



'ACTIVIST-IN-RESIDENCE'

Founder of Water for South Sudan, Salva Dut, kicked off TIS' "Activist-in-Residence" program

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WEATHER BUREAU RESTRUCTURING

The troubled operation of the weather bureau was on the spotlight at the Legislative Assembly

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BRAZIL'S DEPENDENCE ON CHINA

Brazil's recent growth has been significantly influenced by China, a scholar said during an event in Macau

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GAMING

Growth slows on weaker China economy

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WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Divers in Indonesia recovered one of the crashed Lion Air jet's flight recorders from the seafloor yesterday, a crucial development in the investigation into what caused the 2-month-old plane to plunge into the ocean earlier this week, killing 189 people.

AUSTRALIA announced yesterday it will invest in redeveloping a Papua New Guinea naval base as concerns mount over increasing Chinese influence in the South Pacific.



INDIA's prime minister has unveiled a towering bronze statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key independence leader being promoted as a national icon in the ruling party's campaign ahead of next year's general elections. **More on p12**

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South Korean leader says Kim Jong Un expected to visit Seoul 'soon'

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Extra
times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

TIS raises awareness on the need for clean water in South Sudan

Lynzy Valles

THE International School of Macau debuted its "Activist-in-Residence" series yesterday, holding activities for its students with the mission of raising awareness of the need for clean drinking water in South Sudan.

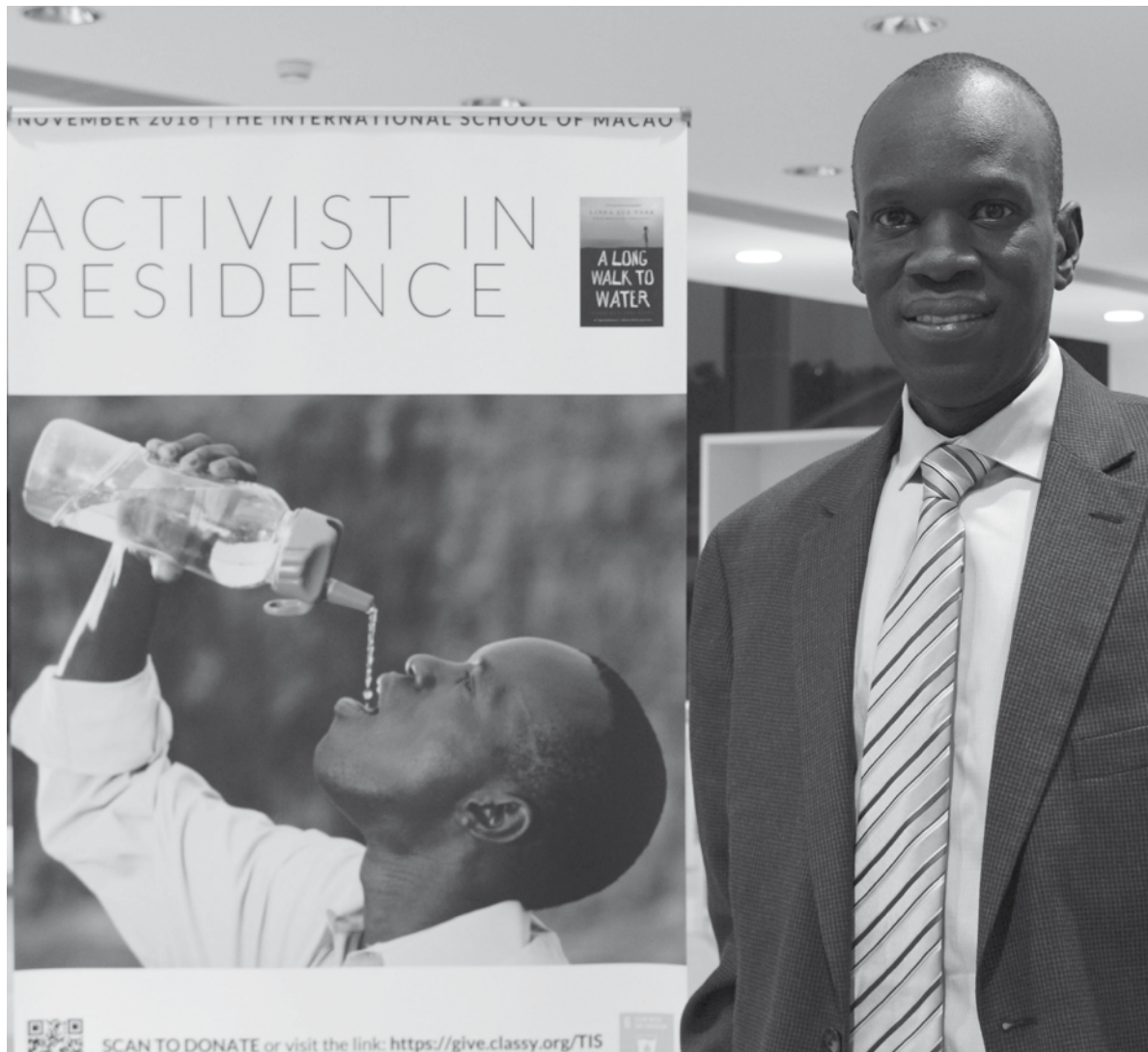
Founder of Water for South Sudan, Salva Dut, hosted the activities sharing the mission of the organization: to provide clean drinking water to South Sudan residents who do not have access to it.

Speaking to the press, Dut said, "We have drilled 349 wells so far, serving a quarter million people. We're doing hygiene and sanitation [education] too. We're doing a lot there; it's [...] making a difference."

Water drilling takes place in the dry season from December to June, and it takes about three to four days to build a well. Once complete, each well pumps approximately 1,800 gallons of water per day and serves approximately 600 to 750 people.

According to Dut, the need is still "tremendous" and a small amount of support from the local community would significantly help the foundation dig more wells.

Dut also shared a book titled "A Long Walk To Water," his autobiography. Coming from the Dinka tribe and one of the Sudanese 'Lost Boys,' he was separated from his family at the age of 11 when the Sudanese ci-



Salva Dut

vil war reached his village.

He joined thousands of boys who became known as the "Lost Boys" on their journey on foot to seek safety in refugee camps in Ethiopia and Kenya.

Dut lived in refugee camps for 10 years before moving to the United States.

The founder of the organization was inspired to bring clean water to his country when his

father in Southern Sudan was suffering from water-borne parasites and disease.

"This world is so small, we've become one village. Whatever's happening in this part of

the world is all our problem together and we should always look on people who cannot help themselves and be able to help them," said Dut.

"I'm just happy to see young kids seeing the world in a different way. It makes me feel proud that these are [going to be] good leaders," he added.

Meanwhile, the co-founders of Inspire Citizens, Aaron Moniz and Steve Sostak, are also in the city aiming to inspire students and teachers towards community-driven action, identity and learning.

"This world is so small, we've become one village."

SALVA DUT
FOUNDER OF WATER FOR
SOUTH SUDAN

Sostak highlighted that it is vital for schools to embed global competence frameworks and sustainable thinking in an institution's curriculum.

"That's what learning is all about: applications to the real world and making a difference," said Sostak.

"We try to take existing curriculums and find ways to build empathy [...] and build social action projects to that existing curriculum so that it just doesn't end at a test," Moniz explained.

The organization aims to bring such talks to schools for students to build a connection to social activities, which would benefit people who are in need.

Jockey Club complying with gov't orders and deadlines

THE Macau Jockey Club is fulfilling its agreement established with the government in order to be permitted to continue operating, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau has said in reply to TDM Radio.

According to the response provided to the news outlet, since March this year the company has been complying with all payments regarding its debt of MOP150 million to the government, which

was to be fulfilled in monthly installments.

Another of the conditions set by the government to extend the exclusivity of exploring horse racing activities until 2042 was the progressive increase of the equity capital to a minimum of MOP1.5 billion by 2023.

As a first step towards such a goal, the Jockey Club company approved at general meeting in August the changing of the company's equity capital to MOP600

million by issuing new shares to be subscribed by the shareholders.

The next step is to raise the amount to a minimum of MOP1 billion by 2020.

The government has warned previously that if the company fails to meet the goals settled in the last concession extension agreement, it will enforce punitive measures that can result in the suspension or termination of such a concession agreement.



PAULO BARBOSA

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Gaming growth slows again with weaker China economy

MACAU'S gaming revenue slowed to single-digit growth for a second straight month, providing further evidence that China's economic slowdown is taking a toll on the enclave's casino operators.

Gross gaming revenue in Macau rose 2.6 percent in October to 27.3 billion patacas (USD3.4 billion) from a year earlier, according to data released yesterday by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau. This missed the median analyst's estimate for 3.5 percent growth.

October's result is the clearest signal that China's slowing economy and the trade war between Beijing and Washington is weighing on the outlook for the world's biggest gaming center. Revenue growth in September slowed to 2.8 percent, the weakest showing in two years, much of that due to a typhoon that shut casinos



for more than a day.

The growth, in line with that recorded in September, brings the year-to-date increase in gaming revenue down to 14.3 percent from 15.9 percent a month earlier. At the same time, last month's revenues were almost one-quarter above the disappointing result in September, the worst

month of 2018 to date.

October's take was roughly in line with that of August and the preceding months, again suggesting that monthly revenues are plateauing. The recovery still has a way to go in order to reach the pre-recession high of MOP38 billion seen in February 2014. Current monthly revenues stand at about 71 percent of that level.

The result may not bode well for Macau since October is considered a peak month, traditionally showing higher gaming revenue because of the Golden Week holiday. The month had a robust start, as Chinese tourist arrivals to Macau for Golden Week jumped 14 percent from a year earlier. Last year's October performance made for a tough comparison, said Union Gaming Securities Asia Ltd. analyst Grant Govertsen in a note. VIPs are making up a smaller percentage of gamblers, and therefore traditional

holiday months like October will show less dramatic results, he said.

The Bloomberg Intelligence index of Macau casino stocks initially pared an earlier advance after the data was released yesterday, then rallied with the overall Hong Kong market, closing with a 2.6 percent gain. Wynn Macau Ltd. jumped 4.6 percent and MGM China Holdings Ltd. rose by 3.8 percent. The casino gauge has slumped in recent months after a two-year rally. It is down more than 40 percent from a May peak, touching a 20-month low on Tuesday.

Even though October represented the 27th straight month of revenue growth in Macau, the casino hub has seen softening growth since the second quarter. While mass market revenue has maintained solid revenue growth, VIP business has been hit by weakening China property prices and stock market turmoil. **MDT/Bloomberg**

SARs residents proposed to contribute to Chinese social security

THE Ministry of Human Resources and Social Security of China has proposed a new interim measure for residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to participate in social insurance within mainland China. The measure was announced last week, and is now publicly soliciting opinions.

