



FRINGE FESTIVAL RETURNS NEXT MONTH

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MACAU'S BELT AND ROAD ROLE ENHANCED

The local government signed an agreement with the National Development and Reform Commission yesterday

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SPECIAL HK TRADING STATUS COULD BE AT RISK

Business groups are starting to worry the Trump administration will open the door to ending the financial hub's preferential trade status

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SECRETARY'S COMPLAINTS

Lack of staff to solve public works quandary

P4 POLICY ADDRESS

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Security forces have located the bodies of 16 people and a soldier who were killed in one of the bloodiest separatist attacks in Indonesia's restive Papua province, a military official said yesterday.
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PHILIPPINES Immigration authorities say they have arrested an American Roman Catholic priest accused of sexually assaulting altar boys in a remote central town in a case one official described as "shocking and appalling."
More on p12



JAPAN A U.S. Marine refueling plane and a fighter jet crashed into the Pacific Ocean off Japan's southwestern coast after colliding yesterday, and rescuers found two of the seven crew members, one of them in stable condition, officials said.
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AMID KEY TRADE TALKS

Huawei CFO's arrest stokes China fury

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Extra
times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

18th Fringe Festival launches next month

THE 18th Macao City Fringe Festival will be held from January 11 to 27, featuring a total of 18 programs and 10 outreach activities, including workshops, talks, art critique, sharing sessions and other artistic experiences.

The diverse program organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau brings interesting and unusual activities to Macau for a two-week period and celebrates the city as a transaction point for artistic exchange. The activities were announced at a press conference held yesterday at the Old Court Building.

Organizers say that the budget has grown significantly, from MOP2.2 million in the last two years to about MOP3 million. Tickets go on sale this Sunday, December 9.

THE WEIRD AND WONDERFUL

Among this year's highlights are a number of unusual performances set on non-conventional stages, which challenge the boundaries of performance art.

One such example is the unprecedented underwater concert "Wet Sounds" by British artist Joel Cahen, who will transform an ordinary swimming pool into a space for musical performance. Cahen is joined at the Macao City Fringe Festival by compatriots Davy and Kristin McGuire, British artists who will showcase the world's first projection mapped pop-up book titled "The Icebook."

Local artist Lei Sam I will transform an ordinary supermarket into the play, "A Short Time Escape," narrating stories of life while shuffling between the aisles of a supermarket.

WORKSHOPS

A series of interactive installation workshops put together by local art group Little Studio



Ensemble will explore how technology works with art through responsive pieces on canvas installations. In the workshops, participants will create interactive pieces that will be assembled and curated into a larger composition.

Dance will form the core of several other workshops led by Macau choreographer Tracy Wong, Hong Kong artist Mao Wei, Taiwanese dance group Hung Dance, and Spanish flamenco artist Sônia Sánchez. These sessions will teach physi-

cal techniques of floor flow, contemporary dance and flamenco.

In addition, American artist Morgan O'Hara will hold the "Life Cycle Drawing Workshop," seeking to "explore the phenomenology of the unconscious as evoked through the act of drawing."

FOR FAMILIES

This year's Fringe Festival also features family workshops, encouraging families to familiarize themselves with the world of art.

In "Edi's Mime Workshop," French mime and shadowgrapher Edi Rudo will teach participating families how to manipulate imaginary things, such as touching walls, climbing ladders and pushing heavy objects, and share a number of his best magic tricks and audience mime interaction skills.

"Family Dance Workshop – I Love Balls" by the Changde Modern Dance Company will see instructor Wu Bo invite participants to explore the different properties of balls through im-

promptu dance choreography and physical interaction in a relaxed environment.

CANU Theatre creates an absurd theatrical world using lights and hand shadows, while the concert "Once Upon a Time Singing in Portuguese" by Casa de Portugal in Macau features classic Disney songs and traditional Portuguese children's songs suitable for the whole family.

CROSS-DISCIPLINARY

This year, the Fringe Festival also features cross-disciplinary and cross-regional shows and collaborations, including the cross-regional creation Body Skyline, jointly presented by Amalgama Dance Company from Portugal, Dancecology from Taiwan and Stella & Artist from Macau, presenting a new perspective of the city through the lines of the landscape.

Meanwhile, "Interactive Urban Music Ensemble" will invite the audience to play music by touching installations with drawings of different musical instruments that produce sounds via a speaker.

The dance performance "Goldfish," presented by Four Dimension Spatial from Macau and Changde Modern Dance Company from Hunan, will "reveal the concealed memories of emotional taboos under the logic of dreams," according to festival organizers.

Furthermore, this year's Fringe Festival will continue to host the sharing session "Fringe Exchange: Connect with Festivals." Art festival organizers from three regions are invited to discuss their festival experience and cultural environment, providing useful information for art groups and artists who are interested in holding overseas performances.

HKZMB Macau port shops to be on public tender

THE government has approved the opening of a public tender for shops at the Macau checkpoint of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, according to a Chief Executive order published in the Official Gazette this week.

According to the dispatch, the tender will address

the commercial space's management and operation at the Macau checkpoint.

The HKZMB opened approximately one and a half months ago. Crowds of mainland group tours have been visiting Macau's neighboring region to shop which has created pressure on the commu-

nity of Hong Kong's Tung Chung area, due to the large number of visitors.

The Hong Kong government recently leased their checkpoint's shop to a Hong Kong business in order to open temporary shops to sell mainlanders' favorite products.

The shop, HKTVMall, mainly sells milk powder,

daily necessities, and cosmetics.

Until November 23, the HKZMB Macau port recorded a total of 802,804 crossings, of which more than 100,000 were recorded across the Zhuhai-Macau border, 680,000 across the Macau-Hong Kong border, and 16,000 across vehicle channels.



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New agreement supports Macau's Belt and Road role

THE MSAR government signed an agreement with the National Development and Reform Commission yesterday, aimed at advancing Macau's participation in the Belt and Road initiative.

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and the Chairman of the National Development and Reform Commission, He Lifeng, were co-signatories to the document during a ceremony held in Beijing.

Following the signing ceremony, the first joint conference to coordinate work under the new agreement was held.

According to a statement issued by the government, "the arrangement covers matters including cooperation on financial services, economic and trade affairs, people-to-people exchanges, and cooperation between Macau and the other cities covered by the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area."



Chui Sai On (left) and He Lifeng

Macau is expected to continue to develop as a financial services platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, in order to advance the internationalization of the renminbi. "Macau is to develop as a major transport hub and an important logistics center of the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road. [...] The document also seeks to help develop Macau's role as a base for

multicultural exchange and cooperation with the goal of further promoting Chinese culture."

The National Development and Reform Commission and other central authorities pledged to maintain close touch with the SAR Government – including holding joint conferences on a regular basis – in order to implement policies outlined in the agreement signed in Beijing.

Airport to launch development of south extension in early 2019



THE Macau International Airport Company has announced plans to launch the Passenger Terminal Building South Extension Design & Build Project in early 2019. According to a press release, the project will occupy an area of 5,700 square meters, extending three levels from existing passenger terminal buildings for a total floor area of 17,100 square meters.

Upon completion of the project, the overall design capacity of the passenger terminal building will be increased to 10 million passengers per year. The expansion includes features such as an additional departure hall area, office

area, commercial area, food and beverage area, VIP area and an additional three loading bridges.

To cope with an increasing number of passengers and the airport's future development, the Passenger Terminal Building North Extension Project was completed and put into operation early this year. With an increase of 14,000 square meters of passenger terminal floor area and a total of five passenger loading bridges, the overall design capacity of the passenger terminal building increased from 6 million passengers per year to 7.8 million passengers per year.

AD

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POLICY ADDRESS

Traffic and parking spaces concern lawmakers



Raimundo do Rosário (center)

Renato Marques

TRAFFIC-RELATED matters, housing and the lack of parking spaces were topics that generated recurrent questions addressed to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works. Raimundo do Rosário was yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) to answer to the questions of lawmakers regarding the policy address of the government for the areas under his remit.

We already reached the figure of four years ago in the control over the growth of the number of vehicles.

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

Right from the start, lawmakers Ma Chi Seng, Fong Ka Chio, Sulu Sou, Leong Sun Iok and Chan Hong addressed the lack of parking spaces in the region, asking the secretary to explain how the government plans to solve the problem.

In the reply, the Secretary noted that to solve traffic problems, “one or two measures are not enough,” adding, “we have worked [on this matter], for instance, we already reached the figure of four years ago in the control over the growth of the number of vehicles and we [currently] do not have any growth. We did small things, people can’t see those because they are just small measures, but they are working.”

In the reply to the questions of Sou, who asked if the government has any study about which areas are more problematic in terms of the lack of parking spaces, Raimundo do Rosários said: “Yes, we know this very well, the area of Avenida de Almeida Ribeiro and until the Red Market is chaotic. It’s the most critical area in terms of parking but I do not have any land available [in this area] that allows such construction,” he said. “The only public parking lots that we managed to build are the ones located on the public housing buildings [plots],” Rosário added, noting that the government is trying to build new parking spaces in other areas of the city in order to reduce some of the pressure.

“We have the clear notion that the [number of] parking spaces is insufficient. But there are already more parking spaces [for private cars] than the number of these vehicles. Still insuffi-

cient but we already have some. The problem is a bit more complex for motorcycles,” he said, adding that there are still not enough spaces.

In reply to the suggestion of lawmaker Hong for the government to build “warehouse-style parking lots,” a type of parking system that allows vehicles to be stored on several floors, the Secretary said he agreed with the idea. However he noted: “I don’t know if I can do this work.” Rosário claimed there’s a lack of

human resources and difficulties in hiring qualified staff.

“At the moment, I have working under my Secretariat a total of 3,385 staff members and although I have budget for 3,600 I can’t hire more,” he explained.

