



### ASSAILANT REMAINS ARRESTED

One of the men who attacked a policeman after being told that smoking was not allowed at the entrance of a resort remains arrested

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### MYANMAR PLANS TO ATTRACT MORE LOCAL VISITORS

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### THAILAND: NO MAJOR DAMAGE CAUSED BY STORM

Ferry services and airports reopened as a storm moved west into the Andaman Sea after causing disruption

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### WORLD BRIEFS



**MALAYSIA** King Sultan Muhammad V abdicated yesterday in an unexpected move, after just two years on the throne. It marked the first abdication in the nation's history.

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**INDIA** has deported a second small group of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar after ordering the expulsion of members of the Myanmar minority group and others who entered the country illegally.

More on p12

**AFGHANISTAN** At least 30 Afghan villagers searching for gold in a riverbed perished yesterday in a flash flood in northeastern Badakhshan province, provincial officials said.

**YEMEN** Security officials say Yemen's Shiite rebels and government forces are shelling each other in areas south of Hodeida, straining an already shaky cease-fire in the Red Sea port city.



**SYRIA** The sudden American decision to pull out its 2,000 troops has forced a reassessment of old alliances and partnerships. The Syrian government, the Kurds, Russia, Iran, Israel and Turkey have all had a hand in the country's nearly eight-year war — each in a way fighting its own war for its own reasons within Syria.

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### TAIWAN CALLS FOR DEMOCRATIZATION

# Tsai Ing-wen sets conditions for talks with Beijing

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### STUDY

# In Occupy Central shadow, Macau youth want universal suffrage

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The company's CEO James Murren



The MGM Resorts International Mandalay Bay Resort in Las Vegas

## GAMING

# MGM Resorts seeks to boost profit USD300m through cost cuts

MGM Resorts International announced a new cost-cutting drive that's intended to boost profit by USD300 million annually, most of it over the next two years.

Half the improvement will come from labor savings, with the rest through improved sourcing of supplies and higher revenue, the Las Vegas-based casino operator said. The company employed 51,000 people full time in the U.S. at the end of 2017 and had previously introduced a plan that generated \$500

million in profit improvement that year.

In an interview, Chief Executive Officer James Murren said the previous cost-cutting program had allowed the company to centralize operations that had been handled by individual resorts, such as hotel and restaurant management, and marketing. "We're going to build on that organizational change," he said.

MGM, the largest casino operator on the Las Vegas Strip, has seen investors known for their activism grab

up shares in the company over the past year. They include Canyon Capital Advisors LLC, HG Vora Capital Management LLC and Highfields Capital Management LP, according to Bloomberg data.

The company has completed a growth spurt that included new resorts in Macau, Maryland and Massachusetts. Murren has said the next few years should see an increase in free cash flow, as spending slows and those properties ramp up.

MGM shares fell 27 per-

cent last year, in part due to a slowdown in its home town of Las Vegas.

In the interview, Murren said the new cost-cutting drive wasn't being driven by pressure from shareholders, although he meets with large investors frequently.

**We need to prepare for a slowdown, trade wars, volatility.**

JAMES MURREN

"We are in the last stages of an economic expansion," he said. "It's our job as managers to recognize that we're deep in this economic cycle and we need to prepare for a slowdown, trade wars, volatility." **Bloomberg**

## Applications for Local View Power open

**T**he Macau Cultural Centre is calling on local filmmakers to submit proposals for films to be produced and screened at the next "Local View Power" (LVP).

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), candidates willing to share their views on the city can present their new projects until January 28.

With an overall budget of MOP1 million for all categories, this year's event will support up to 17 individual proposals.

The competition welcomes candidates varying experience levels, from the "Advanced" and "Open" tiers aimed at directors aged 18 or above, to the "Freshmen" tier, which welcomes amateur directors.

Participants will compete in "Documentary," "Short Feature" and "Animation" categories, assessed by a panel of professionals in the audio-visual industry.

LVP has received over 500 proposals in the past 11 events. Among these proposals, 118 resulted in finalized works. Some of them, including 2016's "Crash," were awarded overseas.

According to the IC, selected teams will be given technical and financial support to complete their productions, including a "mentorship scheme" devised and led by guest professionals.

This year, 15 new local productions were commissioned by LVP after 66 proposals were assessed. These projects comprised of seven documentaries, four short fiction works and four short animations. Application forms are available on the LVP website.

### ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

#### TICK FEVER

**T**ick fever, or canine Ehrlichiosis, is a canine disease spread by the bite of the brown dog tick. Ehrlichiosis is a serious disease that may cause brain damage and severe anemia. Ehrlichiosis can be treated with tetracycline based drugs. Here's what you should know about the symptoms and treatment of Ehrlichiosis.

#### Transmission of Ehrlichiosis

Ehrlichiosis, or canine tick fever, is transmitted through the bite of the brown dog tick, *Rhipicephalus sanguineus*. Canine tick fever is contagious to humans, who can also catch the disease if they're bitten by the brown dog tick.

#### Symptoms of Ehrlichiosis

Ehrlichiosis occurs in three stages: acute, sub-clinical and chronic. Dogs in the acute phase of the disease suffer from swollen lymph nodes, respiratory disease, fever, weight loss, neurological problems and bleeding disorders. During the sub-clinical phase, the dog shows no symptoms. If your dog has a

strong immune system, his body may overcome ehrlichiosis during the sub-clinical phase.

If your dog's immune system fails to overcome this tick fever, he'll progress into the third stage of the disease, chronic infection. Dogs in this stage of the disease are at risk for serious complications, including:

- Uncontrolled bleeding
- Anemia
- Eye hemorrhage and other vision problems
- Neurological disturbances
- Lameness
- Thrombocytopenia, or inadequate production of platelets, which allow blood to clot
- Swelling of the limbs
- Bone marrow failure
- The chronic phase of ehrlichiosis can be deadly.

#### Diagnosing Canine Tick Fever

Diagnosing ehrlichiosis can be tricky during the initial two or three weeks of infection. Blood tests for canine tick fever check your dog's blood for antibodies against this disease, but your dog's Immune System won't produce those antibodies until two or three weeks after the infection takes hold. For this

reason, blood tests performed during the initial phases of infection can come back falsely negative. If an initial blood test for Ehrlichiosis comes back negative, your vet may order a second confirmation test a week or two later.

If you find large, engorged ticks on your dog, he's at risk for contracting Ehrlichiosis. The longer a tick feeds from your dog, the more likely he could have contracted the disease. Have your dog tested for Ehrlichiosis within eight weeks if you find an engorged tick on your dog. If your dog exhibits symptoms of Ehrlichiosis, make sure you tell your vet about finding any engorged ticks.

#### Treating Canine Tick Fever

Ehrlichiosis is treated with doxycycline based drugs. Most dogs will need antibiotics for 10 to 30 days, but some dogs may require medication for up to four months.

#### Preventing Ehrlichiosis

Canine tick fever is easy to prevent. Keep any ticks out of your environment and away from your dog. The best way to do this is with a spot on flea and tick repellent like Frontline, Revolution or Advantage. These products keep ticks from biting your dog. If you don't use a product like Frontline or



Advantage, check your dog daily for ticks. The longer ticks feed from your dog, the more likely he is to get sick. Remove any ticks immediately and watch your dog carefully for symptoms of Ehrlichiosis.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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CRIME

# Suspect who attacked police remains in custody

**T**HE suspect who attacked a policeman at the entrance of Galaxy Hotel after being told that smoking was not allowed in the premises, remains in custody.

Late last week, a police officer was assaulted on duty after firing a warning shot into the air to warn the alleged attackers.

In a viral video shared on social media, three men were behaving aggressively when approached by a police officer, who informed them that smoking was illegal on the site under the new smoking ban, which was implemented on January 1.

However, one of them attacked the police officer – who sustained minor injuries.

The video showed that the officer used a baton to intimidate the men to retreat before firing a shot in the air.

One suspect, surnamed Lui, currently remains in custody, while the other two suspects, Li and Ye, were released on a



Screenshots taken from a video circulating on social media

MOP50,000 bail.

The Public Prosecutions Office said that Liu's detention is intended to prevent him from escaping and continuing to disrupt social order.

The Health Services issued a statement yesterday reaffirming that the incident which made a policeman fire a shot into the air would not be tolerated.

"The Health Services repudiate all acts of violence and reaffirm that this type of behavior would not be tol-

erated," the bureau said in a statement.

Health Services reminded smokers not to smoke in forbidden places and cooperate with authorities on smoking control.

The SAR implemented a smoking ban in integrated resorts from January 1, and smokers found smoking in casinos outside of designated areas may be fined up to MOP200,000.

With regard to the infractions of the Tobacco Law de-

tected in the casinos between 4 p.m. on January 3 and 4 p.m. on January 4, the Health Service inspectors, together with the Personnel of the Inspection and Coordination Department of Games, carried out 16 inspections of casinos.

In this context, four offenses committed by individuals smoking in casinos, all of whom were tourists, were detected, during which all the enforcement agents cooperated during all enforcement-procedures.

## CE calls on gov't officials to implement Xi's aspirations for Macau

Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On called on government officials to adhere to aspirations set out in key speeches made by President Xi Jinping. Speaking at the Macau East Asian Games Dome on Friday, Chui recalled that 2018 had marked the 40th anniversary of the country's reformation and opening-up policies. According to Chui, President Xi's speeches not only affirmed Macau's role and contributions during the reform and opening-up process over the past 40 years, but also expressed the country's expectation and confidence regarding the SAR's future development. Further, the CE pledged that the government would develop its youth policies regarding education, employment and self-improvement.

## Printmaking Triennial showcases 175 works

The "3rd Macau Printmaking Triennial" is featuring a total of 175 print works from local and foreign artists at the Macau Contemporary Art Centre – Navy Yard No. 1. According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the triennial attracted over 1,000 entries from 39 countries and regions, including Asia, Europe, the United States and Oceania. The gold prize was awarded to the work "Habitable structure" by Polish artist Lukasz Koniuszy, while the silver and bronze prizes were awarded to the works "The remains of the painful thing 6" and "The way of harvester No. 2" by Thai artists Warranutchai Kajaree and Rattana Sudjarit, respectively.

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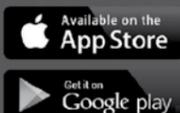
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## EDUCATION

# IPM Open Day attracts 2,000 visitors



Marcus Im delivering his speech during the Open Day

**T**HE Macau Polytechnic Institute's (IPM) 2019 Open Day attracted some 2,000 senior high school graduates and local residents to participate in the annual event which introduces the institute's developments.

According to a statement issued by the institute, it hosted a series of activities including guided campus tours, exhibitions of teaching and research achievements, physical fitness trial tests, sports performances and interactions, and workshops on art and design.

IPM also held nursing

operations, experiment demonstrations, skill and talent shows, library visits, and teaching aid tutorials. In his speech, the president of IPM, Marcus Im, said that the Ministry of Education of China recently announced that the institute had been awarded the "National Teaching Achievement Award 2018" which is presented every four years by the State Council.

