



FIFTEEN INT'L CHOIRS JOIN LIVELY FESTIVAL

P2 MDT REPORT



DETENTION OF HUAWEI TOP EXEC 'VILE IN NATURE'

Beijing summoned the Canadian ambassador to protest the detention of a top executive of leading tech giant Huawei

P9,11



PARIS CLEANS UP AFTER LATEST RIOT

Paris tourist sites reopened, workers cleaned up broken glass and shop owners tried to put the city on its feet again yesterday

P15 FRANCE

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BORDER GATE

Bus terminal reopens on Saturday

P3



WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA's export growth sank in November as global demand weakened, adding to pressure on Beijing ahead of trade talks with Washington. Exports rose 5.4 percent over a year ago to USD227.4 billion, a marked decline from the previous month's 12.6 percent increase, customs data showed Saturday.



INDIAN troops killed three rebels on the outskirts of disputed Kashmir's main city yesterday, ending a nearly 18-hour-long gunbattle, officials said. The three militants were killed on the outskirts of Srinagar. Two counterinsurgency police officials and a soldier were wounded.



MALAYSIA Tens of thousands of Muslims rallied Saturday in Kuala Lumpur against any attempt to strip the ethnic Malay majority of its privileges, in the first massive street gathering since Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's alliance won a historic vote in May.

More on backpage



JAPAN

Divisive bill allowing more foreign workers approved

P12



MUSIC

Fifteen choirs join third annual choir festival

Lynzy Valles

THE third International Choir Festival of Macau (MIC) has attracted some 410 vocalists from 15 choirs representing eight different countries to perform in the region.

Performing in the city's different Catholic churches and at Cineteatro de Macau, the festival features choirs from different countries including Malaysia, Indonesia, Thailand, Philippines, Singapore, Mexico, China and Macau.

Themed "Harmony and Communion," the annual festival concluded yesterday with a final performance at the Macau Cathedral and the participation of several choirs in a mass held at St. Lawrence Church.

According to the founding director of MIC, Barrie Briones, the number of participants has nearly doubled compared with last year, noting that they are aiming to further attract local audiences.

"Every year, we see an experience. Last year, it was only some 220 singers, but now we've doubled to 410 singers."



"We do not have these kinds of festival in Macau, so I thought that since I hosted similar festivals back then in the Philippines, I thought why don't we do it here as well?" Briones explained.

The organizer noted that this year's festival is its largest yet.

Briones recalled that during its first year, only seven choirs performed during the four-day festival.

"I have a lot of friends who are conductors, as I was a conductor back in the Philippines. So I invited my friends and they invited others, so we've

seen a growth in the number of the choirs that are participating," said the founding director.

Held over four days, the opening concert took place at the Cathedral Church, while a Grand Concert was held at Cineteatro de Macau on Saturday. Aside from performing in churches and at the cinema, the groups also held impromptu performances on the streets.

Interviewed by the Times, some participants are looking forward to come back for next year's edition. "We had fun overall. I really learned so much [and] it helped us

improve as a choir overall. So far, it's been very helpful for us and we've learned a lot here. [It's my] first time [in] the festival," said a participant from Malaysia's Bave Chamber Choir, Dillon Khoo.

"Hopefully, we can come back because we really grew very close [to one another]," Khoo added.

Last year, it was only some 220 singers, but now we've doubled to 410 singers.

BARRIE BRIONES
FOUNDING DIRECTOR OF MIC

Meanwhile, another participant, Kelly Chin said, "It has been really fun, especially when we were walking around the streets and when we just started singing, and everyone was just amazed, so it was a great experience. We just sang for fun and everyone loved it."

EDUCATION

Confucius Institute holds first graduation ceremony

THE University of Macau (UM) Confucius Institute recently held the first graduation ceremony in the 2018/2019 academic year for students from its Chinese language courses and an inauguration ceremony for its alumni association in the Black Box Theatre in the Faculty of Arts and Humanities (FAH).

In her speech, Professor Hong Gang Jin, dean of the FAH and director of the UM Confucius Institute, said that the institute has the responsibility to promote the Chinese language and culture, and as such, it offers Chinese language courses to non-Chinese-speakers in Macau. According to Jin, since its establishment in April, the institute has organized various academic and exchange activities in order to enhance its teaching and research capacity in the field. With the enrolment of more students and the organization of more academic forums and exchange activities, the institute will be able to integrate resources and use its advantages to make outstanding contributions to

cross-cultural communication in Macau.

Students in the elementary and intermediate Chinese courses showcased their talents during the ceremony. Portuguese student João Rato recited a poem by Portuguese poet Luís Vaz de Camões, while members of the UM Chinese Opera Association gave a Kun opera performance and a Chinese Kung Fu performance to illustrate the charm of traditional Chinese culture. Hou Xiaoming and Wen Han, instructors in the Confucius Institute, expressed their hope that students would benefit from the courses and meet friends from different cultural backgrounds. Excellent Student Awards, Outstanding Student Awards, and Hardworking Student Awards were also presented during the event.

At the same event, the institute held an inauguration ceremony for its alumni association. Professor Jin appointed a Korean student named Cho Hyung Je as the first president of the association.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

KITTEN CARE ESSENTIALS

A kitten needs to be with his mother for the first eight weeks of his life, however if this is not possible, you need to be the surrogate mother. You need some kitten care essentials for the first few weeks:

Sleeping box; newborn kittens spend a lot of time sleeping, so you need to provide a warm, comfortable box. The room where the box is placed should be warm, as kittens don't have the capacity to keep a normal temperature and may suffer from hypothermia, which can be fatal. Blankets and towels to keep the kitten warm. Special formula kitten food. Soft toys or paper.

Later, your kitten will also need:
Litterbox
Cat litter
Food and water bowls
Toys

KITTEN HEALTH

The kitten needs to be taken to the vet. The vet will examine your kitten's health and look for parasites or diseases. A newborn kitten does not get vaccines until the age of eight to nine weeks.

FEEDING THE KITTEN

If you have the mother cat nursing your kitten, you don't need to feed the kitten. However, if the mother is not present you need to feed the kitten. Kittens have their eyes closed for the first 10 days of their lives, so you will need to use a syringe to hand feed your pet. Get Kitten Formula from Royal Canin and feed your kitten following the guidelines on the box, according to your pet's weight. Kitten food is different from adult cat food; it contains a special formula that is high in protein and fats. The food needs to be highly digestible and nutrient

dense. Kittens need wet food, as this is easier to digest. Newborn kittens can't handle dry food, but this may be given after the kitten is eight weeks old. Feed your kitten 10 to 12 times in 24 hours or once every two hours.

Don't feed the kitten cow milk; this may cause diarrhea or indigestion.

The kitten will start growing teeth at about two weeks. After three weeks, you may start giving your kitten a food bowl and train him to use it.

ELIMINATION

Newborn kittens cannot defecate without help. The mother helps kittens to eliminate food by licking their bum. Use a moist cloth and massage your kitten's stomach and bum to stimulate bowel movement. At this age, the kitten will not be able to use a litter box to urinate, so you need to clean after the kitten.

PLAYING AND SOCIALIZING

The first weeks are essential in determining your cat's behavior. If the kitten is with his mother and brothers, he will learn how to play safely and will socialize. However, if your kitten



is alone, you will need to cuddle him and play with him to develop a relationship with your pet. The kitten typically starts standing up at about two to three weeks, and will start playing at three to four weeks.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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Border Gate bus terminal to reopen on Saturday

THE Border Gate underground bus terminal is just about ready and will reopen for public use on Saturday, fulfilling a pledge made earlier by the Secretary for Transport and Public Works. Around two months ago, Raimundo do Rosário announced at the Legislative Assembly that such facility would open ahead of the initially expected time and would be a "Christmas Gift" for the population.

The announcement of the opening date came as a statement from the Transport Bureau (DSAT) that also confirmed that, in the first phase of the return to operations of the terminal, only 13 bus routes (of the original 24) will return to the facility, while also confirming that the temporary bus stops organized to provide the service while the terminal was undergoing



renovation will continue to operate.

According to the same statement and taking into account the opinions gathered by the DSAT from users and operators, among others, the routes 1, 3, 10, 25, 25B, AP1 and MT4 will return to the terminal and will be using it as a starting and finishing point.

In addition to the routes 25B and AP1, that do not stop at the current tem-

porary stops are "Currais/ Terminal" and "Portas do Cerco/Terminal," the remaining five routes, after departing from the Terminal, will continue to stop at the existing stopping points while running on their original routes. On the other hand, five routes will stop at the terminal as a crossing point: the routes 17, 27 (for Areia Preta), 30, 34 and 51A. The DSAT added that in order to avoid overcrow-

ding of the terminal, the 3X route would only drop passengers off at the terminal, picking up new ones only at the stop "Istmo Ferreira do Amaral."

To recall, the Border Gate Terminal was closed after sustaining severe damage during the passage of typhoon Hato in August 2017, leading the government to introduce changes to the renovation plan of the venue that was already planned to happen.

In the works being performed now, the government, besides changing the ventilation system and some other improvements that were planned, created five different areas of which three will have air-conditioning, improving the facilities for both passengers and drivers.

The completion and delivery of the works was initially scheduled for the second quarter of 2019, but when the Chief Executive granted an exemption concerning noise during the evening and night, in order to perform the works around the clock, it was possible to conclude the tasks earlier than initially expected. **RM**

opinion

MACAU CHIPS ARE DOWN FOR AMERICA'S CASINO KINGS

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

If any worsening of the trade war leads China to call for a boycott of U.S. companies, America's casino kings will be sweating.

Three American companies — Las Vegas Sands Corp., founded by Republican Party donor Sheldon Adelson; Wynn Resorts Ltd.; and, to a lesser extent, MGM Resorts International — rely on their positions in the casino hub of Macau to thrive. With their two-decade-old licenses expiring in the next four years, they need Beijing and Washington to stay on good terms.

Combined, the three account for half the gaming revenue in Macau, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. Given that Macau is the only part of China where gambling is allowed, the city's fortunes could collapse if Beijing were to limit the flow of mainlanders, who comprise 90 percent of the former Portuguese enclave's gamblers. That happened when China cracked down on corruption and extravagance four years ago. Alternatively, Beijing could bend the ear of Macau to increase the presence of Chinese operators — so that when the territory's six licenses come up for approval, it would allow a seventh player, insist on local partners, or even scrap the Americans' licenses.

That risks a shift of power in the territory back toward the family of Stanley Ho, for decades Macau's gambling kingpin. Three of the territory's licenses are controlled at least in part by his family: Ho's original company SJM Holdings Ltd.; Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd., with his son Lawrence Ho as chairman and chief executive officer; and MGM China Holdings Ltd., whose co-chairman and second-largest shareholder is Stanley's daughter Pansy Ho. A fourth, Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd., is run by Hong Kong's third-richest man, Liu Che-Woo. Losing a hold over Macau is no small thing. Macau's gross gaming revenue at \$33 billion last year is three times what it was in 2007 and five times that of the Las Vegas Strip. Wynn, whose founder Steve Wynn stepped down as chairman earlier this year after a sexual harassment scandal, makes as much as 70 percent of its Ebitda from Macau. Sands make about half and MGM around 17 percent from the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

Even so, the risk of the Americans becoming smaller players is mitigated by the fact that the gambling hub's future isn't so clear. While November gross gaming revenue rose an analyst estimate-beating 8.5 percent, and the world's longest sea bridge linking Macau with Hong Kong and the mainland city of Zhuhai is now set to bring more punters, China's high-rollers will inevitably hit the tables less as the country's economy slows.

Threats to Macau's preeminence are also building. The Chinese province of Hainan, which got the go-ahead to set up an e-lottery and horse racing in April, is unlikely to be allowed full-fledged gambling. But Japan is a different story. The country legalized casino gambling in July and is set to pick three cities to host casinos that could open by 2025. Sands, MGM, and U.S.-listed Melco are speculated to be front-runners. If the climate in Macau darkens for U.S. investors, they might be glad of that refuge.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The 35th Charity Walk for a Million, held yesterday, attracted about 47,000 participants. The annual event organized by the Macao Daily News Readers Charitable Foundation raised more than MOP19 million in funds, once again achieving a record high.