The measure outlines two types of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan residents. The first category consists of employed persons, including in formal and flexible employment, in mainland China. The second category consists of non-employed persons, including those who live in mainland China but are not employed, and those who are in school.

The measure thus

makes specific provisions for how individuals' varying circumstances dictate procedures for matters including social insurance registration, issuing social security cards, and inter-provincial social insurance relationship transfer.

The measures propose that residents of the SARs and Taiwan employed in mainland China should contribute to five basic social insurances.

Unemployed persons can contribute to basic retirement insurance and basic medical insurance for urban and rural residents.

It is stipulated that the scope and conditions of the applicable insurance for residents from the three regions are consistent with those of the mainland.

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AL PLENARY

Rosário says weather bureau restructuring ongoing

Julie Zhu

DURING yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, recommended that lawmakers report the Macao Meteorological and Geophysics Bureau's (SMG) internal management problems to governmental departments.

Lawmakers questioned Rosário and SMG representatives about matters concerning the SMG's internal mechanisms during typhoons. The debate motion was passed one year ago, before Sulu Sou was suspended from his position.

Sou questioned the investigation procedures of former SMG director Fong Soi Kun and deputy director Florence Leong.

"What's the current stage of the investigation procedures? In 2014, when you started serving in your position, did you hear about the problems inside the SMG? Have you corrected them?" Sou questioned the Secretary.

"How do you ensure the SMG staff is resting? How are you ensuring that the whole SMG staff can participate, equally, in SMG meetings? Are there still situations in which the leaders remotely control the hoisting of typhoon [signals]?" Sou asked.

In response to the pro-democrat lawmaker, Rosário noted that the investigation into Fong's procedure is still ongoing. The investigation related to Leong has already been completed and the sentence has been executed as well, with Leong currently back working at the weather bureau. Furthermore, he told Sou that he "has heard about a lot of things."

RENATO MARQUES

I receive many unsigned letters every week. If I must handle those matters, I will not have time to work.

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO



"However, I said that if you [everyone] have enough evidence, you [everyone] can report the problems to suitable departments," said Rosário, adding "I receive many unsigned letters every week. If I must handle those matters, I will not have time to work."

"Whoever has the evidence can go to a suitable department asking for a follow-up," Rosário told Sou.

Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho criticized the Secretary for these comments. "If [we] report [to the concerned departments] every time there is a problem, the Judiciary Police (PJ) and the Public Security Police Force (PSP) will not need to investigate. The PJ and PSP could simply wait until the residents come forward with a report. This is not right," declared Coutinho.

"You have to do something. Have you personally done anything? It is your responsibility to supervise your subordinates. Have you investigated? The civil service regulation is still effective:

if you find any violation, you can recommend an investigation to the Chief Executive. You didn't do anything. You look at it as if we are singing. Now you are even more ridiculous, you ask Sulu

Sou to report to the Commission Against Corruption. You sit comfortably in your place," Coutinho criticized.

However, the Secretary continued his comments, remarking

that he shares a different opinion than Coutinho.

During the second round of questioning, Sou highlighted Rosário's responsibility in handling rumors or reports regarding problems within SMG.

"As the top leader, you cannot ignore the problems when you see them. [Problems or rumors] bring [negative] influences to the public departments," said Sou.

Amid Rosário's replies to other lawmakers, the Secretary said: "It is a bit odd that nobody wants to be the department head of the SMG. The bureau has a weird structure. There are divisions but there are no departments. We have already initiated a restructuring. It is difficult to find people for some positions. Leaders cannot take money for overtime. [When other workers] take overtime for tens of hours, they end up making more money than heads of divisions."

The Secretary claimed that difficulties in seeking human resources for his secretariat are a general problem.

Regarding Rosário's remarks concerning the human resources issue, Coutinho accused all them of "being excuses. If you are willing to hire people, you can hire."

SMG to have two more automatic weather stations

IN 2018, the government will provide the city with two more automatic weather stations, the former acting director of the Macao Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) and the Director of Environmental Protection Bureau, Raymond Tam Wai Man, announced during yesterday's Legislative Assembly.

Besides an additional two automatic weather stations, in 2019, Macau will also have three new water monitoring stations. All these new facilities will be prepared for improved observation of typhoons or typhoon-related natural circumstances.

Earlier this year, Macau started collaborating with Zhuhai's science research academy, which Macau is paying MOP2 million per weather buoy (five in total) provided by the academy.

In addition to this collaboration with mainland

China, the local weather authority is also working with the Hong Kong Observatory, which is providing real-time water and wind statistics to Macau.

In terms of improved preparation for typhoons, the SMG will also update both its website and apps.

"The SMG's app is being updated currently. Regarding the official SMG website and the official mobile application, the [service] supplier is in the design phase. The design will be completed within this year. Then, there will be a new [SMG] mobile application available," informed the SMG Acting Director Leong Weng Kun.

Earlier this year, the government amended two administration orders in order to improve the city's typhoon prevention capabilities, changing the signals for tropical storm and storm surge.

TRANSPORT STATISTICS

New registration of vehicles falls

AT the end of September 2018, the total number of licensed motor vehicles dropped by 1.2 percent year-on-year to 238,792, of which light motorcycles (26,626) decreased by 11.2 percent, whereas heavy motorcycles (96,935) rose by 1 percent. According to transport statistics released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), new registration of motor vehicles in the third quarter fell by 25.8 percent year-on-year to

3,392. Meanwhile, new registration of motor vehicles in the first three quarters of 2018 went down by 8 percent year-on-year to 10,887, with heavy motorcycles dropping by 20.9 percent to 5,635.

There were 3,480 cases of traffic accidents in the third quarter of 2018 and number of victims totaled 1,041, down by 10.3 percent and 19.2 percent respectively year-on-year. In the first three quarters of 2018, number of traffic

accidents decreased by 7.1 percent year-on-year to 10,297 cases, resulting in 3,225 casualties and six killed.

Cross-border vehicular traffic grew marginally by 0.5 percent year-on-year to 1,216,562 in the third quarter of 2018. According to DSEC, passenger ferry movements between Macau and mainland China and between Macau and Hong Kong went down by 3.1 percent year-on-year to 32,618 trips in the third quarter.

Commercial flights at Macau International Airport totaled 15,875 in the third quarter of 2018, up by 13.8 percent year-on-year. In the first three quarters of 2018, commercial flights increased by 13.4 percent year-on-year to 45,728, with those to and from mainland China, Thailand and Taiwan growing by 19.7 percent, 18.5 percent and 1.5 percent respectively, whereas those to and from South Korea and Vietnam fell by 14.8 percent and 6.1 percent respectively.

PAULO BARBOSA



Macau picks artist for Venice Biennale

LAM Sio Man and Heidi Lau's exhibition proposal, "The Manifesting Shadow," by has been selected to represent Macau at the 58th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition, which will be held May 2019 in Venice, Italy.

The winning proposal was submitted by curator Lam and artist Lau. Lam is currently studying a master's degree in Visual Arts Administration at New York University and has curated exhibitions at the Museum of Chinese in America in New York. Lau has obtained a bachelor's degree in fine arts at New York University, and her art has been exhibited in and collected by museums and art galleries in New York several times.

A statement issued by the Cultural Af-

fairs Bureau explains that "the exhibition aims to deconstruct the current simplified 'image' of Macau and reveal its intricate cultural identity."

The selected work "reflects on the monstrosity embedded in Macau by tracing history, personal memory, religious beliefs, gaming and other entertainment activities. Such monstrosity refers to the diversity of cultures, the mix of various religions, of tradition and modernity and of the reality and the illusion, which not only reveal the hybrid context of Macau in the abstract but also convey the significance of art expressiveness, forms and concepts themselves."

A total of 15 exhibition proposals by 36 local curators and artists in groups were received in this open

call. The jury, comprising of the director of Macao Museum of Art, Chan Kai Chon; the chair of Academic Board at Today Art Museum in Beijing, Huang Du; the director of Museum of Contemporary Art in Taipei, Yuki Pan; the acting director of Hong Kong Art School, Chan Yuk Keung and exhibiting artist at the Macau-China Pavilion at the "57th Venice Biennale International Art Exhibition", Wong Cheng Pou, held meetings on October 12 and 13.

This is the sixth time that the Macao Museum of Art has participated in the Biennale under the name of "Macao-China" since 2007. This time, the Macao Museum of Art will join the two local young female artists to manifest Macau on the world stage.



Heidi Lau in her atelier

HEALTH

Counseling psychologists not to be included in new qualification regime

COUNSELING psychologists will not be included in the range of professional activities covered by a bill that will regulate the qualification and registration of health professionals.

The clarification issued by the Health Bureau (SSM) comes after the government received several suggestions and concerns that the new law could, in the future, influence such a professional category.

In the statement, the SSM notes that the psychotherapy category includes clinical diagnosis, medical treatment, rehabilitation, and follow-up programs after recovery, noting that the bill only regulates the issuance of a psychotherapist license, following a consensus achieved in talks with this professional sector.

In this way, the SSM remarks that all counselors can continue to operate normally without any restriction by the law, since such activities do not require a special license under the bill. The bureau also noted that, during the preparation of the law project, the government took into account the situation of Macau and already anticipated situations like the one noted, remarking that the bill applies specifically to 15 categories of health professionals only. All others will continue to be governed by existing laws. **RM**

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Brazil's economic dependence on China can slow Bolsonaro

Renato Marques

BRAZIL'S economic growth in the past few years has been directly related to China's growth and trade, and this might be an influence on the policies of the newly-elected president, Jair Bolsonaro.

At least that is the view of Andrés Malamud, an Argentinian-born senior research fellow at the Institute of Social Sciences of the University of Lisbon, who presented a debate on "Brazil after the election" this week at C&C Club.

According to the researcher, political experts were of the opinion that in the past the election of a president with a tough stance on China, like Bolsonaro, was unlikely due to the importance of China and Sino-Brazilian relations in the growth of Brazilian economy over the years.

During the presentation regarding the past and present status of Brazilian social and



Andrés Malamud

economic figures, and the relationship between these factors and Brazilians' support of Bolsonaro's presidency, Malamud noted, "if Brazil bets on [the furthering of relations with] the U.S.A., it will come out losing... since 18 percent of all Brazilian commerce is [dependent] on

China." He further remarked that "if Brazil cuts [relations] with China, Brazil will fall."