In the follow-up questions that followed, Sou also inquired about the number of public vehicles currently occupying parking spaces to which Rosário replied, “the government cars [of my Secretariat] were 206 when I

took office. Now I only have 180. These vehicles were occupying 34 parking spaces in public car parks, now only 17. I know this is just ‘a drop of water in the ocean’ but we are working.”

In regards to the number and current price of monthly passes in public parking lots, the Secretary said he was aware that they “are not following the market value.”

“When we do our next update of the hourly fares [for the parking lots] we will also review the price for the monthly passes,” he said, hinting that such passes would increase more than the usual amount.

Replying to several lawmakers who raised issues relating to housing, the Secretary noted the concerns of the so-called “third type of public housing” that should include the youth as well as people from the middle class that cannot apply for the tenders of economic housing, but are also unable to acquire units in the private market.

“I do agree with this idea of the ‘third type of public housing’ but for the time being I cannot do such work,” said the Secretary. “We are concentrating all our efforts [for now] on the other two types [affordable rentals and affordable acquisition] of public housing,” he said, expressing that the system of attribution of houses could be permanent in future but noting that such a change would always depend on the offer of units.

Problems in public tenders

ANOTHER topic of note during yesterday’s Legislative Assembly (AL) question and answer session with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works concerned public tenders - namely on the problems that occurred during the two major public tenders for the construction of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) depot and workshop building, and the Mong Ha Sports Pavilion.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou was the first, but not the only, to raise questions on the topic, questioning Secretary Raimundo do Rosário on the status of the major ongoing public works, such as the Islands District Medical Complex and the Mong Ha pavilion and noting the problems with their tenders. Questions followed later by lawmaker Si Ka Lon.

The Secretary said that the foundation works of the first six buildings of the first phase of the Islands Hospital have been concluded and that the Nursing Institute building is also being built.

“There is another [building, for] which the project is already done but hasn’t yet started to be

built yet,” added Rosário. “Next week we will have news on these [public] tenders.”

As for the situation of the Mong Ha Sports Pavilion, Rosário reaffirmed that contrary to the case of the LRT - where the courts have decided that the tender was unlawful, the current contract should be cancelled and the company that ought to have won be compensated - “my colleagues did not work wrongly on this [Mong Ha] matter.”

“They did not commit any mistakes,” he added. “We are expecting the works to close in 2021, but due to the decision of the Court of Final Instance we had to suspend the agreement [and the works] and in that sense I cannot answer about when the works will resume or conclude.”

He also said that in the new tenders and contracts the government is trying the best it can to “reduce the possibilities of budgetary slippage,” adding, “I can’t guarantee that there will be no problems but we are pulling out all the stops to achieve that.”

Wong responds to Alexis Tam’s statement on illegal guesthouses

SECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak says that it is normal for different government officials to have different opinions. Wong’s remark was made regard-

ing a statement from Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam.

On Tuesday, Tam revealed during the policy address presentation at

the Legislative Assembly (AL) that he agrees with the criminalization of illegal guesthouse accommodation, an issue on which Wong has the opposite view.

“Some of my colleagues have proposed it [criminalization of illegal guesthouse accommodation], but I know, of course, that Secretary for Security Wong Sio

Chak does not agree. I respect [his opinion],” said Tam.

Wong noted that the Public Security Police Force has reported that cracking down on illegal guesthouses is difficult, because it is difficult to find the actual operators.

Wong noted that criminalization will not solve the problem.

However, Wong stated that if Tam’s secretariat wishes to promote legislation or law amendments concerning illegal inns, and if society reaches a consensus and deems that there is a need for the problem to be criminalized, then the security sector will coordinate with its full strength and offer its opinion.

SURVEY

Casinos' gaming service quality dropped

Julie Zhu

ALL casinos saw a drop in their Gaming Service Index (GSI) scores in 2018, with a 11.2 percent decrease in the overall GSI score. The GSI 2018 survey results were co-announced yesterday by the Macau Gaming Research Association (MGRA) and SGS Hong Kong Limited.

In 2018, MGRA and SGS completed mystery shopper surveys of the mass market of 15 representative casinos: Altira, City of Dreams, Galaxy, Grand Lisboa, Jai Alai-Oceanus, Hotel Lisboa, MGM, MGM Cotai, the Parisian, Sands, Star World, Studio City, the Venetian, Wynn and Wynn Palace.

The survey covered customer service, cloakroom, bus-sing and toilets, staff in slot machine areas, security staff, cashiers, dealers, and staff in food and beverage areas.



Hannah Koo

time for shuttle buses decreased.

Around 90 percent of toilet environments were rated good in 2018. The percentage still fell compared to the same period of last year however, according to the survey.

On the sidelines of the press conference in which the survey results were announced, MGRA assistant director Hannah Koo noted that a significant drop in gaming service was recorded in the second quarter of this year.

"This time, the survey was conducted by mystery shoppers. Regarding the drops, the analysis will be given to the casinos, and then they will review why the significant drop occurred," said Koo.

"Smiling, proactiveness and tolerance dropped more than other aspects, the proactiveness and tolerance decreased about 20 to 30 percent. We don't assume the reasons, we only reflect the facts."

According to Koo, SGS will give the data to the casinos concerned in a few weeks.

The survey results showed security staff had the best GSI, with a 2.79 points recorded in 2018. However, the index still showed a drop compared to the 2.89 points of 2017.

Dealers were given 1.87 points compared to the 2.27 points in 2017, representing a 17 percent decrease.

Customer service also went down 11 percent to 2.32 points in 2018, compared to 2.61 points in 2017.

The quality of cashier service also worsened 10.98 percent, with 2.19 points recorded in 2018 (compared to 2.46 points in 2017).

Regarding slot machine staff, slightly better service was reported, receiving 2.59 points in 2018 (2.58 points in 2017).

"Among all departments, security staff received rather higher grades because their work is simpler. Dealers and cashiers need to take care of more things, [...] their work is more complex, [...] so there is a chance for them to receive lower grades," said Koo.

In addition, the survey found that there was no relationship between the number of customers waiting to be served and the service quality.

Two arrested for salary fraud

Two women have been arrested for fraud after they were discovered keeping two non-local workers' salaries (estimated at MOP220,000). The two women are sisters, both surnamed Wu. One is 61 years old (Macau resident) and the other is 57 years old (Hong Kong resident). The police found more than 300 bank books, 24 bank cards and 24 agreements in the women's apartments. The suspects' company employs more than 100 non-local workers in construction projects. The Judiciary Police did not rule out the possibility of more victims.

Gov't insists on not having cameras inside taxis

The government has insisted that cameras not be installed inside taxis, according to the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly. Chairman of the Committee Wong Hin Fai noted that more than half of the committee's members hoped the government would reconsider the proposal. Lawmakers proposed the installation of cameras in the back of taxis at an 8 o'clock position, which would not be allowed to record either the driver's or the passengers' faces. However, the government did not provide a reply to the lawmakers.



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Expert says Macau should have unified approach to attract MICE events, visitors

Lynzy Valles

WITH its aim of becoming an attractive destination, Macau is in need of a unified message to send its visitors, said marketing and events expert Patrick Delaney.

Delaney was speaking on the sidelines of a three-day event titled "IAPCO Bespoke Edge Seminar," organized this week by the Macau Meetings, Incentives and Special Events Association.

The interactive seminar aims to discuss the SAR's role as a business event platform, along with providing new approaches in the industry.

Delaney, one of the session's three speakers, noted that the challenge for destinations, particularly in this era, is the increased competitiveness amongst cities. "There are a lot of destinations out there. Destinations in general have realized that this type of business is very good [...] because it's low volume but high impact," said Delaney, who is a managing partner at SoolNua, a marketing firm based in Dublin.

"That impact comes in two ways: not only financially, but in positive aspects for destinations



Patrick Delaney (left)

because the types of individuals [coming to meetings due to] corporate incentives are interested in bringing knowledge and bringing investment," he added.

According to Delaney, destinations may be seen not purely as tourist locations, but rather locations more aligned with economic development and social improvement.

He added that the destination has to move away from relying on its big hotels as tourists come with the aim to learn more about a city, citing Las Vegas as an example, which has moved

away from gambling to a center of innovation in particular areas, such as e-sports.

The expert also explained that the SAR is in need of a unified community that works together and has the same message, one which needs to be relevant to the audience.

"One of the challenges for Macau is telling the world that there is more [to Macau] than a destination for gaming. Gaming is brilliant [...] but you want to have a diversified portfolio in terms of getting that message out," Delaney explained.

"You have to tell people, and you have to tell them in a credible way so that they come, and you need a destination marketing organization that is able to link those delegates and attendees to whatever is available," he added.

According to Delaney, Macau has become a successful destination, yet needs improvements in its strategy to attract visitors and provide easy access to what it has to offer.

He also stressed that Macau lacks both a coordinated message and presence in the online and offline channels that different

types of businesses might use.

"It needs a coordinated approach. There are some very effective hotels, wonderful destination hotels, but not all are working together. You need to brand Macau in a way that is very clearly articulated because in the closure of today's communication, you need to be able to have a relevant message," Delaney said.

There are some very effective hotels, wonderful destination hotels, but not all are working together.

PATRICK DELANEY

"I think there is a need for a wider range of offerings, because Macau has a lot more to offer but is only seen as one dimensional," Delaney added.

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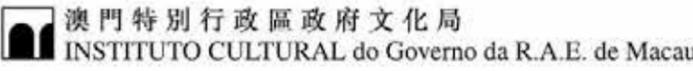



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HERITAGE

Lai Chi Vun shipyards listed as immovable assets

THE old Lai Chi Vun shipyards have been classified as an immovable asset, the Chief Executive Council announced on Wednesday.