The award given to the IPM program is titled "Towards constructing a new model for international talent training - Internatio-

nally Recognized Engineer Education Program: Theory and Practice."

In his speech, Im also noted that the students have won the national "2018 China Adolescents Science and Technology Innovation Contest", the gold and silver prizes in the 2017 and 2018 China College Students "Internet Plus" Innovation and Entrepreneurship Competition organized by the Ministry of

Education, and the gold prize in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Universities IT Project Competition.

According to the statement, IPM has trained nearly 20,000 graduates in the fields of Chinese-Portuguese-English translation and interpretation, information technology, gaming management, public administration, business administration, health care, sports, as well as in the cultural and creative industries. The president of the institute further emphasized that with Macau's Higher Education Regulations taking effect, it is poised to launch masters and doctoral programs in key areas. Applications for the 2019/2020 academic year are open until January 18.

## IPM SUSPENDS RECRUITMENT OF LANGUAGE THERAPY PROGRAM

**T**HE MACAU Polytechnic Institute suspended recruitment for its language therapy program, as its president worries that it would be challenging to find jobs for graduates. President Im Sio Kei said that it will no longer accept new students for the bachelor's degree program. "We have to think about the future of our students," Marcus Im told TDM. "If we keep

recruiting more students, it will be a problem for them if they don't get a job after they graduate." Im added that there would be sufficient language therapists serving non-Chinese speaking communities in the city. There are currently 40 students enrolled in the program, who will graduate in 2021 and 2022 respectively. The program commenced in 2017.

## Non-resident deposits dropped 7.5pct

**I**N November, currency in circulation and demand deposits rose 1.5 percent and 0.5 percent respectively, according to statistics released on Friday by the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM).

Resident deposits grew 1.5 percent from the preceding month to MOP617 billion, whereas non-resident deposits dropped 7.5 percent to MOP230.3 billion. On the other hand, public sector deposits with the banking sector increased 1.5 percent to MOP230.2 billion.

According to AMCM, total deposits in the banking sector decreased 0.6 percent from a month earlier to MOP1,077.5 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total deposits were 19.8 percent, 51.7 percent, 3.9 percent and 21.4 percent respectively.

Domestic loans to the private sector grew 0.8 percent from a month ago to MOP496 billion, whereas external loans went down by 0.1 percent to MOP501.5 billion. Total loans to the private sector increased 0.3 percent from a month earlier to MOP997.5 billion. The shares of MOP, HKD, RMB and USD in total loans were 16.4 percent, 50.6 percent, 3.3 percent and 26.5 percent respectively.

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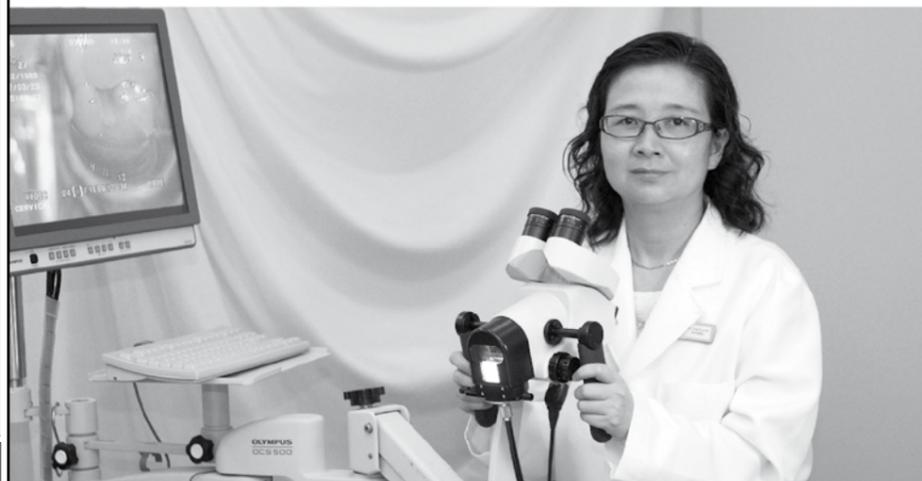
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# Myanmar plans to attract more visitors from Macau, HK



Visitors walk through the Shwedagon Pagoda in Yangon

**M**YANMAR is planning to implement digital marketing to develop the country's hotels and tourism sector, so as to increase promotional work to attract visitors from Macau and Hong Kong, Myanmar News Agency reported Sunday.

The move was discussed by Myanmar Minister of Hotels and Tourism, U Ohn Maung, and Chairman of the Hong Kong Macau Myanmar Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Lin Khin Wan, in Nay Pyi Taw on Saturday.

Their discussions covered matters such as arranging training courses, increasing information and communication technology experts in the ministry, providing required suggestions and

technical assistance on the establishment of tourism web portals and arranging study tours by Hong Kong travel agencies to Myanmar.

Myanmar will use appropriate digital technology to reduce manual systems while carrying out the ministry's office work, which will reduce the use of paper.

Myanmar has granted visa-on-arrival to travelers from China including those from Hong Kong and Macau SARs starting from Oct. 1 last year along with visa exemptions for Japanese and South Korean visitors.

Myanmar attracted over 2.84 million tourists as of October last year, according to the Hotel and Tourism Ministry. **MDT/Xinhua**

# Autistic artist to receive honorific title

**A** local artist from the community is set to be awarded an honorific title of merit on Wednesday by the local government.

Leong Ieng Wai, who draws city landscapes, has launched two souvenirs at the Macao Arts Festival and has held an exhibition at the local airport.

The award Leong will receive is to commend those who have made contributions to the reputation, development or social progress of the SAR.

The autistic artist is also known as 0.38, which refers to the thickness of the pen he likes to use in his meticulous strokes and clear compositions. He has been enrolled in Fu Hong Society of Macau for some six years now.

According to the director of the association, Jennifer Chau, the award also serves as an encouragement to the parents of children with intellectual disabilities and students enrolled in the association.

"I think at this time, he does

not quite understand yet because he does not have any idea about awards. But I think after the day he gets the award, he will be very happy and he can experience what is happening," Chau told TDM.

"I think these stories tell about the power of disabilities and it also gives confidence to parents as they have hope even if their child is without any language or cannot express their emotions," she added.

Chau began to recruit teachers to help fine tune Leung's technique when they discovered his talent in drawing.

"Afterwards we think that drawing is quite meaningful because autistic [children] have a special visual talent. When you see his picture, you can see the angles are very special," said Chau.

Chau also hoped that the community would have more resources to provide a platform where they could express themselves in different ways including music, drama and art.

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### MGM Celebrates 11 Years of Greatness with Its Golden Lion Team

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### Rooted in Macau for 11 Years



To celebrate the 11th anniversary, MGM invited its Golden Lion team members to join a carnival-themed party. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairperson and Executive Director of MGM, toasted all participated team members with other senior management members to appreciate their great efforts. Team members gathered to enjoy a special menu served up by senior management members, along with lucky-draws, performances and other fun activities.



Pansy Ho said, "MGM always strives to do best on employee wellness and talent cultivation. We will continue to be the pioneer of art, culture and entertainment, while bringing more innovative art, culture and entertainment experiences to the Macau public. We will also deliver more national education and Greater Bay Area themed training to our team members, so that they can seize the opportunities brought about by the new era of national development."

### 40 Awards of Recognition Received

MGM is widely recognized for employee endeavors. In 2018, the Company received the PATA Gold Award in CSR category, and scored the "Grand HR Winner" after taking home an impressive 10 awards at the HR Distinction Awards 2018.



### Encourages Career Advancement for Local Talents

With the belief of "Macau's future to be created by Macau's people", MGM is devoted to developing local talents. It offers dynamic trainings and opportunities for its team members to advance further in their career, and at the same time building an effective talent pool for Macau's sustainable development with more capable talents. From January to November in 2018, MGM offered over 200 courses that totals 850,000 hours of internal training. Each team member in average received more than 78 hours of training in 11 months.



Brandon Kuan started his career at MGM 11 years ago as an intern, is now the Director of Workforce Management. He was nominated to join PRIDE, a 15-month internal training program for high-potential local talents, that included a 9-day cross training in Las Vegas in 2014.

"I am very glad to work at a company that emphasize on cultivation of talent. Through a series of team building activities and leadership development trainings, I have been enlightened to various modes of management through PRIDE. It is definitely constructive to my career development," said Kuan.



### Giving back to community with team members

Joined MGM 11 years ago, Kelly Lei is a senior member of Golden Lion Volunteer Team. Back in 2015, Lei enrolled in the first Volunteer Hairdressing Training Program, and then became one of the first members of Golden Lion Hairdressing Team. The team offers haircuts to local elders on a monthly basis, and has served over 2,000 of elders since its establishment.

"Our volunteer service is very specific with a great focus of continuation, while always striking for innovation. Over the past years of volunteering, I have offered my time and efforts to the senior buddies of our community, and in return I have gained countless invaluable friendships," said Lei.

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# In Umbrella Movement shadow, Macau students say they want democracy

Daniel Beitler

**M**ACAU students are overwhelmingly in favor of democratic reform in the special administrative region and are sympathetic toward Hong Kong's 2014 Umbrella Movement, a new study has concluded, challenging the prevailing view of widespread political apathy in the MSAR.

The study, conducted by academic Ieong Meng U of the University of Macau, sampled 825 young people in the city and found that the majority supported the idea of universal suffrage and had a "preference for a minimal definition of democracy." It also showed that most believed it was important to live in a democratic system and that they agreed with the view that student leaders in the neighboring territory's Umbrella Movement were "fighting for democracy".

Moreover, the study concluded that the stronger a student's support for universal suffrage the more they were likely to "engage in unconventional political participation" as well as distrust both the Macau government and the central government in Beijing.

Building on his previous work exploring authoritarianism and the Chinese political landscape, Ieong's latest study challenges the traditional view that Macau residents – especially the youth – are more concerned with economic and quality of life issues than political ones.

That view might have originated in two surveys on political attitudes conducted in the 1990s, which determined that Macau people did not think they were able to influence public policies and were unlikely to take action to oppose government wrongdoing. Ieong now suggests that these conclusions are outdated. The 2014 Anti-Retirement Package Bill Protest, by far the largest demonstration seen in the city since the 1999 handover, is evidence of the changing tide in public opinion, writes the academic.

However, even as youth in Macau experience a political awakening in the fashion of their Taiwan, Hong Kong and mainland China counterparts, demands for reform have grown not necessarily from the pursuit of democracy as an ideal, but by socio-economic grievances that continue to go unaddressed or unresolved by local authorities. Ieong thus attributes this political awakening to a lack of government responsiveness and accountability.



Demonstrators hold umbrellas outside the Central Government Offices in Hong Kong in October 2014

"In Macau, social grievances in recent years over pro-establishment camps and the Macau government are increasing due to their disregard of social demands for public housing, anti-corruption and government responsiveness and accountability," he notes in the study.

Nevertheless, "bottom-up political-oriented social movements such as the one for Hong Kong [...] was unrealistic given the weak civil society and comparatively strong social control in Macau" and the fact that such protests tend to be "issue-oriented" rather than "political-oriented."

