



**FREEDOM OF SPEECH IS KEY TO CREATIVITY**  
Duncan Pescod, West Kowloon Cultural District Authority head, says that freedom of speech is core of creative industries

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**MORE AIR LINKS TO CHINA**  
Aeronautical authorities of mainland China and Macau signed a new agreement in Beijing to increase air links

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**NASA SPACECRAFT TOUCHES DOWN ON MARS**

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**THAILAND** The trial of a Thai billionaire construction tycoon charged with poaching an endangered black panther and other animals in a wildlife sanctuary began yesterday after months of delay.



**AUSTRALIA** A wildfire stoked by heatwave conditions in northeast Australia has destroyed at least four homes, forced the evacuation of hundreds of others and razed 20,000 hectares of farmland and woodland, authorities said yesterday.

**SRI LANKA** Lawmakers supporting disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa boycotted Parliament for a second day yesterday, accusing the speaker of bias during a political crisis that has engulfed the island nation for nearly a month. *More on p12*

**AFGHANISTAN** A roadside bomb killed three American soldiers in eastern Afghanistan yesterday, the U.S. military said, in what appeared to be the deadliest attack on U.S. forces in Afghanistan in the last 17 months.



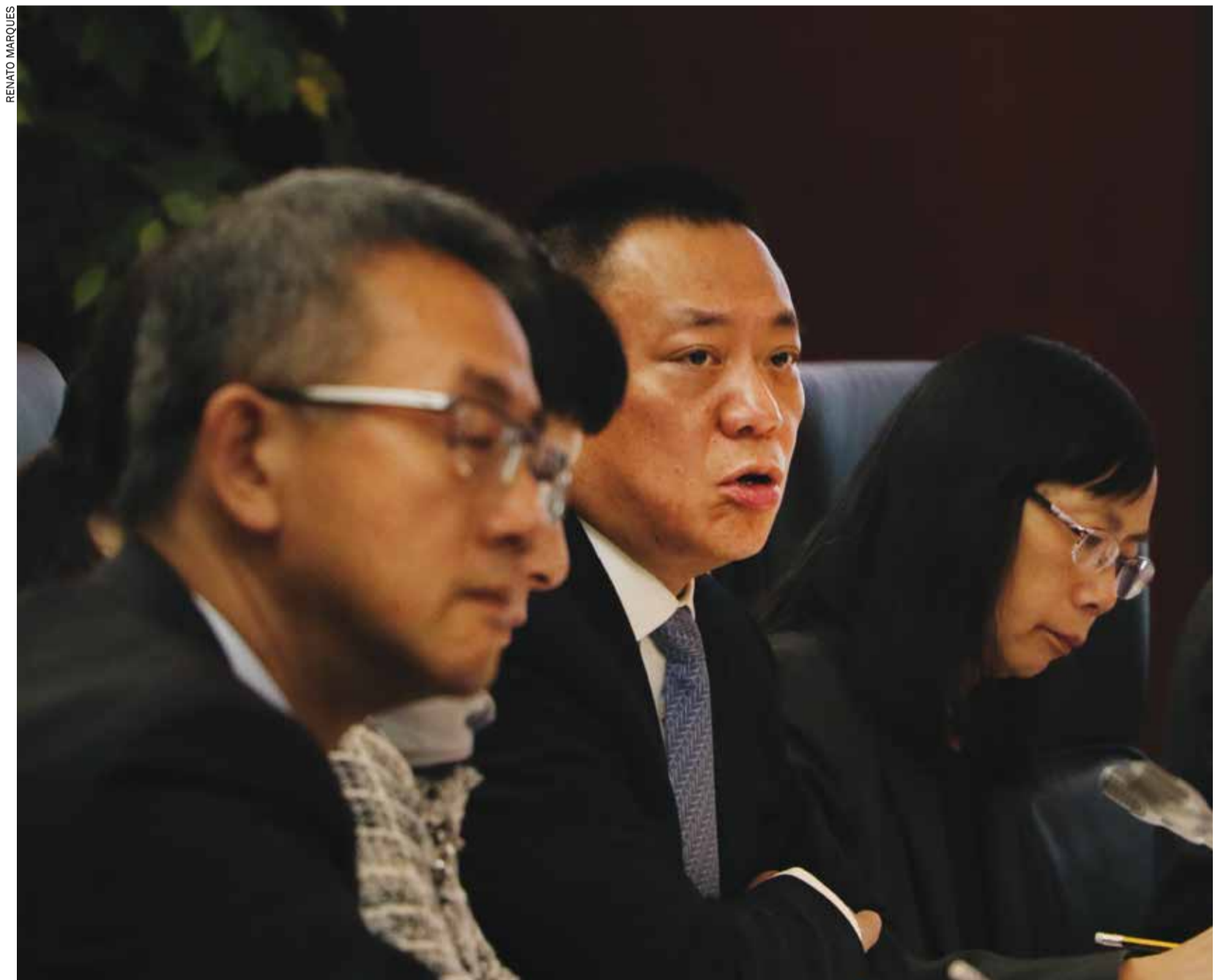
**SYRIA** Workers have exhumed more than 500 bodies from one of the largest mass graves near the northern city of Raqqa, once the capital of the Islamic State group's self-styled caliphate, and are still uncovering remains, a local official said yesterday. *More on p15*

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## RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

# Reports of torture in detention camp

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## New scheme for granting residency via investment hinted

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## Local man arrested after raping former wife

A 31-year-old local man has been arrested for rape, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday. The victim is the suspect's wife, but the pair had separated. According to the police, the victim reported to the police authority on three occasions that she had been victim of domestic violence at the hands of her husband. The crime occurred at the house of the victim's mother located at Areia Preta. After being raped, the woman escaped the scene and sought help from the Sisters of the Good Shepherd.

## UNIQLO to launch Macau, Hong Kong online store

Japanese casual wear designer UNIQLO is launching an online shop for customers in Hong Kong and Macau, offering free delivery on purchases of HKD400 or more. Customers will have several options regarding delivery or customer pick-up, according to the company. Orders should be delivered within three working days. The company said that the online shop comes in response to soaring rental costs and limited space for brick-and-mortar stores in Hong Kong, as well as e-commerce trends. It expects that the move will boost sales in the long-term. The online shop will launch Dec. 4.

## Guangdong-HK-Macau Center for Interdisciplinary Sciences unveiled

An interdisciplinary sciences center was unveiled on Saturday in Dongguan, Guangdong province. The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Center for Interdisciplinary Sciences was jointly built by the Institute of Physics at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, Peking University, Tsinghua University, the University of Hong Kong, the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology and the University of Macau. It aims to serve as an academic exchange and cooperation platform with international influence. The center will focus on materials research, as well as the subjects of physics, biology, energy, information technology and advanced manufacturing. It will also invite world-class scholars to visit, hold in-depth scientific symposiums, international conferences and workshops, and maintain cooperative relations with governments, enterprises, colleges, universities and scientific research institutions.

# Pescod: Gov't pivotal in boosting arts, cultural industry

Lynzy Valles

**SEVERAL** jurisdictions across different regions are considering how to enhance their communities through cultural and creative industries, says Duncan Pescod, director of West Kowloon Cultural District Authority.

Pescod is leading Hong Kong's biggest cultural project, in which the 40-hectare space will transform into an art and cultural hub that integrates six institutions.

In a talk he gave at the British Business Association of Macau, the official explained that the area, located in front of The Waterfront, would house some 50 individual spaces where performances, exhibitions, workshops and different events will be held.

Pescod admitted that the project faces several challenges, however he stressed that funding and commitment remain pivotal to the city's plans for the cultural hub.

Speaking to the press, the official noted that the public consultation for the big project took some six years, with an initial budget of HKD21.6 billion.

"Honestly, any jurisdiction has the capacity to sustain a project like this. [...] Every jurisdiction that I talk to [...] they're all trying to look at how culture can enhance their community and the ones that are successful are the ones that really commit to it, those that decide that they're going to do



and really deliver on it," said Pescod.

"It's that level of commitment. [...] What you need is consistency," he added, when asked how viable it would be for Macau to become an effective arts and culture hub.

The West Kowloon project will see its first center, the Xiqu Center – seen as a gateway to Chinese opera – be officially opened on January 20.

According to the official, the HKD21.6 billion project is a valuable asset to the HKSAR, and he noted that the government would also be paying for its basement and public infrastructure works.

"The recurrent expenditure in terms of operational [expenses], that's always going to be challenge. [...] It's actually a complex site. On top of which, the decision to go to the basement adds a level of complexity," added Pescod, who recently signed another three-year contract with the project.

According to Pescod, the arts and culture hub will enhance Hong Kong's status as a destination and could be another reason for visitors to stay longer.

He added that the government plays a pivotal role in boosting city arts and creative industries, suggesting that they should create a series of

platforms where artists can come and collaborate together to advance the industry.

**Artists want that freedom of expression and government is important in that. Does it support the ability of artists to express themselves?**

DUNCAN PESCOD

"The government doesn't have to be the total provider but it can contribute in important ways. The government often has to help with simple practical things [...] like is there freedom of speech, freedom of expression [...] all of these are very critical for a cultural district. If you don't have any of that then you might as well not waste your time," said Pescod.

"Artists want that freedom of expression and government is important in that. Does it support the ability of artists to express themselves? The government's role in this is crucial in many different layers," he concluded.

## Climate change debate to be held at CityU tomorrow

A debate on the topic of climate change will be held at the City University of Macau's (CityU) Hoi Yin Convention Center from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. tomorrow.

Co-organized by Rui Cunha Foundation, Do-comomo Macau and Macau City University Open Institute, the ses-

sion is titled "Climate Change: What policy and preventive measures against typhoons and floods." Billy Chan and Christine Loh have been invited as speakers.

The discussion will center on climate change concerns such as rising sea levels, as well

as location-specific problems, like the occurrence of extreme weather phenomena currently in the South China Sea.

Loh is chief development strategist at the Institute for the Environment and a professor at Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. She was

formerly the Under Secretary for the Environment at the Hong Kong government between 2012 and 2017, with her policy responsibilities covering air quality, energy, climate change and biodiversity.

Loh is a published author of academic works on history, the environ-

ment and constitutional development, as well as a writer for the South China Morning Post.

Chan, director of the Transmission and Distribution Department of public electricity company CEM, has vast experience in power utility networks and managing power network construction. He has contributed to the development and provision of safe, efficient and cost-effective electricity to people across the MSAR.

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# Mainland, Macau ink new agreement on air transport

**T**HE aeronautical authorities of mainland China and Macau signed the new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on air transport yesterday in Beijing.

According to a statement issued by the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau (AACM), the new arrangement has "more liberal provisions." It increases the destination points in mainland China from 57 to 68, extends the destination area for helicopter scheduled services and charters, allows the inter-modal code sharing service, and so on.

The statement notes that the air transport market in mainland China "has continued to grow in a speedy manner." In order for the legal framework governing the air transport market to cope with market need, the Civil Aviation Administration of China (CAAC) and the AACM met in Beijing



this week to hold talks.

According to the new MOU, the capacity for Shanghai (Pudong and Hongqiao airports) is increased from 78 to 96 flights per week on each side, Beijing's capacity remains at 56 flights per week on each side, the original capacity limitations for Shenzhen are eliminated, and all other destinations are not

bound by capacity restrictions.

The two delegations shared views and opinions on the economic growth of the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region. They believe that the helicopter scheduled services and charters which cater to high-end passengers will have good prospects and therefore agree to extend the destination area

from Shenzhen only as in the old MOU, to the whole of Guangdong province as in the new agreement.