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News at hand



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Cebu Pacific launches Macau-Cebu route



BUDGET airline Cebu Pacific has started to operate flights between Macau and Cebu in the Philippines.

The launch of the third direct route from the airline to and from Macau, after Manila and Clark, happened last Friday, with the flight scheduled to take place four times a week: every Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday.

General Manager of Cebu Pacific (Greater China), Joe Kwok, told MDT that now is an ideal time to open up the Cebu hub to Macau.

"We have been [connecting] the city to Clark and to Manila

for over 10 years so right now is a good opportunity to open Cebu, which is centrally located in [the] Southern part of the Philippines."

Although the new flight expands the possibilities for the passengers from both ends, Kwok noted that the company is also considering the possibility of attracting "other passengers from [the] Pearl River Delta region," he said, noting, "Cebu is not just a destination [itself] but is also a gateway [to] the islands of Boracay, Palawan, Suragao and Bohol."

According to the data disclosed by the Cebu Pacific

(Greater China) General Manager, since its opening back in 2007, the Manila route has served around 870,000 passengers, while the Clark route counted over 400,000.

The timing chosen by the company to open the new route is because of the festive season of Christmas, New Year and one of the bigger annual events of the city of Cebu, the Sinulog (Santo Niño) Festival - an annual cultural and religious festival held on the third Sunday of January in Cebu City and which, every year, attracts many visitors to the region.

Science Center holds series of activities for 9th anniversary

THE Macao Science Center is holding a series of events that will last until December 22 in order to celebrate its 9th anniversary.

The anniversary event, called "Biomimicry - Inspired by Nature," is accompanied by an exhibition inspired by the observation and analysis of the natural environment. It will be exhibited until March 31, 2019.

Biomimetics has several applications: in biology, the science of materials, engineering, medicine, machinery and agriculture.

Thus, the center has also arranged lectures on the application of biomimetic technology.

From December 19, the Planetarium will screen a new dome show, "Phantom of the Universe," which will present the public with an adventure relating to "dark matter", from the beginning of the Big Bang to the Large Ha-

dron Collider (LHC).

The show features a scientist named Fritz Zwicky, who observed certain gravitational effects and theorised about the existence of "dark matter," as well as describing another scientist, Vera Rubin, who witnessed the orbiting pattern of celestial bodies in the Andromeda Galaxy. The show also guides audience to the deep underground where the world's most sensitive dark matter detector is located, inside a deserted gold mine, the center noted in a statement.

On December 22, the center will also hold a talk titled "Starry Night (December): Our Sky and Beyond: Stars, Galaxies and the Universe," which will be held in English.

Meanwhile, MSC and Macau Digital Photography Association co-organized a photo contest, "Our Science Centre," which encourages

the public to present, in digital images, the center's scenery and scenes of its educational activities. The activity aims to promote the centre as a great destination for parent-child educational and leisure activities for both citizens and tourists.

The winning works will be displayed at the center until January 2.

Also, the center and the School of Continuing Studies of the Macau University of Science and Technology is co-holding the "Cultural and Creative Products of Museums" exhibition until January 6, displaying products from different regions, which will feature cultures and museums.

On December 19 and 20, the facility's Exhibition Center will offer free admission and the first 30 Macau resident entrants to each dome show for the Planetarium will be admitted free of charge.

AD

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Health Bureau free flu vaccination starts tomorrow



THIS year's Health Bureau (SSM) program aimed at providing vaccines against influenza virus to high-risk groups of the resident population will start from tomorrow, the SSM has said in a statement.

According to the same statement and as in other occasions the SSM will provide vaccination service free of charge to all residents, starting with high-risk groups such as children, elderly people, and people with chronic health conditions.

Residents can book online, over the phone or in person at the health care centers in order to book an exact time to have their vaccination done, avoiding in this way long waits. For the same purpose, the working hours of the health care centers will be extended until 8 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

As informed and for this year, the SSM has ordered a total of 150,000 quadrivalent influenza vaccines to meet the needs of the territory. Between September 24 and December 7, a total of 105,885 people

included in the higher risk groups were successfully vaccinated, corresponding to an increase of 23 percent when compared to last year.

The bureau says that in order to strengthen the community's immunological barrier, protect the population's health, and make good use of the around 40,000 existing stock of the influenza vaccines, it will now extend the vaccination to all residents over 6 months of age. Since January this year, the SSM has reported a total of 71 serious cases of flu, which led to the deaths of three people. According to the SSM's data, in about 80 percent of the cases, the serious conditions caused by the flu occurred in patients who had not received the seasonal flu vaccine. The bureau expects that the incidence of flu will peak around February to March 2019 and then from June to August, which is why the bureau is urging residents to have the vaccine now, as the vaccine is only effective two to three weeks after its administration. **RM**

Residential property price index drops slightly

THE overall residential property price index in Macau decreased by 0.6 percent to 268.7 over the previous period from July to September.

According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the index for the Macau Peninsula (270.2) dropped by 1.0 percent while that for Taipa and Coloane (261.5) rose by 1 percent.

The index for existing residential units (290.4) decreased by 0.5 percent from the previous period, with the index for those in the Macau Peninsula (285.5) dropping by 0.8 percent, while the index for those in Taipa and Coloane (312.8) rose by 0.5 percent.

Analyzed by year of building completion, the indices for residential units completed between 11 and 20 years ago and over 20 years ago fell by 1.0 percent and 0.7 percent respectively, whereas the index for those completed between six and 10 years ago grew by 1.3 percent. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units (273.2) decreased by 0.9 percent.

In comparison with that of the same period last year, the overall residential property price index increased by 6.7 percent, with the indices for existing residential units and pre-sale residential units rising by 8.4 percent and 7.1 percent respectively.

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MGM's War on Waste

Recycling and reducing seems achievable by individuals and families, though it could be extremely challenging at times when it comes to a commercial level; let's have a look at MGM to find out how to be smarter on waste reduction.

MGM's latest campaign, Towards Zero Waste, was held between November 19 and 25. Through this program, we encouraged our team members to simply consume less, reuse, repurpose, upcycle, and turn trash into treasure by giving them away. Roadshows, food waste tours and workshops were hosted as part of the program, which participated by 2000 team members.



Towards Zero Waste Roadshow

The campaign kicked started with the Towards Zero Waste roadshow. Team members had the opportunity to learn how to live a lifestyle with less wastage. Various interactive booths described below were set up to demonstrate ways to reduce waste and move towards a more waste-free lifestyle.



Give and Take Booth

Participated team members brought in items and exchange for something else they find useful, resulted in 300 items exchanged and new owners found. This trash-turned-treasure activity truly increased mindfulness to waste reduction among MGM's team members.



Zero Waste Lifestyle Products

This booth brought reusable everyday products to team members in encouraging replacement of disposable items. For example, tissue paper, plastic straws and food containers, can be easily replaced by handkerchief, stainless steel straws and reusable food containers. They now realize getting rid of plastics and unnecessary packaging is not a challenge at all!



Eco-Friendly Charity Sale

Fu Hong Society of Macau also contributed to the roadshow by selling handmade products made with recycled materials. All the profit made there went towards helping beneficiaries and programs supported by Fu Hong Society of Macau.

Bosco Youth Service Network, Maria Centre, CPTTM, Sunshine Centre, Caritas Macau cohosted another charity sale on handkerchiefs to reduce tissue paper uses. The activity was initiated from an environmental protection campaign Send Someone a Hankie. Over 220 items were sold in this one-minute project, and all proceedings goes to education of under-privileged youth.

Food Waste Tour

MGM is committed to promote the importance of food waste reduction with all departments and stakeholders. On November 23, MGM arranged a Food Waste Tour, which allowed employees to understand to the importance of food waste reduction and to learn about MGM's effort on waste reduction at source. By recycling through MGM's own food waste composting machine, MGM is now self-sustained in landscaping -how amazing it is to have the food as tasty as they were for humans and for plants, and to have them returned to where they came from.



DIY Workshop

MGM also organized DIY activities on recycling. During the Roadshow, team members were introduced to waste recycling and transforming ideas at one of the booths, such as turning coffee ground into body scrub and soap. On November 25, MGM also hosted a workshop at its Tria Spa to let team members and their families make their own soaps and body scrubs using food wastes.

Through MGM's sustainability mission, we are committed to keeping Macau clean with a healthy environment where society and businesses can prosper and grow - for this and future generations. We do it through walking the talk and through educating our teams and the public. Together, we can ensure the sustainable development of Macau.

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POLICY ADDRESS

Zheng continues pressuring government over Land Law

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKER Zheng Anting has continued to pressure the government, in particular the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, regarding the region's Land Law and the Pearl Horizon case.

"The law has been repeatedly updated, but the procedures behind waiting times for land approval are getting longer and longer. The residents await [...] if approval procedures are slow, the housing supply is slow, and the housing price goes up," said Zheng on Friday during the second day of the policy address presentation by Rosário, adding that "the developers can only wait for the land."

"However, after the Land Law, even the lands that were approved can be reclaimed by the government, and all because of one word: 'wait'."

The lawmaker requested that Rosário explain to him the difference between Construction Period and Utilization Period.

"Utilization means that the government has granted you approval to use the land. But, before the construction, the developer must have a project permit [...]. If these conditions are not met, the contractors can only sit and wait again," said Zheng.

"On what basis does the government not approve the land? Sometimes it's the urban planning, sometimes it's the environmental evaluation. There are many reasons. The contractors waited for 25 years. When it comes to the year of 2013, the Land Law suddenly started claiming that if a piece of land doesn't have the temporary concession, then the government will take it back," said Zheng.



Raimundo do Rosário (center)

The lawmaker used an example of a housing project, located in Coloane, to validate his opinions. Afterwards, he talked about the Pearl Horizon Project.

"Before the Land Law, the government could grant the developer approval to sell the houses, [for] banks to [issue] loans, small buyers to register. But, in 2013, when the Land Law came out, the government issued the construction permit. Then, how could the

developer finish more than 5,000 housing units?" Zheng questioned.

"Where is justice? [...] I hope that, when the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) comes to question you, the Secretary; you have to shoulder the responsibility, and you let CCAC know that the responsibility [over the land's expiration of utilization] doesn't lie in the contractor," said Zheng Anting.

"Every single case of ours that involves the Land Law amendment includes an abundant number of lawsuits, which are still in process. Some cases involve investigations and analyses, which we always actively coordinate with. At this current stage, it's unsuitable for me to comment on the issues you are talking about," said Li Canfeng, Director of the Land, Transport and Public Works.

Replying to Zheng, Rosário said that all those required permits "are not decided by us [his secretariat], but by the Land Law."

"However, I can tell everyone that when there is a permit or an approval which takes a longer time, therefore wasting the applicants' time, we [the government] always give more time to the applicants. Regarding other matters, I feel that it's not proper to address them here," said the Secretary, adding that "regarding the Land Law, everybody knows where is the problem."

Fewer bus drivers in 2018

TRANSPORT Bureau (DSAT) director Lam Hin San has noted that, currently, Macau's bus to bus driver ratio is 1 to 1.3. In 2017, the same ratio was 1 to 1.4.

In total, there are approximately 900 buses, and more than 1,300 bus drivers.

The number of passengers exceeds 710,000 on a daily basis. Lam encouraged bus companies to hire more drivers, despite the shortage of human resources.

Currently, Macau has a total of 100 buses powered by natural gas, of which 69 are public buses. The government planned, in its previous five-year plan, to increase the overall number of natural gas buses to 120, but Lam believes it is difficult for the government to achieve that goal due to a lack of natural gas stations.

Regarding transportation, DSAT canceled 0.8 percent of Macau's total number of parking spaces, all of which were located along the streets.

On the other hand, the government increased the number of parking spaces in seven parking lots.

