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ECONOMY

Trade war fears affect growth prospects **P2,4 MACAU**

WORLD BRIEFS

MYANMAR Thirteen policemen were killed and nine injured in early morning attacks on police outposts in Myanmar's Rakhine state by the insurgent Arakan Army, state media reported.



MALAYSIA's royal families will meet on Jan. 24 to pick a new king after Sultan Muhammad V abdicated unexpectedly after just two years on the throne, an official said yesterday. **More on p13**

INDONESIA Nobel Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos-Horta has urged Indonesia's government to hold talks with the Papuan independence movement to help end a decades-long insurgency in the country's easternmost region. **More on p12**

SYRIA U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton is set to press Turkey for assurances that it won't attack the Kurdish fighters in Syria, which he said is now a condition for the withdrawal of American troops. **More on backpage**



Thai police say they won't deport Saudi woman seeking asylum **P12**

THE University of Macau's (UM) Department of Economics and Centre for Macau Studies yesterday released its Macroeconomic Forecast for Macau report for 2019. The report indicated that analysts expect an aggregate annual growth of 2.7 percent in the special administrative region.

In terms of the whole economy, analyst growth expectations vary widely, with the most pessimistic pointing to a contraction of 6.5 percent and the most optimistic suggesting that Macau's gross domestic product could grow by nearly 12 percent.

The cause of this discrepancy, according to the UM report, is the inherent nature of Macau's export-led economy, which is highly sensitive to external economic conditions and government policies. "Economic uncertainty continues to affect Macau's economic growth in 2019," it said, adding that forecasts "may adjust greatly throughout the year."

Largely dependent on its behemoth casino sector, Macau's 2.7 percent economic growth rate pales in comparison to the 14 percent increase in gross gaming revenue seen across 2018, even as that growth slowed in the later quarters of the year.

Considering the entire economy, Macau gross domestic product grew by only 1.6 percent year-on-year in the third quarter of 2018 to reach MOP100.9 billion, down from the 9.4 percent and 5.9 percent year-on-year growth in the first and second quarter of 2018 respectively.

The aggregate growth estimate of 2.7 percent falls 1 percentage point short of global growth projections made by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Oc-

UM forecasts 2.7pct growth this year on 'economic uncertainty'



A panel of scholars presented the study yesterday

tober last year. That projection had been revised downward from one in April 2018, with the IMF highlighting "suppressed activities in [...] some major advanced economies" and the "negative effects of the trade measures" as two underlying causes.

Macau's projected growth is then expected to keep up with other developed economies around the world. For example, gross domestic product in the United States is expected to expand by 2 percent this year, while that of the Euro area is projected to see 1.9 percent growth.

Meanwhile, mainland China –

whose economy has the greatest influence on Macau's growth – will likely see a further slowdown in 2019, due to "the negative effects of the trade friction with the U.S." and other structural adjustments that are surfacing. The mainland's economy grew at 6.5 percent in the third quarter of last year, causing a slowdown in Hong Kong – another major market of Macau's service exports – to 2.9 percent in the same quarter.

Accordingly, Macau's exports of services are expected to grow at a slower rate in 2019, falling to a rate of 4.2 percent. At the

same time, exports of goods are expected to increase by 0.6 percent. Imports of goods are expected to rise by 3.1 percent in 2019. Amid the slower rise in exports of services, the imports of services will expand modestly. The growth rates of imports of services are expected to increase by 4.2 percent in 2019.

For domestic demand, private consumption spending in 2018 continued to grow steadily. It is expected to grow at 4 percent in 2019, while total investment is expected to decline by 7.9 percent in 2019.

Inflation, as measured by

change in the composite consumer price index, is expected to hold steady in 2019 at around 3 percent. For the aggregate economy, the gross domestic product price deflator is forecast to increase by 4.1 percent.

The UM report noted that the labor market will likely remain tight this year, with the unemployment rate holding at 2 percent and median monthly employment earnings rising slightly to MOP16,205. Excluding non-resident workers, the unemployment rate of residents is expected to be 2.8 percent in 2019.

Lawmaker seeks safety measures for tobacco control officers

LAWMAKER Lam Lon Wai has asked the government to ensure the safety of tobacco control officers, following the incident last week in which a police officer fired a warning gunshot when assaulted by unruly smokers outside Galaxy Macau.

In his inquiry to the government, Lam noted that tobacco control officers have to deal with at-

tacks and insults during their law enforcement duties.

The Galaxy Macau incident reflects an increased challenge for tobacco control officers and police officers who are responsible for enforcing the law.

In Lam's opinion, the police authority, the Health Bureau (SSM) and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), as well as the ga-

ming operators, need to set up additional support in order to guarantee the safety of tobacco control officers working on the frontline.

Lam asked the government about the measures employed by the police authority, SSM, and DICJ that ensure the officers' safety.