In addition, given the potential driven by the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the two parties agreed to implement the inter-modal code sharing service. Under this service, designated airlines from both sides can cooperate with sea transport operators and road transport operators in the PRD to provide an extended service of flights originating from or destined for Macau. In the first phase, the sea-air link will connect to Shenzhen, Guangzhou, Zhongshan, Dongguan and Zhuhai, while the road-air link will connect to the whole of Guangdong province. Both parties also agreed to consider the possibility of extending the inter-modal code sharing service to other cities and explore the possibility of a rail-air link in the future.

## Unemployment rate holds stable

**I**NFORMATION from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the general unemployment rate for August-October 2018 was 1.8 percent. The unemployment rate of local residents stood at 2.4 percent and the underemployment rate was 0.4 percent.

All three indicators held stable as in the previous July-September 2018 period. The total labor force was 392,900 and the labor force participation rate was 70.8 percent.

Total employment was 386,000 and the number of employed residents totaled 283,400, down by 1,600 and 1,900 respectively from the previous period.

Analyzed by industry, employment in retail trade and the construction sector both registered decreases. The number of those unemployed was 6,900, similar to the previous period. Fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 14.9 percent of the total unemployed, down by 5.7 percent. In comparison with August-October 2017, both the unemployment rate and the underemployment rate decreased by 0.1 percentage points, while the labor force participation rate remained unchanged.

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Irene Lau (left) and Lionel Leong (right)

## POLICY ADDRESS

# Many questions to Leong, most left unanswered

Renato Marques

ON the second day of the policy address for the Secretariat of Economy and Finance, the cascade of questions to Lionel Leong continued as in the previous day, when 18 out of 30 lawmakers that registered to speak been able to address their questions.

Similarly to the first day of Leong's presentation at the Legislative Assembly (AL), there were more questions than answers yesterday, with many

lawmakers showing disappointment for the flat answers of the Secretary and his team or, in some cases, the complete disregard of questions.

Ng Kuok Cheong was one of those who found several of his questions unanswered, including several that sought to clarify a suggestion by Leong that the government would start work on the universal extension of the minimum wage, currently in force only for building management, cleaning and security staff.

Despite Ng's insistence and doubling-down on unanswered questions from the previous day, the lawmaker could not get a clear answer from Leong on the topic.

Another of the topics raised by Ng was the Trade Union Law that has been proposed and rejected nine times at the AL, the last time about one year ago. Ng wanted to know the status of the work towards developing the bill. Replying to Ng on that matter was not the secretary but a representative of the Labor Affairs

Bureau (DSAL), who said only, "as we mentioned [one year ago], we proposed to launch a study to identify the conditions in which the Trade Union Law could gather the general consensus. [...] The public tender on this study has been done already and we are now waiting for the outcome [of it] to present it to the CPCS [Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs]."

To recall, the DSAL announced in late-January that the study would last for a total of 540 days. It has been assigned to the Association of Political Economic Studies of Macau.

## ■ Irene Lau said that a new regime for the attribution of residency via investment could be set up

Ng also questioned Leong in relation to the growing number of non-resident workers, specifically performing duties at the gaming concessionaire companies. According to Ng, the number of these workers has been growing exponentially, now accounting for over 30 percent of the total staff in almost all gaming companies.

"We must control this!" the lawmaker exclaimed. "We need

to bring this topic to the licensing renewal. We need to establish rules that state that the concessionaires must keep a maximum ceiling below the 30 percent [mark] and make them comply with that," urged Ng.

Leong merely replied that the government keeps such data on record and could provide it to the lawmaker should he want to review it.

Another of the questions barely answered by the Secretary came from lawmaker Song Pek Kei, who enquired about the planning of the government in face of challenges brought about by the trade war between China and the U.S.

Leong said that the government is prepared and has contingency plans, although he declined to provide details.

Replying to several lawmakers on the topic of the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) scandal and on the criteria used to grant residency via investment, acting president of IPIM Irene Lau said, "we have optimized the criteria using as reference the practices of neighboring regions and others. We also listened to several associations and different bodies including the Talent Development Committee."

"We have now a more suitable criteria," she added, that would lead to the creation of a new regime for the attribution of residency via investment.

However, lawmaker Ella Lei found the response problematic, interjecting that Macau does not need a new regime for the attribution of residency. She claimed that the number of non-resident workers is already sufficient to solve the lack of manpower in some areas. "We do not need to have this concern anymore," she said, adding that the "policy of employment and residency attribution must be one."

## Vacant housing units not a big deal, says gov't

THE issue of vacant housing units that are left off the rental market is, according to the government, "not as big an issue in Macau as it is in Hong Kong."

Financial Services Bureau Director Iong Kong Leong made the comment yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) in reply to a question raised by lawmaker Song Pek Kei.

Song had addressed the plenary to ask if the government had the intention to accept the proposal made by several lawmakers - including herself - to apply a special tax to housing units that are vacant and not in the rental market, similarly to a policy in neighboring Hong Kong.

"We believe that the percentage [of vacant houses] is not that high [as in Hong Kong]," replied Iong, adding that he does not believe the issue has a significant impact on the local property market.

According to figures cited by Iong, as of June 2018 there were about 10,000 housing units considered vacant from a total of 187,000. "From

these, 5,711 are house built before the year 2000, so they are mostly second-hand houses, not new and in need of some repair," he said.

Nevertheless, the DSF head acknowledged that the government is aware and "following up on this topic and on the impact of the measures [adopted in Hong Kong]."

For the time being the Macau government believes the enforcement of such a rule in Macau "could cause some problems."

"One of the difficulties is on how to classify [a house as vacant]. We believe that people have different opinions and we need to get consensus from society. We are planning to open a public consultation on this matter," Iong concluded.

Leong complemented the answer of his subordinate by adding that "the prices [of housing] has more to do with supply and demand."

"The most important is to control the supply and we need to focus on having enough supply [in the market] - not just in private houses but also in public housing."



# Production firm gains brand establishment with Sands China partnership

**A** local micro firm has strengthened its brand building process following its collaboration with Sands China Ltd.

Common Production, a local firm initiated by two young local entrepreneurs, has signed a two-year contract with the integrated resort operator, allowing them to produce commercials and videos for Sands China.

Common Production helped produce Sands China's "Let's Support Responsible Gaming" promo clip.

The company-produced short video was the second runner-up in the 2017 Responsible Gaming Video Competition, co-organized by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau, the MSAR Social Welfare Bureau and the Institute for the Study of Commercial Gaming of the University of Macau.

According to Jackie Wong, one of Common Production's two founders, the firm saw an increase in the number of clients following its first project with Sands China.

He said: "The most important thing is that they help us with building our brand. When we started cooperating with Sands China, it was very pivotal to inform our clients that we are confident enough to do films and videos for a large integrated resort operator."

"Other clients found out that we were cooperating with Sands China, so they also partnered with us," he added.

Although Wong, along with his business partner Tommy Chang, admitted that the creative industry is a competitive sector in the SAR, both believe that the unwavering support of the integrated resort operator assists them in broadening their horizons.

"Since our portfolio shows that we are one of Sands China's suppliers, potential clients will see us as a reliable operation, so working with them really benefits our company," said Chang.

The duo expressed their deepest gratitude to Sands China, as the integrated resort operator also coaches them in terms of becoming a solid and established local firm.

Sands China takes the time to educate them on the procurement system, sharing their experience and skills with the made-in-Macao firm.

"Cooperating with Sands China helps us to be more reputable and

know more about how to do business with large companies. Before that, we didn't have much experience, but now, we have learned from the company and have accumulated experience and skills, which enables us to be more competitive and to stand out among other SMEs," said Chang.

The two business partners stressed that Sands China taught them to be more "efficient and effective," providing them business techniques that are not given by other companies.

Common Production signed a MOP 200,000 business contract with Sands China – a significant amount to further boost its sales revenue.

The local firm pledged to further enhance its production materials, in a bid to enhance product quality.

**Cooperating with Sands China helps us be more reputable and know more about how to do business with large companies.**

For both Wong and Chang, the training and lessons Sands China provides, along with the opportunity to work with the large-scale company, is valuable to their growth.

The local firm currently has 30 part-time crewmembers, along with freelancers.

Currently, the group is on its way toward producing a movie to market in the mainland, an initiative that Sands China showed strong support for.

"Sands China always gives us support, advice and suggestions. We told them that we're going to make film and they were very supportive of it," said Wong.

Chang added: "They give us what we need to keep the business growing. I believe they are satisfied with our videos."

Sands China has always provided its assistance to local firms, expressing its aspiration to see these firms grow along with the

development of the city.

The integrated resort operator's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme was jointly announced in July 2015 with the Macao Chamber of Commerce.

The programme is in line with the Macao government's initiative to "buy local" and demonstrates Sands China's commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate social responsibility efforts.

It is part of its supplier relationship management strategy, which guides the company's long-standing effort to support local suppliers, whom it views as its strategic partners.

For Sands China, it is essential to provide a platform for these firms to improve their service quality, thus strengthening the effort and collaboration with these local firms.

Recently, as part of its Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, Sands China held its fourth graduation ceremony for its Sands Procurement Academy – a programme in line with Sands China's commitment to further support local SME growth and procurement.

The academy is a training initiative that shares business knowledge and skills to further the development of local SME suppliers. The aim of the programme is to help them gain experience and capacity for working with large-scale international corporations, including Sands China.

The academy specifically targets four categories of local SME suppliers: small- and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), micro-enterprises, Macao young entrepreneurs, and "Made-in-Macao" enterprises. More than 100 local SME suppliers have completed programme to date.

The Sands Procurement Academy supports the third pillar of the Sands China's F.I.T. programme, which offers Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development. F.I.T. is part of Sands China's Local Small, Medium and Micro Suppliers Support Programme, and seeks to continually increase and strengthen procurement between Sands China and local SME suppliers by enhancing their capabilities.

This article is sponsored by Sands China Ltd.





# Extra MOP5 charge approved for HKZMB taxi services

**T**HE government has granted the taxi industry approval to charge an additional fee of five patacas for taxis that provide services to the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Macau port.

A Chief Executive order was published in the Official Gazette on Monday announcing the approval.

Passengers who request taxi services to the Cotai Frontier Port will also be charged the extra five patacas.

Currently, passengers are charged an extra five patacas for taxi services to Macau International Airport, Taipa Ferry Terminal and the University of Macau Hengqin campus as compensation for the time and fuel expended when providing services to these locations.

The additional fee policy will now be applied to the HKZMB as a measure to "encourage taxi drivers to provide services at said location."

RENATO MARQUES



Additionally, on Saturday it was announced that HKZMB Bus (a shuttle bus service operator on the HKZMB) had implemented a restriction measure in the hopes of balancing the number of passengers using the shuttle bus services at different times of the day.

Soon after the bridge's opening, in October, the bus company complained about the

large number of group tours consisting of mainland seniors who were taking advantage of fare discounts to visit the bridge, enter Hong Kong in the morning and return to Zhuhai during the evening.

The restriction limits the online sale of tickets to avoid having large numbers of passengers using the service during a certain period.

## HEALTH

# 15 HIV infections recorded until September

**T**HIS year, from January until September, a total of 15 cases of HIV infection among local residents were reported, according to the Health Bureau.

Ten cases were related to infection through homosexual or bisexual contact, three were related to infection through heterosexual contact, and the remaining two cases were of unknown cause.