"The SAR government has carried out a public consultation, in accordance with the law, on cultural heritage protection. Most of the opinions collected acknowledge the cultural interest of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards and agree with the classification of the shipyards as an immovable asset [and], the Cultural Heritage Committee agreed with the opinions," a CE council statement reads.

The statement indicates that no party besides the Macau government has control over the site. Furthermore, the shipyards have been placed under public domain, therefore the



consultation results do not include the opinions of any other party.

In accordance with the city's cultural heritage protection law, the SAR government also established a buffer area for the shipyards, which was included in formal administrative re-

gulations.

"The draft [of the administrative regulation] proposes to classify the [...] Lai Chi Vun shipyards as a 'location,' proposes to set up a buffer area for the shipyards, and proposes to protect them," the CE council statement reads.

On March 22, 2017, a group of residents delivered an application to the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) requesting the bureau initiate assessment procedures regarding the shipyards' classification as an immovable asset.

The IC, after analysis, decided that the shipyards met the evaluation criteria of the cultural heritage protection law, whereby the bureau launched the assessment procedure on Dec. 12, 2017.

As recently as the 1950s, the coastal villages were thriving in Macau. Historical accounts indicate that at the time there were around 10,000 fishermen and over 30 shipyards in Macau, many of them in Lai Chi Vun.

After suffering from regional competition and the surge of the gaming industry in Macau, the industry collapsed in the 1990s.

HUMAN RESOURCES

Qualified workers import scheme may be reviewed

A proposal to attract a greater number of talented individuals from outside Macau to work in the region will be discussed further by the Talents Development Committee, with more details to be announced after, the Chief Executive said this week.

Chui Sai On said the government will closely analyze the Macau residency policies relevant to such matters, and noted the topic of talent import had generated intense discussion in the community.

In his comments to reporters, Chui said the government has no timetable regarding possible implementation of such measures. According to a statement, "the government noted a number of neighboring cities had launched policies and measures to attract skilled professionals or otherwise talented people, so as to propel the respective socio-economic development of those cities."

The CE said that "while nurturing the development of a greater number of talented local people, the government seeks to review its own policies regarding attracting talented people from outside Macau, and take note of the proactive measures implemented in neighboring jurisdictions, in order to maintain the region's overall competitiveness."

AD

Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

Ann, and I've prepared enough cash, credit cards and took care of the travel insurance too!

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

It's a people business

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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SAM LEE

Real estate is a people business over anything else. As discussed in last week's article, during the process of renting, selling or purchasing a property, many different parties with varying objectives can get involved. In a scenario like this, it's only natural that some expectations become misaligned and frictions occur from time to time.

Throughout the years we have learned and implemented techniques and principles for resolving conflicts and deescalating emotions so that we situation can be approached calmly and logically. These tips can be applied universally, so if you find yourself in a tight spot, try them out!

Move up the communication ladder

The broad use of messaging apps like Whatsapp or Facebook messenger have made our lives much easier for the most part. But it also brings with it the possibility of texts being misunderstood and long blocks of text being left on "read" with two awkward blue ticks staring back at you.

If miscommunication happens over text, it is unlikely to be solved over text, especially if there is a language barrier. It is much better to "move up the communication ladder" and pick up the phone to have a chat. Actually hearing the counterparty's voice can make the situation feel much more human and create empathy. Failing this, the next step of course is to meet face-to-face and chat over a coffee.

Use the 'sandwich'

The offer was rejected. The apartment that they really wanted has been taken off the market. The contract cannot be renewed. It is sometimes very difficult to deliver a piece of news that you know the receiver does not want to hear. Instead of simply dumping the bad news on them like a bomb, a good technique is to 'sandwich' the negative between two positives. For example, instead of simply sending a text that says "Your offer of HKD 5 million was rejected", you might say "Good news is that the seller is open

to negotiating. Your offer of HKD 5 million was not accepted, but the owner has agreed to extend the closing time to 90 days if we can find a price that works for everybody!". Although both messages contain the same fact that the apartment can't be bought at HKD 5 million, the second message is much more 'digestible' for most.

Tune in to WIIFM

Although people can be incredibly giving and sympathetic, when it comes to a commercial transaction everyone is tuned into the channel of WIIFM, or "What's In It For Me?". It would seem obvious, but this point very often gets missed. For example, on the surface a negotiation between the seller and buyer might look like it's purely based on price. But a deeper look might reveal that what the buyer wants is not a cheaper price, but a way to save face in front of his wife. If the seller knows this, he might find a creative way to get the price he wants while giving the buyer face.

REPORT

China is lead suspect in Marriott hack

A massive hack into hotel group Marriott International Inc. may have been an intelligence-gathering operation by China's government, Reuters cited unidentified sources as saying.

Private investigators found hacking tools, techniques and procedures that featured in past attacks attributed to Chinese hackers, according to the report. But other parties have access to the same tools, meaning China can only be described as lead suspect, Reuters' sources said.

"Our primary objectives in this investigation are figuring out what occurred and how we can best help our guests," a Marriott spokesperson told Bloomberg News by email. "We have no information about the cause of this incident and we have not speculated about the identity of the attacker."

Marriott is tallying the cost of one of the biggest corporate hacks in history, which exposed the personal data of some 500 million guests through a breach of its



Starwood Hotels and Resorts reservation system from 2014. A Chinese connection might be less significant for the company than for the U.S. government, which is clashing with the rising super-power over technology and trade.

Identifying the culprit is even harder because investigators suspect multiple hacking groups may have simultaneously been inside Marriott computer networks since 2014, Reuters quoted one of the sources as saying.

The incident will seem less of a failure on Marriott's part if the Chinese government turns out to be the perpetra-

tor, James Lewis, director of the technology policy program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, told Bloomberg News. "No corporation can take on a government and expect to win," he said.

China foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang, speaking at a regular press briefing Thursday, said that while he wasn't aware of the specific case, "I believe China firmly opposes and cracks down on all forms of hacking. We firmly oppose any groundless accusations on the issue of cyber security."

The hotel group disclosed the attack last week. **Bloomberg**



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Hong Kong fears Trump will trigger end to special trading status

HONG Kong business groups are starting to worry the Trump administration will open the door to ending the financial hub's preferential trade status, rendering it "just another Chinese city" as its government gets closer to Beijing.

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission stoked fears last month with a recommendation that Congress reassess Hong Kong's special trading status for some sensitive U.S. technology imports. It said Beijing's statements and legislative actions "continue to run counter to China's promise to uphold Hong Kong's autonomy."

If President Donald Trump acts on the recommendation, it would only impact dual-use technology with consumer and military applications - like carbon fiber used to make both golf clubs and missile components - that represent about 2 percent of U.S. exports to Hong Kong. But the blow to the city's image may be irreparable.

"It would have a ripple effect - the door would be open and it might not close," said Felix Chung, who represents the textile and garments industries as a pro-establishment member of Hong Kong's legislature. "The Western community would look at Hong Kong with different eyes and may not even trust Hong Kong. The business sector cannot take this kind of risk."

Under the terms of the United States-Hong Kong Policy Act of 1992, the U.S. agreed to treat the former British colony as fully autonomous for trade and economic matters even after China took control in 1997. That means Hong Kong is exempt



The Kwai Tsing container terminal as the Stonecutters Bridge stands in the background at night in Hong Kong

from Trump's punitive tariffs on China and enjoys U.S. support its participation in international bodies like the World Trade Organization.

While the U.S. State Department said earlier this year it sees no reason to scrap Hong Kong's special status, one clause in the law particularly worries the city's business elites: The U.S. president can issue an executive order suspending privileges in a particular area if he determines it isn't sufficiently autonomous from Beijing.

"If it was the Obama administration I wouldn't worry," Chung said. "But because it's Trump you never know what he's going to do." The U.S. Consulate in Hong Kong declined to comment when asked whether Trump was considering any action against the city. It pointed to a statement last month from Consul General Kurt Tong, who said "we are quite focused on the importance of the

'one country, two systems' framework" that allows Hong Kong to maintain a distinct economic, legal and political system.

So far, Hong Kong's government has dismissed concerns the "one country, two systems" framework is under attack. Chief Executive Carrie Lam last month cautioned the U.S. to "think twice" before changing Hong Kong's status and harming its own interests. She also borrowed a phrase from Beijing, accusing the U.S. commission of seeing things through a "colored lens."

Asked about the U.S. trade privileges in the legislature on Wednesday, Commerce Secretary Edward Yau downplayed the commission report and said Hong Kong "will continue to maintain our robust trade control system" to prevent unauthorized exports to the mainland. He said Hong Kong would "always respect, abide by and uphold 'one country, two systems,'" calling

it the "cornerstone" of the city's economic success. Hong Kong's status as a separate customs territory from China is set out in the city's charter, he said.

The U.S. has a substantial interest in Hong Kong staying autonomous. Some 85,000 U.S. citizens live in the city, and 1,400 U.S. firms that use the territory as a platform to do business in China. They prize the territory for its rule of law, free flow of capital, independent judiciary, access to information and protections of personal and press freedoms.

Still, Beijing-backed efforts to restrict dissent have fueled concerns of China's growing influence. The commission's report cited a litany of examples, including Hong Kong's moves to ban pro-independence politicians and heed a request from mainland authorities to not hand over a fugitive to the U.S.

Jack Lange, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in Hong Kong, called on the Hong Kong administration to "engage" with the U.S. to ensure that sensitive technologies don't end up in China given the city's increasing economic integration with the mainland.

"People are concerned about the autonomy issues and the consequences that could come out of them," Lange said. Still, he added, Hong Kong citizens enjoy substantial liberties: "Nobody has any problem googling anything they want in Hong Kong. That's not true across the border."

Hong Kong's business community has long fostered ties with Beijing, a relationship that helped the city become a gateway to China. Since the 1997 handover the economy has grown by some

50 percent to more than USD341 billion - larger than countries like Singapore, Malaysia and the Philippines.