In regard to Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge shuttle buses, currently, the shuttle bus operator has a total of 138 buses available. The company plans to add an additional 50 buses during the Christmas holidays.

The governments of the three concerned regions are discussing the possibility of approving more shuttle buses.

Moreover, regarding the environmental protection measures concerning cars, the government hopes to provide a total of 172 charging stations for electrical vehicles by the end of this year.

In 2019, the government hopes to increase the number of charging stations to 210.

In the near future, the government will install charging stations for heavy-duty vehicles, hoping to continuously promote electrical tourism buses within the tourism industry.

ON THE SECRETARY'S AGENDA

PARTIAL BAN OF TOURISM BUSES

Tourism buses have been partially banned from entering the eastern side of the border gate plaza, according to Transport Bureau (DSAT) director Lam Hin San. "Starting from tomorrow [last Friday], and between 4 p.m. and 8 p.m., tourism buses will be banned from entering the eastern side of the border gate plaza," said Lam, further explaining that the same policy will be effective during public holidays as well. "Hopefully, these buses can be diverted to the Macau port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, and to the Lotus border gate," said Lam.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING UNITS

In 2019, the government will supply 4,000 affordable housing units, Housing Bureau director Arnaldo Ernesto dos Santos announced. 25 percent of these 4,000 housing units will consist of one-room apartments, 33 percent of two-room apartments, and the remaining 42 percent of three-room apartments. In addition, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário noted that, in Hong Kong, it takes 4 and a half years for social house applicants to get their houses. "Macau will not be worse than Hong Kong," said Raimundo.

4TH MACAU-TAIPA BRIDGE

Regarding the fourth Macau-Taipa bridge, Raimundo do Rosário reported that the exit of the bridge on Taipa side will be connected to Av. da Wai Long. Regarding the fifth cross-sea channel between the Macau Peninsula and Taipa, the channel will have six vehicle lanes, DSSOPT director Li Canfeng revealed, adding that the Light Rail Transit will be able to cross from Macau to Taipa there. The channel, which is currently being designed, will consist of an underwater tunnel approximately 2 kilometers long. There will be two tubes in total.

Number of hotel employees increases

THE Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) released the results of the Survey on Manpower Needs and Wages for the third quarter of 2018. Survey coverage for this quarter comprises the sectors of manufacturing, hotels, restaurants, insurance, financial intermediation activities, electricity, gas & water supply, child-care and aged care.

At the end of the third quarter of 2018, hotels had 58,255 full-time

employees, up by 6.8 percent year-on-year. Average earnings (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees in September rose by 4.9 percent to MOP18,040. Restaurants had 25,384 full-time employees, down by 1.9 percent year-on-year, with the average earnings rising by 5.5 percent to MOP9,790.

Manufacturing had 9,544 full-time employees, a decrease of 3.2 percent year-on-

year. Average earnings in September rose by 9.5 percent to MOP11,750. Electricity, gas & water supply had 1,118 full-time employees, remaining unchanged from a year earlier, with the average earnings dropping by 6 percent to MOP32,190.

Insurance had 594 full-time employees, up by 6.5 percent year-on-year, while average earnings in September rose by 3.1 percent to MOP27,570. Financial

intermediation activities had 412 full-time employees, a year-on-year increase of 2 percent, with the average earnings falling by 1.7 percent to MOP14,770.

Child-care and aged care had 1,473 and 810 full-time employees respectively, up by 4.5 percent and 7.7 percent year-on-year, while average earnings in September increased by 4.4 percent and 10.9 percent respectively to MOP15,320 and MOP15,610.

At the end of the third quarter, the number of vacant posts in hotels (2,436) and restaurants (2,319) rose by 215 and 147 respectively year-on-year.

In the third quarter, the employee recruitment rate (6.4 percent) and the employee turnover rate (5.2 percent) of hotels rose by 0.3 and 0.5 percentage points respectively year-on-year, implying the workforce in this industry was relatively stable.

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FOR RENT



Manhattan F Unit

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1,720 sq.ft. HKD 25,000

Wonderful three bedroom fully furnished apartment in the complex of Manhattan in Taipa. Lovely open plan living dining area with open views to Macau city. Master bedroom with en suite bathroom. Well equipped galley style kitchen. Fantastic club facilities included such as pool, bbq area, private entertainment rooms, large gym and private cinema.



Kok Vui Apartment, St. Paul's Ruins

(Ref: 18110696)
622 sq.ft. HKD 10,800

Located at the historical center of Macau with breathtaking balcony views of the Ruins of St. Paul, this 2-bedroom apartment is perfect for a single professional or a couple looking to stay close to the pulse of the city and experience an authentic Macau lifestyle. Works expected to be finished early December, viewings available immediately. Pictures were taken pre-renovations, for reference only.



Lakeview Mansions, Central Macau

(Ref: 18110697)
1,750 sq.ft. HKD 25,000

Fabulous family home with stunning views overlooking Nam Vam lake, is rare and has just come on the market for rent. With a wonderful L shaped living dining area, subtle mood lighting and reverse cycle air conditioners this apartment makes it a perfect home for a young modern family or stylish executive couple. This property has been beautifully fitted out with superb attention to detail, a rare find in Macau.



Va Long, Central Macau

(Ref: 18100694)
1,750 sq.ft. HKD 23,000

Luxuriously renovated 2-bedroom apartment near the business district of Macau. Fully fitted out with beautiful furniture, the bright ambiance of the unit is enhanced by the stunning partial sea views. Kitchen has separate washer, dryer, air-conditioning and both electric and gas cooktops. Perfect for professionals working in the area. Available immediately.

FOR SALE



WA BAO, TAIPA

(Ref: 18115568)
1,020 sq.ft. HKD 8.5 M
Rate: HKD 8,333

Taipa, fabulous and bright two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms. Lovely views one the Taipa Stadium, Galaxy and across to Hengquin are just stunning. Well designed kitchen. Very convenient for all types of transportation and within walking distance to Taipa village and Cotal.



Taipa, Nam Long

(Ref: 18095561)
550 sq.ft. HKD 4.08M
Rate: HKD 7,418

Fully renovated apartment with a bright street view situated on the edge of the popular Taipa Village. The original two bed layout has been converted into a large one bedroom configuration that can easily turn back into two. Great investment apartment. Central location means easy access to restaurants, supermarkets, shops, bus stops and the Cotal Strip.



Va Fat Taipa

(Ref: 18115566)
550 sq.ft. HKD 4.58M
Rate: HKD 8,327

Great two bedroom apartment in Taipa. Basic upgrades conducted on the property four years ago. The property has a long term tenant who would prefer to stay in the property. Open plan kitchen living area. Two double bedrooms. Excellent location within 15 minute of Cotal and 5 to old Taipa village. Good option for an investor to purchase.



Lakeview, Macau

(Ref: 18105565)
3430 sq.ft. HKD 29 M
Rate: HKD 8,454

Bright and spacious 3 bedrooms, 1 dressroom and 1 utility room apartment in Macau. Furnished Partly. Front balcony with the great view of Macau skyline and Nam Van Lake. Convenient location, close to Grand Lisboa and Senado square.



Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)
1,610 sq.ft. HKD 11.88M
Rate: HKD 7,378

A beautiful modern stylish apartment in the popular Ocean Garden complex in Taipa. This 3 bedroom apartment with an en-suite on the master bedroom. The apartment is bright and spacious with a lovely living/dining room, balcony and modern kitchen, plenty of built in storage and ready to move into.



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)
627sq.ft. HKD 3.48M
Rate: HKD 5550

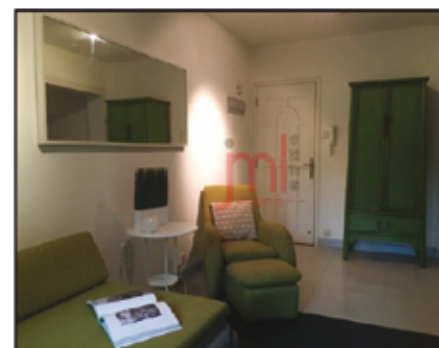
Originally a two bedroom apartment currently converted to one, can easily be converted back. Located in the heritage area of Macau, it's a fabulous property. Just two minutes from the Ruins of St Paul's and 5 to the Leal Senado square.



2nd Floor Car Park Happy Valley

(Ref: 18115567)
2000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5 M
Rate: HKD 5,750

Large car park space available for sale in central Taipa. Situated near the elevators at Block 2 of Happy Valley.



Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)
638 sq.ft. HKD 4.5M
Rate: HKD 7,053

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 3 years ago the apartment has two good size bedrooms and separate walk in shower room. The main bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.

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Noble Group is said to work on pre-agreed insolvency process

Jack Farchy, Javier Blas and Luca Casiraghi

NOBLE Group Ltd. is preparing for an insolvency filing after Singaporean regulators blocked a key element of its USD3.5 billion debt restructuring, according to people familiar with the matter.

The company is considering what's known as a "pre-pack" administration, a procedure that allows for a debt restructuring in court through a pre-agreed plan with creditors, one of the people said, asking not to be identified because the talks are private.

Noble said in a circular in August that the alternative restructuring, or Plan B, would involve filing for administration in the U.K. It is still considering different jurisdictions for the filing, including Hong Kong, Bermuda, and Singapore, according to one of the people. The plans are still under discussion and could change.

The discussions come after Singaporean regulators said they wouldn't allow Noble to relist as a new entity, effectively blocking an intricate debt restructuring plan that has been more than a year in the making.

The once giant commodity trader has been brought to the brink of collapse by accusations of inflated profits, first made by Iceberg Research in 2015. After posting huge losses and billions of dollars of writedowns, Noble pinned its hopes for survival on a restructuring masterminded by Chairman Paul Brough.

In August, Noble laid out plans for an alternative restructuring



if its first choice failed. Under that scenario, it would file for administration in the U.K and the creditors would then aim to swiftly take control. The shareholders and perpetual bondholders could be wiped out.

The collapse of Noble's first-choice restructuring plan would be a blow to its creditors, including hedge funds Taconic Capital Advisors, Varde Partners and Owl Creek Asset Management, as well as Deutsche Bank AG and ING Groep NV.

It's likely that they would take control of the company's assets if it files for administration, according to the August shareholder circular. But there are still risks: for example, the move could trigger clauses allowing some counterparties to walk away from supply contracts, making it harder for Noble to stay in business.

In August, the company said that it preferred a consensual restructuring deal that "avoids the disruption to Noble Group's business in a formal insolvency procedure."

The Singaporean probe could continue to affect Noble even if it ceases to be a public company. On Thursday, the authorities said there were "significant uncertainties about the financial position of New Noble."

In previous comments, Singaporean regulators have said they're looking at accounting issues at Noble's Singapore subsidiary from 2012 to 2016. The directors of that unit during the period include Will Randall and Paul Jackaman, the current chief executive and chief financial officer. Under the restructuring plan, they were due to continue their roles. **Bloomberg**



Canadian telecoms face USD1b to remove Huawei tech: G&M

CANADA'S Telus Corp. and BCE Inc. may face at least \$1 billion in costs if the country bans telecommunications equipment made by China's Huawei Technologies Co. from their next generation 5G mobile networks, The Globe and Mail reported Saturday, citing unidentified people familiar with the industry.

BCE, Telus and, to a lesser extent, Rogers Communications Inc., all use Huawei equipment in their networks.

The Globe and Mail cites an unidentified telecom executive who places the cost of a Huawei ban at \$500 million to \$1 billion for Telus, while another unidentified person estimated it would cost BCE's Bell Canada

hundreds of millions of dollars. A third senior telecom insider, who has direct knowledge of the issue, said the total estimated cost for BCE and Telus would exceed \$1 billion, it reported.