In the opinion of the Latin-American political experts, when Bolsonaro assumes the leadership of the government, he will have to refrain from expressing some views. This

was especially apparent during the election campaign, such as when Bolsonaro accused China of having a "predatory attitude" in the way it related to Brazil, the acquisition of Brazilian corporations, namely in the energy and mining sectors, and the use of its privileged position as a result of furthering relations between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

In this sense, Malamud believes that Bolsonaro has little chance "if he wants to finish his mandate as president," steer Brazil's political direction towards the U.S.'s and adopt a "Trump style" personality, which Bolsonaro has expressed appreciation for and wants to follow.

That said, the researcher also mentioned that Bolsonaro already has a history of creating "friction" in Sino-Brazilian relations. This was apparent during his visit to Taiwan, which was seen as a provocation by the Chinese central government.

When questioned by the au-

dience, Malamud predicted that although the new Brazilian president will continue with his "pro-American and anti-China speech," he will also "probably continue the relations with China as they are now."

As for the Brazilian election and the results, Malamud showed that the possibility of the people choosing Bolsonaro was "foreseeable," pointing to the existence of a system of electoral representation in Brazil, in both the Senate and the Presidency election. If "there is a great fragmentation with a huge number of political parties," and the representation is granted by different wins in different states during the presidential elections, "there is always a bipolarization that is very localized in certain areas of the country." Malamud noted that the bipolarization was happening in separate areas of the country and this is what "has been avoiding major clashes between people."

By using statistics and their evolution over time, the scholar tried to explain how factors such as the high crime rate, especially homicides and corruption (namely corruption directly involving members of the government and former presidents) played in favor of Bolsonaro's election.

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SAM LEE

If you sit down and think about it, renting a home from somebody is kind of a funny concept. We might rent a tuxedo for a night, a car while we travel, or borrow a book from the library. We are familiar with the concept of renting or borrowing things that we generally need occasionally and for only a short time. We personally own most other things that we need or use on a day-to-day basis - except housing. Despite being categorised as one of the big 3 material necessities for human life along with food and clothing, due to high property prices or personal circumstances not everyone owns their own home. By renting a home from somebody else who owns a property, a contractual relationship is formed between the tenant and the landlord for the duration of the tenancy. Although most tenant-landlord relationships are kept on a friendly basis through having a clear contract that outlines the exact boundaries and duties of both

parties, due to differences in expectations some tenant-landlord relationships can become emotional and even personal. The check-out period at the very end of the tenancy is likely the most prone to disagreements. After the tenancy period is over, the landlord or a representative conducts a final check-up on the property to see if there are any issues with the property before returning the security deposit to the tenant. Disagreements often happen at two levels. Firstly, they can happen over whether something is fair "wear and tear" through normal usage, or damage directly caused by the tenants. This can be prevented to a large degree by taking a detailed photo or video inventory of the unit before move-in. The second level of disagreement arises when both parties agree that there was damage to the unit or its contents, but can't decide how much should be compensated by the tenant. This is because both the tenant and the landlord are likely to have a

very subjective and emotional estimate of the cost of the item that was damaged. The way to approach this is to make it as unemotional and methodical as possible. First, find out how much the value of the item was when it was first purchased, which the landlord should know. Then it is a matter of agreeing on how long the practical 'life' of the item is. For example, a normal sofa can be expected to last about 7 years before needing replacement. Finally, calculate the current value of the item by using a simple depreciation formula. For example, if the sofa cost HKD5,000 brand new and has a life expectancy of 7 years, then it depreciates by HKD714 per year. If the sofa was 3 years old when it was damaged by the tenant, he can expect to compensate HKD2,858 to the owner. Like most human relationships, resolving personal conflicts is done through empathy and putting yourself in the other party's shoes. But of course, this is much easier said than done.

INNOVATION

Amazon's new goal: Teach 10 million kids a year to code

Joseph Pisani, New York

AMAZON wants to get more kids thinking about becoming computer engineers. The company launched a program yesterday that aims to teach more than 10 million students a year how to code. Amazon said it will pay for summer camps, teacher training and other initiatives to benefit kids and young adults from low-income families who might not have learned to code otherwise. It hopes the programs spur more black, Hispanic and female students to study computer science.

Amazon declined to put a price tag on the program, called Amazon Future Engineer, but said it will take up a big chunk of the USD50 million that it committed to spend on computer science education last year.

Other corporations, including Microsoft and Facebook, have also committed cash to bring coding to schools, which could ultimately benefit the companies. There's a shortage of computer engineers, and



teaching students to code will ensure a pipeline of future talent to hire.

Jeff Wilke, Amazon's chief executive of worldwide consumer, said he hopes some of the students who go through the Amazon Future Engineer program will work for the company, creating skills for its Alexa voice assistant or programming its delivery drones. But he said other companies are increasingly relying on technology, and coding has become a valuable skill to more employers.

"We're pretty confident that knowing how to code will be as important as knowing how to read for the jobs of the future," Wilke said.

Amazon Future Engineer

will offer kids in kindergarten through eighth grade free summer camps and after-school programs that will take place in Amazon offices around the country. Amazon employees will volunteer, and online classes, lessons and games will be provided by Amazon's partners, such as Code.org and Coding with Kids. The company also said it plans to pay for online training for teachers at 2,000 low-income high schools around the country to teach to teach introductory and college-level advance placement computer science classes. In addition, it will offer college students scholarships and internships. Amazon said some schools have been testing the program. AP

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HK reveals crypto rules in push to tame wild market

Benjamin Robertson

HONG Kong's securities watchdog unveiled new rules for cryptocurrency funds and said it may regulate digital-asset exchanges, joining a global push to improve supervision of an industry whose rapid expansion has attracted everyone from mom-and-pop investors to Wall Street banks.

Fund managers that invest more than 10 percent of their portfolio in crypto assets will need to be licensed, the Securities and Futures Commission said in a statement yesterday. Trading platforms that serve only professional investors can opt to move into a so-called sandbox, where they will be free to experiment subject to anti-money laundering and other rules.

Hong Kong joins a growing number of jurisdictions where authorities are trying to improve oversight of an industry whose most famous creation, Bitcoin, just turned 10 years old. The moves come as institutional investors begin to invest in the asset class, with some betting that virtual currencies and their underlying blockchain technology will find commercial uses, despite this year's collapse in crypto prices.

"The market for virtual assets is still very young and trading rules may not be transparent and fair," the SFC chief Ashley Alder told a Hong Kong fintech forum yesterday, explaining the need for oversight. "Outages are not uncommon as



is market manipulation and abuse. And there are also, I am afraid, outright scandals and frauds."

Fund managers that invest more than 10 percent of their portfolio in crypto assets will need to be licensed

Hong Kong has seen a spurt in crypto use in recent years as some of the world's largest exchanges - including Binance, OKEx and BitMEX - based staff in the former

British colony.

Law firms and consultancies developed sidelines advising the sector and there has long been an expectation that local authorities would craft a formal framework. Crypto exchanges that join the sandbox will be monitored to see how they handle risks and ensure compliance. The firms may be able to apply for a license if the trial is successful, the SFC said.

Karen Chen, former president of UBS (China) Ltd., and now chief executive officer at crypto exchange operator CoinSuper Fintech (HK) Co. Ltd., said her firm would consider joining the sandbox and that a governance framework would better protect investors and promote new technology.

However, the rules may be strict enough to deter others. Firms won't be

allowed to offer users any financial incentives, or trade futures and derivatives contracts. The SFC also asked exchanges to comply with rules for fair treatment of clients and make efforts to stamp out market manipulation.

The norms are similar to existing regulations covering automated trading or dark pools, SFC's Alder said. The SFC's move is good news for the Hong Kong crypto industry though this will not be a light touch regime, said Urszula McCormack, Hong Kong-based partner at King & Wood Mallesons, a law firm that has advised on initial coin offerings and blockchain projects.

"Realistically there are two possible ways forward - regulate or ban - and it's a smart move that Hong Kong has chosen to regulate," she said.

Bloomberg

JAPAN

Victory over mobile carriers triggers USD34b rout



NTT Docomo Inc. led a 3.8 trillion yen (USD34 billion) stock rout of Japan's top three mobile carriers after it appeared to cave in to pressure from the government, which has long claimed the nation's phone bills are among the highest in the world. Docomo, which said Wednesday it may cut rates 40 percent and "return" 400 billion yen to customers, plunged as much as a record 15 percent in Tokyo trading yesterday. Rival KDDI Corp. tumbled as much 17 percent, and SoftBank Group Corp. slumped as steeply as 9.1 percent amid concern that they will follow suit.

Docomo's plan to cut rates in the year starting April 1 sparked concern that industry profits will slump for years, exacerbating a market that's already plagued by saturation and increasing competition. The move comes after Japan's government, particularly Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga, repeatedly called for carriers to reduce phone bills.

"What surprised investors is Docomo will take about five years to recover above the profit level for the current fiscal year," said Naoki Fujiwara, chief fund manager for Shinkin Asset Management Co. in Tokyo. "Other major mobile carriers may have little choice but to follow Docomo with price cuts."

During its earnings announcement on Wednesday, Docomo unveiled a mid-term plan that signaled its profits won't recover until fiscal 2023. Docomo reduced its forecast for net income in the current fiscal year by about 3.6 percent to 670 billion yen, which would mark a 10 percent drop and the first annual decline in years.

Yesterday, KDDI President Makoto Takahashi said the company won't follow Docomo's price cuts. He said the company had already introduced lower rates. SoftBank said it is considering its pricing based on competition and user needs. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MACAU SHOPPING FESTIVAL RETURNS NEXT MONTH FOR 8TH EDITION



The annual Macau Shopping Festival, now in its eighth edition, will return to the city from December 1 to 31, under the theme "Make Shopping Fun".

The Festival will inject distinctive elements in Macau's "world-class" shopping offerings during the winter festive period to entertain and excite visitors across the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and global travellers, as well as Macau locals.

According to organizers, one highlight of the festival is the participation in lucky

draws with no spending by joining the MOMEplay Interactive Game for a chance to win MOMEplay coins in exchange for 2018 merchant coupons or for a chance to enter to the final lucky draw for grand prize. Purchases of up to MOP500 at any Macau stores within December, the 8th Macau Shopping Festival period, are eligible to enter one round of the "The Consumption Lucky Draw" with the spending receipts. Purchases of up to MOP10,000 are eligible for the "The Final Lucky Draw". One winner each will be an-

nounced on December 11, December 19 and January 2 respectively, with the net worth of all the Lucky Draw prizes at over MOP9 million.