All cases were referred to the Conde. S. Januário Hospital.

According to the head of the drug treatment and rehabilitation division of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), from January until September of 2018, a total of 154 patients received methadone treatments, accounting for 80 percent of the cases that were followed up.

By the end of this year, the government will launch a new treatment center located at Ilha Verde, and will provide comprehensive treatment services to people who have requested help.

In addition, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) reported some updates to the government's sexual health pro-

motional campaign. Currently, the city's schools are fully implementing the formal education curriculum framework, which includes sexual health education.

In order to enhance sex education amongst parents, the education authority will in December launch the Sex Education Parent Booklet. Furthermore, the education authority will also sponsor local schools, through the city's school development program, to carry out parental sex education activities.

The education authority has pledged to carry out deeper sex education promotion among teaching professionals.

During 2017, 179 people in Macau undertook a methadone treatment. In 2016, 30 HIV infection cases were recorded in Macau.

Previously, the health authority remarked that, for the past ten years, the number of HIV infection declarations had increased significantly. However, SSM explained that the increase is related to more people having received a check-up.

AD



**BBAM**  
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British Business Association of Macao

## BBAM @ St. Regis Breakfast

**Thursday, 29 November 2018**  
**Guest Speaker: Mike Goodridge**  
Artistic Director of International Film Festival & Awards Macao (IFFAM)

### 3<sup>rd</sup> International Film Festival and Awards Macao: What to Expect?


*Mike Goodridge joined the festival in 2017 and steered the event through its highly successful second edition. He is an independent film producer with several projects in development through his new company Groovy Pictures. He has written several books on cinema including two on film directors. He is a member of BAFTA and a board member of the European Film Academy.*

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

- 7.45 am:** Registration
- 8.00 am:** Sit-down for breakfast
- 8.15 am:** Presentation and Q&A session
- 9.00 am:** Close

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# Agnes Lam asks for real estate stats transparency

**LAWMAKER** Agnes Lam has asked the government to increase Macau's real estate information transparency, according to Lam's written inquiry to the government.

Lam first pointed out that "the collection of real estate statistics from the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC) currently concentrates on the average price per square foot. However, it seems there is a gap between the estimated property price and the bearable capability of the property price of the residents."

"The government could refer to some international reports and could also launch a median indicator of property prices, which is more reflective of the actual situation rather than the average price. [...] In addition, according to local scholars, in other places, there are so-called property price estimates which are provided for the buyers' reference. If the



Agnes Lam

government has conditions, it could collect the concerned information and indicators," said Lam.

In addition, Lam asked the government two questions. The first was about "the kind of plans and the timetable for the finance and economy secretariat aiming at continuously enhancing Macau's real estimate information transparency and at improving Macau's overall statistical work."

In the second question, Lam asked if "the government will refer to other regions' experience and thus add some specific real estate statistics indicators, such as the median price, the valuation, and the index of popularity of a property, the market return rate, [...] in order to help local residents [who are interested in buying a property] make rational home purchase judgments."

# MICE events record drop during first three quarters of this year

A total of 966 MICE events were held in the first three quarters of 2018, a drop of 37 year-on-year, while the total number of participants and attendees increased by 14.8 percent to 1,385,000.

Meetings and conferences decreased by 18 year-on-year to 913, and the number of participants grew by 37 percent to 217,000, according to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

However, in the third quarter of 2018, the total number of MICE events increased by seven year-on-year to 311, which included 283 meetings and conferences, 19 exhibitions and nine incentives.

The number of participants and attendees in the third quarter rose by 19.9 percent to 697,000, DSEC indicated. Meetings and conferences held in the third quarter grew by four year-on-year, while the number of participants dropped by 20.3 percent to 48,000. The decrease was attributable to a 26.1 percent drop in participants (32,000) attending meetings and conferences of four hours or more with 200 participants or more. However, the number of these meetings and conferences (46) increased by four. Exhibitions in the third quarter alone attracted 1,503 exhibitors. Among them, 50.1 percent were from Macau and 21.3 percent were from

mainland China. Professional visitors totaled 25,000 and 71.8 percent of them were local residents. For exhibitions organized by non-government organizations, 990 exhibitors were registered, with those from Macau and Hong Kong constituting 57.6 percent and 22.9 percent respectively. Professional visitors in this time period totaled 23,000 and 74.6 percent of them were from Macau.

Meanwhile, for the first three quarters, the MICE category of exhibitions increased by 5 year-on-year to 38, and the number of attendees rose by 9.5 percent to 1,114,000. Exhibitions organized by non-government organizations totaled 33, with number of attendees increasing by 11.1 percent to 955,000. Incentives dropped by 24 year-on-year to 15, whereas number of participants soared by 73.6 percent to 55,000.

In accordance with the information collected from the 38 exhibition organizers in the first three quarters, receipts and expenditure of these exhibitions amounted to MOP108 million and MOP125 million respectively.

Receipts of the 33 exhibitions organized by non-government organizations totaled MOP102 million, corresponding to net receipts of MOP52.23 million after deducting expenditure (MOP 49.94 million).

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# Apple to tutor women in tech in bid to diversify industry



Michael Liedtke, San Francisco

**A**PPLE is launching a new program designed to address the technology industry's scarcity of women in executive and computer programming jobs.

Under the initiative announced Monday, female entrepreneurs and programmers will attend two-week tutorial sessions at the company's Cupertino, California, headquarters.

The camps will be held every three months beginning in January. For each round, Apple will accept up to 20 app makers founded or led by a woman. The app maker must have at least one female programmer in its ranks to qualify. Apple will cover travel expenses for up to three workers from each accepted company.

Like other major tech companies, Apple has been trying to lessen its dependence on men in high-paying programming jobs. Women filled just 23 percent of Apple's technology jobs in 2017, according to the company's latest breakdown. That's only a

slight improvement from 20 percent in 2014, despite the company's pledge to diversify its workforce.

The idea behind the new camp is to keep women interested and immersed in the field, said Esther Hare, Apple's senior director of world developer marketing.

**Like other major tech companies, Apple has been trying to lessen its dependence on men in high-paying programming jobs**

Apple's training camp is "a great step forward," said Lorraine Hariton, CEO of Catalyst, a group that fights for equal rights for women workers. "There a lot of talented wo-

men in technology. Hopefully, this helps set a tone for the entire industry."

But it's not clear how much of a dent Apple's new program will make. Google also offers training for girls and women pursuing careers in technology, but its program hasn't done much to diversify the workforce so far. Women were hired for nearly 25 percent of Google's technology jobs in 2017, up from nearly 21 percent in 2014, according to the company.

Apple and other technology companies maintain that one of the main reasons so many men are on their payrolls is that women traditionally haven't specialized in the mathematical and science curriculum needed to program.

But industry critics have accused the technology companies of discriminating against women through a male-dominated hierarchy that has ruled the industry for decades.

Apple isn't saying how much it is spending on the initiative, though beyond travel expenses, the company will be relying on its current employees to lead the sessions. **AP**



## Disney sued for derailing Fox theme park at Malaysian casino

Edvard Pettersson, Christopher Palmeri

**W**ALT Disney Co. and 21st Century Fox Inc. were sued by the owner of Malaysia's only casino resort for pulling out of an agreement to sponsor a Fox World theme park outside Kuala Lumpur.

Genting Malaysia Bhd. seeks more than USD1 billion in damages, claiming Disney doesn't want to be associated with its gambling business as the Hollywood giant moves to finalize its acquisition of 21st Century Fox's entertainment assets. Genting Malaysia's shares plunged to the lowest in eight years.

"Unlike Fox, which was perfectly happy to have the park situated a stone's throw from the casinos of Resorts World Genting so long as it could continue to extract financial concessions," Disney wanted no ties to a gambling company because of its "family-friendly" brand strategy, Genting said in a complaint filed Monday in federal court in Los Angeles.

Fox declined to comment on the lawsuit and representatives of Disney didn't respond to a request for comment.

Genting Malaysia's shares fell as much as 19 percent to 2.93 ringgit, the lowest level since August 2010.

Its parent Genting Bhd. followed suit, losing 7.5 percent.

Fox World was to be a key attraction at Genting's resort located about an hour's drive from Kuala Lumpur. It was expected to help broaden the casino resort's appeal to the nation's 60 percent-Muslim population and achieve a target of 30 million annual visitors by 2020. Gambling is considered unethical and therefore forbidden under Islam.

Fox entered into a licensing agreement in 2013 with Genting for the development of what would be the first Fox-branded theme park in the world. Unlike Disney, which owns its parks in part or in whole, Genting would own and finance the park completely, with Fox getting a cut of the revenue from retail, food and beverages. Genting has invested \$750 million in the park, which was due to open next year, according to the complaint.

Fox had been trying to renegotiate the agreement in various times over delays in the park's completion and had sought to get a share of the gate revenue as well, according to Genting. Once Disney started calling the shots this year, the objective was no longer renegotiation but termination, Genting said.

**Bloomberg**

### corporate bits

#### AUX BEAUX ARTS WINS WINE AWARDS



In 2018, MGM Macau's Aux Beaux Arts received highest honors from three leading wine authorities – China's Wine List of The Year Awards, the U.K.'s World of Fine Wine and the U.S.-based Wine Spectator's Restau-

rant Awards.

Aux Beaux Arts harvested two more top-tier honors, "Best Listing of French Wines" and "Best Listing of Portuguese Wines" in the China's Wine List of The Year Awards, the gaming ope-

erator announced in a statement.

The World of Fine Wine singled out Aux Beaux Arts as offering one of the world's most extensive wine lists in its "Three-Star Award," the first and only restaurant in Macau to receive the title of "Best Spirits in Asia 2018."

Wine Spectator has also given its top-tier "Three-Glass" Grand Award to Aux Beaux Arts since 2015.

In addition to these latest accolades, MGM Macau's Chinese restaurant, Imperial Court, has won the "Three-Glass" award from China's Wine List of The Year Awards, as well as "Best of Award of Excellence (Two-Glass)" from Wine Spectator since 2015.

#### GALAXY MACAU'S COMMERCIAL AWARDED IN VIENNA



The Galaxy Macau in-house Creative Service team received recognition for its creative excellence and won the Grand Prix for World's Best Tourism Commercial at the 30th Grand Prix CIFFT.

CIFFT (Comité International des Festivals du Film Touristique) brings together tourism organizations and awards the best-of-the-best at the annual Grand Prix.

This year's festival was held on Nov. 13 in Vienna and received over 3,500 entries worldwide.

Galaxy Macau won the grand prize for World's Best Tourism Commercial and Spain won World's Best Tourism Film, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

The concept of the winning commercial, "Love Summer," revolves around an imaginary line which seamlessly moves the characters from one setting to the next, showcasing the array of entertainment, dining, accommodation and leisure activities on offer at Galaxy Macau.



ANGOLA

# President concludes state visit to Lisbon with multiple agreements

**T**HE Angolan president returned to Luanda on Sunday, after a three-day state visit to Portugal in which the two countries signed a set of 13 cooperation agreements, the Portuguese press reported.

The agreements signed between Angola and Portugal cover areas such as justice, teacher training, engineering, tourism, culture, social reintegration, forensic medicine, health, science, innovation and the environment.

In the final statement, the government delegations of Angola and Portugal considered that the visit by President João Lourenço to Portugal was of high political significance, which was clear in the meetings between the heads of state of the two countries.



