Monetary unit of Nigeria; 11- At the summit; 12- Guitarist Lofgren; 13- \_\_\_-deucey; 21- Gore and Hirt; 23- Former Russian rulers; 25- Leary's drug; 26- Great bargain; 27- \_\_\_ Rica; 28- Little bits; 29- Narrow inlet; 31- Japanese computer giant; 32- Actress Graff; 33- Stingy one; 34- Lost; 39- Monopoly quartet; Abbr.; 40- Garlic sauce; 41- Hill insect; 42- To befall; 44- \_\_\_ the ramparts...; 48- Where it's at; 49- One making fun; 51- Make \_\_\_ for oneself; 52- Hang in the air; 54- Bundle; 55- Chemical used on trees; 56- Earth's satellite; 57- Smooch; 59- Four-star review; 60- I smell \_\_\_; 61- Fork feature; 64- Altar vow; 65- Help, resource;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

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



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ANALYSIS

# Legalized sports betting is one bet paying off

Tim Dahlberg

**T**HE action is coming fast and heavy. A bettor in New Jersey used his mobile app to win USD325,000 on a \$500,000 wager on Boston to win the World Series. Another DraftKings bettor hit a longshot money line parlay on longshots Oregon State and Kansas to collect \$4,313 on his \$50 bet. Many others, surely, will be scrambling to pay the rent next month after their can't-miss bets somehow missed. For better or worse, sports betting is here to stay. Bettors are crowding into books in the six

states where sports betting is now legal, and other states are lining up to open their markets to wagers. And as it spreads nationwide, sports betting is changing the way America's biggest sports approach the game. The NHL this week announced a deal with casino giant MGM Resorts International that officially ties the league to a gambling company [see more on page 8]. That follows a similar deal MGM made earlier with the NBA. It's only a matter of time before the NFL joins in to get a piece of the pie, and baseball wants its share, too.

Meanwhile, regulators in Nevada announced yesterday [Macau time] that sports books took in a record handle — and had record profits — in September as the stigma that once haunted sports betting fades into the background. “Our ticket count is through the roof,” said Jimmy Vaccaro, the longtime oddsmaker at the sports book at the South Point in Las Vegas. “It’s driven with new people who are playing. The same old people are there each week and now it’s the recreational guys showing up.” Those running America’s sports leagues are taking notice. There’s money to be made, and

they’re wasting no time in going after it. A top Major League Baseball executive said earlier this month the league wants a 0.25 percent cut of betting handles in the spirit of “fairness” because it supplies the games bettors wager on. And the NFL — which was so concerned about betting a few years ago that it wouldn’t allow Tony Romo to host a fantasy sports conference in a casino — is now trying to figure out how to maximize betting revenues for its teams. How quickly things have changed since the Supreme Court decision in May opened the floodgates to nationwide betting. There’s no more moral indignation from the leagues. No more hand wringing about possible betting scandals. Just a mad dash to get a piece of the action in a market that will be worth billions of dollars. Fortunately, there’s enough money to make everyone happy

in the end. The bookies are plenty sharp and the bettors plenty gullible, a combination that will lead to riches in the industry. Is it all good? No, because there is a cost associated with sports betting just as there is with any other vice that separates people from their money. Expect plenty of stories about bad beats and chasing money long since gone. Families will break up, and people will become homeless because a gambling addiction can be ruinous. The bottom line is there aren’t many who can beat the bookies, at least in the long term. The bettor who won a half million on the Red Sox will find that out, as will the longshot bettor who thinks the next parlay will finally be the one he wins.

With the sports books pocketing, for the most part, a 10 percent vig (the house edge) on each bet, a bettor has to win 52.4 percent of the time just to break even. It sounds easy enough, but Las Vegas is filled with sordid tales of those who went bankrupt or worse trying to beat the bookies. It’s an adult activity that should be enjoyed in moderation. Betting the mortgage never works, and there is no such thing as a sure thing. But sports betting is here, and it’s here to stay. Like casino gambling did when it expanded beyond Nevada in the 1980s, it will become a part of the fabric of everyday society. Don’t expect any point shaving scandals to suddenly pop up and ruin that. It’s in the best interest of both the bookies and the leagues to keep their sports on the up and up, and they will. In the end, the leagues will not only survive the sports betting they feared for so many years, but thrive. Interesting how quickly they’ve decided sports betting isn’t so bad after all. **AP**

TENNIS

# Djokovic beats Sousa in straight sets at Paris Masters

**NOVAK** Djokovic began his bid for a record-extending fifth Paris Masters title with a 7-5, 6-1 win against Joao Sousa in the second round yesterday [Macau time], and lent a helping hand to a spectator in the process. Serving for the match at 5-1, Djokovic handed a towel to a man in the crowd who seemed unwell and who wiped his forehead with it. “It seemed he was sweating and he seemed dizzy, so he just needed help,” Djokovic said. “I just gave him the towel.” Djokovic revealed he also was not feeling very well out on court.



