



MICHEL VAILLANT BACK IN MACAU

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CALLS FOR E-GAMING PROMOTION

In a forum concluding the MGS Summit 2018, gaming experts and executives called for the promotion of e-gaming

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CLUBS DENY KNOWING SUPER LEAGUE PLAN

Real Madrid's plan for a breakaway Super League threatens football's historic structure

P23 FOOTBALL



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POLICY ADDRESS

Chui Sai On reinforces welfare measures

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CABINET MINISTERS RESIGN

May battles to save her Brexit deal and her job

P17 UK

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



CAMBODIA The U.N.-backed tribunal judging the criminal responsibility of former Khmer Rouge leaders for the deaths of an estimated 1.7 million Cambodians will issue verdicts today in the latest — and perhaps last — of such trials.

JAPAN-RUSSIA Russian President Vladimir Putin says Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe has signaled readiness to discuss a Soviet-era proposal on settling a decades-old territorial dispute over several Pacific islands.

AP PHOTO



SRI LANKA Rival lawmakers exchanged blows in Sri Lanka's Parliament yesterday as disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa claimed the speaker had no authority to remove him from office by voice vote. More on p16

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PIGGY BANK GO VIRTU

QUALIFYING TOP DOGS

SUPPLEMENTS INSIDE

POLICY ADDRESS

CE announces cash handout increase, other social benefits

Julie Zhu

IN 2019, the annual cash handout from the government will increase to MOP10,000 and MOP6,000 for permanent and non-permanent residents respectively, the Chief Executive (CE) announced yesterday.

Chui was at the Legislative Assembly yesterday to disclose the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019, entitled "Seize Opportunities for Balance Development [sic]."

In a presentation which did not contain news of significant changes to the current policies, Chui announced several measures to strengthen the social security network. The Minimum Subsistence Allowance would be increased to MOP4,230 from January, while other existing welfare measures will be extended, maintained or increased.

Regarding benefits for the elderly, pensions will remain at MOP9,000 while Old Age Allowances will increase to MOP3,630.

In 2019, the Ordinary Disability Gratuity and Special Disability Gratuity will increase to MOP9,000 and MOP18,000 per year, respectively.

The government will continue to distribute the Textbook Allowance. The allowances per academic year will increase to MOP2,500 for each kindergarten pupil or primary school student, and MOP3,250 for each secondary school student, and



the meal allowance will increase to MOP3,800 for each student per year. The allowance provided to each student pursuing tertiary education or postgraduate studies will increase to MOP3,300.

Other welfare measures such as the Continuing Education Program, healthcare vouchers, electricity bill subsidies, tap water tariff subsidies and bus fare concessions will continue. It is estimated that all the above-mentioned subsidies, allowances and wealth sharing programs will cost the public coffers some MOP18.7 billion.

Next year, the government will finish compiling the preliminary draft of the Macau Master Plan as well as complete the overall urban preliminary plan.

Continuing with a monotone voice, Chui expressed the intention to implement the "post-19,000 units" public housing construction, to achieve the target of completing 28,000 housing units in four phases in the New Urban Zone Area A, with the first phase to provide 7,000 housing units on seven pieces of land. The areas of land on Avenida Wai Long, the western stretch of Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental in Taipa, and the original site of the power station, would be used to provide 6,500, 2,000 and 1,500 housing units respectively.

The government will also reopen applications for affordable housing units, providing approximately 4,000 units (Av. Wai Long or New Urban Zone

Area A).

Also next year, the ten-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028) will start to be enforced.

The LRT Taipa section will start operations next year.

CHUI SAI ON

Until September, the government issued 73 orders to annul land grants involving a total land area of more than 530,000 square meters.

The construction of the third interconnection between the local power grid and Guangdong, and the construction of the fourth water supply channel between Macau and Guangdong, will be completed in 2019.

Chui also said that next year will mark the beginning of the construction of the fourth Macau-Taipa cross-harbor bridge. Authorities will also conduct specific research and preliminary design for the fifth cross-harbor channel and studies to develop new maritime routes.

Regarding transportation, in order to satisfy the demand for taxi services, an additional 150 special taxis will be put out for public tender, which will bring the city's total number of taxis to 2,050.

A total of 200 electrical car charging stations are also planned to become available in 2019.

"The LRT Taipa section will start operations next year," Chui announced.

The government will also accelerate the examination of the LRT connection to the Taipa Ferry Terminal, to the New Urban Zone A, and to the Border Gate.

In the environmental field, next year should see the completion of the legislation of single-use plastic bag restrictions.

For waste landfill, the government will use a 15,000 square meter area for paper, plastic and metal waste management, and a 30,000 square meter area for domestic waste management.

Chui also stressed that the government would fully respect and protect the unique culture, traditions, customs and legal rights of the Macanese and Portuguese residents in Macau, and support them to join forces with all citizens for the building of a better Macau.

Lawmaker disappointed with Chui's last Policy Address

ON the sidelines of the Policy Address, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho said that he is disappointed with Chui Sai On's last policy address.

"This is the last government policy address of this Chief Executive. We understand that the government tries to leave a good impression of these governors, because that implies that everything is fine, but we have seen a lot of problems with this government's services. For

example, there seems to have been a big scandal in the trade office [Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute]." "It seems that it's always the small potato that is going to pay the bill. So, we have been asking for quite a long time that the government hold officials, especially the secretaries, accountable," Pereira Coutinho told the Times.

"Last year, they promised us that they would revise the law, so there would be

some penalties for them. But it seems that they missed them this year, so we will follow up in the next few days with the Secretary for Administration and Justice," said Pereira Coutinho. "What she is thinking about the future, and who should be held accountable for the mistakes," he listed as possible topics for discussion.

"There is not a single word about democracy. As many are aware, we feel that the AL is totally con-

trolled by the establishment and the plutocracy. If you don't have the majority of the legislators elected democratically, and if you have the CE elected by only 400 persons in Macau, then there is no legitimacy, and [the AL] cannot be accountable to all the people of Macau," said Pereira Coutinho.

"We regret that these policies have not said anything about [democracy]," Pereira Coutinho expressed. **JZ**



Chui Sai On yesterday at the AL

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POLICY ADDRESS

Chui pledges transparency in gaming concessions

CHIEF Executive Chui Sai On met the press at the Government Headquarters after delivering the Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019 at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Chui pledged that future gaming concessions will be "absolutely transparent."

"Two of the gaming concessions will expire in 2020, and four will expire in 2022. We will carry out the tender before 2022. Concerning the two concessions that will expire earlier, we are currently considering how to manage it. We are undertaking the relevant work. We will publicize them [results] in due time. Regarding the legal basis, we will openly and transparently inform the public about it," said Chui.

"My term lasts until the 19th December of 2019. It [the gaming concession issue] exceeds my term, therefore I cannot answer questions [concerning issues] after my term. I can only do the preparation work," said Chui.



When questioned about what his government will do regarding gaming concessions, Chui replied by saying that it has already been done in a mid-term review. He also mentioned that the follow-up work on that review is under way and that the number of gambling tables will be under strict restrictions to ensure an orderly development of the industry. Oversight on junkets will be strengthened to raise their sense of responsibility, Chui added.

When asked how the gaming industry can meet Macau's goal of becoming a world tourism and leisure center, Chui said that his government has balanced the gaming and non-gaming sectors, and that it is also focused on the hospitality industry, and issues concerning competition within the gaming industry.

Besides the city's gaming industry, Chui made some remarks about the controversial topic of the Land Law.

"The community has several opinions about the Land Law [regarding the 25-year land utilization]. First, we [the government] really want to show fairness. That is why we review each individual case through the Commission Against Corruption to confirm whether the procedure [to annul land concessions] implicates any violation of the administrative regulation," said Chui, who later added that "the land law has been strictly implemented."

Currently, there is not any

land law amendment procedure being carried out within his government, according to Chui.

In addition, regarding the long-awaited trade union law, Chui revealed that no progress will be made by his government.

"Regarding this matter, the government has been clear: it currently does not have the intention to take the initiative to propose the trade union law," Chui said.

During Chui's report to the AL, he mentioned that his government will ensure that the CE election is carried out smoothly.

"This government hopes to try its best to elect the new CE according to the relevant laws next year. To date, nobody has approached me, and I really don't know who the next CE will be. I believe the CE will be elected according to the law," said Chui. **JZ**

SOU SAYS CE FAILED POLITICAL REFORM PROMISE

WHEN TALKING to the media on the sidelines of the Policy Address presentation, Sulu Sou stressed that "the Policy Address cannot fulfill his [Chui's] promise. Back in 2014, when he ran for CE, he promised to push forward the development of Macau's democracy. Political development was not mentioned at all. This is his last policy address. If, this time, there

are no plans for political development, he will not make any contribution to Macau's political development within his term." Regarding other topics, Sou added that, in regard to appealing to the youth, "young people do not need the government to teach them about development. But the government should create a bigger space for their development."

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IPIM organizes integrity seminar following scandal

THE Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) organized an integrity seminar this week. Over 60 IPIM staff members participated in the event, including the acting president Irene Lau, and executive directors Sam Lei and Agostinho Vong, departmental heads, front-line services personnel and new recruits. A CCAC representative was also invited to speak at the seminar.

IPIM's Acting President Irene Lau said that the seminar further enhanced staff members' understanding and awareness of probity, particularly in upholding the principle of being decent and law-abiding in their positions.

During the seminar, the representative from the CCAC talked about the major roles of the CCAC, as well as integrity-building. Detailed information was also



provided on areas such as common duty-related crimes applicable to civil servants, the Ombudsman's role, and conflict of interests. According to a statement issued by IPIM, cases were cited to explain and analyze unlawful acts which may constitute a breach of honesty and integrity while acting in an official

capacity; this was in order to appeal to the participants to exercise vigilance and uphold high standards of integrity and probity.

Late last month, the CCAC announced that the president of IPIM, Jackson Chang, was under criminal investigation for alleged irregularities regarding the

granting of residency status through an investment scheme. The probe involved two other high-ranking officials at IPIM. In a statement issued yesterday by IPIM, it was stated that the institution "attaches great importance to the integrity, law-abiding awareness and professional ethics of all of its staff."

RENATO MARQUES



HKZMB chief engineer to give talk at UM on Tuesday

THE University of Macau (UM) will hold a talk on Tuesday about the construction techniques used in the recently inaugurated Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB). Su Quanke, chief engineer of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Authority, will be the keynote speaker.

The 55-km long structure is the longest sea bridge in the world. The project comprises a bridge tunnel, the link roads in Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau, as well as the Hong Kong port and the Zhuhai-Macau port. During the talk, Su will give the audience a comprehensive overview of the bridge, from the preliminary studies and overall planning to its design and construction. He will also share the key technological achievements

in the construction process.

According to a statement issued by the UM, Su has many years of experience in the survey, design, scientific research, and technical management of roads and bridges. Since 2004, he has been in charge of the technological aspects of the HKZMB construction. Some of the approaches he used and advocated, such as a demand-oriented design and the assembly of large-scale and prefabricated components, have been widely recognized and adopted in the industry.

The talk will start at 4:30 p.m. in the Mr & Mrs Lau Chor Tak Lecture Theatre, Anthony Lau Building (E4-G078). It will be conducted in Mandarin, with simultaneous interpretation into English.

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(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

SEIZE OPPORTUNITIES FOR BALANCED DEVELOPMENT

2018 is a critical year for continued implementation of the 13th National Five-year Plan and the Five-year Development Plan of the Macao Special Administrative Region. As an integral part of China, Macao will march together with the motherland into the new era. The MSAR Government will join hands with the Macao people to seize opportunities for realising the great principles of "One country, two systems", "Macao people governing Macao" and a high degree of autonomy.

2019 marks the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, the 20th anniversary of Macao's reunification with the motherland, and is a year that will see a change of administration in the MSAR. We are determined to fulfil our duties, and consolidate our experiences, to manifest the success of "One country, two systems" and our contributions to our country.



All Macao residents

Individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund

- Start-up fund of 10,000 patacas (for eligible residents)
- Additional fund injection of 7,000 patacas (for eligible residents)

Wealth Partaking Scheme

- ↑ 10,000 patacas (permanent residents)
- ↑ 6,000 patacas (non-permanent residents)

Healthcare voucher

- 600 patacas per person (permanent residents)

Birth allowance

- ↑ 5,260 patacas (both parents may apply at the same time)

Continuing Education Programme (Phase 3)

- Maximum 6,000 patacas per person

Electricity bill subsidy for residential units

- 200 patacas per month (each residential unit)

Water tariff subsidy for residential units

- Ongoing

Bus fare concessions for members of the public

- Ongoing (for the elderly, students, people with disabilities, etc.)

Real estate tax

- Deduction of first 3,500 patacas of tax (Macao residents)

Waiver of real estate stamp duty

- First three million patacas of a residential unit's value (Macao permanent residents purchasing residential property for the first time)

New

Incentive for the increase of supply in the real estate rental market

- Reduction of the property tax rate for leased properties to eight percent; property tax rate for non-leased properties remains at six percent



People with disabilities

Disability gratuity

- ↑ 9,000 patacas per year (ordinary)
- ↑ 18,000 patacas per year (special)

Subsidy for eligible employees with disabilities

- Up to 5,000 patacas per month

Employers hiring people with disabilities

- A tax deduction of up to 5,000 patacas on profit tax or personal income tax per employee with disabilities

New

Employment incentives

- The personal income tax allowance for eligible employees with disabilities increases to 198,000 patacas



Students

Non-tertiary education: Textbook allowance

- ↑ 3,400 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)

- ↑ 2,900 patacas per school year (each primary school student)

- ↑ 2,300 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil)

Students from families with financial difficulties

Tuition fee subsidies:

- 9,000 patacas per school year (each senior secondary school student)

- 6,000 patacas per school year (each junior secondary school student)

- 4,000 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

- ↑ Meal allowance: 3,800 patacas per school year

Stationery allowance:

- ↑ 3,250 patacas per school year (each secondary school student)

- ↑ 2,500 patacas per school year (each kindergarten pupil or primary school student)

Tertiary education: Stationery allowance

- ↑ 3,300 patacas (Macao residents)

Tuition fee subsidies for Macao students studying in Guangdong

- 6,000 patacas per school year (each senior and junior secondary school student)

- 8,000 patacas (each kindergarten pupil)



Disadvantaged families

Minimum subsistence index

- ↑ 4,230 patacas per one-person household

Financial assistance

- Disburse an additional month of financial assistance to eligible families

Special subsidy for three categories of disadvantaged families

- Ongoing

Special living allowance under the Social Inclusion Scheme

- Ongoing

Short-term Food Assistance Programme

- Ongoing

Public housing tenants

- Rent waiver

Temporary housing subsidies for eligible families on the waiting list for public housing