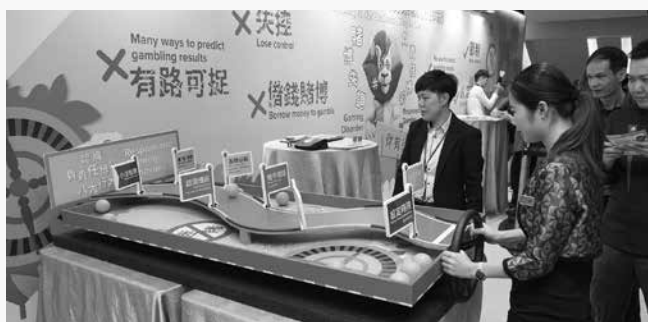
In order to remove Huawei equipment from cellular infrastructure, Bell and Telus would have to rip out and replace tens of thousands of antennas, The Globe and Mail said.

BCE and Telus declined to tell The Globe and Mail whether U.S. national security officials have asked them to avoid Huawei equipment. Rogers said it had not been contacted.

Canada has played a big role in Huawei's research and commercialization efforts for high-speed 5G networks. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM PROMOTES RESPONSIBLE GAMING



To further support the "Responsible Gambling Promotions 2018", MGM has hosted a two-week program themed "Gambling is Not Business, Stay in Control" for its Golden Lion Team members at its two properties.

Initiatives included MGM's

homemade short film, animation, workshops, roadshows, professional counseling services and online quizzes.

To date, MGM has provided over 32,000 training hours on responsible gaming for its team members,

with an average of 1.5 hours per team members each year, the gaming operator stated in its press release.

Also, the company set up various booths with interactive games and quizzes, information boards, promotional materials and WeChat chat rooms, in its back-of-the-house areas at both MGM Macau and MGM Cotai, attracting around 1,300 participants and receiving positive feedback.

MGM hosted two workshops for about 200 team members on December 4 and 6 with topics such as gambling probability and its prevailing myths, risks of borrowing money and credit card overdrafts, and the prevention of gambling disorders.

SJM CHARITY AUCTION RAISES MOP2.9 MILLION



The 2018 SJM Charity Auction and Michelin-starred Dinner hosted by SJM raised a total of MOP2,936,000 to be donated to ten charities in Macau.

The high point of the evening was the auction of a giant 1,000-gram Italian white truffle. According to a press release,

after intense bidding, SJM, represented by managing director and chief Administrative officer Angela Leong, was the successful bidder for the item at MOP1.6 million.

Other auction items included one bottle (0.75L) of Romanée-Conti 2001 and one

bottle (3L) of Montrachet 2011, a deluxe VIP Travel Package to Japan including two business class tickets to Osaka plus two nights in a Premier Room at Four Seasons Hotel Kyoto, amongst others.

This year's charity auction also comprised a silent auction held during the cocktail reception.

Ambrose So, chairman of the Board of Directors of SJM, said, "This year marks the twelfth anniversary of our charity auction and dinner, which follows the tradition established by our founder, Dr. Stanley Ho, in giving back to the local community. We are delighted to see that the spirited bidding for the auction items has successfully raised MOP2,936,000 for worthy charities in Macau."

CHINA launched a ground-breaking mission Saturday to land a spacecraft on the largely unexplored far side of the moon, demonstrating its growing ambitions as a space power to rival Russia, the European Union and the U.S.

A Long March 3B rocket carrying a lunar probe blasted off at 2:23 a.m. from the Xichang Satellite Launch Center in Sichuan Province in southwestern China, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

With its Chang'e 4 mission, China hopes to be the first country to make a soft landing, which is a landing of a spacecraft during which no serious damage is incurred. The moon's far side is also known as the dark side because it faces away from Earth and remains comparatively unknown. It has a different composition than sites on the near side, where previous missions have landed.

If successful, the mission would propel the Chinese space program to a leading position in one of the most important areas of lunar exploration.

China landed its Yutu, or "Jade Rabbit," rover on the moon five years ago and plans to send its Chang'e 5 probe there next year and have it return to Earth with samples — the first time that will have been done since 1976. A crewed lunar mission is also under consideration.

Pioneering mission to far side of moon launched

Chang'e 4 is also a lander-rover combination and will explore both above and below the lunar surface after arriving at the South Pole-Aitken basin's Von Karman crater following a 27-day journey.

It will also perform radio-astronomical studies that, because the far side always faces away from Earth, will be "free from interference from our planet's ionosphere, human-made radio frequencies and auroral radiation noise," space industry expert Leonard David wrote on the website Space.com.

It may also carry plant seeds and silkworm eggs, according to Xinhua.

Chang'e is the goddess of the moon in Chinese mythology.

China conducted its first crewed space mission in 2003, making it only the third country after Russia and the U.S. to do so. It has put a pair of space stations into orbit, one of which is still operating as a precursor to a more than 60-ton station that is due to come online in 2022. The launch of a Mars rover is planned for the mid-2020s.

To facilitate communication between controllers on Earth

AP PHOTO



and the Chang'e 4 mission, China in May launched a relay satellite named Queqiao, or "Magpie Bridge," after an ancient Chinese folk tale.

China's space program has be-

nefited from cooperation with Russia and European nations, although it was excluded from the 420-ton International Space Station, mainly due to U.S. legislation barring such coope-

ration amid concerns over its strong military connections. Its program also suffered a rare setback last year with the failed launch of its Long March 5 rocket. **AP**

Chinese group to buy Wilson tennis racket maker for USD5.2 billion

Jeff Sutherland

A Chinese investor group led by Anta Sports Products Ltd. reached a USD5.2 billion deal to acquire the maker of Wilson tennis rackets and Louisville Slugger baseball bats, as it seeks to bring high-end athletic equipment to China's wealthy consumers.

The consortium, which includes Chinese buyout firm FountainVest Partners, will offer shareholders of Finland's Amer Sports Oyj 40 euros a share in cash, or about 4.6 billion euros. The deal is the largest struck by a Chinese acquirer for a European asset since China Investment Corp. agreed to buy Logica Europe for almost \$14 billion in June 2017, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Significant minority investors in the consortium also include Chip Wilson, the billionaire founder of yoga-apparel retailer Lululemon Athletica Inc.,

AP PHOTO



Serena Williams using a Wilson racket

and Chinese internet giant Tencent Holdings Ltd.

China has become a major focus for makers of luxury products, as companies target an increasingly wealthy middle class. Athletic-goods companies such as Adidas AG are also seeking to tap into a growing interest in healthy lifestyles among the nation's consumers.

Anta, China's biggest athletic-apparel producer, is seeking acquisitions of

well-established global brands as it works to increase its business overseas. The Chinese government is pushing to expand in sports ranging from soccer to skiing, as well as the industries that supply equipment for competitors and weekend enthusiasts.

Amer's portfolio of well-known brands, including Salomon ski boots, Arc'teryx outdoor gear and Atomic winter equip-

ment, is an attractive prospect for Anta ahead of the coming Olympic Games in Asia. Beijing will host the Winter Olympics in 2022, providing a springboard for sales of skis and snowboards, while the 2020 Summer Games in Tokyo will offer a showcase for other Amer brands.

"We are excited to bring these premium international brands and products to Chinese consumers, who increasingly seek

high-end products with outstanding qualities and heritage in various niche and specialized sports segments," Anta Sports Chief Executive Officer Ding Shizhong said in a statement.

The offer price represents a 14 percent premium over Amer's closing stock price on Wednesday, and is almost double Amer's valuation a year ago. Amer shares rose as much as 9.4 percent to 38.50 euros in Helsinki.

Amer Sports was advised by Goldman Sachs Group Inc. on the transaction, while Citigroup Inc. worked with Anta Sports, FountainVest and the group of buyers.

"Under the ownership of the investor consortium, there is an opportunity to continue to deliver our strong sustainable profitable growth with further acceleration in our strategic priorities including soft goods, direct-to-consumer and China," Amer Sports CEO Heikki Takala

said in the statement.

After completion of the deal, the consortium plans for Amer Sports to be operated independently from Anta, with Takala and other executives continuing to lead the business.

The consortium said it aims to expand Amer Sports's business in the Chinese market using Anta's distribution network, research-and-development resources and manufacturing capabilities. Amer Sports could raise Amer's revenue contribution from the country to 10 percent by 2020 from the current 6 percent, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Catherine Lim.

Anta said in September it had teamed up with FountainVest to make an indicative offer for Amer at 40 euros a share. That news sent the Finnish company's stock soaring 19 percent, its biggest one-day jump ever.

Amer Sports's board has unanimously recommended the Anta's tender offer to shareholders. The deal is expected to be completed during the second quarter of 2019 at the latest. **Bloomberg**

Canada's detention of Huawei exec 'vile in nature'

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA summoned the Canadian ambassador to protest the detention of a top executive of leading Chinese tech giant Huawei, calling it "unreasonable, unconscionable, and vile in nature" and warning of "grave consequences" if she is not released.

A report by the official Xinhua News Agency carried on the Foreign Ministry's website said that Vice Foreign Minister Le Yucheng called in Ambassador John McCallum on Saturday over the holding of Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou, who is reportedly suspected of trying to evade U.S. trade curbs on Iran.

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies and has been the target of deepening U.S. security concerns over its ties to the Chinese government. The U.S. has pressured European countries and other allies to limit use of its technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to surveillance and theft of information.

Le told McCallum that Meng's detention at the request of the United States while transferring flights in Vancouver was a "severe violation" of her "legitimate rights and interests."

"Such a move ignores the law and is unreasonable, unconscionable, and vile in nature," Le said in the statement.

"China strongly urges the Canadian side to immediately release the detained Huawei executive [...] or face grave consequences that the Canadian side should be held accountable for," Le said.

Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,



This courtroom sketch depicts Meng Wanzhou (right)

said that Chinese pressure on the Canadian government won't work.

"Perhaps because the Chinese state controls its judicial system, Beijing sometimes has difficulty understanding or believing that courts can be independent in a rule-of-law country. There's no point in pressuring the Canadian government. Judges will decide," Paris tweeted in response to the comments from Beijing.

A Canadian prosecutor urged a Vancouver court to deny bail to Meng, whose case is shaking up U.S.-China relations and worrying global financial markets.

Meng, also the daughter of Huawei's founder, was detained at the request of the U.S. during a layover at the Vancouver airport Dec. 1 — the same day that Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping of China agreed over

dinner to a 90-day ceasefire in a trade dispute that threatens to disrupt global commerce.

The U.S. alleges that Huawei used a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment in Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It also says that Meng and Huawei misled American banks about its business dealings in Iran.

The surprise arrest raises doubts about whether the trade truce will hold and whether the world's two biggest economies can resolve the complicated issues that divide them.

Canadian prosecutor John Gibb-Carsley said in a court hearing Friday that a warrant had been issued for Meng's arrest in New York Aug. 22. He said Meng, arrested en route to Mexico from Hong Kong, was aware of the investigation and had been avoiding the United States for months, even though

her teenage son goes to school in Boston.

Gibb-Carsley alleged that Huawei had done business in Iran through a Hong Kong company called Skycom. Meng, he said, had misled U.S. banks into thinking that Huawei and Skycom were separate when, in fact, "Skycom was Huawei." Meng has contended that Huawei sold Skycom in 2009.

In urging the court to reject Meng's bail request, Gibb-Carsley said the Huawei executive had vast resources and a strong incentive to bolt: She's facing fraud charges in the United States that could put her in prison for 30 years.

The hearing will resume Monday after Meng spends the weekend in jail.

Huawei, in a brief statement emailed to The Associated Press, said that "we have every

confidence that the Canadian and U.S. legal systems will reach the right conclusion."

Canadian officials have declined to comment on Chinese threats of retaliation over the case, instead emphasizing the independence of Canada's judiciary along with the importance of Ottawa's relationship with Beijing.

Minister of Foreign Affairs Chrystia Freeland said Canada "has assured China that due process is absolutely being followed in Canada, that consular access for China to Ms. Meng will absolutely be provided."

"We are a rule of law country and we will be following our laws as we have thus far in this matter and as we will continue to do," Freeland said Friday.

Beijing sometimes has difficulty understanding or believing that courts can be independent in a rule-of-law country.

