



CASINOS GET GOOD NEWS

Analysts say better than expected revenue and the outcome of the G20 brought good news for the gaming industry

P4-5 ANALYSIS



NETO VALENTE REELECTED

The single candidate to lead the Macau Lawyers Association, Jorge Neto Valente, was yesterday reelected for another two years

P7



RICH ASIANS ARE CRAZY TO LIVE IN SHANGHAI

The Chinese city overtook Hong Kong as the most expensive for a basket of luxury goods and services

P8

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

CAMBODIA's parliament will consider legislation to allow politicians banned from political activity to have the ban lifted, a measure that long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen's government is touting as a step "to strengthen democracy and political space."



INDONESIA Fishermen rescued a wooden boat carrying 20 hungry, weak Rohingya Muslims yesterday after it was found adrift off Indonesia's northernmost province of Aceh, an official said.

INDIA Authorities in northern India have arrested four people for their alleged involvement in an attack on police over rumors of cow slaughter that left two people dead, including a police official.

BANGLADESH A special tribunal has begun the trial of eight suspected Islamic militants in an attack on a restaurant in Bangladesh's capital in which 22 people were killed, including 17 foreigners.



IRAN President Hassan Rouhani has threatened again to close the Strait of Hormuz, the passageway for nearly a third of all oil traded by sea.

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Tam defends illegal inns criminalization

P3 POLICY ADDRESS



Portugal hoping for further investment as Xi arrives in Lisbon

P2

XI'S VISIT TO PORTUGAL

Lisbon fetes Beijing, risking tension with Western allies

WHILE some powerful European Union governments are uneasy about China possibly taking more control of the bloc's critical energy and transport infrastructure, one of western Europe's smallest economies is grabbing the opportunity with both hands.

Chinese President Xi Jinping arrived to Portugal for a two-day state visit yesterday. His visit has raised the Portuguese government's hopes that Beijing will invest heavily in the country's biggest Atlantic port and help expand national energy company Energias de Portugal overseas.

For Portugal, which in 2011 was near-bankrupt and had to be bailed out by its partners in the 19-country eurozone, further Chinese investments will help get it back to financial health.

However, others in Europe, such as France, have deep misgivings about Portugal possibly signing up to China's "One Belt, One Road" initiative that seeks to link Asia to Europe and beyond, saying Beijing's strategy could contribute to a fracturing of the EU. Portugal's neighbor Spain refused last week during Xi's visit there to sign a memorandum of understanding expressing interest in joining that arrangement.

But Portuguese Foreign Minister Augusto Santos Silva said earlier this year that Portugal is "very interested" in the multi-billion-dollar infrastructure loan scheme and aims to contribute to a "new maritime Silk



Xi Jinping and Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (right) pose for photos during a welcome ceremony outside Lisbon's 16th century Jerónimos Monastery

Road."

Also, Portuguese President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said in a statement that Xi's visit illustrates how the two countries "have been able to take full advantage of the enormous potential of their strategic partnership."

And Prime Minister Antonio Costa says his government won't stand in the way of China's ambition of taking majority control in the national energy utility, where it currently has a 23.27 percent stake.

Xi is no less enthusiastic. His byline was on a 1,500-word guest article Sunday in Portuguese daily *Diário de Notícias* that signaled Portugal could be a friendly voice for Beijing in the EU. "China-Portugal relations are now stronger than ever before, and China-Portugal cooperation promises broad prospec-

ts," the president wrote. Both countries "need to jointly take forward the Belt and Road Initiative."

EU voices aren't the only ones leaning on Portugal over its warm ties with Beijing. Washington, through its Lisbon ambassador George Glass, has voiced displeasure at the possibility of the third-largest provider of clean energy in the United States — a company which is controlled by Energias de Portugal — falling into Chinese hands.

Portugal is also trying to persuade Beijing to make the deep-water port of Sines, 150 kilometers south of Lisbon, a key trans-Atlantic logistics hub.

Lisbon officials had hoped the port could be developed to receive U.S. exports of liquid natural gas to Europe. But France, whose blessing Portugal needed for a gas pipeline into the heart of

Europe, was cool on that idea.

Beijing wants access to technology and markets and is ready to spend billions of dollars to get it. Portugal — whose annual GDP of around USD217 billion compares with Germany's of about \$3.5 trillion — wants to punch above its financial weight.

"Portugal has been struggling [to find] money for infrastructure, which it needs," says Bruno Mações, a former Portuguese government minister who is now a Beijing-based analyst for business advisory company Flint.

For China, having Portugal on board "would be a nice way to normalize the Belt and Road in Europe" and would help "chip away" at European resistance to the project, Mações said in a telephone interview.

China's investment footprint in Portugal has grown in recent

years to around 12 billion euros (\$13.7 billion), according to the Chinese embassy. It began buying up assets in southern Europe, including in Italy and Greece, during the recent eurozone financial crisis when cash-strapped governments swooned over Chinese money. In Portugal, Chinese companies grabbed important stakes in banking, insurance, health care, the media and the national airline.

China Three Gorges bought its share of EdP in 2011 and the following year bought a 25 percent stake in Portugal's national grid operator REN.

EdP and CTG say their goal is "to become worldwide leaders in renewable energy generation, by means of a strategic partnership in renewable generation projects."

During Xi's visit, Portugal and China aim to sign 19 cooperation agreements in areas such as energy, infrastructure, science and technology, culture and education, according to China's official Xinhua News Agency, quoting deputy foreign minister Wang Chao. Portuguese officials say they are also close to concluding a deal for pork exports to China. **MDT/AP**

LOURIDO: PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO LISBON 'IS OF GREAT IMPORTANCE'

RUI LOURIDO, the president of the Observatory for China, says that Xi's visit to Lisbon "is of great importance to the diplomatic relations between Portugal and China, which will celebrate its fortieth anniversary in 2019." Lourido, who is also the director of the Union of Capital Cities of Portuguese Language (UCCLA), stated that "Portugal is the European country with a longer and peaceful presence in China, dating back to around 500 years. [...] Besides that, the friendship between the

two peoples has consolidated itself with the peaceful building up of Macau." According to the scholar, the participation of Portugal in the One Belt One Road Initiative "will grant to Portugal a new centrality it didn't have for centuries, because Portugal will be able to redistribute first-hand to Europe and Africa the trade arriving from the Maritime Silk Road and China in particular." Created in 2005, the Observatory for China aims to develop multidisciplinary studies about China.

TDM to mandatorily promote Chinese anthem

TDM'S radio and TV channels as well as the "Vila Verde" Radio Station will be required to broadcast the Chinese National Anthem on specific dates and times, according to a decision soon to be published by the Chief Executive (CE) and the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly's (AL) president, Ho Ion Sang. Ho's comments were

made after the last meeting, where the committee is currently conducting the final stage of analysis regarding the new law of the National Symbols.

The same rules would apply to all primary and secondary schools, including those that teach an international curriculum, Ho also said. The Lawmaker noted that, contrary to the media

outlets, the new law does not establish a specific legal consequence for schools that do not comply with such guidelines.

Ho was speaking after the committee meeting, stating his expectation that the analysis of the proposed law are soon to be concluded. Heard by TDM, he also noted that although there are no specific punishments for

the schools that do not comply with the requirement to teach and play the National Anthem during Official Ceremonies and celebratory days, the government expects all 68 schools to comply on their own initiative.

The proposal is currently under detailed analysis before being voted on by the AL in plenary session. It aims to alter the law that

has been in force since the handover and establishes that the concessionaires of television and radio, as well as others that operate under a local license, must broadcast the anthem during important celebrations and special days, in addition to the activities and promotions decided upon by the CE.

As for the other media outlets, Ho noted that al-

though there is no compulsory rule, "to broadcast the anthem shows respect."

The notion of what it means to "sing the anthem" is still yet to be clearly defined. As the president of the committee observed, the "singing" might not literally be a "vocal performance" but, instead, could encompass what he described as "singing it with the heart."

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POLICY ADDRESS

Alexis Tam says illegal inns should be criminalized



Alexis Tam (right)

Julie Zhu

THE Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, revealed yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) that he agrees with the criminalization of illegal guesthouse accommodation operations. Tam's view is contrary to the opinion of Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, who said during the policy address presentation that there are other ways to solve the issue.

Yesterday was the second day of the presentation of the policy address at the AL for the sectors Tam supervises. Lawmakers Song Pek Kei and Pereira Coutinho posed questions regarding illegal guesthouse accommodation.

In Coutinho's opinion, matters surrounding illegal hotels should not be taken care of by Tam's sector. Instead, they should be handled by the security forces.

"These works should be conducted by police officers. I hope you can talk with the Chief Executive in order to forward this task to the police force," said Coutinho, adding that "illegal guesthouses are the hotbeds of crime. They should be a responsibility of the police authority."

In reply to the lawmakers,

The number of illegal guesthouse accommodation indeed allows us to see that problems exist.

ALEXIS TAM

Tam noted that illegal guesthouses have been one of his and his colleagues' concerns over the past few years, "especially my colleagues from the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO)."

"We agree that laws should be amended with respect to illegal hostels," said Tam. According to the secretary, since the city established a regulation on illegal guesthouse accommodation operations, MGTO has been the department responsible for cracking down on these illegal operations. Nevertheless, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) has also been accompanying MGTO inspectors during inspections of illegal guesthouses.

"I personally feel that this [the cooperation between MGTO and PSP in cracking down illegal hotels] is highly inefficient, and it wastes human resources," declared Tam.

According to Tam, MGTO has identified 1,239 illegal hostels so far.

"Everyone can picture [the

seriousness]. The number of illegal guesthouse accommodation indeed allows us to see that problems exist," said Tam.

In the opinion of the Secretary, it is dangerous for office workers to crack down on illegal guesthouses.

"We need police officers. We hope that there can be armed police officers conducting inspections of illegal guesthouses," said Tam, adding that "if the law is to be amended, and if illegal hostel operations are to be criminalized, then I believe that there will be an effect on some violations as well as some effects on visitors."

"Because the cost to commit the crime is too low, sometimes there is just a fine," said Tam, adding that "some of my colleagues have proposed it [criminalization of illegal guesthouse accommodation operations], but, of course, I know that Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, does not agree, and I respect [his opinion]."

"We hope that there is a

chance for the law to be amended and for the matter to be criminalized. I am sure that we can find a way to improve the situation."

Lawmaker Song Pek Kei then asked about the timeframe for the law amendment. However, the Secretary did not reply.

Last week, Wong spoke at the AL, stating "criminalization does not mean the problem can be solved." He believes that the utilization of judicial devices mean higher costs in order to solve a problem, and that the best way is through administrative methods.

