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Extended police powers concern lawmakers

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A CONVERSATION WITH MIKE GOODRIDGE

Film festival and the city

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA said yesterday that it had expressed concerns to the U.S. over the passage of a pair of Navy warships through the Taiwan Strait, days ahead of a planned meeting between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

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PHILIPPINES A court found three police officers guilty yesterday of killing a student they alleged was a drug dealer, in the first known such conviction under the president's deadly crackdown on drugs.

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KOREA-JAPAN South Korea's top court yesterday ordered a Japanese company to financially compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor during Tokyo's 1910-45 colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula, in the second such ruling in a month that again drew quick, vehement protests from Japan.

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MDT EXCLUSIVE | MIKE GOODRIDGE, IFFAM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

'There is a really exciting movement in

Paulo Coutinho

THE craftsmanship of a film festival is intertwined with its city, its community, and its film industry, projecting the best international cinema in Macau and taking Macau to the world stage. That is in short the vision Mike Goodridge had for the International Film Festival and Awards (IFFAM) from day one.

IFFAM's artistic director has further developed the concept he implemented last year, when he took the job, and has lined up a starlight film billboard – Green Book, Roma, Mandy, The Favourite, just to name a few. Also, Goodridge and his team continue to discover and bring us 'little' masterpieces made by promising debutant filmmakers for the competition section of the festival.

It is a way to relate to the similarly debutant Macau film industry that "can benefit from having these young filmmakers here," Mike Goodridge told the Times in an exclusive interview.

"The visiting guests last year had an amazing time in Macau. And they're talking to all their friends about Macau. I think it's really positive in the film community. And this is an amazing city to visit. Not everybody has been to Macau, by the way."

Except for those thirty odd millions per year, we teased.

In retrospective, films cast last year went on to having very successful careers, but Goodridge admits that there "will always be criticism of a festival because everybody wants it to be a certain way. But my job as an outsider really is to make it as international and as accessible as it can be, while retaining integrity as a program because we want to show great new films, great first films and second films in our competition section which you probably haven't heard of before and you haven't heard of the actors or the directors, but they're really good."

Most of the 40 films showing at IFFAM from December 8 to 14 will have their China or Asian premieres here. The great novelty this year is the new competitive section on New Chinese Cinema, where something "exciting and risky is happening."

That is where the conversation with the Englishman in Macau started.

Macau Daily Times – You have a new section this year which is New Chinese Cinema. Is this "new cinema" the successors of the brilliant filmmakers of the Fifth Generation like Chen Kaige, who presides over the jury?

Mike Goodridge – I don't know. That's a good question because there was a Sixth Generation as well. There is a really exciting movement in China at the moment; filmmaking that I find incredibly daring and risk taking. Often telling stories in ways that we in the west aren't familiar with; using images much more to tell the story than dialogue or traditional narrative.

MDT – Do they represent this New Cinema?

MG – Yes, certainly, the six films we've chosen. There are three from the mainland and two from Taiwan and one from Malaysia. So, it's Chinese language, but they're incredibly varied. One's a documentary, one's a sort of noir thriller. There are some human interest and family stories, very dramatic, but I think they do represent a new breed of filmmaker in China.

MDT – So there is a "nouvelle vague" in the Chinese cinema?

MG – Yes, I really think so, and I don't think that's getting enough play outside of China. So, this was our attempt to showcase six great [New Chinese Cinema] films for the foreign guests, for the Macau audiences, for all the neighbouring regions to see what's going on in China.

MDT – In order to choose those six, how many did you screen?

MG – We screened a lot. I mean, I have a brilliant programmer called Giovanna Fulvi who is an Italian woman who programs for Toronto and Rome festivals as well. She speaks Mandarin, she's an expert in the region. She was educated in Beijing actually and is fantastically knowledgeable about Chinese cinema, all Asian cinema actually, and it was a real challenge for her. At the beginning MGTO was a little worried there wouldn't be enough for six, but we found that there were, you know, huge amounts of films.

MDT – What was the shortlist, before the six?

MG – Well, we were about down to ten, but we watched many, many films. Well over fifty.

MDT – Do you expect this to be a significant part of the festival?

MG – Yes. Look, we're a Chinese festival and it is really important to show the best of what is happening in this region. Remember, we have a lot of [people from the] foreign industry here, a lot of foreign guests and I think it's a great way for them to see the output of the region. You know, Macau isn't terribly thick in terms of filmmaking yet and we are showing two Macau feature films.

MDT – Not in that section.

MG – No, because this is Macau so, we're giving them a bigger section, but I'm really excited about this Chinese section.

MDT – What about Macau/Portugal's production by Ivo Ferreira?

MDT – "Empire Hotel." Obviously it's a Macau production. It's a Macau story. He makes it look incredible. It's a really beautiful depiction of old Macau.

There is a really exciting movement in China filmmaking that I find incredibly daring and risk taking.

MDT - Ivo was once nominated for the foreign films at the Oscars. Do you think this one stands a chance?

MG – I don't know what country it would represent. It's about time Macau put forward a film, but is it Macau or Portugal? It should be Macau, but we're really happy to be showing that. I'm a great admirer of Ivo as a filmmaker and it's a really interesting, dark story set in a hotel and



it's about the changing fabric of society in Macau. So, I think for you and your readers, I think it's really interesting and would really be personal. There's a Chinese thriller, a mainland/Macau co-production called "Nobody Knows," which is a Macau film as well, that we're excited to be playing. It starts at the Eiffel Tower at The Parisian and it's a thriller. There are [those] Macau feature films and the shorts that we play in the local view tower that are all images and visions of Macau that I hope local audiences will interact with.

MDT – Where would you place the influence of local young filmmakers? More like Chinese, Hong Kong, the West...?

MDT – No, I think they're unique. It's something unique because they're a bit of all. And they're in the shadow of gaming, which comes across in a lot of stories.

MDT – You can't escape that.

MG – Well, you can't, can you. It's also such a massive tourism city. There are different nationalities in all these films.

MDT – This is very transient place.

MG – Yes, transient, but there is a local population that want to tell their own stories.

MDT – Do you feel any concerns in terms of freedom of expression while working on the movies' selection?

MG – No. I haven't encountered that. All the films have to go through censorship. I mean, there're things that we have to be aware of, obviously.

MDT – "Seven Years in Tibet" would be a no-go...

MG – "Seven Years in Tibet," films about Taiwanese independence. Do you know what I mean?

MDT – That kind of common sense is self-censorship of a kind.

MG – I suppose so. It's like saying that Cannes wouldn't play a film that was very anti-French, you know what I mean? It doesn't make sense because they probably wouldn't. They could, but they probably wouldn't, you know, because it defeats the purpose.

MDT – As you know, in China there're a lot of persecutions in films, literature...

MG – Cinema is obviously something that the government takes very seriously. All the Chinese films that we play have to have the "Dragon Seal" from mainland China, but then we show here lots of films that wouldn't ever play in China.

MDT – Let's get to this year's competition. Without

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China cinema'

screening the films yet, just looking at reviews and trailers, two key words – 'isolation' / 'desolation' – comes to mind, also because guilt and suffering is a very lonely place. Would you say this is a theme?

MG – All the films are about guilt and suffering, indeed. But I don't think so [that there is a theme]. I mean, maybe there was some sort of subconscious thematic programming mechanism to it, but there's a great range. There's an Indian film called "The Man Who Feels No Pain," which is a big action comedy and it's quite daring of us to put it in the competition, but I'll have to brief the jury fully, to say you've got to look at these films for what they are because you'll be looking at this action comedy from India or this horror film from France - "School's Out" - in the same terms as these beautiful arthouse films. So, you have to judge them by their own standards. I haven't actually thought about what brings... what unites all the films. But yes, come to think of it, it's pertinent: isolation is there [in the selection].

[However] I look at them stylistically, rather than thematically. So "The Guilty" is an incredible thriller set in one room with one man ... Then we have female topics. Strangely there's a film called "All Good," which is, I think, one of the most intelligent films on [sexual harassment]. About a woman who is raped, but she refuses to define herself as a victim. She refuses to see it as an act that's going to slow her down, but inevitably it does and it's a really beautiful film.

MDT – Again, isolation and desolation...

MG – True actually. Maybe you're right. I'm trying to think... and "Suburban Birds" is all about isolation. Yes, you're right.

MDT – Also, the geography is very diverse in terms of plots and origin of productions.

MG – That wasn't particularly deliberate. We go for what we think is best. These are all Asian premieres as well. The only exception is that some of the Asian films, we allow them to play in their home territory.

MDT – All those in the competition are Asian premieres?

MG – Yes, apart from the Asian films like "Clean Up" the Korean film, played in Busan, "Jesus", a Japanese production, played in Japan, and "Suburban Birds", the Chinese film. But everything else [8 out of 11] is an Asian premiere.

MDT – The opening film, "Green Book," seems like a different choice from last year's Paddington sequel, but again, it is a big studio production. What's your take on this film?

MG – Well, you think you know what it is. It looks like a sweet, sentimental tale about the deep south and racial intolerance and it's about a schlumpy Italian-American from New York, driving a black musician around the deep south in 1962 and encountering all the intolerance and racism that there was, but it's actually a friendship story and nothing is as it seems. So, it's very well written, it's expertly made ... It's a road movie, but it's just a story of this friendship, but it's so lovely and so intelligent and the performances are spectacular. So, all of us loved it.

MDT – Will it also be a premiere here? For Macau it is.

MG – Yes, it's a China premiere ... It certainly hasn't played here so, we just wanted the best. Look, it's being talked about for the Oscars: it won the People's Choice Award at Toronto, which is the most prestigious award before [the] Oscars that you can get. So, I think that it's going to be nominated for Best Picture at the Oscars. It's phenomenal.

MDT – There's no love like the first love, so they say, and you did well with your selection last year. "Shape of Water" won the Oscar for Best Picture and others also went on to having very successful careers. Do you expect that level of success this year?

MG – We're very fortunate that we're playing "Green Book." We're very fortunate we're playing "The Favourite," which is one of our two U.K. galas. "The Favourite" is just a spectacular piece of filmmaking. A British film directed by a Greek director, Yorgos Lanthimos. Star-

ring Olivia Colman as Queen Anne and Rachel Weisz and Emma Stone as the two courtiers who are trying to gain her influence and it's one of the most delicious, comic, tragic stories you'll ever see. It's really spectacular. The writing, the performance. It's hilarious. I think that's going to get a Best Picture nomination too. Olivia Colman is astonishing.