The lawmaker further noted, citing the SSM's statistics on the number

of prosecutions of illegal smoking behaviors, that approximately 70 percent of illegal smokers are tourists.

Lam believes that this data shows that tourists are the main target of tobacco control promotional campaigns, therefore he wants the government to reveal the details of the new tobacco control law's promotional campaign to tourists.



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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Irene Sam, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Seguí
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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Award recipients recall incidents of typhoons Hato and Mangkhut

Lynzy Valles

RECIPIENTS of the SAR's Medal for Distinguished Service – Medal for Bravery, expressed their gratitude towards the government for honoring their public work, recalling the occurrences of the city's two strong typhoons.

Tomorrow, the SAR government will award three recipients in this particular category: the Emergency Department of the Conde S. Januario Hospital, the Civil Protection Operations Centre, and Chao Ka Cheong who is second in command of the Fire Services Bureau.

Medals for Distinguished Service are awarded to public entities, organizations or their staff for outstanding performance in their duties or community service.

These awardees will be honored for their works during Typhoon Mangkhut.

According to Lei Wai Seng, the director of the Emergency Department at the public hospital, the award serves as an encouragement to his team and their performances.

"Our whole team feels encouraged because that means our years of work are endorsed by the government and the public. [...] Emergency is the frontline department, so besides emergency work, we do a lot of works, including preparations for disasters, and each time there is a big event in Macau, my whole team is always preparing for any immediate action for any incident," Lei told the press.

"Under abnormal conditions, such as when we face typhoons, my team takes no rest and stay at their duty. During Typhoon Mangkhut, we did a lot of work. The [SAR's] report said that our medical work is quite prepared and we have a fast action towards [emergencies]. Overall, we thank all the residents and the government's endorsement," he added.

The department recalled that during Typhoon Hato, the hospital received approximately 1,000 patients.

"If the government prepares [for typhoons], such as the last time during Typhoon Mangkhut, we only received about ten patients. We are happy, that during that typhoon, we had more medical staff standby compared to Hato. However, the work [we did] was a lot less compared to Hato," the director recalled.

The second awardee - the Civil Protection Operations Centre (COPC) - pledged that it would continue to ensure safety during future disasters.

According to Kam Chit Soi, sub-commissioner of COPC's public relations department, improvement works are being carried out:

"We have been continuing the improvement. We purchased a

typhoon accident system, we improved our information releasing works and departments communication mechanism."

"In the future, we will [use] the [recognition] to push forward our work, and hopefully, that we can try our best to ensure their safety during disasters," she added.

Kam also suggested that the department was more prepared during Typhoon Mangkhut, noting that this year's works were considered satisfactory and that it is a "payback to our works for the improvement after Typhoon Hato."

Chao Ka Cheong, second in command of the Fire Services Bureau, acknowledged the works of his colleagues during Typhoon Mangkhut, recalling that the bureau had received approximately 1,000 phone calls during Typhoon Hato, breaking the number of phone calls it recorded in a day.

The honorific titles will be awarded to 46 individuals and organizations

"It is difficult for us to handle such a large number of calls but we tried our best to help all of them and we handled the disaster by prioritizing which areas needed help the most first," said Chao.

"A year after Typhoon Hato hit Macau, the COPC reviewed our contingency plan so we had a better emergency response to Typhoon Mangkhut. We also introduced more equipment after Hato in order to deal with future disasters," the official added.

Chao started working for the Fire Services Bureau in 1987 and assumed the second in command position in 2016, also serving a stint in the Macau Security Force.

Tomorrow, the SAR government will be giving Decorations, Medals and Certificates of Merit awards to 46 individuals and organizations in recognition of, respectively, achievement, outstanding contribution and distinguished service.

The list follows recommendations from the Committee of Nomination of Medals and Honorary Titles.

The awards for Decorations of Honor include the Decoration of Honor – Grand Lotus; the Decoration of Honor – Golden Lotus; and the Decoration of Honor – Silver Lotus. Such awards are for individuals or entities that have made outstanding contributions to the image and reputation of the MSAR.

It will also grant seven types of Medal of Merit for individuals or entities that have made major or excellent contributions in their respective fields.



Lei Wai Seng with his team of doctors and assistant



Kam Chit Soi



Chao Ka Cheong (right) points to an ambulance

ONE SHOT NEWS



The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, presided yesterday a seminar to mark the 40th anniversary of the issuing of the "Message to Compatriots in Taiwan." Chui said that the principle of "one country, two systems" being applied in Macau and Hong Kong would be adequate for Taiwan.

Lei calls for better supervision of property sale fraud

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I urged the government to improve the city's notary regime in regard to property sales matters. In her written inquiry to the government, Lei pointed out that many residents fell victim to fraud, where third parties pretended to be house owners selling properties. Lei proposed that Macau's legal affairs authority and police authority work with private notary professionals, real estate professionals and banking professionals to prevent that type of fraud. She also wants the government to disclose the amendment progress concerning the property registration law.