But as Beijing exerts its authority, business is suffering from the perception Hong Kong is in China's pocket.

In November, Australia rejected a AUD13 billion (\$9.4 billion) gas project bid by Hong Kong tycoon Victor Li's CK Infrastructure Holdings Ltd., calling it contrary to national interest. The decision followed a torrent of criticism in Australia that Hong Kong companies were just as susceptible to Beijing's influence as those on the mainland.

On a September visit to Washington, a Hong Kong business delegation that included commerce secretary Yau found widespread misunderstanding about the city's special status.

"We realized that many people in the U.S. were not fully aware of 'one country, two systems,'" Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. Chairman John Slosar, a vice-chairman of the Hong Kong General Chamber of Commerce, said in a report issued by the group.

While any U.S. moves to change Hong Kong's status would be a reputational blow, other Western countries might not follow suit if they view it as part of a wider competition between the world's biggest economies, according to Paul Serfaty, a director of investment bank Asian Capital Partners Group who has lived in Hong Kong for three decades.

"All Donald Trump cares about is bringing pressure to bear on China," he said. "And in that respect Hong Kong is beginning to look more like a pawn than an actor." **Bloomberg**

LUXURY

Gucci owner revamps jeweler to Czars as branded rocks boom

Agleaming necklace in Boucheron's shop window in Paris's Place Vendome features dozens of lifelike hydrangea blossoms made from mother-of-pearl and diamonds, framing a 43-carat pink tourmaline.

Shoppers who enter the restored 18th-century mansion, which reopened this week after a sweeping restoration by parent Kering SA, can slip out with their purchases via a secret door through the lacquered panels of a Chinese-inspired

selling room. High rollers who prefer to stay might even be invited to sleep in a VIP guest suite—operated by the Paris Ritz, no less—featuring views of the Eiffel Tower from the bathtub.

"This is more than just a store opening for France," said Boucheron Chief Executive Officer Helene Poulit-Duquesne, who joined the brand in 2015 after 17 years at Richemont's Cartier. The Paris square is the world's most prestigious jewelry destination—housing such

names as Van Cleef & Arpels, Chaumet and Chanel—and a pilgrimage has become de rigueur for fans of top-end pieces. "This story of the Place Vendome is what we want to tell around the world."

After a push into skateboarding wear and soccer brands like Puma fell flat, Kering is trying to diversify within luxury at a time when targets for acquisition are scarce. A rapid comeback for its flagship brand Gucci, which rebo-

ted with a new designer's decadent aesthetic in 2015, drove shares in the group up 85 percent last year alone. But the relentless pace of growth in Gucci's two-year run has meant the company is more dependent on the brand than ever.

The group helmed by the French billionaire Francois-Henri Pinault is now ramping up investment in jewelry, adding stores for Boucheron and a new high-end jewelry collection for

Gucci, as well as expanding its smaller fashion brands like Balenciaga and Alexander McQueen.

Boucheron was founded soon after Cartier and is part of the elite club of French jewelers that produce haute joaillerie, or high jewelry: one-of-a-kind pieces priced from USD50,000 to several million dollars, which are handcrafted in Vendome ateliers to show off precious stones and their makers' most advanced techniques. But while Cartier touted its meticulous craftsmanship to sell a range reaching from super-luxury products down to more modest models like \$4,000 Panthere watches and "Love" bracelets in

nearly 300 stores around the world, Boucheron remained a lesser-known option, under family management until a sale to Kering in 2000.

Boucheron's accessible lines, including its best-selling \$4,000 Quatre rings, entered the global spotlight more recently. Spokeswomen like the actresses Lea Seydoux of France and Zhou Dongyu of China sport the items—and Beyonce has worn them onstage.

In addition to the renovated base, Kering has opened its first two Boucheron boutiques in mainland China this year and has additional locations in Hong Kong and Macau on the way. **Bloomberg**



MENG WANZHOU

Beijing demands Canada release Huawei executive

Joe McDonald & Rob Gillies, Beijing

CHINA yesterday demanded Canada release a Huawei Technologies executive who was arrested in a case that adds to technology tensions with Washington and threatens to complicate trade talks.

Huawei's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, faces possible extradition to the United States, according to Canadian authorities. The Globe and Mail newspaper, citing law enforcement sources, said she is suspected of trying to evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran.

The timing is awkward following the announcement of a U.S.-Chinese cease-fire in a tariff war over Beijing's technology policy. Meng was detained in Vancouver on Saturday, the day Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping met in Argentina and announced their deal.

Stock markets tumbled on the news, fearing renewed U.S.-Chinese tensions that threaten global economic growth. Hong Kong's Hang Seng lost 2.5 percent and the DAX in Germany sank 1.8 percent.

A Chinese government statement said Meng broke no U.S. or Canadian laws and demanded Canada "immediately correct the mistake" and release her.

Beijing asked Washington and Ottawa to explain the reason for Meng's arrest, said a foreign ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. He said arresting her without that violated her human rights.

But the Ministry of Commerce signaled Beijing wants to avoid disrupting progress toward settling a dispute with Washington over technology policy that has led them to raise tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

China is confident they can reach a trade deal during the 90 days that Trump agreed to suspend U.S. tariff hikes, said a ministry spokesman, Gao Feng.

Huawei Technologies Ltd., the biggest global supplier of network gear used by phone and internet companies, has been the target of deepening U.S. security concerns. Under Trump and his predecessor, Barack Obama, Washington has pressured European countries and other allies to limit use of its technology.

The United States sees Huawei and smaller Chinese tech suppliers as possible fronts for spying and as commercial competitors. The Trump administration says they benefit from improper subsidies and market barriers.

Trump's tariff hikes on Chinese

imports stemmed from complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. But American officials also worry more broadly that Chinese plans for state-led creation of Chinese champions in robotics, artificial intelligence and other fields might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Stock markets tumbled on the news, fearing renewed US-Chinese tensions that threaten global economic growth

"The United States is stepping up containment of China in all respects," said Zhu Feng, an international relations expert at Nanjing University. He said targeting Huawei, one of its most successful companies, "will trigger anti-U.S. sentiment."

"The incident could turn out to be a breaking point," Zhu said.

Last month, New Zealand blocked a mobile phone company from using Huawei equipment, saying it posed a "significant network security risk." The company was banned in August from working on Australia's fifth-generation network.

Yesterday, British phone carrier BT said it was removing Huawei equipment from the core of its mobile phone networks. It said Huawei still is a supplier of other equipment and a "valued innovation partner."

The Wall Street Journal reported this year U.S. authorities are investigating whether Huawei violated sanctions on Iran. The Chinese government appealed to Washington to avoid any steps that might damage business confidence.

Huawei's biggest Chinese rival, ZTE Corp., was nearly driven out of business this year when Washington barred it from buying U.S. technology over exports to North Korea and Iran. Trump restored access after ZTE agreed to pay a USD1 billion fine, replace its executive team and embed a U.S.-chosen compliance team in the company.

Huawei is regarded as far stronger commercially than ZTE. Based in Shenzhen, near Hong Kong, Huawei has the biggest research and development budget of any Chinese company

and a vast portfolio of patents, making it less dependent on American suppliers.

Its growing smartphone brand is among the top three global suppliers behind Samsung Electronics and Apple Inc. by number of handsets sold.

Meng was changing flights in Canada when she was detained "on behalf of the United States of America" to face unspecified charges in New York, according to a Huawei statement.

"The company has been provided very little information regarding the charges and is not aware of any wrongdoing by Ms. Meng," the statement said.

A U.S. Justice Department spokesman declined to comment.

Huawei said it complies with all laws and rules where it operates, including export controls and sanctions of the United Nations, the United States and European Union.

Meng's arrest also threatened to inflame disagreements over Iran and Trump's decision to break with other governments and re-impose sanctions over the country's nuclear development.

Geng, the foreign ministry spokesman, said China objects to unilateral sanctions outside the United Nations. China has said it will continue to do business with Iran despite the possible threat of U.S. penalties.

Meng is a prominent member of China's business world as deputy chairman of Huawei's board and the daughter of its founder Ren Zhengfei, a former Chinese military engineer.

Despite that, her arrest is unlikely to derail trade talks, said Willy Lam, a politics specialist at the Chinese University of Hong Kong.

"I think too much is at stake for Xi Jinping. He desperately wants a settlement," said Lam.

Longer term, however, the case will reinforce official Chinese urgency about developing domestic technology suppliers to reduce reliance on the United States, said Lam.

Trump has "pulled out all the stops" to hamper Chinese ambitions to challenge the United States as a technology leader, Lam said. That includes imposing limits on visas for Chinese students to study science and technology.

"If the Chinese need further convincing, this case would show them beyond doubt Trump's commitment," said Lam.

David Mulroney, a former Canadian ambassador to China, said U.S. and Canadian business executives could face reprisals in China.

"That's something we should be watching out for. It's a possibility. China plays rough," Mulroney said. "It's a prominent member of their society and it's a company that really embodies China's quest for global recognition as a technology power." **AP**

PATRICK HO

Hong Kong businessman guilty of bribery in African oil deal

AP PHOTO/ ELIZABETH WILLIAMS



In this courtroom drawing, Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Zolkind (standing) addresses cooperating witness Cheikh Gadio (far right) during Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho's bribery trial in New York

Jim Mustian, New York

A federal jury convicted a Hong Kong businessman yesterday [Macau time] of bribing the presidents of two African nations to secure oil rights for a Chinese energy conglomerate, a case that stretched from the halls of the United Nations and highlighted the often blurry line between nongovernmental organizations and private enterprise.

Dr. Chi Ping Patrick Ho was found guilty of seven of eight counts, including conspiracy, money laundering and violating the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act in a case that involved several former presidents of the United Nations General Assembly.