Lourenço (front left) and the Portuguese president, Rebelo de Sousa, pictured in front of the Jerónimos Monastery in Lisbon

In a press conference held in Lisbon, Lourenço said he had "reassured" officials from Portuguese bank Banco Comercial Português (BCP) about the possibility of the Sonangol ceasing to be a shareholder of the bank, in

which it has a stake of 19.4 percent.

The Angolan president also said, "it is very unlikely" that Sonangol would be interested in keeping its stake in the Galp Energia group. Sonangol controls 60 percent of SGPS Es-

peranza, which in turn holds 45 percent of SGPS Amorim Energia, which in turn is the largest shareholder of the Galp Energia group, with a 33.3 percent stake.

Lourenço was also given a guarantee by Prime Minister António Costa that Portugal will "provide all the cooperation needed so that the money that belongs to Angola, Angola is accounted for."

President Lourenço invited his Portuguese counterpart from Portugal to visit Angola in 2019, an "invitation that has already been accepted" and in the first half of 2019 a "new round of political consultations at the level of senior officials" will be held in Luanda as well as a meeting to assess the implementation of the Bilateral Protocol on Visa Facilitation. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

# Public debt in 2018 is expected to exceed GDP

**M**OZAMBIQUE'S public debt is expected to reach 102.5 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) at the end of the year, with the economy likely to grow by 3.5 percent, Fitch Ratings said in an analysis report on the country's economy. For 2019, Fitch Ratings forecasts economic growth of 3.7 percent.

The agency's analysts said in the document that "the budget deficit will reach 5.7 percent of GDP, which rises to 6.9 percent when the arrears are considered, gradually rising to 7.3 percent in 2019 and 7.8 percent by 2020, reflecting the still low growth and pressure on spending due to the electoral cycle of this and next year and to decentralization in 2020."

Fitch Ratings forecasts that "public debt will increase, reaching a peak in 2022, when the debt-to-GDP ratio will reach 119 percent due to slower economic growth expectations and limited fiscal consolidation."

The biggest risks, the agency's analysts conclude, are "a faster depreciation of the exchange rate than expected, higher deficits and delays in large natural gas exploration projects." **MDT/Macauhub**

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## ANALYSIS

# Global trade is at stake as Trump and Xi come face to face

Paul Wiseman, Washington

To hear President Donald Trump tell it, he was made for a moment like this: A high-stakes face-off. A ticking clock. A cagey adversary.

The man who calls himself a supreme dealmaker will have the opportunity this week to put himself to the test. The question is whether he can defuse a trade war with China that is shaking financial markets and threatening the global economy — and perhaps achieve something approximating a breakthrough.

Trump is to meet with his Chinese counterpart, Xi Jinping, during the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, over the weekend. Unless the two leaders can achieve a truce of sorts, their conflicts will likely escalate: On Jan. 1, the tariffs Trump has imposed on many Chinese goods are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent, and Beijing would likely retaliate.

Most analysts say they doubt Trump and Xi will reach any overarching deal that would settle the dispute for good. The optimistic view is that the two sides may agree to a cease-fire that would buy time for more substantive talks and postpone the scheduled escalation in U.S. import taxes.

Yet no one really knows. Each side seems prepared to wait out the other in a conflict that could persist indefinitely.

In advance of the meeting,

Trump has sounded his usual note of boastful confidence. Speaking to reporters on Thanksgiving Day, he said:

“I’m very prepared. You know, it’s not like, ‘Oh, gee, I’m going to sit down and study.’ I know every stat. I know it better than anybody knows it. And my gut has always been right.”

Most trade analysts are skeptical that any significant agreement is likely this week.

“Expectations should be very low,” said Wendy Cutler, vice president of the Asia Society Institute and a former U.S. trade official who negotiated with China. “We need to be very clear-eyed. It’s going to be a very difficult negotiation. The issues at hand don’t lend themselves to quick solutions.”

The trade war erupted last fall after Trump imposed import taxes on USD250 billion of Chinese goods, and Beijing retaliated with tariffs on U.S. exports. The justification for the U.S. move, according to Trump, is that Beijing has long deployed predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America’s technological dominance. The administration alleges — and many trade experts agree — that Beijing hacks into U.S. companies’ networks to steal trade secrets and forces American and other foreign companies to hand over sensitive technology as the price of access to China’s market.

Beijing disputes those allegations and asserts that Trump’s

sanctions are merely an effort to hinder an ambitious rival.

Besides the scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese goods — an additional \$50 billion in Chinese imports already face the higher tax — another threat looms: Trump has threatened to tax \$267 billion more in Chinese imports. At that point, just about everything Beijing ships to the United States would face a higher import tax.

Growing concerns that the trade war will increasingly hurt corporate earnings and the U.S. economy are a key reason why U.S. stock prices have been sinking. As of Friday’s close, the Standard & Poor’s 500 index has shed roughly 10 of its value since setting a record high Sept. 20.

Joining other forecasters, economists at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development last week downgraded their outlook for global economic growth next year to 3.5 percent from a previous 3.7 percent. In doing so, they cited the trade conflict as well as political uncertainty.

Some big U.S. companies, in reporting quarterly earnings in October, warned that they were absorbing higher costs from Trump’s increased tariffs, which have been imposed not only on Chinese goods but also on imported steel and other goods from other countries.

“We need some certainty,”

said Craig Allen, president of the U.S.-China Business Council and a former American diplomat. “The U.S. and China cannot go into a trade war and not affect global markets [...] We need to resolve our differences.”

## Most analysts say they doubt Trump and Xi will reach any overarching deal that would settle the dispute for good

Yet as Trump and Xi prepare to meet, the backdrop is hardly encouraging. Acrimony between the two sides disrupted this month’s Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Papua New Guinea. The 21 APEC countries, torn by differences between Beijing and Washington, failed to agree on a declaration on world trade for the first time in nearly three decades. Vice President Mike Pence and Xi sniped at each other in speeches.

Then last week, U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer issued a report charging China’s efforts to steal U.S. trade secrets have

“increased in frequency and sophistication” this year despite American sanctions.

“China fundamentally has not altered its acts, policies, and practices related to technology transfer, intellectual property, and innovation, and indeed appears to have taken further unreasonable actions in recent months,” the report concluded.

The tenor of the report suggested that the United States would take a hard line into this week’s talks. In the meantime, “the amount of uncertainty is unprecedented and very disquieting to the markets,” said Allen of the U.S.-China Business Council.

Trump himself sought yesterday [Macau time] to increase the pressure on China. In an interview with *The Wall Street Journal*, Trump said it was “highly unlikely” that he would agree to Beijing’s request to suspend the tariff hikes that are set to take effect Jan. 1. And he repeated his threat to target an additional \$267 billion in Chinese imports with tariffs of 10 percent or 25 percent.

Clouding the outlook are mixed messages from the Trump administration. The White House appears divided between hawks like Trump’s trade adviser, Peter Navarro, and free traders like the top White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow. On Nov. 9, Navarro delivered a combative speech suggesting that Trump didn’t care what Wall Street thought of his confrontational China policy.

Four days later, Kudlow went on CNBC and dismissed Navarro’s remarks as “way off base.”

“They were not authorized by anybody,” Kudlow said. “I actually think he did the president a great disservice.”

Regardless of which approach Trump takes to Buenos Aires, Trump and Xi don’t have to resolve their differences this week. A cease-fire that suspends any further escalation of the U.S. tariffs wouldn’t be unprecedented. The administration and the European Union, for instance, reached a truce last summer that suspended threatened U.S. tariffs on European auto imports.

“My personal guess — and I’m sticking my neck out here — is that there will be some kind of cease-fire agreed to,” said Matthew Goodman, a senior adviser on Asian economics at the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Goodman noted that Trump appears concerned about tumbling stock prices, and Xi is contending with a decelerating Chinese economy. A truce would bring at least a temporary calm.

“No one is expecting they will come out with a solid agreement,” said Quincy Krosby, chief market strategist at Prudential Financial. “What the market wants — what the market needs — is a sense that they are negotiating and that the negotiations will continue.” AP



## RELIGIOUS PERSECUTION

# Woman describes torture, beatings in Chinese detention camp

Maria Danilova, Washington

A member of the Uighur minority yesterday [Macau time] detailed torture and abuse she says she experienced in one of the internment camps where the Chinese government has detained hundreds of thousands of religious minorities.

Mihrigul Tursun, speaking to reporters in Washington, said she was interrogated for four days in a row without sleep, had her hair shaved and was subjected to an intrusive medical examination following her second arrest in China in 2017. After she was arrested a third time, the treatment grew worse.

"I thought that I would rather die than go through this torture and begged them to kill me," Tursun, 29, told reporters at a meeting at the National Press Club.

Human rights groups say China has detained up to 2 million Uighurs to promote what the government calls "ethnic unity" in the country's far west. Over 270 scholars from 26 countries released a statement drawing attention to "mass human rights abuses and deliberate attacks on indigenous cultures" taking place in China.

"In the camps, these detainees, most of whom are Uighur, are subjected to deeply invasive for-



Mihrigul Tursun (right) speaks at an event at the National Press Club in Washington

ms of surveillance and psychological stress as they are forced to abandon their native language, religious beliefs and cultural practices," the statement said. "Outside of the camps, more than 10 million Turkic Muslim minorities in the region are subjected to a dense network of surveillance systems, checkpoints, and interpersonal monitoring which severely limit all forms of personal freedom."

Raised in China, Tursun moved to Egypt to study English at a university and soon met her husband and had triplets with him. In 2015, Tursun traveled to China to spend time with her

family and was immediately detained and separated from her infant children. When Tursun was released three months later, one of the triplets died and the other two developed health problems. Tursun said the children had been operated on. She was arrested for a second time about two years later.

Several months later, she was detained a third time and spent three months in a cramped, suffocating prison cell with 60 other women, having to sleep in turns, use the toilet in front of security cameras and sing songs praising China's Communist Party. Tursun said she and other

inmates were forced to take unknown medication, including pills that made them faint and a white liquid that caused bleeding in some women and loss of menstruation in others. Tursun said nine women from her cell died during her three months there.

One day, Tursun recalled, she was led into a room and placed in a high chair, and her legs and arms were locked in place.

"The authorities put a helmet-like thing on my head, and each time I was electrocuted, my whole body would shake violently and I would feel the pain in my veins," Tursun said in a

statement read by a translator.

"I don't remember the rest. White foam came out of my mouth, and I began to lose consciousness," Tursun said. "The last word I heard them saying is that you being an Uighur is a crime."

She was eventually released so that she could take her children to Egypt, but she was ordered to return to China. Once in Cairo, Tursun contacted U.S. authorities and, in September, came to the United States and settled in Virginia.

The Chinese Embassy in Washington did not return a request for comment. Chinese authorities have denied that the internment camps exist but say petty criminals are sent to "employment training centers."

The State Department estimates that since April 2017, the Chinese government has detained 800,000 to possibly more than 2 million Uighurs, Kazakhs and other Muslims in political re-education camps.

"The United States will continue to call on China to end these counterproductive policies and free all those arbitrarily detained," the State Department said. "We are committed to promoting accountability for those who commit human rights violations and abuses, including by considering targeted measures against Xinjiang officials." AP

## DR PATRICK HO

# US prosecutors say Hong Kong man in UN bribe case motivated by greed

Jim Mustian, New York

GREED motivated a Hong Kong businessman to line the pockets of government officials in two African nations — bribes intended to land lucrative business deals and oil rights for a Chinese energy conglomerate, federal prosecutors told a jury yesterday [Macau time].