Mobile application of 'Cadastral Information Website' launched

The Cartography and Cadastre Bureau launched the mobile application of "Cadastral Information Website" (<https://cadastre.gis.gov.mo>) which provides the public with a service platform suitable for use on smartphones or tablets (iOS or Android). According to the bureau, the new site is an integrated land information platform on land and buildings from various departments, where users can enquire about land, urban planning, cultural heritage and property registration. The total number of users in the Chinese and Portuguese versions has exceeded 1.04 million since it was launched.

GAMING

Morgan Stanley predicts 2pct contraction this year

MORGAN Stanley has joined other analysts in forecasting a Macau gaming slowdown this year, suggesting that gross revenue might shrink by as much as 2 percent. The downturn might begin with a decline in earnings of Macau casino operators during the first quarter.

In a note issued over the weekend, the stockbroking division of Morgan Stanley wrote that it had changed its industry view from "attractive" to "in-line" on the basis of "tightened liquidity, [the] full smoking ban pressuring VIP and premium mass growth in 2019, and potential decline in earnings before interest, tax, depreciation and amortization year-on-year growth in the first quarter of 2019."

"While Macau is a structural growth story driven by low penetration and improving infrastructure, we see the cyclical slowdown continuing in 2019," it continued, as cited by GGR Asia.



Gross gaming revenue finished stronger than expected last month, leading 2018 to conclude with a full-year tally of MOP302.85 billion (USD37.57 billion), a 14 percent year-on-year growth over the MOP265.74 billion seen in 2017, according to official data released by the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Morgan Stanley's 2019 forecast is in line with that of other analyst firms, which last week estimated that gross gaming growth would hold stable this

year or face a slight contraction.

Union Gaming Securities Asia warned that it expected a "slow start" to the year, given the timing of the lucrative Chinese Lunar New Year in early February. The firm said in a note that it would "not be surprised if January was flattish and February was up in the mid/high single digits."

Sanford C. Bernstein has also revised its forecasts for 2019. Previously it expected 2019 to bring a 5 percent expansion to gaming revenue, but it now

forecasts a 2 percent contraction, driven by negative VIP growth of 6 percent and moderate mass-market growth of 2 percent.

Analysts are concerned that the structural changes introduced by the full smoking ban will weigh on operators' ability to retain gamblers at the tables.

Other factors that might affect this year's revenue include any divulged information on the casino licensing process as well as the effects of a deepening China-U.S. trade war.

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MUSIC

Macao Orchestra pledges to foster local young music talents

THE Macao Orchestra (OM) will join with a number of local musicians and music students to present the concert "The Future of Classical Music" on Saturday at the University of Macau.

With the aim of encouraging local young music talents, every year OM organizes concerts and performs jointly with local music lovers and students, allowing them to showcase their talents. This year, OM has pledged to continue to collaborate with various local music entities, arranging young music students to rehearse together with professional music ensembles and providing guidance from the orchestra's musicians.

Under the baton of the orchestra's assistant conductor, Francis Kan, "The Future of Classical Music" features three masterpieces, including "Overture to Poet," "Peasant by Suppé" and "Caprice Bohémien" (all by Rachmaninoff), and Tchaikovsky's "Overture to 1812." Performing groups also include The University of Macau String Orchestra, The University of Macau Sympho-



Francis Kan, the orchestra's assistant conductor

nic Band, The Student Philharmonic Orchestra of the Macao Conservatory, Macao Band Directors Association, Macao Strings Association, students of the Bachelor of Arts in Music course from the Macao Polytechnic Institute, and two local young music talents, Cheang Ka In and Iong Hou In.

Admission to "The Future of Classical Music" is free. Interested parties can reserve tickets through tel. no. 2853 0782 during office hours or subscribe to the official We-Chat account of the Macao Orchestra for reservation.

Sulu Sou asks for suspension of interception legislation

LAWMAKER Sulu Sou has asked the government to temporarily suspend the telecommunication interception legislation in a written inquiry to the government.

Sou said that, "in practice, there is still a lack of clear and strong monitoring mechanisms, especially self and public monitoring, to ensure that the police's interception power will not be abused."

Sou noted that the court does not have the capacity to supervise the police's interceptions, since only the specific judge of any given interception request can know about the interception.

The lawmaker also noted that "the judges objectively cannot ensure that the police's words are all facts, [...] moreover, it is impossible [for the judges] to constantly monitor whether the police have exceeded the scope of the approved monitoring."

"The current judicial monitoring mechanism is not perfect.



The judges have no supervision regarding the monitoring, and can only listen to the police's unilateral statement. [...] It is difficult for the courts and the public to detect and prove illegal interception," Sou wrote.

"Does the administration authority admit that its allegations have been misleading the public? Is there any specific method within the administration party to monitor [...] illegal interception? What are the guide-

lines and procedures for using an interception? Is there an independent third party other than the investigator to confirm that [the police] has obtained the judge's approval prior to the interception?" Sou asked.