The security head proposed to launch a registration system for rental houses. According to Wong, by requesting rental houses to be registered, the government can trace the landlords behind the illegal hostels because they have the obligation to manage the housing units.

Wong reminded that he had already made the same suggestion back in 2002, but many people disagreed with his proposal back then because it would "lead to the death of some people."

"I don't know why it would lead to the death of some people. Maybe many people do not want other people to know how many houses they have," said Wong.

ON THE SECRETARY'S AGENDA

EDUCATION INVESTMENT

OUTCOME The 2019 budget for the city's education sector exceeds MOP13 billion. "We frequently increase the budget for the education sector, and our purpose is to create a new peak in the SAR's education," said Alexis Tam, adding "without so much resources invested into it, I believe that the University of Macau could not have attained its status today. [...] The science and math levels of our students are not bad at all, and our PISA results are better than many of the OECD countries." Regarding schools, Tam believes that, in the near future, all schools in Macau will have access to Wi-Fi.

FILM AND ART INDUSTRY

"For students who graduated from art [related majors], now is a great time for them to return to Macau to work. They can come back to Macau to work in music, movies, or dance related jobs," said Alexis Tam. According to him, the number of companies related to arts have increased from around 10 to the current 159, with a total of 1,866 employees. "In the future, there will be more opportunities in regard to the development of this sector," said Tam.

HEALTH'S TIMETABLE FOR

2019 Tam's secretariat reported several timetables for his sector's tasks scheduled for 2019. Health Bureau Director Lei Chan Ion reported that the project for the main part of the islands hospital will begin in 2019. The health centers located at R. da Praia do Manduco and Seac Pai Van are expected to commence operations in 2020. Social Affairs Bureau's (IAS) Director Vong Yim Mui announced that the bureau is planning to have another two emergency centers on top of the current 16 emergency centers and four emergency gathering points.

GAMING

Analysts say better than expected revenue,

U.S.-LISTED Macau casino operators follow their Hong Kong peers sharply higher after the industry got a double-dose of supportive news this weekend.

Shares of Wynn Resorts Ltd., Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., Las Vegas Sands Corp., and MGM Resorts International all rose at least 4 percent in early trading in the U.S., while the Bloomberg Intelligence Macau Gaming Index (BIGAMEAC) rose 9.3 percent to a 10-week high.

The advance was spurred by better than expected industry data released from the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau, which said this weekend that November gross gaming revenue (GGR) rose 8.5 percent year-over-year, beating the estimate of 4 percent, according to seven analysts surveyed by Bloomberg, and marking the 28th straight month of gains.

And an easier macroeconomic environment further helped the beaten down stocks, as the “constructive outcome from Presidents Trump and Xi’s G20 meeting” should help the stocks recover, at least in the near term, according to Morgan Stanley.

Even with yesterday’s advance, the index is still down 18 percent for the year. China’s growth rate plus the status of Macau concession renewals will continue as concerns, possibly limiting additional near- to intermediate-term advances, some watchers say.

Here’s what casino analysts have to say about this weekend’s developments.

TELSEY ADVISORY GROUP, BRIAN MCGILL

“There are a few puts and takes that need to be accounted for in the data which lead us to believe the headline growth number was a bit higher than underlying



trends (net-net) though all of these were already known.”

1) “We have heard some reports of higher than average hold for November,” which would imply that underlying demand was weaker than the reported GGR growth; Telsey estimates this is worth 1.0 to 2.0 percent.

2) Nov. 2018 had one additional Friday vs Nov. 2017 - likely worth 4 to 5 percent. “Partially offsetting these factors was the occurrence of the Grand Prix on Nov. 18.” Telsey estimates the race, which can absorb “a significant share of transportation capacity that would normally be available for gaming customers,” probably hurt GGR by about 1 percent.

“In total these factors lead us to believe underlying demand was likely closer to the 3-4% range. Ultimately, we think this data is reflective of an ongoing slowdown in the VIP segment of the market,” which has been “well flagged at this point with commentary from both MGM and WYNN pointing to weakness in the 4Q.”

“We remain cautious on the prospects for growth going forward.” Telsey continues to be concerned over concession

expiration dates for the Macau casino operators.

GOLDMAN, SIMON CHEUNG

Nov. GGR implies an average of MOP833 million per day last month, tracking better than the MOP756 million daily run rate Oct. 8-31. “Junkets attributed the softer Oct. volume to President Xi’s visit on Oct. 23 thereby driving some pent-up demand in early Nov.”

“From our discussions with operators, we suspect VIP volume has normalized back to low to mid-single digit % yoy in recent weeks. On a positive note, mass-market GGR, especially that of grind mass segment, remains resilient, as reflected by the strong travel data crossing the HK-Zhuhai-Macau bridge.”

“Given a lower base and based on past seasonality, we suspect daily GGR would be around 770 million to 830 million patacas/day in Dec., which would imply 5%-13% y/y growth.”

JEFFERIES, DAVID KATZ

“The better-than-expected finish to the month is a positive development, particularly against challenging comparisons, which

should result in a positive reaction from the shares.”

Furthermore, “the results of the G20 should allay Chinese macroeconomic concerns for the time being, and present a positive outcome for our related stocks [...] The decision to postpone the 25 percent tariffs is a positive for equity sentiment and will curb the pressure on the RMB devaluation.” China immediately beginning to purchasing goods to reduce the trade balance “should be a constructive development.”

Still, Jefferies continues to view the Macau market “with caution given the mixed information flow from operators and unknown concession rebid process.”

“Although valuations appear risk-adjusted, we believe the current dynamics in the market are challenging to underwrite.”

BERNSTEIN, VITALY UMANSKY

“November was helped by high hold in VIP...Had hold been more normal at ~3%, y/y growth would have been 4%” instead of the 8.5 percent reported. “We estimate VIP GGR was up ~10% y/y and Mass was up ~7% y/y.

Several junkets highlighted a rebound in visitation by high-rollers.”

“Assuming weekly channel checks during the month were accurate, the implied ADR for the last 5 days of November would have been 802 million patacas, with improvement in the second half of November compared to the earlier part of the month.”

Still, “the macro environment in China is creating headwinds for GGR growth.” Economic data for November continues to show weakness, with China Manufacturing PMI trending down year-over-year every month since June and hitting 50.0 last month, which was the weakest figure in 28 months, Umansky wrote (NOTE: a figure below 50 represents economic contraction). Business confidence also fell to 54.2 vs 56.4 in October.

For December, Bernstein is “preliminarily estimating” 6.0 to 8.0 percent growth on a year-over-year basis. “While near term slowdown in GGR is evident, we have a positive outlook on the Macau gaming industry in the long-run, especially Mass (and Premium Mass in particular).”

STIFEL, STEVEN WIECZYNSKI

“The November GGR result marked the 28th consecutive positive monthly comp for the market. Bottom line is that the market continues to hold up better than the ‘fear’ that is associated with it.” Even excluding the one extra Friday night, Stifel said results would have still topped expectations.

VIP GGR was “flat to slightly down for the month, while mass continues to rise in the mid to upper single digits.”

“With shares across the group continuing to see pressure (mostly around macro fears) throughout the month, we sense today’s GGR announcement

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G20 brought good news for casinos

should act as a positive catalyst.”

But “given investors’ lingering uncertainties with respect to the overall health of the Chinese economy, we expect Macau operators’ shares to remain somewhat range bound until additional data points confirming the overall direction of the Macau gaming market emerge.”

Stifel maintains its 2018 GGR growth estimate of 12 to 14 percent and initiates a 2019 growth projection in the range of 2 to 6 percent.

NOMURA INSTINET, HARRY CURTIS

“We expect the better-than-consensus GGR growth number for November to continue to improve investor sentiment toward the U.S.-listed Macau stocks, which have begun to recover since Wynn Resorts issued its draconian outlook roughly three weeks ago.”

Since that warning, the stocks have rallied, but valuations still remain “attractive.” “We see ~18% potential upside (on average) for the stocks, which could be conservative if there is upside to our ‘kitchen sink’ growth forecast for 2019.”

The temporary truce between



Presidents Trump and Xi also provides a near-term catalyst, while “the slope of economic deceleration in both China and the U.S. is likely to determine the intermediate-term trend in these stocks.”

UNION GAMING, GRANT GOVERTSEN

Macau GGR growth is a “single-digit story going forward.”

“We do not believe the bridge has had a material impact on GGR. It will take many quarters, if not years, for the bridge to begin to have a material impact on Macau’s gaming industry.”

Looking ahead, “the most likely scenario remains a decent mass market story (low double-digit growth) and a mixed VIP story with modest growth. Based on recent conversations

we’ve had with VIP operators nobody has hit the panic button yet and, depending on week-to-week fluctuations, most are still seeing growth and are cautiously optimistic about their prospects.”

Union Gaming now estimates Dec. GGR growth of 7.0 percent. The firm expects “a slow start” to 2019 and estimates first-quarter GGR of up 3.0

percent. GGR should pick up thereafter to mid-single digits growth for the full year.

BLOOMBERG INTELLIGENCE, MARGARET HUANG

November’s GGR beat was the “first positive surprise since April” despite a difficult year ago comparison of 23 percent growth.

“Returning demand from the premium mass and VIP business is probably helping to accelerate gains.” BI believes these trends could extend through Dec., “which faces a lower comparison hurdle and also has greater mass-market demand given the holiday period.”

“Still, concerns of slowing Chinese consumption drag on consistent VIP growth through next year despite casino operators’ upgrades across all the high-end facilities in their properties.”

BI believes fourth-quarter Macau GGR could rise more than 5.7 percent and that Macau’s 2019 revenue growth “will hinge on a steady ramp up of the mass-market through key catalysts such as better connectivity to China, new Cotai resorts and China’s stimulus efforts.” **Bloomberg**

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HK photographers capture Macau in promotional campaign

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday the launch of the "Experience Macao Cinematic Style" campaign in Hong Kong. The campaign features a collection of videos and photographs specially created by 15 renowned photographers and "Key Opinion Leaders" from Hong Kong in the lead up to the 3rd International Film Festival and Awards · Macao (IFFAM), to be held between December 8 and 14.

The collection of aerial videos, 360-degree images and still imagery uses the latest Aerial Drone Filming technology. Among the award-winning photographers are Kelvin Yuen, the 2015 National Geographic Photo Contest award-winner; Andy Yeung who came second at the 2017 National Geographic Travel Photographer of the Year, and Wilson Lee, one of the category winners at the Sony World Photography Awards 2015.