But a defense attorney for Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho argued that the multimillion-dollar payments were both charitable and aboveboard, and that the conglomerate received "nothing in return."

"This is a bribery case with no bribe," the attorney, Benjamin Rosenberg, said in his opening statement. The payments Ho



In this courtroom sketch, Hong Kong businessman Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho (right) attends jury selection for his trial, at Manhattan Federal Court

made to government officials, including the president of Chad and the Ugandan foreign minister, were intended only to generate goodwill and long-term relationships, he said.

The conflicting por-

trays of Ho came on the first day of trial in a United Nations-linked case that has drawn international attention. Ho has pleaded not guilty to charges of conspiracy, money laundering and violating the Foreign Corrupt Prac-

tices Act.

Ho's defense team agreed before trial that it will not try to argue the U.S. brought the case against Ho, a former home affairs secretary in Hong Kong, as part of a broader campaign against China, or that the timing of the prosecution was part of a broader political agenda.

Prosecutors said Ho gained access to prominent officials through his role leading a nongovernmental organization funded by the oil and gas conglomerate CEFC China Energy. They said Ho tried to disguise the bribes as charitable donations, even though he concealed one of the initial payments as cash in gift boxes.

"Running an NGO

allowed the defendant to pass himself off as a humanitarian," Paul Hayden, a U.S. Justice Department trial attorney, told the jury. "He offered millions of dollars in bribes, and he did so to gain business."

The case focuses on two schemes prosecutors said involve the same "playbook," in which Ho scouted potential business opportunities and then used his connections to arrange high-level meetings with government officials in a position to steer business to CEFC.

One of the bribes "backfired," Hayden said, when the president of Chad, Idriss Deby, became furious and demanded to know why Ho had attempt-

ted to pay him off.

Hayden said Ho was "impressed" by the president's refusal and eventually persuaded him to accept the USD2 million in cash as a charitable donation. "Call it a donation or not," Hayden said, "the defendant was focused on business."

Rosenberg countered that cash was not necessarily a suspicious form of payment given the "circumstances in Chad." He told jurors they should not trust a key government witness, Cheikh Gadio, a former co-defendant in the case who agreed to testify against Ho under a nonprosecution agreement.

Prosecutors said they intend to present emails, text messages and financial records as part of their case, as well as Ho's voice captured on a recorded call.

Testimony begins Tuesday morning before U.S. District Judge Loretta Preska. AP



## SOUTH KOREA

# Prosecutor apologizes over vagrants' detention, forced work

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**S**OUTH Korea's top public prosecutor apologized yesterday over what he described as a botched investigation into the enslavement and mistreatment of thousands of people at a vagrants' facility in the 1970s and 1980s nearly three decades after its owner was acquitted of serious charges.

The remarks by Prosecutor General Moon Moo-il were the government's first formal expression of remorse over one of the worst human rights atrocities in modern South Korea. They add pressure for parliament to pass legislation to start a deeper inquiry into what happened at the now-closed Brothers Home, whose owner was exonerated from serious charges amid an obvious cover-up orchestrated at the highest levels of government.

"The past government created a directive that had no base in laws and used state power to detain citizens at the Brothers Home confinement facility with the disguised purpose of protecting them; more than that [inmates] were subjected to forced labor, while experiencing brutal violence and other harsh violations of their human rights," Moon said, stopping several times during his statement while appearing to hold back tears.

"I accept with a heavy heart the results of our committee [on past cases] that the prosecution then caved into pressure from above and closed its investigation prematurely. Even on the charges that were included in the indictment, the defendants weren't properly punished during the trials. This was a process that cannot be descri-



Moon delivered his apology in a meeting with about a dozen former inmates, most of whom were children when they were snatched off the street by police

bed as democracy."

Moon delivered his apology in a meeting with about a dozen former inmates, most of whom were children when they were snatched off the street by police and city officials and locked up at Brothers Home. They spoke of their experiences at the facility, including slave labor and near-daily assaults, how their sudden disappearance ruined their families, and how they have struggled with their lives since.

"I have no friends because I couldn't go to school," said Park Sun-yi, who spent more than five years at Brothers Home after being snatched by police at the age of 9. "We have no families to go to at Chuseok," she said, referring to the Korean Thanksgiving.

No one has been held accountable for hundreds of deaths, rapes and beatings at Brothers Home that were documented by an Associated Press report in 2016. The AP report was based on hundreds of exclusive documents and dozens of interviews with officials and former detain-

ees, which showed that the abuse at Brothers Home was much more vicious and widespread than previously known.

Military dictators in the 1960s to 1980s ordered roundups to beautify the streets, sending thousands of homeless and disabled people and children to facilities where they were detained and forced to work. The drive intensified as South Korea began preparing to bid for and host the 1988 Summer Olympics. Brothers Home, a mountain-side compound in the southern city of Busan, was the largest of these facilities and had around 4,000 inmates when its horrors were exposed in early 1987.

Kim Yong Won, the former prosecutor who exposed Brothers Home, told AP that high-ranking officials blocked his investigation under direction from the office of military strongman Chun Doo-hwan who feared of an embarrassing international incident on the eve of the Olympics.

Death tallies compiled by the facility claimed 513 people died between 1975 and 1986, but the

real toll was almost certainly higher. Kim's investigation records include transcripts of interviews of multiple inmates who said officials refused to send people to hospitals until they were nearly dead for fear of escape.

Kim, now a lawyer, wasn't able to indict Brothers Home owner Park In-keun or anyone else for widespread abuses at the facility and was left to pursue much narrower charges linked to embezzlement and construction law violations and confinement at a construction site in Ulsan where inmates worked.

"The prosecutor general's apology is an important step toward fully revealing the truth of Brothers Home and compensating the surviving victims," Kim said. Former Brothers Home inmates have received no compensation. They have been calling for a new investigation to establish the government's responsibility more clearly and create a base for compensation.

Seoul's previous conservative government had refused to revisit the case, saying that the evi-

dence was too old and expressing concerns over financial burdens. But the prosecution has recently been reviewing its handling of Brothers Home and other past cases suspected of human rights violations or abuse of investigation power as it faces greater pressure for reform under liberal President Moon Jae-in.

Moon Moo-il, the top prosecutor, last week asked the Supreme Court to re-examine the trial of the late Brothers Home owner. Park In-keun, who died in 2016, had been acquitted in 1989 of charges linked to illegal confinement of inmates but served a short prison term for embezzlement and other relatively minor charges.

**■ The remarks were the first formal expression of remorse over one of the worst human rights atrocities in modern South Korea**

The court then ruled that Park was abiding by a 1975 government directive that instructed police and local officials to round up vagrants.

The Supreme Court has not decided whether to reopen the case. Moon's request for an "exceptional appeal" allows the court to correct grave mistakes in interpretation of law though it cannot impose new punishment on the defendant. If the court accepts the case, a finding that the government failed to protect the constitutional rights of the former inmates could boost their push for compensation. **AP**

## SRI LANKA

# Lawmakers linked to disputed PM boycott Parliament

**S**RI Lankan lawmakers supporting disputed Prime Minister Mahinda Rajapaksa boycotted Parliament for a second day yesterday, accusing the speaker of bias during a political crisis that has engulfed the island nation for nearly a month.

President Maithripala Sirisena abruptly fired Prime Minister Ranil Wickremesinghe on Oct. 26 and appointed Rajapaksa. Both claim to be the legitimate officeholder, with Wickremesinghe saying he has majority

support in Parliament and his firing was invalid.

Speaker Karu Jayasuriya announced last week that Sri Lanka has no prime minister or government after Parliament passed no-confidence motions against Rajapaksa. Both Sirisena and Rajapaksa have refused to accept the results of the motions, saying proper procedures were not followed. Sirisena has said he will only accept a vote taken by name or through the electronic voting system.

When Parliament met yesterday, Rajapaksa loyalists did not enter the chamber and accused Jayasuriya of violating parliamentary traditions and being partial to Wickremesinghe. Jayasuriya was elected to Parliament from Wickremesinghe's United National Party.

Nimal Siripala de Silva, a lawmaker loyal to Rajapaksa, said they would boycott parliamentary sessions unless Jayasuriya follows traditions and rules.

Rajapaksa loyalists also

boycotted Parliament last week and during their absence lawmakers opposed to Rajapaksa won control of a key committee setting Parliament's agenda, dealing a severe blow to his leadership.

Parliament has become the center of the political crisis. During the no-confidence motions against Rajapaksa two weeks ago, rival lawmakers exchanged blows, and those supporting Rajapaksa threw books, chairs and chili powder mixed with water to try to block the

proceedings. Amid the disturbances, Jayasuriya resorted to voice votes.

Rajapaksa rejected the results of the votes, saying important issues should not be decided by voice. He also insisted the speaker had no authority to remove him. Lawmakers opposed to Rajapaksa say his government is illegal.

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. **AP**



# Rights group urges India to abandon plans to recover body of American

A rights group that works to protect tribal people has urged Indian authorities to abandon efforts to recover the body of an American who was killed by inhabitants of an island where outsiders are effectively forbidden by Indian law.

The group, Survival International, said the islanders could be exposed to deadly diseases if rescuers set foot on North Sentinel Island, where John Allen Chau was killed earlier this month. Chau traveled to the island by paying fishermen to smuggle him. The fishermen told authorities they saw the Sentinelese bury Chau's body on the beach.



Clouds hang over North Sentinel Island, in India's southeastern Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Notes that Chau left behind say he wanted to bring Christianity to the islanders. Indian officials have traveled repeatedly in recent days near the remote island but have not set foot on it.

Scholars believe the Sentinelese are descendants of Afri-

cans who migrated to the area about 50,000 years ago and survive on the small, forested island by hunting, fishing and gathering wild plants. Almost nothing is known of their lives, except that they attack outsi-

ders with spears or bows and arrows.

Survival International's director, Stephen Corry, said in a statement yesterday [Macau time] that any efforts to recover the body would be "incredi-

bly dangerous" for both Indian officials and the Sentinelese, who face being wiped out if any outside diseases are introduced.

"The risk of a deadly epidemic of flu, measles or other outside disease is very real, and increases with every such contact. Such efforts in similar cases in the past have ended with the Sentinelese attempting to defend their island by force," Corry said.

He said the body of Chau "should be left alone as should be the Sentinelese."

He was critical of Indian's relaxation of controls over visitors to such islands.

"The weakening of the restrictions on visiting the islands must be revoked, and the exclusion zone around the island properly enforced," he said.

He said the islanders should get the chance to determine their own fate.

"All uncontacted tribal peoples face catastrophe unless

their land is protected," he said.

An Indian police official earlier said they do not want to disturb the islanders' existence.

"They are a treasure," said Dependera Pathak, director-general of police on the Andaman and Nicobar island groups. "We cannot go and force our way in. We don't want to harm them."

There has been no significant contact with the Sentinelese for generations. Anthropologists used to occasionally drop off gifts of coconuts and bananas, but even those visits were stopped years ago.

Indian officials said earlier that they were consulting anthropologists to see how they can approach with a friendly gesture. They watched the Sentinelese from a distance in recent days. On Saturday the tribesmen were armed with spears and bows and arrows, but did not attempt to shoot them at the authorities. AP

AD

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# Mars touchdown: NASA spacecraft survives supersonic plunge

Marcia Dunn, Cape Canaveral

**M**INUTES after touching down on Mars, NASA's InSight spacecraft sent back a "nice and dirty" snapshot of its new digs. Yet the dust-speckled image looked like a work of art to scientists.

The photo revealed a mostly smooth and sandy terrain around the spacecraft with only one sizable rock visible.