"Will the administration suspend the relevant legislative proposals until a formal and strong internal, judicial and public monitoring mechanism is formally proposed?" Sou wrote in his inquiry.

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CRIME

Money exchanger robbed of HKD1.25 million

Julie Zhu

A money exchanger reported to the police that he had been robbed of HKD1.25 million following a money exchange scam, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday.

The self-proclaimed victim is a mainland man, aged around 40, who has been working in an illegal money exchange in town.

According to the victim's report, he was robbed last Saturday, inside a hotel room located in Cotai.

The Public Security Police (PSP) received the man's report at 9.30 p.m., last Saturday, and then forwarded the case to PJ.

Around 6.30 p.m. of that same day, the victim received a phone call from a stranger (one of the suspects) asking for a money exchange service involving a total of RMB830,000. The suspect gave a hotel room number, and asked the victim to exchange the money inside the room. The victim followed the man's request and went

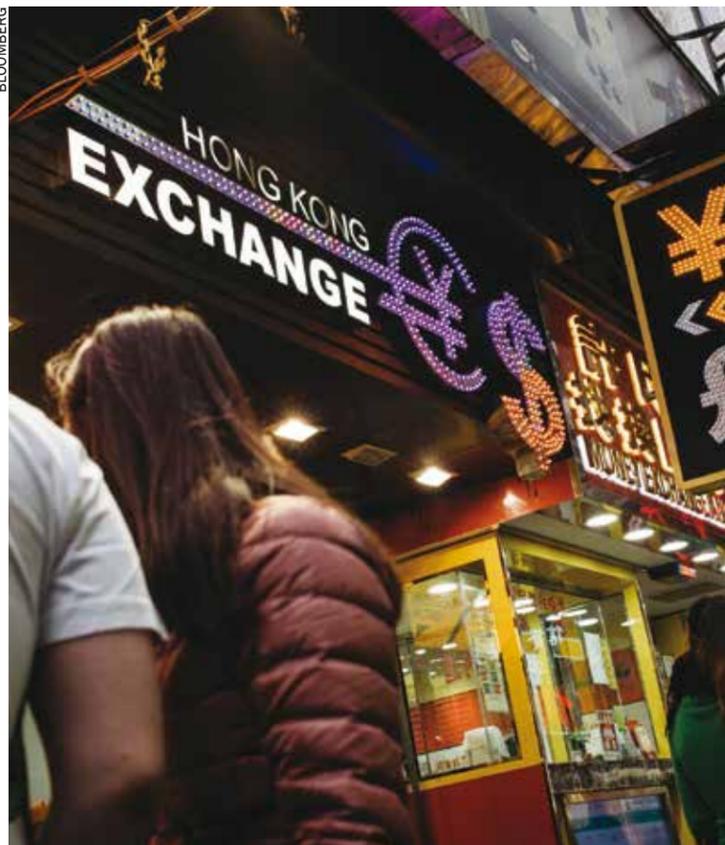
to the hotel's lobby along with a male friend. Upon meeting, the suspect and the victim headed to the hotel room together.

However, two other men were inside the hotel room. The three suspects tied up the victim and his friend and left the hotel room. After releasing himself from the cable ties, the victim discovered that his bag which contained HKD1.25 million inside, had been taken by the suspects.

The victim sustained two black eyes during the process but refused medical treatment. Both victims work as money exchangers.

The case is being followed by the PJ's investigation department. No suspects have been found yet.

Last year, in April, one money exchanger was also robbed of HKD170,000; HKD140,000 in casino chips and the rest in cash. The victim was invited by a stranger to exchange money. The money exchanger was then drugged by the customer and two accomplices, and fell asleep on a sofa in a Cotai casino lobby as an effect of the drugs he was given.



Mainland man arrested due to rape accusation

A 33-year-old mainland man has been arrested following an accusation of rape, the PJ reported yesterday.

The suspect, surnamed Yang, was accused by a mainland woman in her 30s.

The two met one month ago while both were visiting Macau. After getting to know each other, both agreed to meet in Macau again to gamble on January 2.

Both the suspect and the victim were staying in the same room in a Cotai hotel, which was booked under the victim's name. On the following day, January 3, the suspect raped the victim inside this room.

No obvious injury was seen on the victim, according to the police. The suspect was transferred to the prosecution authority on January 4.

COUPLE CHARGED FOR DOCUMENT INFRINGEMENT

A LOCAL man and his wife, both aged around 30, have been transferred to the prosecution authority under the accusation of document infringement. Between 2013 and 2018, the man applied for a work permit for 20 people in total. The man first applied for a temporary staying permit for

each one of these people and, a short period after the government granted the approval, the man then canceled the employment contract. According to the police, by doing so, these employees could stay in Macau looking for other jobs. In total, the couple obtained MOP144,000.