Ho's attorneys did not dispute that he made the payments, including USD2 million secreted in gift boxes delivered to the president of Chad in 2014. But they insisted the transactions were charitable donations intended to foster goodwill in Chad and Uganda and expand the business of CEFC China Energy.

Ho, 69, showed little emotion after the verdict was announced. He addressed reporters briefly in Cantonese as he left the courtroom, saying the outcome had been "expected."

Ho's defense attorneys said they had not yet decided whether they would appeal the verdict.

U.S. District Judge Loretta Preska set sentencing for March 14.

The jury harbored little doubt of Ho's criminal intent but spent some time debating whether the U.S. Justice Department had jurisdiction on some of the counts, said Margaret Ann Withers, the jury foreperson.

"There was just a lot of evidence," Withers said outside the courtroom.

Ho was charged and tried in New York, prosecutors said, because several relevant meetings, communications and wire trans-

fers occurred in Manhattan.

"Ho's repeated attempts to corrupt foreign leaders were not business as usual but criminal efforts to undermine the fairness of international markets and erode the public's faith in its leaders," U.S. Attorney Geoffrey Berman said in a statement.

Prosecutors portrayed Ho, an ophthalmologist and former secretary for home affairs in Hong Kong, as an astute bagman who parlayed his position at the helm of CEFC China Energy's nonprofit think tank to befriend—and line the pockets of—government officials as the oil and gas company sought new business ventures around the world.

Perhaps the most colorful, and critical, testimony in the trial came from Cheikh Gadio, a former foreign minister to Senegal who had been indicted with Ho before agreeing to testify.

The energy conglomerate engaged Gadio as a consultant. Ho relied on him for an introduction to President Idriss Deby of Chad.

Gadio told jurors Deby became enraged after his security team discovered \$2 million in cash had been included in more than a half dozen gift boxes the energy company presented during a visit to the presidential compound. Deby said his first impulse was to expel the company's delegation from his country. Gadio said the president asked him "why people believe that all African leaders are corrupt."

Gadio said Ho told the president he was "impressed" by his refusal of the bribe. He said CEFC insisted the Chadian government keep the cash as a charitable donation.

"This is not how legitimate business is done," Assistant U.S. Attorney Douglas Zolkind said. "It's bribery."

Ho's defense attorneys claimed it was Gadio who suggested the bribe.

Ho did not testify during the seven-day trial. **AP**

ADVERTORIAL

DECK THE HALLS

With the Christmas countdown underway, there's plenty of fun still to be had at Sands Shoppes, whether that means getting in the mood for merrymaking with Longines, exploring the newest boutique additions, or eyeing up amazing watches and incredible jewellery items at Masters of Time X. What will end up on your Christmas wish list this year?

DISCOVER MASTERS OF TIME X

The world's leading retail exhibition of luxury timepieces and jewellery returns to T Galleria by DFS, Macau, Shoppes at Four Seasons for its milestone tenth edition with a landmark gala weekend from 7 to 9 December. The special anniversary event, Masters of Time X, will feature the most exclusive selection of rare watches and exceptional jewellery items from the world's most renowned brands, including pieces created especially to mark the occasion. The collection will be available for viewing and purchase in Macau until the end of February 2019.

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This festive season, renowned Swiss watchmaker Longines has partnered with Sands Shoppes to provide shoppers with unforgettable festive memories. Not only can you enjoy the stunning, sparkling Longines Christmas tree in Shoppes at Venetian, but, from now until 2 January, discover Longines-themed festive decorations; enjoy photo-taking opportunities in a carriage at Shoppes at Parisian and in a sleigh at Shoppes at Four Seasons; and share heartfelt messages complete with Longines stamps at Shoppes at Cotai Central.

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To celebrate the opening of FILA KIDS in Shoppes at Cotai Central, spend MOP3,800 or more in store and receive a free limited edition FILA KIDS watch. Shop 3012, Shoppes at Cotai Central



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FRIENDS CLOSE

North Korean sends top diplomat to key ally China



North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho (left) arrives at the Beijing International airport in Beijing yesterday

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

NORTH Korea's foreign minister arrived in key ally China yesterday for talks amid stalled efforts to persuade his government to dismantle its nuclear weapons programs.

Ri Yong Ho is to meet today with his Chinese counterpart, Wang Yi, according to China's foreign ministry.

China is North Korea's most important economic and political partner, but has agreed to United Nations economic sanctions aimed at pressuring leader Kim Jong Un to abandon his drive to develop nuclear weapons and the ballistic missiles to deliver them.

Kim sharply raised tensions with nuclear and missile tests last year, but suddenly reached out to South Korea and the United States this year with a vague nuclear disarmament pledge. North Korea is now seeking security guarantees from the U.S. and relief from the international sanctions.

Ri is also expected to be briefed on discussions last week between Chinese President Xi Jinping and U.S. President Donald Trump, who recently said his next meeting with Kim would likely happen in January or February.

Despite the initial optimism generated by Kim and Trump's June summit meeting in Singapore, little has transpired since then.

At the time, some experts said the

United States could soon accept a North Korean request for a joint declaration of the end of the 1950-53 Korean War as part of security assurances to the North. But diplomacy has since come to a halt amid disputes over a U.S. demand that North Korea first produce a full inventory of its nuclear weapons and take other denuclearization steps before winning significant outside rewards.

North Korea wants sanctions relief, the end-of-war declaration and other reciprocal measures from the United States, arguing it has taken some steps, like dismantling its nuclear testing facility and releasing American detainees.

China fought on North Korea's behalf during the Korean War, and while ties have grown frosty at times, Xi hosted Kim for three summits in China this year, both before and after Kim's meeting with Trump.

However, Xi did not attend celebrations of the 70th anniversary of North Korea's founding in September in what was seen as an indication that Beijing expected further actions from Kim, including concrete progress toward denuclearization.

Ri's visit also comes amid intense speculation over the possibility that Kim will visit South Korea this month.

No North Korean leader has traveled to South Korea since fighting stopped in the Korean War, which killed millions. There have been five summit meetings between the leaders of the Koreas, three of them between Kim and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, but they all happened either in Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, or the inter-Korean border village of Panmunjom.

Fighting in the 1950-53 Korean War ended with a cease-fire, not a peace treaty. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Authorities arrest US priest accused of abusing altar boys

PHILIPPINE immigration authorities say they have arrested an American Roman Catholic priest accused of sexually assaulting altar boys in a remote central town in a case one official described as "shocking and appalling."

Bureau of Immigration spokeswoman Dana Sandoval said yesterday the Rev. Kenneth Bernard Hendricks, who has been indicted in Ohio for alleged illicit sexual conduct in the Philippines, was arrested in a church in Naval town on the island province of Biliran.

An Ohio court had issued a warrant for the arrest of 77-year-old Hendricks, who has been living in the Philippines for 37 years, Sandoval said, adding

that the U.S. criminal case stemmed from complaints from Filipino minors who were allegedly victimized in the Philippines.

There was no immediate reaction from the U.S. Embassy, Philippine Catholic church officials or Hendricks, who was flown to Manila and detained in an immigration cell.

The suspect allegedly abused seven victims, who served mostly as altar boys in Naval, in 50 counts of molestation in his residence in a case that's "both shocking and appalling," Sandoval said.

"The victims were in his house and the abuses were committed while he was taking a bath with each of them," Sandoval said by telephone. U.S. authorities provided information

about the alleged sexual assaults to the Philippine government, she said.

The victims were reportedly warned they would be locked up in jail if they told anyone about the abuses, she said.

"Several of his victims have come forward with their statements," Sandoval said.

The U.S. Embassy may revoke Hendricks' passport to help Philippine authorities immediately deport the priest, the immigration bureau said in a statement.

Hendricks is "a fugitive from justice that poses a risk to public safety and security," Sandoval said. "We will not allow sexual predators to prey on our children. People like him must be kicked out and

banned from the Philippines."

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has repeatedly lashed out at the dominant Catholic church and its priests over such abuses, saying he himself along with other students were sexually molested by an American priest in their high school days.

In separate speeches Wednesday, the volatile leader claimed almost 90 percent of Catholic priests were homosexual and also admonished Catholics to "kill your bishops, they are useless fools. All they do is criticize."

"I'm telling you, the most hypocritical institution in the entire Philippines is the Catholic church and the pope knows that," Duterte said.



American Roman Catholic priest Rev. Kenneth Bernard Hendricks poses for his mugshot at the Bureau of Immigration in Manila

A Catholic priest and Duterte critic, Amado Picardal, said the president's remarks on the church may be aimed at diverting public attention from his widely criticized deadly war on drugs, the government's failure to stop the smuggling of illegal drugs into the country, con-

tinuing poverty, corruption and other issues.

He said Duterte may also feel threatened by the Catholic church, which played a role in the ouster of two Philippine presidents, including the 1986 overthrow of dictator Ferdinand Marcos. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Police search for 22-year-old British tourist



CCTV image released last Saturday by police shows 22-year-old English tourist Grace Millane in central Auckland

NEW Zealand police were searching yesterday for a 22-year-old British tourist who has been missing for five days and failed to contact her parents on her birthday.

Grace Millane was last seen

on Saturday evening in central Auckland. She had been staying at a backpacker hostel and left some of her belongings there. Her birthday was on Sunday and police said it was unusual for her not to contact her family then.

Detective Inspector Scott Beard told reporters the investigation is focusing on videos from surveillance cameras around the city. He urged anyone who has seen Millane or knows her to contact police.

"The police investigation today has concentrated on her movements and activities in Auckland since she's arrived in New Zealand," Beard said. "A large part of that focus has been around CCTV footage around Auckland."

Police released a blurry image of Millane taken from a surveillance camera in which she is wearing a black dress and white sneakers.

"The longer this goes on the more concerning it is," Beard said. "At the moment, we don't have any evidence of foul play but we're keeping an open mind."

Beard said Millane's father was on his way to New Zealand.