"I'm very, very happy that it looks like we have an incredibly safe and boring landing location," project manager Tom Hoffman said after Monday's touchdown. "That's exactly what we were going for."

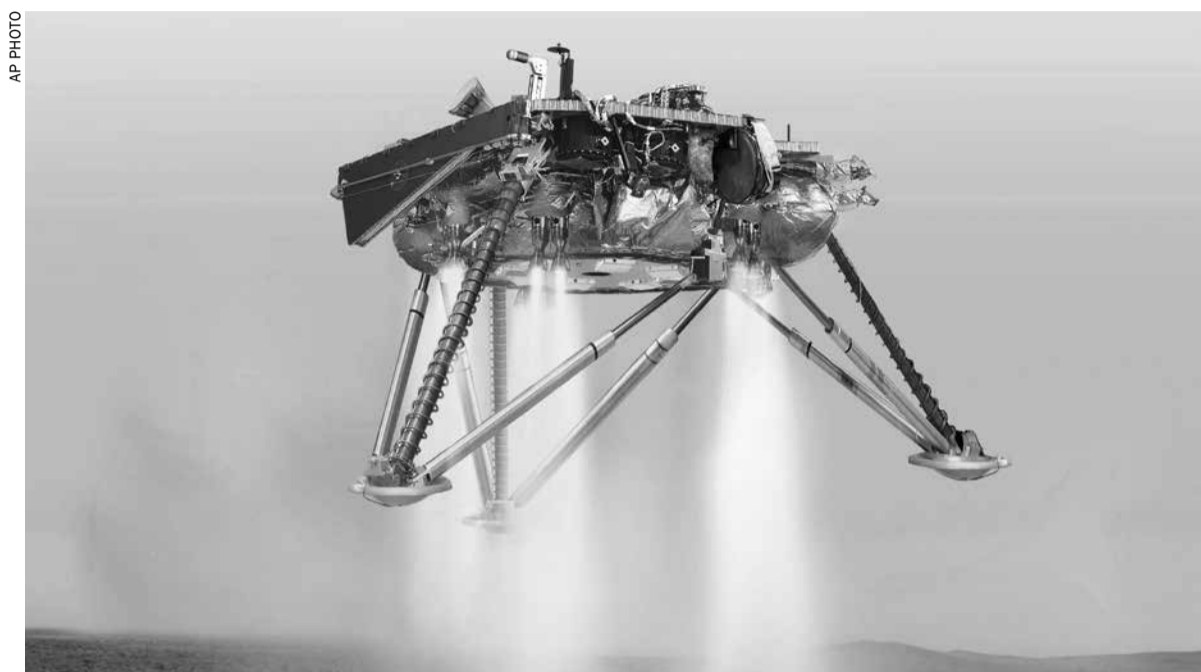
A better image came hours later and more are expected in the days ahead, after the dust covers come off the lander's cameras.

The spacecraft arrived at Mars after a perilous, supersonic plunge through its red skies that took just six minutes.

"Touchdown confirmed!" a flight controller called out just before 3 p.m. EST, setting off jubilation among scientists at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, California, who had waited in white-knuckle suspense for word to reach across 100 million miles (160 million kilometers) of space.

It was NASA's eighth successful landing on Mars since the 1976 Viking probes, and the first in six years. NASA's Curiosity rover, which arrived in 2012, is still on the move on Mars.

Because of the distance between Earth and Mars, it took eight minutes for confirmation to arrive, relayed by a pair of tiny satellites that had been trailing InSight throughout the six-month, 482-million-kilometer jour-



An illustration of NASA's InSight lander about to land on the surface of Mars

ney. "Flawless," declared JPL's chief engineer, Rob Manning. "Sometimes things work out in your favor."

InSight, a \$1 billion international project, includes a German mechanical mole that will burrow down 16 feet (5 meters) to measure Mars' internal heat. The lander also has a French seismometer for measuring quakes, if they exist on our smaller, geologically calmer neighbor. Another experiment will calculate Mars' wobble to reveal the makeup of the planet's core.

Late Monday, NASA reported the spacecraft's vital solar arrays were open and recharging its batteries.

Over the next few "sols" — or Martian days of 24 hours, 39½ minutes — flight controllers will assess the health of InSight's all-important robot arm and its science instruments. It will take months to set up and fine-tune

the instruments, and lead scientist Bruce Banerdt said he doesn't expect to start getting a stream of solid data until late next spring.

Banerdt called InSight's first snapshot of the surface the first bit of science, albeit "nice and dirty." He said the image would be cleaned and the black specks would disappear. That photo came from a camera low on the lander. Late Monday, NASA released a clean photo taken by a higher camera that showed part of the lander and the landscape.

The 360-kilogram InSight is stationary and will operate from the same spot for the next two years, the duration of a Martian year.

"In the coming months and years even, history books will be rewritten about the interior of Mars," said JPL's director, Michael Watkins.

NASA went with its old, straightforward approach this time,

using a parachute and braking engines to get InSight's speed from 19,800 kph when it pierced the Martian atmosphere, about 114 kilometers up, to 8kph at touchdown. The danger was that the spacecraft could burn up in the atmosphere or bounce off it.

Many Mars-bound spacecraft launched by the U.S., Russia and other countries have been lost or destroyed over the years, with a success rate of just 40 percent, not counting InSight.

The three-legged InSight settled on the western side of Elysium Planitia, the plain that NASA was aiming for.

Museums, planetariums and libraries across the U.S. held viewing parties to watch the events unfold at JPL. NASA TV coverage was also shown on the giant screen in New York's Times Square, where crowds huddled under umbrellas in the rain.

"What an amazing day for our

country," said Jim Bridenstine, presiding over his first Mars landing as NASA's boss.

Mars' well-preserved interior provides a snapshot of what Earth may have looked like following its formation 4.5 billion years ago, according to Banerdt. While Earth is active seismically, Mars "decided to rest on its laurels" after it formed, he said.

By examining and mapping the interior of Mars, scientists hope to learn why the rocky planets in our solar system turned out so different and why Earth became a haven for life.

## It was NASA's eighth successful landing on Mars since the 1976 Viking probes, and the first in six years

Still, there are no life detectors aboard InSight. NASA's next mission, the Mars 2020 rover, will prow for rocks that might contain evidence of ancient life. The question of whether life ever existed in Mars' wet, watery past is what keeps driving NASA back to the fourth rock from the sun.

After InSight landed, the two experimental satellites zoomed past Mars, their main job done. One took one last photo of the red planet that the satellites' chief engineer, Andy Klesh, titled "farewell to InSight [...] farewell to Mars." **AP**

# Kremlin warns of flare-up of hostilities in eastern Ukraine

**T**HE Kremlin has warned that the martial law that will go into effect in parts of Ukraine yesterday might trigger renewed hostilities in the separatist-held east.

The Ukrainian parliament on Monday adopted a motion by the president to impose martial law for 30 days, something that Ukraine avoided doing even when Russia annexed its Crimean peninsula or sent in clandestine troops and weapons to the war-torn east.

The vote followed Sun-

day's standoff near Crimea in which Russian border guards rammed into and opened fire on three Ukrainian navy vessels as they were trying to make their way from the Black Sea toward a Ukrainian port. The Russians seized the ships and their crews, who are expected to face a court later on Tuesday.

Russia and Ukraine traded blame for the confrontation that raised the specter of a full-blown conflict between the neighbors. Ukraine said its vessels were heading to the Sea

of Azov in line with international maritime rules, while Russia charged that they had failed to obtain permission to pass through the narrow Kerch Strait that is spanned by a bridge that Russia completed this year.

Dmitry Peskov, spokesman for Russian President Vladimir Putin, warned on Tuesday that the martial law introduced in 10 Ukrainian regions "has the potential" of triggering a flare-up in hostilities in the country's east.

Russia-backed separatists

in Ukraine's industrial heartland that borders Russia have been fighting Ukrainian troops since 2014, but the hostilities have largely subsided since a truce was signed in 2015.

Putin and German Chancellor Angela Merkel spoke on the phone in the early hours on Tuesday, and the Russian president expressed a "serious concern" about what the martial law in Ukraine might entail.

Meanwhile, German Foreign Minister Heiko Maas said Tuesday that



The damage on one of three Ukrainian ships is seen after it was seized

Berlin has "called on Russia and Ukraine to show the greatest possible restraint" and suggested that Germany, France, Russia and Ukraine could work together to resolve the tensions.

Asked about other offers of mediation that were made previously, Peskov said Russia has no need for it because it views the standoff in the Black Sea as a simple case of a violation of its border. **AP**



SYRIA

# Hundreds of bodies exhumed from mass grave in Raqqa

**S**YRIAN workers have exhumed more than 500 bodies from one of the largest mass graves near the northern city of Raqqa, once the capital of the Islamic State group's self-styled caliphate, and are still uncovering remains, a local official said yesterday.



The exhumation of mass graves in and around Raqqa is being undertaken by local groups and first responders amid concerns about the preservation of bodies and evidence for possible war crimes trials.

A devastating U.S.-backed air and ground campaign drove IS from Raqqa more than a year ago, but rescuers and recovery teams continue to locate mass graves in and around the city.

The Panorama mass grave, named after the neighborhood where it was found, is one of the largest

of nine mass graves discovered so far, and is believed to contain around 1,500 bodies. Hammoud al-Shawakh, a local official involved in the work, said 516 bodies believed to be of Islamic State fighters and civilians have been exhumed.

The work is pain-staking and the task is huge. A team of Raqqa-based first responders and a forensic doctor carefully shovel dirt to search for the bodies, which are believed to have

been buried there in the last days of the four-month campaign to liberate Raqqa.

Abdul Raouf al-Ahmad, the deputy forensic doctor, said local teams start their work at 8 a.m. and work for more than seven hours straight each day.

"After we extract the bodies from this grave... we document whether it belongs to a fighter, child, baby, an adolescent or woman or an ordinary person," he said. "We document clo-

thing, ornaments, height, type of injury, cause of death and how it was covered, what the person was wearing, with what it was wrapped and its position in the grave," he added.

International human rights groups say they are concerned that local groups are not getting the support they need in terms of forensic expertise and human resources.

"We're in a race against time. These bodies are decomposing at an exponential rate," said Sara Kayyali, of Human Rights Watch.

"If these bodies are not preserved in the correct way, in the way that's been established, then it does mean that much of this evidence might be lost when we're seeking accountability for crimes committed either in the context of the battle or before it," she added. **AP**

## Drone-car mashup model takes flight

A scale model of a flying drone-car mashup has driven and hovered across an Amsterdam exhibition hall, providing a glimpse of what could be the future of urban mobility. The "Pop. Up Next" prototype



drone, being developed by aviation giant Airbus, automaker Audi and Italdesign design house is made up of three separate modules — a chassis with wheels, a two-seat capsule for passengers and a four-rotor drone. The concept has been shown before, but a one-quarter size scale model made its maiden public flight Tuesday at the Amsterdam Drone Week convention. Just don't plan on hailing such an airborne ride any time soon. Airbus executive Jean Brice Demont estimates it will take more than a decade for a large-scale rollout of such a service.

## Japanese police probe after 7 bodies found in village

Japanese police investigated yesterday a suspected mass murder in a remote mountain village after six bodies — five people from one family and an acquaintance — were found at a farmhouse. A sixth family member apparently jumped or fell from a nearby bridge and was found hours later. Police said they are investigating if the killings resulted from a family dispute. Miyazaki prefectural police said officers found the bodies Monday after a relative of the family contacted them, saying his calls had gone unanswered. The bodies were lying in pools of blood at multiple locations in the house. Police found a blood-stained machete that they believe was used in the killings, Kyodo News agency reported.