Then we have "Roma," which is Alfonso Cuarón's new film, which was made for Netflix and it's on Netflix on December 14th, which is the last day of our festival. However, this film played in Venice and won the Golden Lion. It's being considered the best film of the year by many people. It's a huge talking point in Hollywood at the moment because it should be seen on the big screen. It's one of the most exquisitely beautiful films you've ever seen. It has to be seen on the big screen. It's in black and white and it's Alfonso Cuarón's own story of growing up with both a mother and a housekeeper. It's a very Mexican scenario.

The shadow of gaming comes across a lot of [Macau] stories.

MDT – Do you think this recognition of the movies that have screened here has an impact on the image of the festival here and abroad?

MG – Yes, I think so. Look, we work very hard to get these films to play here and it's not easy to get the rights holders to agree or the studios to agree, but you know, they obviously want exposure for these films. They're very sensitive about them. "Roma" and "The Favourite" were in Venice and had huge, huge successful response there, in Venice. "Green Book" was in Toronto and won the People's Choice Award. So, they know now that the films will be well received. I think they want to know how they'll be received here. We're actually going to film some of the audience coming out of some of them to feedback to the studio.

MDT – In relation to local audiences, do you think the festival is reaching out?

MG – These films that we're talking about, these American films, will be

shown here, but a festival always wants to give you a first look at something, a sneak peek. It was great that we had "The Shape of Water" here because that was the first time it had played in this region and so it was fantastic for people to say "I saw it in Macau." I think we had much improved audiences last year than in the first year and I want them to be even better this year.

MDT – Let's end with a bang. So, Nick Cage 'threatens' every day on TV that he'll be here.

MG – "See you there!" [Smiles] Yes, he's going to be here.

MDT – He's probably the most well-known Hollywood star in China. Was that the play?

MG – Western star, yes, he's hugely popular in China, and in Asia. Yes, because we wanted a big name to come, who would be meaningful here and who has a lot to say about the art of film. I mean, look at that career, it's massive and we've got an amazing new film that he's in called "Mandy," which is one of the most talked about films of the year. It's getting a huge following and it's another of those intense, crazy Nicolas Cage performances. Although, it's probably one of his best in years. He's this guy who's reinvented himself over and over and over again and I just think there's something fascinating about him and meaningful to audiences.

MDT – He's going to be at the opening?

MG – He's going to be at the opening night. He's doing a lot of press for us on the day of the opening. There's a press conference on the Saturday morning [Dec 8], and on Sunday afternoon [Dec 9] I'm doing a Q&A with him, a masterclass, where we'll talk more about his craft and his career.

MDT – Tell me something I don't know about the festival.

MG – You've got to see "Diamantino," which is the best, most fun Portuguese film for years. It is just a delicious, crazy, whacked out comedy with a message about a footballer who's absolutely the most stupid man alive, but he's a big star footballer called Diamantino and he is about to get involved with this crazy scheme to pull Portugal out of the EU. It's hilarious, it's just hilarious. The director(s) should be here as well.

WHAT CRITICS SAY ABOUT DIRECTOR'S PICKS FOR MDT

Diamantino

"Gabriel

Abrantes and Daniel Schmidt rustle up one of the year's most singular debuts with this winningly bizarre, genre-melding political satire."

Variety



Empire Hotel

"Ivo Ferreira's thriller is a nocturnal odyssey set in the slums of Macao about the disappearance of Portuguese identity and gentrification."

Cineuropa



Roma

"[Cuarón's]

'Roma' [is] a hypnotic, neo-realist masterpiece about a middle class family living in Mexico City in the 1970s that's inspired by the filmmaker's own youth. But this is a different kind of autobiography.

Associated Press



Green Book

"[Viggo] Mortensen and [Mahershala] Ali are a joy to watch, but

'Green Book' is just a warm bath of clichés."

BBC Culture (Full review inside Extra)



The Favourite

"With its spurts of violence, splashes of blood and cynical sexual encounters, 'The Favourite' is, oddly enough, about love."

Associated Press (Full review inside Extra)



Mandy

"Cage is on magnificent, mind-boggling form as a chainsaw-wielding lumberjack hunting the gang who invaded his home."

The Guardian



Shadow

"Almost entirely held in monotones, [Zhang's] drama features one of the most lauded fight scenes in recent times, showcasing a battalion of armored umbrellas. It recently swept four awards at Taiwan's Golden Horse Awards..."

The Hollywood Reporter (Closing film)



Note: MDT asked Mike Goodridge for picks among non-competition movies only.

Imports surge in October

Macau's total merchandise import rose by 37.8 percent year-on-year to MOP8.53 billion in October, according to the Statistics and Census Service. Imports of mobile phones, beauty cosmetics and skin-care products, and watches soared by 179.4 percent, 77.6 percent and 54.7 percent respectively. Total merchandise export for October amounted to MOP1.06 billion, up 31.2 percent year-on-year. The merchandise trade deficit in October amounted to MOP7.46 billion. From January to October 2018, the total value of merchandise export increased by 8 percent year-on-year to MOP10.13 billion, of which value of re-exports (MOP8.84 billion) grew by 11.8 percent, but that of domestic exports (MOP1.29 billion) declined by 12.1 percent. The total value of merchandise imports went up by 23.1 percent year-on-year to MOP74.31 billion. The merchandise trade deficit widened to MOP64.19 billion for the first 10 months of 2018.

CE to sign document detailing Belt and Road participation

Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, will visit Beijing on December 5 to sign a document with the National Development and Reform Commission. According to a statement issued by the government, the document aims "at advancing Macau's full participation in, and contribution to the 'Belt and Road' initiative." The document will set out ways to give full play to Macau's participation in, and support for, development of the "Belt and Road" initiative under the principle of "serving the country's needs while delivering Macau's strengths." Officials accompanying Chui to Beijing include the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

Car crashes in Taipa, one injured

A car accident in Taipa injured one person on Wednesday night. One car crashed into two others that were parked before turning over to its side. TDM reported that the driver of one of the cars that was parked was injured and sent to Kiang Wu hospital for medical treatment.

POLICY ADDRESS

Lawmakers concerned with extension of police powers

Renato Marques

WONG Sio Chak was at the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday to present the top priorities for the area of security. Several lawmakers expressed concerns over what they called a constant "extension of powers" granted to police authorities in the investigation and resolution of several kinds of cases.

The first lawmaker to raise issues regarding this issue was Agnes Lam, who questioned the Secretary for Security on the many legal regimes currently being analyzed by the Assembly that aim to empower police authorities, namely in areas such as cyber security, data protection, video surveillance and phone tapping, among others.

Lam also noted that in previous years "there were many cases of police officers, namely from the Public Security Police Force, involved in problems and disciplinary actions," noting that the Committee for Disciplinary Control of the Security Forces and Services of Macau (CFD) - a body that is in charge of analyzing such processes and cases - was lacking independence since, "it depends directly on the PSP."

Another of the concerns aired by Lam was on the benefits and privileges of police staff, which according to the lawmaker are not even nor consistent and that "harms the motivation of the staff."

The same topics were also addressed by lawmakers such as Sulu Sou and Wong Kit Cheng, with Sou highlighting the differences between the privileges enjoyed by different staff members, including holiday allowance and monetary compensation.

Also on the topic of police powers, Ho Ion Sang highlighted the measures related to video surveillance. According to Ho, the government should create a balance between the need of surveillance for security reasons and the privacy of the citizens and people in general.

However, Wong said that lawmakers and the public should not be worried with the extension of such powers because they actually represent a democratization of the system, adding "the government is constantly developing the system. Develop does not mean give more power but, in fact, create added restrictions and an added control over all sectors [of society]."

"It's an attitude of responsibility from the government and a duty of the government [to do so]," Wong concluded.



Wong Sio Chak

Regarding the possibility of the CFD being subject to inspection from a third party, as Lam had suggested, Wong said: "If this can be done by the AL I can agree with this. I don't think there is any problem. If there is a social consensus of this also, we are always supportive."

Replying to other questions, the Secretary noted the added pressure over the existing number of officers, which have

been stretched by the entry into operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge that has warranted the dispatch of a total of 210 officers.

"Of course we are feeling pressure. We sent 210 officers for customs inspections, which is a very low number when compared with the almost 600 from the Hong Kong side and over 500 from Zhuhai. We are doing what we can," the Secretary said.

"The same happens in Gongbei where the staff from the mainland side is double that from Macau. This is one of the reasons that justifies our investment in technology. Our passage is in fact faster [than the Chinese side] due to the automatic passage system installed. We are going to continue to resort to technology to solve some of these [manpower shortage] problems."

Wong: Facial recognition in casinos 'not possible'

IN reply to a question from lawmaker Fong Ka Chio during the policy address for the area of Security, Secretary Wong Sio Chak stated that "crimes related with gaming have been [becoming] more organized and more reliant on technology. The majority of them do not even happen in person anymore but via the internet and other methods," Wong said, adding that the government is trying to tackle the problem with "regional cooperation."

Wong remarked that to install facial recognition software systems in casino surveillance cameras is "not possible" because it would breach the current laws that only allow such systems to be enforced in public areas.

"Casinos are private spaces and cannot be considered public areas. The police cannot install this [facial recognition system] there," he said, adding, "in the future, if needed, we would have to review the law first, in order to be able to enforce such a system and install those kinds of ca-

meras."

Fong had noted that much of the crime in Macau occurs inside casino venues or is related to the gaming industry.

"The facial recognition systems currently, if in good lighting conditions, are very accurate," he said, suggesting that such systems could be used as a way to avoid the entry of previously identified criminals and other people that have been blacklisted. They could also help to identify internationally wanted criminals, he said in reference to the recent revelation that detained drug lord "El Chapo" had been known to be a Macau gambler.

Separately, Wong appeared to welcome a suggestion by lawmaker Ho Ion Sang, who suggested that the government might organize a day per year dedicated to a general drill - which should include the entire population - as a way to train, prevent and alert the population for situations of emergency and disaster.



WHAT'S surprising about the "The Story of Yanxi Palace" isn't its mega popularity or rave reviews. Rather, it is that some of this imperial-age television drama's biggest fans are the young, urban, digitally and socially connected. Since the premier of its first episode on July 19, the show has remained one of Weibo's top-trending list and the conversations on the country's social media platforms are all about Chinese heritage and culture as well as the ancient and intricate Chinese costumes.