- Ongoing

Subsidy for low-income, full-time employees

- Already up to 5,000 patacas per month

Positive Life Programme and the Community Employment Assistance Scheme

- Ongoing



The elderly

Old age allowance

- 9,000 patacas per year

Pension

- ↑ 3,630 patacas per month

New

Incentive for employment

- Increase the basic allowance for personal income tax to 198,000 patacas for elderly employees over 65 years of age

Overview of elderly benefits

- Old age allowance: 9,000 patacas
- ↑ Pension: 3,630 patacas x 13 months
- ↑ Wealth Partaking Scheme: 10,000 patacas
- Additional fund injection to individual accounts of the Central Provident Fund: 7,000 patacas

↑ Total benefits received per year: 73,190 patacas
(Benefits received per month: approx 6,099 patacas)

Healthcare voucher: 600 patacas



Employed citizens / middle-income class

Personal income tax

- Continue with the 30 percent reduction in personal income tax, with the basic allowance set at 144,000 patacas

Extra tax rebate

- An additional 60 percent rebate of the personal income tax paid by each tax-paying Macao resident, subject to a ceiling increased to 14,000 patacas (rebates to be received in 2020)



Business owners and related persons

- Profit tax allowance remains at 600,000 patacas per year
- Continue providing waivers of all business taxes, hawkker licence fees, wet market stall rents, inspection and quarantine fees for live food, and stamp duty on life insurance, other insurance, bank service charges and auctions
- Provide waivers of signboard licence fees for businesses, and exemption from tourism tax for restaurants
- Provide waivers of stamp duty on entrance passes and tickets for cultural and arts performances, exhibitions and entertainment programmes
- New Enterprises can enjoy a triple reduction in profit tax for the first three million patacas of joint venture R&D expenditure, and a double reduction in profit tax for the additional expenditure, subject to a ceiling of 15 million patacas
- New Provide waivers of profit tax on investment income from local bonds issued by mainland China governments and state-owned enterprises, and exempt the stamp duty for issuing and acquiring the relevant bonds
- Provide profit tax waiver to Macao enterprises income received or generated in Portuguese-speaking countries

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

Committed to Improving People's Livelihoods

Urban Planning



- Strictly manage land resources in accordance with the Land Law
- Complete the preliminary plan for Macao's urban development master plan
- Implement the Medium-to-long-term Plan for Usage and Development of the Waters of the Macao Special Administrative Region (2016-2036)
- Expedite urban renewal work and conclude the discussion on property rights percentage of redeveloped buildings as soon as practicable

Expedite construction of the New Urban Zone

Zones A and E1	Design and construction projects
Zone B	Design for administration and justice zone
Zones C and D	Reclamation work

Assuring Housing Supply



- Implement regular applications for public housing
- Resume application for about 4,000 new Home-Ownership Scheme housing units

Fully implement the "post-19,000 units" public housing construction

New Urban Zone Area A	28,000 housing units will be completed in four phases. The first phase will provide 7,000 housing units on seven pieces of land
Avenida Wai Long	Provide about 6,500 housing units. The phase-one design work has commenced
Western stretch of Avenida dos Jogos da Ásia Oriental, Taipa	Provide about 2,000 housing units. The land clearance and initial preparatory planning have commenced
Original site of the power station	Provide about 1,500 housing units. The pile foundation work has commenced

Education Development and Talent Cultivation



- Promote popular science education and develop smart campus
- Establish a training base for cultivating bilingual talents fluent in Chinese and Portuguese
- Supporting local institutions of higher education to launch programmes in the Greater Bay Area
- Formulate plans to facilitate cross-border flow of talented people and regional integration
- Launch the second stage of the Thousand Talents Programme
- Launch the new Greater Bay Area Macao Youth Internship Scheme
- Leverage the functions of the China and Portuguese-speaking Countries Young Entrepreneur Exchange Centre

Health City and Harmonious Families



- Expedite construction of the Islands District Medical Complex
- Ka Ho Rehabilitation Hospital commences operation, providing 160 hospital beds
- Establish a new academy for medical specialists
- Improve the design of homes for the elderly and their facilities, with subsidised places increased to 2,400 by next year
- Care for toddlers and children with special needs and their families
- Increase land for sports and education facilities by using the original site of Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome Club
- Complete construction of the Athletes Training Centre

Deepen Urban Development

Disaster Prevention and Mitigation



- Implement the "Medium-to-long-term Plan for Disaster Prevention and Mitigation in Macao" (2019-2028)
- Press ahead with the Civil Protection Framework Law and improve contingency plans
- Establish an application platform enabling effective overall command during emergencies
- Facilitate development of an insurance scheme for catastrophes
- Construct the third Guangdong-Macao electric power transmission cable and the fourth water supply pipeline
- Construct sluices at the Inner Harbour, flood barriers in low-lying coastal areas, rainwater intercepting drains and stormwater pumping stations in the Inner Harbour, and rainwater overflow drainage in northern areas; and implement planning for flood prevention and drainage on the west side of Coloane
- Enhance community volunteer teams and strengthen public security education
- Proper handling of food safety and waste disposal after typhoons

Technological, Innovative and Smart City



- Establish the Working Committee for the Development of Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and its Sub-committee on Technology, Innovation and Smart City
- Increase subsidies for the State Key Laboratories
- Commence operation of the Government's cloud computing centre
- Establish the "Tax Concession Incentive Scheme for Scientific Research and Innovation"
- Initiate preparatory work for rolling out a 5G network

Optimisation of Transportation System



- Commence operation of the LRT Taipa line, construct a transport interchange connecting with A-Ma station, and commence a construction project for connecting with the Seac Pai Van line
- Conduct a study on connectivity of LRT East line with Taipa Ferry Terminal, Zone A and the Boarder Gate, and the connectivity of Area A with the artificial island of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge and the Outer Harbour Ferry Terminal
- Re-open the Border Gate underground bus terminal
- Commence operations of 100 new ordinary taxis and 200 new special taxis, and initiate an open tender for additional 150 ordinary taxis
- Expedite commencement of construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge

Environmental Protection Measures



- Complete the legislative procedure of "Restrictions on Using Plastic Bags", and introduce plastic bottle recycling machines
- Set up 200 charging points for electric vehicles in Macao
- Two pieces of land are allocated from the construction waste landfill:
 - ▶ An area of 15,000 m² for a facility to pre-processing of paper, plastic and metal wastes before they are exported
 - ▶ An area of 30,000 m² for constructing a centralised food waste processing facility
- Introduce the "Food Waste Recycling Pilot Programme"
- Begin transferring scrapped vehicles to Guangdong for processing
- Improve and lengthen trails and cycling tracks

Multiculturalism

- Expedite formulation of the "Plan for Protection and Management of the Historic Centre of Macao"
- Promote cultural and art education
- Complete construction of cultural facilities, such as the Xian Xinghai Memorial Centre and the Seac Pai Van Library

Highlights of Policy Address for the Fiscal Year 2019 of the Macao Special Administrative Region (MSAR)

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Economic Sustainability

Gaming Industry and Tourism



- Continue follow-up work on the post-interim review of the gaming industry. Encourage gaming operators to invest more in non-gaming elements
- Continue to support gaming enterprises with prioritising procurement of products and services that are designed and made in Macao
- Complete renovation of the Grand Prix Museum
- Deepen development of the "City of Gastronomy"

Adequate industrial diversification



- Attract more quality conventions and exhibitions to be held in Macao
- Expand the development outcome of the Guangdong-Macao Traditional Chinese Medicine Technology Industrial Park
- Attract well-established foreign lease finance companies to establish bases in Macao
- Launch the "Community Cultural and Creative Production Subsidy Scheme"
- Foster a unique marine industry

Small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

- Optimise supportive measures and streamline licensing procedures
- Promote integrated development of traditional industries and cultural and creative industries
- Strengthen support for "Made in Macao" brands
- Promote the "Scheme to Assist the Re-branding of Time-honoured Local Shops"

Securing Employment

- Optimise the exit mechanism for non-local employees, and combat illegal employment
- Facilitate amendments to seven prioritised subjects covered by the "Labour Relations Law"
- Optimise staff training, skills accreditation, employment referral and matching

Regional cooperation - Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area

- Participate in development of Hengqin and Nansha sub-zones of the Guangdong Free Trade Zone, join hands with Zhongshan to develop the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation Demonstration Zone, and study the feasibility of collaboration with Jiangmen in the development of the Greater Bay Area
- Deepen cooperation with the Greater Bay Area in livelihood issues
- Explore development of the intercity passenger ticket payment system
- Expedite interconnectivity of border crossing infrastructure

Realise sound social governance

Public Administration



- Municipal Affairs Bureau officially established, and commence operations
- Establish the Islands District Integrated Government Services Centre
- Increase the number of e-public service items to 90
- Commence the second stage of revision of the "Macao Public Servants Statutes and Regulations"
- Consider facilitating exchanges and studies between civil servants in the cities of the Greater Bay Area

Legal system

- Strive to promote the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao to the public
- Ensure smooth implementation of the Chief Executive election
- Revise the Penal Code, Criminal Procedural Code and Administrative Conditions, and legislate laws and regulations related to protecting secrets of the state and the region

GENERAL INTEGRATED BUDGET OF PUBLIC EXPENDITURE FOR 2019

REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019	REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019
RECURRING REVENUE	116,559,658,000.00	Contribution to Social Security System	74,329,600.00
Direct tax	8,312,918,900.00	Other recurring revenue	47,959,800.00
Indirect tax	5,476,292,900.00	CAPITAL REVENUE	5,825,530,000.00
Fees, fine and other monetary penalties	1,923,065,200.00	Sale of facilities and equipment	2,217,719,900.00
Asset revenue	711,096,800.00	Financial assets	581,153,000.00
Franchise and concession revenue	98,566,365,000.00	Sale of stocks and other equities	2,000.00
Financial revenue	416,321,900.00	Other capital revenue	3,026,655,100.00
Sale of items and labour	836,016,600.00	General integrated budget of revenue	122,385,188,000.00
Transfer	195,291,300.00		

EXPENSES ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019	EXPENSES ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019
Macao SAR Government	24,080,800.00	Macao Customs Service	1,007,285,200.00
Office of the Chief Executive	346,302,400.00	Macao Economic and Trade Office to the World Trade Organization	13,295,100.00
Executive Council	34,432,700.00	Macao Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan	18,001,700.00
Office of the Secretary for Administration and Justice	46,816,100.00	Investments and Development Expenses of the Administration	16,634,939,900.00
Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance	56,247,500.00	Pension and retirement compensation	10,880,300.00
Office of the Secretary for Security	40,886,700.00	General expenses	23,906,462,900.00
Office of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture	85,975,400.00	Designated appropriations, shared allocations and transfer budget	5,370,865,300.00
Office of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works	28,796,300.00	Health Bureau	8,395,150,400.00
Judiciary Police	1,089,940,300.00	Social Welfare Bureau	3,882,103,500.00
Finance Services Bureau	563,762,500.00	Government Printing Bureau	135,220,300.00
Macao Economic Services Bureau	250,322,800.00	Housing Bureau	507,080,300.00
Identification Bureau	342,358,700.00	Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute	785,941,200.00
Statistics and Census Service	203,887,300.00	Civil Aviation Authority	98,098,400.00
Cartography and Cadastre Bureau	92,775,000.00	Macao Polytechnic Institute	913,598,500.00
Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau	303,674,200.00	University of Macau	2,737,881,500.00
Macao Government Tourism Office	343,616,800.00	Collier of Legal Affairs	235,828,500.00
Labour Affairs Bureau	515,519,800.00	Consumer Council	50,928,000.00
Lands, Public Works and Transport Bureau	504,875,400.00	Institute for Tourism Studies	449,205,900.00
Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau	562,211,700.00	Public Security Police Force Welfare Association	55,119,400.00
Government Information Bureau	169,669,000.00	Fire Services Welfare Association	9,397,000.00
Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau	173,133,600.00	Commission of Audit	174,302,800.00
Tertiary Education Services Office	121,556,000.00	Office of the Public Prosecutor General	459,859,200.00
Judicial Council	618,100.00	Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal	652,806,300.00
Legal Affairs Bureau	291,942,000.00	Commission Against Corruption	390,624,500.00
Unitary Police Service	56,310,700.00	Legislative Assembly	194,366,500.00
Transport Bureau	1,849,193,900.00	Customs Welfare Association	3,706,600.00
Environmental Protection Bureau	893,182,300.00	Marine and Water Bureau Welfare Association	2,452,500.00
Talents Development Committee	16,485,600.00	Judiciary Police Welfare Association	7,109,300.00
Medical Incident Assessment Committee	11,604,200.00	Municipal Affairs Bureau	2,892,281,700.00
Medical Dispute Arbitration Centre	3,208,100.00	Industrial and Commercial Development Fund	2,348,869,400.00
Policy Research and Regional Development Bureau	81,961,800.00	Fund for Home Ownership Scheme Housing Loans	2,178,300.00
Infrastructure Development Office	69,569,400.00	Student Welfare Fund	408,275,700.00
The Supporting Office to the Permanent Secretariat to the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking Countries	133,405,900.00	Sports Fund	930,728,500.00
Office for Development of the Energy Sector	40,830,500.00	Culture Fund	546,964,600.00
Financial Intelligence Office	40,490,700.00	Tourism Fund	869,586,400.00
Office for Personal Data Protection	56,581,600.00	Macao Public Administration Welfare Fund	51,149,500.00
Transportation Infrastructure Office	971,896,200.00	Correctional Service Fund	6,457,400.00
Protocol, Public Relations and External Affairs Office	176,534,800.00	Science and Technology Development Fund	413,624,500.00
Cultural Affairs Bureau	1,023,656,100.00	Education Development Fund	815,316,200.00
Sports Bureau	232,096,400.00	Fisheries Development and Support Fund	12,022,000.00
Macao Economic and Trade Office in Lisbon	13,713,100.00	Property Maintenance Fund	49,097,200.00
Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau	5,606,735,000.00	Giant Panda Foundation	6,389,200.00
Education and Youth Affairs Bureau	7,057,031,900.00	Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation Fund	24,563,400.00
Marine and Water Bureau	1,058,207,900.00	Cultural Industry Fund	256,559,000.00
Macao Economic and Trade Office to the European Union in Brussels	5,015,200.00	Labour Creditor's Rights Protection Fund	27,060,000.00
Correctional Service Bureau	696,333,100.00	Tertiary Education Foundation	258,882,400.00
Office of the Macao SAR in Beijing	33,991,000.00	General integrated budget of public expenditure	103,343,952,900.00

General integrated budget balance

Central budget balance	18,061,421,800.00	General integrated budget balance	19,041,235,100.00
Autonomous institution executive budget balance	979,813,300.00	General integrated budget of public expenditure and budget balance	122,385,188,000.00

SUMMARISED BUDGET AND INVESTMENT BUDGET OF SPECIAL ORGANISATIONS FOR 2019

REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019	REVENUE ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019
RECURRING REVENUE	18,697,751,200.00	Sale of items and labour services	551,960,800.00
Fees, fine and other monetary penalties	666,598,100.00	Transfer	5,377,877,300.00
Asset revenue	86,344,000.00	Contributions to Social Security System	1,837,870,200.00
Franchise and concession revenue	3,133,204,000.00	Other recurring revenue	13,261,000.00
Financial revenue	7,030,635,800.00	Summarised budget revenue of special organisations	18,697,751,200.00

EXPENSES ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019	EXPENSES ITEMS	Proposed budget for 2019
Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau	630,372,000.00	Macao Foundation	2,990,641,400.00
Postal Savings Office	58,956,900.00	Deposit Protection Fund	3,250,100.00
Macao Pension Fund	2,684,296,000.00	Summarised budget expenditure of special organisations	14,831,223,100.00
Monetary Authority of Macao	3,320,511,900.00	Net operational profit/loss of special organisations	3,866,528,100.00
Social Security Fund	5,134,061,800.00	Summarised budget expenditure and net operational profit/loss of special organisations	18,697,751,200.00
Automobile and Maritime Security Fund	9,153,000.00		

Investment budget of special organisations

Macao Post and Telecommunications Bureau	146,662,000.00	Automobile and Maritime Security Fund	-
Postal Savings Office	-	Macao Foundation	57,000,000.00
Macao Pension Fund	1,159,000.00	Deposit Protection Fund	-
Monetary Authority of Macao	125,988,400.00	Summarised investment budget expenditure of special organisations	375,959,400.00
Social Security Fund	45,150,000.00		

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Administration and Justice

The administration and justice system will continue to diligently implement the basic principle of "One country, two systems", uphold the authority of the Constitution and the Basic Law of Macao, support the Government's development positioning regarding the establishment of "One Centre, One Platform", actively implement the Government's five-year development plan, seize the development opportunities arising in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, deepen public administration reform, promote establishment of the legal system, and improve municipal services, to lay a solid foundation for building a better Macao.