Millane's brother, Michael Millane, posted an appeal for help on Facebook. He said they had been in contact with the British High Commission in Wellington.

"Grace has been missing for five days," he wrote. "She has not returned to her hostel room in Auckland, New Zealand, and family members have had no contact since Saturday 1st December." AP

INDONESIA

Regular forces locate bodies of 16 people killed in Papua



SECURITY forces have located the bodies of 16 people and a soldier who were killed in one of the bloodiest separatist attacks in Indonesia's restive Papua province, a military official said yesterday.

Army helicopters transported eight bodies and eight survivors, including a 4-year-old boy, from a remote mountainous village in Nduga district, Papua province military spokesman Col. Muhammad Aidi said. Gunfire between security forces and an armed group linked to the Free Papua Movement was hampering efforts to recover the eight other bodies, he said.

The area is a stronghold of separatists who have battled Indonesian rule in the impoverished region for half a century.

Police earlier said 31 workers and a soldier were killed Sunday when gunmen stormed a government construction project in a remote village

in Nduga district, citing reports from witnesses.

Authorities on Wednesday revised the figure to 19 civilians, including workers, and a soldier, based on the accounts of survivors.

Security forces on Tuesday rescued 12 survivors, including five injured construction workers.

A forensic team at a hospital in the mountain mining town of Timika was determining whether the eight bodies were those of other construction workers employed by PT Istaka Karya, a state-owned construction company, to build bridges on a section of the trans-Papua road network.

Indonesia's government, which for decades had a policy of sending Javanese and other Indonesians to settle in Papua, is now trying to spur economic development to dampen the separatist movement.

The workers are considered outsiders by the separatists. AP

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ENVIRONMENT

Sails make a comeback as shipping tries to go green



Kelvin Chan, London

AS the shipping industry faces pressure to cut climate-altering greenhouse gases, one answer is blowing in the wind.

European and U.S. tech companies, including one backed by airplane maker Airbus, are pitching futuristic sails to help cargo ships harness the free and endless supply of wind power. While they sometimes don't even look like sails — some are shaped like spinning columns — they represent a cheap and reliable way to reduce CO₂ emissions for an industry that depends on a particularly dirty form of fossil fuels.

"It's an old technology," said Tuomas Riski, the CEO of Finland's Norsepower, which added its "rotor sail" technology for the first time to a tanker in August. "Our vision is that sails are coming back to the seas."

Denmark's A.P. Moller-Maersk, the world's biggest shipping company, is using its Maersk Pelican oil tanker to test Norsepower's 30 meter (98 foot) deck-

mounted spinning columns, which convert wind into thrust based on an idea first floated nearly a century ago. Maersk pledged this week to cut carbon emissions to zero by 2050, which will require developing commercially viable carbon neutral vessels by the end of next decade.

The shipping sector's interest in "sail tech" and other ideas took on greater urgency after the International Maritime Organization, the U.N.'s maritime agency, reached an agreement in April to slash emissions by 50 percent by 2050.

Transport's contribution to earth-warming emissions are in focus as negotiators in Katowice, Poland, gather for U.N. talks to hash out the details of the 2015 Paris accord on curbing global warming.

Shipping, like aviation, isn't covered by the Paris agreement because of the difficulty attributing their emissions to individual nations, but environmental activists say industry efforts are essential to combating climate change.

Ships belch out nearly 1 billion tons of carbon dioxide a year, accounting for 2-3 percent of global greenhouse gases. The emissions are projected to grow between 50 to 250 percent by 2050 if no action is taken.

Notoriously resistant to change, the maritime shipping industry is facing up to the need to cut its use of cheap but dirty "bunker fuel" that powers the global fleet of 50,000 vessels — the backbone of world trade.

The IMO is taking aim more broadly at pollution, requiring ships to start using low-sulfur fuel in 2020 and sending shipowners scrambling to invest in smokestack scrubbers, which clean exhaust, or looking at cleaner but pricier distillate fuels.

A Dutch group, the Goodshipping Program, is trying biofuel, which is made from organic matter. It refueled a container vessel in September with 22,000 liters of used cooking oil on behalf of five customers, in what it called a world first that cut carbon dioxide emissions by 40 tons.

Paulsen, an advisor at the Bellona Foundation, an environmental non-government organization. Wind power is also feasible, especially if vessels sail more slowly.

"That is where the big challenge lies today," said Paulsen.

Wind power looks to hold the most promise. The technology behind Norsepower's rotor sails, also known as Flettner rotors, is based on the principle that air-flow speeds up on one side of a spinning object and slows on the other. That creates a force that can be harnessed.

Rotor sails can generate thrust even from wind coming from the side of a ship. German engineer Anton Flettner pioneered the idea in the 1920s but the concept languished because it couldn't compete with cheap oil.

On a windy day, Norsepower says rotors can replace up to 50 percent of a ship's engine propulsion. Overall, the company says it can cut fuel consumption by 7 to 10 percent.

One big problem with rotors is they get in the way of port cranes that load and unload cargo. To get around that, U.S. startup Magnuss has developed a retractable version. The New York-based company is raising USD10 million to build its concept, which involves two 50-foot (15-meter) steel cylinders that retract below deck.

"It's just a better mousetrap," said CEO James Rhodes, who says his target market is the "Panamax" size bulk cargo ships carrying iron ore, coal or grain.

High tech versions of conventional sails are also on the drawing board.

Spain's bound4blue's aircraft wing-like sail and collapses like an accordion, according to a video of a scaled-down version from a recent trade fair. The first two will be installed next year followed by five more in 2020.

The company is in talks with 15 more ship owners from across Europe, Japan, China and the U.S. to install its technology, said co-founder Cristina Aleixandre.

Ship owners are now "more desperate for new technology to reduce fuel consumption," she said. AP

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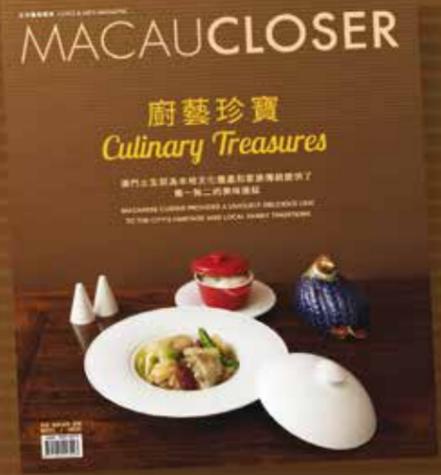
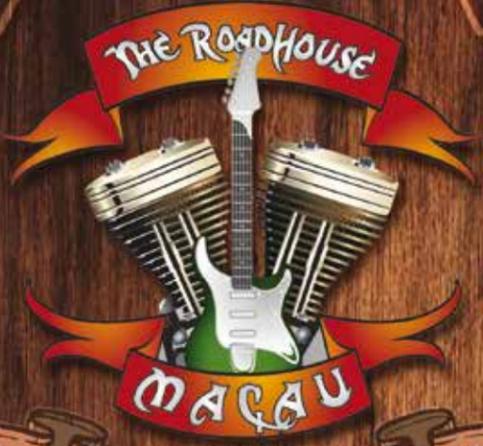
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FRIDAY

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

SATURDAY

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

SUNDAY

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

Offbeat

MET ORCHESTRA ONSTAGE FOR BOWS
BEHIND NEZET-SEGUIN

Yannick Nezet-Seguin took the rare step of bringing the entire orchestra on stage for curtain calls following his first performance as just the third music director in the Metropolitan Opera's 135-year-history.

The 43-year-old Canadian led yesterday [Macau time] premiere of a new production of Verdi's "La Traviata" by Tony Award-winning director Michael Mayer, starring Diana Damrau, Juan Diego Flores and Quinn Kelsey.

Gold confetti was dropped over Nezet-Seguin during his curtain call, and the orchestra emerged from the wings to take bows behind him — rather than remain in the pit or stand as it does on other nights.

As audience members left, they were handed small bottles of prosecco labeled "Vintage Yannick," with the date and the opera.

cinema

CINETEATRO

7, 10-12 Dec



MORTAL ENGINES

ROOM 1

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

Director: Christian Rivers

Starring: Hugo Weaving, Hera Hilmar, Robert Sheehan

Language: English

Duration: 128min

NATSUME YUJIN-CHO THE MOVIE:

EPHEMERAL BOND

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Takahiro Omori, Hideaki Ilo

Language: Japanese (Chinese)



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



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

1993 ACTIVISTS LOSE BATTLE
OVER CHESTNUT TREE

Dozens of people have been injured at the end of a 20-year battle to save a 250-year-old chestnut tree in east London.

Twenty protesters were arrested after they clashed with 200 police officers sent to ensure a court order to cut down the tree was enforced.

The tree - now reduced to stump - was growing at George Green, Wanstead, the only open space left in the area. Contractors plan to build a tunnel link through the green to the M11 at Redbridge with the Blackwall Tunnel road in Hackney.

Environmentalists built a house in the tree, formed a human shield around it and chained themselves together with steel tubes.

Protester Emma Must said: "They cannot remove us unless they hacksaw through the tubes, which is going to take them some hours."

Violence broke out as police moved the activists amid claims officers used excessive force.

Some reports suggested women were dragged by their hair and punches were thrown, but these were strongly denied by police.

Chief Supt Stuart Giblin said: "My officers acted professionally despite some of the comments and behaviour of the protesters."

They were finally pulled away from the tree but later formed a blockade by lying across the road to prevent a crane approaching.

It was the worst day in several years of action against the controversial construction of the link road.

"You're killing the Earth," they shouted at contractors.

"We are full-time guardians of the Earth. We want to stop the Earth from being killed," said one protester.

They claim the 3.5 mile (5.6 km) link, on which work began in September, will not only damage the local environment but waste money, costing £230m.