General Manager of MGTO Representative in Hong Kong, Stanley Mok, said, "Macao has long been a favorite setting for many Asian



and international movies. With the 3rd International Film Festival and Awards · Macao taking place this month, Macau will once again be the center of attention on the world's movie stage."

Some of the cinematic spots showcased in the works include the Chapel of Our Lady of Penha in the Korean TV series "Princess Hours" (2006), the Guia Fortress in the movie "Look for a Star" (2009), the Senado Squa-

re in the movie "Unbeatable" (2013), the Macau Tower in the movie "Return of the Cuckoo" (2015) and the Friendship Bridge in the movie "The Book of Love" (2016).

"With such a unique blend of cultural heritage, and its proximity to Hong Kong, Macau is a perfect travel destination for Hong Kong film and photography buffs," said Yuen, one of the lead photographers of the campaign.

CRIME

Man helps to catch scammer that sold him a fake phone

A Filipino man, 26, has helped the police to catch a mainland Chinese man, 52, that had sold him a fake phone, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) revealed.

The case goes back to last Saturday evening when the victim was approached by the suspect in the surroundings of the Praça Ponte e Horta in the Inner Harbor area asking if he wanted to acquire a mobile phone.

The victim after checking the equipment accepted to pay the requested MOP2,500 for the mobile phone and the suspect after getting the money rapidly disappeared.

After inspecting more carefully the phone, the victim realized that was not a original equipment but, instead, a counterfeit version.

Initially the man did not report the case to the

police but on the next day while walking around the Senado Square area he spotted the same man that had sold him the phone and decided to follow him.

While in pursuit of the man, he called the police explaining the case and reporting where he was heading.

After arriving at Avenida Dr Carlos de Assumpção in the NAPE area, the PSP officers arrived at the scene and managed to detain the suspect.

The man confessed to the police, saying that he had bought three phones in a second-hand market in the city of Guangzhou to bring to Macau to sell.

He also added that the phones cost between RMB500 and 1,600.

The suspect was already transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office where he is being accused of fraud.

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Neto Valente reelected in highest turnout election ever



Neto Valente

THE president of the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) Jorge Neto Valente was yesterday restored to the helm of the Association for another two years in an election that, although undisputed, was announced by the president and confirmed by officials to be "the most participated election ever."

A total of 256 association members casted their vote both the Board of the Association and for

A total of 256 association members casted their vote

the Superior Council of Macau Lawyers (CSA).

In the first, Neto Valente gathered a total of 242 votes, while lawyer Frederico Rato was elected to the CSA with 246 votes.

The remaining votes were voi-

ded due to irregularities in the voting procedure.

In this way Neto Valente and Rato will head the most influential bodies in Macau's lawyer profession for the next two years.

This election saw potential challenger Sérgio de Almeida Correia announce his intention to contest the position, but his list was not formalized prior to the candidacy submission deadline, leading Neto Valente to run unopposed once again. **RM**

AAM presents activity plan for 2019



RIGHT after the results of the election were known, the Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) disclosed the Association activity plan for 2019.

According to the document to which the Times had access, the plan includes 19 main topics of interest, starting with the need for added support by the members of the Board in consequence of the growing workload. Complementing the previous measure, the Association will also seek to hire more staff in order to improve the service to its members.

Another of the aspects that the AAM proposes to improve is the Association website, in order to allow the electronic submission of applications, suggestions or submission of payment

proof of the quotas (when paid by bank transfer).

The revamped Association webpage will also include legal opinions issued by the AAM on legislative acts and other matters requested by public entities as well as the internship admission and final examination tests.

Besides the regular annual activities of the association, the AAM pledged to pay special attention this coming year to activities related to the Greater Bay Area and to the long-standing challenge of acquiring bilingual professionals.

The Association said that the board would commit to finding ways to "support the increasing use of the Chinese language in judicial processes, continuing to undertake a survey of the strengthening of bilingualism."

AD

ALBERGUE SCM
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Seminar
BIM--Building Information Modelling: from Small to Large Scale Buildings

Speaker
Prof. Arch. Eng. Andrea Vanossi Ph.D.
 Professor of the Politecnico di Milano

Date
 December 5th, 2018 (Wednesday)

Time
 19:00

Language
 English

Venue
 Albergue SCM – Hall D1

Registration Fee
 Registered AAM & AEM Member - MOP\$300
 Non-member - MOP\$500.00

*Registration is only valid when payment at Albergue SCM office is completed. First-come, first-served!

CPD HOURS
 3 Hours
 *Approval of 3 hours CPD shall be subject to further confirmation by the committee

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Rich Asians are crazy to live in Shanghai, luxury index shows

Katrina Nicholas, Yoojung Lee

IF you're a high-net-worth individual in Asia into fine dining, wine, jewelry and luxury skin cream, best not to live in Shanghai.

The Chinese city overtook Hong Kong as the most expensive for a basket of luxury goods and services on a price-weighted basis, according to Bank Julius Baer & Co.'s annual Wealth Report Asia, which tracks spending by the region's rich.

Shanghai has also grown more pricey on a relative basis to buy property (although Hong Kong is still most expensive in that regard), hire a lawyer or purchase watches and handbags, the report found. Kuala Lumpur retained its claim as the least-expensive city in Asia - Malaysia's capital is the best place to pick up a piano, indulge in cigars or book a hotel suite.

The report, in its eighth year, also introduced a new His & Hers Index to compare the cost of luxury goods for men and women in an attempt to answer the question: Is there a pink tax? Or, does it cost more for a woman to look good versus a man?

It will perhaps come as no sur-



prise to anyone that women's items cost more on average, with Seoul being the most-expensive city for both male and female luxury goods. This is largely owing to an excise tax of up to 20 percent on certain imports.

On average, it costs \$2,158 more to purchase Julius Baer's Hers Index relative to the His Index, although the differential is lower - by USD126 - when a wrist accessory is excluded. The Hers index is skewed higher due

to the Cartier Love Bracelet, a diamond-paved and white gold adornment that costs around \$48,143 in Shanghai (or \$41,818 in Kuala Lumpur).

At the other end of the spectrum, Jakarta is the cheapest

overall for men's luxury items while Mumbai is where you want to be shopping if you're a lady.

In Hong Kong, Julius Baer's basket of goods and services rose by 2.2 percent in 2018. The former British colony remains the most-expensive city in Asia to buy residential property or take a business-class flight. However, despite its reputation as being pricey, items such as skin cream, ladies shoes and men's suits are actually relatively inexpensive.

Julius Baer defines high-net-worth individuals as people with a net investable wealth of \$1 million or more, excluding property that is their main residence. Data for the survey was collected during the period from June 2017 to July this year.

Bloomberg

ASIA'S PRICIEST CITIES IN 2018

1	Shanghai
2	Singapore
3	Hong Kong
4	Tokyo
5	Taipei
6	Seoul
7	Bangkok
8	Mumbai
9	Manila
10	Jakarta

Source: Julius Baer Wealth Report Asia 2018

UK

Taxi protest against safety rules brings gridlock to London

Ellen Milligan, William Mathis

LONDON'S black cab drivers brought gridlock to areas of the capital's main financial district on Monday evening in protest against measures to improve air quality and road safety.

Drivers used their taxis to block a major junction near the Bank of England in the heart of the City, as London's financial center is known. They also protested near London Bridge station, used by tens of thousands of commuters to reach the city's southern suburbs.

They're angry about measures that close certain streets to all vehicles other than buses and cycles for large parts of the day to reduce pollution and improve safety, claiming drivers won't be able to get passengers to certain parts of town for the



first time. Unlike other taxis, black cabs are typically able to use bus lanes, so the new restrictions affect their pocketbooks.

Grant Davis, 54, who's

driven a cab in London for 30 years, said new rules have already made it harder to compete. "The public aren't getting in because they know there are

certain areas we can't get them to," Davis said.

Just before 6 p.m. on Monday, policemen on bikes in the areas could be seen telling drivers clogging the streets to move along, as CCTV cameras were about to be turned on, meaning protesters would be subject to fines.

David Turner, protesting near Bank tube station, said the new rules would make it harder to serve London's disabled community.

"If you get a cab from Euston and you're in a wheelchair and want to go to anywhere within this area, we can't get you there" said Turner who's driven a black cab driver for four years. "We can only get you so far and then you have to get back into the wheelchair and push yourself for the remainder."

Drivers see the curbs as the latest assault on a profession once seen as a relatively lucrative living that it made it worthwhile spend years acquiring "the knowledge" - the ability to instantly recall thousands of London streets and landmarks that's a requirement for gaining a license.

Like many of the world's traditional taxi services, London's 20,000-plus black cabs, officially known as Hackney Carriages, have come under pressure from Uber Inc. The Licensed Taxi Driver's Association estimates each driver has lost an average of 10,000 pounds (USD13,000) a year in earnings since the ride-hailing app was introduced.

Taxi drivers are demanding that Transport for

London alter its air-quality initiatives that have restricted driver access to parts of the city's core, according to a statement from London Taxi PR, an advocacy group for drivers.

The most recent trigger has been a plan to suspend access to Tooley Street bus lanes that cabbies use to drop and pick up fares at London Bridge.

"We're slowly being eroded from the city streets" said John lock, who's been a cab driver for 10 years. "People pay a premium for the black cab service and that's because we can use bus lanes and get you round quicker - if they take this right away from us how are we going to do our job?"

Not everyone's unhappy about the changes. One bus driver stuck on London Bridge for over 30 minutes due to the protests agreed that black cabs posed a safety risk.

"It affects us when they cut us up on the roads and is a safety risk to my passengers," he said, asking not to be named because he's not authorized to talk to the press. **Bloomberg**

■ Taxi drivers are demanding that Transport for London alter its air-quality initiatives that have restricted driver access to parts of the city's core

White House hails China trade truce as skeptics raise doubts

Christopher Rugaber
& Blake Nicholson, Washington

THE Trump administration is celebrating the 90-day truce it reached in its trade war with China as a significant breakthrough despite scant details, a hazy timetable and widespread skepticism that Beijing will yield to U.S. demands anytime soon.

"This is just an enormous, enormous event," Larry Kudlow, President Donald Trump's top economic adviser, said yesterday [Macau time] of the cease-fire that Trump and President Xi Jinping reached over the weekend on the sidelines of an international economic summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina. "This one covers so much ground in some detail, we've never seen this before."

Yet many economists raised doubts that very much could be achieved within three months.

"The actual amount of concrete progress made at this meeting appears to have been quite limited," Alec Phillips and other economists at Goldman Sachs wrote in a research note.