Public Administration

- Continue providing assistance to public departments and consultative bodies regarding reform of the administrative structure;
- Support the Government with constructing a smart city, commence formulating a smart governance development plan, perfect laws and regulations, improve the e-governance management system and infrastructure, facilitate openness of government data, and gradually introduce "single-window" services;
- Gradually improve the civil service system, enhance civil servants' professional knowledge, awareness of rule by law, knowledge of national affairs, and emergency response capabilities; as well as strengthen their policy implementation capacity;
- Review the accountability system for department heads and supervisors, and develop a proposal for consultation;
- Fully support the work of the Electoral Affairs Committee for Chief Executive Election, to ensure smooth progress with the Fifth Chief Executive Election in a fair, impartial, open and corruption-free manner; and
- Pass on our tradition of patriotism and loyalty to Macao by helping young people to understand and be concerned about recent national development, to foster a sense of recognition and belonging to the motherland.



Students participate in activities at the new Commemorative Gallery of the Macao Basic Law

Legal Affairs

- Optimise the centralised coordinated legislative mechanism, strengthen execution procedures and technical support, improve the process for formulating legislative planning, and enhance overall efficiency of legislation;
- Promote legislation for a mediation system for civil and commercial cases, optimise fundamental laws, including the Civil Procedural Code, the Penal Code and the Administrative Procedure Code, and follow up on legislation for rectifying and adapting laws;
- Converge the power of the community to extensively promote the constitutional laws and civil laws; and
- Strengthen judicial cooperation with Portuguese-speaking countries and countries along the "Belt and Road", and continue strengthening legal services and judicial cooperation between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, to create a predictable rule-by-law environment for Macao's integration into the development of the nation and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area.

Municipal Services

- Establish the Municipal Affairs Bureau, and strengthen the role of the Municipal Affairs Consultative Committee for collecting opinions; facilitate interactions between the bureau and the community, and improve the quality of municipal services through inter-departmental collaboration;
- Expand the scope of municipal services, continue perfecting municipal facilities, realise the environmental protection goals of the MSAR's Five-year Development Plan, foster ecological development in the Greater Bay Area, and advocate a neighbourhood mutual-aid spirit to create a harmonious community;
- Strengthen the food safety supervision mechanism, formulate food safety standards and guidelines, promote food safety education, and foster regional cooperation, to ensure food safety and healthy consumption by all possible means; and
- Adopt a series of measures, including improvement of drainage networks and construction of a storm water pumping station, to enhance flood prevention and control capability. Together with the Government's overall disaster prevention and mitigation planning, effective implementation of the disaster response mechanism and guidelines, including pre-disaster alerts and post-disaster recovery, will be ensured.

Economy and Finance

Leverage unique advantages for a new era of development

We will continue working with businesses and the public, to actively integrate into national development, and seize opportunities for development of the "Belt and Road" initiative and the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area metropolis. We have the courage to face any possible changes in the economic environment, and are well equipped for these through maintaining stability and creativity, strengthening Macao's economic resilience, and fostering quality development. In responding to changes in the economic situation, we will continue making progress while ensuring stability.

Precisely and pragmatically engage in regional cooperation

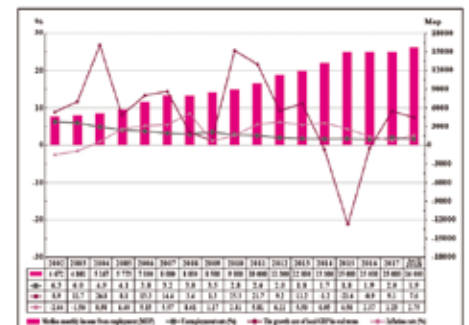
- Strengthen "Services on the Doorstep" in the Greater Bay Area, to facilitate convenient businesses operations and provide an innovative statistical mechanism for the market;
- Leverage "specific connections" from the "+Macao" perspective to facilitate openness of the mainland China market and external collaboration; and
- Strengthen Macao's function as a trade and economic cooperation services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, promote organic integration with the "Belt and Road" initiative, and establish a monetary services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Create a modern industrial system with international competitiveness

- Facilitate rapid growth of nascent industries, including the convention and exhibition industry adopting the "conventions as the priority" approach, traditional Chinese medicine industry and specialised financial services industry;
- Optimise legal systems and strengthen regulations, to foster healthy, orderly growth of the gaming industry;
- Encourage research and development, support SMEs in enhancing competitiveness, promote a community economy, and attract quality investments; and
- Optimise vocational training, support local residents with enhancing their capabilities, and precisely introduce talented individuals.

Protect labour rights and strengthen livelihood security

- Improve management of non-resident employees, strengthen occupational health and safety supervision, and protect labour rights;
- Strengthen occupational health and safety education and monitoring;
- Monitor changes in consumer prices and widen sourcing channels to safeguard consumers' rights and interests; and
- Pay attention to economic development trends and changes in the inflation rate.



Local GDP growth in real terms, unemployment rate, inflation rate and median monthly income (2002-2018)

Provide training opportunities to enhance capabilities of young people

- Optimise services that support employment and entrepreneurship;
- Support young people with engaging in exchanges, internship, employment and business development in the Greater Bay Area; and
- Foster innovative exchanges and cooperation between young entrepreneurs from Macao, elsewhere in the Greater Bay Area, and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Optimise finance management to maintain financial stability

- Optimise public finance management by implementing frugality and pragmatic measures; and
- Strengthen "risk-based" regulation, and perfect the establishment of a legal system, to maintain safety and stability of the financial system.

Public Security

Through participating in the establishment of a system for Macao to safeguard national security, the Macao security authorities will reform the laws, systems and operational mechanisms for civil protection, implement smart policing, gradually enhance capabilities for crime prevention, and safeguard the security of the nation and Macao by means of necessary reforms, innovations, upgrades, consolidations, improvements; as well as provide assistance and guidance to young people and the public for participation in Macao's and regional public safety governance.

Safeguard national security

- Perfect the legal system and establish law enforcement units, to safeguard national security; and
- Promote education and publicity, and continue holding national security exhibitions, to enhance public awareness of national security.

Enhance civil protection and security

- Reform the "One plan and three systems" for contingencies, and establish a special unit to strengthen coordination of civil protection work; and
- Establish a joint defence system with input from the community to improve the effectiveness of civil protection.

Implement smart policing

- Implement smart solutions step by step and plan for integration of resources, to realise sharing of police data; and
- Implement data governance, follow up supportive legislation, and establish technical standards.



Flag-bearers of the Police Tactical Unit raise the national flag and the MSAR flag at Golden Lotus Square

Proactive law enforcement

- Enhance awareness of potential risks, proactively assess the situation to optimise precautionary and preventive security measures; and
- Adjust land deployment and strengthen maritime law enforcement, to align with the new regional development.

Continued reform and innovation

- Revise laws and regulations, promote organisational reform, and implement an innovative law enforcement model; and
- Strengthen the police force through technology, optimise public services, and enhance police vocational training.

Attach importance to police administration

- Enhance external and internal supervision, strictly observe police discipline, and always remain alert; and
- Implement the principle of putting police officers first, to advocate caring, encouragement and a healthy police culture.

Innovative police collaboration

- Respond to Guangdong province's initiative for reforming the collaboration model, to jointly build a peaceful Greater Bay Area; and
- Attach importance to cultivating young people, enhance cooperation between police and journalists, and continue promoting unity between police and the public.

Improve border-crossing management

- Develop new customs services, establish new subordinate units for facilitating logistics at border checkpoints; and
- Restructure functional departments, to optimise the administration model and enhance the effectiveness of border control.

Strengthen correctional services

- Block loopholes in prison administration, and introduce high-technology surveillance to ensure prison order and safety; and
- With a carrot-and-stick approach, continue improving the ranking system, and attach importance to development of correctional officers.

New functions in financial intelligence

- Ensure stability of staffing, and continue with the original functions to maintain Macao's financial security; and
- Prudently restructure, respect professional independence, and promote collaboration to combat money laundering.

(TRANSLATED VERSION)

Major Policies on Various Areas

Social Affairs and Culture

We will follow the Chief Executive's policy agenda – "Seize opportunities for balanced development", and uphold the philosophy of "putting people first", to adjust on a timely basis the policies related to healthcare, social security and people's livelihoods; and pragmatically promote education, cultural tourism and sports.

Healthcare

- Optimise hospital space and medical equipment, improve medical treatment services, and enhance the overall quality of healthcare services;
- Strengthen regional cooperation, and enhance capabilities for infectious disease prevention and control, and emergency rescues, to protect the lives of residents; and
- Care for the elderly, women and children, increase the number of hospital beds for rehabilitation and palliative care, and expand ophthalmology and stomatology healthcare services for the elderly.



At a recognition ceremony held by the Social Security Fund on 30 July, 78 employees are commended for pioneering the adoption of the Non-Mandatory Central Provident Fund System to enhance retirement benefits for their employees.

Education and Youth

- Increase quotas for tertiary scholarships, steadily develop Macao as a base for tourism education and a cradle for cultivating talented individuals who are bilingual in Chinese and Portuguese, and assist tertiary institutions with promoting the establishment of state key laboratories and cultivation of talented people;
- Implement comprehensive curriculum reform, enhance Chinese history and information technology education, and establish a museum to foster patriotism; and
- Press ahead with the "Blue Sky Project", and follow up on progress of the sister school partnership programme with Congjiang county, Guizhou province.

Social Work and Social Security

- Enhance support for three categories of disadvantaged families, implement the Legal System for Protection of Rights of the Elderly, increase allowances for the elderly, and enhance measures concerning home care for the elderly;
- Continue promoting establishment of the professional accreditation system for social workers, and intensify disaster prevention in the community; and
- Vigorously implement the Non-mandatory Central Provident Fund System, and encourage participation by businesses and citizens.

Tourism, Culture and Sports

- Actively promote joint development of tourism in the Greater Bay Area, improve tourism environment, and develop branded maritime tourism;
- Organise international cultural, arts and sports events, such as Art Macao, establish a centre for exchanges between Chinese and Portuguese cultures, and promote Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy; and
- Leverage departmental synergy for organising a series of ceremonies for celebrating the 70th Anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macao SAR.

Transport and Public Works

All policies related to transport and public works are implemented to support development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macao Greater Bay Area, and the strategic development positioning of Macao as a world tourism and leisure centre, thereby improving Macao's urban environment and people's livelihoods.

Urban Planning

- Strive to complete the preliminary draft of Macao's urban development master plan;
- Commence construction of the fourth Macao-Taipa cross-harbour bridge; and
- Establish a government-owned urban renewal corporation.



The Macao border crossing area of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge

Public Works

- Commence operation of the LRT Taipa line;
- Expedite construction of sluices and other flood prevention works at the Inner Harbour; and
- Commence phase-one design work for the public housing projects at the New Urban Zone Area A and the site on Avenida Wai Long of Taipa.

Transport

- Complete renewing the contracts of two bus companies;
- Commence the public bidding process for 150 electric taxi licences, and commence operations of 200 special taxis; and
- Commence preliminary design of the hiking route around Guia Hill.

Housing

- Follow up regarding the draft amendment to the Home-Ownership Scheme Housing Law, and strive to submit the bill to the Legislative Assembly for deliberation;
- Follow up regarding the move-in arrangements of Bairro da Ilha Verde Building, Cheng Tou Building, and Fai Ieng Building, and continue with signing real estate transaction notarial certificates with the buyers of the Home-Ownership Scheme housing units; and
- Publish the finalised list of public housing applications from 2017.

Environmental Protection

- Strive to transport the first batch of pre-processed scrap vehicles to mainland China;
- Complete the study of the Environmental Protection Plan of Macao (2010-2020); and
- Commence the Waste Electronic and Electrical Equipment Recycling Scheme.

Commission Against Corruption

In 2019, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption and prevention of duty-related crimes and administrative irregularities, and enhance education on integrity.

Actions against Corruption

- Improve tactics required for law enforcement, upgrade the professional skills of law enforcement staff, and recruit talented individuals to join the investigation teams, to overcome heavy workloads and challenges and facilitate more effective law enforcement;
- Continue investigating corruption and related fraudulent activities in the public and private sectors, combat crimes that damage the public interest, such as fraudulently benefiting from any government subsidies, and abuse of administrative power;
- Strengthen the effectiveness of anti-corruption through regional and international law enforcement cooperation, enabling Macao to achieve stable development in a corruption-free environment when participating in the "Belt and Road" initiative and the development of the Greater Bay Area;
- Monitor the entire fifth Chief Executive Election from various perspectives, to ensure a corruption-free, fair and just election; and
- Discuss with mainland China anti-corruption authorities the establishment of a new law enforcement cooperation model, and maintain exchanges and close cooperation with prosecution and law enforcement bodies around the world.

Complaints to the Ombudsman

- Pay attention to issues that are of major public interest, and conduct investigations when necessary; analyse in-depth the legality and rationality of related administrative procedures, and provide recommendations for improvements;
- Enhance cooperation with public departments through the "Jointly Build a Corruption-free Macao" programme, to foster correct values among civil servants, and to leverage the functions of related mechanisms for preventing duty-related crimes and administrative irregularities;
- Cooperate with the media and the private sector to convey messages to all walks of life about the importance of integrity and corruption-free management; and
- Optimise internal management, improve the quality of handling complaints to the ombudsman, and effectively respond to the requests and complaints from the public and the community.