It is hardly any wonder then that MGM, a keen advocate of Macau's arts and cultural experiences, has catapulted on this global trend with the launch of its latest exhibition, "Explore the Beauty of Chinese Embroidery". This showcase, which opened on November 7, is a curation of China's intangible cultural heritage and craftsmanship, with exhibits of actual items from the wardrobe designs of "The Story of Yanxi Palace" as well as ancient costumes from Kunqu opera. This exhibition marks the first time that the delicate costumes and accessories from the show are on display in Macau.

The launch of the exhibition was followed by a living heritage symposium at MGM Theater at MGM COTAI. Over 500 art and culture enthusiasts from Macau and across the region came together with four industry experts to discuss about Chinese heritage, and its modern interpretation and presentation to a new wave of designers and innovators.

Among them is Emily Chan, an up-and-coming film director in Macau. "I thank MGM for offering

us this opportunity, which allows me to closely appreciate so many beautiful costumes and listen to the experts talking about the stories and culture behind the [art and film] creation," she said.

We felt really honored to have had such a big symposium in Macau.

MIRIAM SUN

Besides art experts and cultural aficionados, the symposium was also graced by around 30 members of the Macao Chinese Kunqu Culture Association. "We felt really honored to have had such a big symposium in Macau," said Miriam Sun, Director of the Shanghai Museum of Contemporary Art, who was the moderator of the symposium.

This ground-breaking event is just one of many endeavors by MGM as it continues to make world-class art accessible to everyone, and ultimately, to elevate Macau's art and cultural landscape. And it continues to do so at both its properties in the city.

Since the opening of MGM COTAI earlier this year, the organizers have presented over 300 works as part of its eponymous Art Collection. At the same time a display of 28 Chinese imperial carpets from the 18th and 19th centuries line the Emerald Lobby walls. These rare and precious car-

pets are both decorative and symbolic, and possess rich historical and cultural significance. A distinctive feature of the MGM COTAI Art Collection are pieces of art that blend perfectly with the architecture's interior design. For example, local calligrapher Ung Si Meng's story of the Forbidden City is displayed alongside the imperial carpets.

On the Macau peninsula, MGM MACAU has welcomed over 300,000 visitors to its 25 world-class international and local exhibitions, including "Botticelli's Venus: The Life and Times of a Goddess," and renowned Portuguese contemporary artist Joana Vasconcelos' "Valkyrie Octopus". The city also saw its first co-creative digital exhibition, "Learn & Play! TeamLab Future Park," at the MGM Art Space.

A pioneering digital art and innovation project by MGM include the Spectacle at MGM COTAI, which is revolutionizing the digital art scene in Macau. It comprises the world's largest permanent indoor LED screens, and feature digital artworks by international renowned artists.

Of course, no endeavor is ever successful without the support of the community. With that in mind, MGM continues to engage with talented locals by immersing and involving them in the Company's art journey. To date, MGM has trained over 500 local students through its training program to become skilled art guides. The training these students receive today equal an appreciation of art that MGM is nurturing in a new generation of art and culture aficionados.



Macau-Taipa tunnel design costs MOP99m

The government has decided to outsource the design of the fifth Macau-Taipa connection, proposed to consist of an underwater tunnel between the Macau Peninsula and Taipa. The tunnel will be located next to the old Macau-Taipa Bridge. The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has outsourced the contract to CCC Highways Consultants Co., Ltd with a price of MOP99.27 million. The company will be responsible for the preliminary design, project investigation and thematic consultancy studies within 800 days.

Gov't takes back illegally occupied land

The government has recovered a piece of land located in Hac Sa Village, according to a statement released by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT). The land occupies a total of 70,740 square meters. In the beginning of this year, the DSSOPT found out that the piece of land had been illegally occupied as it was hosting an illegal engineer project. The DSSOPT issued a suspension of works to the party that was carrying out the project. However, the offending party did not obey the DSSOPT's order and continued the project.

Groups gather to celebrate BoBo bear

Seven groups will gather at the Flora Garden to commemorate black bear BoBo. The New Macau Association (NMA) is organizing the gathering. The groups will also collect signatures for a petition to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), opposing the embalming of BoBo conducted by the bureau; the government hired so-called experts from Shenzhen to carry out the embalming. Lawmaker Sulu Sou had many questions, including: whether there is only one expert or a big team coming from Shenzhen, what IACM's role will be during the embalming process, who will be responsible for any problems that may occur, and how the government will handle other organs belonging to the bear.

China-PH medical forum a reflection of warming diplomatic ties

Daniel Beitler

HUNDREDS of medical professionals and government officials are participating in an international symposium co-hosted in Macau and the Philippines, with the dual aims of furthering collaboration in medicine and the strengthening of diplomatic ties between countries of the Asia-Pacific.

The first leg of the 4th Sino-Asia Pacific International Medical Forum kicked off this week in Davao, marking a departure from the tradition of co-hosting the Forum in the country's capital, Manila.

The addition of Davao to the roster carries political weight in Sino-Philippine relations. The third-most-populous city in the Philippines, Davao is the political power base of the country's president and where his daughter, Sara Duterte, currently holds office as mayor.

Organizers brand the Forum as a form of "medical diplomacy" that helps to alleviate stress points in international relations as much as it serves as a platform for medical exchange. The cornerstone of the Sino-Asia Pacific International Medical Forum is the relationship between China and the Philippines - both countries have played host in the four editions of the Forum to date - underpinned by the two countries' overlapping claims in the hotly contested South China Sea.

The Sino-Asia Pacific International Medical Forum finds itself at least on the periphery of these high-level relations. Its opening ceremony, which counted the attendance of Sara Duterte, came just as Chinese President Xi Jinping and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte hashed out no fewer than 29 bilateral agreements, including one that sets out a non-legally binding



framework on joint oil and gas exploration and exploitation in "relevant maritime areas."

"When we first started meeting four years ago, it was the lowest point of relations between the Philippines and China," Dr Billy Chan, vice president of the Forum, told the Times in an interview earlier this week. "Ever since Duterte, these tensions have been reduced," he said, adding he hopes successive medical forums might make their own contribution to improving the relationship.

Starting yesterday, the Sino-Asia Pacific International Medical Forum entered into its second leg hosted at the Faculty of Health Sciences at the Macau University of Science and Technology and at the Dr. Stanley Ho Medical Foundation at the Landmark hotel. Running until Sunday, the remaining activities in the Forum include a Percutaneous Coronary Intervention workshop with simulation training, a lecture on how to administer medical schools and a talk about the implementation of e-health in the Philippines.

"There are more than 7,000 islands in the Philippines and it's hard to control that data [across disparate communities in the

archipelago] when natural disasters like typhoons, earthquakes and landslides strike," said Chan. "Physical data was destroyed in these natural disasters, but later recovered electronically via the cloud."

During their visit to the Philippines earlier this week, representatives from Macau's medical community presented Philippine health officials with state-of-the-art medical devices, including two ultrasound machines and a bipolar resectoscope system for bladder cancer and benign prostate procedures.

The devices were presented in the name of "medical diplomacy and peace," according to organizers. In the words of Professor Manson Fok, President of the Forum, "It is in [the] greater spirit of peace that we are here to bridge medical diplomacy. Diseases and medical treatment know no borders."

The Macau delegation at the Forum said they were impressed by the equipment and expertise on display at the medical institutions they visited in Davao.

"Normally people will think of the Philippines as a developing country, but these medical facilities are on par with anything in Australia or North America,"

said Chan. "It's extremely impressive."

"We visited the biggest public hospital in the country, Southern Philippines Medical Center, where the chief [of the hospital] said that they received 5,000 casualties from the siege of Marawi who were treated for emergency and trauma care," said Chan, referring to the five-month armed insurgency in the southern Philippines last year.

If people go to Thailand or Singapore or India for medical treatment, certainly in Macau we can do way better.

BILLY CHAN
FORUM'S VICE PRESIDENT

Chan believes that Macau has a lot to learn from the development of medical facilities in the Philippines. He told the Times that if the MSAR wants to nurture medical tourism as part of its economic diversification plan - as Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam and other senior officials have previously suggested - then it needs to tap further into its financial resources to develop a reputation of expertise in specialty fields.

"In my opinion, we can do so much more," he said. "If people go to Thailand or Singapore or India for medical treatment, certainly in Macau we can do way better [with the resources we have available]. Our assets and resources are way greater than some of these places."

"In a few years, we can develop something a little bit unique in some specialty area - oncology or special care or medical education - and we can attract people from abroad to come here," he suggested, warning "we are under-utilizing our current facilities."

Thai festival kicks off tomorrow

THE 13th edition of the Thai Cultural Festival will be held from tomorrow until Sunday at Rua de Abreu Nunes, dubbed amongst Thais as "small Bangkok."

The street will host a total of 17 food and activities stalls in a bid to promote its culture in the city.

Organized by the Thai Chamber of Commerce in conjunction with the Macao Government Tourism Office, the festival will give away 2,500 packs of rice for use in traditional blessings.

According to the president of the chamber, Christine Mok, stall applications for the festival have been increa-

sing in number, but only 17 could be accommodated due to the street limit.

"Last year, we had 15 stalls. That street is small and many stores want to join but we could not accommodate more. There are no plans of adding more because we really want to hold the festival there, as many

Thais have been living there since they came to Macau... That is why we call it small Bangkok. There will be performances such as dancing and singing, along with Muay Thai performances," said Mok.

This year, the organizer said it would also accommodate a Thai massage stall for resi-

dents to experience its wellness techniques.

According to the organizer, they are expecting some 20,000 participants to attend the two-day festival.

"Thailand and Macau have different cultures, and so when Thai people move to Macau and live here, we want to continually promote their culture, so their children will also be reminded of such culture," Mok explained. **LV**

One-day HKZMB tour groups requested to be reasonably organized

THE Guangzhou Municipal Administration of Tourism has requested that mainland travel agencies “reasonably arrange one-day tours to Hong-Kong and Macau through the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB).”

Last week, the Guangzhou tourism authority issued an emergency notice requesting that the mainland’s outbound travel agencies guide visitors into participating in Hong Kong-Macau group tours of two or more days.

The same notice also suggested that mainland travel agencies should try to avoid arranging HKZMB package tours on weekends in order to avoid rush hours.

The Guangzhou tourism authority pointed out that “due to the big increase in the number of passengers recently visiting the HKZMB, irregularities appeared frequently.”



RENATO MARQUES

In addition, the Guangzhou authority claimed that, in order to “strictly implement” the mainland’s tourism law, it requires travel agencies which are not qualified for overseas tourism not to operate overseas tourism businesses.