Wong proposes use of pepper spray instead of guns

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, has said that he has already petitioned the director of the Public Security Police Force to equip the police officers stationed in casinos with pepper spray. Following last week's gunshot case at the entrance of Galaxy resort, Wong noted that it is not a trivial matter in Macau to shoot a gun. He proposed that the PSP avoid the use of guns. The Secretary also noted that the police officers stationed in the casino were equipped with pepper spray, rather than guns, seven years ago. Regarding last week's case, Wong said that police force support mechanism should be reviewed. However, he defended the officer action, saying that he was "very brave and there isn't any reason to suspend him."

Woman died in illegal hostel from gas poisoning

A 68-year-old mainland woman was found dead from breathing a high concentration of carbon monoxide at a suspected illegal guesthouse. The woman's body was discovered by her daughter on Sunday morning. The woman was sleeping in the kitchen of a guesthouse, where an LP Gas Water Heater was installed. The Fire Services found both the kitchen window and door closed. A fire fighter explained that in such conditions, the LP Gas Water Heater releases carbon monoxide at a gradually increasing concentration, which led to the woman's death. The suspected accommodation is located in the ZAPE area. According to the Judiciary Police, no suspicious injuries were spotted on the body of the deceased.

Each mailman delivers 4,000 letters daily

On a daily basis, each of Macau's mail carriers delivers 4,000 non-registered letters, according to a report by TDM. The Post, Telegraph and Telephones Office (CTT) said that they handled a total of approximately 40 million packages in 2018, including 100,000 express services. During the year, the peak of mail delivery occurred in July, August, September and December, with mail during that time being mainly associated with the government's cash handout and taxes, commercial purposes, and the delivery of online purchased products. Currently, CTT has a team of 100 carriers aged 30 years old on average. The team provides sufficient human resources for its services.

Fringe Festival opens on Friday

THE 18th Macau City Fringe Festival will commence on Friday at 7:30 pm at the Old Court Building. The event will be held from January 11 to 27.

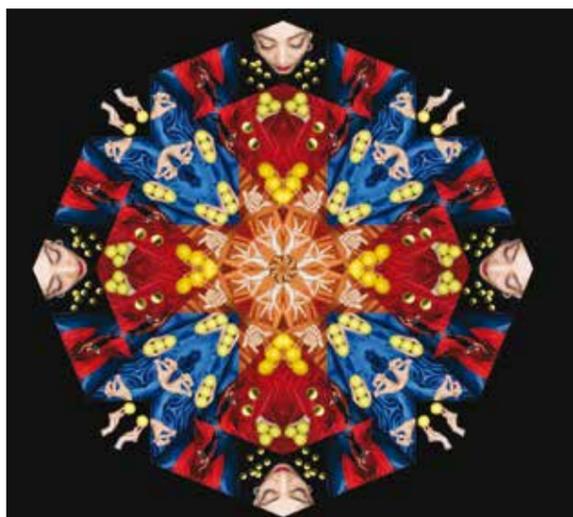
During the inauguration, the "18th Branch of Macau City Fringe Supermarket" will have its opening. Coming from the United Kingdom, the performance "Sigma" by Gandini Juggling circus and award-winning choreographer Seeta Patel will then take to the stage. The show is descri-

bed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau as "a combination of circus and classical Indian dance."

Other performances included in this year's edition of the Fringe Festival include the Interactive Urban Music Ensemble (featuring an art installation and an outdoor orchestra), "Ephemeral Windows - Rooftop Street Art" (street art made with rice paper), "The Icebook" by British artists Davy & Kristin McGuire (described as "the world's first pro-

jection mapped pop-up book") and the show "Be My Old Friend" by the Dream Theatre Association, which tells personal stories of the elderly and their cherished objects, piecing together the bygone days of Macau.

This edition of the Fringe Festival also features 10 outreach activities, including workshops, talks, art critique, sharing sessions and more, all seeking to enrich the audience's artistic experience with more diverse activities.



The performance "Sigma"



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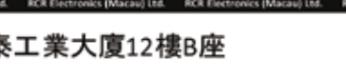
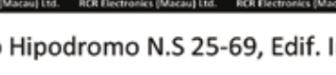



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Taiwan arrests six accused of leaking BASF tech to China

Debby Wu

TAIWAN arrested six current and former BASF SE engineers accused of accepting bribes and sharing the German company's technology with Jiangyin Jianghua Microelectronics Materials Co., in one of the more elaborate cases involving alleged Chinese intellectual property theft.

Jianghua offered them 40 million yuan (USD5.8 million) in return for help building a new factory in the eastern Chinese province of Jiangsu, Criminal Investigation Bureau official Lu Sung-hao told reporters at a briefing yesterday. The mainland company had already wired TWD40 million (\$1.3 million) to two accounts in Samoa controlled by the group, he added.

American and Taiwanese officials have long accused Chinese companies of purloining intellectual property in a quest to climb the technology ladder, something Beijing's consistently denied. Such leaks, which American officials say include the forced transfer of technology, are a key complaint of Washington's as the world's two largest economies open talks to avert a damaging trade war.