During the talks in Buenos Aires, Trump agreed to delay a scheduled escalation in U.S. tariffs on many Chinese goods, from 10 percent to 25 percent, that had been set to take effect Jan. 1. Instead, the two sides are to negotiate over U.S. complaints about China's trade practices, notably that it has used predatory tactics to try to achieve supremacy in technology. These practices, according to the administration and outside analysts, include stealing intellectual property and forcing companies to turn over technology to gain access to China's market.

In return for the postponement in the higher U.S. tariffs, China agreed to step up its purchases of U.S. farm, energy and industrial goods, the White House said.

Most economists noted that the two countries remain far apart on the biggest areas of disagreement, which include Beijing's subsidies for strategic Chinese industries, in addition to forced technology transfers and intellectual property theft.

"Ninety days is very little time to fix these perennial issues," said Bill Adams, senior economist at PNC.

Complicating the challenge, Trump's complaints strike at the heart of the Communist Party's state-led economic model and its plans to elevate China to political and cultural leadership by creating global champions in robotics and other fields.

"It's impossible for China to cancel its industry policies or

AP PHOTO



US Treasury Secretary Steve Mnuchin

major industry and technology development plans," said economist Cui Fan of the University of International Business and Economics in Beijing.

At the same time, analysts said they were relieved that the Trump-Xi meeting at least pressed the "pause" button on tariff hikes. Besides escalating existing tariffs, Trump had threatened to impose import taxes on the remaining USD267 billion of U.S. goods from China. This would have raised prices in the United States on many consumer items, including smartphones, clothes and toys.

Fears of a hotter trade war had sent financial markets tumbling in October and November. But

they jumped yesterday in response to Saturday's truce. The Dow Jones industrial average closed up 288 points, a gain of 1.1 percent.

Megan Greene, chief economist at Manulife, said the market's recent decline had likely contributed to Trump's willingness to reach a truce.

"We are no longer in the same buoyant economic or markets environment that we enjoyed earlier this year when threats of tariffs against China were first made," she said.

In the meantime, the outlines of the agreement remain hazy and in some cases confusing. Trump tweeted Monday that China had agreed to "reduce

and remove" its 40 percent tariff on cars imported from the U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said that there was a "specific agreement" on the auto tariffs.

Yet Kudlow said later that there was no "specific agreement" regarding auto trade, though he added, "We expect those tariffs to go to zero."

Shares of U.S. and overseas auto companies rose on the announcement, though it's unclear how much companies like GM or Ford will actually benefit. Nearly all the cars they sell in China are made there.

Details regarding China's pledge to buy more American products — one that it has made be-

fore — remain scant. Mnuchin said on CNBC that China had offered to buy up to \$1.2 trillion of additional U.S. goods, even while the "details of that still need to be negotiated."

But Kudlow said the ultimate amount will depend on market prices and the health of China's economy.

"I would think of that as a broad goal," he said.

State-run Chinese media has described the agreement very differently from how the Trump administration has. It has made no mention of any changes to its auto tariffs. And it has said nothing about a 90-day deadline for the talks.

Greene said this might simply reflect China's communications strategy. Or it might illustrate China's weak commitment to the deal.

China agreed to eliminate the retaliatory tariffs it had placed on U.S. soybeans, according to the White House, which also said Beijing had agreed to buy an unspecified but "very substantial" amount of agricultural and other products. That left some U.S. farmers cautiously hopeful.

"This is the first positive news we've seen after months of downturned prices and halted shipments," said John Heisdorffer, a farmer in Keota, Iowa, who is president of the American Soybean Association. "If this suspension of tariff increases leads to a longer-term agreement, it will be extremely positive for the soy industry."

Kevin Scott, who farms near Valley Springs, South Dakota, and serves on the American Soybean Association, said the news provides hope for farmers who are storing their crops while awaiting better prices. But he cautioned that "it's going to take a little more to move more beans." AP

Chinese response to Trump's trade claims delayed by Xi's absence

CHINA'S government isn't yet able to formulate its response to the summit on trade with U.S. President Donald Trump as senior officials are still out of the country with President Xi Jinping.

Bureaucrats from various ministries in Beijing are awaiting the return of Xi and his entourage of senior officials to China before they are able to comment or take action, according to three officials who were briefed but declined to be named as the matter isn't public.

Xi is visiting Portugal today, the final stop in a global tour that has included Panama, Spain and the Group of 20 meeting in Argentina - where he and Trump struck a temporary truce in a bid to contain their trade war.

As a number of actions by China to prevent the imposition of higher tariffs by the U.S. have yet to be confirmed by Beijing and were only reported by the U.S. side, the status of the accord remains in doubt.

In particular, Trump's late-night tweet on China's willingness to cut tariffs on cars coming in from the U.S. moved automobile



stocks across the globe, but has yet to be confirmed or denied by Beijing. Trump officials have also scrambled to explain it.

The U.S. and China emphasized different results from the high-stakes meeting between Trump and Xi, with the split highlighting how much of a gap needs to be overcome over the next three months. For example,

Chinese official statements on the meeting did not include mention of the 90-day deadline or a requirement that the nation begins buying more U.S. farm, energy and other products.

Geng Shuang, a spokesman for China's foreign ministry, yesterday declined to comment further on the outcome of the Trump-Xi talks while reiterating that teams from both sides would follow through with more negotiations. China's commerce and finance ministries didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

Monday's stock market rally has faded as uncertainty over the status of the deal set in. Stocks fell in Japan, Korea and Australia and fluctuated in China after media appearances Monday with Trump administration officials shed little light on the specifics of how Sino-American trade negotiations will progress.

Xi has bookended his trip to Argentina with his first official visits to Spain and Portugal in years in a bid to expand China's diplomatic links with the two southern European nations. **Bloomberg**



FROM VENICE TO PARIS

Visitors to The Venetian Macao will be in awe at the iconic outdoor lagoon and surrounding pillars bedecked in boughs of holly and encircled by a Christmas-themed steam train – aptly dubbed the “The Venetian Express” – where Santa Claus and his toy-making elves wait to welcome guests of all ages.

In the middle of St Mark’s Square, located a stone’s throw away at Shoppes at Venetian, stands a gigantic 48-foot Christmas tree sponsored by Swiss luxury watchmaker Longines. With unique props such as a flying horse and a light-up ceremony attended by luminaries such as actress and Longines Ambassador of Elegance Lin Chiling, this is a world-class photo op not to be missed.

Next stop in the Christmas journey: France. Walk into The Parisian Macao to experience a snow globe brought to life. The Parisian forecourt has been decked out in fairy lights and its halls are dotted with festive reindeer and pine trees with which visitors can pose.

But even these are outshone by the jaw-dropping, #instaworthy star of the show: a giant, heavily ornamented inverted Christmas tree hanging at The Parisian Macao’s lobby rotunda, a perfect replica of the original at the Galeries Lafayette department store in Paris.

Guests are free to wander the halls and bask in the festive atmosphere, and can head up to the observation deck for a few more special surprises.

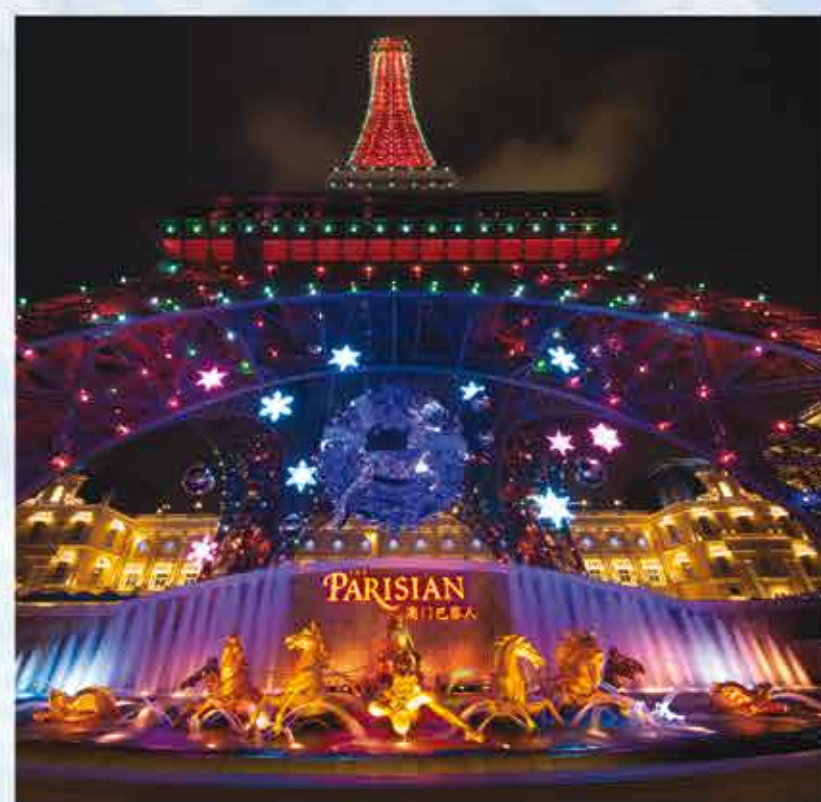
SANDS RESORTS MACAO

Winter Ext

December is fast approaching the city of Macao, bringing with it the festive excitement that comes with the passing of another year. To celebrate this magical season, Sands Resorts Macao will once again transform into glittering winter wonderlands for the month ahead.

Visitors to The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao will be spoiled for choice this year; the European-themed resorts have spared no expense in bringing Christmas to Macao. From a towering inverted Christmas tree to a real ice-skating rink and winter markets, both The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao have prepared stunning holiday displays like nothing the SAR has ever seen (at least, until both resorts inevitably outdo themselves again next year).

For now, get ready to send off 2018 in style – and let the sleigh bells ring.



THE EIFFEL TOWER GRAND ILLUMINATION SHOW

What would Paris be without its famous Eiffel Tower? Aspiring carollers will love The Parisian Macao’s replica Eiffel Tower this year and its trademark Grand Illumination Show - Christmas Edition sound and light extravaganza.

Located at The Parisian forecourt, the Eiffel Tower will sparkle from top to bottom to the tune of two specially designed Christmas programmes based on the seasonal classics “Jingle Bell Rock” and “All I Want for Christmas Is You”.

The winter light show comes on every 15 minutes from 6:00pm to midnight until January 6, 2019. Admission is free.

Paravaganza



ICE RINK FUN

Ascend to the Level 7 observation deck of The Parisian Macao's Eiffel Tower and you'll be greeted with an outdoor ice rink – a rare sight this side of the Pearl River Delta.

As part of the Winter in Paris celebrations, visitors and members of the public can rent a pair of skates and channel their inner Kim Yuna or Michelle Kwan for half an hour with ticket purchase. Early birds receive a pair of earmuffs to keep their ears warm and toasty (available on a first-come, first-served basis).