The Guangdong provincial cultural and tourism authority, together with the Guangzhou tourism authority, have claimed that Guangdong will assist law enforcement in combating tourism irregularities.

On Wednesday, Macau and Guangdong reached an agreement to ease restrictions for Ma-

cau’s private cars, as well as for Guangdong and Macau’s official cars which also use the bridge.

Regarding this specific restriction removal, the agreement states that both kinds of cars will have a longer temporary permit of bridge utilization between Macau and Zhuhai, which means these vehicles will not need to apply for a new card each time they cross the bridge (either through Zhuhai or Macau).

In addition, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) announced yesterday that, until November 23, the HKZMB Macau port had recorded a total of 802,804 crossings,

of which more than 100,000 were recorded across the Zhuhai-Macau border, 680,000 across the Macau-Hong Kong border, and 16,000 across vehicle channels.

Furthermore, on average, 2,616 private cars used the bridge daily going from the Macau port to Hong Kong. There were also 2,604 private cars going from Hong Kong to Macau. The Macau port parking lot was used 779 times daily.

Around 15,000 trips of shuttle buses between Hong Kong and Macau were recorded, involving a total of 600,000 passengers.

There were 3,000 cross-border bus services between Hong Kong and Macau provided, which transported more than 80,000 passengers between the two places.

Despite the fact that the bridge has been used by such a large number of passengers, ferry operator Shun Tak Group is not worried about the ferry business.

Shun Tak Group recently said that the company is still waiting to see the impact caused by the bridge’s opening, and that, so far, everything is in line with the company’s expectations.

The CEO of Shun Tak Group, Pansy Ho, noted that there is no fierce competition between buses and the ferries.

The company is also said to have not reduced ferry operations due to the bridge. **JZ**

Kart GP to be held from Dec. 6 to 9



The 2018 Macau International Kart Grand Prix is set to be held from December 6 to 9 at the Coloane Karting Track. Around 150 karters from Australia, China, Taiwan, Colombia, Finland, France, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, Philippines, Russia, Spain, Singapore, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, Hong Kong and Macau will contest four races involving a total of 12 groups, including the Macau Cup KZ Invitation Race International, AAMC Cup KZ Invitation Race Asia and the Asian Karting Open Championship (AKOC). Free admission will be granted to spectators during the four-day event, which has been organized by the Automobile General Association of Macao-China and co-organized by the Sports Bureau and the Macao Government Tourism Office.

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Vanessa Gera, Warsaw

AN airport worker drops by Warsaw's newest Ikea store during her lunch break to finish up plans for a home refurbishment. Around her, people drift in and out of the shop, placing small houseware items in big yellow bags as cafe tables fill up with people just stopping in for lunch.

The store is not one of Ikea's out-of-the-way, maze-like warehouses that require a car to visit, but a shop like any other in a city center shopping mall. The Swedish retailing giant plans to open 30 such smaller stores in major cities around the world as part of a transformation that is costing the company financially but is needed to adapt to changing consumer habits.

Compared with just a decade ago, shoppers are more likely to be living in urban areas and not have a car, and often want a nearby location to look at goods like fur-

Ikea moving into city centers to adapt to consumer changes



niture in person before ordering things online.

"I like the idea because you can come any time," said 29-year-old Angelika Singh, the airport

worker, as she finalized an order for a new kitchen. "Mostly when you go to Ikea you need to have a whole day free, or at least half a day free,

because it's far."

Warsaw's store is located on two floors covering nearly 5,000 square meters, about one-fourth of a traditional big-box store.

Shoppers can buy cushions, curtains and other home items. They can design the layout of bedrooms and kitchens at computer stations. But those hoping to buy a bookcase or bed will not find them stocked in a large warehouse, though they can order them at kiosks and have them delivered to their homes.

As such, it offers a very different shopping experience from the usual visit to one of the large warehouse stores.

Small stores have also opened in major cities like Madrid and London, which has a small new "planning studio" for kitchen and bedroom projects. Next year smaller stores are also due to open in Paris and Tokyo.

"Ikea's been doing pretty much the same for 70 years. It's been a cash-and-carry company, and it still is for the majority of its sales," said Andreas Flygare, the project manager for the Warsaw store. Now, he explained, the company must adapt to a consumer environment that has changed dramatically in the last 10 years.

"You have companies like Amazon and Uber that are raising the bar for what is expected. Because if you can have same-day delivery, or an Uber is two minutes away, it influences other

companies, like Ikea," he said in a recent interview in the store's cafe. "It can be a quite tough environment. Everything is changing so fast."

The Swedish retailing giant plans to open 30 such smaller stores in major cities around the world

The company, whose founder Ingvar Kamprad died in January, has seen business growth slow in recent years. But updating its business model to reinvigorate sales is not coming cheap. On Wednesday, it reported that its operating profit for the full year through August had dropped 26 percent to 2.25 billion euros (USD2.55 billion) as it increased spending on the new stores as well as delivery services and its online offerings.

Thomas Slide, senior retail analyst at the market research firm Mintel, described Ikea's new approach as a rational response to a "global trend towards urban living and a re-birth of the cities."

"While Ikea used to be able to build its big blue warehouses on the

edge of towns and cities and expect shoppers to come to them, now it has recognized it needs to be more flexible in its approach and take the Ikea experience to them, through digital channels and smaller stores closer to where people live and work," Slide said.

Ikea isn't the first to embrace such an approach. In the U.S., retailer Target has rolled out smaller stores to broaden its reach. French hardware store Leroy Merlin has done the same, as have Kingfisher-owned DIY store B&Q and sofa retailer DFS in Britain.

"While Ikea may not be on the cutting edge of this trend, it's an important strategy to prepare the business for the future," Slide said. "The challenge will be adding extra services through additional channels while also maintaining profitability."

Chen Yu Ting, a 25-year-old from Taiwan who studies medicine in Warsaw, said it used to take him 40 minutes by bus to visit one of the large Ikea stores outside the city. But he is a short walk to the new store, and after an initial trip to buy pillows and bed sheets he now returns often for lunch, which is priced right for his budget.

"It's more convenient, and now I just come here to eat," he said. His only complaint? The store doesn't stock frozen meatballs. **AP**

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SAM LEE

If you have ever tried to look for an apartment to rent or buy in Macau, you might have been surprised to find that two or more agents show up to help you view the property. Some may wonder why so many people need to get involved in the seemingly simple exercise of showing you a property. Let me try to explain.

It all starts with the property itself, and behind that, the owner. As you know, as property agencies we do not have our own products, but we help promote and market properties that are listed with us by the owners. Owners can usually choose to list their properties with as many or few agencies as they like, and they select agencies to work with based on a number of different reasons including personal relationships, proximity to their property, marketing horsepower or language.

If an owner lists property A through JML Property and someone contacts one of JML's agents to view the same property, it's a very straight forward process. We either have the keys

on hand or can arrange access through the owner. In all cases, we protect our client's interests by making sure that the owner and potential tenant are represented by separate agents and ensuring that the matter is dealt with professionally and diplomatically.

However, if the potential tenant contacts ABC agency that does not have the listing for property A, that agent might contact JML Property to arrange the viewing and cooperate.

In this case, JML's agent that represents the owner will meet the agent from ABC agency and his tenant client at the unit to give them access. If there are junior agents shadowing a more experienced agent or multiple agents from the same agency have agreed to represent the same client together and share the commissions, there might be up to 4 or 5 agents at the scene! (Quick Tip: It is considered inappropriate for the owner's agent to share their contact information directly with the client during the viewing)

Regardless of how many agents there might be at the viewing, it ultimately makes little difference to the client. He will pay the same amount in commissions of one month's rent for rentals or usually 1 percent of sales price for a purchase. This is split between the agents as agreed. The only difference is that as more agencies get involved, communication becomes more difficult as any message between the tenant and the landlord has to pass through two separate agents. In a negotiation setting this is less than ideal, and miscommunications can sometimes occur in this elaborate game of real estate Chinese whispers.

As you can see, the current system can be very inefficient. A better approach would be if property listing information was organized, digitised and centralised in an online platform like Rightmove in the UK or Zillow in the US. We have somewhat similar platforms in Macau, but nothing that really compares. An agent can only dream.



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Beijing halts work by team on gene-edited babies

Marilynn Marchione, Hong Kong

CHINA'S government ordered a halt yesterday to work by a medical team that claimed to have helped make the world's first gene-edited babies, as a group of leading scientists declared that it's still too soon to try to make permanent changes to DNA that can be inherited by future generations.

Chinese Vice Minister of Science and Technology Xu Nanping told state broadcaster CCTV that his ministry is strongly opposed to the efforts that reportedly produced twin girls born earlier this month. Xu called the team's actions illegal and unacceptable and said an investigation had been ordered, but made no mention of specific actions taken.

Researcher He Jiankui claims to have altered the DNA of the twins to try to make them resistant to infection with the AIDS virus. Mainstream scientists have condemned the experiment, and universities and government groups are investigating.

He's experiment "crossed the line of morality and ethics adhered to by the academic commu-



An embryologist installs a fine glass pipette into a sperm injection microscope in preparation for injecting embryos with Cas9 protein and PCSK9 sgRNA at a lab in Shenzhen

nity and was shocking and unacceptable," Xu said.

A group of leading scientists gathered in Hong Kong this week for an international conference on gene editing, the ability to rewrite the code of life to try to correct or prevent diseases.

Although the science holds promise for helping people already born and studies testing that are underway, a statement issued

by the 14-member conference leaders says it's irresponsible to try it on eggs, sperm or embryos except in lab research because not enough is known yet about its risks or safety.

The conference was rocked by the Chinese researcher's claim to have helped make the world's first gene-edited babies. Conference leaders called for an independent investigation of the

claim by He, who spoke to the group Wednesday as international criticism of his claim mounted.

There is no independent confirmation of what He says he did. He was scheduled to speak again at the conference yesterday, but he left Hong Kong and through a spokesman sent a statement saying "I will remain in China, my home country, and cooperate

fully with all inquiries about my work. My raw data will be made available for third party review."

Several prominent scientists said the case showed a failure of the field to police itself and the need for stricter principles or regulations.

"It's not unreasonable to expect the scientific community" to follow guidelines, said David Baltimore, a Nobel laureate from California Institute of Technology who led the panel.

There already are some rules that should have prevented what He says he did, said Alta Charo, a University of Wisconsin lawyer and bioethicist and a conference organizer.

"I think the failure was his, not the scientific community," Charo said.