Eventually most of the area was cleared, but the crane was forced to go into action with one activist still chained to it and several others up the trunk.

But following 10 hours of scuffles, the remaining people were removed and the tree chopped down.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The tree had been recognised by the High Court as a legal dwelling because the Post Office delivered mail to it from around the world.

A small book of some of this post was published.

The M11 protest was one of the first of its kind in the country and set a precedent for similar scenes during future road building.

It was the first where bunkers and tunnels were dug and even after the tree was gone, protesters continued to wreak havoc in the area by occupying surrounding buildings due for demolition.

Despite the difficulties the extension was completed and open by the end of 1999.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Use your insightfulness to stop friends or family members from taking things a little bit too far - a diplomatic word here or there will save them some embarrassment.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You'll be very particular in the things you do today, and this persnickety attitude will be a very fortunate thing to happen to you right now. It will prevent any sort of problems or mistakes from popping up.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Try to use humor, intellect or your political philosophy in a new way with this special person. These areas of your life could help everything come together in a more satisfying way.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
They say in marathons it's that last mile that's always a killer. Translated to your life, that means that you're going to need to summon up all your reserves to plow through the last few tasks on your list.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Activities and diversions may seem important as you start your day, but as time moves on you will begin to see that what you're devoting all your time and energy to isn't really worth it.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Watch your coffee consumption, because you will wake up with all the energy you need to blast into your day like a cheerful rocket! What's caused this good vibe injection?

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Some of the things you've been searching for are about to land in your lap. This may definitely be a 'be careful what you wish for' type of situation, so don't get too excited too quickly.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you've been feeling limited or held back in any way, this person could be your ticket out of that dead-end street. Social invitations will start piling in - and don't be surprised if there are conflicts.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Watch your words carefully though - you don't want to burn any bridges. Overall, try to keep things impersonal and limit your emotions. You'll be taken more seriously and, ultimately, you'll have a bigger impact.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
What do you want to stop or rid yourself of? It may be time for a clean sweep. If you keep yourself busy with cleaning, laundry or other chores around the house, you'll get a lot done and you'll feel a lot better.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Once they master things too, they may be able to take some stuff off your plate. In relationships, one of your helpful hints will end up saving someone's reputation. Get ready for a big thank you gift!

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
If it seems like doors are being closed around you and there's some whispering going on, don't get paranoid. Today, you have an unusually heightened sense of your surroundings.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Blind as ___; 5- Troy story; 10- Tel ___; 14- Not acid; 15- 4th letter of the Greek alphabet; 16- Crown; 17- Particularly; 19- Land map; 20- "Am not!" rejoinder; 21- Brazil's largest city; 23- Its cover is round so it doesn't fall through; 25- Entrap; 26- Choose; 28- And others, in Latin; 31- Surgery souvenir; 34- Lump of dirt; 36- Water vapor; 37- Gut reaction?; 38- Majestic; 40- The Mustangs' sch.; 41- Taiwan Strait island; 43- Snack in a shell; 44- Former Russian ruler; 45- Free from an obligation; 47- Like lungs; 49- Outfit anew; 51- Floral ornament; 55- Thick soup of crabmeat; 58- Steering system component; 59- Leave out; 60- Beneath a mountain; 62- Bistro; 63- Dialect; 64- Sleipnir's rider; 65- Lulu; 66- Tawdry; 67- Bodybuilder's pride;

DOWN: 1- Perpendicular to the keel; 2- Iraqi port; 3- Colorado resort; 4- Baby's ring; 5- Person's individual speech pattern; 6- Grassland; 7- Misfortunes; 8- Collection of maps, Titan of Greek mythology; 9- The beginning; 10- Existing power structure; 11- Worthless; 12- Romance lang.; 13- Rejection power; 18- Moderately cold; 22- Fall guy; 24- Brilliant success; 27- Bottom line; 29- ___ Camera; 30- Asian river; 31- ___ Like It Hot; 32- Wheelie; 33- Life after death; 35- Furnishings; 38- Above; 39- Surgical incision to sever nerves; 42- Ore refinery; 44- Canopy site; 46- Semihard light yellow cheese; 48- Z ___ zebra; 50- Dutch treat; 52- Commerce; 53- Medicine; 54- Perfect places; 55- Designer Chanel; 56- ___ for All Seasons; 57- Final notice; 61- Witticism;



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- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
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FORMULA ONE

21-race calendar is approved



FORMULA One's 21-race calendar for 2019 has been approved, with Melbourne as usual hosting the season-opening Australian Grand Prix at Albert Park on March 17.

Governing body FIA said after a meeting of its World Motor Sport Council in St. Petersburg on Wednesday that 11 races would be held in Europe, five in Asia, four in the Americas and one in Australia. The season will start one week earlier and finish one week later. FIA said the cars would be heavier — with a weight limit increase from

740 kilograms to 743 — and that fuel handling procedures during testing are to be the same as during racing. There will also be more clarity on how grid positions are formed when drivers are hit with multiple engine penalties. Typically, drivers who have made several unauthorized engine-part changes are hit with a penalty of 20-25 places — which sends them to the back of the grid. But it can be confusing to understand who's starting from where and from how far back if several of the 20 drivers have the same penalty imposed. **AP**

Boca squad arrives in Madrid for rearranged Copa final

BOCA Juniors has arrived in Madrid for Sunday's Copa Libertadores final second leg against River Plate, kicking off preparations for the highly-anticipated match that was twice suspended because of fan violence in Argentina. A few dozen Boca fans greeted the team when it made it to the Spanish capital yesterday [Macau time]. Argentine rival River was expected to arrive today, three days before the rearranged game that will decide South America's equivalent of the Champions League. Some Boca players were injured when their bus was attacked by River fans in Buenos Aires on Nov. 24. South American soccer confederation CONMEBOL postponed the match twice before deciding to play the game at Real

Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to avoid security problems in Argentina. The teams drew 2-2 in the first leg at Boca's La Bombonera Stadium in Buenos Aires on Nov. 11. Tens of thousands of fans are expected to travel to Madrid from Argentina, with Spanish authorities implementing special security measures. The measures are likely to supersede those put in place for the Spanish "clasico" between Real Madrid and Barcelona. CONMEBOL has made 25,000 tickets available for each team, with 5,000 being sold in Argentina and the rest through the confederation's website. Another 22,000 tickets will go to sponsors and the general public. Some are being sold for more than 1,000 euros (USD1,135) through online dealers. **AP**

F1 2019 SCHEDULE

- March 17: Australia, Melbourne
- March 31: Bahrain, Sakhir
- April 14: China, Shanghai
- April 28: Azerbaijan, Baku
- May 12: Spain, Barcelona
- May 26: Monaco
- June 9: Canada, Montreal
- June 23: France, Le Castellet
- June 30: Austria, Spielberg
- July 14: Britain, Silverstone
- July 28: Germany, Hockenheim
- Aug. 4: Hungary, Budapest
- Sept. 1: Belgium, Spa
- Sept. 8: Italy, Monza
- Sept. 22: Singapore
- Sept. 29: Russia, Sochi
- Oct. 13: Japan, Suzuka
- Oct. 27: Mexico City
- Nov. 3: United States, Austin
- Nov. 17: Brazil, Sao Paulo
- Dec. 1: Abu Dhabi, Yas Marina

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FOOTBALL

Durable Liverpool keeps Man City in its sights in title race



Liverpool's Xherdan Shaqiri after scoring a goal

Steve Douglas

MANCHESTER City just cannot shrug off Liverpool in what is looking increasingly like a two-horse race for the Premier League title.

Three days after scoring a winner six minutes into injury time in the local derby against Everton, Liverpool needed rested stars Roberto Firmino and Mohamed Salah to come off the bench and help rally the team to a 3-1 win at Burnley yesterday [Macau time].

Liverpool moved back to within two points of City, the defending champions, and the top two remain unbeaten after 15 of 38 games.

Fewer and fewer sides look capable of keeping touch with them

Chelsea lost for the second time in three matches, squandering an early lead in a surprise 2-1 defeat at Wolverhampton Wanderers. The London club's 10-point gap to City could grow further at the weekend, with the leaders visiting Stamford Bridge.

Defeat for Chelsea allowed Tottenham to climb into third place — six points behind Liverpool — after a 3-1 win over Southampton.

Manchester United dropped Paul Pogba and was held to a 2-2 draw with Arsenal in a bruising match at Old Trafford, leaving Jose Mourinho's team 18 points behind City. Even the bare minimum of Champions League qualification could be beyond United, which is in eighth spot and eight points adrift of fourth-placed Chelsea.

BURNLEY FC 1, LIVERPOOL 3

Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp gambled by changing his entire forward line at Burnley, with Salah and Firmino dropped to the bench and Sadio Mane out injured.

It looked like that decision might backfire when Burnley took the lead in the 54th minute through Jack Cork.

Klopp sent on Salah and Firmino soon after James Milner equalized in the 62nd, and they made an immediate impression.

Firmino scored with his first touch to put Liverpool in front before Salah set up Xherdan Shaqiri for the third goal in injury time.

The one negative for Liverpool was the sight of Joe Gomez leaving the field on a stretcher because of

an ankle injury. Klopp was later critical of Burnley's physical approach.

WOLVES 2, CHELSEA 1

Outplayed by Tottenham two weeks ago and now outfought by Wolves, these are worrying times for Chelsea. And the coach knows it.

"Suddenly we conceded a goal and we weren't the same team," Maurizio Sarri said. "It's very difficult for me to understand why."

Raul Jimenez and Diogo Jota scored in a four-minute span around the hour mark to complete Wolves' fightback and condemn Chelsea to a second loss of the campaign.

MAN UNITED 2, ARSENAL 2

Mourinho fielded a patched-up Manchester United side against Arsenal, but there was still no room for French World Cup winner Paul Pogba.