Strap on those skates and glide through the rink, swing by the seasonal cafe serving special Christmas cuisine, and take in the sunset vistas of Macao's famous Cotai Strip below. A few lucky guests may even walk away with prizes from the winter giveaways!

For members of the public, admission costs MOP50 per person for every 30 minutes. Hotel guests, Sands Lifestyle (Classic and Platinum cardholder) and Sands Rewards (Gold and Ruby) members are entitled to a 10% discount and need only pay MOP45. Members of Sands Lifestyle (World) and Sands Rewards Diamond and APEX programmes, as well as Alipay members, pay just MOP40 per person.

The rink is open from 4:00 to 10:00pm daily until January 6, 2019, but will be temporarily closed to set up the longest New Year pyrotechnics show that Sands has ever held between December 26 and January 2.



CHRISTMAS CHARITY FAIR

Last but by no means least: on December 8, a Charity Christmas Fair will pop up to accompany the ice-skaters on The Parisian Macao's Level 7 observation deck.

Decorated as a winter fairyland, the non-profit fair features 20 to 30 booths for food, games and handcrafted goods, complete with live entertainment and a playground for the kids. There will also be designated areas for dining on seasonal cuisine, as well as children's craft workshops and even gingerbread-making.

This year's event is organised by the International Ladies Club of Macao, which has served the Macao community and its disenfranchised groups for more than 36 years. The club, which comprises English speakers of different nationalities in Macao, raises over MOP1.3 million a year to support local charities, social research and scholarships.

The fundraiser runs from 12:00pm to 10:00pm. All proceeds will go to charity - and what better way is there to celebrate Christmas than giving a gift to someone in need?



3D LIGHT & SOUND SPECTACULAR: LA MAGIE DE NOEL

Another highlight of the winter celebration is the 3D light and sound spectacular – La Magie De Noël – which will delight audiences with colourful Christmas-themed visuals on the sky ceiling of the Place Vendôme at Shoppes at Parisian.

Each seven-minute projection, created using the latest and greatest of the resort's cutting-edge multimedia technology, will run every half-hour from 12:00 to 9:00 p.m. daily.

Economic chill dulls appetite for some luxury brands

Joe McDonald, Beijing

THE designer boutiques of Manhattan and Paris are feeling the chill of a Chinese economic slowdown that has hammered automakers and other industries.

That is jolting brands such as Louis Vuitton and Burberry that increasingly rely on Chinese customers who spend USD90 billion a year on jewelry, clothes and other high-end goods. The industry already is facing pressure to keep up as China's big spenders, mainstays for American and European retailers, shift to buying more at the spreading networks of luxury outlets in their own country.

Last week, Tiffany & Co. showed how much well-heeled Chinese tourists matter to retailers abroad. Shares in the jeweler known for \$5,000 watches and \$400 silver baby spoons fell 12 percent after its CEO said they were spending less.

In Hong Kong, the top shopping destination for mainland travelers, only a dozen visitors were in Tiffany's flagship store one afternoon last week. Many looked without buying.

"The name brand goods are too pricey," said Zhou Jiqing, from the neighboring mainland city of Shenzhen. "I'm waiting for the Christmas sale."

Forecasters including Euro-monitor International and Bain & Co. say Chinese customers will be the luxury industry's main growth engine over the next decade. But this year, shoppers are skittish amid cooling economic growth, trade tension with Washington and weak real estate and stock markets.



"Consumers are just not as excited about spending that kind of money right now," said Ben Cavender of China Market Research Group.

Demand for Tom Ford suits and Jimmy Choo shoes held up better than some other Chinese spending as economic activity slowed following a government clampdown on bank lending to cool a debt boom.

China's economy, the world's second largest, is forecast to grow by a relatively robust 6.5 percent this year, easing from 2017's 6.7 percent. But that is propped up by higher government spending on public works construction that helps to mask weakness in other areas.

Auto sales in the global industry's biggest market plunged 13 percent in October from a year earlier. Housing sales are so weak that some developers are cutting prices. The main Chinese stock market index is down 22 percent from a year ago.

Even before the economy cooled, the industry was under pressure from shifts in Chinese tastes and buying habits.

Luxury brands, some of them centuries old, have raced to serve China as its consumers emerged as a powerhouse market.

Brands designed watches, clothes and other goods for Chinese tastes. Hermes created its first single-country brand, Shang Xia, for China. Department stores from London to Los Angeles hired Mandarin-speaking salespeople.

Chinese traders fly home from Paris or Rome with stacks of designer bags and other goods to re-sell.

The incentive to shop abroad has eroded as major brands opened their China stores and prices fell closer to U.S. and European levels.

"Now, lots of world brands have shops in first-tier mainland cities," said Alex Bi, who was visiting Hong Kong from the mainland city of Guangzhou. He and his sister, Jessica, were window-shopping in the bustling Kowloon district.

At the same time, Beijing has stepped up efforts to reduce reliance on trade and encourage self-sustaining economic growth

based on consumer spending. Import taxes on luxury goods were cut to lure shoppers home.

Luxury spending abroad is forecast to keep rising, but not as fast as in China.

The share of spending that goes to retailers in China should rise from one-quarter of last year's \$90 billion to half of 2025's projected total of \$170-190 billion, according to a Bain report this month. Under that scenario, spending abroad would rise from \$67 billion to \$85-95 billion.

Meanwhile, the customs agency is cracking down on informal imports by searching the luggage of travelers returning from Europe and other shopping destinations.

In November, a trader was sentenced to 10 years in prison for smuggling designer clothing from Hong Kong without paying the mainland's higher import duty, according to news reports.

"This shocked the whole industry. Nobody dares to continue to act as purchasing agents," said market researcher Li Chengdong of Donge Investment Ma-

agement Co. in Beijing. "This has an immediate impact on the sales of the overseas retailers."

Anxiety over possible terrorist attacks has prompted some Chinese to avoid Paris, London and other shopping destinations.

In the United States, retailers face pressure from China's weak yuan, which makes prices in dollars more expensive for Chinese shoppers.

Tighter visa restrictions under President Donald Trump also make it harder for Chinese shoppers to get to the United States, said Cavender.

In Hong Kong, top shopping destination for mainland travelers, only a dozen visitors were in Tiffany's flagship store one afternoon last week

Chinese tourist arrivals in the United States fell 20 percent from a year earlier to 880,000 in the three months ending in September, according to an estimate by the China Outbound Tourism Research Institute in Hamburg, Germany. The number going to France rose 20.7 percent to 664,800 and those bound for Italy rose 18.9 percent to 850,000.

"If people previously were going to the U.S. to buy an American luxury brand, that's not their first choice anymore," said Cavender. "They would rather go to Japan, New Zealand or someplace in Europe where the process is easier." AP

China's thirst for high-end beer fuels surge in Canadian barley

AT a laboratory in downtown Winnipeg, Peter Watts samples a golden pale ale, admiring the silky foam top and smooth, slightly grain-tinted taste. A new variety of barley grown in Canada's Prairies helped flavor this beer, and brewers anticipate that the kernels will one day end up in shipments to meet China's increasing thirst for premium ales and lagers.

"We saw a real uptick in the last couple of years" in China's demand, said Watts, managing director

of the Canadian Malting Barley Technical Centre, a non-profit research facility funded by some of the nation's malting companies, exporters, brewers and farmers. "We think that's because they're producing more premium beer."

As brewers target discerning drinkers, the center is helping to fuel research of new malt-barley varieties that produce a richer mouthfeel, color and flavor than lower-quality grain. Canada, the second-largest malt-barley exporter

to China, is trying to gain a bigger slice of the burgeoning market from Australia, the top shipper.

China is the world's largest beer market, and consumers are increasingly shifting to premium and foreign brews from mass-market brands amid rising incomes. The market share of premium lager in the five years ended 2017 more than doubled, according to data from Passport, Bloomberg Intelligence analysts Shen Li and Thomas Jastrzab said last month in a report.

Canada's barley has higher protein than crops from nations including Australia. That quality helps in fermentation to give the final product more body and foam retention. Acreage in the North American nation jumped 13 percent in 2018, and output is poised to climb to 8.2 million metric tons, government data show. Planting had declined 30 percent in the past decade as farmers opted for more-profitable crops such as lentils and peas.

Adverse weather that



delayed barley harvests in parts of the Prairies, reduced the supply of quality crops suitable to be turned into malt. Exports to China are still expected to top 1 million tons, the second-highest ever, Watts said. Malt-barley shipments to

China reached a record 1.4 million tons in 2017, surpassing the amount used in the domestic market for the first time, he said.

China is starting an anti-dumping probe on imports of Australian barley. Bloomberg

JAPAN

Firm warned of legal step over Korean forced laborers

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

LAWYERS for Korean wartime forced laborers have demanded that a Japanese steelmaker respond to their request to discuss compensation, warning they will otherwise take steps to freeze its assets in their country.

The two lawyers yesterday asked Nippon Steel & Sumitomo Metal Corp. in Tokyo to respond by 5 p.m. on Dec. 24. They said if there is no response by the deadline, they will seek to freeze part of the company's assets in South Korea, including shares of PNR, its joint venture with Korean steelmaker POSCO.

South Korea's top court ordered Nippon Steel to pay 100 million won (USD87,680) each to four plaintiffs forced to work at the company during Japan's colonial rule of the Korean Peninsula. The court has made similar rulings on another Japanese company, triggering disputes between the two countries.



Plaintiffs' attorneys Lim Jae-sung (right) and Kim Se-eun (left) take seats for a press conference in Tokyo yesterday

"If we find that [the company] doesn't want to have negotiations and communication by then, we'll launch steps to seize its assets in South Korea within

that week," Lim Jae-Sung, one of the attorneys who visited the company to submit the request, told a news conference.

Lim said he and his colleagues

have found out that Nippon Steel holds about 2.34 million PNR shares, which could be worth about 11 billion won (\$9.9 million). More than 3,000 inte-

lectual properties that Nippon Steel registered in South Korea could also be frozen, he said.

Freezing assets is not their primary goal and they'd rather have negotiations, as their ultimate goal is to get justice for the victims, Lim said. He said the only survivor among the four plaintiffs is already 94 years old. "We hope the company responds sincerely," he said.

Japan's government and the companies maintain all wartime compensation issues were settled by a 1965 treaty between the governments and that South Korean rulings violate international law.

Nippon Steel said that it received the lawyers' request Tuesday but its position has not changed, and that it will consult with the government over the issue.

Last week, South Korea's Supreme Court ordered another Japanese firm, Mitsubishi Heavy Industries, to financially compensate 10 Koreans for forced labor.