Using the Umbrella Movement as a point of reference, Ieong asked his survey respondents to rate how strongly they felt about the pursuit of universal suffrage using a 10-point scale that ranged from "total disagreement" (1) to "total agreement" (10). The respondents were then asked about how much they trusted the local government and the Chinese central government using a 4-point scale ranging from "none at all" (1) to "a great deal of trust" (4). A final question was posed regarding the respondents' frequency of participation in demonstrations and public consultations, again measured on a 4-point scale ranging from "never" (1) to "very often" (4).

The study showed that over 90 percent of the respondents ranked the pursuit of universal suffrage as 5 or above on the 10-point scale with a mean score of 6.67. When only students with permanent resident status were considered, the point scale was skewed higher with a mean score of 6.84.

## Social grievances in recent years over pro-establishment camps and the Macau government are increasing.

IEONG MENG U  
SCHOLAR

According to Ieong, this suggests that Macau students overwhelmingly approve of the demand for universal suffrage, and that the longer they spent in the MSAR, the more strongly they felt this way.

Aggregate responses for the

two other questions showed considerable distrust of government authorities and low rates of political participation from the public. A correlation was determined whereby those that were more in favor of universal suffrage were also more distrustful of local and central government authorities.

To reach his conclusions, Ieong specifies that his study has purposefully avoided the asking of abstract questions related to whether people sought democracy. Instead it measured preferences related to democracy by examining the thoughts of Macau people to a specific political incident – the Umbrella Movement.

In late 2014, tens of thousands of protesters brought Hong Kong's central districts to a standstill for nearly 80 days. Adopting the symbol of the umbrella, the protests developed into a movement of the same name with the objective of pressuring the Hong Kong government into abandoning a candidate pre-screening process for the then-upcoming 2017 Hong Kong chief executive election.

The movement was ultimately unsuccessful and several of its leaders were arrested and thrown into prison. The response of the authorities prompted an outcry from the pan-democrat camp, which accused the government of turning the courts into a political tool.

However, the demonstrations in Hong Kong failed to inspire a copycat movement in Macau.

"Although apparently politically more stable compared with Hong Kong, Macau's government suffered the same defects in the lack of legitimacy and increasing disconnection between the ruling parties and society," remarks Ieong in the study. "The Umbrella Movement in Hong Kong provided a vivid example for Macau of what could occur if the demands of political participation overwhelmed the capacity that the existing political system could offer."

## Sou proposes debate on affordable houses' fire dampers

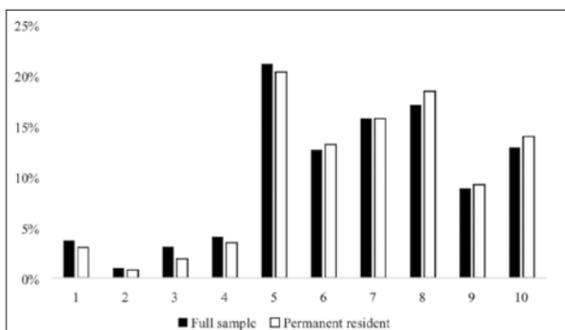
Lawmaker Sulu Sou proposed a debate at the Legislative Assembly to discuss the prospect of changing fire dampers in the affordable houses of Ilha Verde Community Building. Sou noted that Ilha Verde's affordable house project has not yet issued an occupation permit, and that the government had proposed reinstalling 269 fire dampers at the building, costing a total of MOP40 million. Sou also wants the government to reveal the progress of the amendment over the fire safety regulation, which has been implemented in Macau for 24 years.

## More than 20 evacuated in Areia Preta fire

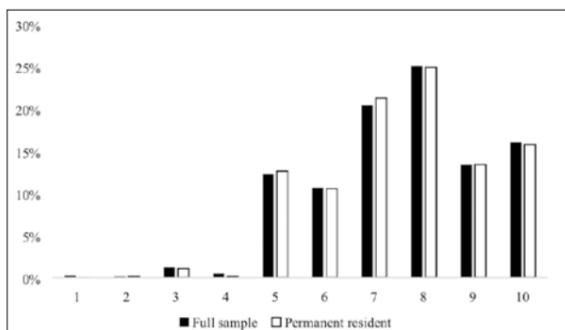
Over 20 people were forced to leave the U Va building in Areia Preta after a fire broke out yesterday afternoon. TDM reported that firefighters arriving at the scene saw thick smoke coming out from a window. A flat was engulfed in flames but nobody was injured. People in the neighborhood claim that a resident in the building was seen burning offering paper at home before going out, which may have triggered the blaze.

## Nearly 6pct growth in crossings recorded in 2018

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) reported that a total of 179 million crossings were recorded in 2018, representing an increase of 5.9 percent year-on-year. This marks the sixth consecutive year of border crossing growth. Seventy-five percent of the total crossings were recorded across the Border Gate, representing an annual increase of 5.1 percent. According to the PSP, in December, 1.19 million crossings were recorded at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge's Macau port, representing 7 percent of the total number of crossings in 2018.



Distribution on support for universal suffrage



Distribution on the importance of living in a democratic system

## HONG KONG

# Stocks have the worst start to a year since 1995



The Stock Exchange buildings in Hong Kong

**H**ONG Kong shares had their worst start to a year since 1995, as further signs of a slowing Chinese economy spurred declines.

The Hang Seng Index closed down 2.8 percent, its biggest loss since Oct. 23. Cnooc Ltd. was the worst performer, suffering its largest drop in nearly three years. The Hang Seng China Enterprises Index retreated below the 10,000 level, closing at its lowest since February 2017, while the Shanghai Composite Index lost 1.2 percent.

The rough start came off the back of a 14 percent loss for the Hang Seng Index in 2018, its worst performance since 2011. Stocks have been hostage to everything from the U.S.-China trade dispute to a global tech sell-off and rising interest rates. Further evidence of slowing Chinese growth weighed as a closely-watched manufacturing gauge had its lowest reading since May 2017.

"There are a lot of uncertainties lying ahead," said Banny Lam, head of research at CEB International Investment Corp. "The markets will likely be stuck in a downtrend

over the next few weeks."

Property stocks were among Wednesday's biggest decliners on the Hang Seng Index, with China Resources Land Ltd. and Country Garden Holdings Co. both falling more than 6 percent.

"Some funds are readjusting their positions for the new year and may be dumping stocks in sectors with an uncertain outlook like property and health care," said Linus Yip, a Hong Kong-based strategist with First Shanghai Securities Ltd. "That's why we're seeing a sell-off."

Money market rates fell in China and Hong Kong. The Hong Kong dollar's one-month interbank borrowing costs, known as Hibor, tumbled the most in more than a decade as cash supply loosened after a seasonal liquidity squeeze. The currency weakened as much as 0.08 percent to 7.8378 per greenback, its lowest intraday level since Nov. 2.

China's 10-year government bond futures rallied for a fifth day, set for the longest run of gains since October. The contracts advanced 0.37 percent to 98.07. **Bloomberg**

## GAMING | US

# NFL signs Caesars as casino partner, inches toward betting deals

Eben Novy-Williams,  
Scott Soshnick

**T**HE National Football League signed a multi-year deal to make Caesars Entertainment Corp. its first-ever casino partner, bringing the pro sport and its owners closer to a possible deal for sports betting.

As part of the accord, which doesn't deal with sports betting directly, Caesars will have exclusive rights to use NFL marks to promote casinos in the U.S. and U.K., the league and the company said in a statement. Las Vegas-based Caesars will pay close to USD30 million a year, according to a person familiar with the agreement who asked not to be identified because the terms are private.

Caesars agreed not to use the NFL's logo in connection with its sport books, a sign the league isn't quite ready to dive into legalized gambling the way other sports have.

"We're not rushing into anything," said Renie Anderson, the NFL's senior vice president of sponsor-

ship and partnership management. "We'll continue to look at the industry as it evolves but it's still has a lot of evolving to do."

Major U.S. sports leagues are grappling with how to approach the new, legal and fast-growing sports-betting industry. The NFL eventually stands to reap as much as \$2.3 billion in annual revenue from the industry, more than any other league, according to the American Gaming Association. Other sports have moved faster and already have betting deals in place.

The Caesars accord builds on the NFL's growing sponsorship revenue, which increased 4.4 percent to \$1.25 billion in 2016-2017 for the league and its 32 teams, according to IEG, a researcher. Total revenue is currently around \$14 billion, with Commissioner Roger Goodell seeking to reach \$25 billion by 2027.

The casino operator also will work with the league to create new experiences for its 55 million rewards customers - combining access

to NFL events with Caesars' stable of celebrity chefs, musical acts and locations across the country. The casino company is already a partner on the Raiders' new Las Vegas stadium.

Caesars, the largest operator of casinos in the U.S., is among the most active companies in the growing sports-betting industry. This week, the company announced a partnership with the Oneida Indian Nation to bring sports betting to the tribe's three properties in New York. It has also signed sports-betting partnerships with the NBA's Philadelphia 76ers and the NHL's New Jersey Devils.

Should the NFL eventually seek an official sports-book partner, Caesars will already have close ties to the league. In addition to the league-wide partnership, several teams, including the New Orleans Saints and the Chicago Bears, have Caesars relationships.

Talks between the two sides were first reported by Legal Sports Report in December. **Bloomberg**

## Nissan executive on leave for tasks related to Ghosn arrest

**N**ISSAN Chief Performance Officer Jose Munoz, who oversaw the Japanese automaker's global strategies, is taking a leave of absence to work on "special tasks arising from recent events," the company said Saturday, referring to the arrest of former Chairman Carlos Ghosn.

Nissan Motor Co. spokesman Nicholas Maxfield did not offer any other details. Munoz is among several executives media have speculated could be a possible successor to Ghosn.

Ghosn, a revered figure in the global auto industry, led Nissan for two decades after being sent in by Renault in 1999 when Nissan was near bankruptcy. Renault owns 43 percent of Nissan.

Ghosn was arrested Nov. 19 and has been charged with falsifying financial reports in underreporting his income.

He has said repeatedly he is innocent, including on the latest allegation that he had



Jose Munoz

Nissan temporarily shoulder investment losses. The income was never decided on, and Nissan did not suffer the losses, according to sources close to Ghosn and his family.

Ghosn is scheduled to face a Tokyo courtroom tomorrow, his first public appearance since his arrest, as his lawyers demand to know why his detention is continuing. His detention has been repeatedly extended and now goes through Jan. 11.

In Japan, suspects are often

held for months before trial. Prosecutors consider Ghosn, a Brazilian-born Frenchman of Lebanese ancestry, a flight risk.

Greg Kelly, another Nissan executive charged with collaborating on Ghosn's underreported income, was freed on bail last month. Kelly, an American, is also asserting his innocence. He has said through his lawyers he will get hospital treatment for a neck ailment.