Gene editing for reproductive purposes might be considered in the future "but only when there is compelling medical need," with clear understanding of risks and benefits, and certain other conditions, said Dr. Victor Dzau, president of the U.S. National Academy of Medicine, one of the conference sponsors.

"Not following these guidelines would be an irresponsible act," he added.

Other sponsors of the three-day conference are the Academy of Sciences of Hong Kong, the Royal Society of the United Kingdom and the U.S. National Academy of Sciences and U.S. National Academy Sciences. AP

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In China, your car could be talking to the government

Erika Kinetz, Shanghai

GLOBAL automakers are feeding real-time location information and dozens of other data points from electric vehicles to Chinese government monitoring centers, potentially adding to China's rich kit of surveillance tools as President Xi Jinping steps up the use of technology to track Chinese citizens. Generally, it happens without car owners' knowledge, The Associated Press found.

More than 200 automakers selling electric vehicles in China — including Tesla, Volkswagen, BMW, Daimler, Ford, General Motors, Nissan, Mitsubishi and U.S.-listed start-up NIO — send at least 61 data points to government-backed monitoring platforms, under rules published in 2016.

Automakers say they are merely complying with local laws, which apply only to alternative energy vehicles. Chinese officials say the data is used for analytics to improve public safety, facilitate industrial development and infrastructure planning, and to prevent fraud in subsidy programs.

But critics say the information collected exceeds those goals and could be used to undermine foreign carmakers' competitive position, or for surveillance. Under Xi's leadership, China has unleashed a war on dissent, marshalling big data and artificial intelligence to create a more perfect kind of policing that can quickly neutralize perceived threats to the stability of the ruling Communist Party.

There is also concern about the precedent these rules set for sharing data from next-generation connected cars, which may soon transmit even more personal information.

"You're learning a lot about people's day-to-day activities



A screen displaying live data from vehicles at the Shanghai Electric Vehicle Public Data Collecting, Monitoring and Research Center in Shanghai

and that becomes part of what I call ubiquitous surveillance," said Michael Chertoff, who was secretary of the Department of Homeland Security under President George W. Bush and wrote a book called "Exploding Data." "Companies have to ask themselves, 'Is this really something we want to do in terms of our corporate values, even if it means otherwise forgoing that market?'"

At the Shanghai Electric Vehicle Public Data Collecting, Monitoring and Research Center, a wall-sized screen glows with dots. Each represents one of more than 222,000 vehicles connected to the system, coursing along Shanghai's roads to create a massive real-time map that could reveal where people live, shop, work, and worship.

Data also flows to a national

monitoring center run by the Beijing Institute of Technology, which pulls information from more than 1.1 million new energy vehicles. Those numbers are about to get much bigger, as Beijing pushes electric vehicle development as part of its "Made in China 2025" industrial development plan.

Ding Xiaohua, the deputy director of the Shanghai center, said monitoring is not designed to facilitate state surveillance, though data can be shared with police, prosecutors or courts, if a formal request is made. The center is registered as a non-profit but is tightly aligned with and funded by the government.

There is a privacy firewall built into the system. The data center has each car's unique vehicle identification number, but to link that with the owner's per-

sonal details, it must go through the automaker — a step it has taken in the past. Chinese law enforcement can also link the vehicle identification number with the owner's personal information.

"To speak bluntly, the government doesn't need to surveil through a platform like ours," Ding said.

Many vehicles in the U.S., Europe and Japan transmit position information back to automakers, who feed it to car-tracking apps, maps that pinpoint nearby amenities and emergency services providers. But the data stops there. Government or law enforcement agencies would generally only be able to access vehicle data in the context of a specific criminal investigation and in the U.S. would typically need a court order,

lawyers said.

Automakers initially resisted sharing information with the Shanghai monitoring center; then the government made transmitting data a prerequisite for getting incentives.

"They gave you dozens of reasons why they can't give you the data," said a government consultant who helped evaluate the policy and spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss sensitive issues. "Then we offer the incentives. Then they want to give us the data because it's part of their profit."

Chinese officials say the data is used for analytics to improve public safety

There was concern the shared data might reveal proprietary information about, for example, how hybrids switch between gas and battery power, and eventually set automakers up for commercial competition with a Chinese government entity.

Ding said confidentiality agreements protect proprietary company information. Still, he is open about his desire to make money from the data. "We have done some explorations," he said. "But there is still a distance from truly monetizing it."

China's ability to grab data as it flows from cars gives it an edge. China tends to view technology development as a key competitive resource. Though global automakers have received billions in incentives and subsidies from U.S., European and Japanese governments, they are contributing data to China that ultimately serves Beijing's strategic interests.

Automakers stressed they share data to comply with Chinese law and obtain consent from car owners. Nearly all have announced plans to aggressively expand electric vehicle offerings in China, the world's biggest car market. **AP**

PRC expresses concerns over US warships in Taiwan Strait

CHINA said yesterday that it had expressed concerns to the U.S. over the passage of a pair of Navy warships through the Taiwan Strait, days ahead of a planned meeting between President Donald Trump and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told

reporters that Taiwan was the "most important and sensitive issue" in relations between the sides.

"We have expressed our concerns to the U.S.," Geng said at a daily news briefing.

"The Taiwan issue has a bearing on China's sovereignty and territorial integrity. It is the most important and sensitive

issue in China-U.S. ties," Geng said.

China's defense ministry also said it had closely followed the warships' passage.

Monday's passage of the guided missile destroyer USS Curtis Wilbur and guided missile cruiser USS Antietam marked at least the third time this year that the Navy has sai-

led through the strait that separates Taiwan from mainland China.

The 160 kilometer-wide waterway is split down the middle between Taiwan and China, but there is no international law restricting civilian or military shipping from passing through it.

Tensions between the two militaries have been

high over U.S. challenges to China's claim to sovereignty over virtually the entire South China Sea. In late September, a Chinese destroyer came close to colliding with the destroyer USS Decatur in the South China Sea in what the U.S. Navy called an "unsafe and unprofessional maneuver."

Despite that, contacts between the sides have endured and China gave permission last week for the aircraft carrier USS Ronald Reagan to dock in Hong Kong.

Trump and Xi are due to meet in Argentina tomorrow amid tensions over Taiwan, the South China Sea and an increasingly bitter trade war between the sides.

China regards Taiwan as its own territory to be brought under its control by force if necessary. The sides split amid civil war in 1949 and most Taiwanese favor retaining their current de-facto status of political independence while maintaining close economic ties with China. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Three policemen convicted of murder in brutal drug war

Jim Gomez, Manila

A Philippine court found three police officers guilty yesterday of killing a student they alleged was a drug dealer, in the first known such conviction under the president's deadly crackdown on drugs.

Regional Trial Court Presiding Judge Rodolfo Azucena Jr. ruled the officers murdered Kian Loyd delos Santos during a raid in Caloocan city's slums in the Manila metropolis last year. It rejected the policemen's claim that the 17-year-old fired back while resisting arrest.

The court sentenced the officers, Arnel Oares, Jeremias Pereda and Jerwin Cruz, to be imprisoned for up to 40 years without parole, although they can appeal. Aside from the prison term, the policemen, who appeared in court in handcuffs and yellow detainee shirts, were ordered to pay damages to Santos's impoverished family.

President Rodrigo Duterte's crackdown, which has left thousands of suspects dead, repor-



tedly in clashes with the police, has alarmed Western governments and U.N. rights experts and horrified human rights watchdogs. The volatile president has stressed he does not condone extrajudicial killings, although he has repeatedly threatened drug suspects with death and has assured police he would back them up in ways that human rights watchdogs say have encouraged law enforcers to act

with impunity.

"A shoot first, think later attitude can never be countenanced in a civilized society. Never has homicide or murder been a function of law enforcement," Azucena said in his ruling. "The public peace is never predicated on the cost of human life."

Duterte's government called the ruling "a triumph of justice" which disproved critics' assertion that the judiciary was a ru-

bberstamp.

"As we have always stressed, the conduct of the government's anti-illegal drug campaign is based on accountability. Therefore, we do not — and we will never — tolerate unjustified police violence, brutality or killing," presidential spokesman and chief legal counsel Salvador Panelo told a news conference.

Opposition Sen. Risa Hontiveros, who has railed against the

drug killings, said the court decision proved that extrajudicial killings under Duterte's crackdown were being committed by rogue members of the national police force.

"This is a light in the darkness," Hontiveros said in a statement. "Despite the gruesome climate of killing and impunity in the country, this verdict sends the message that there is hope and justice. And we will fight for more light and truth until the darkness cannot overcome them."

Hontiveros said the numbers of drug killings, which started to rise when Duterte took office in mid-2016 and launched his war against drugs, could not have reached "catastrophic levels if these killings did not have a sinister principle and policy behind them."

Duterte and police officials have repeatedly stated there was no state policy to kill drug suspects illegally. Duterte faces at least two mass murder complaints before the International Criminal Court, which he said would never acquire jurisdiction over him.

Delos Santos's killing on Aug. 16, 2017, sparked an outcry and a televised Senate inquiry, and prompted Duterte to temporarily order a small anti-drug agency with only about a thousand men to oversee the campaign against illegal drugs. AP

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JAPAN

Prosecutors vow to hold Ghosn as long as needed

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE prosecutors said yesterday they will detain former Nissan chairman Carlos Ghosn for as long as is needed to finish their investigation into suspicions of financial irregularities, as the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance reaffirmed its partnership.

Shin Kukimoto, deputy chief prosecutor for the Tokyo District Public Prosecutors' Office, defended its handling of Ghosn, who was arrested on Nov. 19 along with another Nissan executive, Greg Kelly.

"We are not detaining [Ghosn] for an unnecessarily long time," Kukimoto told reporters. "We only take necessary steps as needed."

Kukimoto refused to confirm reports that both Ghosn and Kelly have denied the allegations against them. Ghosn is suspected of violating financial laws by underreporting millions of dollars in income and Kelly of collaborating in that. Nissan has also said an internal probe triggered by a



Carlos Ghosn

whistleblower found Ghosn allegedly misused company assets.

Japanese automakers Nissan Motor Co. and Mitsubishi Motors Corp. have since dismissed Ghosn as their chairman. Renault SA of France has named an interim chairman but kept him on while seeking more information about his case.

Last week, prosecutors obtained a court's approval to keep Ghosn until today, in line with standard investigative procedures in Japan, Kukimoto said. After an initial investigation period, Japanese authorities can detain a suspect up to 20 days per charge, and gain more time by adding more charges.