Publicity, Education and Community Relations

- Intensify integrity education amongst civil servants, and continue promoting related laws and regulations, to advocate governance with integrity in privately-owned businesses; and
- Adopt an innovative publicity strategy to boost public awareness of integrity and law-abidance.

Commission of Audit

In 2019, the Commission of Audit (CA) will uphold the principles of objectivity, fairness, pragmatism and professionalism, keep our mission firmly in mind, and take the responsibility to ensure rational use of public funds, and enhance public administration performance.

Audit and Computer-assisted Audit

- The Commission of Audit will ensure full alignment of auditing work with the requirements of the new Budget Framework Law, strive to deepen and broaden the scope of audit during the new phase of development, implement research and development on the new version of "Auditor Office", and enhance the technical applications of computer-assisted audit.

Performance Audit, Special Audit and Continuous audit

- Ensure proper use of audit resources, fully utilise information technology, and precisely reveal major problems, to elevate audit and supervision to a higher level, as well as to implement projects that enable the Government to prevent potential risks and smoothly implement its policies.

Staff Training

- Develop or select appropriate training programmes for CA staff according to the major requirements of auditing work, and enhance professional knowledge and ability of the auditing team by providing systematic and well-planned study programmes and practical training.

Internal Management

- Review the overall administrative operation, strive to resolve difficulties, and develop innovative ideas, to promote quality and efficiency of auditing work.

International Exchanges

- Maintain close contacts with the National Audit Office, the International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI), the Asian Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (ASOSAI), and the Supreme Audit Organisation of the Portuguese-speaking Countries Alliance (OISC/CPLP), and participate in events organised by international audit bodies.

Audit Culture

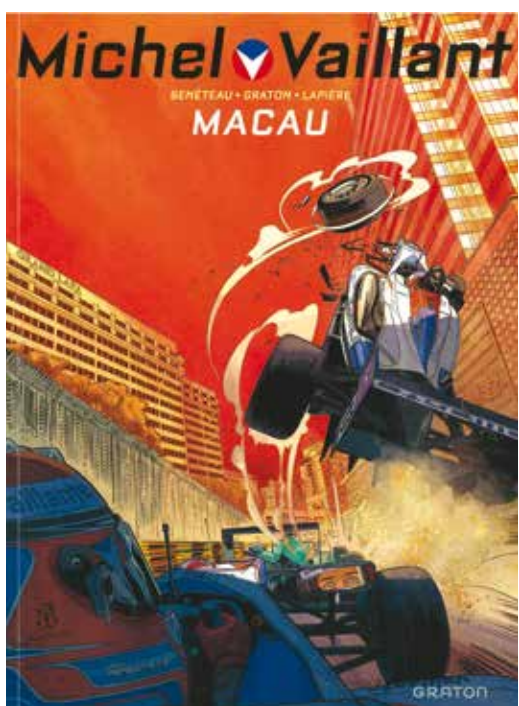
- Organise seminars or related workshops, to enhance civil servants' understanding of the Government's auditing work, promote the supervisory functions of CA, and create a social atmosphere that attaches importance to administration performance and cherishing public resources.

Public Opinion

- The Commission of Audit has set up a hotline and an email account for the public to comment on the services provided by the Government, and will follow up on the comments or transfer them to relevant departments, for service enhancement.

Graton launches second Macau adventure for Michel Vaillant

Civil servant expenditure grows MOP1.6b per year



From Left: Sacha Fenestraz, Benéteau, Graton and Couto

Philippe Graton

Daniel Beittler

THE second adventure in Macau of fabled comic book hero Michel Vaillant officially kicked off yesterday with a special edition book launch at the Grand Lapa hotel in NAPE district. It follows a 35-year gap since the racing drivers previous visit to gambling enclave in the 1980s, in “Rendez-vous in Macao”.

Titled simply “Macau”, the 66-page comic book is filled with recognizable – and realistically depicted – locations across the Macau peninsula, including shots of the Grand Lisboa, the Ruins of St. Paul’s and, of course, the Guia Circuit.

The book is written by Philippe Graton, the son of series founder Jean Graton, and Denis Lapière, while the illustrations are the work of Benjamin Benéteau and Marc Bourgne.

The special edition launched yesterday features a unique cover design with the Grand Lapa hotel façade in the background. It also includes a foreword by

I took 4,000 photos last year to make the album, so it was nice to visit the city again today and rediscover the city after drawing it.

BENJAMIN BENÉTEAU
ILLUSTRATOR

local racing driver, André Couto, who found success at the Macau Grand Prix in 2000, and who attributes his drift into the world of motor racing to the influence of earlier Michel Vaillant epics.

Yesterday’s book launch invited Philippe Graton and Benjamin Benéteau, as well as racing

drivers André Couto and Sacha Fenestraz, the latter of whom is featured in the story as a character.

“I am very proud to have Sacha Fenestraz as the guest star for this album,” Graton told the crowd at the book launch. “Sacha, who will be racing [in the Macau Grand Prix] this weekend, last year made his debut in Macau. He did something outstanding; he started in 11th and finished seventh. When you know what this race is about and what it’s like to do it for the first time... that’s really an achievement.”

“I am also [thankful] that Sacha accepted to have his car [painted] like the Vaillant car. This morning in the pits, I didn’t know if I am in reality or in the comic strips,” he added.

“I have to thank Philippe Graton for this amazing opportunity,” said Fenestraz in reply. “When I saw the book for the first time I was over the moon. I was [astonished] with how close it is to real life... even now as I

am jumping in the car, it feels like I am in the comic. It’s a real pleasure being a part of the Michel Vaillant family.”

The idea of bringing Michel Vaillant back to Macau was planted while Philippe Graton attended The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival last year to present an exhibition of some of his father’s work. In order to prepare for Vaillant’s return, the production team extensively toured the MSAR last year, scoping out possible locations and taking thousands of pictures.

“It was really a unique experience for me [to work on this project],” said illustrator Benéteau. “I took 4,000 photos last year to make the album, so it was nice to visit the city again today and rediscover the city after drawing it. [...] This is a really beautiful city and I have fallen in love with it.”

Vaillant’s second adventure in Macau is the seventh comic book since the series was relaunched by Philippe Graton with a more updated, “21st century touch.”

IN the nine years between 2010 and 2018, civil servant expenditure increased, on average, MOP1.6 billion per year, according to the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

The chairman of the committee, Chan Chak Mo, said after this week’s committee meeting that the data came from information compiled by AL advisers.

This year, the budget for expenditure on civil servants reached MOP23 billion. In addition, the government has been increasing its manpower every year. For instance, in 2017, it was estimated to have increased its manpower by 1,500 people. It is expected that this manpower will increase by more than 800 people this year.

According to Chan, the government explained to lawmakers that the principle for recruiting staff in most governmental departments consists of hiring one when another leaves. However, some departments hired more staff due to an increase in departmental functions.

For example, the security sector saw a relatively large increase in manpower in response to the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, in particular due to the establishment of a new port and to the strengthening of water management.

The social affairs and culture secretariat also saw a large increase in manpower in order to cope with the 24-hour operation of public hospitals.

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

MGS SUMMIT 2018

Experts call on gov't support in e-gaming promotion

Lynzy Valles

SLOT machines in the region only occupy some 10 percent of the city's gambling floors, implying that slot gaming remains a small market for Macau.

In a forum held yesterday at the MGS Summit 2018, gaming experts and executives called for promotion of e-gaming, implying a call for an easing of regulations towards e-gaming machines.

Since there is a distinct cultural nuance within countries in Asia in which cultural and gaming presences differ, there is a need to satisfy players according to their preferences – which different jurisdictions may treat differently.

According to gaming experts, slot machines are a minor market for the SAR.

Walter Bugno, chief executive officer of IGT International, said there are a series of components that differentiate the way gamblers from the West and Asia play, particularly driven by culture.

"As a result, we see different opportunities in Macau. Specifically, the e-gaming machine market is still relatively small, relatively undeveloped and relatively poorly understood by players that are visiting. It's an incentive for us to help develop this market," said Bugno, who was one of the speakers at the panel discussion.

Commenting on which regions are recording fast progress in the use of slot machines, Bugno added that Asia is more underdeveloped in the electronic gaming market, noting that excluding Australia and Japan, there are only 50,000 slot machines de-



From left: Takahiro Usui, Herman Ng, Jay Chun, Chris Rowe, Walter Bugno and Aljoša Krupenk

ployed in Asia.

"Asia is interesting because it's a small market that is growing. There's growth in every market," the executive added.

Macau can lead the world. We're seeing games being developed for Macau and it's enjoying massive success globally.

CHRIS ROWE
ARISTOCRAT ASIA PACIFIC

The experts at the forum noted that engaging customers to return to the same machine remains a challenge to the incumbents in the market.

Chris Rowe, managing director for Aristocrat Asia Pacific, reiterated that while slot machines are a small market on a global scale, Macau – with distinctive regulations – is even smaller.

"People like us on this panel have to do bespoke development in each of these markets," said Rowe. "Macau can lead the world. We're seeing games being developed for Macau and it's enjoying massive success globally," he added, yet noted that leading from a technology or hardware standpoint remains a challenge due to some regulations.

Although customers in the region still prefer real table games, the experts hoped that they would be more accepting of electronic gaming, citing that Macau's gaming floors have enough space, hinting at the potential growth of such a market.

Jay Chun, chairman of Macau Gaming Equipment Manufacturers Association, suggested that the government create policy favorable to operators.

"I think the gaming law will be modified anyway. I think if some policy comes out, [a] de-

preciation for gaming devices can [lower] tax, then it will encourage operators to buy more electronic gaming machines [...] and it will be better promoted to the mass market," Chun said.

He added that electronic gaming devices are much easier to manage, citing that there is no need for staff to oversee the game.

"Electronic gaming machines must be a major income for the market. We have to ask the government to make some new policies to encourage operators to enlarge [this market]," Chun added.

Echoing the same sentiments, Walter Bugno noted the need to work closely with regulators in a bid to simplify and accelerate approval processes, along with working with gaming operators to maximize what they can do on their casino floors.

Bugno suggested that gaming operators could also promote e-game tournaments as a form of entertainment, and also allow customers to access games so they could play before they visit the casino and so have an informed choice about what to play once they arrive.

"Mystery jackpot [and] mystery payouts are also a form of promotion. If we can align with the regulator here, we can promote in this market as well," Bugno added.

The summit was part of the MGS Entertainment Show 2018, which ended yesterday.

The three-day summit discussed law, regulations and future trends of the entertainment industry, as well as the development of digital entertainment including game IP, eSports, and VR/AR, amongst others.

Call for proposals for 'hush! x Creative Industries'



The "HUSH!! Full Music" event will be held April 28 - May 1, 2019 at Hac Sa Beach, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has announced. The IC launched an open call for proposals for "hush! x Creative Industries," under which "individuals or companies can design and produce diverse creative products, with no limitation to product types." The IC stated it will select and review the applications based on three criteria: creative design concept, product uniqueness and sales and promotional plan.

DSI 'serves over 1 million people a year'

The director of the Identification Services Bureau (DSI), Ao Ieong U, said this week that the multi-service counters recently introduced are a way to provide convenience to the public and also to cope with the bureau's limited human resources. Ao explained that since DSI "serves over 1 million people a year," it had to find a more effective service model to cope with the increasing application volume. According to Ao, DSI found that the multi-service counter was an ideal solution. After allocation of resources, citizens can now lodge application for various identification documents in one counter at the same time.

Jollibee sees profit grow 26 percent

Philippines-based food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. (JFC) has seen its attributable profit grow by about 26 percent from July to September, attributable to overseas global expansion as well as the consolidation of American burger chain Smashburger into its portfolio. JFC's business in Europe, the Middle East and Asia (except its home market in the Philippines) increased by 32 percent, while revenue in the China region increased 5.2 percent. Business in the Philippines, which accounts for around 70 percent of its revenue, increased by 15 percent. The company opened a Jollibee fast food store in Macau in June of this year. JFC opened 302 stores in the July to September period, meaning it runs a total of 4,353 stores around the world, as of the end of September.

corporate bits

MGM INVITES RUTTER, WEBB TO MEET WITH INCLUSIVE COMMUNITY



For the fifth consecutive year, MGM has invited athletes with intellectual disabilities or additional needs to meet with the Grand Prix Motorcycle Team sponsored by MGM. This community program con-

sists of an art workshop and a meet-and-greet with the motorcycle racers, as well as the opportunity to watch the races from the grandstand and paddock, said the gaming operator in a statement.

About 100 athletes with intellectual disabilities collaborated on designs for a BMW motorcycle, race suits and helmets, as well as a wall banner for the Motorcycle Team at the paddock.

On November 11, Grand Prix motorcycle racers Michael Rutter and Danny Webb greeted the athletes from both the Association of the Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities and the Macau IC2 Association at Tap Seac Square.

Rutter said, "I started racing in the Macau Grand Prix in 1994 and I have always considered Macau as one of my homes. I am glad that MGM gave us the opportunity to bring joy to these athletes and take part in promoting social inclusion in Macau."

WELL LINK BANK TO PROVIDE A REBATE OF 8PCT ON CEM BILLS



Well Link Bank, which recently opened a branch in NAPE, has announced a cashback program which provides a rebate of 8 percent on CEM monthly electricity bills, up to a bill amount not exceeding MOP1,100.

To qualify for this rebate, participants must use the bank's CEM Autopay service and keep a balance of at least MOP50,000 in a savings account. The Bank also guarantees that the 8 percent rebate will be maintained for a period of at least two years. Well Link Bank said in a press release that it would continue to make a range of financial products available through various distribution channels, including mobile banking, and a personalized service to its customers.

Strip-club business meetings persist in the #MeToo era

Jeff Green

CELEBRATING a job well done with a group trip to the gentlemen's club feels about as modern as, well, the term "gentlemen's club." But it's still common enough that at least one company - Under Armour Inc. - had to tell employees to stop expensing visits to strip clubs earlier this year.

Live adult entertainment generates about USD6 billion in annual sales, according to WestPark Capital analyst Ishfaq Faruk, with what he calls "consumer-staple type growth" - around 1 percent to 2 percent per year. He follows the industry as part of his coverage of RCI Hospitality Holdings, and industry executives have persuaded him business customers are still part of the financial model.

The past year has brought new attention to the sexist and harassing behavior women face in many workplaces, from explicitly sexual overtures to getting passed over for leadership positions and raises. After all that, the idea that a strip club is a good place to, say, bond with a client or co-workers seems especially reckless, said Marianne Cooper, a sociologist at Stanford University's Women's Leadership Innovation Lab.