The back-to-back rulings in South Korea are threatening to undermine relations with Japan, which has argued that the issue of forced laborers was settled when Tokyo and Seoul signed a treaty in 1965 that restored diplomatic ties. The rulings are expected to affect similar lawsuits pending in South Korean courts. **AP**

AD

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Bush's state funeral follows generations of tradition

FORMER President George H.W. Bush's state funeral encompasses four days of events, from his arrival in Washington to his burial in Texas tomorrow.

The guidelines for state funerals date back to the mid-1800s and have been shaped over time. Seating arrangements, for example, are detailed with precision, with the presidential party followed by chiefs of state, arranged alphabetically by the English spelling of their countries.

Ronald Reagan's state funeral in 2004 was the first of its kind since Lyndon Johnson died in 1973. Gerald Ford's state funeral overlapped the end of 2006 and the beginning of 2007.

The president, former presidents and a president-elect are all entitled to a state funeral, but the family decides if they actually get one or just how involved it will be. Richard Nixon's family, acting on his wishes, opted out of the Washington traditions when he died in 1994, his presidency shortened and forever tainted by Watergate.

The rules and what actually happens are based on what has come before.

John F. Kennedy's services



were modeled after those of Abraham Lincoln, at the request of his widow, Jacqueline, in her first public statement after the assassination. Historians examined musty documents by flashlight in the middle of the night as the stunned country waited for a plan — the Library of Congress' automatic lights could not be rigged to come on after hours.

Bush is the 12th president to lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda. Like many presidents, Bush and Ford served in Congress. Reagan did not.

Eight presidents have had funeral processions down Pennsylvania Avenue, including all four presidents to die by assassination — Lincoln, James Garfield, William McKinley and Kennedy. Bush decided his

state funeral would not include a formal procession through downtown Washington.

Washington National Cathedral, which will host Bush's national service Wednesday, served the same function for Dwight D. Eisenhower, Reagan and Ford.

Two presidents are buried at Arlington National Cemetery: Kennedy and William Howard

Taft. Bush will be buried at his presidential library in College Station, Texas, near his wife, Barbara, who died in April, and their daughter Robin, who died of leukemia at age 3.

Only sitting presidents and immediate family members have ever lain in the White House for viewing. Ex-president John Adams didn't even lie in the White House, though his son, John Quincy Adams, was the sitting president at the time of the death. The older Adams died the same day as Thomas Jefferson — July 4, 1826 — possibly complicating his chances for a White House viewing.

The Capitol has a more expansive policy for lying in state. Congressman Henry Clay, in 1852, was the first to lie in the Capitol Rotunda. FBI Director J. Edgar Hoover lay in the Capitol in 1972. Police officers killed in 1998 while protecting the Capitol also lay in state there. Sen. John McCain lay in state after his death earlier this year.

The first presidential state funeral was for William Henry Harrison, who in 1841 became the first president to die in office, just 30 days after his inauguration. Alexander Hunter, a Washington merchant, was tasked with putting on a first-of-its-kind American ceremony. He draped the White House in black. Official buildings and many private households followed suit, starting a now-lost tradition that was repeated at Lincoln's funeral 25 years later. **AP**

REPORT

About 4,000 migrants died or missing on way to US

HAYDEE Posadas had waited eight years for her son to come home. On the last night of her long vigil, she was too agitated to sleep.

Her son had fled Honduras for the U.S. in 2010 in part because of gang threats, just as thousands are doing today in the migrant caravans headed north, including men from the same neighborhood. But en route in Mexico, again like so many others, Wilmer Gerardo Nunez disappeared into the vortex of drug violence that he was trying to escape in the first place. Left in limbo, his anguished mother prayed for an answer.

"I am between a rock and a hard place," she begged God through the years. "I know nothing about my son, whether he's dead or alive."



Nunez's story is part of the hidden toll of migration to the U.S. through Mexico: In the past four years alone, almost 4,000 migrants have died or gone missing along that route, The Associated Press has found

in an exclusive tally. That's 1,573 more than the previously known number, calculated by the United Nations. And even the AP's number is likely low — bodies may be lost in the desert, and families may not report

missing loved ones who were migrating illegally.

These Latin American migrants are among about 56,800 worldwide who died or disappeared over the same period, the AP found.

While migrants everywhere face risks, the Mexico route holds the added danger of drug trafficking and gang violence. More than 37,000 people have gone missing throughout Mexico because of this violence, with the highest number in the border state of Tamaulipas, through which many migrants cross. The sheer numbers of the disappeared, along with crushing bureaucracy and the fear of gangs, makes it difficult for families to track what happened to their loved ones — as Posadas found out. **AP**

US-MEXICO

Trump predicts he'll work well with new president Lopez Obrador



Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is congratulating Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador on taking office as Mexico's new president.

Trump tweets that Lopez Obrador had a "tremendous political victory with the great support of the Mexican People." Trump predicts the two will "work well together for many years to come!"

Lopez Obrador was sworn in to office last weekend. More than 30 million Mexicans voted for him in a sweet-

ping July 1 election victory.

The day he was sworn in, Lopez Obrador signed an agreement with El Salvador, Guatemala and Honduras to work on a plan to stem migration to the U.S. from those countries. The issue of Central American migrants has vexed Trump, who has complained that Mexico hasn't done enough to stop the flow.

Trump has sent thousands of troops to the southern border. **AP**

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what's ON



ASSEMBLAGE OF TREASURES - EXHIBITION OF THE MACAU MUSEUM COLLECTION FOR CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY
TIME: 10am-6pm (ticket booth closes at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 24, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum
ADMISSION: MOP15 (free admission on Tuesdays and on the 15th of every month)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

LANDSCAPE OF CHANGE - MACAU WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 10, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

CHAPAS SÍNICAS - STORIES OF MACAO IN TORRE DO TOMBO
TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)
UNTIL: December 7, 2018
VENUE: Archives of Macao
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

Offbeat

DUTCH COURT REJECTS MAN'S REQUEST TO BE 20 YEARS YOUNGER

AP PHOTO



Dutch motivational speaker Emile Ratelband may feel like a 49-year-old but according to Dutch law he is still 69.

A Dutch court this week rejected Ratelband's request to shave 20 years off his age in a case that drew worldwide attention. "Mr. Ratelband is at liberty to feel 20 years younger than his real age and to act accordingly," Arnhem court said in a press statement. "But amending his date of birth would cause 20 years of records to vanish from the register of births, deaths, marriages and registered partnerships. This would have a variety of undesirable legal and societal implications."

Ratelband went to court last month, arguing that he didn't feel 69 and saying his request was consistent with other forms of personal transformation which are gaining acceptance in the Netherlands and around the world, such as the ability to change one's name or gender.

The court rejected that argument, saying that unlike in the case of a name or gender, Dutch law assigns rights and obligations based on age "such as the right to vote and the duty to attend school. If Mr. Ratelband's request was allowed, those age requirements would become meaningless."

Ratelband, perhaps unsurprisingly given his background as self-described advocate of positive thinking, was undeterred by the court's rejection and vowed to appeal.

"This is great!" he said. "The rejection of [the] court is great [...] because they give all kinds of angles where we can connect when we go in appeal."

He said he was the first of "thousands of people who want to change their age."

The court said it acknowledged "a trend in society for people to feel fit and healthy for longer, but did not regard that as a valid argument for amending a person's date of birth."

Ratelband also insisted his case did have parallels with requests for name and gender changes.

"I say it's comparable because it has to do with my feeling, with respect about who I think [...] I am, my identity," he said.

The court said Ratelband failed to convince the judges that he suffers from age discrimination, adding that "there are other alternatives available for challenging age discrimination, rather than amending a person's date of birth."

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

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



1950 PYONGYANG TAKEN AS UN RETREATS

Chinese troops have entered the North Korean capital, Pyongyang, as United Nations forces are pushed steadily back towards South Korea.

The North Korean People's Army (NKPA) invaded the south in June this year. Forces from the UN and Republic of Korea led a counter-offensive on 15 September.

North Korean forces quickly retreated back over the 38th parallel and General Douglas MacArthur ordered troops to pursue them into North Korea.

On 19 October Pyongyang was captured and by 24 November, North Korean forces were driven back almost to the Yalu River which marks the border of China.

But two days later, as General MacArthur prepared for a final offensive Chinese Communist Forces (CCF) joined the NKPA to launch this latest counterattack.

Today in Pyongyang, the CCF had to wade across the Taedong River because American engineers had destroyed bridges to the deserted city and burned all supplies and equipment that might help enemy forces.

Thousands of refugees are waiting to be taken from the north to the south bank by small boats.

Meanwhile in the north-east of the country, up to 20,000 US Marines and 7th Division infantrymen are totally surrounded by Communist Korean and Chinese forces south of the Chosin reservoir.

Reports from the headquarters of X Corp say marines and soldiers are now under fire from six Chinese divisions and enduring some hardship in sub-zero temperatures.

Allied aircraft are supplying the trapped troops with ammunition and food and have evacuated 1,700 wounded men to hospitals on the coast.

The British Commonwealth 29th Brigade, the rear-guard of the Eighth Army, has retreated to positions further south of Pyongyang.

And two companies of the US 187th Airborne Regiment are fighting Communist troops near Sibyon, 70 miles (112 km) south-east of Pyongyang.

UN reinforcements have been sent to the American paratroops.

In Washington, British Prime Minister Clement Attlee had a meeting with President Harry S Truman to discuss events in Korea.

And General Omar Nelson Bradley, general of the army, has been explaining the seriousness of the situation to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

Yesterday President Truman condemned the Chinese for joining NKPA forces and escalating the war.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The dramatic events at the Chosin Reservoir were reported as one of the greatest and bloodiest retreats in US Marine Corps history. For two weeks, during one of the coldest winters on record, the First Marine Division, 200 British Marine Commandoes and elements of the US Seventh Division fought their way to the sea port of Hungnam along a narrow route through the mountains of North Korea - the Funchilin Pass.

They had support from ships in Hungnam that provided naval gunfire and navy and marine aircraft. At Hungnam, the Navy re-deployed more than 100,000 marines and soldiers of the X Corps, and evacuated over 100,000 North Korean refugees.

All UN troops retreated south and in January, 1951, the Communists recaptured Seoul, the South Korean capital.

UN troops prepared a second counterattack for March 1951 and by June had recaptured Seoul.

The Korean War cost about two million lives.