ROLAND PARIS
FORMER FOREIGN POLICY ADVISER
TO JUSTIN TRUDEAU

While protesting what it calls Canada's violation of Meng's human rights, China's ruling Communist Party stands accused of mass incarcerations of its Muslim minority without due process, locking up those exercising their right to free speech and refusing to allow foreign citizens to leave the country in order to bring pressure on their relatives accused of financial crimes. The party also takes the lead in prosecutions of those accused of corruption or other crimes in a highly opaque process, without supervision from the court system or independent bodies. **AP**

Meng Wanzhou's rise through the company's ranks

BEFORE her dramatic arrest in Canada, few in the U.S. had heard of Meng Wanzhou.

Meng, 46, is chief financial officer and deputy chairwoman of the board of Chinese telecom company Huawei. She now faces extradition to the U.S. on charges of trying to evade U.S. sanctions on Iran. She appeared in a Vancouver court Friday to seek bail.

Meng is the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, a former Chinese military engineer worth

\$3.2 billion, according to Forbes magazine. She's likely his heir apparent. While personal details are scant, she is married and has a son and a daughter, Huawei said.

Meng, who takes her last name from her mother, received a master's degree from Huazhong University of Science and Technology in Wuhun, China, and started in a low-level position at Huawei in 1993 when she in her 20s. That was about six years after the company was founded to sell phone switches.

Since then, Huawei has grown into the world's biggest supplier of network gear for phone and internet companies. The company also makes smartphones and has been the second-leading seller for two consecutive quarters, behind Samsung and ahead of Apple, according to IDC. (Apple tends to be strongest in the current, holiday quarter.)

Meng has risen up the ranks as the company has grown. She held a variety of finance and accounting roles, including CFO of

Huawei Hong Kong and president of the accounting management department, before taking on her current roles. According to a company bio, Meng has been involved in a number of Huawei restructuring moves, including centralizing and improving its finance and accounting departments as the company expanded. She was named to the company's board in 2011 and named one of four vice chairs this past March.

Meng was detained by

Canadian authorities in Vancouver as she was changing flights last Saturday — the same day that Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping agreed to a trade truce in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

During her bail hearing, a prosecutor for the Canadian government said U.S. charges against her have to do with Huawei using an unofficial subsidiary to access the Iran market in dealings that would contravene U.S. sanctions. The prosecutor said she is accused of fraud.

Her arrest has drawn criticism from Russia and China as an example of the United States' heavy-handed policies. China says Meng has broken no U.S. or Canadian law.

Huawei has been a subject of U.S. national security concerns for years, and Meng's case echoes well beyond tariffs or market access. Washington and Beijing are locked in a clash between the world's two largest economies for economic and political dominance for decades to come. **AP**

JAPAN

Divisive bill allowing more foreign workers approved

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

JAPANESE lawmakers early Saturday approved government-proposed legislation allowing hundreds of thousands of foreign laborers to live and work in a country that has long resisted accepting outsiders.

The contentious legislation passed only months after Prime Minister Shinzo Abe proposed the plan despite opposition groups' demand for more thorough debate to address concerns about a drastic change of policy.

It's seen as an unavoidable step as the country's population of about 126 million rapidly ages and shrinks. Many short-handed industries, especially in the services sector, already rely heavily on foreign "trainees" and language students. Japan also selectively grants visas to white-collar professionals, often from the West.

Bringing in foreign laborers is a last resort after Abe's deeply conservative government tried to meet labor shortages by encouraging more employment of women and older workers and using more robots and other automation.

"Japan has come to a point where we had to face the reality that there is serious depopulation and serious aging," said Toshihiro Menju, an expert on foreign labor and population issues at the Japan Center for International Exchange.

"Shortages of workers are so serious ... that (allowing) immigrants is the only option the government can take," he said.

Abe's latest plan calls for relaxing Japan's visa requirements in sectors facing severe labor shortages such as construction, nursing, farming, transport and tourism — new categories of jobs



Japan's ruling parties and opposition parties' members scramble for a microphone as opposition parties try to stop Judicial Affairs Committee Chairman Shinichi Yokoyama (bottom center) from moving to hold a vote for a bill to revise an immigration control law

to be added to the current list of highly skilled professionals.

The number of foreign workers in Japan has more than doubled since 2000 to nearly 1.3 million last year, out of a working-age population of 67 million. Workers from developing Asian countries used to stay mostly behind the scenes, but not anymore. Almost all convenience stores are partly staffed by Asian workers and so are many restaurant chains.

The fastest growing group of foreign workers is Vietnamese, many of whom are employed in construction and nursing. Construction workers are particular-

ly in demand as Japan rushes to finish building venues and other infrastructure for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

In many cases the workers are subjected to poor working conditions and other abuses.

"I had no time for a holiday. ... Even if I worked so hard I still had no money," said Eng Pisey, 33, from Cambodia, who came to Japan on a training program in 2016 and worked at a garment factory in Tochigi, north of Tokyo. She said she had to borrow \$4,000 to pay a broker to arrange her job, and ended up quitting after becoming ill from overwork.

Under the legislation, two categories of workers will be accepted beginning in April: less-skilled workers and former interns with basic Japanese competency are allowed to stay in the country for only up to five years as visitors and cannot bring in family members. That is meant to encourage them to leave when their visas expire, preventing them from settling in Japan.

The second category, those with higher skills, Japanese language and cultural understanding, would be allowed to bring their families and apply for citizenship after living in Japan for 10 years if they commit no crimes.

"Creating new visa statuses to accommodate foreign human resources is our urgent task as we face serious labor shortages, especially at small and medium-size companies," Chief Cabinet Secretary Yoshihide Suga said Friday.

But details including a new immigration agency, competency tests for applicants and ways to eliminate abusive working conditions still need to be decided.

Many Japanese understand the need to solve labor shortages. Industry groups have urged the government to expand the work visa program so they can legally hire more foreign workers.

But Abe's traditional political base and opposition groups oppose the change — for different reasons.

Abe has denied that Japan is opening the door to immigrants. His right-wing supporters view Japan as a homogenous society and want to keep out outsiders, especially those from other Asian countries. They cite concerns over risks of more crime.

Human rights activists and lawyers have criticized the legislation, saying it has insufficient

protections and support for foreign workers and lacks a vision for how Japan might create a more inclusive society that accepts diversity.

Since 1993, Japan's Technical Intern Training Program has provided on-the-job training in the name of international cooperation, mostly to workers from other Asian countries. The trainees often have worked under poor conditions. In 2017 some 7,000 of the 270,000 technical interns fled, citing underpay and mistreatment, according to government statistics.

Shoichi Ibusuki, a lawyer specializing in labor cases who aids victimized foreign students and interns, says the program is a guise for using cheap labor. He says it should be scrapped and replaced.

Ibusuki supports giving unskilled workers official status, but says the legislation fails to provide enough protections for workers. In particular, he is unhappy with the lack of restrictions on recruiting brokers who are cited as a cause of abuse. "The program seems to treat foreign workers like goods, not humans," he said.

Huang Shihu, a Chinese intern, said he came to Japan to study the language while working, but suffered a severe hand injury after being employed for about six months at a tin factory in Kobe. He said his employer claimed it could not pay him compensation because it was bankrupt.

"With this hand injury I can't work. I don't know what to do," Huang told reporters, showing his still bandaged fingers. "I really feel wronged by the company."

Menju said the lack of oversight in the existing trainee program allowed mistreatment to persist, with foreign workers seen as cheap labor willing to tolerate harsh conditions. He hopes the new program will allow a fresh start.

The legislation is not so great, he says, but may mark a turning point. "This is the first time people started to discuss the issue of foreign workers," Menju said. "Before that it was a taboo." AP

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NEW ZEALAND

Police find body they believe is British tourist

NEW Zealand police said yesterday they found a body they believe to be that of missing 22-year-old British tourist Grace Millane. Police said the body was in a forested area about 10 meters from the side of the road in the Waitakere Ranges near Auckland.

Tourist Grace Millane has been missing since Dec. 1, and failed to contact her family on her birthday Dec. 2. On Saturday, a 26-year-old man was charged with murder in her case after he was detained for questioning. He is due to make his first court appearance today.

Millane was on a planned yearlong trip abroad that began in Peru. She arrived in New Zealand last month and was last seen entering a central Auckland hotel with a man on the evening of Dec. 1.

Detective Inspector Scott Beard told reporters near the crime scene in the Waitakere Ranges that police believe Millane's body was taken to the area in a rental car that was later left in the town of Taupo.

Police spent several hours searching the area, which they



Detective Scott Beard addresses a press conference announcing the search for missing English backpacker is now a homicide investigation

cordoned off and where they put up a tent, before making the announcement.

"This area was identified late last night as a location of interest as a result of our investigative work," Beard said. "I can now advise that a short time ago, we located a body, which

we believe to be Grace. A formal identification process will now take place, however, based on the evidence we have gathered over the past few days, we expect that this is Grace."

Millane's father David Millane traveled from Britain to New Zealand last week.

"It is an unbearable time for the Millane family, and our hearts go out to them," Beard said.

Before she vanished, Millane had been staying at a backpacker hostel in Auckland, and she left some of her belongings there. Beard said she met a man for a couple of hours on the evening of Dec. 1 before surveillance cameras showed them entering the CityLife hotel at about 9:40 p.m.

Her family was surprised and worried when she didn't contact them on her birthday or get in touch over on the days that followed.

After arriving in New Zealand on Friday, David Millane spoke with media. "Grace is a lovely, outgoing, fun-loving, family-oriented daughter," he said, adding that she was usually in touch with her family every day.

"She arrived here on the 20th of November, and has been bombarding us with numerous photographs and messages of her adventures," Millane said. "We are all extremely upset, and it's very difficult at this time to fully describe the range of emotions we are going through." **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Duterte seeks martial law extension in the country's south

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte has asked Congress to extend martial law in the country's south by another year amid continuing concerns over possible militant attacks, although democracy advocates fear it could worsen human rights conditions.

Presidential spokesman Salvador Panelo said Friday that ending martial law could undermine progress by government forces in quelling insurgents "and may even strengthen the rebellion and propel it to other parts of the country."

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana said he, along the military and police, backed the extension of martial law in the country's southern third, because Muslim extremists, including five to 10 foreign fighters, continue to plot bombings and other attacks.

Duterte placed the southern Mindanao region under martial law after hundreds of Islamic State group-linked militants besieged the Islamic city of Marawi on May 23, 2017, in the worst security crisis he has faced.

After five months, Philippine troops quelled the siege, which left more than 1,100 combatants and civilians dead and displaced hundreds of thousands of people.

The government has successfully asked Congress twice to allow an extension of martial rule in the south, the homeland of minority Muslims and site of decades-old Muslim separatist insurrections.

The left-wing Karapatan group said a martial law extension would be a human rights "nightmare," citing claims of dozens of questionable killings of civilians by troops, displacement of villagers by military bombings and illegal arrests under martial law in the south. The military has denied such claims.

Filipinos remain hypersensitive to threats to democracy and civil liberties after they ousted dictator Ferdinand Marcos in a 1986 "people power" revolt that became a harbinger of change in authoritarian regimes worldwide. Marcos declared martial law in the Philippines in 1972 in a period marked by massive human rights abuses.

Concerns over Duterte's martial law have been sparked in part by his perceived authoritarian bent and the killings of thousands of suspects in a crackdown on illegal drugs that he launched after taking office in 2016 which has alarmed Western governments and human rights groups. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Big rally by Muslims calls for upholding privileges

TENS of thousands of Malaysian Muslims rallied Saturday in Kuala Lumpur against any attempt to strip the ethnic Malay majority of its privileges, in the first massive street gathering since Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's alliance won a historic vote in May.

The rally, backed by the country's two largest opposition Malay parties, was initially aimed at protesting a government plan to ratify a U.N. treaty against racial discrimination. Critics allege that ratifying the treaty would end Malay privileges under a decades-old affirmative action policy. The plan to ratify was eventually abandoned, but organizers decided to proceed with what they called a



"thanksgiving" rally.