"Business does not have to get done this way," she said. "It's not that it's central to business, but it is central to these kinds of dysfunctional toxic cultures where women aren't



seen as competent colleagues."

Under Armour Inc. got the memo earlier this year, when it explicitly banned strip clubs as an allowable corporate expense. But whether on the corporate card or not, club owners say their corporate clientele is as enthusiastic as ever.

The Rosewood Theater, a high-end Manhattan strip club

popular with Wall Streeters, is planning to expand, with pop-up clubs taking test runs in four U.S. cities next year. At clubs in Detroit, Houston and Dallas, there are still plenty of corporate cards and briefcases. And shares of RCI, which owns about 40 adult-themed clubs and restaurants, hit a record high in July.

"For guys just throwing corporate cards down, you hear more about it in bigger cities like New York and San Francisco, convention cities like that," said Dave Manack, associate publisher for ED Publications, a trade magazine that covers the strip-club industry and organizes an annual conference. "The rank and file club in Poughkeepsie or Lubbock, Texas, that's not their bread and butter."

Live adult entertainment generates about USD6b in annual sales

As many as 150 customers head to the Rosewood each night, according to a person associated with the business who asked to remain anonymous because he's not authorized to talk to the press. Launched by Kalin Moon, whose company is called Die Happy Tonight, the club hosts a steady stream of customers until 4 a.m., when New York City's bars have to close.

The arrangement is novel: The women who entertain the patrons aren't formal employees - technically, they're guests invited by management. But they do earn money, in the form of tips from customers; club management instructs them to forgo perfume, so pa-

trons don't return home with a telltale scent.

Next year, Moon will take the show on the road, targeting the moneyed professionals in Silicon Valley, Miami, Los Angeles, and Austin, Texas, with pop-up events in existing clubs in those cities or at invitation-only parties in rented loft spaces.

As it is, company expense accounts only make up a fraction of revenue, says Angelina Spencer, the executive director of the Association of Club Executives, or ACE. The organization, which represents more than 1,000 clubs, estimates it at about 10 percent.

"It's dropped considerably," said Spencer, a former club co-owner. "Companies have mostly put the kibosh on it."

That doesn't mean patrons aren't still entertaining clients or partying with co-workers at strip clubs. It just means they're footing the bill themselves or lying about it to their employer. Club names still never show up on a credit card bill or expense account - they're replaced by the kind of neutral-sounding pseudonym that gives employees and husbands plausible deniability.

What's more, existing clubs are in position of strength, Faruk said. Local stigma and zoning regulations keeps the total number of clubs in the U.S. at between 3,000 and 4,000 - about one-quarter the number of McDonald's. "It's actually, surprisingly, very stable," he said.

Faruk says he sees lots of potential for the industry as individual operators retire and look to be bought out. Since August, RCI has announced the purchase of clubs in Pittsburgh and Chicago and has identified 500 more as potential acquisitions. **Bloomberg**

RETAIL

Hugo Boss plans Zara therapy to stop missing fashion trends

Thomas Mulier,
Richard Weiss

HUGO Boss AG is taking a cue from Zara owner Inditex SA to further its transition from conservative suitmaking toward a faster-fashion model. The German clothier said it would sharpen its focus on consumer trends by speeding up production, personalizing its clothes more and boosting e-commerce. The stock rose as much as 2.9 percent in Frankfurt.

Hugo Boss is trying to dispel the fashion mistakes that dogged performance in 2015 and 2016.

Sales growth should average 5 percent to 7 percent excluding currency movements over the next four years, the retailer said. "The challenge is recruiting younger consumers," wrote Piral Dadhania, an analyst at RBC Capital Markets.

Speed has become crucial not only for fast-fashion makers like Zara but also the premium end of the clothing market. Hugo Boss replaced its chief executive officer in 2016 and since then, successor Mark Langer has been focusing the suitmaker on casualwear. Yves Mueller joined as chief financial

officer this year.

Langer and Mueller also set a goal for an operating margin of 15 percent by 2022. About half of the improvement will come from an efficiency plan, Langer said on a call with journalists as he ruled out job cuts.

Hugo Boss plans to add more services such as online appointments with suitmakers and increased customization as it shifts to digitally designed collections, Langer said.

"Don't underestimate monograms," he said. Often clothes are bought as gifts, and that increases the value to consumers,

according to the CEO. Hugo Boss has been able to cut the development time of some new collections by as much as half, which will help the company react more quickly to events such as Europe's recent freak hot spell, he said.

Hugo Boss plans to depend more on Asian growth, where it forecasts sales to rise at least 10 percent a year through 2022, particularly in China. The region makes up 15 percent of the company's sales now.

The Metzingen, Germany-based company forecast its own e-commer-



ce revenue to quadruple to about 400 million euros by 2022.

Hugo Boss aims to grow faster than its niche of the clothing market, which it expects to grow about 3 percent to 4 percent a

year, Langer said. There's talk in the industry of a big shift in clothing production coming back to Europe from Asia, though that's a process that would take years to develop, he added. **Bloomberg**

Taiwan seeks jump from worst to first in anti-money laundering

Getting Serious

Anti-money laundering fines surge in Taiwan from 2016

	Total number of cases	Total amount of fines
2013	116	NT\$200,000
2014	150	200,000
2015	180	200,000
2016	257	51,200,000
2017	277	32,060,000
2018	254	5,900,000

Source: Taiwan Financial Supervisory Commission
2018 figures Jan.-Sept.

Bloomberg

Miaojung Lin & Samson Ellis

OFFICIALS in Taiwan hoping that international monitors will this week upgrade its rating for anti-money laundering may have to thank one of its worst corporate scandals of the past decade for the achievement.

Taipei-based Mega International Commercial Bank Co., the island's third-biggest bank by assets, was in 2016 fined a record USD180 million by authorities in New York, who described its anti-money-laundering compliance program as a "hollow shell." The comments and punishment sent a shock wave through Taiwan's official circles just as legislators were considering new regulations to combat such financial crimes.

"It really was a blessing in disguise," Yu Li-chen, executive secretary of the government's Anti-Money Laundering Office, said in an interview. "During deliberations in the legislature, everyone was asking if there was another Mega Bank out there. I told them that if they passed the revised law as it stood then, I couldn't guarantee something like this wouldn't happen again."

Fear of a similar scandal pushed lawmakers to pass a stronger framework that was implemented in June 2017, strengthened further this month, and which is currently being evaluated by the Asia Pacific Group on Money Laundering. The government is hoping that a favorable assessment by APG will guarantee Taiwan's status as one of the best jurisdictions for anti-money-laundering ru-

les, alongside Macau and Indonesia. APG last year, in a previous round of reviews, raised the island's ranking from one of the worst.

Over the course of the two-week appraisal, APG's evaluators interviewed around 16 representatives, chosen from among Taiwan's financial institutions, as well as lawyers, accountants, real estate agents, financial regulators and the coast guard. The result will be announced today.

"If you get listed as a non-compliant country, then sanctions are leveled against you," former deputy justice minister Tsai Pi-chung, who led the government's efforts to tighten the regulations over the past two years, said in an interview in September. "And if you get sanctioned, your country crashes. Getting bad marks

on the evaluation is a serious issue."

Formally recognized as a country by just 17 nations around the world, Taiwan has few opportunities to actively participate in international organizations. But the island was a founding member of the APG in 1997, even though it was once among the organization's lowest-ranked countries. Lack of regulations that clearly ban terrorist financing was one area of particular concern in the APG's evaluation report in 2007.

Wellington Koo, chairman of Taiwan's Financial Supervisory Commission, said in an interview earlier this year that Taiwan's financial companies and officials had fallen into "box-checking culture" until the Mega Bank fine provided a wake-up call. Evidence of being shaken

out of the stupor is the 256-fold increase in fines leveled against banks, insurers and securities firms that year for money-laundering violations, according to FSC data.

Banks have chafed against some of the changes. The toughened know-your-customer rules meant firms had to cut ties with long-standing clients unwilling or unable to comply with the new regime. The stricter procedures have also affected banking customers. It now takes two forms of identification and a specified purpose to open a personal bank account. Corporate accounts require the company's registration documents and shareholding structure. The FSC is in the process of mandating checks on all transactions of over NTD500,000 (USD16,000).

Politicians have also had to reckon with more paperwork when dealing with their own banking. In a recent legislative hearing, lawmaker Liu Jian-guo from the ruling Democratic Progressive Party complained to Koo about the additional burdens.

Whatever grade the APG ends up giving Taiwan, no one is under any illusions about the scale of the challenge ahead. PwC Taiwan partner Liang Hung-lieh, who helped institutions prepare for the evaluation, said it could take two to three years to build up the necessary data to establish usable customer risk profiles.

In the meantime the APG's assessment, along with last year's new law, created work for those under scrutiny, such as Tsai Chao-chen, an accountant at Tianxia Certified Public Bookkeeping, who underwent an APG evaluation this week.

"This process has forced us to get to grips with these new rules faster and in more detail than some others," he said. "Some business peers have canceled plans to travel overseas for this period and they don't even know if they will be called upon." **Bloomberg**

STUDY

Chinese to account for half of luxury sales by 2025

CHINESE consumers will remain the driving force for luxury goods market, according to a new study by Bain consultancy released yesterday that shows they will fuel nearly half of global high-end sales by 2025.

Chinese shoppers will account for 46 percent of global luxury sales of an estimated 365 billion euros (USD412 billion) in just six years, Bain said in the study, which was prepared for Italy's Altgamma association of high-end producers. That's up from one third of all

sales of luxury apparel, accessories and cosmetics last year.

Bain partner Claudia D'Arpizio says half of those purchases will be made in China, as price differences between countries fade and brands improve the customer experience in China.

Bain said luxury sales this year are forecast to grow 2 percent to 260 billion euros, in figures restated to exclude luxury art, design and decor. Taking into account both luxury goods and experiences, the market

is expected to grow by 5 percent to 1.2 trillion euros globally.

Luxury goods sales in China this year are forecast to be up 18 percent to 23 billion euros. Europe and the Americas, still the two largest markets, remain flat due to strong currencies, totaling 84 billion euros and 80 billion euros, respectively.

D'Arpizio said that Bain identifies five different generations of luxury goods consumers in the current market, from those born before 1945

whose spending focuses more on experiences than hard luxury, to current teenagers who favor casual wear like expensive sneakers.

"This is an opportunity for brands to cherry-pick the customer. Loro Piana and Balenciaga have different customer bases, while Gucci or Louis Vuitton can be relevant for teenagers or older customers," she said.

"That is why we are very positive on the market going forward," she said, with annual growth of 3 percent to 5 percent. **AP**



Beijing says foreign concerns over Muslim rights unwarranted

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA said yesterday that 15 foreign ambassadors exceeded their diplomatic roles by issuing a letter expressing concern about the incarceration of hundreds of thousands of members of the country's Muslim minorities in re-education camps.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters at a daily briefing that it would be "problematic" if the diplomats were attempting to put pressure on local authorities in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where the detentions have taken place.

Hua said the letter violated the terms of the Vienna Convention governing diplomatic relations and that the ambassadors should not "interfere in the internal affairs of other countries."

"As ambassadors, they are supposed to play positive roles in promoting mutual understanding, mutual trust and cooperation ... rather than making unreasonable requests to the countries where they are based," Hua said.

She said the letter issued this week and reportedly spearheaded by Canada was based on hearsay, despite widely distributed reports from detainees, relatives and officials documenting the sweeping and seemingly arbitrary detentions.

Inmates and relatives say the camps impose military-style discipline and punishments



Young Muslims read from official Chinese language textbooks in Hotan, Xinjiang

and force detainees to renounce their religion and culture while swearing fealty to President Xi Jinping and the ruling Communist Party.

Asked about the letter, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said he had "highlighted the questions and concerns that we have" surrounding the issue in his bilateral meeting with Chinese Premier Li Keqiang on the sidelines of the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations in Singapore.

"Canada will continue to look for ways to advance and promote human rights in partnership with our likeminded allies everywhere around the world," Trudeau said at a news conference yesterday.

The letter to the Chinese government has not been made public, but the Reuters news agency said it was signed by 15 Western ambassadors, including the Canadian, British, French, Swiss, European Union, German, and Australian envoys.

Diplomats from the countries named in the report either did not reply to requests for confirmation or said they had no comment.

Hua's comments came as a bipartisan group of U.S. lawmakers is bringing a measure to urge President Donald Trump to help Chinese Muslims respond to the crackdown.

The legislation would urge Trump to condemn "gross violations" of human rights in Xin-

jiang, where the U.N. estimates that as many as 1 million Uighurs and other predominantly Muslim minorities are being held in arbitrary detention.

Xinjiang adheres to the historical tradition of the Sinosization of religion and actively adapts religion to socialist society.

GOV'T REPORT

It would also support an existing push for sanctions against Xinjiang Communist Party chief Chen Quanguo and other officials under the Magnitsky Act, which prevents foreign officials from entering the U.S. and freezes any assets they have in U.S. banks.

Other sanctions raised for consideration by the act include a ban on sales of U.S.-made goods or services to Xinjiang state agents such as those that could be used for surveillance and suppression.

Chinese authorities have denied that the internment camps exist, but say petty criminals are sent to "employment training centers." The Xinjiang government has revised regulations to officially permit the use of "education and training centers" to reform "people influenced by extremism."

The rules direct the centers to teach the Mandarin language, occupational and legal education, as well as "ideological education, psychological rehabilitation and behavior correction."

Xinjiang's native Uighur and Kazakh ethnic groups are culturally, religiously and linguistically distinct from China's Han majority and the region has been home to a low-intensity rebellion against rule from Beijing. Many of the region's natives say their culture is under threat from Chinese policies aiming to assimilate them and that they face disadvantages in education and employment from Han migrants from other parts of China.

Members of the Muslim Hui ethnic group — culturally and linguistically closer to the Han — have also been ensnared in the campaign that has drawn comparisons to Mao Zedong's radical 1966-76 Cultural Revolution.

Also yesterday, China's Cabinet released a report entitled "Protection and Development of Xinjiang Culture," that stressed the importance of adopting Mandarin Chinese among ethnic groups and referred to their Islamic faith as "religious culture."

"Xinjiang adheres to the historical tradition of the Sinosization of religion and actively adapts religion to socialist society," the report said. **AP**

China influence on display as leaders converge on island nation

CHINESE President Xi Jinping didn't arrive in Papua New Guinea until late yesterday, but his presence has been felt there for some time.

China has been pouring money into the Pacific Island nation, injecting at least USD5.9 billion of infrastructure spending since 2011 into an economy smaller than any U.S. state. The investment has highlighted the region's growing status as a strategic battleground between China and U.S. allies ahead of Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summits, which are bringing Xi, Russia's Vladimir Putin and Vice President Mike Pence there this week.