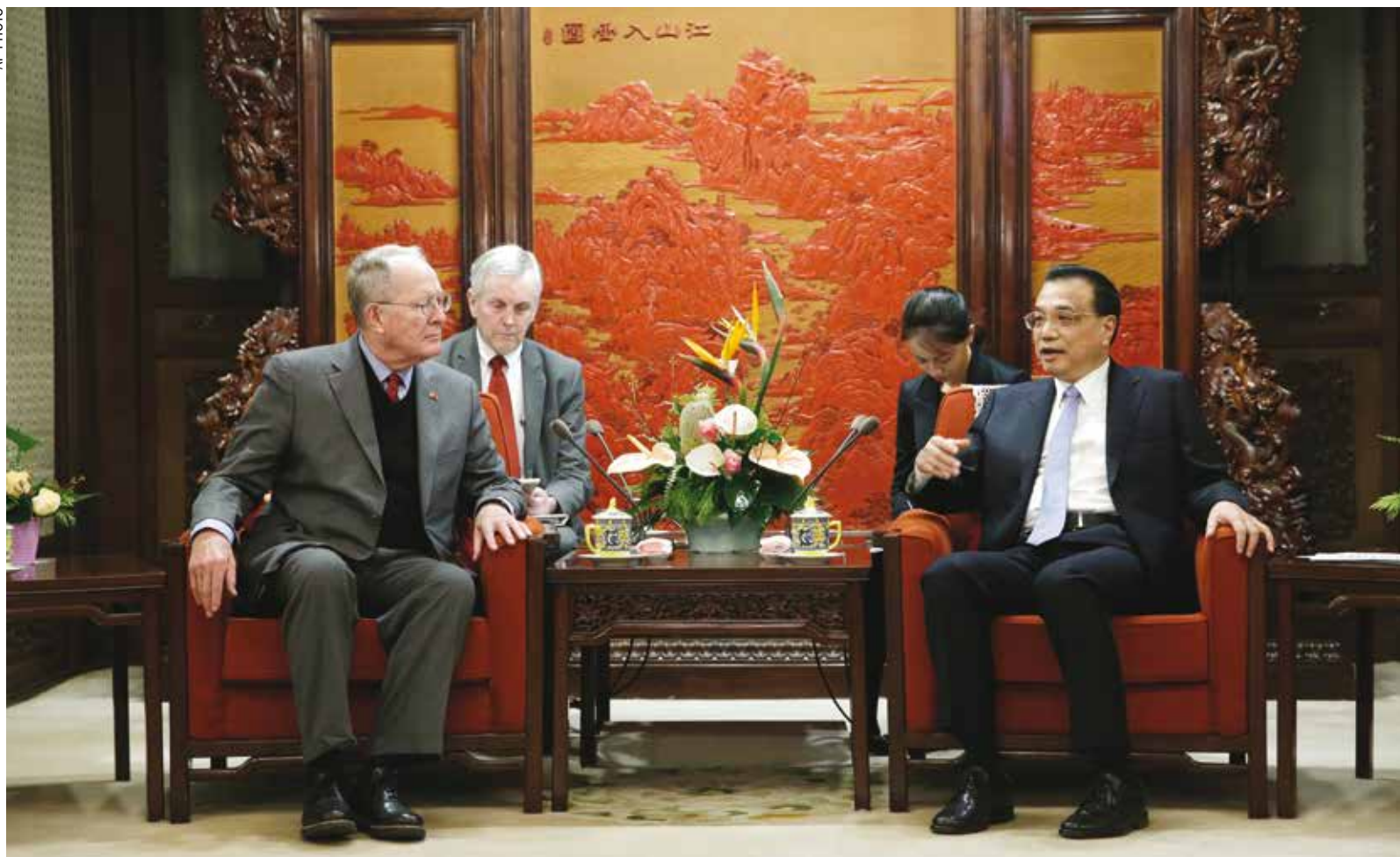
Supported by three leading electronic payment operators, Mpay, Alipay and WeChat Pay this year, visitors and citizens can also enjoy an optimized shopping experience at the 8th Macau Shopping Festival, and even grand offers from their electronic payment.

WeChat Pay is now offering triple offers including "Scan QR Code for Red Packet", "WeChat Shake, free

bill to take" and "Fulfill the amount then Reward"; Settle your bill by Alipay to enjoy offers up to RMB8,888 "Lucky Red Packet" and "Instant Discount".

From outdoor media to KOL, SEM, social media and official social platforms, the 8th Macau Shopping Festival extensively launches the campaign to enhance the awareness among visitors from Guangdong and Hong Kong and residents of Macau and the Greater Bay Area, with particular focus on young customers for boosting spending.

AP PHOTO



US senator says China, America 'competitors but not adversaries'

CHINA and America are "competitors but not adversaries," U.S. Sen. Lamar Alexander told Chinese Premier Li Keqiang yesterday, despite a spiraling trade war and other tensions that have pushed relations to their lowest point in years.

The upbeat message at their meeting in Beijing came amid concerns that the U.S.-China trade dispute will drag on, hurting company profits and the overall U.S. economy. Tensions have also arisen over China's claims to Taiwan and the South China Sea, allegations of Chinese

theft of commercial secrets and accusations of meddling in American politics.

Coming a week ahead of the U.S. midterm elections, the visit by Alexander at the head of a seven-member delegation of Republican senators and congress members seemed all the more extraordinary. All are strong supporters of U.S. President Donald Trump, who has slapped tariffs on USD250 billion in Chinese products and threatened much more.

"Your country and our country are competitors but not adver-

saries and we believe that with mutual respect we can continue to prosper together," Alexander said. While he said the delegation wished to discuss trade, he offered no specifics in opening remarks before reporters were ushered from the room.

In his comments, Li said he hoped the U.S. will meet China halfway to "have the wisdom to overcome the obstacles and move our relationship forward on an even sounder track."

"This not only benefits our two countries, but also benefits the entire world," Li said.

Along with criticizing China's large trade surplus with the U.S., Trump has targeted China's efforts to transform itself into a global leader in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technology industries.

American officials worry Trump's policies might erode U.S. industrial leadership, and the U.S., Europe and other trading partners say Beijing's tactics violate its market-opening obligations.

The Trump administration this week imposed restrictions on technology exports to a state-su-

ported Chinese semiconductor maker, citing national security grounds amid a mounting tariff battle. The controls imposed on Fujian Jinhua Integrated Circuit Co. reflect concern Chinese competition could drive American technology suppliers out of business, leaving the military without secure sources of components.

Beijing has spent heavily to build up Jinhua and other chip makers as part of efforts to transform China into a global leader in robotics, artificial intelligence and other technology industries.

The order marks the second U.S. action this year blocking technology exports to a Chinese buyer.

ZTE Corp., China's second-biggest maker of telecoms equipment, faced possible bankruptcy this year after Washington imposed a seven-year ban on sales of U.S. technology to the company over its exports to Iran and North Korea.

American authorities lifted the ban in July after ZTE paid a \$1 billion fine, agreed to replace its executive team and hired U.S.-selected compliance officers.

Meanwhile, Jinhua is embroiled in a court battle with U.S. chip maker Micron Technology Inc., which accuses the Chinese company of stealing its technology.

Trump's tariffs of up to 25 percent are sparking a Chinese backlash. China has struck back with duties on soybeans and pork, affecting farmers in the Midwest, a region that supported the president in his 2016 campaign.

Other aspects of Trump's tariff tactics have elicited concern even from within his own party. Alexander has co-sponsored legislation that would require the independent International Trade Commission to conduct a study of the auto industry before tariffs on vehicles could be imposed. **MDT/AP**

Goldman says yuan will hit 7 as Beijing avoids heavy meddling

CHINA'S policy makers will likely allow the yuan to hit the key level of 7 per dollar within the next six months without conducting heavy intervention, according to Goldman Sachs Group Inc.

While the authorities may guide sentiment by issuing stronger fixings, they won't likely sell the dollar heavily to defend the currency as they did in the aftermath of a shock devaluation three years ago, according to MK Tang, a senior China economist at Goldman in Hong Kong. That is because the conditions for the yuan to hit 7 are "more

mature" than in the past as capital outflows remain contained, he added.

"We see good economic reasons arguing for a weaker yuan, especially in the coming months," Tang said. "It's only a matter of time for the yuan to hit 7."

The yuan has come under intense pressure to fall as China became embroiled in a trade war with the U.S. and loosened its monetary policy to bolster a slowing economy. The currency touched its weakest level in more than a decade this week, spurring debate on when and whether it could slide to 7 for the first time

since the global financial crisis.

Another reason policy makers are likely to be averse to outright intervention is the yuan is more liberalized than in the past, Tang said, and such tools will only be used moderately in the future. Chinese officials have been working to make the yuan more market-driven as they seek to attract more foreign investors onshore and promote the currency's global use.

How far the yuan can slide may depend on how much weakness the PBOC is willing to tolerate. In

early 2017 when the currency was close to the current level, the authorities engineered a cash squeeze in the offshore market to punish bears. The latest sign of officials' uneasiness came on Wednesday, when Hong Kong's government said the Chinese central bank will issue bills in the city for the first time ever - a move that would drain liquidity and support the yuan.

Signs of rising fund outflows are emerging as official data suggest that Chinese investors' demand for foreign-exchange surged the most in nearly two years

BLOOMBERG



in September. Still, the level is only a fraction of the capital flight seen after the 2015 yuan devaluation. The government has had capital controls in place since then

- limiting banks' cross-border transfers and making it less convenient for households in China to buy the dollar - to stem fund exodus. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Xi hosts El Salvador as nations cut ties with Taiwan

AP PHOTO



A young child climbs a pole to get a view of the flag lowering ceremony near the El Salvador and Chinese flags hoisted near a portrait of late Chinese leader Mao Zedong on Tiananmen Gate in Beijing

Yanan Wang, Beijing

SALVADORAN President Salvador Sanchez Ceren met with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, in Beijing yesterday, just months after the small Central American nation broke its diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

The state visit comes one day before that of the president of the Dominican Republic, whose country also switched allegiances from Taiwan to China this year.

El Salvador and the Dominican Republic are among a growing number of countries that have cut ties with Taiwan in favor of resuming or establishing relations with China, which considers the self-governing island democracy to be part of its territory.

Only 17 mainly small, developing countries now recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation. Taiwan split from mainland China during a civil war in 1949, and Beijing

has been steadily ratcheting up diplomatic and economic pressure since Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen took office in 2016.

Beijing's aggressiveness is largely driven by Tsai's refusal to endorse Beijing's "one-China principle," which maintains that Taiwan is part of China and that the Communist Party-ruled administration in Beijing is China's sole legitimate government.

Taiwan has long been a wedge between China and the United States, which has formal relations with Beijing but maintains robust unofficial military and diplomatic links with the island.