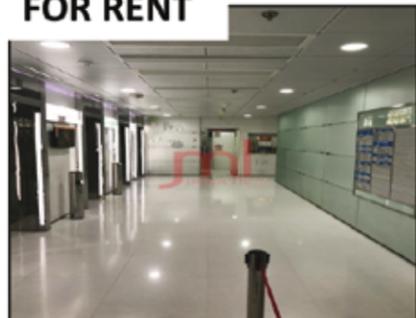
No trial dates have been set for Ghosn or Kelly. **AP**



## PROPERTY WANTED FOR SALE OR RENT

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### FOR RENT



#### Macau Square Office Space, Macau CBD

(Ref: 18100691)  
837 sq.ft. HKD 21,000

Multiple offices for rent, ranging from 837 sq ft to 6,415 sq ft. Some fitted out, others bare-shell. All include management fees and central air conditioning.



#### 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.

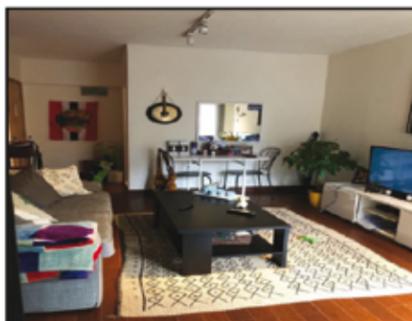
### FOR SALE



#### WA BAO, TAIPA

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

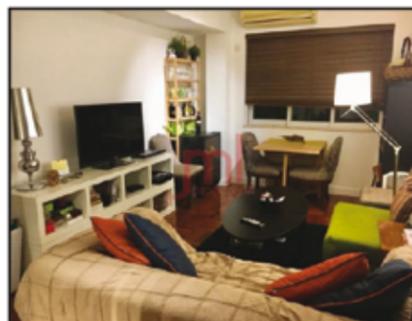
Taipa, fabulous and bright two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms. Lovely views one the Taipa Stadium, Galaxy and across to Hengquin are just stunning. Well designed kitchen. Very convenient for all types of transportation and within walking distance to Taipa village and Cotai.



#### 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 Cotai Strip.



#### Va Fat Taipa

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

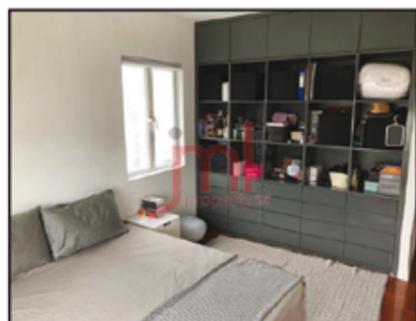
Great two bedroom apartment in Taipa. Basic upgrades conducted on the property four years ago. The property has a long term tenant who would prefer to stay in the property. Open plan kitchen living area. Two double bedrooms. Excellent location within 15 minute of Cotai and 5 to old Taipa village. Good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



#### Sea View Condo, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18085559)  
1663 sq.ft. HKD 8.8 M  
Rate: HKD 5,291

This lovely 3-bedroom apartment features two balconies with breathtaking views of the South China Sea and the beautiful green hillside, where you will awaken to stunning sunrises. Recently renovated, the apartment also features a luxuriously spacious open kitchen with white cabinets, bar counter and high quality, European appliances.



#### 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.



#### Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

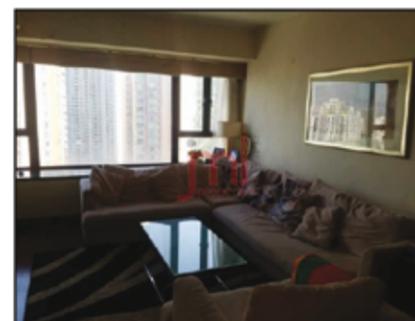
(Ref: 18035547)  
2000sq.ft. HKD 11.5M  
Rate: HKD 5,750

A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



#### 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.



#### The Manhattan, Unit D, Mid - High Floor - Taipa

(Ref: 18045551)  
2,305 sq.ft. HKD 15.5M  
Rate: HKD 6,724

Four bedroom apartment in an great location. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance of the Cotai Strip. One car park for sale, asking HKD1.5 million.

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# As China cuts back on iPhones, LVMH handbags could be next

Bruce Einhorn, Daniela Wei and Robert Williams

**A**FTER Apple Inc.'s shock profit warning, investors were quick to make the connection: if Chinese consumers are cutting back on iPhones, Louis Vuitton handbags could be next.

Apple's sales revision cascaded through global markets, hitting suppliers and rivals, but also a raft of luxury-goods companies that rely on the same clientele that likes to splurge on Apple's latest products. Hong Kong-listed Prada SpA, Gucci-parent Kering SA, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, Burberry Group Plc and Richemont, the parent of jeweler Cartier, all declined in the wake of Apple's shortfall.

"It's going to become significantly more challenging to do well in China because the market is tightening up," said David Roth, chief executive of WPP Plc's 'The Store' global retail practice. "This is a challenging signal that people need to button down and understand China better and prepare."

Apple cut its quarterly revenue outlook to USD84 billion from as much as \$93 billion, blaming it in part on a pullback in demand within China. That set off warning bells throughout the luxury industry, as Chinese consumers account for about 30 percent of the \$1 trillion in luxury-goods spending worldwide, according to Euromonitor International.

Prada dropped as much as 3.6 percent in Hong Kong on Friday. In Europe on Thursday, Kering SA fell 5.5 percent, while LVMH dropped 3.8 percent and Burberry tumbled 5.9 percent.

For years, companies from LVMH to Tiffany & Co. have targeted China's wealthy tourists, who sought out pricey handbags, jewelry and other luxury



items while on vacation in Paris to Dubai. Investors are worried that sliding yuan, China's trade war-hit economy and a government crackdown on overseas purchases could dent demand.

Richemont, which lost 2.8 percent, has already been feeling the heat. The Swiss watch and jewelry-goods maker signaled in November that Chinese sales growth has slowed.

Read more: Apple Joins FedEx, Starbucks as Casualty of the China Slowdown

Others have maintained a more bullish tone, with both LVMH and Kering citing robust China sales in October and saying they welcome as shift to domestic sales.

A key test for retailers will come with China's celebration of the Year of the Pig, which begins on Feb. 5. The week-long Chinese New Year holiday is traditionally a major occasion for shoppers from China to splurge. About

two-thirds of those sales take place outside the country as tourists open their wallets while traveling abroad, taking advantage of better selection and cheaper prices than available at home.

But with the U.S. trade war weighing on China's stocks and currency, and President Xi Jinping's government trying to bolster a faltering economy, more mainlanders are choosing to do their shopping inside China rather than on overseas trips.

"There's clearly a shift that has started to happen in the consumption pattern: Chinese people are buying more in China," said Pascal Martin, a partner in Hong Kong with OC&C Strategy Consultants.

Taxes on imported clothing, which had been as high as 25 percent, are now just 7.1 percent. A recent crackdown by Chinese officials on travelers returning home with undeclared goods is also encouraging local

consumption.

The gap between Chinese overseas and domestic spending on luxury is shrinking and a 50/50 balance is "in sight," according to an HSBC report last month.

Companies are scrambling to adjust, opening more stores in China or partnering with local online outlets such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s Tmall. Ermenegildo Zegna, which has stores in 35 Chinese cities, in December opened a flagship store on Tmall Luxury Pavilion, following a similar move by Italian fashion house Valentino in November.

"It's much healthier to have Chinese consumers consuming your product in their own country, in terms of repeat business and loyalty," said Thibaud Andre, research director at Daxue Consulting.

The change in consumption patterns is creating headaches for retailers like Tiffany, which

has long counted on Chinese shoppers going to Fifth Avenue or Rodeo Drive. In November, Tiffany reported weaker-than-expected sales and highlighted a "clear pattern" of Chinese shoppers cutting back on spending when they're overseas. Sales in China itself, however, remained strong.

The shift to more domestic purchases will also create more intense rivalry this year as more foreign players vie for consumers' money in China, according to the Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Catherine Lim. She added that the growth prospects on the mainland still remain attractive relative to other countries.

**It's going to become significantly more challenging to do well in China because the market is tightening up.**

DAVID ROTH

One of the key strategies the companies have is to focus on tech-savvy millennials and the younger Generation Z. The subgroup of shoppers is expected to make up 55 percent of total global personal luxury goods purchases by 2025, a Bain & Co. report said in November.

Retailers and investors are watching to see whether that spending holds up.

"Luxury brands still benefit from a formidable capacity to recruit new consumers in China," HSBC analysts led by Erwan Rambourg said in the December note, but "while managers are preparing for a moderation of growth, most investors we met with in Hong Kong have more dire predictions." **Bloomberg**

## HK Financial Secretary says no plan to relax property cooling

Dominic Lau

**T**HE Hong Kong government has no plan to ease property-cooling measures, including the stamp duty on second homes or for overseas buyers, as many residents still can't afford to purchase homes in the city, Financial Secretary Paul Chan said in a blog yesterday.

The government also doesn't plan to lift the special stamp duty, which levies home owners who sell property within three years of purchasing, Chan wrote in his weekly blog in Chinese. The goal is to fight short-term speculation, he said.

Chan said he was open to looking into ways to help those who find it difficult

to make a down payment, with current rules requiring home buyers to pay a substantial deposit. The government would consider factors including the extent and speed of the decline of house prices, the transaction volume, the future supply of residential estates and the overall economic situation, he said.

After an almost 15-

year bull run that made Hong Kong's property market the world's least affordable, home prices have fallen for 13 straight weeks since August, the longest losing streak since 2008, figures from Centaline Property Agency Ltd. show. Concerns about higher borrowing costs and a looming vacancy tax have contributed to the slide. **Bloomberg**



# China must democratize for progress on Taiwan, Tsai says

Samson Ellis, Adela Lin

**C**HINA must usher in major democratic reforms if it hopes to overcome decades of mutual animosity with Taiwan, President Tsai Ing-wen said in Taipei Saturday.

Tsai called on Beijing to become more democratic and renounce the use of military force if it wants to have any chance of winning over the hearts and minds of the Taiwanese public.

**China's actions are unhelpful and contrary to democratic practices.**

TSAI ING-WEN

"The insufficiency of China's democratic system, its poor record on human rights, and the fact they have never renounced use of military force against Taiwan have caused a high degree of concern among the Taiwanese people," Tsai



Tsai Ing-wen

said at a briefing.

Chinese President Xi Jinping offered last week to begin discussions on unification with any parties or individuals that accept Taiwan is part of "one China." Both Tsai and the China-friendly opposition Kuomintang rejected Xi's proposal, saying his "one country, two systems" framework lacks support in Taiwan.

In a survey by the Cross-

Strait Policy Association, more than 80 percent of people in Taiwan don't accept Beijing's definition of the "1992 consensus," according to a report in the Taipei-based Central News Agency on Thursday. The consensus is a tacit agreement between Beijing and the opposition KMT that both sides of the Taiwan Strait belong to "one China," with both sides free to interpret that in

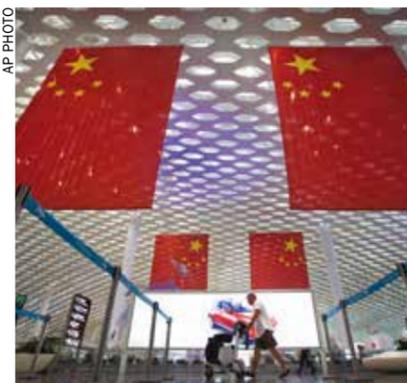
their own way.