APEC attendees arrived

in the capital Port Moresby aboard shuttles donated by China. A banner advertising the state-owned China Railway Group flew over a construction site near cruise ships being used to house delegations. Other Chinese firms, including CreditEase Corp., Beijing Rogrand E-Commerce Co. and Jian Nan Chun, a signature maker of baijiu alcohol, are featured on the event's sponsors list.

With President Donald Trump's absence fueling doubts over his administration's commitment to Asia, Xi - making the first such visit by a Chinese president - is seizing the opportunity to assert his country's influence. Xi is hosting Pacific Island lea-

ders at a special summit, a show of strength in a resource-rich region eager to benefit from his signature Belt and Road trade and infrastructure initiative.

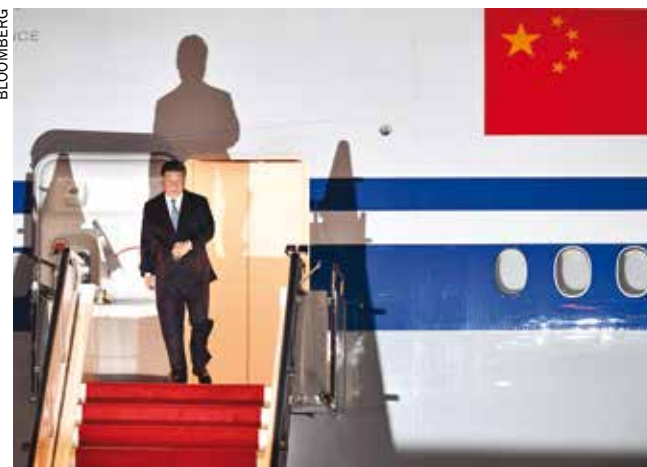
Prime Minister Peter O'Neill said before the summit that Papua New Guinea "is not interested in geopolitics" and was "very much interested in doing business with everyone."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told a regular briefing last month the support had been provided during the APEC meetings at Papua New Guinea's request and that Beijing would "attach no political strings and never impose our own will on others." Still, Xi highli-

ghted more permanent support in editorials published in local newspapers yesterday.

"Our relationship has stood the test of changing international circumstances and stayed as strong as ever," Xi wrote ahead of his arrival in the crime-stricken capital, where the conference begins Saturday. Hydropower stations, hospitals and school dormitories financed by Chinese loans have become landmarks across the country, Xi said, adding that Chinese companies have helped construct roads, bridges, airports and docks.

In his article, Xi expressed appreciation for diplomatic allies in the South Pacific for their "valuable



Island nation feels like 'Province of China' as leaders converge in Port Moresby

support of China on issues involving China's core interests and major concerns" - a veiled reference to Taiwan. The democratically run island - which China considers a province - maintains diplomatic relations with six Pacific Island countries, crucial allies amid Beijing's recent efforts to lure away those who remain.

PNG is the first stop of

Xi's Asia-Pacific tour - he will also visit Brunei and the Philippines.

"One of China's major goals is to win friends in a competition with Taiwan," said Yu Changsen, executive director of China's National Center for Oceania Studies at Sun Yat-sen University. The two "have had a diplomatic battle in this region for a long time." **Bloomberg**



Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (center) and South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (right)

ASEAN SUMMIT

US, China rivalry challenging entwined Asia-Pacific region

Annabelle Liang
& Elaine Kurtenbach, Singapore

THE rivalry between the U.S. and China in the Asia-Pacific is proving “awkward” for Southeast Asian nations that do not want to have to choose between their friends, Singapore’s prime minister said yesterday as he wrapped up a regional summit.

“It’s easiest not to take sides when everybody else is on the same side. But if you are friends with two countries which are on different sides, then sometimes it is possible to get along with both, sometimes it’s more awkward if you try to get along with both,” Lee Hsien Loong said when asked about the competition between the U.S. and China in the region at a news conference.

Lee, who hosted the annual summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, said countries whose economies and strategic interests are deeply entwined with both powers would prefer not to have to decide, “but the circumstances may come where ASEAN may have to choose one or the other. I hope it does not happen soon.”

The comments appeared intended to send a message to the U.S., represented this week by Vice President Mike Pence in place of President Donald

Trump, and to China, whose growing influence across the region is abundantly clear at such international gatherings.

Trade tensions between the U.S. and China over Beijing’s technology policy and other market access issues have added to strains within the region, especially since Trump took office in early 2017. The two sides have imposed tariffs on billions of dollars of each other’s products in a standoff that has shown no sign of easing.

Lee also remarked on Trump’s “America First” deal-oriented diplomacy, saying it was a departure from the past, when “they were generous, they opened their markets, they made investments, they provided regional security, and in the indirect benefits of a prospering region, the U.S. prospered along.”

“But now they say ‘no, that’s not good enough. I want every deal to come,’ and that will mean a different kind of relationship and we will have to get used to it if the U.S. decides that this is the direction which they would go in the long term,” Lee said.

In comments to the gathering earlier in the day, Pence stressed the American commitment to the region, where he said there was no room for “empire or aggression.”

In a veiled swipe at China’s growing influence and military

expansion in the South China Sea, he said that “Our vision for the Indo-Pacific excludes no nation. It only requires that every nation treat their neighbors with respect, they respect the sovereignty of all nations and the international rules of order.”

The ASEAN meetings focus on enhanced trade and security in a region of more than 630 million people. They ended with commitments to work toward a regional free trade agreement and enhance cybersecurity, counterterrorism efforts, e-commerce, disaster preparedness and environment protection.

Many of the same leaders will head to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum in Papua New Guinea, where many of the same issues will be on the agenda.

While in Singapore, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang sought to reassure China’s neighbors over its expanding reach, both economic and military, across the region and urged fellow Asian leaders to help reassure world markets roiled by trade tensions.

Southeast Asian countries and others in the region share China’s consternation over the Trump administration’s rejection of multilateral trade regimes and the global trade system that have helped them modernize and enrich their economies.

Many of the leaders attending the meetings in Singapore have emphasized the need to fight protectionism and safeguard the rules that help govern global trade.

“If you are friends with two countries which are on different sides, then sometimes it is possible to get along with both.”

LEE HSIEN LOONG
PM, SINGAPORE

The region needs to “take concrete action to uphold the rules-based free trade regime and to send a message — a positive message — to the market to provide stable, predictable and law-based conditions for the market,” Li said.

Security issues, in particular managing conflict in the South China Sea, were another major focus of the meetings. The sea is a potential flashpoint, and a

huge concern for the U.S. and other countries that rely on the right of passage for shipping.

China is pitted against its smaller neighbors in multiple disputes in the sea over coral reefs and lagoons in waters crucial for global commerce and rich in fish and potential oil and gas reserves.

ASEAN leaders said they discussed the need for restraint in the area.

“We all agreed on ways and means not to increase tensions in the South China Sea. And that means not bringing in warships and allowing for freedom of navigation,” Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed told reporters. “Small patrol boats are needed to deal with piracy, mainly, but big warships may cause incidents and that will lead to tension.”

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, who has relaxed his country’s stance on Chinese claims to islands also claimed by Manila, said it also was crucial that the countries involved finish work on a “code of conduct” to help prevent misunderstandings that could lead to conflict.

“China is there. That is the reality,” he told reporters before joining the day’s meetings. “Strong military activity will prompt a response from China. I do not mind everybody going to war, but except that the Philippines is just beside those islands. If there is shooting there my country will be the first to suffer.”

The sessions yesterday followed scores of bilateral meetings among the leaders.

While the gathering was typically focused on cooperation and goodwill, concerns over Myanmar’s treatment of its ethnic Rohingya Muslims flared with unusually sharp, public comments both by Pence and Mahathir to the country’s leader, Nobel Peace Prize laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

More than 700,000 Rohingya have fled from western Myanmar’s Rakhine state to escape killings and destruction of their homes by the country’s military and vigilantes, drawing widespread condemnation and international accusations of genocide against Myanmar.

Asked if Suu Kyi had agreed to his direct request that she pardon two Reuters’ journalists imprisoned in Myanmar, Pence replied, “We did not get a clear answer on that.” He said Suu Kyi had given some details on the appeals process and judicial handling of their cases.

ASEAN groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. Its annual summit includes meetings with various other nations.

Next year’s summit is planned in Thailand, whose capital Bangkok was the site of the 1967 meeting that created ASEAN. **AP**

SRI LANKA

Lawmakers fight in Parliament over PM dispute

Bharatha Mallawarachi, Colombo

RIVAL lawmakers exchanged blows in Sri Lanka's Parliament yesterday as disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa claimed the speaker had no authority to remove him from office by voice vote.

The fighting in the chamber came a day after it passed a no-confidence vote against Rajapaksa's government. When Parliament re-convened, Speaker Karu Jayasuriya said the country had no government and there was no prime minister — either Rajapaksa or his rival whose ousting in late October by the president started a political crisis.

Rajapaksa disagreed, saying "a vote should have been taken. Such important motions should not be passed by a voice vote." He added that Jayasuriya has no power to remove or appoint the prime minister and Cabinet members.



Sri Lankan Lawmakers fight in the parliament chamber in Colombo yesterday

He accused the speaker of being partial and representing the position of his party, the United National Party, led by ousted Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe.

Rajapaksa also called for fresh elections, suggesting that it was the best way to resolve the crisis.

The brawl erupted after the opposition asked for a vote on Rajapaksa's statement, with lawmakers supporting him gathering in the middle of the hou-

se while some ran toward the speaker shouting slogans condemning his behavior.

More than 50 lawmakers in the 225-member house fought, and some who fell on the floor were kicked by rivals. Some of the lawmakers supporting Rajapaksa threw water bottles, books and trash cans at the speaker. Those opposed to Rajapaksa surrounded Jayasuriya to protect him.

Dilum Amunugama, an ally of

Rajapaksa, was taken to a hospital with injuries to his hand incurred while trying to pull out a microphone from the speaker's table.

The commotion went on for about half an hour before Jayasuriya adjourned the house.

"The speaker was under complete siege, he came very close to being physically assaulted by MPs supporting Rajapaksa," said Chandani Kirinde, a senior correspondent of the Sunday Times, a weekly paper in Sri Lanka. "While clashes have happened in the house, this is probably the first time the speaker came under so much intimidation and abuse."

On Wednesday, Jayasuriya said debate on the no-confidence motion was not possible after the chamber descended into chaos and he had no choice but to take an oral vote.

In January, lawmakers also exchanged blows during a debate over alleged corruption that mar-

red the reputation of Wickremesinghe's government, which was elected on a platform of good governance.

Sri Lanka has been in a crisis since Oct. 26, when President Maithripala Sirisena suddenly fired Wickremesinghe and replaced him with Rajapaksa. Rajapaksa, a former president, is considered a hero by some in the ethnic Sinhalese majority for ending a long civil war by crushing ethnic Tamil Tiger rebels. However, his time in power was marred by allegations of wartime atrocities, corruption and nepotism.

Tensions had been building between Sirisena and Wickremesinghe for some time, as the president did not approve of economic reforms introduced by the prime minister. Sirisena has also accused Wickremesinghe and another Cabinet member of plotting to assassinate him, a charge Wickremesinghe has repeatedly denied.

Sirisena had also suspended Parliament, apparently to allow Rajapaksa time to gather support among lawmakers. But Wickremesinghe insisted his firing was unconstitutional. He refused to vacate his official residence and demanded that Parliament be summoned to prove he still has support. AP

AD



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BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May was battling yesterday to save both her Brexit deal and her job, as ministers quit her government and a growing list of lawmakers demanded her ouster over the divorce agreement struck between Britain and the European Union.

Less than a day after May won her Cabinet's grudging backing for the deal, two Cabinet ministers and a handful of junior government members resigned, and a leading pro-Brexit lawmaker from May's Conservative Party called for a no-confidence vote in the prime minister.

The hard-won agreement has infuriated pro-Brexit members of her divided party. They say the agreement, which calls for close trade ties between the U.K. and the bloc, would leave Britain a vassal state, bound to European Union rules it has no say in making.

A defiant May insisted that Brexit meant making "the right choices, not the easy ones" and urged lawmakers to support the deal "in the national interest." She said the deal was best for business as it would help maintain easy trade with Europe and would reduce uncertainty.

But she has been weakened by the resignation of two senior Cabinet ministers, including Brexit Secretary Dominic Raab. Hours after he sat in the meeting that approved the deal, Raab said he "cannot in good conscience" support it.

Work and Pensions Secretary Esther McVey followed Raab out the door. She said in a letter that it is "no good trying to pretend to [voters] that this deal honors the result of the referendum when it is obvious to everyone that it doesn't."

In another blow to May, leading pro-Brexit lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg called for a vote of no-confidence in May, saying the Brexit deal was "worse than anticipated."

Standing outside Parliament Rees-Mogg said the deal agreed "is not Brexit" because it would keep Britain in a customs union with the EU, potentially for an indefinite period.

Under Conservative rules, a confidence vote in the leader is triggered if 15 percent of Conservative lawmakers — currently 48 — write a letter to the party's 1922 Committee of backbenchers, which oversees leadership votes.

Only committee chairman Graham Brady knows for sure how many missives have been sent, but Rees-Mogg's letter is likely to spur others to do the same.

Rees-Mogg denied he was calling for a party coup. "A coup is when you use illegitimate processes," he said. "This is working through the procedures of the Conservative Par-

UK

Theresa May battles to save her Brexit deal and her job



EU chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier, left, delivers the draft withdrawal agreement to European Council President Donald Tusk



Britain's Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Dominic Raab

ty."

He called for May to be replaced by a more firmly pro-Brexit politician, naming ex-Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson, former Brexit Secretary David Davis and Raab as potential successors.

If a confidence vote is held and May loses, it would trigger a party leadership contest in which any Conservative lawmaker can run. The winner would become prime minister without the need for a national election.

The turmoil prompted a big fall in the value of the pound,

which was trading 1.5 percent lower at USD1.2797 as investors fretted that Britain could potentially crash out of the EU next March, a development that could see tariffs placed on British exports, border checks reinstated, and restrictions imposed travelers and workers — a potentially toxic combination for businesses.

A growing worry as Brexit day approaches is that companies will enact contingency plans that could include cutting jobs, stockpiling goods, and relocating production overseas.

May and her supporters say

the alternatives to her deal — leaving the trading bloc without a deal or a second vote on Brexit — are not realistic options.

"The choice is clear," May told lawmakers. "We can choose to leave with no deal. We can risk no Brexit at all. Or we can choose to unite and support the best deal that can be negotiated — this deal."

News that a deal had been struck after a year and a half of negotiations was welcomed in Brussels and EU chief Donald Tusk called for a summit of leaders on Nov. 25 so they can ru-

bber-stamp the agreement.

Tusk said it was "not for me to comment on the latest developments in London."

"All I can say is that the EU is prepared for a final deal with the U.K. in November," he said. "We are also prepared for a no deal scenario but of course we are best prepared for a no-Brexit scenario."

The deal needs approval from Britain's Parliament before the U.K. leaves the bloc on March 29 — and even if May survives as leader, the chances of that appear to be shrinking.