Racial clashes have been rare in multiracial Malaysia since deadly riots in 1969. A year later, Malaysia instituted a preferential program that gives Malays privileges in jobs, education, contracts and housing to help narrow a wealth gap with the minority Chinese. Ethnic Malays

account for nearly two-thirds of the country's 32 million people, with large Chinese and Indian minorities.

Saturday's rally came less than two weeks after more than 80 people were arrested in a riot at an Indian temple in a suburb outside Kuala Lumpur. The government was quick to stress

that the violence was due to a land dispute and was not a racial riot.

Former Prime Minister Najib Razak, who has been charged with multiple counts of corruption, was among opposition lawmakers at the rally. Police said there were at least 55,000 people on the streets. Many wore white T-shirts and headbands with the words "Reject ICERD," referring to the U.N. treaty — the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The protesters gathered at three locations before marching to a nearby historic square, chanting "Long live the Malays" and "Crush ICERD."

"Yes, we did not ratify

ICERD, but we are still here to say that we are still against it," said shopkeeper Rosli Ikhsan. "Even if the government has said they won't endorse it, we are still protesting with all our might from all of Malaysia."

Mahathir's new government won a stunning victory in a May 9 general election amid anger over a massive corruption scandal involving Najib and his government, but many Malays still support Najib's party, the United Malays National Organization, and the Malaysian Islamic Party, which controls two of the country's 13 states.

"For me, ICERD is bad," university student Nurul Qamariah said at the rally. "It's bad because it will erode the position of Malays. This is a country for Malays. We want Malays to be superiors, but why do these people want to make Malays the same level as Chinese and Indians?" **AP**

Todd Pitman, Gaza City

ISRAELI forces deployed along the volatile border with the Gaza Strip have fired live rounds at rock-throwing Palestinian protesters ever since demonstrations against Israel's long-running blockade of Gaza began in March.

And for eight months, Israeli snipers have targeted one part of the body more than any other — the legs.

The Israeli army says it is responding to weekly assaults on its frontier by Palestinians armed with stones, grenades and firebombs. The military says it opens fire only as a last resort, and considers firing at the lower limbs an act of restraint.

Still, 175 Palestinians have been shot to death, according to an Associated Press count. And the number of wounded has reached colossal proportions.

Of the 10,511 protesters treated at hospitals and field clinics in Gaza so far, at least 6,392, or roughly 60 percent, have been struck in the lower limbs, according to Gaza's Health Ministry. At least 5,884 of those casualties were hit by live ammunition; others have been hit by rubber-coated metal bullets and tear gas canisters.

The upsurge in violence has left a visible mark on Gaza that will likely remain for decades to come. It is now common to see

In Gaza protests, Israeli troops aim for the legs



In this combination of four photos, Palestinians shot in the legs during demonstrations at the Gaza strip's border with Israel pose

young men walking through dilapidated streets on crutches. Most have legs bandaged or fitted with a metal frame called a fixator, which uses pins or screws that are inserted into fractured bones to help stabilize them.

The wounded can often be seen gathering at a treatment clinic run by the Paris-based medical charity Doctors Without Borders in Gaza City, where Associated Press photographer Felipe Dana took portraits of some of them.

Some of those he photographed acknowledged throwing stones toward Israeli troops during the demonstrations. One said he had hurled a firebomb. But others said they were unarmed bystanders; one paramedic said he was helping rescue the wounded, while another man said he was waving a Palestinian flag and another said he was selling coffee and tea.

International human rights groups have said the military's open-fire rules are unlawful

because they allow the use of potentially lethal force in situations where soldiers' lives are not in immediate danger.

Lt. Col. Jonathan Conricus, an Israeli military spokesman, rejected international criticism that Israel's response has been excessive. Instead, he said that firing at people's legs was a sign of restraint.

"Sniper rifles against hundreds or thousands of rioters that are violently trying to get into Israel with the open aim of killing Is-

raeli civilians or abducting Israeli soldiers, I don't think that's disproportionate," he said. "I don't think it's disproportionate to shoot at feet or legs to get them to stop, rather than killing them."

Doctors Without Borders said this month that the huge number of patients was overwhelming Gaza's health care system, which has already been severely weekend by a blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt that has fueled economic stagnation and rampant unemployment, and devastated water and electricity supplies.

The Paris-based aid group said the majority of the 3,117 patients it has treated have been shot in the legs, and many will need follow-up surgery, physiotherapy and rehabilitation.

"These are complex and serious injuries that do not quickly heal," the group said. "Their severity and the lack of appropriate treatment in Gaza's crippled health system means that infection is a high risk, especially for patients with open fractures."

"The consequences of these wounds ... will be lifelong disability for many," the aid group said. "And if infections are not tackled, then the results could be amputation or even death."

Gaza's Health Ministry says it has carried out 94 amputations since the protests began, 82 of them involving lower limbs. AP

AD

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FRANCE

Paris cleans up after latest riot as pressure builds on Macron

Angela Charlton, Paris

PARIS tourist sites reopened, workers cleaned up broken glass and shop owners tried to put the city on its feet again yesterday, a day after running battles between yellow-vested protesters and riot police left 71 injured and caused widespread damage to the French capital.

The man who unleashed the anger, President Emmanuel Macron, broke his silence to tweet his appreciation for the police overnight, but pressure mounted on him to propose new solutions to calm the anger dividing France.

The number of injured in Paris and nationwide was down Saturday from protest riots a week ago, and most of the capital remained untouched. Still, TV footage broadcast around the world of the violence in Paris neighborhoods popular with tourists is tarnishing the country's image.

France deployed some 89,000 police but still failed to deter the

AP PHOTO



determined protesters. Some 125,000 yellow vests took to the streets Saturday around France with a bevy of sometimes contradictory or incoherent demands related to high living costs and a sense that Macron favors the elite and is trying to modernize the French economy too fast.

Some 1,220 people were taken into custody around France, the Interior Ministry said — a roundup the scale of which the country hasn't seen in years. French police frisked protesters at train stations around the country, confiscating everything from heavy metal petanque balls to tennis rackets — anything that

could remotely be used as a weapon.

The Eiffel Tower and Louvre Museum reopened yesterday after closing in fear of Saturday's rioting. Shops assessed the looting damage and cleared out broken glass, after shutting down on a Saturday at the height of the holiday shopping season.

Fierce winds and rain pummeled Paris overnight, complicating efforts to clean up the debris left after protesters sought any objects they could find to hurl at police or set on fire.

Protesters ripped off the plywood protecting Parisian store windows and threw flares and other projectiles. French riot police repeatedly repelled them with tear gas and water cannon.

Used tear gas canister lids lay scattered Sunday on the cobblestones of the elegant Champs-Élysées after the hours-long standoff on Saturday between riot police and protesters. Most of the Paris demonstrators were working class white men from

elsewhere in France, angry at inequalities and economic stagnation.

Police and protesters also clashed in other French cities, notably Marseille, Toulouse and Bordeaux, and in neighboring Belgium. Some protesters took aim at the French border with Italy, creating huge traffic jams on both sides of the border. Some 135 people were injured nationwide, including the 71 in Paris.

Saturday's protests were a direct blow to Macron, who made a stunning retreat last week and decided to abandon the fuel tax rise that initially prompted the yellow vest protest movement a month ago.

His turnaround damaged his credibility with climate defenders and foreign investors and earned derision from U.S. President Donald Trump, an opponent of the 2015 Paris climate change accord that Macron has championed worldwide.

Yet it did nothing to cool tempers of the "gilets jaunes," the nickname for crowds wearing the fluorescent yellow vests that all French motorists must keep in their cars.

The disparate movement now has other demands, from taxing the rich to raising the minimum wage to having the 40-year-old Macron, a former banker and economist, hand in his resignation.

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Offbeat

CALIFORNIA TEACHER ARRESTED FOR FORCIBLY CUTTING BOY'S HAIR

A high school teacher in central California was arrested on suspicion of felony child endangerment after forcibly cutting the hair of one of her students while singing the national anthem, authorities said.

Margaret Gieszinger was arrested last week after videos posted to social media showed a student at University Preparatory High School in the city of Visalia sitting in a chair at the front of the classroom as Gieszinger cuts his hair.

In a video obtained by KFSN-TV, the 52-year-old science and chemistry teacher is heard belting the "Star Spangled Banner" while cutting chunks of the boy's hair and tossing them behind her. The circumstances of what led the teacher to cut the student's hair were not immediately known.

After cutting the boy's hair, Gieszinger grabs at a girl's long hair before the students make a run for it out of the classroom, the video shows.

Officers responded to the high school housed on the grounds of the College of the Sequoias, a California community college, after receiving reports of child endangerment involving a teacher and a "pair of scissors," Police Chief Kevin Mizner told the Visalia Times Delta. Mizner did not immediately return a message from The Associated Press seeking comment.

Rob Herman, a spokesman for the Tulare County Office of Education, said counselors were made available Thursday to support students at the public high school.

"We take very seriously the safety of the students in classrooms and on the COS campus," Herman said in an email. Herman said Gieszinger "will not return to her classroom," but wouldn't say whether she was fired.

Gieszinger was hired in August to teach at the high school part-time, he said. Gieszinger's teaching credential was suspended for 14 days in 2016 "for immoral or unprofessional conduct," according to the state's Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Her teaching credential was also suspended for two weeks in 2017 but the commission does not list a reason.

Lilli Gates, one of Gieszinger's students, told the newspaper the incident was out of character for the teacher.

"When everything was going on I was terrified, and I so badly wanted to blame her," Gates said. "She is a loving and kind lady. She is usually all smiles and laughs. This is not the Miss G. we know and love."

Gieszinger is being held on \$100,000 bail. It was not immediately known if she has an attorney.

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13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
19:00	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	You, Me & Apocalypse
22:00	Funny Things To Know
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Documentary
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
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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



1990: IRAQ FREES BRITISH HOSTAGES

The first of the hostages held in the Gulf for four-and-a-half months have arrived in Britain after their release by Saddam Hussein. A total of 100 British hostages were freed and landed at Heathrow airport today with the promise of a further 400 to follow.

The Foreign Office expects all those held since Iraq invaded Kuwait in August to be home by the weekend. Former Prime Minister Edward Heath, who went to Baghdad in October for talks with the Iraqi leader, has been credited with securing the release of the hostages.

There were long queues at Baghdad airport today as Iraqi officials cooperated in validating the passports of the freed men and women.

Many had been warned to expect a wait of up to 10 days. British diplomat Julian Lyons said: "We were not sure at the time how long it would take to get the flights together. "We thought it was best to give people bad news at the first step."

The long process raised fears among passengers they would not travel after having had their hopes dashed before. Released hostage David Eddy said: "We had another day when we came up here when Mr Tony Benn [MP] was scheduled to come in.

"He came - he met us - we thought we were on a homeward ticket. "As soon as he left the hotel we were shipped out very callously, it was a hard day."

There were reports from the British embassy in Baghdad that increased surveillance by Iraqi authorities was holding up the process of repatriation.

But after an agonizing wait the first group was released and travelled via Frankfurt where travelers celebrated with champagne.

Medical officials and social service personnel were on hand to offer advice and guidance on their return to London - where they landed to cheers and applause.

Foreign nationals in the Gulf were forced into hiding after being caught in Kuwaiti City, the country's capital, after the Iraqi invasion.

Others were used as so called "human shields" and were impounded at strategic positions such as power stations and military bases.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It emerged in 2001 the Attorney General had referred a case to the police about British hostage-taking at the start of the Gulf War. London-based organisation Indict spent five years compiling evidence of alleged war crimes and brutality by the Iraqi leadership. A criminal case would focus on the plight of the 4,500 British citizens and thousands of people from other countries who were held hostage in the Gulf at the time.

It could eventually have led to a war crimes indictment against the Iraqi president, Saddam Hussein, and his deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz.

But it was thought unlikely they would ever have been extradited for a trial before an international court.