"At a time when we are exhausting efforts to avoid provocation and miscommunication, China's actions are unhelpful and contrary to democratic practices," Tsai said Saturday.

Taipei is willing to enter discussions with the government in Beijing as long as China sets no preconditions, Tsai said.

**Bloomberg**

## Beijing says US travel advisory 'cannot stand up to scrutiny'



A traveler pushes his luggage beneath large Chinese flags hanging from the ceiling in Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport

**C**HINA on Friday rebutted a U.S. travel advisory that urges American nationals to "exercise increased caution" when travelling in the Communist Party-ruled country.

The advisory, which warns of the potential for arbitrary detentions, "cannot stand up to scrutiny," said Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang, who noted that 2.3 million Americans visited China between January and November 2018.

"I think this figure speaks volumes for the security condition in China," Lu said, adding that it far outnumbers the number of Chinese people visiting the U.S. "The U.S., however, has recently used various excuses to conduct gratuitous inspections and create obstacles for Chinese citizens entering the U.S."

The spokesman did not mention specific instances in which Chinese citizens encountered difficulty entering the U.S. An American official told the AP last May that Chinese graduate students studying in fields like robotics and aviation in the U.S. would be limited to one-year visas, while Chinese citizens seeking visas to work for companies on a U.S. Commerce Department list would need special clearance.

An updated U.S. State Department notice warns that China sometimes arbitrarily detains U.S. citizens or prevents them from leaving the country. The notice says the "exit bans" are imposed to compel Americans to facilitate government investigations or resolve business disputes. U.S. citizens of Chinese heritage may be subject to additional scrutiny, it adds.

"U.S. citizens may be subjected to prolonged interrogations and extended detention for reasons related to 'state security,'" the advisory says. "Security personnel may detain and/or deport U.S. citizens for sending private electronic messages critical of the Chinese government."

The notice is largely the same as one released a year ago, with the addition of a paragraph noting security checks and increased police presence in the Xinjiang and Tibet regions. **AP**

# Rover powers up devices in pioneering moon mission

**A**LL systems are going as a Chinese spacecraft and rover power up their observation equipment after making a first-ever landing on the far side of the moon, the Chinese National Space Administration said.

The Jade Rabbit 2 rover has succeeded in establishing a digital transmission link with a relay satellite that sends data back to the Beijing control center, the space agency said in a posting late Friday on its website.

The rover's radar and panoramic camera have been activated and are working normally, it said. A photo released by the agency showed the rover stopped at a point not far from where the Chang'e 4 spacecraft touched down Thursday.



cecraft touched down Thursday.

Chang'e 4, named after a Chinese moon goddess, is the first craft to make a soft landing on the moon's far side, which faces away from Earth. Previous landings, including one by

China's Chang'e 3 in 2013, have been on the near side.

After sending the rover off from a ramp, the spacecraft deployed three 5-meter (16-foot) low-frequency radio antennas, the Chinese space agency said.

Chang'e 4 also has sent back images taken with a topographical camera.

Researchers hope that low-frequency observations of the cosmos from the far side, where radio signals from Earth are blocked by the moon, will help scientists learn more about the early days of the solar system and even the birth of the universe's first stars.

Harvard University astronomer Avi Loeb noted, however, that the relay satellite needed to send back information from the far side also contaminates the sky.

"As long as we keep it clean of radio interference, the far side of the moon is very good for radio astronomy,"

he said.

The far side has been observed many times from lunar orbits, but never explored on the surface. It is popularly called the "dark side" because it can't be seen from Earth and is relatively unknown, not because it lacks sunlight.

"It's just the far side, it can be either dark or light," Loeb said, depending on the time of day.

The pioneering landing highlights China's ambitions to rival the U.S., Russia and Europe in space. Both China's space community and public have taken pride in the accomplishment, with some drawing comparisons to the United States.

China's space program lags America's, but has made great strides in the past 15 years, including manned flights and a space laboratory that is seen as a precursor to plans for a space station. **AP**



## PHILIPPINES

# Peso faces new threat as Duterte gears up for poll

Ditas Lopez

As if falling for six straight years wasn't enough, the Philippine peso is now facing an additional threat: a mid-term election that may compound concerns about its economy.

As the nation gears up for polls due in May, political uncertain-

ties may pose an added source of pressure to those stemming from its long-running deficits. With risk appetite likely to remain fragile due to fears of a global slowdown, traders may drive the peso back below the 13-year low set in October.

"The overarching downside risks will probably emanate

from risk-off sentiment refocusing worries on high inflation and twin-deficit risks," said Vishnu Varathan, head of economics and strategy at Mizuho Bank Ltd. in Singapore. "Political risks could also creep back in, and those will add to the headwinds for the peso."

The peso will drop about 2.5

percent to 54 per dollar by year-end, making it the third-worst currency in the region after the Indonesian rupiah and Thai baht, according to Bloomberg surveys of analysts. It closed at 52.51 on Friday.

The peso has been undermined by local politics more than once in the past. The currency sank almost 4 percent in 2003 as an attempted coup and corruption scandals hurt then president Gloria Arroyo. Current President Rodrigo Duterte's approval rating is far higher but given the unfavorable external backdrop, investors may choose to avoid Philippine assets for now.

As the Federal Reserve weighs further interest-rate hikes and U.S.-China frictions spur concern over the outlook for global trade, money managers are likely to remain wary of investing in nations that depend on capital inflows to finance fiscal and current-account deficits.

The central bank predicts the current-account deficit will widen to 2.3 percent of gross domestic product in 2019, the most in 18 years. The budget balance was negative 39.1 billion pesos (\$745 million) in November, having been in deficit for seven straight months.

Traders will be watching November trade figures due Jan. 10 to get a better picture of the outlook. The nation will report a deficit of \$1.99 billion, versus the record shortfall of \$4.21 billion in October, according to a Bloomberg survey.

This year's election will be a referendum on Duterte, after his popularity has been sapped by quickening inflation that eroded consumers' purchasing power. About 18,000 national and local posts, including half the 24 Senate seats and about 300 House of Representatives slots will be contested.

Most lawmakers identify themselves as allies of Duterte's party but the president needs the approval of both chambers

**■ This year's election will be a referendum on Duterte, after his popularity has been sapped by quickening inflation**

to pass legislation if he wants to enact changes such as the tax reform he pushed through earlier to help fund an infrastructure plan of at least 8 trillion pesos.

"The peso is stabilizing but still vulnerable to weakness," said Jonathan Ravelas, chief market strategist at BDO Unibank Inc. in Manila. "Sentiment is cautiously optimistic as the economic indicators remain a mixed bag." **Bloomberg**

## JAPAN

# Bluefin goes for USD3 million at first 2019 sale at Tokyo market

A 278-kilogram bluefin tuna sold for a record 333.6 million yen (USD3 million) at the first auction of 2019, after Tokyo's famed Tsukiji market was moved to a new site on the city's waterfront.

The winning bid for the prized but threatened species at the predawn auction Saturday was more than double the 2013 annual New Year auction.

It was paid by Kiyomura Corp., whose owner, Kiyoshi Kimura, runs the Sushi Zanmai chain. Kimura has often won the annual auction in the past.

Japanese broadcaster NHK showed a beaming Kimura saying that he was surprised by the high price of tuna this year. But he added, "The quality of the tuna I bought is the best."

The auction prices are way above usual for bluefin tuna. The fish normally sells for up to \$40 a pound



(\$88 a kilogram), but the price rises to over \$200 a pound near the year's end, especially for prized catches from Oma in northern Japan.

Last year's auction was the last at Tsukiji before the market shifted to a new facility on a former gas plant site on Tokyo Bay. The move was delayed repeatedly due to concerns over soil contamination.

Japanese are the biggest consumers of the torpedo-shaped bluefin tuna, and surging consumption here and overseas has led to overfishing of the species. Experts warn it faces possible extinction, with stocks of Pacific bluefin depleted by 96 percent from their pre-industrial levels.

"The celebration surrounding the annual Pacific bluefin auction hides how

deeply in trouble this species really is," said Jamie Gibbon, associate manager for global tuna conservation at The Pew Charitable Trusts.

There are signs of progress toward protecting the bluefin, and Japan and other governments have backed plans to rebuild Pacific bluefin stocks, with a target of 20 percent of historic levels by 2034.

Decades-old Tsukiji was one of Japan's most popular tourist destinations as well as the world's biggest fish market. The new market opened in October. A few businesses stayed in Tsukiji, but nearly all of the 500-plus wholesalers and other businesses shifted to Toyosu.

Tsukiji is due to be redeveloped, though for now it's being turned into a parking lot for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. **AP**

## INDIA

# Second group of Rohingya Muslims deported to Myanmar

INDIA last week deported a second small group of Rohingya Muslims to Myanmar after ordering the expulsion of members of the Myanmar minority group and others who entered the country illegally.

Senior police officer Bhaskar Jyoti Mahanta said the five members of a family — three men and two women — were handed over to Myanmar authorities at a border crossing at Moreh in Manipur state.

The five had been in detention since 2014, when they were found in India's northeast without valid travel documents.

In October, India deported a first group of seven Rohingya Muslims for entering the country illegally in 2012.

About 700,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since August 2017 to

escape a brutal campaign of violence by Myanmar's military. An estimated 40,000 other Rohingya have taken refuge in parts of India. Less than 15,000 are registered with the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees.

Many have settled in areas of India with large Muslim populations, including the southern city of Hyderabad, the northern state of Uttar Pradesh, New Delhi, and the Himalayan region of Jammu-Kashmir. Some have taken refuge in northeast India bordering Bangladesh and Myanmar.

The Indian government says it has evidence there are extremists who pose a threat to the country's security among the Rohingyas. India is fighting insurgencies in northern Kashmir and in its northeastern states. **AP**

**F**ERRY services and airports reopened in southern Thailand on Saturday as a storm moved west into the Andaman Sea after causing disruption and leaving at least one person dead.

Tropical Storm Pabuk barreled across the Gulf of Thailand on Friday but spared world famous beach resorts major damage. The storm damaged houses, knocked down power lines and triggered flash floods in several east coast provinces.

On the island of Koh Samui, where the suspension of air and ferry services had trapped many visitors, lines were long Saturday for rides back to the mainland.

The area's large fishing industry had to stand down, with ships ordered to stay in ports and small boats hauled ashore to keep them from being swept away. One fisherman died when his boat, caught at sea, capsized Friday. Another member of its six-man crew was missing.

The authorities prepared for the storm by evacuating almost 29,000 people in provinces most at risk, the Department of Disaster Prevention and Mitigation said. In the hardest-hit province of

# Tropical storm crosses south Thailand without major damage



A Thai Buddhist monk relocates a Buddha statue in the aftermath of Tropical Storm Pabuk

Nakhon Si Thammarat, about 800 kilometers south of Bangkok, 32 electric poles were felled, transformers exploded and communications lines

were down in some districts, according to the department.