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## what's ON



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

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

## MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

## KEITH HARING MAZE MACAU

TIME: 1pm - 9pm

UNTIL: December 31, 2018

VENUE: Cotai Expo Hall F, The Venetian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP150

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

## "STYLE-ENCOUNTER MOMENT"

TIME: 10am - 8pm

UNTIL: December 30, 2018

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

## Offbeat

## STRANGER RETURNS LOST WALLET AND ADDS EXTRA CASH



A South Dakota man has his lost wallet back with some extra cash thanks to a stranger.

Hunter Shamatt thought he'd never seen the wallet again when he lost it on a flight to Las Vegas for his sister's wedding. Inside was USD60 cash and a check for about \$400.

Shamatt tells KSFY-TV he received a package a few days later along with the wallet and a letter. The stranger wrote he found the wallet wedged between a seat and a wall on a flight from Omaha, Nebraska, to Denver. He added \$40 so Shamatt would have "an even \$100" to celebrate the wallet's return. The stranger only signed the letter with initials.

Shamatt's was able to thank the man after tracking down his return address in Omaha.

## TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	Zig Zag
16:25	Nelo & Idália
17:10	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:05	A Ferreirinha
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	LiteraturAqui
22:25	Madre Paula
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

## cinema

## CINETEATRO

22 - 28 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

## KAMEN RIDER BUILD X

ROOM 3

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

Director: Kazuya Kamihouriuchi

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 112min



## MY HERO ACADEMIA

ROOM 3

9:30 P.M.

Director: Kenji Nagasaki

Language: Japanese (Chinese, English)

Duration: 112min

## this day in history



Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland

## 1994 NORWAY VOTES 'NO' TO EUROPE

Norway has voted to reject membership of the European Union in a referendum, for the second time in its history.

With 92% of the referendum votes counted the "no" campaign had a clear margin of 52.4% to 47.6% for the "yes" vote. Turnout was estimated at 80%.

The result is a blow for Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland, who has made Norwegian membership of the EU her main political goal for the last four years.

"It was the people who made the decision, and we as a country have to live with that," she said.

Norway first rejected membership of the European Economic Community, as the EU was then known, in 1972. That result, by a similar margin to today's vote, forced the resignation of the government.

Mrs Brundtland has ruled out resignation this time, but it remains unclear how she will lead Norway into a non-European future.

The leader of Norway's Anti-European Union campaign, Anna-Enger Lahnstein, told supporters "With this, we have said Yes to Europe and Yes to international solidarity - but we don't want to join the Union."

The result threatens to leave the country bitterly divided after the closely-fought campaign.

Voters in the far north, the stronghold of the "no" campaign, rejected membership by a margin of 80-20, whereas the capital, Oslo, where a third of voters live, backed membership.

The "no" campaign led consistently in opinion polls throughout the campaign, but last-minute gains by the "yes" campaigners narrowed the gap and made the result too close to predict.

Recent votes for EU membership in fellow Scandinavian countries Finland and Sweden swayed many voters, but even that was not enough to reverse the trend.

The "yes" campaign has centred on the potential for Norway to become isolated if it doesn't join neighbouring EU countries in an era of expansion and change.

However, the "no" campaign argued EU membership would undermine the country's independence and its control over its rich petroleum and other natural resources.

But economists also warn that although Norway's oil-dependent economy is strong in the short term, North Sea oil and gas revenues are due to tail off soon and growth is expected to weaken.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The final result was 52.2% no to 47.8% yes, with turnout a record 88.6%. A poll in 2002, following the introduction of the Euro, suggested the tide had turned in Norway, and more than 50% were now in favour of EU membership.

However, there are no imminent plans to reconsider applying. Gro Harlem Brundtland resigned two years after the "no" vote, after three terms in office.

She served as director of the World Health Organisation from 1998-2003. In 2004 she was listed by the British newspaper, the Financial Times, as the 4th most influential European for the last 25 years, behind the Pope, Mikhail Gorbachev and Margaret Thatcher.

In May 2004 the EU took in 10 new members, expanding it to 25 member nations, with more under consideration.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A big test of your patience will come in the form of a rather demanding person today. But don't worry - the universe has loaded you up with an extra supply of tolerance.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your practical side is in total control today, so this is a good time to confront temptation. No matter what it is, you'll be able to handle it. Give that diet one more try today...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 No matter what you do today, do it with conviction. Now is not the time to be wishy-washy, or to drop something once it starts to get boring. Today you have to commit.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Schedule a date with your closest friend - or, better yet, plan a day trip to your favorite shopping or sporting destination. Doing something active is better than sitting in a movie theater.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It can be very easy to confuse stubborn behavior with determination. Make sure you're not giving a negative label to someone who is merely doing what he or she thinks is right.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 The longer you put off making the tough decisions, the harder finding internal strength when you need it will be. You already have most of your concepts about living formed, but they haven't solidified yet.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Kindness will play a major role in your day. You are meant to find a new understanding of reciprocity. Give to others what you want to get from them, and everything will work out the way you need it to.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You have been enjoying a powerful phase of life, and your potency is not about to weaken any time soon. But you should beware of forces beyond your control today.

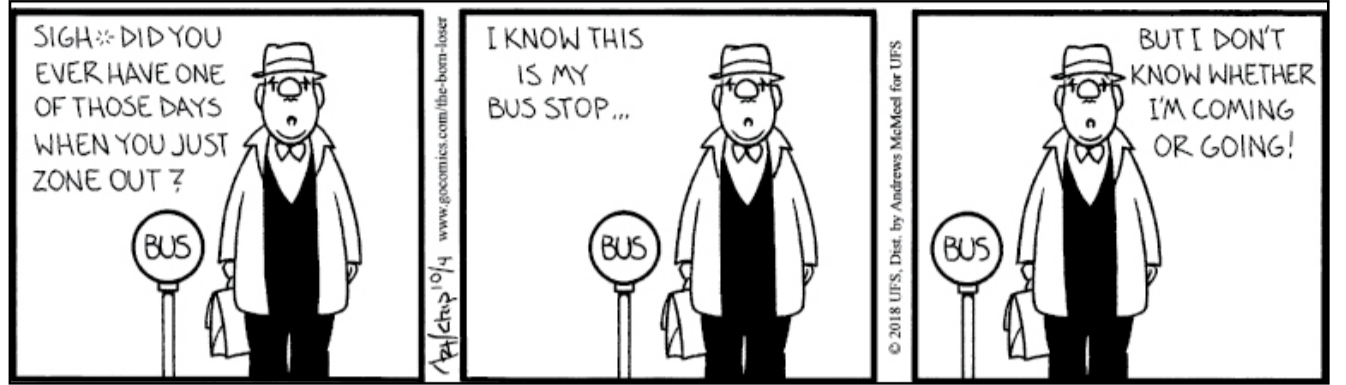
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 The heady thrill of excessive behavior will tempt you today, but it is time to take a more conservative stance. Watch your money, avoid going shopping and don't overeat.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You can make this day a blast, even if you're stuck in a boring situation with a bunch of folks who think talking about the weather is a scintillating conversation. Use your imagination.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have always had a gift for being tactful, but lately, you may have been feeling that people who use a sledgehammer approach with their foes are getting further than you ever have with well-chosen words.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Communication could be tough today - there are assumptions being made, and they're causing people to put up their defenses and resist listening to logic. It's not up to you to change their minds, so don't even try.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

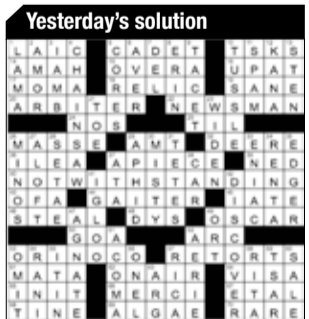
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WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Bedouin; 5- Opposite of NNW; 8- Ali & the 40 thieves; 12- Arp art; 13- Loses heat; 15- Performs; 16- Bard's river; 17- Attacks; 18- deuce; 19- Very large city; 22- Wind dir.; 23- Immediately; 24- Christmas carol; 26- Prizes; 29- Does penance; 31- Suffix with Capri; 32- Sniggler; 34- Rich cake; 36- Potatoes' partner; 38- Shake awake; 40- German river; 41- Fabric hand-dyeing technique; 43- Penned; 45- the season...; 46- Belonging to them; 48- Less cluttered; 50- Sea eagle; 51- Campers, briefly; 52- Be human; 54- Remove magnetization from; 61- Film; 63- Alabama city; 64- Muddy up; 65- Drift off; 66- Stand used by painters; 67- Diarist Frank; 68- British gun; 69- Put on; 70- Tailless rodent; DOWN: 1- First man; 2- Pan's opposite; 3- Sick as; 4- Tropical fruit; 5- Work up lather; 6- Fair; 7- Airline to Tel Aviv; 8- Lamb's lament; 9- Increase in speed; 10- Bingo call; 11- sow, so shall...; 13- Thick fish soup; 14- Tour of duty; 20- Traditional knowledge; 21- Smoke deposit; 25- Slaughter of baseball; 26- Bothered; 27- Make secure against stormy weather; 28- Reduces speed; 29- Flaming felony; 30- Flight of steps; 31- Fed. fiscal agency; 33- Where it's at; 35- Trauma ctrs.; 37- Stadium level; 39- Endless; 42- Compassionate; 44- Gutter locale; 47- Witherspoon of "Legally Blonde"; 49- Woman's shoe style; 52- Terminates; 53- Underground part of a plant; 55- Anthropologist Margaret; 56- Furthermore; 57- Feds; 58- Hebrides island; 59- Bluish white metallic element; 60- Zeno of; 62- Cartoon Chihuahua;



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Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
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IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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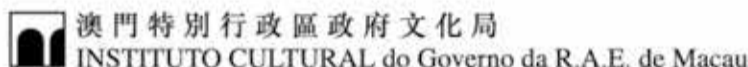
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## RUGBY

# All Blacks coaches confident one year out from World Cup

Steve McMorran, Wellington

**N**EW Zealand head coach Steve Hansen has offered a sunny assessment of where his squad stands less than a year out from a Rugby World Cup in Japan, where the All Blacks will be trying to win the Webb Ellis Trophy for the third straight time.

Hansen has hailed top-ranked New Zealand's recent northern hemisphere tour as a great success, despite an historic loss to No. 2-ranked Ireland in Dublin — the All Blacks' first loss in Ireland in 113 years.

His optimistic view of the All Blacks' status as the World Cup rapidly approaches contrasts with the growing anxiety of some fans who see the loss to Ireland as evidence that the team is in decline, or at least that the rest of the world is catching up.

The general view of All Blacks fans, expressed widely on social media, is that 2018, in which New Zealand won 12 tests and lost two was not a great one. The losses to Ireland and South Africa were low points but there was a wider feeling throughout the year that the team, which has been ranked No. 1 in the world for nine years, has fallen away from the high standards it achieved early under Hansen's coaching.



Ireland's Garry Ringrose is stopped in his tracks as he attacks during the rugby union international between Ireland and the New Zealand All Blacks in Dublin

The brilliant attacking play which has been the team's hallmark has been evident only in sporadic moments this season.

No-one doubts New Zealand has superbly skillful players and are still capable of constructing marvelous tries. That lock Brodie Retallick won World Rugby's Try of the Year award just this week for a try in which he sold a dummy and bamboozled the Wallabies backline shows the breadth of skill that exists within the team.