Saddam Hussein was toppled from power in April 2003 during the US-led invasion of Iraq. He was subsequently captured after several months in hiding in December 2003. He was tried in an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and executed in December 2006.

I WAS THERE

I'd been in Iraq as a human shield "guest" since early September.

We were waiting at the Melia Mansour hotel, having been bussed in from the hydroelectric plant the day before. The night before the British liaison team, soldiers that had been in Kuwait pre-invasion, held a small concert in the bar in front of a 50+ crowd of very drunken former "guests".

Some of us had hard cash to buy some beers, most made do with a home brewed hooch, some kind of distilled spirit that the army must teach. We went out on 11 December, I think.

I was the first person to step off the Iraqi Airways charter to Gatwick. I couldn't stop myself crying as I reached the bottom of the steps to the aircraft. I was 24, and have since enjoyed the time to build a successful career. Most others were in their 40s and 50s. Many have since been unable to pick up after almost five months, a traumatic time and a nasty recession.

Barry Manners, Dorset

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Approach work as if it's a brand new day. If a colleague was a bit insensitive yesterday, then put it behind you. If for no other reason than that office culture dictates you pretend it never happened.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

If you think you understand issues on a deeper level than you colleagues, then no wonder they're not listening to you. No one wants to hear a lecture, so go back to considering them partners instead of pupils.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

People react differently to the boundless energy of a certain colleague. You may think it's annoying or you may find it a lot of fun. Whatever approach you take, try to soak up some of it yourself.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Current projects are in the balance, and they're about to tip one way or another. The way you handle yourself today makes all the difference to which direction they'll go.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's human nature to care for those you spend time with. You may all be colleagues, but friendship rules the day. Whether it's a birthday, a long lunch or simply spontaneous goodwill, expect the unexpected.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You get to put your organizational skills to good use today, as well as your social skills. Have fun herding your office mates into a meeting, then running the show.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your office is getting a breath of fresh air, in the form of someone new. You're not the only one getting a buzz of excitement, but you are the most charming of the group. Pour it on and win them over.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to do some self nurturing, and you can manage it right at the office. There are ways to take care of yourself that no one will even notice. Get creative.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're tempted to toss down your pencil and say forget it. Don't let yourself get petulant. An even-tempered approach is actually more productive, so force yourself to be easy-going.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

There's just no getting around certain work, no matter how hard you try to evade it. Trust your instincts on this one. Dig in and get it over with.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

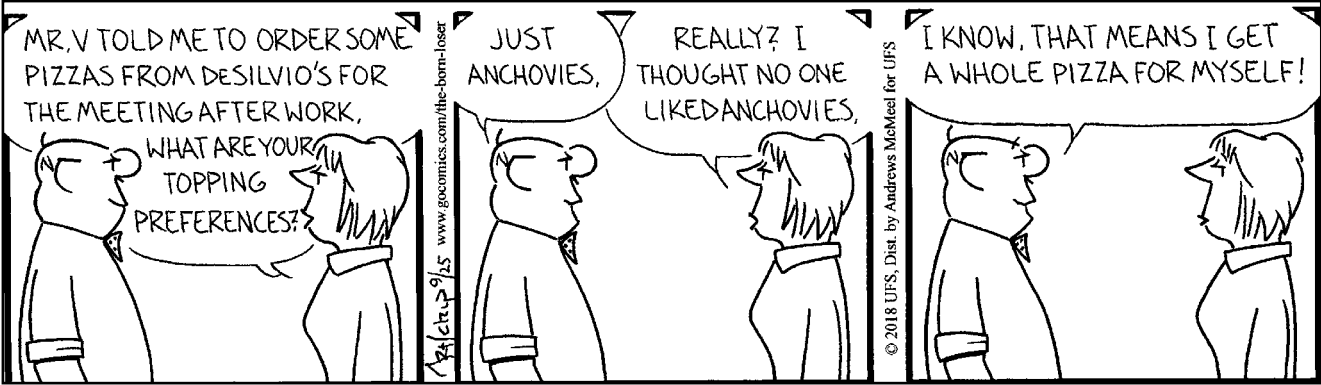
Some projects seem like they'll only be completed if you trudge along, while others are finished with lightening speed. You never know ahead of time which category they fall into, but you have a pretty good hunch.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

It goes without saying your boss will have a different opinion than you do. If you want things to go forward as planned, then keep your opinions to yourself.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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CHINA

Beijing	-10	1	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-21	-10	clear
Tianjin	-5	2	clear/overcast
Urumqi	-18	-13	clear
Xi'an	-4	3	cloudy
Lhasa	-7	8	clear/cloudy
Chengdu	2	6	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	7	9	overcast
Kunming	7	20	cloudy
Nanjing	1	7	sleet/moderate rain
Shanghai	6	10	drizzle
Wuhan	1	3	drizzle
Hangzhou	1	6	drizzle/moderate rain
Taipei	19	23	drizzle
Guangzhou	8	15	drizzle/cloudy
Hong Kong	13	17	cloudy

WORLD

Moscow	-3	2	flurry/sleet
Frankfurt	6	8	drizzle
Paris	8	10	drizzle
London	7	11	cloudy
New York	-4	4	overcast/cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Con game; 5- Doll's word; 9- Saudi king; 13- Neighbor of Sask.; 14- Pisa place; 16- Like ___ not; 17- Circular band; 18- Private student; 19- What the fourth little piggy had; 20- ___ Arabian Nights; 21- Monopoly quartet: Abbr.; 22- Oozed; 24- "The Godfather" Oscar nominee; 26- CPR pros; 27- In the least; 29- Magistrate in ancient Rome; 33- Pastoral poem; 34- Distinctive quality; 35- Toward sunrise; 36- Backtalk; 37- Dimness; 38- Vanilla ___, American rap star; 39- Dregs; 41- Goes bad; 42- Roman garments; 44- Writ; 46- Of the sun; 47- Caesar's wings; 48- Hourglass filler; 49- Gazes fixedly; 52- Stumblebum; 53- Future doc's exam; 57- Visionary; 58- Steve of country music; 60- First class; 61- Poi source; 62- Women's wear; 63- Billy ___ had a hit song with "White Wedding"; 64- Pack away; 65- Sloop, yacht, or canoe; 66- Hamlet, for one;

DOWN: 1- Wraparound dress; 2- Pitcher's prize?; 3- ___ extra cost; 4- Like Harry Potter's abilities; 5- Resembling a miter; 6- Take ___ for the worse; 7- Wrestling surfaces; 8- Draft choice; 9- Skill; 10- At the summit; 11- Fine-tune; 12- ___ Scott Decision; 15- Polite agreement; 23- Parisian season; 25- 100%; 26- Continental cash; 27- French farewell; 28- Laid-back; 29- Allotted quantity; 30- Coniferous evergreen forest; 31- Academy award; 32- AAA suggestions; 33- Misfortunes; 34- Home ___; 37- Lubricated; 40- Songbird; 42- Imperial unit of weight; 43- Spinster; 45- Corrida cry; 46- Most secure; 48- Tortilla chip dip; 49- Concordes; 50- Nipple; 51- Dynamic opening?; 52- Cream-filled cookie; 54- Musical ending; 55- Prolific author, briefly; 56- Prefix with conference; 59- Short trader?;

Friday's solution

L	A	P	U	P	A	A	R	P	E	P	I	C
A	D	A	N	O	B	M	O	C	M	A	N	O
R	E	N	A	L	A	B	A	T	I	N	R	I
D	I	S	T	L	A	T	I	N	E	L	D	E
D	E	L	R	I	O	P	H	O	T	O		
A	T	E	E	S	E	T	T	O	L	O		
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D	I
A	N	S	D	R	O	O	P	A	C	T	H	
S	L	E	E	P								
S	A	L	A	D	S	E	N	O	R	I	T	A
E	T	A	S		M	A	T	T	I	M	E	A
L	A	M	E		M	A	V	I		E	L	L
A	N	A	S		E	R	I	C		S	I	D

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply – Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000

Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Manhattan F Unit
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Fully Furnished
HKD 25,000 / 1,720 sq ft
Ref: 18110695

Ocean Garden Elm Court
Taipa
1,610 sq ft / HKD 11.88M
HKD 7,378 sq ft
Three Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18105563

Va Long, Central Macau
Macau
Two Bedroom Apartment
Partial Sea View
HKD 29,900 / 1,750 sq ft
Ref: 18100694

WA BAO, TAIPA
Taipa
1020 sq ft / HKD 8.5M
HKD 8,333 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18115568

Kok Vui Apartment, St. Paul's
Ruins
Macau
Two Bedroom Apartment
HKD 10,800 / 622 sq ft
Ref: 18110696

Va Fat Taipa
Taipa
550 sq ft / HKD 4.58 M
HKD 8,327 sq ft
Two Bedroom Apartment
Ref: 18115566

Lakeview Mansions, Central
Macau
Macau
2 Bedroom Apartment
HKD 25,000 / 1750 sq ft
Ref: 18110697



BASEBALL

Ex-major leaguers Valbuena, Castillo die in Venezuela crash

Fabiola Sanchez, Caracas

FORMER major league players Luis Valbuena and Jose Castillo were killed in a car crash in Venezuela caused by highway bandits who then robbed them, officials said Friday.

The 33-year-old Valbuena and 37-year-old Castillo died late Thursday when their SUV crashed as it tried to veer around an object on the road, Yaracuy state Gov. Julio Leon Heredia said on his Twitter account. Officials said some bandits place or throw objects on highways to force vehicles to stop or crash so they can rob the occupants.

Heredia said four people have been detained after being found with property of the athletes.

Valbuena and Castillo were teammates on the Cardenales de Lara team in the Venezuelan winter league and were returning from a game in the capital when the crash occurred en route to the city of Barquisimeto.



Luis Valbuena playing for the Chicago Cubs in 2014

Third baseman Carlos Rivero was in the car and survived, according to the website beisbol-play.

Valbuena, an 11-year major league veteran, hit .199 with nine homers and 33 RBIs in 96 games this year for the Los Angeles Angels, who released him on Aug. 7.

"I will miss Luis' banter, smile, genuine love for his teammates, and, of course, the bat flips," As-

tros manager AJ Hinch said in a statement. "He was a beloved person whether he was on our team or across the field."

Valbuena hit .226 with 114 home runs over 11 big league seasons with the Angels, Seattle, Cleveland, the Chicago Cubs and Houston.

"Luis was always smiling and was one of the happiest players in baseball," Astros general manager Jeff Luhnow said in a statement. "He provided joy to his teammates and our fans. He helped our franchise turn a corner in 2015 and provided many cherished memories."



Jose Castillo playing for the Pittsburgh Pirates in 2006

Castillo played five seasons with Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Houston. He had a .254 average with 39 home runs.

Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro said in a tweet that

"I join in the mourning that has overwhelmed the Venezuelan baseball family and all of its fans."

Baseball Commissioner Rob Manfred issued a statement calling it "a very sad day for our sport."

"It is clear by all the stories today that they loved baseball and made an impact on their teammates and the Clubs they represented," he said, expressing "my deepest condolences to their families, friends and fans, particularly those in their native Venezuela."

By late Friday afternoon, the coffins with the players' bodies had arrived in Antonio Herrera Gutierrez stadium in Barquisimeto where they were received amid tears by their teammates. A Mass was held to bid them good bye.

The Venezuelan Professional Baseball League announced that all three scheduled games Friday were cancelled and it said flags will fly at half-staff in all stadiums for three days.

League president Juan Jose Avila told Union Radio that he was evaluating the possibility of forbidding players from traveling in private cars to move between games, saying if the players had been on the team bus, "nothing would have happened to them."

Venezuelan teams tend to travel in buses protected by security forces. **AP**

AD

CHRISTMAS Party
Dec 24, 2018
聖誕派對

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Man City's Raheem Sterling says media coverage fuels racism

B RITISH newspapers are helping to "fuel racism" with their portrayal of black footballers, Manchester City winger Raheem Sterling said Sunday as police investigate whether he was racially abused during a Premier League match at Chelsea.