Stormy weather continued Saturday, but its effects on the Andaman coast and the tourist

hub of Phuket appeared marginal.

The storm lost strength as it crossed land, with the Thai Meteorological Department

saying it packed maximum sustained winds of 55 kilometers per hour as it moved west-northwest at a speed of 10 kph.

**■ Authorities prepared for the storm by evacuating almost 29,000 people in provinces most at risk**

With rain continuing in some areas, the department kept its warnings of possible forest runoffs and flash floods. It also said strong winds were still forecast with waves up to 3-5 meters high in both the Gulf and the Andaman Sea, raising the possibility of inland storm surges. **AP**

MALAYSIA

## King abdicates in unexpected move



King Sultan Muhammad V salutes during the national anthem at the opening of the 14th parliament session

**M**ALAYSIAN King Sultan Muhammad V abdicated on Sunday in an unexpected move, after just two years on the throne. The palace said in a statement that the 49-year-old ruler had resigned as Malaysia's 15th king with immediate effect, cutting short his five-year term. No reason was given in the statement. It marked the first abdication in the nation's history.

Sultan Muhammad V, ruler of northeast Kelantan state, took his oath of office in December 2016, becoming one of Malaysia's youngest constitutional monarchs.

He is said to have married a 25-year-old former Russian beauty queen in November while on a two-month medical leave. Reports in Russian and British media and on social media featured pictures of the wedding, which reportedly took place in Moscow. Neither the sultan, the palace nor the government had officially confirmed the wedding.

Speculation that Sultan Muhammad V would step down emerged this past week, shortly after he returned from his leave, but Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Friday that he was unaware of

any abdication plans.

Under a unique system maintained since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957, nine hereditary state rulers take turns as the country's king for five-year terms.

The Council of Rulers is expected to meet soon to pick the next king.

The monarch's role is largely ceremonial, since administrative power is vested in the prime minister and parliament. But the monarch is highly regarded, particularly among the ethnic Malay Muslim majority, as the supreme upholder of Malay tradition. **AP**

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## ITALY

# Leaders send conflicting messages on migrants at sea

**T**HE leaders of the populist parties that formed Italy's government sparred Saturday over more migrants stranded on private rescue vessels in the Mediterranean Sea, exposing cracks in their coalition's position on immigration.

German humanitarian groups Sea-Watch and Sea Eye are seeking a port where two ships can disembark passengers who were picked up from unseaworthy smugglers' boats, 32 of them on Dec. 22 and 17 more in recent days.

Malta allowed the aid boats to shelter from bad weather near its coast and to take on fresh crew, food and water. But the tiny island nation has refused to let any of those migrants step onto Maltese land, saying the rescues took place outside the country's search-and-rescue area.

Italian Deputy Premier Luigi



Di Maio, who heads the 5-Star Movement, insisted Saturday that Malta had to allow the 49 people off the ships. De Maio said Italy was willing to take the 10 mothers on the aid vessels and their children.

Since the coalition government came to power in mid-

2018, Interior Minister Matteo Salvini, who heads the right-wing, anti-migrant League party, has made it strict policy that no private aid group receive authorization to transfer rescued migrants to land in Italian ports.

Both he and Di Maio have

likened private aid vessels to "taxi services" for Libya-based human traffickers. Amid criticism of the Italian government's new hard-line stand, they also have reminded other European Union nations that Italy has taken in hundreds of thousands of rescued migrants as asylum-seekers in recent years.

Di Maio stressed Saturday that Italy was offering to accept the limited number of women and children from the rescue ships to keep families together. Such a gesture, he said, would also give "a good moral slap" to EU nations that have ignored Italy's insistence that the burden of caring for rescued asylum-seekers be shared.

"We're not going backward on migration policy, which has allowed us to reduce disembarking considerably," Di Maio said.

But Salvini contradicted his governing partner, telling journalists Italy intended to stick with its private rescue vessel ban and wouldn't be taking the 10 mothers and their children.

"We opened our hearts and our wallets. Now, it's someone else's turn," Salvini said.

As for any possible softening of Italy's immigration policy, Salvini also tweeted "I'm not changing my mind."

Both politicians slammed Malta for refusing to let the 49 disembark, but the EU nation retorted that it had rescued and permitted onto on its shores some 250 migrants between Christmas and New Year's.

The recent rescues "are putting a strain on our services," Maltese Home Affairs Minister Michael Farrugia said, adding that Italian authorities had not articulated a clear position about the migrants on the aid boats due to the contradictory statements by Italy's leaders.

Farrugia has said the EU's executive branch, the European Commission, was working on an ad hoc plan to find countries where the 250 migrants in Malta and the 49 on the aid boats could have asylum applications processed. **AP**

## VENEZUELA

# Congress names new leader, vows to battle Maduro

**V**ENEZUELA'S opposition-controlled congress opened its first session of the year Saturday, installing a fresh-faced leader who struck a defiant tone and vowed to take up the battle against socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

Juan Guaido, 35, assumes the presidency of a National Assembly stripped of power by Maduro, whose government is blamed for leading the once-wealthy oil nation into a historic political and humanitarian crisis.

Speaking to legislators, Guaido named off several opposition politicians and opponents of Maduro's government who have been jailed, driven into exile or killed. He said desperation has forced masses of citizens to flee abroad looking for work.

"We are under an oppressive system," he said. "It's not just that — it is miserable."

Tall and youthful, Guaido represents the next generation of Venezuelan political oppo-



Juan Guaido (center), incoming parliamentary Vice President Edgar Zambrano (left) and Omar Barboza, outgoing president of Venezuela's National Assembly

sition, taking up the assembly's leadership following 74-year-old Omar Barboza.

Guaido is an industrial engineer and former student leader from the same political party as Leopoldo Lopez, Venezuela's most popular opposition leader under house arrest. Government opponents consider him a political prisoner.

Guaido called Maduro a dictator whose legitimacy has run out. Venezuela is living a "dark but transitional" moment of its history, he said, adding that among

its first acts congress will create a transitional body to restore constitutional order, but he offered no details.

He addressed a hall filled only with opposition lawmakers as the government loyalists have long boycotted any sessions, saying the National Assembly has itself overstepped its authority.

However, roughly 20 foreign diplomats from the United States, Canada, Japan, Italy and Germany attended the assembly's inaugural session in a show of solidarity.

"The National Assembly should inspire hope in the Venezuelan people for a peaceful, prosperous, and democratic future, even as the corrupt and authoritarian Maduro regime and its allies seek to deny Venezuelans that right," the State Department said in a statement. It added: "Every nation must take strong action to help the Venezuelan people reclaim their democracy."

The assembly opened days before Maduro's inauguration to a second, six-year term widely condemned as illegitimate after he declared victory in the May 20 election that many foreign powers considered a sham.

Venezuela's socialist party boss Diosdado Cabello said Saturday that Maduro will be sworn in on Jan. 10 before the Supreme Court, which is stacked with government loyalists. This defies the constitution that requires a president take the oath before the National Assembly. **AP**

## US

# New York city keeps getting safer as murders, robberies decline

**N**EW YORK City experienced another record-setting crime reduction in 2018, continuing a more-than two decade decline that has cut the number of homicides to a fraction of the 2,000 that were seen in 1990, Police Commissioner James O'Neill said.

The city recorded its second consecutive year of less than 300 homicides, with 289 last year, down from 292 in 2017. There were fewer than 800 shootings for the second consecutive year, and robberies and burglaries fell to a record low, according to police department statistics. Rapes increased 22 percent, the only crime to see a significant rise. Mayor Bill de Blasio said that was likely because more women felt empowered to report sexual assaults to the police.

O'Neill and de Blasio attributed the continuing success to the department's emphasis on better relations with minority communities and organized neighborhood-based anti-violence efforts.

"It's unbelievable to think how far we've come," de Blasio said. "We're in the new normal now and we intend to go farther."

The steady drop in crime



coincided with record reductions in the city jail population and a rollback in the so-called stop-and-frisk practices of New York police officers, a tactic sharply reduced after civil rights advocates cited data showing it was disproportionately used in minority neighborhoods. There were 94 percent fewer stop-and-frisk street encounters between police and city residents since the practice peaked before de Blasio took office in 2014. **Bloomberg**

FRANCE

# Year's first yellow vest event brings tear gas, fires

Milos Krivokapic, Elaine Ganley

**F**RENCH security forces fired tear gas and flash-balls after a march through picturesque central Paris went from peaceful to provocative Saturday as several thousand protesters staged the yellow vest movement's first action of 2019 to keep up pressure on President Emmanuel Macron.

A river boat restaurant moored below the clashes on the Left Bank of the Seine River caught fire. Smoke and tear gas wafted above the Orsay Museum and the gold dome of the French Academy as riot police, nearly invisible at the start of the demonstration, moved front and center when protesters deviated from an officially approved path.

Police boats patrolled the river while beyond the Seine, motorcycles and a car were set on fire on the Boulevard Saint Germain, a main Left Bank thoroughfare. Riot police and firefighters moved in, and barricades mounted in



Demonstrators stand in tear gas thrown by riot police during a protest in Paris

the middle of the wide street also glowed in orange flames.

Protesters made their way to the Champs-Elysees Avenue, the famed boulevard that has been at the center of previous yellow vest demonstrations, many removing their distinctive vests and mixing with shoppers.

Riot police moved in with a water cannon to evacuate the avenue. A line of parked cars burned on a nearby street.

In a first, the building housing the office of the French government spokesman was attacked. Government spokesman Benja-

min Griveaux was evacuated from his Left Bank office at the Ministry for Parliamentary Relations after the front door of the building was partially destroyed.

"It wasn't me who was attacked [...] It was the institutions, the democratic form of government," Griveaux said later, explaining on French TV that he and a half-dozen colleagues were taken out a back door while a group attacked the front door with construction equipment.

Those who did this "attacked the house of France," he said.

It was the first such attack on

government property since the yellow vest movement began weekly protests eight Saturdays ago, in mid-November. Protesters have tried to reach the presidential Elysee Palace, which is protected like a bunker.

Saturday's march had been declared in advance and approved, in contrast to some illegal December demonstrations that degenerated into vandalism, looting and chaos.

The latest demonstration was a sort of test of the movement's staying power after proposals by Macron to address concerns of the French who have a hard time making ends meet, including canceling the fuel tax hikes at the origin of the protests.

Interior Minister Christophe Castaner estimated that about 50,000 people participated in protests around France on Saturday. Police counted some 3,500 protesters in Paris.

The atmosphere was initially calm in the French capital, but turned when some protesters tried to

cross the river on a pedestrian bridge not on the official route from City Hall to the National Assembly, the lower house of parliament. Police used clubs and tear gas, then held the bridge in a standoff while violence broke out.

Video on French TV showed a man repeatedly stomping on an officer in riot gear on the ground and hitting the shield of another officer.

Some confrontations took place in other cities around France, with tear gas fired in Bordeaux and in Rouen in Normandy.

Protesters were looking to breathe the new life into the yellow vest movement, named after the fluorescent protective gear French motorists must keep in their cars. The protests were launched in anger over fuel tax hikes, but have swelled with broader anger over Macron's economic policies, deemed to favor the rich.