The amount involved in the case is unusually large. Taiwanese officials have in the past accused mainland corporations of appropriating trade secrets by poaching talent, but Lu said Jianghua offered direct payment in return for proprietary technology. Calls to Jianghua's main line and an email to a corporate address went unanswered.

BASF Chief Executive Officer Martin Brudermueller, who took the helm in May, has made ex-



pansion in China a central pillar of his strategy. Two months into his tenure, he announced BASF plans to build a second chemical complex in the country, at a cost of up to \$10 billion.

BASF's losses from the alleged theft could top out at 100 million euros (\$114 million) per year, Lu said. A representative of BASF said the company doesn't provide an estimate on losses and the amount can't be confirmed by the company.

According to police, only one of the six accused was a current employee, though the others formerly worked for BASF. The German chemicals maker said it suspended the employee and has taken steps to support the investigation and protect its intellectual property.

"To this end we have established systems and policies which minimize risks," BASF said in a statement. "In light of this situation, we will further reinforce these information protection systems."

Jianghua, which went public only in 2017, says it develops and sells materials for products from solar panels to electronics displays. The company, which

has a market value of about \$348 million, is estimated to have grown revenue more than 10 percent to about 400 million yuan in 2018. Taiwan police ran down an anonymous tip and discovered a senior ex-BASF engineer was getting about 90,000 yuan a month from the mainland company to recruit employees, Lu said.

U.S. companies and officials have long argued that China uses a range of tactics to acquire industrial designs and patents, and that Chinese entities engage in widespread theft of U.S. trade secrets. A report released in November by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer's office accused Beijing of waging a state-backed campaign of intellectual property theft, reiterating alarm about the country's "Made in China 2025" ambition to dominate key future technologies.

One of the more recent allegations that came to light involved Huawei Technologies Co., which has repeatedly denied it steals technology. American carrier T-Mobile filed a lawsuit in 2014 describing an incident in which a Huawei engineer allegedly stole a robot's fingertip. **Bloomberg**

PHILIPPINES

Court orders Okada arrest for alleged embezzlement



Kazuo Okada

Ian Sayson

JAPANESE businessman Kazuo Okada faces arrest in the Philippines after a trial court issued a warrant on charges that he allegedly embezzled USD3.16 million in funds from the Okada Manila integrated casino resort.

The Paranaque City Regional Trial Court Branch 257 also ordered the arrest of Takahiro Usui, Okada's associate and co-indicted by the justice department on allegations of unauthorized disbursement of company funds. The court, which issued the order Jan. 4, set bail at 348,000 pesos (\$6,629) for each of the accused, court documents show.

The Philippine justice department filed three counts of estafa against Okada and Usui, alleging that, as chairman and president respectively of Okada Manila operator's Tiger Resort Leisure

& Entertainment Inc., they conspired in the release of \$3.16 million of company funds from April through May 2017 purportedly for payment of Okada's salary and consultancy fees. The disbursement wasn't authorized by the board, according to the charges.

In an emailed statement from his legal counsel, Okada said the charges are baseless and that he couldn't defraud his own company because, until his "illegal" ouster in June 2017, he was in full control of Tiger Resort when the transactions were done.

Okada also said that, as stated in his motion for reconsideration, the payments and fees were for services to the company and Usui was authorized by the board to enter into such contracts. Usui and his legal representative were unable to be reached for comment. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CELEBRITY CHEF TO BRING PORTUGUESE CUISINE TO SANDS COTAI CENTRAL



Celebrity Chef Henrique Sá Pessoa will bring cuisine from his Michelin two-star Alma restaurant in Lisbon to his newly-opened Chia-

do Portuguese restaurant at Sands Cotai Central for a series of exclusive dining events on Jan. 18, 19 and 21-26, 2019.

Chef Henrique draws on influences including his knowledge of the country's traditional cuisine, life in Lisbon, his travels around the world and his passion for Asia, according to a statement released by Sands Cotai Central.

The five-course dining experience at Chiado includes glazed baby carrots, seared foie gras, salted cod, suckling pig confit, basil sorbet and blackberry textures and celery.

Chiado was developed in partnership with the celebrity chef and is a modern, fine-dining yet informal concept emphasising traditional dishes.

The restaurant is also complemented by an extensive Portuguese wine cellar.

WYNN ANNOUNCES FESTIVE CUISINES FOR CNY



As Chinese New Year approaches, Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai are offering traditional dishes at their restaurants to celebrate the arrival of a new year.

At Wynn Macau, Golden Flower, which has received

the Michelin two-star honor for seven consecutive years, is introducing a series of new dishes including one of its highlights, the "sliced red grouper and live abalone served in hot fish soup."

The restaurant will also present traditional seasonal Northern Chinese-style dishes, such as fried Beijing New Year cakes.