Two screenshots were posted on Sterling's Instagram account highlighting contrasting coverage of young City teammates buying properties.

When Tosin Adarabioyo bought a house the headline in January called it a "mansion" and highlighted that the purchase was made despite the player "having never started a Premier League match." There was more positive coverage of Phil Foden, who is white, buying a house for his mother also for around 2 million pounds (USD2.5 million).

"This young black kid is looked at in a bad light. Which helps fuel racism an(d) aggressive behaviour," Sterling wrote on Instagram. "So for all the newspapers that don't understand why people are racist in this day and age all I have to say is have a second thought about fair publicity and give all players an



Raheem Sterling (right)

equal chance." Sterling called the coverage "unacceptable."

"You have two young players starting out their careers both play for the same team, both have done the right thing,"

Sterling wrote, "which is buy a new house for their mothers who have put in a lot of time and love into helping them get where they are, but look at how the newspapers get their mes-

sage across for the young black player and then for the young white player."

The 24-year-old Sterling has had an uneasy relationship with the media, with critical co-

verage before the World Cup in Russia of his decision to get a tattoo of an assault rifle on his right leg. He said it was a tribute to his late father, who was shot dead when Sterling was 2.

On Instagram, Sterling only briefly touched on Saturday's incident at Chelsea's Stamford Bridge stadium when a man appeared to aggressively hurl abuse at him as the ball was being retrieved on the byline. Police are reviewing footage that circulated widely online during City's 2-0 loss.

"I just want to say, I am not normally the person to talk a lot but when I think I need my point heard I will speak up," Sterling wrote. "Regarding what was said at the Chelsea game, as you can see by my reaction I just had to laugh because I don't expect no better."

The previous weekend in the Premier League, a banana skin was thrown at Arsenal striker Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang as he celebrated scoring against Tottenham in the Premier League's north London derby.

English soccer's anti-racism organization, Kick It Out, complained Sunday that the chairmen of the Premier League, Football Association and Chelsea had not spoken out about the alleged abuse faced by Sterling.

"It has to be dealt with at the top," Kick It Out chairman Herman Ouseley said. "We do not have any leadership at the top of the game to speak out, they rely on Kick It Out." **AP**

FIGURE SKATING

Teenage Japanese star Rika Kihira wins Grand Prix Final

T EENAGE Japanese star Rika Kihira won the Grand Prix Final women's title Saturday. The 16-year-old had a combined score of 233.12, despite stumbling on a jump in her free skate. The score topped her career best of 224.31 set last month in Japan in her NHK Trophy victory.

"My failures from the past seasons really motivated me to do well," Kihira said through a translator. "I promised myself that I would remember them and never repeat those mistakes again."

Olympic champion Alina Zagitova of Russia, also 16, was second at 226.53 points. "The first senior season is easier than the second one," Zagitova said through a translator. "Because when you go out the first time, there are no expectations, no one expects anything and you



Rika Kihira celebrates

can just got and skate." Fellow Russian Elizaveta Tuktamysheva was third at 215.32.

The women's competi-

tion was made up entirely of skaters from Japan and Russia.

Americans Madison Hubbell and Zachary Do-

nohue won the ice dance, finishing with 205.35 points. They spent the last five weeks completely revamping their programs.

"We knew that to reach to the highest level and reach that world championship title, we had to stop being afraid and just start going for it when it counts," Hubbell said.

Victoria Sinitsina and Nikita Katsalapov of Russia were second at 201.37, and Italy's Charlene Guignard and Marco Fabbri followed at 198.65.

Vanessa James and Morgan Cipres of France came from behind to take the gold in the pairs event.

Cheng Peng and Yang Jin of China took silver with 216.90 points, while Russians Evgenia Tarasova and Vladimir Morozov came in third with a score of 214.20. On Friday night, American Nathan Chen won the men's event. **AP**

FOOTBALL

PSG's Qatari owners enlist Neymar's help to promote biggest bank

P ARIS Saint Germain's Qatari owner is enlisting the club's hottest star to help promote the country's biggest bank.

After advertising products from razors and headphones to coffee and car batteries, Brazilian soccer star Neymar has now been appointed 'global brand ambassador' for Qatar National Bank, the lender said in a statement.

The 25-year old forward, who has around 209 million social media followers, "shares the same values with QNB and its constant pursuit of excellence and achieving great results in every game," his father Neymar Santos Sr said in the statement.

Neymar's transfer to Paris Saint Germain from Barcelona last year

was the most expensive ever, with Qatar Sports Investments paying a record fee as it sought to build a global sports brand. Including salary and taxes over five years, Neymar will cost about 500 million euros (\$569 million), that's more than what you'd normally pay for an entire team in France.

The soccer player's contract with QNB comes as his club is set to terminate a more than decade-long relationship with Emirates Airline. That deal has seen the Emirates name emblazoned on PSG player's jerseys since 2006, but is now coming to an end as the club seeks a more lucrative sponsorship and after the relationship between Qatar and the United Arab Emirates soured. **Bloomberg**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



MACAU REINVENTING ITSELF...AGAIN

Chinese President Xi Jinping's state visit to Lisbon, ending in a tour that took him to the G-20 in Argentina, to Panama and Spain, would necessarily be followed attentively in the Macau Special Administrative Region. Allow us to simplify the long-term ties between Portugal and this tiny enclave in the Pearl River Delta, and more than this, the different roles Macau has been called upon to perform directly or indirectly on behalf of China.

This time we found, perhaps with a bias or inclination to exaggeration, no role for Macau to play in the bilateral high-level talks between the Chinese superpower and Portugal's resetting of its play in the global world. Not that Macau was totally absent from the joint understanding that both parties signed - it was not - but precisely because it was referred to as being "supported by Beijing and Lisbon" in its role as a platform for services for the commercial cooperation between China and Portuguese-speaking countries, and nothing else. Truth is, there was nobody connected to Macau in Xi Jinping's entourage; any of the merits MSAR representatives had in building cooperation with Portugal on the back of the common history of the settlement since 16th century until the handover were irrelevant. Today that long road of history that took the Portuguese to the shores of China is to be changed into a narrative taking China to the shores of Portugal. Xi emphasized that both Beijing and Lisbon enjoy a long history of friendly exchanges, adding that since the establishment of diplomatic ties in 1979 both parties have witnessed mutual and cooperative benefits, respect and trust. Days ago, Premier António Costa signed the agreement to join the Belt and Road Initiative.

Still at the level of the MSAR, that apparent relegation of Macau to a secondary role must function as a wakeup call to a new frugality: to confront itself with the only role left to play in the Portuguese factor, being as a platform of services to PLP and the horizon of the Greater Bay Area. This is more than enough, but it is human to regret being relegated a secondary role, downgraded with the angst of an extra in the movie set.

Now we sail to the Portuguese shore, or the potential destination dock of the maritime Silk Road, to evaluate the state visit of President Xi Jinping. Perhaps wired by the weight of the stakes, overall the local intelligence opted more for the fait accompli, in which in Brussels the potential for disengagement to the strengthening of an energy-related partnership with China or a strategic deep-water port network or even minor projects, as in blue and space economy, may arouse UE anger or US suspicion. Local discomfort came in the shape of a diplomat's clumsy blogging and some innuendo about armored limousines and the hubris of paying the luxurious Ritz Hotel to close its doors for MOP20 million.

Despite the tangible outcomes of the 17 agreements Portugal and China signed days ago, politically - meaning strategically - on the Portuguese side, the added value is in upgrading China from a buyer of resources to an investor or scale partner in Portuguese endeavors: the CP high speed and auto (electric) industry and Panda bonds to denominate part of Portugal's public debt.

On the Chinese side, the value is on CTG expanding its stake, the China Grid window to play energy connectivity with African Morocco and the Port of Sines.

Beyond China and Portugal, we have to wait for the ripples of some of the 17 agreements in an environment totally foreign to a sympathetic media.

THE BUZZ FOSUN TOURISM IS SAID TO RAISE USD426 MILLION IN HONG KONG IPO

Fosun Tourism Group, a unit of billionaire Guo Guangchang's drugs-to-insurance conglomerate, raised HK\$3.34 billion (\$426 million) after pricing its Hong Kong initial public offering at the bottom of a marketed range, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The owner of luxury resort brand Club Med sold 214.2 million shares at HKD15.60 apiece, the people said, asking not to be identified because the information is private. The shares were offered at HK\$15.60 to HK\$20.00 each.

Fundraising from first-time share sales in Hong

Kong has more than doubled this year to \$34 billion, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Babytree Group, also backed by Fosun International Ltd., raised \$217 million in its IPO in the city last month, the data show.

An external representative for Fosun Tourism declined to comment.

Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Shun Tak Holdings Ltd. and Suchuang Gas Corp. agreed to buy about \$49 million of stock in Fosun Tourism's offering as cornerstone investors, its prospectus shows. The company expects to begin trading Dec. 14.

Ship saves British sailor after storm in Southern Ocean

AP PHOTO



Danica Kirka, London

A cargo ship on Friday rescued a British sailor after a violent storm ripped off her mast and flung her yacht end over end in the Southern Ocean as she competed in a solo round-the-world race.

British sailor Susie Goodall tweeted "ON THE SHIP!!!" soon after the Hong Kong-registered MV Tian Fu arrived at her location. The cargo vessel had been traveling from China to Argentina when it diverted to reach her.

Race officials have been in regular radio contact with the 29-year-old Goodall, who lost her mast 2,000 miles (3,200 kilometers)

west of Cape Horn near the southern tip of South America.

Her rescue unfolded early Friday, when the Tian Fu found Goodall an hour before daylight. In a message to race officials at 1115 GMT (5:15 a.m. EST), she confirmed that she had sighted the Tian Fu and that sea swells were up to 4 meters high.

Those conditions make a rescue more difficult, said Paul Owen of the International Federation of Shipmasters' Associations. "It's not a very hospitable place," said Owen, a former captain.

But that was only the beginning of her troubles Friday. Goodall's engine failed

and could not be restarted, limiting her ability to maneuver. Without an engine, her stricken yacht, the DHL Starlight, had to drift with its sea anchor before the master of the MV Tian Fu could maneuver the 40,000 ton cargo ship alongside it.

Goodall was the youngest entrant and the only woman in the Golden Globe competition that began July 1 in Les Sables-d'Olonne, France. Only five of the 18 skippers who began the race still remain. They are trying to sail roughly 48,280 kilometers alone, nonstop and without outside assistance before returning to the same French port. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Xu Yu



The snow scenery in Wuzhen (Tongxiang), east China's Zhejiang Province. Heavy snow fell yesterday in the ancient town due to a cold front which brought large-scale snowfall in Tongxiang.

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

SOURCE: DSGM

WORLD BRIEFS



NEW ZEALAND police said yesterday they found a body they believe to be that of missing 22-year-old British tourist Grace Millane. Police said the body was in a forested area about 10 meters from the side of the road in the Waitakere Ranges near Auckland. More on p13

GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel's successor at the helm of the country's main center-right party sought to consolidate her power on Saturday after a narrow victory, installing a young conservative in a key leadership post in an effort to build bridges with her rivals.

UK With a crucial parliamentary vote on Brexit looming, British Prime Minister Theresa May warned lawmakers Sunday that they could take Britain into "uncharted waters" and trigger a general election if they reject the divorce deal she struck with the European Union.



GUINEA-BISSAU A political feud in the sleepy capital Bissau is threatening to push one of the world's poorest countries back to being a haven for gangs smuggling cocaine into Europe and open the door to Islamist militants.

SAUDI ARABIA is reviewing its policy of imposing fees on expatriate workers after rising costs inflicted economic pain and contributed to an exodus of foreigners. Announced in 2016, as part of a drive to increase non-oil government revenue, the fees have been unpopular with business owners in a country accustomed to cheaper foreign labor.



MOROCCO As the country prepares to host the signing of a landmark global migration agreement, hundreds of migrants are languishing in a Casablanca camp rife with hunger, misery, lice and filth.