"Japan is a law-abiding country and this is the way our justice system works. I don't see any problem with that," Kukimoto said. "Each country has its own history and culture [...] It is not appropriate to criticize a system in another country just because it's different from your own."

Prosecutors are expected to ob-

tain a court's permission today to keep Ghosn and Kelly in custody for another 10 days, until Dec. 10. Kukimoto declined to comment on that.

The arrest and detention of such a prominent businessman is shedding light on Japan's pre-indictment detention of suspects, even those suspected of financial crimes, which has long drawn criticism from human rights activists.

Lebanon, where Ghosn is from, said in a statement yesterday that Foreign Minister Gebran Bassil summoned Japanese Ambassador Matahiro Yamaguchi in Beirut and asked for a fair and transparent investigation that meets international standards and allows Ghosn to communicate with his family and lawyers. Kukimoto said Ghosn can meet with his lawyers and embassy envoys, but is not allowed to have his lawyer present during questioning.

At the time of his arrest, Ghosn was heading the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance, which says it sold more than 10.6 million vehicles in nearly 200 countries in 2017.

Ghosn's legal predicament has raised speculation about troubles within the alliance.

Yesterday, the automakers issued a statement saying member companies had individually and collectively "emphatically reiterated their strong commitment" to their partnership. **AP**

AD


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5 December
Pátio das Calhandras/ Pátio de Chon Sau/ Travessa de Chon Sau/ Rua de Cinco de Outubro/ Pátio da Adivinhação/ Pátio de S. Paulo/ Rua de S. Paulo/ Rua do Teatro/ Calçada do Amparo/ Beco do Canto/ Pátio do Arco/ Beco da Pinga/ Pátio da Mina/ Beco da Ostra/ Rua da Tercena/ Rua de Camilo Pessanha/ Travessa do Armazém Velho/ Beco Central/ Beco da Rosa/ Travessa das Janelas Verdes/ Beco da Pinga/ Rua das Estalagens/ Pátio do Vaz/ Beco da Melancia/ Beco do Atal/ Travessa da Dorna/ Calçada do Embaixador/ Rua de Nossa Senhora do Amparo/ Rua dos Ervanários/ Pátio do Amparo/ Beco dos Coulaus/ Beco do Cego

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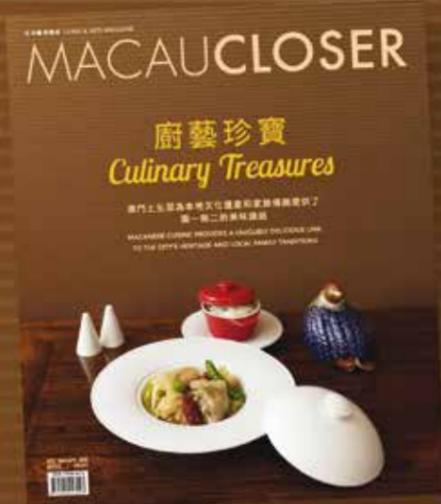
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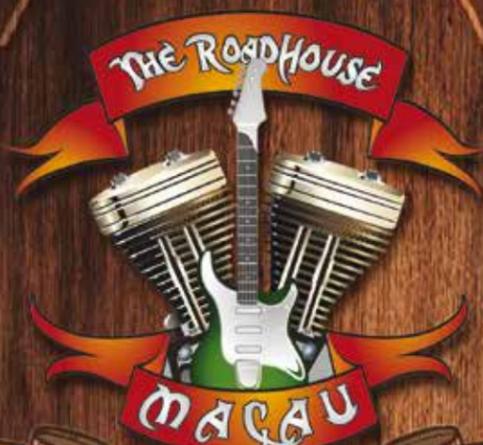
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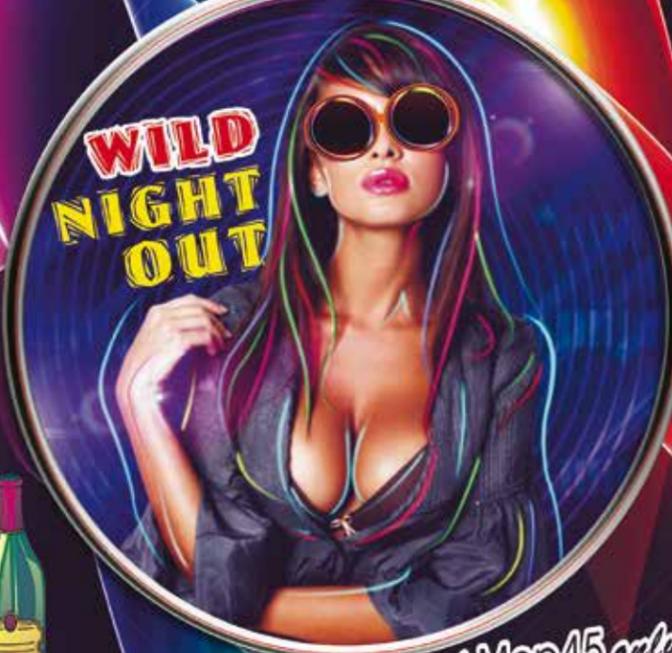
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Ukraine urges NATO to deploy ships amid standoff with Russia

Yuras Karmanau,
Vladimir Isachenkov

THE Ukrainian president has urged NATO to deploy naval ships to the Sea of Azov, a proposal that has been sharply criticized by Russia as a provocation that could further inflame tensions between the two countries.

In an interview in the German daily Bild, published yesterday, President Petro Poroshenko laid out his hope that NATO would "relocate naval ships to the Sea of Azov in order to assist Ukraine and provide security" against the expansionist ambitions of Russian President Vladimir Putin.

His call follows the weekend incident in which the Russian coast guard fired on and seized three Ukrainian vessels and their crews. Russia charged that the Ukrainian vessels had failed to obtain permission to pass from the Black Sea into the Sea of Azov through the Kerch Strait between Russia's mainland and the Crimean Peninsula it annexed from Ukraine in 2014. Ukraine insisted that its vessels were operating in line with international maritime rules.

"Putin wants nothing less but to occupy the sea," Poroshenko said. "The only language he understands is the unity of the Western world."

Putin, for his part, criticized the West for what he described as connivance with Ukraine's "provocation."

"The authorities in Kiev are successfully selling anti-Russian sentiments as they have nothing



Petro Poroshenko (second from right) speaks with soldiers during a military training at a military base in the Chernihiv region

else left to sell," he said. "They can get away with whatever they do. If they want to eat babies for breakfast today, they will likely serve them too."

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said she plans to press Russian President Vladimir Putin at this weekend's G-20 summit in Argentina to urge the release of the ships and crews.

"We can only resolve this in talks with one another because there is no military solution to all of these conflicts," she said.

NATO said that it already has a strong presence in the Black Sea region. The alliance's spokeswoman Oana Lungescu said NATO ships routinely patrol and exercise in the Black Sea, and that they have spent 120 days there this year compared to 80 in 2017.

She noted that several NATO allies conduct air policing and reconnaissance flights in the region, adding that members Bulgaria, Romania, and Turkey border the Black Sea and have their own military equipment deployed.

"There is already a lot of NATO in the Black Sea, and we will continue to assess our presence in the region," Lungescu said.

While NATO condemned the Russian action, the alliance is not expected to send ships into the Sea of Azov, a deployment that could trigger a confrontation with Russia. A 2003 treaty between Russia and Ukraine stipulates that permission from both countries is required for warships from others to enter the internal sea.

In response to Sunday's even-

ts, Poroshenko has imposed martial law in much of the country, a move that won parliamentary backing. Putin accused his Ukrainian counterpart of provoking the naval incident in a bid to impose martial law to shore up his sagging popularity and sideline competitors ahead of March's presidential election. Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Peskov said Poroshenko's request for NATO to send warships into the Sea of Azov is "clearly aimed at provoking further tensions," adding that it was driven by the Ukrainian leader's "electoral and domestic policy motives."

Ukraine has released what it said was the exact location where its ships were fired on by Russia, saying they were in international waters west of the Kerch

Strait. Russia, meanwhile, insisted the Ukrainian vessels were in its territorial waters and refused to communicate with the Russian coast guard, or accept a Russian pilot to guide them through the narrow strait.

"What were the border guards supposed to do?" Putin said Wednesday. "They fulfilled their duty to protect the territorial integrity of the Russian Federation. If they had done something differently, they should have been put on trial for that."

Ukraine and Russia have been in a tug-of-war since Moscow's annexation of the Crimean peninsula from Ukraine in 2014. Russia has also supported separatists in Ukraine's east with clandestine dispatches of troops and weapons. The fighting there has killed at least 10,000 people since 2014 but eased somewhat after a 2015 truce.

The naval incident marked the first overt collision between Russian and Ukrainian militaries since the 1991 collapse of the Soviet Union. It has fueled fears of a wider conflict and has drawn strong criticism of Russia from the U.S. and its allies.

Amid the tensions, the Russian military said it had deployed another batch of the long-range, S-400 air defense missile systems to Crimea.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan said he discussed the possibility of a Turkish mediation to resolve tensions and held separate telephone conversations with Putin and Poroshenko yesterday.

Asked about the Turkish offer, Peskov responded that "Moscow is grateful to all those willing to help de-escalate the tensions provoked by the Ukrainian side, but doesn't see any need for mediation efforts."

"Those who have such opportunities could help by exerting influence on the Ukrainian authorities," Peskov said. **AP**

ARGENTINA

Judge acts on complaint against Saudi prince

Almudena Calatrava

ARENTINE legal authorities took initial action Wednesday to consider a request from Human Rights Watch to prosecute Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman for alleged crimes against humanity.

The rights group's move is apparently aimed at embarrassing the crown prince as he attends the G-20 summit in Buenos Aires this week.

Federal Judge Ariel Lijo agreed to a request by prosecutor Ramiro Gonzalez to determine if other entities are investigating the prince for possible crimes



Border police officers guard the entrance to the Saudi Embassy in Buenos Aires

against humanity before deciding whether to open an investigation in Argentina.

Argentina's legal system allows cases to be brou-

ght against crimes against humanity allegedly committed elsewhere. But it is unlikely anything will happen soon, given the time it will take the judge to

make a decision after the request for information from Yemen, Turkey and the International Criminal Court is filed by the Argentine foreign ministry.

The judge has also asked rights groups to provide details supporting allegations against the prince.