Novak Djokovic

“I wasn’t,” he said. “I don’t want to get into details but I think it’s a minor thing.” The second-ranked Serb set up match point with an ace and sealed victory on his third match point

when Sousa returned a second serve long. The U.S. Open champion won four of the last five tournaments he has entered, including Wimbledon, the U.S. Open and most recently the Shanghai Masters. Djokovic is seeking to reclaim the top ranking from Rafael Nadal at a tournament Nadal has never won. Djokovic next faces Damir Dzumhur. Fifth-seeded Marin Cilic, the Australian Open runner-up, won his second-round match 6-3, 6-4 against Philipp Kohlschreiber of Germany. Dzumhur upset 14th-seeded Stefanos Tsitsipas

6-3, 6-3, while big-hitting Russian Karen Khachanov also advanced to the third round. He led 6-2, 2-0 against Matthew Ebden when the Australian retired. Returning from a right knee injury, Nadal faces Spanish countryman Fernando Verdasco today, with 20-time Grand Slam champion Roger Federer also in second-round action against Milos Raonic. Federer leads the big-serving Canadian 11-3 overall. Federer’s last appearance at the Paris indoor event was a third-round loss to big-serving John Isner in 2015. There were doubts Federer would play after a grueling past week which saw him clinch his ninth victory at the Swiss Indoors and 99th overall. “I feel good,” Federer told a news conference. “I feel like I recovered well from last week.” The 37-year-old Federer is selective of when he plays in order to keep his body as fresh as possible, and he skipped the entire clay-court season for the second straight year. With the season-ending ATP Finals in London starting Nov. 11, he is playing three straight tournaments. But the third-ranked Federer feels comfortable with it. **AP**

opinion

**Girl About Globe**

Linda Kennedy



**HALLOWMORNIN' AFTER, SPOOKY-PRETTY IT AIN'T.**

November 1st is much better than Hallowe'en. Today, it's ok to have hair that could scare and makeup smudged across your face. Hallowmornin' after is a female grooming holiday.

No part of this appearance requires you to have participated in any Hallowe'en activities. Sure, blame your demonic messiness on a disguise the night before that TOTALLY worked. But costume? What costume? Be a liar not a vampire. The reality is you just had an extra hour in bed, and bothered neither to cleanse nor style. On this day, November 1st, looking like death is accepted and will additionally award you a reputation of being a fun gal.

Which I am, but just not in a Hallowe'en way. I've long said I don't like any festival when the main colour - orange - clashes with my hair. I usually just sit this one out.

However, next year is going to be an exception - and I start now making my costume for Hallowe'en 2019 (using some of the time freed up by the priming day off). The reason is I read statistics on the most popular female Hallowe'en costumes that were researched online. Witch. Mermaid. Wonder Woman. Princess. Fairy. Angel. Jesus Christ. That last one was an exclamation.

If Hallowe'en were a movie, it would be condemned for its stale and predictable gender roles. Apart from witch, all the female costumes aspire to be spooky - pretty. You have to look good as a ghoul.

Did anyone at least combine clichéd costumes? WonderWitch. Corsets, armet, leg-guards plus a witch's hat rather than a tiara. And no shield - instead, a third of a cauldron.

Male costumes researched online included Spiderman and the animal kingdom's most muscular hero, the lion, plus other characters from movies and gaming.

Some popular searches at least left open the possibility of either gender being costumed thus. Like 'dragon'. Maybe one woman went to a party as a 'bingo-winged dragon - a serpent-like creature beloved of all women whose triceps have gone.' I like to think so.

'Dinosaur' is another such example. Those researching a dinosaur disguise weren't necessarily blokes pinning down whether or not T-Rex ate only meat (the party had a buffet, ok?). A woman could have gone out trick or treating as 'Equalosaurus. A female regarded as highly as the males. Sadly extinct now.' Or 'Feminist-osaurus. She consumed only misogynist males, after trying to train them to change their ways. It really was the only way to reduce numbers.'

As for next year, my thoughts for feminist fancy dress are so far fledgling.

Could I dress up as a troll? I'd need a cardboard desk with a papier-mache laptop glued on top. I'd carry it, garbed as an unshaven man who'd smell badly. I'd crayon Twitter's logo onto the laptop and intermittently hunch and pretend-write bile.

Or could I be a bank note, with a space cut in it for my head? 'And you are?' 'I'm a rarity - currency featuring women.'

Or - trickier - get a pair of man jeans, stuff them and attach boots. Tape them on the outside of my legs and angle them outwards. 'Man-Spreading Monster.'

Might I print #MeToo on the back of a T-shirt, and ferret out a whip from someone's long abandoned Zorro costume? 'What are you?' 'I'm #MeToo backlash.'

All of these, I acknowledge, will require DIY materials, plus some handcraft and haberdashery skills. Hence the early start. Failing that, a fallback will be a feminist fairy whose wings feature a slogan. 'I am a female taking up more space in the world. Not so mythical any more.' Is that a scary costume?

**THE CELLO STAR YO-YO MA TO PERFORM BUZZ AT WWI ARMISTICE CEREMONIES**

Cello maestro Yo-Yo Ma will perform at the foot of the Arc de Triomphe as part of the ceremonies marking the centenary of the end of the World War I next month in Paris.