On Saturday, protesters reiterated a call for Macron to resign.

"Resolution 2019: Demacronize," read one sign. "Power to the people," read another.

Government spokesman Griveaux had said on Friday that those who show up to protest "want insurrection" as the movement appears to wane and radicalize.

He called on the French people to express their views during an upcoming "national debate" rather than by taking to the streets. **AP**

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## what's ON



VESTIGES OF LINES, GUILHERME UNG VAI MENG ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU HANDOVER TO CHINA

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesday to Sunday)  
3 pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: February 23, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

## Offbeat

## COUPLE REUNITED WITH ENGAGEMENT RING DROPPED IN SEWER

Police in New York City say they helped a couple ring in the new year by reuniting them with their missing engagement ring.

NBC New York reports the diamond ring was dropped down a sewer grate Thursday near Times Square.

Officers noticed the ring in a grate on Eighth Avenue and 48th Street and recovered it with the help of the FDNY and a police emergency services unit.

The NYPD says in a tweet the couple was reunited with their ring Friday.

While it was the first engagement ring recovered in 2019, the NYPD found another engagement ring last month that was given back to the couple on "The Ellen Show."

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:55	Zig Zag
16:55	Quem Quer Ser Millionário
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
22:00	Todas as Palavras
22:25	Nome de Código: Sintra
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Resumo Liga dos Campeões 2018/2019
	Macau Sítios: História Que Eu Ta Vai Contar - Coloane
00:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
00:55	RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

03 JAN - 09 JAN



## THE GRINCH

ROOM 1

4:30, 9:30 pm

Director: Yarrow Cheney, Scott Mosier

Starring: Benedict Cumberbatch, Cameron Seely, Rashida Jones

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 86min

## MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30 pm

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min



## BUMBLEBEE

ROOM 2

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

Director: Travis Knight

Starring: Hailee Steinfeld, Dylan O'Brien, Megyn Price

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min



## RALPH BREAKS THE INTERNET:

WRECK-IT RALPH 2

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Rich Moore, Phil Johnson

Starring: John C. Reilly, Sarah Silverman, Gal Gadot

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

## this day in history



## 1990 LEANING TOWER OF PISA CLOSED TO PUBLIC

The Leaning Tower of Pisa has been closed to the public for the first time in 800 years amid speculation the structure is on the verge of toppling over.

Over the past 100 years the belfry at the top of the mediaeval tower has moved 9.6 inches (nearly a quarter of a metre).

The tilt is currently 16ft (4.9m) off the perpendicular and increases by about one-twelfth of an inch (2mm) every year because the layer of clay and sand on which it is built is softer on the south side than on the north.

So, the Italian government has set aside 100bn lire (£47m) and appointed an international team of experts to come up with a detailed plan within three months to save the building from collapse.

The 13th century monument, which took more than 200 years to build, attracts in excess of one million visitors each year, many of whom climb to the top to enjoy the panoramic view of Pisa.

The tower's closure is therefore bound to have a significant impact on the city's tourism industry.

The eight-storey structure began tilting almost immediately after it was completed in 1350 and although there are no plans to completely straighten it, experts believe urgent work is required to reverse the tilt.

Attempts have been made in the past to stop the building moving. Mediaeval builders tried to correct the tilt but their efforts resulted in the upper section of the tower leaning at a different angle to the lower section.

The Leaning Tower's ornate and unique exterior balconies were built to enable local dignitaries to be seen by the populace during religious processions in the Middle Ages.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The Leaning Tower of Pisa did not reopen until 2001.

The first stages of the restoration project began in 1992 and by 1993 the tower had stopped leaning.

However, in September 1995, the medieval monument suddenly lurched 2.5mm (0.09in) in one night - about 10% of the lean that the commission had corrected since 1990.

To prevent this happening again the structure was held up by two steel supports while the stabilising work was completed.

Engineers then placed lead weights on the north side of the tower, and removed tonnes of soil from underneath the building using corkscrew drills - the tower then gradually sunk into the cavity.

By 2001 the lean had been corrected by 45cm at a cost of £200m. But it is predicted that in 300 years the tower will be back at the angle it was in 1990 and on the brink of collapse.

British engineer, Professor John Burland, who oversaw the restoration work said it was hard to explain how the tower had not fallen prior to its closure in 1990.

Computer models suggested it should have toppled once it reached a tilt of 5.44 degrees - but by 1990 it was leaning by 5.5 degrees.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Luck will be on your side eventually, but only if you hold out for it. In other words, have faith. Even if someone else thinks she or he knows best, pay attention to your gut.

Taurus April 20-May 20 It's starting to seem like nothing you do pays off. Ding, ding, ding - you win the prize for being astute, at least in this area. Use your newfound shrewdness to avoid risking your money.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 The less money you have to spend, the more you need some kind of outlet. Don't go to the point of needing good time extremes. Letting yourself spend on one item that makes you feel good is okay, just don't break the bank.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Giving to others usually gets your energy flowing, but these days you're having a hard time convincing yourself. Smoothing out the mistakes of others just galls you. If you have no choice in the matter, then don't dwell on it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 One kiss does not a romance make, but it sure can get the sparks flying. The same is true for profits. You're experiencing a tiny up-tick. Don't plan your future around it, but do let yourself feel the excitement.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're in a big hurry, but what's your rush? Unless you're staring at retirement, you have plenty of time on your hands. Force yourself to relax. To get to a better place, all you have to do is go with the flow.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Sometimes mixed signals are a good thing. If you're seeing some good news, that's better than no good news at all. Start exploring where that can take you from here.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Even if you usually don't have a weakness for a good sales pitch, protect your wallet. Someone you cross paths with will be persuasive. The final nail in the coffin is the desperation on both ends for something too good to be true.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Friendships are being put to the test, but they're also getting a chance to shine. Happiness is possible even in the worst of the storm, as you are unexpectedly discovering. Enjoy.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Retirement seems downright impossible, but it won't be if you just keep putting one foot in front of the other. Perseverance is more valuable than gold right now. Stay disciplined.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You may find yourself the newest member of a club which you never thought you'd join. Once you're in, start organizing. And that's more than saying you might as well start bailing.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Luck will be on your side eventually, but only if you hold out for it. In other words, have faith. Even if someone else thinks she or he knows best, pay attention to your gut.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

Crossword puzzle clues and solutions. Includes 'ACROSS' and 'DOWN' clues, and a 'Friday's solution' grid with words filled in.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- List of 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. Also includes Taxi, Water Supply, Telephone, and Electricity numbers.



Real estate advertisement for JML Property (卓雅物業). Features 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties like Sea View Condo, Ocean Garden Elm Court, WA BAO, TAIPA, Va Fat Taipa, Macau Square Office Space, Va Long, Central Macau, Kok Vui Apartment, and Lakeview Mansions.



Alex Zanardi (right)

## MOTORSPORTS

# Alex Zanardi takes center stage as he wheels around Daytona

Jenna Fryer, Daytona Beach

**A**LEX Zanardi popped out of his wheelchair and onto the concrete garage floor to await his turn to climb into the race car. He pushed his way toward the car, then lifted himself into the cockpit to practice a driver change as seamless as any done by his competitors.

The swap took nearly 30 seconds when Zanardi first began working with teammates. After several practice rounds Friday at Daytona International Speedway, his BMW Team RLL was nearing 15-second swaps.

It was more evidence of the remarkable resilience Zanardi has shown since his legs were severed in a 2001 accident. The beloved Italian is scheduled to race in the Rolex 24 at Daytona later this month, his first event in North America since before the fateful Sept. 15, 2001, crash at EuroSpeedway Lausitz in Klettwitz, Germany. His longtime partnership with BMW led to the development of a steering wheel with levers and paddles for Zanardi to shift gears, brake and accelerate without the use of his prosthetic legs.

"For one lap, with my prosthetics, I am faster when I can push the accelerator," Zanardi told The Associated Press on

Friday. "But that's because I am doing so much with my hands and there are so many things to focus on. Once I am comfortable and have done a few laps, I am at the same pace as everyone else."

"The physical demand is also not as high without the prosthetic legs, so I am like an animal and can drive forever."

No one would expect anything less from Zanardi, who is now 52. Few thought he was going to survive his horrific crash in which he lay bleeding and exposed on the race track in Germany late in an event already heavy with emotion. The CART Series had arrived in Germany prior to the Sept. 11 attacks, and with teams unable to return to the United States, the league was the only U.S.-based sport to compete that weekend. While many have long cursed that entire event and how it ended with Zanardi's near-fatal crash, he never once complained.

"From that first day, not one time did Alex wonder why this awful thing happened to him. Instead, he accepted what happened, considered himself lucky to be alive and moved on determined to live every day to its fullest," said Chip Ganassi, who won 15 races and two CART championships with Zanardi.

"I've never met a single person with the mental strength of that guy. He's super human."

Zanardi learned to walk with prosthetics he designed because he wasn't satisfied with the mobility of anything on the market. He took up hand cycling and won four gold medals in two Paralympics. He won his division in the New York City Marathon, and in the Ironman World Championship, where he used a handbike for the cycling portion and a wheelchair for the running portion, Zanardi finished 19th out of 247 in the 45-49 age group.

He also made a return to racing in European touring cars, satisfying his itch to get back in a car. Then BMW approached him about using new technology to build a special system to race a sports car and assumed Zanardi would want to try it at Le Mans, the most prestigious endurance race in the world.

Zanardi chose Daytona instead. "Daytona has some of the greatest fans in the world and many remember me from some of the things I've done in this wonderful country," Zanardi said. "I feel gifted for having the opportunity to compete in Daytona."

Fernando Alonso, a two-time Formula One champion, made

his debut at Daytona last season and stole attention from every driver in the field. With Zanardi here this year and participating in Daytona's preseason testing this weekend, Alonso's return has been reduced to an afterthought and the Spaniard was one of the dozens of drivers who posed for photos with Zanardi in the garage.

“Once I am comfortable and have done a few laps, I am at the same pace as everyone else.”

ALEX ZANARDI

"Are you a driver?" Zanardi jokingly asked Alonso. "Are you any good?" Zanardi's positive outlook and supersized personality have enveloped the entire paddock and thrilled drivers eager to share the track with the legend credited with creating both celebratory victory burnouts and, along with then-

teammate Jimmy Vasser, laying the foundation for Ganassi's championship organization.

"I can't go any further than a few feet then bump into another friend who, of course, I would love to go to dinner with," Zanardi said of his time so far at Daytona. "It's so great to be surrounded by so many friends. And many of the drivers, they say, 'Wow, Alex, it is so cool to be in the field with you.' But it's just because they think I will be behind them. When you get ahead of them, they aren't so happy. So I hope I can cool some of them down."

In a Daytona Beach restaurant with his wife and son last week, a stranger paid Zanardi's tab. Zanardi doesn't know why, just assumes the man "was evidently very grateful for me having done something" and if he saw the man again, vowed to hug him in appreciation.

He values every encounter, every experience, and is thrilled to be back in a car competing as if it was 17 years ago.