Human Rights Watch accuses the prince of war crimes in Yemen and responsibility for the gruesome slaying of newspaper columnist Jamal Khashoggi inside the Saudi consulate in Istanbul last month.

"The Argentine judiciary, by taking steps toward a formal investigation, is sending a clear message that even powerful officials like Mohammed bin Salman are not above the law and will be scrutinized if implicated in grave international crimes," the

group said in a statement.

"A cloud of suspicion will loom over him as he tries to rebuild his shattered reputation at the G20, and world leaders would do well to think twice before posing for pictures next to someone who may come under investigation for war crimes and torture."

The prince, who stopped in several Arab countries along the way, arrived in Buenos Aires early Wednesday and was taken to the Saudi Embassy, which is being guarded by dozens of police officers.

Argentina has cooperation agreements with Saudi Arabia in tourism and other areas. **AP**

TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.2
22:00	Contentor 13
22:30	Filha da Lei - Fim
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Amor É Lindo... Porque Sim!
01:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:10	RTPi Directo

SATURDAY

12:00	Endereço Desconhecido
12:30	Gostos e Sabores
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Compacto
18:10	Fotobox
18:25	Lusa Music Box
19:00	Animais Anónimos
19:40	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Terra Prometida
23:05	Tec Net
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Cá Por Casa Sr.2 - Estreia
00:55	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:40	RTPi Directo

SUNDAY

11:40	Endereço Desconhecido
12:00	Gostos e Sabores
12:30	TDM News (Repetição)
13:00	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
18:10	Fotobox
18:25	Lusa Music Box
19:00	Animais Anónimos
19:40	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Terra Prometida
23:05	Tec Net
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Cá Por Casa Sr.2 - Estreia
00:55	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:40	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

NELSON, HENLEY TO HONOR PARTON AT GRAMMY MUSI CARES CONCERT



Willie Nelson

Willie Nelson, Vince Gill, Don Henley and Mavis Staples will perform in tribute to Dolly Parton when she's honored as the 2019 MusiCares Person of the Year by the Recording Academy.

The academy announced the latest additions to the lineup yesterday for the tribute concert and gala to be held in Los Angeles on Feb. 8, two days before the Grammy Awards.

Kacey Musgraves and Linda Perry are also among the newly announced performers, joining the previously announced Pink, Norah Jones and Chris Stapleton.

The event raises money for people in the musical community facing financial, medical and personal need.

The academy announced in September that Parton, the first country artist to receive the MusiCares honor, will be recognized for her music and support of causes through her Dollywood Foundation.

cinema

CINETEATRO

29 Nov - 5



THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Lasse Hallstrom & Joe Johnston

Starring: Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Morgan Freeman

Language: English

Duration: 99min



ROBIN HOOD

ROOM 2

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

Director: Otto Bathurst

Starring: Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English

Duration: 130min



MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min

this day in history



1999 T-BONE STEAKS ON SALE BY CHRISTMAS

The beef-on-the-bone ban will be lifted next month, the government has announced.

T-bone steaks and ribs of beef should be on sale by 17 December, just over two years since they were banned at the peak of the BSE outbreak.

Beef-on-the-bone was outlawed because scientific evidence shows it carries the highest risk of being infected with BSE, which can cause brain disease in humans.

Farmers and butchers welcomed the announcement, but the Conservatives said the ban had cost farmers millions of pounds and should have been lifted sooner.

Agriculture Minister Nick Brown told the House of Commons the change in the law had been a long time coming.

"The announcement will bring a welcome relief to the beef industry in what continues to be difficult times," he said.

The ban has been lifted now because scientists have said the risk to consumers is tiny.

No beef older than 30 months is allowed into the food chain and there have been no cases of BSE in cattle under that age since the law was passed in December 1997.

Northamptonshire farmer John Richardson said he was delighted with the decision but told the BBC the UK had to persuade other countries that meat from its cattle was BSE-free.

"British beef is the safest beef in the world now with all the controls that are in place and this is a signal that is true," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The European Union had placed a ban on the export of British beef in 1996 when BSE was linked with the human brain disease vCJD.

It declared the meat safe in December 1999 and all member states restarted imports apart from France and Germany, who said they still could not be sure it was BSE-free. Germany lifted the ban in 2000.

France did not lift its ban on imports of British beef until October 2002 - shortly before the European Commission was due to impose a large fine.

In March 2004 the British Government imposed a ban on people who had previously received blood transfusions donating blood. It followed the disclosure that a British man had died from vCJD possibly contracted from a blood transfusion during an operation.

In March 2006, the EU finally allowed the UK to export live animals born on or after 1 August 1996, and beef and products from cattle slaughtered after 15 June 2005.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
This small gesture on your part could make a huge difference for this other person and could earn you immense (and long-lasting) brownie points. You might even be grateful for the opportunity to do this.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Have faith that success is something you can achieve - and something you can achieve soon. It's true that not everything can be on your timetable, but that doesn't mean that things are not going to happen.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Some fresh, new ideas are going to pop into your head at surprising times. Put them on the back burner if you don't have time to deal with them today because there'll be some real gems there.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
In terms of your romantic life, you may be finally ready to make the type of commitment you've always been intimidated by before. On the job, you might want to put more of yourself into what you do every day.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
All the power is completely in your hands today, so if you see something you don't like too much, you should do something about it! This rule applies to emotional issues as well as aesthetic situations.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
So keep your mind open today and be willing to reevaluate some long-held beliefs. Things have been shifting in your life, and your perspectives need to adapt to those changes.

Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
This is a day when any collaborations you make will have the greatest chance of being successful. Working with others will involve a real, respectful exchange of ideas today.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Over the years you have learned a lot about getting what you want, so why not share that with them? You may be telling them something that they don't want to hear.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Where's the fire? There is no reason to rush through this day - whether you are egged on by your own expectations or by annoying peer pressure, there is no good reason not to take things slow.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Be careful with what you say today and keep in mind that eavesdropping is a popular pastime for the folks around you right now. They are all hungry for information - and gossip.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Everything is starting to fall into place in terms of your health or physical routine. It's about time you realized that if you put real effort into something, real results will come out of it.

Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
Just like that little engine chugging up that big mountain, you're chock-full of persistence today. Nothing can stop you once you have your heart set on something (or someone).

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

6				1	8			
9		8	2	4				
	7		6					
7	8		5		4			
2	6	7	5					
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Easy+

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Medium

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Hard

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						1		
7		1		5				
1								4

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-4	8	clear
Harbin	-14	-2	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	1	11	clear
Urumqi	-4	7	clear
Xi'an	3	11	overcast/smoggy
Lhasa	-5	11	cloudy/overcast
Chengdu	7	17	clear
Chongqing	13	15	drizzle
Kunming	3	20	clear
Nanjing	9	18	cloudy
Shanghai	12	19	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	9	20	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	10	20	clear/cloudy
Taipei	18	24	clear
Guangzhou	14	25	clear
Hong Kong	20	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	-13	-5	clear
Frankfurt	2	9	overcast/drizzle
Paris	9	11	drizzle
London	10	12	drizzle
New York	4	6	cloudy/clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- New driver, often; 5- Female deer; 9- Thespian; 14- Toast topper; 15- Begrudge; 16- Climbing vine; 17- River deposit; 18- Observed; 19- Pianist Rubinstein; 20- Masticate; 21- Purify spiritually; 23- BMW rival; 24- Dreyer's partner in ice cream; 25- Old French coin; 26- Lease holders; 29- ___ Hari; 33- Potpourri bag; 36- ___ the fields we go...; 37- Indian wrap; 38- Refreshment stand; 39- Hole maker; 40- Lucy's landlady; 41- Prepare for publication; 42- Hearst kidnap grp.; 43- Stops; 44- Boxer Oscar ___ Hoya; 45- Primitive form of wheat; 47- "Miss Saigon" setting; 49- Lair, often for wild animals; 50- Currency unit in Western Samoa; 54- Miserly; 58- The doctor ___; 59- Studio sign; 60- This can't bel; 61- Sigmund's daughter; 62- Jack Sprat could ___ fat; 63- College bigwig; 64- Abound; 65- Male deer; 66- Actress Heche; 67- Scottish Gaelic;

DOWN: 1- Puccini opera; 2- Nobelist Root; 3- Caught congers; 4- In spite of; 5- Decline; 6- Iroquois tribe; 7- From time to time; 8- Harmony; 9- Memorable mission; 10- Describe fully; 11- French actor Jacques; 12- Blame; 13- Steak order; 22- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 27- A mouse; 28- Bus. card info; 30- Contented sighs; 31- Branch location; 32- Has a bug; 33- Timetable, for short; 34- Helper; 35- Loop; 39- ___ Baba; 40- Ballad ending; 42- Truck stop sign; 43- Excuse; 46- Character actor Wynn; 48- Big dos; 51- Moore's TV boss; 52- Queues; 53- Make ___ for oneself; 54- Weed whackers; 55- Med. school course; 56- Pro ___; 57- Bubbly drink;

Yesterday's solution

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

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Ken Maguire, Saly

TIMOTHY Ighoefe is an intimidating defender at 6-foot-11 and 245 pounds. Still, the Nigerian knows he must improve if his decision to play basketball instead of soccer is going to pay off and take him to the NBA.

The 18-year-old Ighoefe has committed to play for Patrick Ewing at Georgetown University next season, only three years after switching to basketball in his hometown of Lagos.

"I need to work on my speed, running down the floor baseline to baseline," Ighoefe said this week at the unveiling of a new training facility at the NBA's African academy in Senegal. "My left hand, I need to improve, to finish with my left hand."

In other words, there's potential but it's a work in progress — just like Africa itself for the NBA.

"It's a continent with over a billion people, with a fast-growing economy, fast-growing young urban population. That's a good recipe for the NBA long term," said NBA deputy commissioner Mark Tatum, also in Senegal for the training facility opening.

The NBA has big plans for Africa. An office was established eight years ago in South Africa. There's an annual exhibition game featuring NBA stars.

Now, the NBA's top brass says

Africa is ready for more. Tatum said they're creating a pan-African league that will involve existing professional clubs, and that NBA pre-season and regular-season games will be held on the continent "in the next couple of years."

Another step is the new training center, built on the campus of a soccer academy in a coastal resort town 45 miles south of the Senegalese capital Dakar. Saly, a former Portuguese trading post, is now a getaway spot for Dakar's upper class and is home to many French people.

The two parquet courts were imported from the United States. Simply being indoors and with air conditioning probably makes it the best basketball facility in Senegal. A fabric, tent-like covering is stitched together over steel trusses, and repurposed shipping containers facing the courts are used for weight training.