Washington's de facto ambassador to Taiwan, Brent Christensen, said Wednesday that the U.S. would be opposed to "unilateral attempts to change the status quo" in Taiwan — a reference to increasing Chinese military intimidation.

China's wooing of Taiwan's allies in what the U.S. considers its backyard has rung

alarm bells in Washington.

He said that any 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.

■ Only 17 mainly small, developing countries now recognize Taiwan as a sovereign nation

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 inter-

national 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.

The U.S. pulled out its diplomatic envoys last month from El Salvador, Panama and the Dominican Republic after those countries cut ties with Taiwan.

At a conference in Washington attended by Salvadoran Vice President Oscar Ortiz last month, Vice President Mike Pence said El Salvador and other Central American countries should strengthen bonds with the U.S. "even as countries like China" try to "expand their influence in the region."

opinion

CHINA HAS THE WRONG MEDICINE FOR ENDANGERED SPECIES

Adam Minter, Bloomberg

China's decision to reverse a 25-year-old ban and allow trade, in "special cases," in products made from critically endangered tigers and rhinos has provoked a predictable firestorm of criticism. China has sought to portray the move as a responsible way to regulate such goods: The goal is to produce a steady supply of things like rhino horns and tiger penises - used in traditional Chinese medicine, or TCM - from farmed animals, thus cutting into the black market for poached ones.

The international community isn't buying the argument, and it shouldn't. Chinese demand drives the global market for products made from endangered species; legalizing even a small part of it will only serve to whet the appetites of Chinese consumers for more.

Chinese interest in using parts from what are now endangered species dates back centuries. In imperial times, rhino horn was prized as a raw material for exquisite carvings and other luxury items. Similarly, both rhino horn and tiger parts (including bones, whiskers and the penis) have a long history as ingredients in TCM. The rarity of these beasts, even in ancient times, made such medicines inaccessible to all but the richest Chinese and raised their perceived value to those who couldn't afford them.

As China's economy and middle class expanded in the reform era, so did demand for rare animals. China signed the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) in 1981. But lackluster enforcement quickly became an international issue. In response, China imposed its 1993 ban on the sale, purchase, import and export of tiger bones and rhino horns, and eliminated both items from the official pharmacopeia governing the use of pharmaceuticals in China.

It's true that the ban merely drove the trade in endangered species underground. For example, an investigation last year revealed that rhino horn remains available throughout China, both online and on retail platforms.

Making room for regulated harvesting of animal parts, however, isn't likely to shrink this black market. In China, there's always been a cultural and price premium for traditional medicines (and food) harvested from wild species. Given levels of local corruption, it wouldn't be very hard for importers to pass off such products as farm-raised in order to get them onto the market.

What China should be doing instead is attacking the whole idea that rhino horn and tiger parts are valid and effective ingredients in TCM. That myth directly contradicts long-standing consensus among TCM practitioners, both within China and outside, that such "medicines" are either pure quackery, or easily replaceable with other substances (such as acetaminophen).

China has already had success in changing mindsets and suppressing demand for endangered species. In recent years, government-supported public-awareness campaigns inveighing against the consumption of shark fins have contributed to a steep decline (as much as 80 percent over a decade) in the consumption of the dish.

A similar effort on behalf of rhinos and tigers (combined with substitute products) would help preserve endangered populations globally and boost the Chinese government's efforts to promote TCM in global markets. The only way to save these animals is to make sure no one wants to kill them.

[Abridged]

SRI LANKA

President summons Parliament after PM turmoil

Bharatha Mallawarachi,
Sri Colombo

SRI Lanka's president has summoned Parliament to meet next week as pressure grows for him to resolve the turmoil set off when he sacked the Cabinet last week, his chosen prime minister said yesterday.

President Maithripala Sirisena made the decision a day after meeting with Parliament Speaker Karu Jayasuriya, who previously warned of possible violence if lawmakers were not summoned immediately.

On Friday, Sirisena had dismissed Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe and his Cabinet, later telling reporters he acted in part because Wickremesinghe and a Cabinet colleague were behind an alleged assassination plot against him. Details of the alleged plot have not been disclosed and Wickremesinghe denies the accusation.

Sirisena had replaced him with former strongman Mahinda Rajapaksa and suspended Parliament until Nov. 16 in an apparent attempt to give Rajapaksa time to muster enough support to survive any no-confidence vote.

Wickremesinghe had demanded the convening of Parlia-

AP PHOTO



ment, saying he still controls a majority of lawmakers.

Sirisena's moves have triggered a power struggle and some observers call it a constitutional crisis.

In remarks broadcast on state television, Rajapaksa told a meeting at his office that Sirisena decided to summon Parliament on Nov. 5.

Karu Paranavithana, a lawmaker from Wickremesinghe's United National Front, welcomed the announcement, calling it "a great victory" for the people.

He said Sirisena's coalition tried to establish a dictatorship but failed. "They will have to retreat now," he said.

Wickremesinghe tweeted saying "the people's voices have been heard. Parliament will be reconvened on the 5th of November. Democracy will prevail."

Sirisena was under increasing pressure by his political opponents, rights groups and foreign governments including the United States to summon Parliament and end the crisis.

Sirisena's supporters have talked for weeks about an alleged assassination plot, but Sunday was the first time Sirisena commented publicly about it. A police informant has said Wickremesinghe and a Cabinet member, former army commander Sarath Fonseka,

were behind it. Police have made no arrests.

Tensions have been building between Sirisena and Wickremesinghe for some time, as the president did not approve of economic reforms introduced by the prime minister. Sirisena was also critical of investigations into military personnel accused of human rights violations during Sri Lanka's long civil war, which ended in 2009.

A shooting at the Petroleum Ministry on Saturday killed two people and wounded one in the first violence related to the turmoil. On Tuesday, thousands of Sri Lankans protested in the capital demanding Sirisena immediately convene Parliament. **AP**

MALDIVES

Ex-president returns from exile

AP PHOTO



Maldives' former president Mohamed Nasheed (left)

Mohmed Sharuhaan, Male

THE first democratically elected president of the Maldives returned home yesterday after more than two years in exile to escape a long prison term.

The plane carrying Mohamed Nasheed from Sri Lanka landed in Maldives' capital, Male, where he was welcomed by his party members and supporters. He planned to address his supporters later.

Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in jail in 2015 after being convicted of terrorism for ordering the arrest of a top judge in 2012 while he was president. His trial was criticized internationally for lack of due process, along with those of many other political opponents jailed by strongman President Yameen Abdul Gayoom's administration.

He was offered asylum in Britain when he traveled there for medical treatment on leave from prison.

Nasheed's return follows Yameen's defeat in the Sept. 23 presidential election by Ibrahim Mohamed Solih, the candidate of Nasheed's Maldivian Democratic Party.

Since Yameen's defeat, courts have freed or granted bail to some of the jailed officials.

The Supreme Court earlier this week suspended Nasheed's prison sentence until it reviews his conviction at the request of the country's prosecutor general, a move to prevent his arrest on arrival.

Two other people — an opposition party leader and a former vice president who was Yameen's running mate in the 2103 presidential election — earlier returned from exile.

Nasheed, a former pro-democracy activist, was elected president in the country's first multiparty election in 2008 after decades of autocratic rule. He became popular internationally as an environment crusader, holding an underwater Cabinet meeting to highlight the perils of rising sea levels caused by global warming and their impact on the archipelago nation composed of coral masses just a few meters above sea level.

He resigned in 2012 amid public protests against his order to arrest the senior judge and lost the 2103 election to Yameen. **AP**

INDIA

Towering statue of independence leader unveiled

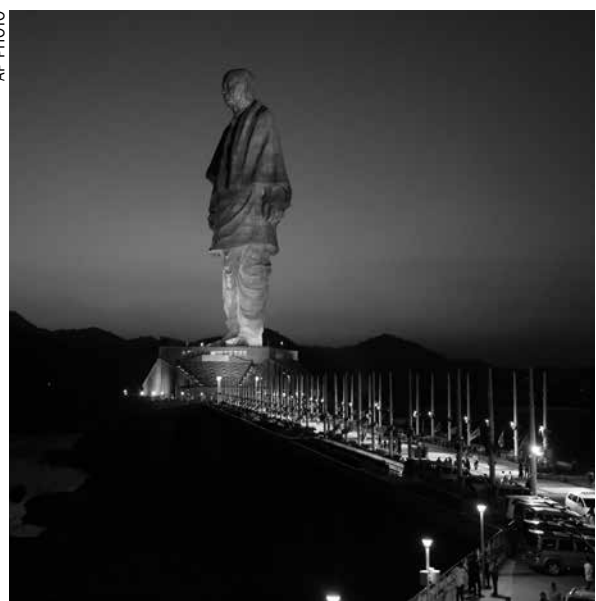
INDIA'S prime minister has unveiled a towering bronze statue of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, a key independence leader being promoted as a national icon in the ruling party's campaign ahead of next year's general elections.

Patel, who hailed from Prime Minister Narendra Modi's native Gujarat state, was also India's first home minister after the 1947 independence from Britain.

He was known as the "Iron Man of India" for integrating various states in the post-independence era, when the creation of Pakistan led to massive bloodshed between Hindus and Muslims moving between the two nations.

The statue is part of a

AP PHOTO



broader project by Modi to counter the opposition Indian National Congress Party's firm claim on India's history by way of the country's first prime minister, Jawahar-

lal Nehru, his mentor, peace activist Mahatma Gandhi, and his daughter, former Prime Minister Indira Gandhi, who was assassinated by her guards in 1984.

Nehru's great-grandson, Rahul Gandhi, leads the Congress Party, and if a unified opposition wins a majority of seats in parliamentary elections due next spring, he could be a candidate for India's next prime minister.

The Patel statue "puts the opposition in a quandary because any criticism of Modi's showmanship will enable him to depict critics as being legatees of those who denied Patel his rightful place in the nation and history," said Nilanjan Mukhopadhyay, a Delhi-based political analyst and author of the book "Modi: The Man, The Times."

"In the process, not only will the Statue of Unity literally dwarf

statues of all other Indians leaders, but the event will also enable the memory of Sardar to rise imposingly over Congress Party leaders," Mukhopadhyay said.

At 182 meters, Patel's bronze figure in Kevadiya, a village in Gujarat, is one of the tallest statues in the world — almost 10 stories higher than the 153-meter Spring Temple Buddha statue in China and nearly twice the height of the Statue of Liberty, which stands at 93 meters.

The 42-month project built by 250 engineers and 3,000 workers began in 2013, when Modi was the top elected official in Gujarat. After he became prime minister in 2014, he pledged to complete it despite some critics balking at the nearly \$403 million price tag, which they said could be better spent on welfare programs for India's poor. **MDT/AP**

KOREAS

Moon soon to meet Kim

SOUTH Korean President Moon Jae-in said yesterday that North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will "soon" visit Seoul as part of a series of high-profile diplomatic efforts aimed at ridding North Korea of its nuclear weapons.