"It is just another chapter of a very fortunate life," Zanardi said. "I am very proud that for some reason my story from outside has been able to provide this type of emotions, feeling, inspiration. I bump into a lot of people that have similar problems that I have but less titles or magazines than I have, and they just challenge their adversity with the same tenacity, with the same enthusiasm, with the same will to succeed because life is one and you've got to take advantage. Otherwise the clock is ticking and you may not get the same opportunity again." AP

FOOTBALL

# Asian Cup opens with UAE-Bahrain draw, Gulf political issues

**A**SIAN Cup host United Arab Emirates needed a late penalty from a handball to salvage a 1-1 draw with Bahrain on Saturday in the opening match of a tournament taking place against the backdrop of a regional diplomatic crisis.

Bahrain was close to snatching a win after Mohamed Al Rohaimi scored from the center of the area in the 78th minute. But Mohamed Marhoon handled the ball in the box, sending Ahmed Khalil to the spot to snatch the equalizer with two minutes remaining. UAE and Bahrain share Group A with India and Thailand.

The Asian Cup has expanded to 24 teams from 16 in 2015 when Australia won the title on home soil. The holder open its defense on Sunday when it plays Jordan in Group B.

Qatar is among the 24 finalists while the country is being boycotted diplomatically and economically by regional rivals, including the UAE and



Bahrain's players celebrate a goal

Saudi Arabia. That has led to air links to Doha being severed by the UAE, impacting players, officials, and media.

The chairman of the Asian Cup organizing committee is Qatari, and Saoud al-Mohannadi's entry to the UAE was

delayed this week, bringing the Asian Football Confederation deeper into the Persian Gulf political standoff.

The AFC said it received reports from Qatar that al-Mohannadi was unable to travel to the UAE from Muscat

in Oman, despite having been "assured of visas and entry permits for all AFC organizing committee and executive members." The AFC said on Friday that al-Mohannadi, who is also a vice president of the football confederation, was in Abu Dhabi.

Qatar's Sports Press Committee said on Friday a five-member media delegation was banned from entering the UAE despite having entry visas. The AFC, which previously said journalists would be subject to a "security check" by UAE authorities, said it assured the Qatari journalists they would be allowed in to cover the tournament.

"We are in contact with the LOC [local organizing committee] as these journalists had been approved by the authorities," the AFC said on Saturday.

Anyone watching the tournament in the UAE has to watch a feed from Qatar state-owned broadcaster BeIN Sports, which is the host broadcaster and

holds the exclusive regional rights. But traveling media reported their official tournament hotel did not carry BeIN, which was blocked for a time in the UAE in 2017 at the start of the boycott of Qatar.

In a proxy battleground of the Riyadh-led boycott of Qatar, BeIN has accused Saudi Arabia of being behind the pirating of its live sports broadcasts on the BeOutQ channel. In a warning issued on Saturday, the AFC said it was aware "unauthorized broadcasters" may attempt to screen Asian Cup matches but did not publicly call out the Saudis.

"The AFC, in order to protect the rights of its broadcast partners, has issued 'cease and desist' notices to the infringers," the governing body said. "The AFC takes any breaches of its commercial agreements very seriously and will also continue to take whatever action is appropriate to protect the interests of all its commercial partners." AP

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opinion

Tax Matters

Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa



THE IMPORTANCE OF THE TAX TREATIES FOR THE AVOIDANCE OF DOUBLE TAXATION

It is openly declared by many people that Macao should play a more important role as an international platform for the investment in Portuguese-speaking countries. Xi Jinping, China's President, has in recent times emphasized more than once that Macao should be a platform for the trade cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries. Macao may also take advantage of China's One Belt and One Road Initiative. Available information discloses that China's direct investment in Portuguese-speaking countries has currently exceeded US\$50 billion, and that the trade between China and Portuguese-speaking countries is growing every year. In my opinion, Macao should even take a more daring approach to this subject, notably by trying to attract, as a hub, Chinese investment into Portuguese and non-Portuguese speaking countries, and foreign investment into Macao and mainland China. The Macanese tax system is, of course, of the utmost importance for that purpose. Some very important instruments that a tax system may use are the tax treaties for the avoidance of double taxation ("DTTs" – Double Tax Treaties).

The DTTs are bilateral agreements between two countries or territories that split between the two signatories the right to tax the different kinds of income that a resident of one of the countries/territories obtains in the other country/territory. Furthermore, DTTs provide for maximum limits to the tax rates regarding certain kinds of income (dividends, interest and royalties), and lay down the methods that a resident in a country/territory may use to eliminate double taxation on the income obtained from the other country/territory. Pursuant to the DTTs, generally, profits of a company may only be taxed in the country/territory where the company has its head office, unless such company carries on business in the other country/territory through a permanent establishment (notably, a branch); income derived from real estate (such as rents and capital gains) may be taxed in the territory where such real estate is located.

It is easy to understand the importance of such treaties – a resident of a country that makes an investment in another country, such as through a company incorporated in the other country, should know that if there is a DTT in force between the two countries, the dividends received from the company may only be subject to a certain maximum withholding tax rate (usually 5 or 10 percent).

Furthermore, the income received may be exempt from taxation, or the tax amount paid in the other country may be set-off or credited against the tax payable in the investor's residency country, thus eliminating the double taxation.

In order to attract investment to Macao directly or to other countries through Macao, it is important to have a wide net of DTTs. Macao has a very small net of DTTs in force, currently only 6: Portugal (1999), China (Mainland – 2004), Mozambique (2010), Cape Verde (2011), Belgium (2011) and Vietnam (2018). This is too short for a territory that wants to play a bigger role as a platform for the investment in other countries. For example, Portugal has currently 79 DTTs in force and Brazil has 34. At least, and as a matter of urgency, the Macao SAR should make an effort to enter into DTTs with the remaining Portuguese-speaking countries: Brazil (the most important of all due to the huge amount of Chinese investment in this country), Angola (very important – one should note that Angola has finally concluded its first DTT in 2018), Guinea-Bissau, São Tomé and Príncipe and Timor-Leste. It would be a big help for Macao!

THE DIRECT FLIGHT LINKS SHENZHEN, JOHANNESBURG

A direct flight between south China's Shenzhen city and Johannesburg in South Africa was launched Friday. The first flight CA867 of Air China left Shenzhen Bao'an International Airport at 0:10 a.m. Beijing Time Friday and arrived at OR Tambo International Airport in Johannesburg at 7:55 a.m. local time the same day. Three round trips are scheduled every week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

The air route, operated by a Boeing 777 aircraft, is the first intercontinental airline launched by the

Shenzhen airport this year and also the only direct flight linking Shenzhen to Africa. So far, the airport has launched intercontinental air routes linking 19 overseas cities.

China has been South Africa's largest trading partner for nine consecutive years. The direct flight is expected to facilitate exchanges between the Greater Bay Area and South Africa, and exchanges between China and Africa, sources with the Shenzhen airport said.

Gaga, 'A Star Is Born' poised to dominate Golden Globes



Jake Coyle, New York

WHEN the 76th annual Golden Globe Awards get underway today [Macao time], who takes home statuettes is only a small part of the intrigue.

What the Hollywood Foreign Press Association's Beverly Hills, California, ceremony lacks in gravitas it usually makes up for in freewheeling frivolity and fun. The free-flowing booze helps.

This year's show likely has awards in store for Bradley Cooper's Oscar front-runner "A Star Is Born," Yorgos Lanthimos' period romp "The Favourite," the Amazon comedy series "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel" and Ryan Murphy's anthology series "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story."

Lady Gaga is poised to win not just one but two awards, for best actress in a drama and for the song "Shallow," from "A Star Is Born." (Gaga, who won a Globe in 2016 for her "American Horror Story: Hotel" performance, would still fall short of the three Globes won by Barbra Streisand for the 1976 version of "A Star Is Born.")

But the ceremony might hinge most on just what kind of party the Globes can muster this year. Last

year's ceremony, atypically serious for the Globes, was the first major awards show after the birth of the #MeToo movement following the Harvey Weinstein revelations. Female attendees wore black in solidarity. Presenter Natalie Portman pointedly introduced the "all male" directing nominees.

A year later, little dust has settled. Hollywood remains consumed with gender inequality and highly placed men have continued to fall. This year's best director nominees are also all male again.

How much these subjects will be discussed in the broadcast, to be hosted by the unexpected pairing of Andy Samberg and Sandra Oh, is unknown. Samberg and Oh have said they're hoping to set a lively and carefree tone. Oh, the star of the BBC America drama series "Killing Eve," is also a nominee.

Last year's show, like a lot of recent awards shows, saw ratings decline. Some 19 million tuned in to the Seth Meyers-hosted broadcast, an 11-percent decline in viewership.

This year, NBC has one thing in its favor: an NFL lead in. Ahead of the Globes, NBC is broadcasting the late afternoon Wild Card game between the

Chicago Bears and the Philadelphia Eagles.

The array of nominees that have been sizable box office hits may potentially help the Globes, none more than Ryan Coogler's "Black Panther," up for best picture [drama] and score. "A Star is Born," which is expected to dominate the drama side of the movie awards, recently passed \$200 million in domestic ticket sales.

Adam McKay's highly critical Dick Cheney portrait "Vice," starring Christian Bale, comes in with a leading six nominations. While music-heavy films "A Star Is Born" and "Bohemian Rhapsody" opted to contend in the Globes' drama categories, "Vice" tops the comedy-musical nominees, though it's closely trailed by multiple nominees, including "The Favourite" and "Green Book," Peter Farrelly's interracial road trip tale starring Viggo Mortensen and Mahershala Ali.

At stake are not just Golden Globes awards but Oscar momentum. Voting for the Academy Awards nominations begins Monday.

Jeff Bridges will receive the Globes' honorary Cecil B. DeMille Award. A similar television achievement award is also being launched, dubbed the Carol Burnett Award. Its first honoree will be Burnett, herself. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

**ROMANIA** Eugeniu Iordachescu, a Romanian civil engineer who devised an ingenious way to save 12 churches and many other historic buildings from being destroyed by the country's former Communist strongman, has died at 89.



**UKRAINE** The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople yesterday presented a decree of independence to the head of the nascent Orthodox Church of Ukraine, formally severing it from the Russian Orthodox Church.

**ALPS** Authorities warned yesterday of a high risk of avalanches on the northern side of the Alps, after heavy snowfall in recent days created dangerous conditions in parts of southern Germany, Austria and Switzerland. A 20-year-old skier died in an avalanche on Saturday, German police said.



**FRANCE** Security forces fired tear gas and flash-balls after a march through picturesque central Paris went from peaceful to provocative as several thousand protesters staged the yellow vest movement's first action of 2019 to keep up pressure on President Emmanuel Macron. More on p15

**US** Three men were fatally shot and four injured when a brawl at a popular Los Angeles-area bowling alley and karaoke bar erupted into gunfire that had terrified patrons, some children, running for their lives.

**VENEZUELA's** opposition-controlled congress opened its first session of the year, installing a fresh-faced leader who struck a defiant tone and vowed to take up the battle against socialist President Nicolas Maduro. More on p14