The academy is one of seven around the world, with three of them in China. It features fulltime schooling and training. It can accommodate 24 boys selected from English- and French-speaking African countries. The NBA holds camps for elite African girls, but there's no center for them yet.

"All you have to do here is just focus on basketball and school," Ighoefe said. "You don't have to be worried about anything else. In Lagos, it's different. There are a lot of distractions."

NBA making a 'long-term



Team Africa's Joel Embiid throws balls to fans during the NBA Africa Game between Team Africa and Team World

The teenage boys begin their days with a light workout at 5:30 a.m. Then it's breakfast, school, lunch, school, gym. They're coached by former NBA and NCAA

players and have traveled to Australia, Europe and the United States for tournaments.

Amadou Gallo Fall, NBA vice president and managing director

for Africa, said the NBA is building from the grassroots, like the Jr. NBA programs expanding across the continent.

"We are only scratching the sur-

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play' in Africa

face," said Fall, a Senegal native who founded the nearby SEED Academy, which works closely with the NBA's African operation. "We are empowering young people through basketball and in the process elite talent is going come out and get into the NBA, and also feed other leagues across the world, and our future league on the continent."

We are empowering young people through basketball.

AMADOU GALLO FALL
NBA MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR AFRICA

This season began with 13 African-born players on NBA rosters.

Tatum said details of the pan-African league will be announced within months. It will involve cooperation from FIBA and existing professional leagues, he said.

"We're trying to find a way to do it quickly, to be able to work with some of those leagues, to work with our partner FIBA, to get something up and running sooner

rather than later," Tatum said.

Africa lacks good infrastructure, but Tatum cited the new Dakar Arena, as well as Rwanda's plan for a new facility, as incentive for the NBA to bring games here. He called the Dakar Arena a "world-class facility" but wouldn't confirm the Senegalese sports minister's announcement moments earlier that it would host the NBA exhibition game next year.

South Africa hosted the first three NBA Africa exhibitions but West African countries like Senegal and Nigeria appear more eager to embrace basketball.

Soccer is by far the most popular sport in Africa. The likes of Liverpool and Barcelona boast fan clubs all over the continent, and the European start times make it easier to watch live.

Ighoefe catches highlights of his favorite player, Joel Embiid of the Philadelphia 76ers, on the mornings after games. He watches on YouTube and follows the Cameroonian star on Instagram.

African kids can play soccer with just a ball and any bit of space, even a street. But finding a basketball court, even just a cement half-court and a rim, is hard.

Ibrahima Ndiaye, director of Flying Star academy in Dakar, which has produced several NCAA Division 1 players, said the NBA

AP PHOTO



Boys play basketball in Dakar

can dramatically increase youth participation by building courts — a lot of them.

"That's what is needed here in Africa to develop basketball in all neighborhoods," Ndiaye said in a phone interview. "We need more and more usable infrastructure.

It's the only way to increase the number of kids who practice."

China is a huge success for the NBA, so it's often compared to the league's initiatives in Africa.

"We've been in China for 30 years," Tatum said, adding some perspective. "We opened up our

office here on the continent, in South Africa, only eight years ago."

Tatum said that figure of 13 African players on NBA starting rosters could double within a decade.

"For us," he said, "it's a long-term investment and long-term play." AP

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opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

**THERE'S NO NEED FOR A NEW
 COLD WAR WITH CHINA**

This weekend's G-20 summit in Buenos Aires matters less for the main proceedings than for U.S. President Donald Trump's expected encounter with Chinese President Xi Jinping. Trump has lately seemed intent on escalating their quarrel over trade, and Xi has shown no sign of backing down. With neither side willing to compromise, the dispute runs the risk of causing a complete breakdown in U.S.-China relations, and poses the single biggest threat to global peace and stability.

Understand, this isn't just about Trump. In the background stands a new consensus on China. Opinions have shifted with bewildering speed. As little as a year ago, trade-policy experts and longtime China-watchers mocked the president's obsession with the trade deficit and opposed his threatened tariffs. Now, without moderating their contempt for Trump, many liberal internationalists and advocates of open markets seem to agree with the administration's hard-liners. They see China as a grand strategic threat — one that needs to be confronted, much as the Soviet Union was confronted during the Cold War.

The new consensus is wrong. To be sure, China has given the hawks plenty of material. In recent weeks, it has blocked consensus and bullied delegates at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit; harassed a U.S. Navy vessel on the open seas; arrested the Chinese president of Interpol and students agitating for workers' rights; continued to shrink the space for open debate in Hong Kong; and, ignoring a global outcry, whitewashed the re-education camps in which a reported million Muslim Uighurs in western China may have been incarcerated.

This is not to mention the longer-term ways in which China appears to be threatening U.S. interests and the liberal international order. Its mercantilist economic policies, including the forced transfer and outright theft of technology from foreign companies, have strained the global trading regime to breaking point. Its Belt and Road infrastructure push has added to a dangerous pileup of developing-country debt. It has bullied Taiwan, and defied United Nations rulings against island-building in the South China Sea.

Even so, two things need to be kept in mind. First, and contrary to current thinking, the U.S. wasn't wrong to engage with communist China in the 1990s and welcome it into the global trading system. Not all of the architects of this policy (which commanded bipartisan support) took it for granted that engagement would produce a more liberal China. Rather, they thought it would serve U.S. interests better than an effort to exclude and isolate. And they were almost certainly correct.

Second, though China poses challenges and its government doesn't share the West's liberal values, mischaracterizing the threat doesn't help to address it. It's true, for instance, that the Belt and Road program has fueled corruption, debt and white-elephant infrastructure projects — but this is due to lack of planning and coordination rather than a plot to entrap victims and seize their strategic assets. It's true that China is building a surveillance state and exporting some of the technology abroad — but it's hyperbolic to say that its proposed "social credit score" is intrinsically totalitarian. It's true that Chinese military spending and capabilities are growing rapidly — but they're still dwarfed by those of the U.S.

Here's the main thing: Acting on the theory that China is a hostile revisionist power intent on supplanting the U.S. would be counterproductive. The alternative isn't to be meek. Unassailable military power is essential.

Trump and his officials present a parody of self-confidence. What America and its friends need is less strutting and more conviction. The values that underpinned U.S. global leadership for decades aren't out of date. There's no cause for a strong and prosperous America to see China as a mortal threat — and every reason to avoid making it one. The meeting in Buenos Aires is a chance to mend this world-shaping relationship. Both leaders ought to seize it.

[Abridged]

THE PHOTO THOUGHT TO BE OF VINCENT VAN GOGH IS HIS BROTHER

Experts say a photo thought to be of a young Vincent van Gogh has turned out most likely to be of his brother, Theo.

The Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam said yesterday that forensic testing by experts at Amsterdam University "confirmed the high likelihood of the boy in the photograph being the 15-year-old Theo van Gogh, and not Vincent." The museum says there is now only one known

photographic portrait of the camera-shy Dutch artist.

The photo was first publicly presented in 1957 by researcher Mark Edo Tralbaut. A Dutch television program called into question whether it was indeed of Vincent in 2014, prompting further research. Museum Director Axel Rueger says the discovery "means that we have rid ourselves of an illusion, while gaining a portrait of Theo."

Joyce DiDonato to perform in Macau



OPERA singer Joyce DiDonato will perform at the Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) on January 1, opening a string of shows that will celebrate the centre's 20th anniversary.

According to a statement by CCM, the mezzo-soprano Grammy winner will perform in Macau "wearing gowns by fashion icon Vivienne Westwood and accompanied by Il Pomo d'Oro, a virtuosic

Baroque orchestra directed by Maxim Emelyanychev."

DiDonato and her entourage will perform "In War and Peace," a line-up of arias dramatized by the choreographed moves of a dancer. "Taking a fresh approach to each composition, DiDonato's timbre ranges between innocent simplicity and consummated emotions. The show renders an insightful perspective on Baroque mu-

sic, with works by English composer Henry Purcell, German genius George Frideric Handel, and the Italian creativity of Leonardo Leo," the statement reads.

The "In War & Peace Tour" included concerts at prestigious venues, from New York's Carnegie Hall and London's Barbican Centre, to the Berlin Philharmonie and the Théâtre des Champs-Élysées in Paris.

Parades to be held at the Ruins of St. Paul's

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will hold an "Art Promotion Mini Parade" this weekend at the Ruins of St. Paul's.

In addition, the 2018 Macao International Parade, organized by the IC, will be held on December 16 to celebrate the 19th Anniversary of Macau's handover to China.

The arts groups that will join the "mini parade" will depart from the Ruins of St. Paul's, passing through Rua de S. Paulo and Rua de Santo António to arrive at St. Anthony's Church, and will return along the same route.

On Saturday (December 1), the groups participating in the Mini Parade include the Macao Cantonese Opera Association, Macau Youth International Art and Culture Association, and Macau Talent Academy Association.



On Sunday (December 2), the groups participating in the Mini Parade include the Louis Dance Association, Associação de Dança e Música Pop de Macau, and Macau Anglican College.

This year's Parade will also have various foreign art groups and artists including

Artistic Intervention Projects, from Portugal, Lívia Mattos, from Brazil, and Ryukyukoku Matsuri Daiko, from Japan.

Next week, additional outreach performances and activities of the Parade will be held in different places in Macau.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Police said yesterday they have arrested nearly two dozen people on suspicion of defrauding people around the world by sending fake pop-up messages warning them that their computers were infected with a virus and offering to fix the problem at a price.

SYRIA's U.N. ambassador yesterday urged Western powers to lift crippling economic sanctions against the war-torn country if they are serious about helping millions of Syrian refugees to return to their homeland.



RUSSIA-UKRAINE The Ukrainian president has urged NATO to deploy naval ships to the Sea of Azov, a proposal that has been sharply criticized by Russia as a provocation that could further inflame tensions between the two countries. *More on p15*

GERMANY Some 170 police officers, investigators and prosecutors raided the German offices of Deutsche Bank yesterday on the suspicion bank employees helped clients set up offshore companies in tax havens to launder hundreds of millions of euros.



SPAIN The Spanish government says is holding "intense diplomatic talks" to resolve the stranding of a Spanish fishing vessel for nearly one week after it took on board 12 migrants, including two children, north of the Libyan coast.

BRAZIL The governor of the state of Rio de Janeiro was arrested yesterday for allegedly taking about USD10 million in bribes since 2007, adding to a string of corruption arrests of senior political figures.