Moon said in a speech to parliament that a second North Korea-U.S. summit is also "near at hand" and that Chinese President Xi Jinping is expected to visit North Korea soon. Moon also said he expects Kim to visit Russia soon and that Kim may meet with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

Moon has previously said that Kim told him he would visit Seoul within this year when the leaders met in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, in September.

South Korea's presidential office said it had nothing to add to Moon's speech about Kim's trip. His comments were in line with previous statements, it said. They suggest that Moon is determined to push ahead with diplomacy to resolve the nuclear

issue.

"Now, based on firm trust among one another, South and North Korea and the United States will achieve complete denuclearization and lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula," Moon said. "This is an opportunity that has come like a miracle. It's something that we should never miss."

The prospects for a second summit between Kim and U.S. President Donald Trump improved after Secretary of State Mike Pompeo made his fourth visit to North Korea earlier this month. But no breakthrough has followed. U.S. officials have recently said a second Trump-Kim summit will likely happen early next year. Some experts have raised doubts over whether Kim's Seoul trip will occur by December.

Moon, a liberal who took office last year, favors a negotiated resolution to the decades-long international standoff over North Korea's nuclear ambitions. He has facilitated a series of high-

level U.S.-North Korea exchanges, including their first summit in Singapore in June.

But Moon has faced growing outside skepticism over whether his engagement policy will eventually settle the nuclear standoff. Many conservatives in South Korea and the United States say North Korea has no intention of fully giving up its nuclear program and only wants to buy time to perfect its weapons.

Since entering nuclear talks earlier this year, North Korea has halted nuclear and missile tests and dismantled its nuclear testing site. The United States suspended some annual military drills with South Korea, but is reluctant to provide North Korea with big political or economic benefits unless it takes more serious disarmament steps.

The two Korea have also been taking steps to reduce conventional military threats along their border as part of deals struck during an inter-Korean summit in September. Seoul officials said the rivals put covers

AP PHOTO



Moon at a press conference yesterday

on their naval and coastal artillery guns and closed gun ports along their disputed western sea boundary, the scene of several bloody maritime skirmishes between the countries in recent years.

South Korea's military said the two Koreas halted all hostile

acts against each other along the land, sea and aerial boundaries as yesterday. The Koreans have already removed weapons from a shared border village and have begun clearing mines at another border area where they plan their first searches for Korean War dead. AP

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56,800 dead and missing: The hidden toll of migration

Lori Hinnant, Bram Janssen

AS migration rises worldwide, so has its toll: The tens of thousands of people who die or simply disappear during their journeys. Barely counted in life, these migrants rarely register in death — almost as if they never lived at all.

A growing number of migrants have drowned, died in deserts or fallen prey to traffickers, leaving their families to wonder what on earth happened to them. At the same time, anonymous bodies are filling cemeteries in South Africa's Gauteng province, or in the coastal Tunisian town of Zarzis. Similar cemeteries dot Italy, Greece and Libya.

An Associated Press tally has documented more than 56,800 migrants dead or missing worldwide since 2014 — almost double the number found in the world's only official attempt to try to count them, by the U.N.'s International Organization for Migration. The IOM toll as of Oct. 1 was more than 28,500. The AP came up with almost 28,300 additional dead or missing migrants by compiling information from other international groups, forensic records, missing persons reports, death records, and examining data from thousands of interviews with migrants.

The AP's tally is also certainly an undercount. Bodies lie undiscovered in desert sands or at the bottom of the sea. And families don't always report loved ones as missing because they migrated illegally, or because they left home without saying exactly where they were headed.



The casket of one of the migrants who died when their boat capsized off in the Canal of Sicily is lifted by crane to an Italian Navy ship

Instead, families are caught between hope and mourning, like that of Safi al-Bahri. Her son, Majdi Barhoumi, left their hometown of Ras Jebel, Tunisia, on May 7, 2011 for Europe in a small boat with a dozen other migrants. The boat sank and Barhoumi hasn't been heard from since. In a sign of faith that he is alive, his mother and father built an animal pen with a brood of hens, a few cows and a dog to stand watch until he returns.

"I just wait for him. I always imagine him behind me, at home, in the market, everywhere," said al-Bahri. "When I hear a voice at night, I think he's come back. When I hear the sound of a motorcycle, I think my son is back."

The official U.N. toll extensively documents deaths in the Mediterranean and Europe, but even there cases fall through the

cracks. The political tide is turning against migrants in Europe just as in the United States, where the government is cracking down heavily on caravans of Central Americans trying to get in. One result is that money is drying up for projects to track migration and its costs.

For example, when more than 800 people died in an April 2015 shipwreck off the coast of Italy, Europe's deadliest migrant sea disaster, Italian investigators pledged to identify them and find their families. More than three years later, under a new populist government, funding for this work has been cut off.

Beyond Europe, information is even more scarce. Even in the U.S., where migration has turned into a hot-button issue, there is no routine effort to figure out where migrants may disappear or die, nor a policy on identifying bodies and notifying

families. And little is known about the toll in South America, where the Venezuelan migration is among the world's biggest today, and in Asia, the top region for numbers of migrants.

The result is that governments vastly underestimate the true toll of migration, a major political and social issue in most of the world today.

"No matter where you stand on the whole migration management debate [...] these are still human beings on the move," said Bram Frouws, the head of the Mixed Migration Centre, which has done surveys of more than 20,000 migrants in its 4Mi project since 2014. "Whether it's refugees or people moving for jobs, they are human beings."

The missing include children, although once again the scant data is only in Europe. Some 2,773 children have been reported to the Red Cross as missing

en route to Europe, and 2,097 adults reported missing by children.

Almass and his brother, both migrants from Khost, Afghanistan, are not on the list. He was just 14 when his widowed mother reluctantly sent him and his 11-year-old brother from their home into the unknown. The payment for their trip was supposed to get them away from the Taliban and all the way to Germany via a chain of smugglers.

A growing number of migrants have died or fallen prey to traffickers, leaving their families to wonder what on earth happened to them

But when the Iranian border police fired on their group, Almass lost hold of his brother's hand and went unconscious as he tumbled down a ravine. He never saw his brother again. When he next spoke to his mother, he couldn't bring himself to tell her; instead, he lied that his brother couldn't come to the phone but sent his love.

The family phone number in Afghanistan no longer works, their village is overrun with Taliban, and he has no idea how to find them — or the child whose hand slipped from his grasp four years ago.

"I don't know now where they are," he said, his face anguished as he sat on a sun-dappled bench in rural France. "They also don't know where I am." **AP**

GERMANY

Health minister sets out pitch for Merkel succession

GERMANY'S health minister said yesterday the country's main center-right party needs to make clearer what it stands for as he competes to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel as its leader. He is emphasizing the need to curb unregulated migration.

Jens Spahn, 38, has long talked tough on migration, which he described in an article for yesterday's Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung newspaper as the "elephant in the room."

Spahn is one of three high-profile candidates vying to succeed Merkel as leader of the Christian Democratic Union, and by far the youngest.

He and onetime Merkel rival Friedrich Merz, who is seeking a comeback after a decade away from front-line politics, stand for a more conservative approach than the chancellor. CDU general secretary Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer is more in line with Merkel's centrist course.

Merkel announced Monday that she plans to

step down as party leader in December but remain chancellor until the next election, launching a transition that could last three years.

Recent state elections have seen Merkel's center-right bloc lose support both to the far-right Alternative for Germany and to the environmentalist, traditionally left-leaning Greens. That, Spahn wrote, is "above all because our own position is not clear."

He identified security as a key issue, and argued that "not everything is

good again" on migration issues. The arrival of large numbers of refugees and other migrants as Merkel decided to leave Germany's borders open in 2015 has proven divisive in her conservative ranks.

"We say that this must not be repeated," Spahn wrote. "But are we doing enough for that, in Germany and Europe?"

Spahn, who is openly gay, said that his party doesn't need to "shift to the right," but it does need to start "a real change of generations." **AP**



German Health Minister Jens Spahn

TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:55	Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue
16:20	A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Destinos.pt Sr.1
18:00	Depois do Adeus
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Missão: 100% Português
22:25	Dentro
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Canção de Lisboa
02:25	RTPi Directo

SATURDAY

11:40	Endereço Desconhecido
12:30	Gostos e Sabores
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Compacto
16:45	Janela Indiscreta com Mário Augusto
17:15	Hora dos Portugueses
18:15	Lusa Music Box
18:50	Animais Anónimos
19:35	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Mata o Mensageiro
23:15	TDM News
00:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
00:55	RTPi Directo

SUNDAY

12:00	Visita Guiada Sr.1
12:30	Cozinha em Forma
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:35	Triângulo Jota
16:25	Música Maestro
17:10	Brainstorm
17:55	Got Talent Portugal Sr.4
19:40	Bem-Vindos a Beirais Sr.3
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:15	Birmânia por Simon Reeve
23:15	TDM News
00:10	Magazine Liga Europa 2018/2019
01:50	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

HALLOWEEN TIMES! MEN ARRESTED IN PUMPKIN SMASHING CRIME SPREE



Solomon (left) and Ochoa

Police in the southern Oregon town of Grants Pass have arrested two men suspected in a pumpkin-powered crime spree, ending weeks of incidents of smashed gourds and broken car windows. The Oregonian/OregonLive reports Jacob Solomon and Adrian Ochoa, both 19, face multiple counts of criminal mischief in connection with at least 50 vehicles vandalized and damaged between Oct. 7 and 23, authorities said. Police say Solomon and Ochoa drove around town at night snatching pumpkins from outdoor supermarket displays which they would hurl through car windows. Lt. Misty English says damages reported by victims are at about USD30,000 and continue to climb. Police say they were helped in finding the suspects because they carried out the alleged vandalism in an easily-recognizable gold Buick with a large dent in one side. It wasn't immediately known if the men had lawyers.