Meanwhile, Wing Lei, which has received Michelin recognition for 10 consecutive years, will serve deep-fried Malaysia Marlboro fish with supreme soy sauce – a Chinese New Year classic. The Marlboro from Malaysia is tender and sweet, and is heralded as one of the best varieties of freshwater fish, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

Red 8 and 99 Noodles are also offering Chinese New Year favorites, with special Chinese New Year and Chef Recommended dishes from China's north and south.



Huawei unveils chip for global big data market

HUAWEI Technologies Ltd. unveiled a processor chip yesterday for data centers and cloud computing in a bid by the biggest global maker of telecom equipment to expand into new markets despite Western warnings the company might be a security risk.

The announcement came as Chinese industries that rely on Western technology step up efforts to develop their own. That is fueling competition for U.S. and European suppliers and frustration among governments

that complain Beijing's industry plans violate its trade obligations.

Huawei said the Kunpeng 920 chip is designed for servers that handle a flood of data from smartphones, video and other network services. The company said it is part of a planned product lineup to support "intelligent computing."

Huawei, founded in 1987 by a former military engineer, is China's first global tech competitor and a national champion at the head of an industry the ruling

Communist Party is eager to promote. The company says it is employee-owned and rejects accusations by Washington and some other governments that it is controlled by the ruling party and might facilitate spying.

Chinese and U.S. envoys were due to meet Monday for talks over a tariff war triggered by American complaints about Beijing's technology policies.

The Trump administration, Europe and other trading partners complain initiatives such as "Made in China 2025," which

calls for state-led creation of Chinese global champions in robotics and other fields, violates Beijing's market-opening obligations. American officials worry they might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

Huawei has pushed ahead with commercial initiatives despite the Dec. 1 arrest of its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, the daughter of Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, in Canada on U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran.

The company says its 2018 global sales are forecast to top USD100 billion despite curbs imposed on use of its technology by the United States, Australia, Japan and some other governments.

Huawei, headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen, has steadily expanded into new in-

dustry segments. Its smartphone brand, launched in 2010, passed Apple to become the global No. 2 seller behind Samsung in the third quarter of 2017, according to IDC. The company has developed the Kirin line of chips for its phones and Ascend chips for artificial intelligence.

The Kunpeng 920 chip is based on the ARM system used increasingly in smartphones and distributed computing. It competes in some settings with the x86 standard used by traditional industry leaders Intel Corp. and Advanced Micro Devices Inc.

Also yesterday, Huawei unveiled three servers based on the new chip that are intended for global sale.

"Where we see the biggest value for the Kunpeng 920 is in data centers, servers and big data," William Xu, Huawei's chief strategy marketing officer and a member of the company board, said at a news conference in Shenzhen.

Huawei has China's biggest corporate research and development budget at \$13 billion in 2017.

Those investments have helped to reduce Huawei's reliance on Western technology but its servers, smartphones and other products still use billions of dollars' worth of U.S., European, Japanese and other chipsets and other technology.

Executives at the event avoided replying directly when asked whether American security warnings might hurt sales or about concerns U.S.-Chinese rivalry in technology might split the world into separate spheres with their own incompatible standards. **AP**

ELECTRIC CARS

Tesla breaks ground on factory in Shanghai

TESLA Inc. broke ground for a factory in Shanghai, its first outside the United States.

CEO Elon Musk said yesterday on Twitter that the company will start production in China of its Model 3 and a planned crossover by the end of the year.

Tesla announced plans in July to build the Giga-factory 3 facility in China, the biggest electric vehicle market, despite trade tension between Beijing and Washington. That followed Beijing's announcement it would end restrictions this year on foreign ownership of electric vehicle producers in an effort to spur industry development.

"Looking forward to breaking ground on the @Tesla Shanghai Giga-factory today!" said Musk on Twitter. "Aiming to fi-



nish initial construction this summer, start Model 3 production end of year & reach high volume production next year."

China's state broadcaster CCTV showed Musk and other Tesla and local officials attending a chilly ceremony in the rain in Shanghai's outskirts.

The Shanghai factory will produce "affordable versions of 3/Y for greater China," Musk said. The company refers to a planned crossover that has yet to receive a formal name as the Y.

Higher-priced models will be built in the United States for export to China,

Musk said.

Tesla, based on Palo Alto, California, global automakers including General Motors Co., Volkswagen AG and Nissan Motor Corp. that are pouring billions of dollars into manufacturing electric vehicles in China.

Local production would

eliminate risks from tariffs and other import controls. It would help Tesla develop parts suppliers to support service and make its vehicles more appealing to mainstream Chinese buyers.

Tesla said in October it had signed an agreement for a 84-hectare site in the Lingang district in southeastern Shanghai.

Shanghai is a center of China's auto industry and home to state-owned Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp., the main local manufacturer for GM and VW.

Tesla has yet to give a price tag but the Shanghai government said it would be the biggest foreign investment there to date.