Joseph Zimet, director of the First World War Centenary Mission, says Ma will headline a field of "great international artists" during the Nov. 11 ceremony close to the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier.

The U.S.-Chinese artist, who received the U.S. Presidential Medal of Freedom back in 2010, was born in Paris in 1955.

The European Union Youth Orchestra, an ensemble of young musicians, has also been invited to perform Ravel's Bolero, while Beninese artist Angelique Kidjo will sing a tribute to the colonial troops who fought for France during the war.

**Pakistan acquits Christian woman facing death for blasphemy**



Supporters of a Pakistani religious group chant slogans while block a main road at a protest after a court decision



Asia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian woman, listens to officials at a prison in Sheikhupura near Lahore, Pakistan, in late 2010

Zarar Khan & Munir Ahmed, Islamabad

**P**AKISTAN'S top court yesterday acquitted a Christian woman who was sentenced to death on blasphemy charges in 2010, a landmark ruling that sparked protests by hard-line Islamists and raised fears of violence.

Chief Justice Mian Saqib Nisar announced the verdict to a packed courtroom and ordered Asia Bibi released. She has been held at an undisclosed location for security reasons and is expected to leave the country.

The charges against Bibi date back to a hot day in 2009 when she went to get water for her and her fellow farmworkers. Two Muslim women refused to drink from a container used by a Christian. A few days later, a mob accused her of blasphemy. She was tried, convicted and sentenced to death.

The mere rumor of blasphemy can ignite mob violence and lynchings in Pakistan, and combatting alleged blasphemy has become a central rallying cry for hard-line Islamists.

Salman Taseer, the governor of Punjab province, was shot and killed by one of his guards in 2011 for defending Bibi and criticizing the misuse of the blasphemy law. The assassin, Mumtaz Qadri, has been celebrated as a martyr by hard-liners

since he was hanged for the killing, with millions visiting a shrine set up for him near Islamabad.

Ahead of the verdict, Khadim Hussain Rizvi, a hard-line cleric who has brought tens of thousands of people into the streets for past rallies, called on his supporters to gather in all major cities to express their love for the prophet and to protest if Bibi is released. Authorities have stepped up security at churches around the country.

Shortly after the ruling, hundreds of Islamists blocked a key road linking the city of Rawalpindi with the capital, Islamabad. Islamists gathered in Pakistan's largest city, Karachi, in the northwestern city of Peshawar and elsewhere. Police urged demonstrators to disperse peacefully.

In the eastern city of Multan, police arrested several demonstrators after clashes.

Paramilitary troops deployed in Islamabad to prevent protesters from reaching the Supreme Court, where security for the judges was being beefed up.

Bibi's family and her lawyer say she never insulted the prophet. In previous hearings her attorney, Saiful Malook, pointed to contradictions in testimony from witnesses. The two Muslim women who pressed charges against Bibi denied they quarreled

with her, saying her outbursts against Islam were unprovoked.

Chaudhry Ghulam Mustafa, a lawyer for one of the plaintiffs, rejected the verdict, saying Bibi had confessed to making derogatory remarks against the prophet to seek pardon.

The three-judge panel upheld the blasphemy law itself, saying it was consistent with verses from Islam's holy book, the Quran. But they said prosecutors had failed to prove that Bibi violated the law. In addition to citing the Quran, the judges also referenced Shakespeare's King Lear, saying Bibi was "more sinned against than sinning."

Critics of the blasphemy law have said it is used to settle personal scores or to attack minority communities. Bibi's case was closely followed internationally amid concern for Pakistan's religious minorities, who have frequently come under attack by extremists in recent years.

Bibi's husband hailed yesterday's verdict.

"I am very happy. My children are very happy. We are grateful to God. We are grateful to the judges for giving us justice. We knew that she is innocent," said Ashiq Masih.

"My wife spent so many years in jail and we hope that we will soon be together in a peaceful place," he said. AP

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

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SOUTH SUDAN** For the first time since fleeing South Sudan more than two years ago, opposition leader Riek Machar returned yesterday to take part in a nationwide peace celebration.



**TURKEY** Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi was strangled as soon as he entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul as part of a premeditated killing, and his body was dismembered before being disposed of, a top Turkish prosecutor said yesterday.

**UKRAINE** Russia clashed with European nations and the United States over the legality of elections in two Moscow-backed separatist areas in eastern Ukraine, and the U.N. political chief indicated backing for the Western view that the votes would violate a 2015 peace agreement.

**THE VATICAN** Lawyers for the family of a 15-year-old girl who went missing in 1983 pressed Italian prosecutors and the Vatican yesterday for more details regarding human bone fragments found in an annex of the Holy See's embassy in Rome.



**BRAZIL** The judge at the center of Brazil's sprawling investigation into kickbacks to politicians said he would consider joining the Cabinet of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro if invited. Bolsonaro previously said he would ask federal judge Sergio Moro to be his justice minister or fill a future vacancy on the supreme court.

**COLOMBIA** A group of Venezuelan migrants living in Colombia's capital says their homes were ransacked by a mob that beat one of their friends to death while shouting slurs against foreigners.

SOURCE: DSI/MG

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