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 3
2:30, 7:15pm
Director: Donovan Marsh
Starring: Gerard Butler, Gary Oldman
Language: English
Duration: 112min

PERFECT WORLD
ROOM 3
4:45, 9:30pm
Director: Kenji Shibayama
Starring: Takanori Iwata, Hana Sugisaki, Kenta Sui
Language: Japanese (Chinese/ English)
Duration: 112min

this day in history



1995 EX-MINISTER CHARGED WITH APARTHEID MURDERS

Former South African defence minister General Magnus Malan has been charged with murder. General Malan was arrested today with 10 other former senior military officers. They were charged with murdering 13 black people in 1987 as part of a conspiracy to create war between the African National Congress (ANC) and the Zulu Inkhata Freedom Party. The conspiracy was said to have been aimed at damaging the ANC and maintaining white rule. The charges relate to an attack in January 1987 on the home of Victor Ntuli, an ANC activist. Mr Ntuli was not at home but 13 people, including seven children, were killed in the house in KwaMakhuta township, near Durban. It is alleged that General Malan and his co-defendants supported a covert unit which trained the Inkhata members who carried out the attack. General Malan, who served as defence minister from 1980-1991, is the highest-ranking apartheid official so far to face charges for his part in combating opponents of white rule. The 11 accused were granted bail and ordered to appear in court again on 1 December. After being released on bail, General Malan said: "What happened here today is causing the biggest crisis that's ever been in the democracy of South Africa. "I would like to say I am a moderate, I am a democrat, I am a Christian and I'm very proud of it," the general added. The former ruling National Party and other right-wing white groups have demanded the defendants be granted immunity from prosecution under an amnesty clause in the country's interim constitution. However, President Nelson Mandela has said he will not halt the prosecutions.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Eventually the number charged rose to 20 - all were acquitted after a trial in 1996. South African President Nelson Mandela supported the judge's decision and called on South Africans to respect it. The mammoth seven-month trial cost around £1.2m and brought hostility between black and white South Africans once more out into the open. Very few people have been tried for crimes carried out in the apartheid era because the South African Government granted wide-ranging amnesty to both apartheid officials and black anti-apartheid fighters. In 1996 a Truth and Reconciliation Commission began its hearings. The commission had been set up by the government to establish a record of human rights violations and to give recommendations on reparation for victims and amnesty. However, the commission's final report in 1998 met with criticism from all sides.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You need to slow down a bit and try to just relax — you're heading for a breakdown otherwise! Even the highest-functioning folks like you need some down time every now and then.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Things are a bit weird today — so see if you can just nod along and pretend to understand while you try to connect the dots mentally. Communication is tough for a few days, but it passes.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Try to help someone today — your energy is meant to be shared! You should also look around for new options, as you may need an expanded scope in order to make the most of your spirit.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
This isn't the best feeling in the world, but you are still committed to this project or person. Move through this brief phase and you should come out the other side feeling much brighter!

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Things are a little weird today — but that's not such a bad thing! You can actually make a real difference by pushing your people in a new direction, and their confusion is a big help.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You're not sure what's going on today — and that's not the end of the world. It's just one of those days when the universe is acting in mysterious ways, and it shouldn't last forever.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Someone new blows into your life and shakes things up for the better. They have the zeal of a missionary, though their cause may be far from spiritual. It should be a positive relationship.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
People are likely to misunderstand you today — so make sure that you are being as clear as you can be. Even so, expect at least one mix-up to happen, probably fairly late in the day.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You don't mind openly lusting after that job, gadget or project — your ambition is perfectly okay, and in fact you can't make much progress toward it if you try to keep it a secret. Go for it!

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Today is perfect for arranging new deals of all kinds — especially related to business. You feel more stable and confident, and you can be sure that whatever you decide should work out for the best.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You need to feel a sense of accomplishment today — and fortunately, it's easy to come by! You should be able to push yourself in the right direction by building on your previous hard work.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
You need to deal with a leadership vacuum today — it could be anywhere. You may not feel totally comfortable stepping into power yourself, but the odds are good that it's the best answer.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	3	18	clear
Harbin	-1	13	clear
Tianjin	6	19	clear
Urumqi	-7	-2	moderate snow/cloudy
Xi'an	7	26	clear
Lhasa	-2	13	clear
Chengdu	15	22	clear
Chongqing	14	24	clear
Kunming	6	19	cloudy
Nanjing	9	20	cloudy
Shanghai	14	19	cloudy
Wuhan	8	21	cloudy
Hangzhou	12	20	cloudy
Taipei	20	23	moderate rain/heavy rain
Guangzhou	19	26	shower/cloudy
Hong Kong	22	25	cloudy/overcast
WORLD			
Moscow	7	10	drizzle
Frankfurt	4	13	drizzle
Paris	9	12	drizzle/cloudy
London	4	13	drizzle/cloudy
New York	15	21	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-First man; 5- Round object, often used to store computer data; 9- Give up; 13- Speed contest; 14- Stingy one; 15- Lulu; 16- Linen source; 17- Grenoble's river; 18- Gds.; 19- Story in installments; 21- Sorority letter; 22- Pitchfork-shaped letters; 23- Young cow; 25- China's continent; 27- On the payroll; 31- Online brokerage; 35- Prince William's school; 36- Other, in Oaxaca; 38- Visionaries; 39- Emeritus. Abbr.; 40- Nobelist Bohr; 42- Lisa, to Bart, briefly; 43- It's a good thing; 46- The Aba ___ Honeymoon; 47- "Damn Yankees" role; 48- Roma's land; 50- Increase by procreation; 52- Slippery swimmers; 54- Actress Helgenberger; 55- Cassini of fashion; 58- Carry with effort; 60- Good-natured railleury; 64- Japan's first capital; 65- Pub perch; 67- Kansas city; 68- ___ go brag!; 69- Wear down; 70- Haus wife; 71- Kind of prof.; 72- Makes brown; 73- Scream;

DOWN: 1- Pound sounds; 2- Roy's "singer' pardner"; 3- Rent-___; 4- Inhabitant of Oaxaca; 5- Put down, in slang; 6- Fortuneteller's start; 7- Sealy rival; 8- Wrinkle; 9- Liken; 10- Breaks off; 11- He loved Lucy; 12- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 14- 1000 times 1000; 20- Swiss river; 24- Stinking; 26- T.G.I.F. part; 27- Caravansary; 28- This is only ___; 29- ___ luck!; 30- Fantasy; 32- Author of fables; 33- Hand tool; 34- Short literary composition; 37- Anthology of artwork; 41- OK to vend; 44- Graceful in form; 45- Draw; 47- Convert into wood; 49- Ready to go; 51- Singer's syllable; 53- Kama ___; 55- Draft rating; 56- Metallica drummer Ulrich; 57- Goddess of discord; 59- Continue; 61- Sped; 62- Airline since 1948; 63- Actor Julia; 66- Takes too much;

Yesterday's solution

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

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity – Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
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Macau
Two Bedroom Apartment
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Ref: 18100693

Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's
Macau
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HKD 6,347 sq ft
One Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18055556

Office For Rent
Macau
Private Meeting Room
Fully Furnished
HKD 18,000 / 1,200 sq ft
Ref: 18090200

Coloane Village
(Investment Property)
664 sq ft / HKD 4.25M
HKD 6,404 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18095490

Fountainside
Macau
3 Bedroom Apartment
Modern Interior
HKD 25,000 / 1,712 sq ft
Ref: 18040677

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Rugby Academy

Bats fought like tigers

Donald Shaw, Hong Kong
Special to MDT

Local rugby team the Macau Bats participated in the new season's first rugby tournament in Hong Kong hosted by USRC Tigers last Sunday. An early morning departure from Macau did not appear to impact the U7s and they quickly got off to fine start - winning a tight game 2-1 against South China Athletic, followed by a 2-0 win over Valley Fort, a 1-0 reversal against Shatin Sha Pei before returning to winning ways by beating Tin Shui Wai Eagles by 3-0.

The U8s opened with a free scoring 4-4 draw against South Lantau Buffaloes. This was followed by a thrilling 7-2 win over Sandy Bay and another two high scoring draws, 5-5 with East Kowloon and 4-4 against Tin Shui Wai Eagles.

The U9s took to the field in the late afternoon and promptly got down to business, starting with a 3-1 win over a tough Hong Kong Football Club team. The second game against the Flying Kukris was a tight and cagey affair until Macau broke through, thereafter the dam broke and Macau ran out comfortable winners by 7-1. A very good 3-0 win against Sai Kung Stingrays was followed up by a strong 6-1 win over the hosts USRC Tigers to give the U9s a 100 percent win record.

The U10s promptly matched the success of the U9s by winning all four of their games as well - 8-1 against Tai Hung Tun, 6-0 against Tung Chun, a tough 4-2 win over South China Athletic and a 4-0 win against Tin Shui Wai Eagles ensured the team returned to Macau in high spirits.

The U12s were playing in the Richard Hawkes Cup at Causeway Bay and like their younger teammates delivered a resounding set of performances. First up was a 6-0 win over a Tung Chun select followed by a similar 6-0 win over a combined Stingrays and Tigers team. A much tighter game followed against Valley Fort, although a number of late score made the game appear more straightforward than was the case, Macau Bats winning 5-0. This then set up a final game against Hong Kong Football Club that the Bats needed to win to ensure that they topped the league and gain promotion. This they duly did, running out winners by 5-0.

Next weekend sees the Bats travel to Harrow International school for a series of games (U8,10,12,13) before getting ready for the second Hong Kong festival on the 18th November.



FOOTBALL

Spanish league launches campaign to show support for US game

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

THE Spanish league is launching a campaign hoping to show that American fans are behind its plan to host a regular-season football game in the United States.

The league and its U.S. partners yesterday began asking fans to sign an online petition to show their support for the planned Barcelona-Girona game near Miami in January.

"In an effort to showcase the public support to bring this match to the U.S., we are launching a petition campaign to encourage U.S. football fans to make their voices heard," the league and sports and entertainment group Relevent said in a statement. "The #BringUSTheGame campaign will show the sports world that this match is good for the fans and good for the game in America, and that U.S. Soccer risks alienating millions of fans if they choose to block this game."

The league's idea to play games in the U.S. to promote its brand has been met by criticism from football officials and some fans and clubs in Spain. The dispute has become a tug-of-war among the several stakeholders, with all sides trying to weigh-in and defend their ground.



The FIFA Council recently opposed the plan after receiving a request to take a stance from CONCACAF and the federations in the United States and Spain, which have a say on whether the game can be played, along with UEFA. FIFA's permission for the match is not mandatory but its opposition was a setback for the league.

The league said it is prepared to appeal to the Court of Arbitration for Sport if FIFA somehow prohibits the match, and it is also ready to go to court in

Spain if the local federation denies its request to play abroad. The Spanish federation already hinted it opposes the match but hasn't yet made a final ruling.

Staging the game in the United States is seen as an important step for the Spanish league to continue expanding internationally and to close the gap on the powerful Premier League. The Spanish league has a 15-year deal with Relevent to promote football and bring games to the United States. The group operates the International Cham-

pions Cup, a tournament played around the globe during the European offseason in July and August.