Her Conservative government doesn't have enough lawmakers of its own to get a majority, and relies on the support of the Democratic Unionist Party from Northern Ireland, which says it will not back the deal.

■ The turmoil prompted a big fall in the value of the pound

The DUP leader in Parliament, Nigel Dodds, said the "choice" was clear.

"We stand up for the United Kingdom, the whole of the United Kingdom, the integrity of the United Kingdom, or we vote for a vassal state with the breakup of the United Kingdom, that is the choice."

Opposition parties also signaled they would vote against the agreement.

Main opposition Labour Party leader Jeremy Corbyn said May should withdraw the "half-baked" Brexit deal and that Parliament "cannot and will not accept a false choice between this deal and no deal."


Ian Blackford, who heads the Scottish National Party in Parliament, said the deal was "dead on arrival" and urged May to "stop the clock and go back to Brussels."

An EU official cautioned that Britain was unlikely to get a better deal. Speaking on condition of anonymity because the process is still ongoing, the official said both sides "exhausted our margin of maneuver under our respective mandates."

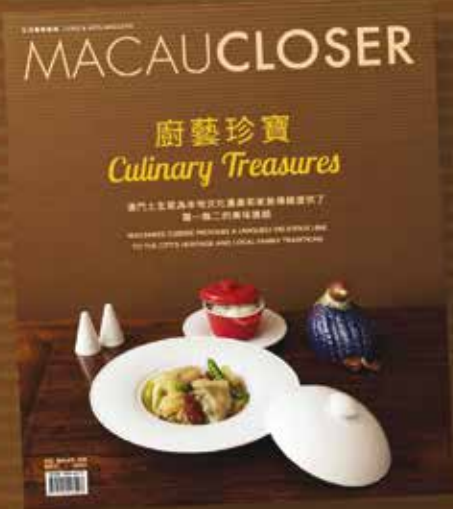
The deal requires the consent of the European Parliament as well. Its chief Brexit official, Guy Verhofstadt, welcomed the draft deal as "the best agreement we could obtain." Verhofstadt predicted the EU Parliament could approve the deal at the start of next year, well in time for Brexit day. **AP**


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US Trump administration defends its case against CNN's Acosta

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's administration is trying to fend off a legal challenge from CNN and other outlets over the revocation of journalist Jim Acosta's White House press credentials.

U.S. District Court Judge Timothy Kelly heard arguments Wednesday afternoon from lawyers representing CNN and the Justice Department. The news network is seeking an immediate restraining order that would force the White House to return Acosta's credentials — which grant reporters as-needed access to the 18-acre complex.

Acosta has repeatedly clashed with Trump and press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders in briefings over the last two years. But the dynamic devolved into a near-shouting match during a combative press conference last week following midterm elections in which Republicans lost control of the House.

Acosta refused to give up a microphone when the president said he didn't want to hear anything more from him. Trump



Jim Acosta walks into federal court in Washington

called Acosta a "rude, terrible person." The White House quickly announced that Acosta's White House access would be revoked.

The CNN lawsuit calls the revocation "an unabashed attempt to censor the press and exclude reporters from the White House who challenge and dispute the President's point of view."

The Associated Press joined with a group of 12 other news organizations, including Fox News, in filing an amicus brief Wednesday in support of CNN. "Secret Service passes for

working White House journalists should never be weaponized," said a statement by Fox News President Jay Wallace. "While we don't condone the growing antagonistic tone by both the President and the press at recent media avails, we do support a free press, access and open exchanges for the American people."

On Wednesday, Justice Department lawyer James Burnham argued that Acosta was guilty of "inappropriate grandstanding" and deserved to lose his access over "his refusal to

comply with the general standards of a press conference." Burnham also pointed out that CNN has dozens of other staffers with White House credentials, so excluding Acosta would not harm the network's coverage.

The network's lawyer, Theodore Boutros, contended that Acosta was being singled out for his coverage of the White House, not his alleged rudeness during a press conference. "The White House has made very clear that they don't like the content of the reporting by CNN and Jim Acosta," Boutros said. "Rudeness really is a code word for 'I don't like you being an aggressive reporter.'"

Prior to Wednesday's hearing, the White House had maintained that it has "broad discretion" to regulate press access to the White House. Trump himself, in an interview published Wednesday, was uncertain how the court fight would end, saying: "We'll see how the court rules. Is it freedom of the press when somebody comes in and starts screaming questions and

won't sit down?"

Trump told The Daily Caller that "guys like Acosta" were "bad for the country. [...] He's just an average guy who's a grandstander who's got the guts to stand up and shout."

AP joined with a group of 12 other news organizations, including Fox News, in filing an amicus brief in support of CNN

The White House's explanations for why it seized Acosta's credentials have shifted over the last week. Sanders initially explained the decision by accusing Acosta of making improper physical contact with the intern seeking to grab the microphone. But that rationale disappeared after witnesses backed Acosta's account that he was just trying to keep the mic, and Sanders distributed a doctored video that made it appear Acosta was more aggressive than he actually was. **AP**

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FRIDAY

07:30	52° MotoGP Timing (Live)
08:50	World Cup FIA Touring Cars – Timing (Live)
09:50	Lotus Cup - Timing (Live)
10:40	FOOD4U Cup touring Cars – (Live)
11:30	MGP Formula 3 Training 2 (Live)
12:30	World Cup FIA GT Training – (Live)
13:05	TDM News (Repeat)
13:35	World Cup FIA Touring Cars Qualifying
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.2
22:00	Contentor 13
23:15	TDM News

SATURDAY

07:10	Safety cars – test laps (Live)
09:00	MGP Formula 3 qualifying (Live)
10:25	FOOD4U Cup touring Cars – (Live)
11:50	52° MotoGP – Training (Live)
12:30	TDM News (Repetai)
13:05	SJM – World GT FIA Cup Qualifying Live
14:25	World Cup FIA Touring Cars – Race 1 (Live)
15:55	52° MotoGP (Live)
17:40	Hora dos Portugueses
18:25	Lusa Music Box
19:00	Animais Anónimos
19:40	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Um Homem Singular
23:15	TDM News

SUNDAY

07:10	Safety cars – test laps (Live)
08:20	World Cup FIA Touring Cars – Race 2 (Live)
09:35	Lotus Cup - 12 Laps (Live)
11:00	Corrida da Guia Macau Suncity Grupo – Taça do
12:25	World Cup FIA Touring Cars – Race 3 (Live)
14:00	World Cup FIA GT – (Live)
15:10	Lion Dance (Live)
15:30	MGP Fórmula 3 World Cup – (Live)
17:30	Got Talent Portugal Sr.4
19:40	Bem-Vindos a Beirais
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:50	Paraíso
23:15	TDM News

Offbeat

MISSING ZOO MEERKAT CASE SOLVED, THREE CHARGED IN AUSTRALIA

It wasn't grand theft. It was tiny.

But the snatching of a baby meerkat from a zoo has not only become a major story in the Australian city of Perth, it has led to the arrest of three people.

In September, Perth Zoo was ready to publicly show off its new month-old meerkitten to the public and media, but a day before its planned debut, it was gone.

Worried zoo staff said the male baby, who hadn't yet been named, had apparently got out of its nest box, and feared it may have been snatched by a bird of prey.

But the other possible reason for its disappearance — theft — was also explored.

Police were called to investigate, and two days later they found the missing meerkat — at a house 130 kilometers away, in the town of Beverley.

Police charged two people who had visited the zoo over the furry heist. Jesse Ray Hooker, 23, was charged with stealing, while his friend Aimee Cummins, also 23, with receiving stolen goods.

On Wednesday police charged a third person, a 31-year-old woman, also from Beverley, with possessing stolen property.

Hooker appeared in Perth Magistrates Court where defense lawyer Chad Silver said that he “fell in love” with the newborn meerkat as it ran toward him in its enclosure and had scooped it up and put it in his cooler bag.

Silver told the court Hooker was in the process of returning the meerkat when the police called. In the tiny town of Beverley, population 1,700, even a secret that small was apparently too hard to keep.

“The simplicity of the offence meant the police were able to capture and follow up the meerkat very quickly,” Silver told the court.



cinema

CINETEATRO

15 - 21 Nov



FANTASTIC BEASTS: THE CRIMES OF GINDELWALD
ROOM 1
2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm
Director: David Yates
Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Johny Depp, Jude Law
Language: English
Duration: 130min



THE CURED
ROOM 2
2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm
Director: David Freyne
Starring: Sam Keeley, Ellen Page,, Tom Vaughan-Lawlo
Language: English
Duration: 130min



CODE BLUE
ROOM 3
2:15, 7:00 pm
Director: Masaki Nishiura
Starring: Yamashita Tomohisa, Aragaki Yui, Toda Erika
Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)
Duration: 112min



MY HERO ACADEMIA
ROOM 3
4:45, 9:30 P.M.
Director: Kenji Nagasaki
Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)
Duration: 112min

this day in history



**1976 BANK ROBBERS
JAILED FOR 100 YEARS**

Seven men who took part in an £8m bank robbery have received jail terms totalling nearly 100 years.

The raid at the Bank of America in Mayfair, London, last year is believed to be the world's biggest.

Passing sentence, Judge Alan King-Hamilton said he was determined the thieves would not enjoy the fruits of their haul, only £500,000 of which has been recovered.

“What has been concealed will remain salted away so far as you are concerned for a great many years.

“Whatever has happened to it, it will not be used for your benefit,” Judge King-Hamilton said.

Key evidence in the trial came from Stuart Buckley, the “inside man” who turned police informant.

Buckley, who worked at the bank as an electrician, told officers the raid was the gang's second attempt.

They had previously tried unsuccessfully to drill through the bank vault's lock.

Buckley finally obtained the combination by hiding in the roof space above the vault door and peering through a hole in the ceiling as officials opened it.

Judge King-Hamilton passed the longest sentences on those considered to be the ringleaders.

Safe-cracker Leonard Wilde was sent to jail for 23 years and Peter Colson, 32, a used car dealer, for 21 years.

The judge also ordered criminal bankruptcy orders for £500,000 against both men.

Others in the gang were sentenced to periods ranging from 18 years for robbery to three years for receiving stolen goods.

However, the man said to have masterminded the crime appears to have escaped justice.

Frank Maple left Britain shortly after the robbery and is now believed to be in the African state of Morocco which has no extradition treaty with the UK.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Stuart Buckley, who was sentenced separately, received seven years for his part in the raid. The Bank of America theft was small compared to a robbery in January the same year at the British Bank of the Middle East in Lebanon. The thieves escaped with safe deposit boxes whose contents were valued at up to £22m (USD31m).

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
You're not comfortable with the pace of your own personal economic recovery, but there's not much you can do to speed things up. The best you can do is look on the bright side: At least things aren't going wrong.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Why be a sourpuss? You can be just as passionate about making lemonade from the lemons life has given you as you are about wishing it were a bowl of cherries. You know just what to do when you feel squeezed.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Money has no feelings. It's not generous, and it's not willful either. Do yourself a favor and be dispassionate yourself when thinking about your next few steps. In fact, be as calculating as you can be.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
The emotional intensity is easing. How can you continue being upset about what's basically worth less than a new pair of sneakers? Stop thinking about yesterday's value and focus on today.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your instinct is to look at issues deeply. But no matter how far beneath the surface you search, there's no information to help you figure out your next steps. Switch gears and focus on your family instead.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
You may not believe the pessimists around you. Don't. Your goals may be unrealistic but that doesn't make them impossible. The most important ingredient is your own faith in how things will turn out.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
The time to be greedy is past, but what do you do with all those acquisitive feelings that linger? A few minor changes in attitude might be all you need to put them to good use. Consider yourself motivated for more.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You don't have the highest energy levels of all time, but at least you're not stuck in the doldrums anymore. A tiny drop of optimism is all it takes to launch a full-fledged rebirth. You're on your way.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may want to be alone. In fact, you may want to crawl under a rock. But staying connected to others is your only lifeline to the bigger picture. Don't cut it just yet.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
The major decision of the day has to do with money, yes, but mostly it has to do with friendship. Don't be cold and detached when making up your mind. That is the approach with the least possible return.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Now that things have slowed down, you have time to examine your emotions. Your deeper ambitions might just surprise you. At least you don't have to make the effort to switch gears, since life is already doing it for you.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
If something has you scratching your head, it goes without saying you're not ready to commit. But what if it's more subtle than that? Even the slightest bit of fuzziness is enough to put off signing on the dotted line.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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9	6					8		1
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4			2					

Medium

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Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	0	8	cloudy/clear
Harbin	-8	-1	cloudy/clear
Tianjin	1	9	overcast/clear
Urumqi	-14	-7	clear
Xi'an	4	7	overcast/drizzle
Lhasa	-2	13	cloudy
Chengdu	9	11	drizzle
Chongqing	12	15	drizzle
Kunming	7	21	clear
Nanjing	12	17	drizzle/cloudy
Shanghai	14	18	drizzle
Wuhan	11	13	drizzle
Hangzhou	13	17	drizzle/overcast
Taipei	19	25	overcast
Guangzhou	21	24	moderate rain
Hong Kong	23	25	cloudy

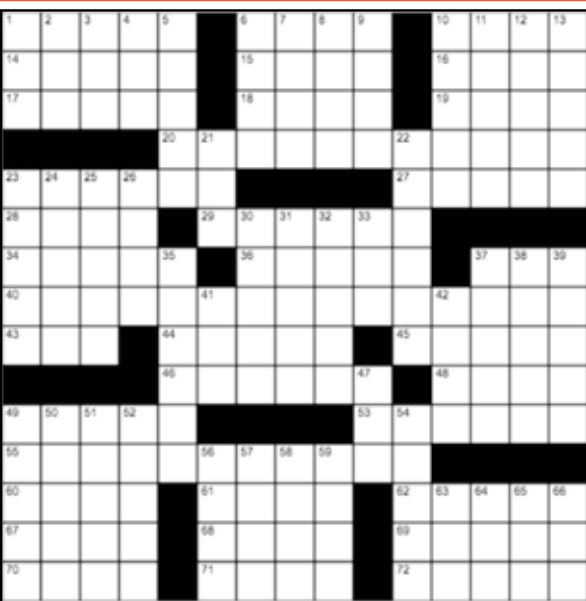
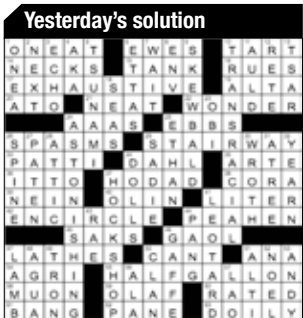
WORLD

Moscow	-6	0	overcast/flurry
Frankfurt	1	8	clear/cloudy
Paris	6	8	clear/drizzle
London	8	14	drizzle
New York	-1	12	sleet/heavy rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Perfect, something to aspire to; 6- What ___ mind reader?; 10- "___ Tu": 1974 hit; 14- Alabama city; 15- Hire; 16- Title bestowed upon the wife of a raja; 17- Continental identity of a Chinese person; 18- Draft rating; 19- Adjective-forming suffix; 20- Acoustic engineer; 23- Irrational fear; 27- Gymnast Comaneci; 28- Drag; 29- Plaque; 34- Blender brand; 36- Lush; 37- 'Bali --'; 40- In spite of; 43- Brian of Roxy Music; 44- Gallows loop; 45- All, in music; 46- Lubricant; 48- Capital of the Ukraine; 49- Dwelling; 53- Deadly fly; 55- Lay over; 60- Not kosher; 61- Follow; 62- Sporting blades; 67- Yes ___?; 68- Mex. miss; 69- Adjust to zero; 70- Red flower; 71- Anthem opener; 72- Fills to the gills;

DOWN: 1- This ___ test...; 2- ___ Moines, Iowa; 3- New Haven student; 4- Doctors' org.; 5- Polynesian porch; 6- Buck follower; 7- Diner's card; 8- Supermodel Sastre; 9- Rat-___; 10- "All My Children" vixen; 11- Fanatical; 12- Zhou ___; 13- City in Tuscany; 21- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 22- Purpose; 23- Call; 24- Is wearing; 25- ___ lunch; 26- Exploded; 30- ... who lived in ___; 31- ___ nova; 32- Old stringed instruments; 33- Conductor ___ Pekka Salonen; 35- Impostor; 37- Command to the band; 38- Pays to play; 39- Uncle; 41- Craggy hill; 42- Ellington, e.g.; 47- UFO crew; 49- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 50- Small donkey; 51- Goes into business; 52- Friday's creator; 54- Visionaries; 56- Wishing won't make ___; 57- Milky Way maker; 58- Middle Eastern bread; 59- Oil of ___; 63- Shade of green; 64- Superlative suffix; 65- Wide shoe width; 66- Ave. crossers;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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FOOTBALL

At UEFA meeting, clubs deny knowing Super League plan

EUROPEAN football leaders came to UEFA on Wednesday seeking answers about Real Madrid's plan for a breakaway Super League that threatens the game's historic structure. They got no new details from officials representing top clubs, according to people familiar with the meeting of UEFA's strategy council.