It ended with an armistice on 27 July 1953 which established a fixed demarcation line with a four kilometre (2.4 mile) demilitarized zone. The armistice was only ever intended as a temporary measure but remains the only safeguard for peace on the Korean peninsula. American troops remain stationed in the demilitarized zone and around the 38th parallel separating North and South Korea.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Resist the urge to abandon your standards in an attempt to fit into someone else's world.

Taurus April 20-May 20 As soon as you can this morning, hit the ground running! It's not that you'll necessarily have a lot to do, but the pace you set early on will be key to creating a rewarding day.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When opportunity knocks, throw the door wide open, ask what took it so darned long and then offer it a cup of tea.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Take a moment to cherish the fact that your imperfections are unique. Anyone can follow directions, but you can set your own parameters and come up with something extraordinary.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 For the most uplifting experiences, you will want to stay close to your group of friends or family.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's a good thing that you'll be in such a bright, positive frame of mind because you'll be able to make the most of it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Spend the morning at your usual routine and avoid any heavy discussions. Your thoughts should stay inside your head until you know it's time to spill them.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The day will have its share of dramas, but luckily they will all be more of the 'coffee spilled on tie' variety than anything more serious.

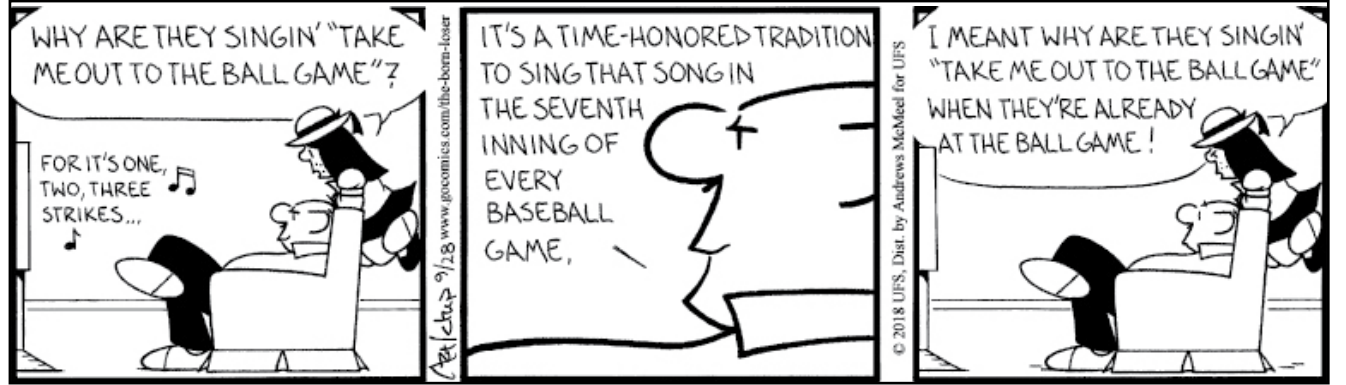
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 After months or even years of going back and forth in a relationship, you will reach a major turning point and a revelation.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Is there someone you've been meaning to have a difficult conversation with? Now is the time to do it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You can't assume that the people in your life know how much you adore them. They can't read your mind! So put out as much affection as you feel.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Sometimes when you're granted a wish you don't always realize it; something you've been waiting for is coming your way now, so you'd better open your eyes to see it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

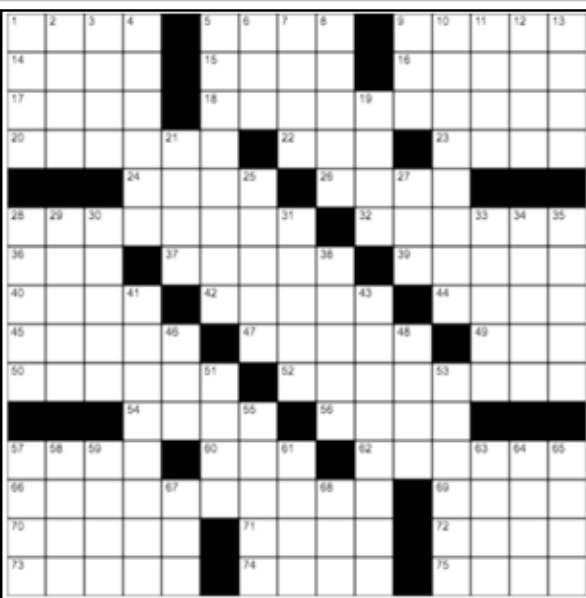
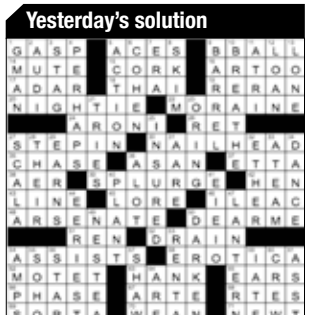
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Lanai neighbor; 5- Words of understanding; 9- Pitchers; 14- Folk singer Burl; 15- Long skirt; 16- Knot again; 17- Prefix with drama; 18- Outward show; 20- Swelling reducer; 22- Dressing ingredient; 23- Stadium cheers; 24- Seed cover; 26- A Chaplin; 28- A Roman god of war; 32- ... rasa; 36- Young ...; 37- Coffee choice; 39- Singer John; 40- Movie dog; 42- Toe or finger; 44- Mozart's "... kleine Nachtmusik"; 45- String quartet instrument; 47- Large wave caused by tidal flow; 49- Bruce ... was a famous kung-fu movie star; 50- Indonesian cigarette; 52- Person who tends sheep; 54- Wrinkle remover; 56- Spanish appetizer; 57- Germinated grain used in brewing; 60- Abner's adjective; 62- Woman's shoe style; 66- Himalayan peak; 69- Acting part; 70- You ... mouthful; 71- Fashion lines; 72- Dash; 73- Adlai's running mate; 74- Melody; 75- Colored;

DOWN: 1- Actress Rogers; 2- Opposite of sans; 3- River to the Ubangi; 4- Weather map line; 5- Fantasia; 6- Tree syrup; 7- Public exhibition; 8- Refrain in a children's song; 9- Be human; 10- Suitable for wearing; 11- Sicilian spewer; 12- Having wealth; 13- Meets with; 19- Immensely; 21- Bone-dry; 25- Desi's daughter; 27- Dundee denial; 28- Sound of a duck; 29- Big name at Indy; 30- Cordage fiber; 31- Long stories; 33- Practical; 34- Hermit; 35- On ...-to-know basis; 38- Combat; 41- Height; 43- Commentary; 46- ... the fields we go...; 48- Actor Omar; 51- Soft drink nut; 53- Intense dislike; 55- The dark; 57- Gds.; 58- Cries of discovery; 59- Cafe au ...; 61- In ... of; 63- ...-poly; 64- Caesar's wings; 65- Hang in the balance; 67- ... Vegas; 68- LBJ's successor;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties like Lakeview, Ocean Garden Elm Court, WA BAO, TAIPA, Va Fat Taipa, Va Long, Central Macau, Manhattan F Unit, and Macau One Central High Floor.

Rugby Academy

Macau Bats' busy weekends



Donald Shaw
Special to MDT

LAST Sunday saw the Macau Bats compete in the Flying Kukri's rugby festival at King's Park, Kowloon.

On a hot and sunny day the U9s got off to the perfect start with good wins against Tung Chung (3-1) and Aberdeen Dolphins (3-2). Both games were tough but the Bats prevailed playing some good running rugby. The U9s then rounded out their games with two further wins against Valley Fort (4-0) and HK Football Club (6-0).

The U10s were determined to maintain their 100 percent win record for the season so far and secured impressive wins against South Lantau Buffalos (5-1), HK Football Club (5-0), Tung Chung (5-2) and Sandy Bay (5-1). On the strength of their performances both the U9 and U10s will be promoted to the top playing tier for their age groups after Christmas.

The U12s were playing in the Richard Hawkes Cup, having secured two consecutive promotions. Their first appearance in the second tier was tough, however the team played well to draw with Sandy Bay (1-1) and HK Football Club (1-1). This was followed by a narrow defeat against USRC Tigers (2-3) and a much heavier loss to Discovery Bay Pirates.

The Pirates won the league to regain their place in the first division but the Bats did well to secure their place in the second tier.

This Saturday (Dec. 8) sees the U13s host the Macau 7s tournament at TIS playing field, 1030-1300 with Sandy Bay, Sai Kung Stingrays and Discovery Bay Pirates all playing in Macau. A busy weekend sees the U16 play in the Hong Kong Premiership play-offs on Sunday.





French DJ and musician Martin Solveig (left) talks to Olympique Lyonnais' Ada Hegerberg, of Norway, during the Golden Ball (Ballon d'Or) award ceremony at the Grand Palais in Paris

ANALYSIS

Good and bad in Ballon d'Or twerking uproar

John Leicester, Paris

FIRST, the good news: In 2018, a man can no longer disrespect a trailblazing sportswoman on global TV without incurring instant opprobrium.

French DJ Martin Solveig learned this to his discomfort when he asked Ada Hegerberg to twerk just after she became the first female winner of the Ballon d'Or and used her victory speech

to appeal to girls everywhere to "please, believe in yourself."

Immediately after the awards ceremony ended, with outrage already frothing on social media, Solveig still couldn't see why his inappropriate suggestion to the 23-year-old Norwegian was causing such upset.

"It was a joke. You must have a bit of a sense of humor," he told The Associated Press as gala guests filed out of the domed Grand Palais in Paris on Mon-

day and Hegerberg posed for photos with her heavy golden trophy.

But then, as a video clip showing Solveig's interaction with Hegerberg started to rack up millions of views on Twitter, he understood. Solveig sought out Hegerberg to explain himself and tweeted "sincere apologies."

"I didn't mean to offend anyone and I didn't know that this could be seen as such an offen-

se," he said in a video message.

The bad news, as the whole sorry episode showed, is that in 2018, the behavior of men is still overshadowing the achievements of women.

And Hegerberg's achievements are immense. The steely forward is a three-time winner of the Women's Champions League with French club Lyon. Given her young age and current fearsome pace of 41 goals in 41 games in the tournament, she seems likely to make history like Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi on the men's side. Already, she set a tournament record with 15 Champions League goals last season — including in Lyon's 4-1 victory over Wolfsburg in the final.

Hegerberg appeared visibly miffed, shaking her head, responding with a firm "Non" and then turning away after Solveig asked her on stage in French, "Do you know how to twerk?"

Had Messi or Ronaldo been standing beside him, it's hard to imagine the DJ asking them to shake their backsides in the twerking dance made famous by singer Miley Cyrus rubbing against Robin Thicke at the 2013 MTV Video Music Awards.

That Solveig did so with Hegerberg immediately struck many as icky.