"All of America's top sports leagues — the NBA, NFL and MLB — have played regular season games all over the world to reach international fans and have great success popularizing these sports globally," said Relevent founder Stephen Ross, owner of the NFL's Miami Dolphins. "We hope all of our partners in the football community recognize and support the

positive impact of bringing the highest level football to the U.S. will have on turning more people on to the sport."

The Jan. 26 game would be played at Hard Rock Stadium, home of the Dolphins.

■ **Staging the game in the United States is seen as an important step for the Spanish league to continue expanding internationally**

The league said it will use social media to spread the new "grassroots campaign," asking fans to upload videos expressing their support and engaging their friends.

"We just want to give an opportunity for fans to talk about this game because we feel that so far the conversation has been very one-sided," Boris Gartner, CEO of LaLiga North America, told AP. "We want to give a voice to the fans." AP

Vinicius Junior big winner from Real Madrid coaching change

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

BRAZILIAN teenager Vinicius Junior has become the immediate beneficiary of Real Madrid's coaching change. The 18-year-old forward impressed in his first start for Madrid on Wednesday, helping set up two goals in a 4-0 win at Melilla in the debut of interim coach Santiago Solari.

The win came two days Solari was promoted from Madrid's reserve team to replace Julen Lopetegui, who was fired following a horrible run of results that ended with a 5-1 loss at Barcelona.

The schedule provided Solari, a former Madrid midfielder, with an easy first game in charge, a visit to third-division club Melilla in the round-of-32

of the Copa del Rey. It was the ideal scenario to feature Vinicius, who had spent most of his first season in Madrid playing under Solari on its "B" team.

Lopetegui had apparently considered Vinicius a raw talent that needed to be nurtured along slowly. But at Melilla, Vinicius was Madrid's leader up front, displaying speed, nifty dribbling, and an understanding with his veteran teammates.

Vinicius used a skillful pass with the outside edge of his right boot for Marco Asensio to score Madrid's second goal. He also helped out on the next one with a pass off the back of this right heel. The ball was eventually scrambled in by Alvaro Odriozola.

Vinicius added a powerful shot that hit the cross-

bar, as well as an audacious "rabona" pass, a tricky move in which the player kicks the ball from behind his other leg.

"He played the 90 minutes. He is a great young talent, 18 years old, who has just arrived," Solari said of Vinicius. "He's living in a new country, adapting to another style of football and to a new world at Real Madrid."

"He has a lot to learn, and yet his talent is evident, you can see it in everything he does. He will mature on his own, although he clearly needs minutes."

Vinicius joined the European champions in the offseason after they paid the considerable figure of 45 million euros (USD52 million) to Brazilian club Flamengo last year.

After Madrid agreed to sell Cristiano Ronaldo to Juventus, many fans expected Lopetegui to play Vinicius more. Instead, he made two appearances for a total of 12 minutes under Lopetegui, despite the poor form of forwards Karim Benzema and Gareth Bale.

Solari has been put in charge on a temporary basis while the club looks for a new coach. Local media, however, has not ruled out the option that the Argentine could stay on if good results keep coming.

While Melilla, a team from a tiny Spanish enclave on the north African coast, was a pushover, Madrid faces a much tougher test when it hosts Valladolid in the Spanish league on Saturday.



Real Madrid's Vinicius Junior (left) controls the ball

Valladolid has only lost twice this season, is on a six-match unbeaten streak, and arrives to the Santiago Bernabeu Stadium in sixth place.

Lopetegui left Madrid in ninth place, seven points

behind leader Barcelona, and without a win in five straight games.

Given Bale's dismal game at Barcelona last weekend, Solari could again entrust Vinicius to spark his attack. AP

opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



THE ART OF IRRELEVANCE

Let's be honest, mumbling half-hearted speeches full of empty promises year after year borders on art. More so when you happen to be an accidental leader with absolutely no talent for public encounters. Even more so when you know that nobody will really pay attention, that this will be your last policy address and that you will never be held accountable for anything. There is a Samuel Beckett-esque dimension to it, like "Waiting for Godot" in politics: it is absurd and surreal at the same time, and yet it impacts people's lives, and it even allows human beings to die under your watch because you have been standing by instead of acting.

The absence of human empathy in the whole exercise is truly striking. Last year when Typhoon Hato had just devastated the city and killed 10 people less than three months before, the 2018 policy address started with the exhilarating words: "In accordance with the Basic Law..." (this is also true in Chinese). But clearly, last year's circumstances were not to be blamed as the 2016 incipit was even worse — "In accordance with Article 65 of the Basic Law of Macao..." Mind you, this was not always the case. Back in March 2010, Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On's first ever policy address started with the words "Spring is in the air..." 春暖花開，萬物欣欣向榮之際。Should we always have policy addresses delivered in early spring then?

Irony aside, something was broken between the CE and the citizens along the way, something that we can date back to the early months of Chui's second term. The attempt at mending things now appears crude when compared to the first entry on Chui's brand new blog posted in May 2015 and the latest one pinned two weeks ago in mid-October: we went from "Serene and calm, he wisely observes the course of the world" to "Integrating into the Greater Bay and initiating a new development"! A failed poetic attempt will always be better than repetitive gobbledygook. Chui did hit rock-bottom popularity in December 2017 when, for the first time ever, a CE's approval rating went below the symbolic 50% line. This could thus explain the attempt at humbleness, despite the absolute dullness of the phrasing: we went from "Development Plan in Progress for Building a Perfect Home" (the official translation!) in November 2016 to "Be pragmatic yet enterprising, and share the fruits of development" in November 2017.

What will really be at stake on Nov. 15 and in the following days has not much to do with either the title or the substance of the address. We now have a five-year plan and its yearly rate of execution will certainly be close to the one announced last year — 80 percent or more! Then, the whole first part of the address will consist of sweeteners, among which the wealth partaking scheme will play an essential role. Actually, given that Chui's reputation will never be salvaged and that he will soon be gone, I would suggest that now is the perfect time to suppress what was introduced by Edmund Ho in 2008: the wealth partaking scheme, from a purely rational point of view, which is both inefficient and unfair.

No, what will really matter in two weeks' time is the positioning of the political heavyweights for next year's (s)election. If tradition prevails, Ho Iat Seng will be given the nod and criticisms directed at the government will be loud and persistent. If capacity — who is credited for taking the right steps in preventing another disaster when Typhoon Mangkhut blasted the city in September? — and political rectitude triumph, Secretary Wong Sio Chak will have the upper hand, and patriotic family politics, along with incompetence will be severely and durably crippled.

And if there should be no room for the king's jester to maneuver — Secretary Tam — let's recall that accidents do happen in Macao, with or without depressive subjects!

THE BUZZ
BUS RECOVERED 4 DAYS AFTER DEADLY PLUNGE OFF CHINESE BRIDGE

Official Chinese media say rescuers have salvaged the wreckage of a bus that plunged off a bridge into the Yangtze River four days earlier and have recovered nine bodies.

Xinhua News Agency reported a floating crane pulled the wreck out of the river Wednesday night. Rescuers are expected to enter the bus to search for other victims. Fifteen people including the driver were on the bus.

The bus suddenly veered into the wrong lane and collided with an oncoming car on Sunday in Chongqing before it drove off the bridge. The Yangtze is



prone to dangerous currents and other hazards.

The black box recording the bus's mechanical condition and operational details was found early Wednesday morning and handed to police for investigation.

BRAZIL

Carwash judge to be Bolsonaro's justice minister

R.T. Watson, Bruce Douglas

THE lead judge in Brazil's sprawling four-year corruption investigation known as Operation Carwash is to become justice minister with expanded powers in the government of President-elect Jair Bolsonaro.

Federal judge Sergio Moro will take the helm of a new-look ministry that will encompass the justice portfolio and public security, according to a release sent after he met with Bolsonaro in Rio de Janeiro yesterday. "The prospect of implementing strong policies against corruption and organized crime, while respecting the constitution, the law and rights, brought me to reach this decision," Moro wrote in the statement.

The Harvard-educated lawyer rose to fame by putting behind bars some of the most powerful politicians and business leaders since 2014. While Bolsonaro's pick will delight his supporters, the risk is that the appointment could damage the legacy of Operation Carwash and fuel accusations Moro was politically motivated. Lionized by the right, Moro is loathed by



Sergio Moro

much of the left.

The benefits for Bolsonaro are obvious -- tapping a law-and-order hero is a safe bet to boost support from his conservative base and beyond, and Moro's credibility could help his nascent administration attract more talent to top posts.

Still, for senior figures in the Workers' Party, Moro has repeatedly singled out leftwing politicians for punishment, even though corruption allegations have been widespread across the political spectrum. It was Moro who sentenced former head of state Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva to 12 years in jail for corruption and money-laundering, a ruling that effectively barred him

from this year's presidential election.

The judge's decision to release damning plea-bargain testimony about illicit payments to previous party election campaigns just days before the first round presidential vote in October also angered many on the left.

Bolsonaro's pledges to combat corruption played a central role in his successful election campaign, and he sought to identify himself with Moro in TV and radio ads. With corruption scandals dominating the nightly news for years, a survey in June this year by pollster Datafolha found graft was Brazilians' chief concern, along with health care. **Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The Hiker: Over 2,700 hikers will take to the Islands' steep trails for the ninth consecutive year. Hundreds of teams from all walks of life, from Macao and abroad, will compete in the Eco TrailHiker tomorrow departing from MGM Cotai at 8 a.m. The Times has been part of this eco-friendly community event as media partner since day one.

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AFGHANISTAN Former Afghan president Hamid Karzai, who still wields considerable influence in today's Afghanistan despite being out of office for four years, said yesterday he welcomes the entry of five Taliban leaders who were freed from the U.S. military prison at Guantanamo Bay in 2014 into peace negotiations.



YEMEN New U.S. calls for a cease-fire in Yemen have raised the prospect of ending a disastrous civil war that has caused the world's worst humanitarian crisis, but previous rounds of talks have failed and thus far neither side shows any sign of backing down.

ITALY Two people were killed when a falling tree crushed their car in the mountainous countryside in northwestern Italy, as rainstorms and strong winds continued to pummel much of the country.

GERMANY's health minister said yesterday the country's main center-right party needs to make clearer what it stands for as he competes to succeed Chancellor Angela Merkel as its leader. He is emphasizing the need to curb unregulated migration. **More on p15**



MEXICO Thousands of Central American migrants resumed their slow trek through southern Mexico yesterday, and activists aiding the group said they were shifting their route toward the Gulf coast, a path closer to the Texas border.

PERU Former Peruvian first daughter Keiko Fujimori was ordered back to jail in a case that has captured attention in the South American nation reeling from a series of corruption scandals reaching into the highest echelons of power.