But the recent error rate and the lapses of tactical judgement have sown unease, even among the All Blacks' most loyal fans. Ireland's ability to use smother-

ring defense to shut down the All Blacks' attacking game, holding them tryless for the first time in four years, has grown much deeper concern.

Ireland followed a model established by the British and Irish Lions during their drawn series in New Zealand last year. The Lions, under Wales coach Warren Gatland, showed that when opponents control the pace of the game and successfully employ a rush defense the All Blacks can lose composure.

Hansen and his fellow coaches have been working on measures to get around those defenses. The head coach has repeatedly stated that one of the reasons

the team's performances have been "scrappy" this season is that they are trying to incorporate new elements into their game.

It's for that reason that Hansen was happy with the outcome of the northern tour, highlighted by a win over England. Hansen said the All Blacks made progress in developing those new elements of their game which include the two-playmaker style involving flyhalf Beauden Barrett and fullback Damian McKenzie.

He said the loss to Ireland will be a critical lesson for New Zealand ahead of the World Cup, helping it adapt its style to

the new approach of its opponents.

"It will also be an annoying itch that we won't get to scratch until we play them and I know that will make us a little hungrier," Hansen said. "It's always good when you go to the table hungry. You won't win the World Cup unless you're hungry, and you can deal with the pressure of it."

Hansen said the squad has developed its depth in 2018, with flyhalf Richie Mo'unga and center Jack Goodhue among the most notable discoveries.

"We've found some young players who have really challenged some of the senior players," Hansen said. "Now we will go back and really solidify our thinking and our selections and where we will go to next."

However, there has been concern over the form of some senior players, especially captain Kieran Read. Read missed the first half of the season as he recovered from major back surgery. He hasn't been as impactful on attack in recent matches, leading some to question whether his career is nearing an end.

Star midfielder Sonny Bill Williams is another whose selection for the World Cup is no longer a certainty.

Read shares Hansen's view that the All Blacks are in a good place as the World Cup nears.

"I think every team we play plays their best game of the year against us and that's something to learn from," he said. "It comes from experience and we've got guys that are relatively new to the stage and have learnt a lot from those situations."

"I think we're in a pretty good spot right now. We've got a squad which is capable of a lot." AP

## French-American man abandons attempt to swim Pacific

**A** French-American man has given up his attempt to swim across the Pacific Ocean after a storm broke the mainsail of his support ship, organizers said Monday.

Ben Lecomte, who had completed about 2,780 kilometers of the 9,260-kilometer journey, called the premature end to the swim a deep disappointment.

"We've faced treacherous winds, rain and ocean swells that have forced us to alter our course, and the irreparable damage to the sail is an insurmountable blow," he said in a news release.

The announcement was made by Seeker, a San Francisco-based online



science publisher that partnered with Lecomte and has been documenting his attempt.

Lecomte, of Austin, Texas, set out on June 5 from Japan's Pacific coast and was swimming

an average of eight hours a day. Violent storms had already forced him to interrupt the swim after 500 nautical miles and return to Japan in late July. The mainsail broke on Nov. 10.

The damaged ship and Lecomte are slowly making their way to Hawaii. They are collecting data on plastic pollution in the ocean, one of the scientific aims of the swim. AP

## Ex-Korea international Jang gets life ban for match-fixing

**EX-SOUTH** Korea international Jang Hak-yong has received a lifetime ban from the Korea Football Association (KFA) after an attempt to fix a domestic league game.

Jang, a left-back who played five times for South Korea and more than 300 domestic games before he retired in 2017, was arrested in September and sentenced to 10 months in jail. After Jang's release he will be barred from participating in any soccer-related activities.

The 37-year-old Jang met Lee Han-saem, a player with Asan Mugunghwa in the second division of the K-League, in September. He was found guilty of offering Lee 50 million won (USD44,300) to receive a red card within the first 20 minutes of a

game against Busan I'Park on Sept. 22.

Lee refused, informed the authorities and Jang was subsequently arrested. Lee received a reward of 70 million won (\$62,000) from the KFA, which announced the sanction for Jang on Monday.

Korean soccer is still recovering from a damaging match-fixing scandal during the 2011 K-League season that involved more than 50 players or former players.

Other sports have been caught up in corruption. In 2016 police charged 21 people, including two pitchers, involved in South Korea's professional baseball league. There have also been issues in the volleyball league with four players banned for life in 2012. AP



opinion

**Macau Matters**

Richard Whitfield



**SHIFT-WORK DANGERS**

In Macau a lot of people work on shifts – we are all familiar with the associated early morning, mid-afternoon and late evening traffic jams. This poses some special health risks that I suspect we need to manage better in Macau.

The World Health Organization officially classifies night-time shift-work as a possible carcinogen. This finding is based on the results of many large epidemiological studies that have found substantially higher breast, prostate, uterus and colon cancer rates among night-shift workers. In a world first, the Danish government recently paid workers' compensation to several women who developed breast cancer after working on night-shift for several years.

Working night-shifts disturbs our circadian rhythm and the quality of our sleep. This is known to adversely affect our immune system and to reduce the natural night-time production of NK cells in our bodies which are known to recognize, attack and kill many types of cancer cells. Sleep deprivation is also known to stimulate our sympathetic nervous system and fight-flight response (so we feel nervous and are easily startled). This stimulates blood flow and body inflammation responses, which some cancers can take advantage of to speed up their growth, and to speed up their spread via metastasis.

Poor and disturbed sleep also leads to several other health problems because it interferes with several bodily repair functions. During sleep our bodies naturally regulate the proper functioning of many of our genes (which are the part of the cells in our bodies that are used as blueprints to make the proteins and other chemicals we need to sustain life).

For example, sleep deprivation stops the production of Growth Hormone which our bodies use to tell its cells to grow and split to repair bodily "wear and tear". This is an important part of our immune system as well, which is why sick people often just want to sleep (to let their bodies repair themselves).

Furthermore, in separate studies, experimental subjects that were only permitted to have 4 hours of sleep each night for a week before being vaccinated for Flu and for Hepatitis A and Hepatitis B were found to only produce 50% of the anti-bodies of other comparable subjects that were not sleep deprived. Thus prior sleep deprivation may affect the efficacy of vaccinations that help strengthen our immune system.

Similarly, inadequate sleep lowers the concentration of Leptin (which makes us feel satiated) and increases the levels of Ghrelin (which makes us feel hungry) in our bodies. Thus chronic lack of sleep leads to over-eating and poor dietary habits, and thus to obesity and diabetes. It also lowers our energy levels so we do not want to exercise.

Even small amounts of sleep deprivation can have a big impact. It is known that the start of daylight savings time, and its associated 1 hour of sleep loss, is strongly correlated with spikes in heart attack and traffic accident rates.

Some researchers say that good quality and quantity sleep is the essential foundation for a healthy life, along with good dietary practices and regular exercise. Many epidemiological studies have found correlations with sleep and many physical and mental health problems and overall lifespan. In Macau, I believe that we need to put a lot more effort into publicizing the benefits of a good night's sleep, and how to reduce the deleterious effects of working on night-shift.

Reference: Walker M (2017) *Why We Sleep – The New Science of Sleep and Dreams*, New York: Penguin Random House

**THE SLEEPING PILOT OVERFLIES AUSTRALIAN ISLAND DESTINATION**

Airline officials say a pilot is under investigation after falling asleep in the cockpit of a freight plane and overflying his Australian island destination by 46 kilometers.

Airline Vortex Air says the pilot was the only person aboard the twin-propeller Piper PA-31 Navajo Chieftain and was flying on autopilot during the flight this month from Devonport city on Tasmania northwest to King Island in

Bass Strait.

The Melbourne-based airline said in a statement yesterday that the pilot "unintentionally fell asleep while in command of the aircraft."

It said: "The issue became apparent when air traffic control was unable to contact the pilot in-flight."

The airline said the pilot landed safely on King Island. The pilot has not been identified.

**Six whales refloated after stranding on New Zealand beach**

AP PHOTO



Nick Perry, Wellington

**C**onservation workers and volunteers in New Zealand managed to refloat six surviving stranded whales yesterday and were hoping the animals would soon swim away into deeper water.

Ten pygmy killer whales were initially found stranded Sunday at Ninety Mile Beach on the North Island. Two whales later died there.

On Monday evening, crews transported the remaining animals on hay-lined trailers to Rarawa Beach on the opposite coast of the peninsula, where the sea conditions were calmer. The trip took about an hour, said Department of Conservation ranger Jamie Werner.

Werner said the whales were then placed in a tidal stream to relieve the pressure on their bodies. But he said the whales became too buoyant and were moved onto the sand, where volunteers kept a vigil through the night, regularly cooling the animals with water.

Werner said about 200 people showed up to help, and groups of a dozen per whale lifted the animals into the sea yesterday morning and refloated them on the high tide. He said that two of the weaker whales

beached themselves again. "They were calling to the other whales in the pod, and they were coming back in," he said. "So we made a quick decision to euthanize them. It's actually phenomenal to see how in tune they are with each other."

He said the remaining whales were swimming about 400 meters from the shoreline in the afternoon and would continue to be monitored until they swam into deeper water, their natural habitat.

**The whales were placed in a tidal stream to relieve the pressure on their bodies**

The crews were hoping for a better outcome than from an unrelated stranding over the weekend in which all 145 pilot whales died.

Travel blogger Liz Carlson wrote that she was on a five-day hike on a remote part of Stewart Island when she and a friend found the pilot whales Saturday evening. She said they rushed

into the water.

"Desperately we grabbed their tails and pushed and yelled, before we got hammered by them thrashing around," she wrote on Instagram. "It was useless — they were so big and heavy and the realization we could do nothing to save them was the worst feeling I've ever experienced."

She said her friend ran 15 kilometers to a hut to tell rangers and she stayed with the whales, dragging the smallest baby back into the water every few minutes before it would beach itself again.

"I knew they would inevitably die," she wrote. "I sank to my knees in the sand screaming in frustration and crying, with the sound of dozens of dying whales behind me, utterly alone."

When conservation workers arrived, they found that 75 of the animals were already dead and they decided to euthanize the others due to their poor condition and remote location.

Whale strandings are relatively common in New Zealand during the Southern Hemisphere spring and summer. Scientists believe strandings can be caused by a number of factors, such as the whales trying to escape predators, falling ill, or navigating incorrectly. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**RUSSIA** The European Court of Human Rights issued a fresh rebuke to the Kremlin yesterday, ruling that Russia's continued ban on LGBT rallies is discriminatory and represents a violation of human rights.

**GREECE** Authorities say the dismembered bodies of three people, believed to be immigrants who were hit by a train overnight, have been found on rail tracks near the border with Turkey.



**GERMANY** A court yesterday convicted the suspect in last year's attack on the Borussia Dortmund soccer team's bus of attempted murder and sentenced him to 14 years in prison.

**FRANCE** An employee of the French Senate is in custody on suspicion of spying for North Korea. A judicial official says that the man was detained in an investigation open since March into "collecting and delivering information to a foreign power susceptible to harming fundamental interests of the nation."



**US** President Donald Trump is strongly defending the U.S. use of tear gas at the Mexican border to repel a crowd of migrants that included angry rock-throwers but also barefoot, crying children.

**BRAZIL** Scientists warn that Brazil's president-elect could push the Amazon rainforest past its tipping point — with severe consequences for global climate and rainfall.