"Why do woman still have to put up with that [expletive]?" tennis player Andy Murray wrote on Instagram. "To everyone who thinks people are overreacting and it was just a joke, it wasn't. I've been involved in sport my whole life and the level of sexism is unreal."

At the gala for her daughter's prize moment, Hegerberg's mother, Gerd, said the impropriety of Solveig's remark was initially lost on her.

"Let him dance with the queen

tonight, I was thinking," she told the AP.

But when the meaning of twerk was then explained to her, she reacted with dismay, with an expletive.

Hegerberg herself didn't let the uproar mar her evening. After meeting with Solveig and hearing his apology, she was determinedly cheerful by time she came to speak to waiting reporters.

"I wasn't upset," she said. "I got to dance a bit and I got the Ballon d'Or."

The visibility and status that comes with that trophy will give Hegerberg more power to push the cause of women's soccer. She is already putting that leverage to use. She told the AP in an interview shortly before she picked up her trophy that she won't play in the Women's World Cup in June in France because of a dispute with the Norwegian federation. Hegerberg hasn't played for the national team since last year because of what she perceives to be a general disregard for women's soccer in Norway.

"It's all about how we respect women's football. I don't think the respect has been there," she told the AP. "Sometimes you have to take tough decisions to stay true to yourself."

She also expressed frustration with the uneven pace of progress for women. A few hours later, Solveig's behavior made her words ring true.

"Sometimes you have episodes or situations where you feel like, 'Damn, we're in such a man's world,'" she said. "That could be in a daily situation, being a woman, to be honest. Outside of the pitch as well. There's a lot of discussions to take and to bring on the table as a woman in 2018." **AP**

Ballon d'Or firsts: Modric wins, Hegerberg takes women's award

LUKA Modric ended the long reign of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the Ballon d'Or for the first time yesterday [Macau time], while another first saw Norwegian forward Ada Hegerberg win the inaugural women's trophy.

Messi and Ronaldo had won every Ballon d'Or since 2008, and usually fought only each other for the greatest recognition among soccer's elite. Women's fight for recognition on the biggest stage took a big step with Hegerberg's award.

Modric won the Champions League with Real Madrid and then guided

Croatia to the World Cup final in July. The midfielder was voted player of the tournament.

"As a kid we all have dreams. My dream was to play for a big club and win important trophies," Modric said. "The Ballon d'Or was more than just a dream for me and it is really an honor and a privilege to hold this trophy."

Ronaldo was second in the polling followed by France forward Antoine Griezmann. France's teen star, Kylian Mbappe, was fourth. Brazil star Neymar was third last year but only 12th this time. Messi was fifth in the voting, having been runner-up to Ronaldo the past two years and

in the top three every year since 2007. Modric had never previously been in the top three.

"2018 is a dream year for me," the 33-year-old Modric said. "Throughout my career I realized hard work, persistence and belief in yourself in difficult moments are the foundations of success."

Modric's father was shown on the big screen wiping away tears during the ceremony at the imperious Grand Palais in Paris.

Ronaldo missed out on a record sixth award, which would have moved him one ahead of Messi. The last player to win it before those two started

dominating world soccer awards was Brazil midfielder Kaka with AC Milan in 2007.

Ronaldo also won the Champions League last season with Modric, before leaving to join Juventus. He scored a hat trick against Spain at the World Cup but he failed to make an impression when Portugal lost to Uruguay in the round of 16.

Mbappe and Griezmann scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win against Croatia. Mbappe earned a domestic treble with Paris Saint-Germain. Griezmann also scored twice for Atletico Madrid in the Europa League final win against Marseille.



France coach Didier Deschamps said a France player should have won the award.

"They deserve it because of what they did with the national team at the World Cup and also because of the trophies they won with their clubs," Deschamps said.

The 19-year-old Mbappe

— the youngest player to score in a World Cup final — won the Raymond Kopa Trophy awarded to the best young player.

France Football magazine has been awarding the Ballon d'Or since 1956, and created a women's award for the first time this year. **AP**

opinion

World Views
The Editors, Bloomberg

PEACE TALKS OVER YEMEN WAR ARE WORTH PURSUING

The prospect of peace talks over war-ravaged Yemen is welcome, even if the chances of a permanent end to hostilities aren't good. The meetings in Sweden should mean a cease-fire and international aid to halt a famine that threatens to kill millions. They would also allow time for the governments beyond the region to pressure the combatants to find common ground.

That effort would be more promising if it were led by the U.S., which has the most leverage over the combatants with the greatest firepower: the coalition of Arab nations led by Saudi Arabia. The U.S. also has long-standing relationships with many Yemeni groups, developed over years of providing economic assistance and conducting joint counterterrorism exercises.

Regrettably, the Trump administration seems less interested in ending the hostilities than in blaming Iran, which backs the Houthi rebels in control of much of the country. To be sure, Iran is in the wrong, but the administration's position — and its unquestioning support of the Saudi-led coalition — won't help to end the fighting. The administration has gone so far as to block a resolution in the UN Security Council calling for a cease-fire and the resumption of humanitarian assistance.

The U.S. Senate is attempting to fill the vacuum created by the White House's inability to lead on this issue. It has advanced a bill to end all American military assistance to the Arab coalition. The measure has little chance of passing in the House of Representatives this year, but the Senate may try again early in 2019, when the Democrats will have a House majority.

Until then, the Senate should maintain pressure on the Trump administration to press the Saudis and their allies to stop their campaign and let relief reach the starving Yemenis. Hearings that draw attention to the humanitarian crisis would help, as would investigations of the war crimes alleged by human-rights groups.

The coalition responded to a previous halfhearted U.S. call for a cease-fire by halting its assault on the port of Hodeidah, a crucial entry point for aid — but only for a few days. After more than three years of trying, Saudis believe they might yet win decisively; and Iran, which has been shipping arms to the Houthis, benefits from keeping its Arab adversaries tied in endless conflict. This doesn't bode well for the peace talks — but it's worth a try, especially if the U.S. takes the lead.



THE LAW OFFICER SAYS UNITED KINGDOM BUZZ CAN CANCEL BREXIT

The UK should be able to unilaterally cancel its withdrawal from the EU, according to a top European law officer, BBC reports.

The non-binding opinion was delivered by the European Court of Justice's advocate general.

A group of Scottish politicians has asked the court whether the UK can call off Brexit without the consent of other member states.

The Court of Justice (ECJ) will deliver its final ruling at a later date.

The advice from advocate general Manuel Campos Sanchez-Bordona comes as the House of Commons begins five days of debates on Prime Minister Theresa May's proposed Brexit deal, with a vote due to be held next Tuesday.

In a written statement, quoted by BBC, the ECJ said Campos Sanchez-Bordona's opinion was that if a country decided to leave the EU, it should also have the power to change its mind during the two-year exit process specified in Article 50 of the EU treaty.

Media: French PM announces delay to fuel tax hikes



Samuel Petrequin, Paris

FRENCH Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced a suspension of fuel tax hikes yesterday, a major U-turn in an effort to appease a protest movement that has radicalized and plunged Paris into chaos last weekend, French media reported.

Both Le Monde newspaper and France Info radio said the planned increase, which has provoked violent riots, will be suspended for several months. Philippe is also expected to announce other measures aimed at easing tensions, just three weeks after insisting that the government would not change course and remained determined to help wean French consumers off polluting fossil fuels.

Philippe told lawmakers from President Emmanuel Macron's party first and was expected to make an official declaration today [Macau time]. There was no immediate comment from his office.

"We have to give the French people a reason to come to their senses. We will have a debate tomorrow at the national assembly, which will be followed by a vote, and then we will have a big debate on how we can devise measures to accompany the ecological transition," Philippe was quoted as saying by Le Monde. "We must appease the situation for the French people." It's unlikely Philippe's

announcement will put an end to the road blockades and demonstrations, with more possible protests this weekend in Paris. Yesterday, protesters kept blocking several fuel depots and many insisted their fight was not over.

"It's a first step, but we will not settle for a crumb," said Benjamin Cauchy, one of the leaders of the protests.

Protesters kept blocking several fuel depots and many insisted their fight was not over

Prominent Socialist figure Segolene Royal, a former candidate for president, lauded Philippe's decision but said it came too late.

"This decision should have been taken from the start, as soon as the conflict emerged," she said. "We felt it was going to be very, very hard because we saw the rage, the exasperation, especially from pensioners. They should have withdrawn [the tax hikes] right away. The more you let a conflict fester, the more you eventually have to concede."

Far-right leader Marine Le Pen lashed out at the decision as too little, tweeting

that it was "obviously not up to the expectations of the French people struggling with precarity."

After a third consecutive weekend of clashes in Paris led by protesters wearing distinctive yellow traffic vests, Philippe held crisis talks with representatives of major political parties. He also met with Macron and other ministers in order to find a quick solution to the crisis.

Facing the most serious street protests since his election in May 2017, Macron has canceled a two-day trip to Serbia to stay in France this week.

More than 100 people were injured in the French capital and 412 arrested over the weekend during France's worst urban riot in years, with dozens of cars torched.

The protests began last month with motorists upset over the fuel tax hike and have grown to encompass a range of complaints, with protesters claiming that Macron's government doesn't care about the problems of ordinary people.

The planned new tax was to increase gasoline price by 4 euro cents per liter from January next year. Gasoline currently costs about 1.42 euros a liter in Paris, slightly more than diesel.

Since the movement kicked off on Nov. 17, three people have been killed and hundreds injured in clashes or accidents stemming from the protests. **AP**

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

WORLD BRIEFS



ISRAEL The military launched an operation yesterday to "expose and thwart" tunnels built by the Hezbollah militant group that stretch from Lebanon into northern Israel.

LIBYA An official says at least 14 migrants have died off the North African nation's coast while attempting to cross the Mediterranean to reach Europe.



UKRAINE Shipping traffic has resumed to and from Ukraine's ports on the Sea of Azov following a standoff with Russia, a Ukrainian minister said yesterday.

ITALY Authorities said yesterday they had dismantled the rebuilt upper echelons of the Sicilian Mafia by arresting 46 people including the presumed new regional boss who took over after the death of the "boss of bosses" Salvatore "Toto" Riina.

SPAIN Two imprisoned members of the Catalonia region's previous government have joined two secessionist colleagues in a hunger strike to protest what they say is unfair treatment by Spanish courts.



MEXICO's newly inaugurated president kicked off his first week in office with something not seen in recent history — a news conference and a pledge to hold one every working day of his six-year term to keep the people informed. **More on p14**

ECUADOR's President Lenin Moreno has suspended his vice president, who faces allegations that as a congresswoman she took kickbacks from a staff member.