Instead, the latest plans for an elite breakaway league — which were revealed Nov. 2 in the "Football Leaks" series — were said to be driven by "one and a half clubs," referring to Madrid and Bayern Munich, multiple sources told The Associated Press. They spoke on condition of anonymity because the meeting was confidential.

Bayern's internal documents from 2016 detailing an earlier breakaway plan was revealed by German magazine Der Spiegel, which has spearheaded the publication of confidential documents and emails from clubs and football bodies.

UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin was joined Wednesday by players' union officials



and European league delegates asking questions about the Super League plans at the most significant European football meeting since "Football Leaks" started.

Still, the sources said leaders of the European Club Association (ECA) — from Juventus, Barcelona, Manchester United,

Paris Saint-Germain and Celtic — claimed in the meeting that they had not known of the Super League proposal being drafted in Madrid.

No one from Madrid attended the UEFA-hosted talks, though the club's vice chairman, Pedro Lopez, is a vice chairman of the 232-member ECA group.

Juventus president Andrea Agnelli, the ECA chairman, declined to comment after the two-hour meeting.

The FIFPro union and European Leagues group had previously criticized the Super League plan, which was revealed in emails from Madrid-based consultants to the Spanish club.

It suggested a 16-team lineup to kick off in 2021, with 11 founding clubs to get ownership stakes and risk-free membership for 20 years. Five more clubs would be invited to play in what would effectively be a replacement for the Champions League, which shares more than \$2 billion each season among 32 clubs but is controlled by UEFA.

The plan seemed to betray ECA leader Agnelli's repeated promise of no changes being made to the Champions League before 2024.

"All parties underlined their commitment to working together toward the development of club competitions under the leadership of UEFA," the European soccer body said in a statement about Wednesday's meeting, which did not mention the breakaway project.

European media reports have also detailed how some clubs — including Manchester City and PSG, backed by owners from royal families in Qatar and Abu Dhabi — evaded UEFA rules on sponsor deals and spending on transfers and wages.

PSG president Nasser Al-Khelaifi, who arrived at UEFA to attend the second half of Wednesday's meeting, did not stop to talk with reporters.

A proposal to add a third-tier European club competition, while cutting the Europa League group stage from 48 teams to 32, was also analyzed. It should be approved at a Dec. 3 meeting of UEFA's executive committee in Dublin. AP

SOUTH KOREA

'Garlic Girls' accuse coaches of derailing team

THE Garlic Girls, South Korea's hugely popular Olympic silver medalist curlers, accused their coaches yesterday of ruining the team with abusive treatment in a dispute that has spoiled one of the year's feel-good sports stories.

The women's claims, if confirmed, suggest a familiar tale of abuse, corruption and nepotism that has regularly marred South Korea's highly hierarchical elite sports scene. Men often run South Korean sports efforts, and while the team's head coach is a woman, men in her family, including her father, a former leading figure in South Korean curling, play a prominent part in the team's accusations of abuse.

"We can no longer work with a coaching staff that is trying to divide the team," Kim Seon-yeong said in a glum news conference in Seoul. The players also accused the coaching staff of skipping training sessions,



Kim Eun-jung, a member of South Korean Olympic women's curling team, speaks during a press conference in Seoul

holding back prize money and trying to force a married member off the team.

"We need a coaching staff that can train and lead us properly. We want to continue our curling careers and aim for bigger goals at the Beijing Olympics," Kim said.

The news conference came a day after South Korea's Sports Ministry and National Olympic Committee announced a joint investigation into

allegations that became public after the athletes sent a letter outlining their complaints to sports authorities last week.

The five-member women's curling team became an overnight sensation after their improbable silver medal run in February's Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea. They enthralled a country that barely recognized curling before they made their run

and became sought-after spokeswomen in commercials. Their nickname is a nod to the famous garlic produced in their hometown in Uiseong, in southern South Korea, where they met and began playing together as teenagers.

In their letter to the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee last week, Kim Eun-jung, Kim Seon-yeong, Kim Cho-hee, and sisters Kim Yeong-ae and Kim Yeong-mi accused former Korean Curling Federation vice-president Kim Kyung-doo of verbal abuse and team coaches of giving unreasonable orders and subjecting their lives to excessive control.

In yesterday's news conference, the curlers said coaches told them what to say in interviews and closely monitored their private lives after training hours, scolding them if they met with athletes from rival teams. Letters and presents sent by fans "were already ripped

open" before they reached the curlers, Kim Seon-yeong said.

"We can't understand why the head coach had to rip open and check the presents and letters sent to individuals before they reached the athlete," she said.

The curlers said the coaches withheld prize money and tried to sideline the married captain Kim Eun-jung after learning of her plans to start a family. They said the coaches also tried to force Kim Cho-hee off the team ahead of the Olympics to open a spot for head coach Kim Min-jung to participate as an athlete. They also said they had to endure a tirade from Kim Kyung-doo after they decided to stick with their teammate.

Kim Kyung-doo and his family had extensive control over the team with his daughter, Kim Min-jung, being the head coach and his son-in-law, Jang Ban-seok, the mixed doubles coach. The curlers orga-

nized the news conference after the coaching staff publicly denied the accusations.

"We had thought we could go together with that family, but after going through the Olympics, it became clear to us they were a family that cared only about themselves," Kim Eun-jung said in the news conference. "They don't want the athletes to grow and get better. [...] They don't want the athletes to become bigger than the organization."

Jang denied funds were withheld from the athletes, saying the team had agreed prize money would be spent on overseas training and competitions, but Kim Eun-jung said the curlers were kept in the dark about how the money was used. "We were already receiving [state] training funds as members of the national team, and we couldn't understand why the prize money was not being distributed to us," she said. AP

opinion

Editorial

Paulo Coutinho



HKZMB FAQ

I couldn't be more ambivalent about the impact the opening of "the longest sea bridge" in the world had on me.

It was a non-event, a killed-news. So many times the opening date was trumpeted and even printed in the media. We were all fooled, and regularly.

Second, I wasn't invited to the inauguration. I mean, we the Macau media, which was weird since the city is an integral part of the bridge.

So, I choose a Frequently Asked Question (FAQ) format for my take on the HKZ... you know already the name is stupid. For me, it is the Y-bridge: Why bridge?

Who was Mr Zheng Xiaosong?

Mr Zheng was a top diplomat, heading the Macao Liaison Office of the Central People's Government who fell to his death on Saturday, October 20, a few days before the inauguration in Zhuhai of the mega bridge. He was replaced by his deputy at the occasion, presided over by none other than Xi Jinping.

Was Zheng's tragic death mourned at the inauguration?

No. Not a single word about the incident. But Xi himself was very economical with his speech and there was not much fanfare.

At the time, none of us, public or journalists, knew much about the fateful fall of Zheng, except for the laconic note on Sunday 21 issued by the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office (HKMAO), based in Beijing, just saying he was "suffering from depression."

The news sent shockwaves throughout the city with its fair amount of rumors.

When was Zheng's death lamented by the Central authorities?

A week after, on Sunday, in a statement from the Macao Liaison Office.

What did they say?

"Comrade Zheng Xiaosong has worked in various fields, such as diplomacy and finance, and in such places as Fujian Province, Hong Kong and Macau. He had a strong sense of professionalism and responsibility, he was devoted to his duties, dared to take responsibility, adhered to principles, he was clean and honest, and had done a lot of productive work in different positions."

What was the responsibility of Zheng over (this side of) the bridge?

"In office since September 2017, he earnestly implemented the One Country, Two Systems policy and the Macau Basic Law, while actively planning the long-term development of Macau," the statement reads.

Borrowing the words from Leanda Lee in this very column, Zhen Xiaosong was "a man raised to a role of responsibility," who died on the opening of "a structure symbolic of the entire rationale for his position."

What is the Liaison Office?

Officially, it liaises between the State Council and the Macau government on areas of common jurisdiction. Informally, it is seen as a "shadow government" as its departmentally huge structure mimics that of the Macau government, and they influence the process of decision-making.

It is not, though, a Y-office, in the likes of the longest sea crossing, no. It is more a W-office: imagine the exchange of information or instructions flowing in "w" stroke, starting with the first point from the left. Beijing to Macau; Macau to Beijing; Beijing to Macau; Macau to Beijing.

Does it end there?

No. The "w" keeps repeating itself endlessly. B-M;M-B;B-M;M-B. And so on.

Is the bridge going to be a game changer?

It can be a game changer for the MICE industry if the distance from HK Airport to Cotai is under 50 minutes - closer to Cotai than to Central - which is possible, but it's not happening. There are tales of three-hour long trips door-to-door. And then, there is the luggage limitation issue. So far, going to HK Airport via the ferry is still the fastest and smoother option.

Was it always a Y-Bridge?

Not really. A former Zhuhai mayor in the late 1980s proposed a Zhuhai-Hong Kong link at Qi'ao and Tuen Mun, across the Lingdingyang, Pearl River estuary. The plan was dropped, the rest is history.

THE HOTELS APOLOGIZE IN CHINA AFTER VIDEO SHOWS HOW THEY CLEAN

At least four major international hotel chains have apologized after a hidden camera video of their room cleaning practices in China was posted online.

The Shangri-La Hotel in Fuzhou said yesterday that what's shown in the video violates its hygiene standards, while the Park Hyatt in Beijing called it an isolated occurrence. The Waldorf Astoria in Shanghai and the Sheraton in

Guiyang city also apologized.

The 11-minute video shows cleaners wiping cups and sinks with dirty towels and sponges. Some use the same towel to wipe the toilet seat.

An activist blogger who uses a pseudonym posted the video late Wednesday on his verified account on Weibo, a Chinese version of Twitter. It was picked up by Chinese media and had been shared 78,000 times by yesterday afternoon.

INDONESIA

Woman wears wedding gown after fiance dies in Lion Air crash

An Indonesian woman whose fiance died on a Lion Air flight that plunged into the sea was photographed in her wedding dress and professed her love for him on the day they were to have been married.

Intan Syari's fiance, Dr. Rio Nanda Pratama, was among 189 people who were killed when the Boeing 737 crashed Oct. 29 shortly after taking off from Jakarta.

Syari and Pratama, both 26, had planned to get married Sunday. Pratama, who had attended a seminar in Jakarta, was on his way home to Pangkal Pinang for the wedding.

Syari said Pratama had joked before leaving that if he was late in returning, Syari should take photos in her wedding gown and send them to him.

"We were just joking at that time," Syari told The Associated Press on Wednesday. "He asked me to still wear my wedding gown that he chose for me on our wedding day, put on beautiful makeup and hold a white rose bouquet, take good photos and send them to him."

She said Pratama was her "first love" and they started dating 13 years ago.



Syari poses in her wedding dress on the day of her planned wedding

On Sunday, she went ahead and took photos in the white wedding gown with a white satin head covering and a white rose bouquet in her hand, surrounded by relatives and friends.

"Although I actually feel grief that I cannot describe, I have to smile for you," Syari wrote on Instagram. "I should not be sad, I have to stay strong as you always say to me, I love you, Rio Nanda Pratama."

Investigators say sensors that help prevent planes from stalling were replaced on the Lion Air plane the day before its fatal flight and may have compounded other problems with the aircraft.

Body parts are still being recovered and searchers are continuing to hunt for the cockpit voice recorder.

Lion Air is one of Indonesia's youngest airlines but has grown rapidly, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



The Wall. Two Central American migrants walk along the top of the border structure separating Mexico and the United States yesterday in Tijuana, Mexico.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

BANGLADESH The head of Bangladesh's refugee commission said plans to start the repatriation of 700,000 Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar yesterday were scrapped after officials were unable to find anyone who wanted to return.

IRAN's semi-official Fars news agency says five of 12 border guards abducted in October by militants near the Pakistani border, have been released.



SAUDI ARABIA's top prosecutor said yesterday he's seeking the death penalty for five suspects charged with ordering and carrying out the killing of dissident Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi at the kingdom's consulate in Istanbul.

ISRAEL-PALESTINE A knife-wielding Palestinian attacker sneaked into a Jerusalem police station and lightly wounded four police officers before he was shot and captured, Israeli police said yesterday.

MOROCCO French President Emmanuel Macron and Morocco's King Mohammed VI are inaugurating Morocco's first high-speed rail line, the first ever such line in Africa.



US As the scope of a deadly Northern California wildfire set in, the sheriff said more than 450 people had now been assigned to comb through the charred remains in search for more bodies. The blaze has killed at least 56 people and authorities say 130 are unaccounted for.

CUBA-BRAZIL Cuba said that it is ending a program that sent thousands of government doctors to underserved regions of Brazil in exchange for hundreds of millions in badly needed hard currency. The end of the program signals a sharp deterioration in relations with Brazil, which just elected far-right presidential candidate.