Citing "tactical and technical reasons," Mourinho dropped Pogba and Romelu Lukaku to the bench. It was Pogba's absence that stood out, coming at a time when his relationship with the coach appears strained. **AP**

AD

2018 澳門光景節

FESTIVAL DE LUZ DE MACAU
MACAO LIGHT FESTIVAL

2-31 / 12

Viagem no Tempo em Macau
Time Travel in Macao

時光澳遊

主辦單位 / Organizador / Organizer
澳門特別行政區政府旅遊局
DIRECÇÃO DOS SERVIÇOS DE TURISMO
MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

合辦單位 / Coorganizadores / Co-organizers:
民政總署 INSTITUTO PARA OS ASSUNTOS CÍVIS E MUNICIPAIS
澳門特別行政區政府文化局 INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo de R.A.E. de Macau
澳門特別行政區政府體育局 Instituto do Desporto do Governo de R.A.E.M. Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Government

支持單位 / Entidades de Apoio / Supporting Entities
城規局 Urban Planning and Construction Department
電檢中心 CEM

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



THE NEW VICE: SUSTAINABILITY

Sustainability is about to go out of fashion, and for fundamentally good reasons.

Fast becoming a bogus ethical term, "sustainability" is used by companies in their Corporate Social Responsibility propaganda (insurance policies against loss of social license to operate).

The industrial system that is the foundation of our economy, of continuous extraction without replenishment, is limited. Instead, we need to maintain the capital of the land and live off the income, but that requires investment in that capital: "You can't run a linear system on a finite planet".

Sustainability is not sufficient; it implies that what we have is intact. Rather than aiming to be less bad, in contrast, a regenerative model focuses on doing good.

Industrial agriculture mines the soil. Farmers once built the soil without external inputs, using manure, surplus organic matter and the power of an army of billions of bacteria. These bacteria are switched on as and when needed by plants. Their function is to transform nutrients in the soil into a form that plants can uptake. Fertilisers used in industrial agriculture are mostly derived from fossil fuels; they are chemical solutions, not part of the natural eco-system, and destroy the web of the soil and leach out in water.

Ruminants grazed and rotated on pastures is an example of a regenerative model. Such animals are important in the cycle of building organic matter and soil, sequestering carbon and regenerating the land. The increasing microbiology of the soil works on both the manure and vegetable organic matter that is continually regenerated as live-stock is moved around the farm. In this way, ruminants inoculate, fertilise, trample and graze the land which is then rested for a couple of months on rotation. The proportion of organic matter (carbon) in the soil increases and roots sink deeper into the substrate, increasing biodiversity of the soil and fungi. This network of organic matter in the soil holds more water – for one additional unit of organic matter, 8 additional units of water can be held. The virtuosity of this cycle is apparent.

Feed-lots, on the other hand, are abominations. Industrial meat production degrades the land to dust bowls, and animals are fattened up quickly on corn and fed water which is transported in. Tonnes of manure - which should be a resource - is managed as waste, producing methane, the dreaded green-house gas.

Meat is only unsustainable in an industrialised system of production, and why it gets a bad environmental rap. So, go meat-free? Yes, by all means go industrialized feed-lot meat free, but locally grown grass-fed meat without external inputs, actually improves the environment. Not all meat is equal, so beware the dictates of ignorant ideology, selective information and green-washed PR.

Be also sceptical of publicised Corporatized Sustainability Indexes, for their focus is less about the environment and more about the interests of competitive advantage and investor relations. The write-up about the Corporate Sustainability Assessment utilised by Dow Jones makes it clear that the environment is not the main objective: "The CSA helps companies to understand which sustainability factors are important from an investor's perspective, and which in turn, are most likely to have an impact on the company's financial performance. Thus, the CSA serves as a sustainability roadmap helping participating companies to prioritize corporate sustainability initiatives that are most likely to enhance the company's competitiveness." Not One Mention of the environment.

By utilising such corporatized risk-management roadmaps to measure environmental impact, companies outsource and pay lip-service to their true responsibilities in the local environment, putting faith in the precise industrial system that brought the environment to its knees.

The leaders in regenerative business models will not be about reducing their carbon footprint but about finding ways - such as the grass-grazed model of meat production - to sequester carbon: From carbon neutrality as a goal to a negative carbon footprint.

THE SPLITS DEEPEN AS UN CLIMATE TALKS NEAR CRUNCH TIME

Splits are deepening at the U.N. climate talks between rich and poor countries, oil exporters and vulnerable island nations, and those governments prepared for radical action on climate change versus those who want to wait and see.

As the meeting in Katowice, Poland, reached its fifth day, negotiators were divided over whether to expect a strong final agreement next week.

Amjad Abdulla, chief negotiating chair for the

Alliance of Small Island States, said it was "depressing" that some rich countries are seeking similar leeway as developing nations when it comes to reporting emissions and efforts to curb them.

Diplomats and observers say a key fight in the coming days will be over whether to mention 'policy pathways' proposed by scientists to keeping global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

IFFAM films among Golden Globes nominations; Cheney biopic tops the list

ADAM McKay's Dick Cheney biopic "Vice" seized control of the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards with a leading six nominations, narrowly edging Bradley Cooper's tear-jerking revival "A Star Is Born," the interracial road-trip drama "Green Book" and the period romp "The Favourite."

"Vice" topped all contenders yesterday, in nominations announced at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills, California, including best picture, comedy and best actor nominations for Christian Bale's nearly unrecognizable performance as the former vice president. It also earned nominations for Amy Adams' supporting role as Lynne Cheney, Sam Rockwell's George W. Bush and both the screenplay and direction by McKay, the veteran comedy filmmaker who once skewered politicians as a "Saturday Night Live" writer.

For even the often-quirky selections of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, a collection of 88 mostly less-known freelance film journalists, the strong support for "Vice" (which arrives in theaters on Dec. 25) was a surprise. Even its categorization of the film — a highly critical portrait of Cheney as a power-hungry, behind-the-scenes tyrant — as a comedy raised some eyebrows, just as Globes recent comedy selections "Get Out" and "The Martian" did.

But it was far from a runaway win for "Vice" as the press association typically spread its awards around. Oscar front-runners "A Star Is Born," "Green Book" and "The Favourite" trailed close behind with five nominations each.

Curiously, the Hollywood Foreign Press doesn't consider foreign-language films for best film, so Alfonso Cuarón's acclaimed Netflix drama "Roma" was left out of the Globes' top category. It was still nominated for best screenplay, best director and best foreign language



Acclaimed Netflix drama "Roma" was still nominated for best screenplay, best director and best foreign language film.

film.

Joining "A Star Is Born" in the best picture, drama category was Ryan Coogler's superhero sensation "Black Panther." Spike Lee's urgent white nationalist drama "BlacKkKlansman," the Freddie Mercury biopic "Bohemian Rhapsody" and Barry Jenkins' James Baldwin adaptation "If Beale Street Could Talk."

Oscar front-runners 'A Star Is Born,' 'Green Book' and 'The Favourite' trailed close behind with five nominations each

All earned nods in other categories, too, including Rami Malek's prosthetic tooth-aided performance as Mercury and the leading turn by John David Washington (son of Denzel) in "BlacKkKlansman."

Up for best picture comedy alongside "Vice" are Yorgos Lanthimos' wild palace power struggle "The Favourite," Peter Farrelly's divisive crowd-pleaser "Green Book," the upcoming Disney sequel "Mary Poppins Returns" and the rom-com hit "Crazy Rich Asians."

Damien Chazelle's Neil Armstrong biopic "First Man," which has seen its awards hope wane in recent weeks, failed to lift off, scoring neither a best film nod, nor one for Ryan Gosling's leading performance. (It did land nominations for Claire Foy and its score.)

Also left out, to gasps heard across social media, was Ethan Hawke's performance as an anguished pastor in "First Reformed" and Pawel Pawlikowski's Polish stunner "Cold War," his follow-up to the Oscar-winning "Ida." (The nominees for best foreign language film alongside "Roma" were "Capernaum," "Girl," "Never Look Away" and "Shoplifters.")

But the Globes also handed nominations toward some up-and-comers, including Lucas Hedges ("Boy Erased"), Timothee Chalamet ("Beautiful Boy") and Elsie Fisher, the 15-year-old star of the coming-of-age tale "Eighth Grade."

And it also made room for some old favorites: Robert Redford, in what he has said may (or may not) be his final acting performance, received his 10th Globe nomination for "The Old Man & the Gun." He was given the group's Cecil B. DeMille achievement award in 1994.

The nominees for best animated film were: "Incredibles 2," "Isle of Dogs," "Mirai," "Ralph Breaks the Internet" and "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse." **MDT/AP**

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN A suicide car bomber struck a police headquarters in the Iranian port city of Chabahar yesterday, killing at least two policemen and wounding 42 people, state TV reported. A little-known Sunni jihadist group claimed responsibility for the attack, which Iran's foreign minister accused of being "foreign-backed."

YEMEN The head of the U.N. food agency has accused Shiite Houthi rebels of blocking access to food deliveries to civilians devastated by the war in Yemen.



SOMALIA A bloody rivalry has emerged between extremist groups in Somalia as the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab hunts upstart fighters allied to the Islamic State group, who have begun demanding protection payments from major businesses.

CYPRUS Police in the breakaway north of ethnically split Cyprus say the bodies of three people have been recovered from river beds at two different locations after flash floods are believed to have swept them away.

EU Just days before scores of countries sign up to a landmark United Nations migration pact, a number of European Union nations have begun joining the list of those not willing to endorse the agreement.



FRANCE Paris police and store owners are bracing for new violence at protests tomorrow, despite President Emmanuel Macron's surrender over a fuel tax hike that unleashed weeks of unrest.

BRAZIL Prosecutors say they've launched an investigation into international trading companies suspected of paying more than USD30 million in bribes to employees of state-owned oil company Petrobras.