The company faces competition from Chinese brands including BYD Auto and BAIC Group that already sell tens of

thousands of hybrid and pure-electric sedans and SUVs annually.

Until now, foreign automakers that wanted to manufacture in China were required to work through state-owned partners. Foreign brands balked at bringing electric vehicle technology into China to avoid having to share it with potential competitors.

The first of the new electric models being developed by global automakers to hit the market, Nissan's Sylphy Zero Emission, began rolling off a production line in southern China in August.

Lower-priced electric models from GM, Volkswagen and other global brands are due to hit the market starting this year, well before Tesla is up and running in Shanghai. **AP**

TRADE WAR

Beijing protests over US warship sighting as talks start

CHINESE and American officials began talks yesterday aimed at ending a bruising tariffs battle between the world's two biggest economies, as Beijing complained over the sighting of a U.S. warship in what it said were Chinese waters.

It was unclear if the ruckus over the warship might disrupt the working level talks being held at the Chinese Commerce Ministry. The two sides have provided scant information about the discussions.

Both sides have expressed optimism over the potential for progress in settling their tariff fight over Beijing's technology ambitions. Yet neither has indicated its stance has changed since a Dec. 1 agreement by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping to postpone further increases.

Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday during a routine briefing that Chinese military aircraft and naval vessels were dispatched to identify the U.S. vessel and warn it to leave the area near disputed islands in the South China Sea.

"We have made stern complaints with the U.S.," Lu said. He said the warship, which he said was the destroyer the USS McCampbell, had violated Chinese and international law, infringing on Chinese sovereignty and undermined peace and stability.

"As for whether this move has any impact to the ongoing China-U.S. trade consultations... to properly resolve existing issues of all kinds between China and the U.S. is good for the two countries and the world," Lu said

But he added, "The two sides both have responsibility to create necessary and good atmosphere to this end."

There was no immediate comment from the U.S. side about the Chinese complaint.

The American side in the trade talks is being led by a deputy U.S. trade representative, Jeffrey D. Gerrish, according to the U.S. government. The delegation includes agriculture, energy, commerce, treasury and State Department officials.

The talks went ahead despite tensions over the arrest of a Chinese tech executive in Canada on U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions against Iran.

Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on USD250 billion of Chinese imports over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Bei-



Members of a U.S. trade delegation including deputy U.S. trade representative, Jeffrey D. Gerrish (left) leave a hotel in Beijing Sunday

jing responded by imposing penalties on \$110 billion of American goods, slowing customs clearance for U.S. companies and suspending issuing licenses in finance and other businesses.

Economists say the 90-day postponement of tariff increases that had been meant to take effect Jan. 1 may be too short to settle the disputes bedeviling U.S.-Chinese relations.

But cooling economic growth in both countries is raising pressure to reach a settlement.

Chinese growth fell to a post-global crisis low of 6.5 percent in the quarter ending in September. Auto sales tumbled 16 percent in November over a year earlier. Weak real estate sales are forcing developers to cut prices.

The U.S. economy grew at an annual rate of 3.4 percent in the third quarter, and unemployment is at a five-decade low. But surveys show consumer confidence is weakening because of concern that growth will slow this year.

Washington, Europe and other trading partners complain Beijing's tactics violate its market-opening obligations.

The standoff also reflects American anxiety about China's rise as a potential competitor in telecommunications and other technology. Trump wants Beijing to roll back initiatives intended to create homegrown Chinese leaders in robotics and artificial intelligence.

China's leaders see such strategies as a path to greater pros-

perity and global influence and have tried to defuse complaints by emphasizing the country's potential as a huge consumer market.

They've also promised to allow more foreign access to its auto, finance and other industries.

Beijing has tried in vain to recruit France, Germany, South Korea and other governments as allies against Trump, but they have echoed U.S. complaints about Chinese industrial policy and market barriers.

Both sides expressed optimism over the potential for progress in settling their tariff fight

The European Union filed its own challenge in the World Trade Organization in June against Chinese rules that the 28-nation trade bloc said hamper the ability of foreign companies to protect and profit from their own technology.

For their part, Chinese officials are unhappy with U.S. curbs on exports of "dual use" technology with possible military applications. They complain China's companies are treated unfairly in national security reviews of proposed corporate acquisitions, though almost all deals are approved unchanged.

Some manufacturers that serve the United States have shifted production to other countries to avoid Trump's tariffs. AP

Top Xi aide unexpectedly shows up at trade talks

CHINESE Vice Premier Liu He unexpectedly attended the first day of talks aimed at resolving the trade dispute between the world's two biggest economies, according to people familiar with the matter and a photo seen by Bloomberg.

Liu is the top economic adviser to Chinese President Xi Jinping, who led previous negotiations in Washington that produced a deal that President Donald Trump then repudiated. China had previously said the talks would be led by a lower-ranking official from the Ministry of Commerce.

It's unclear how long Liu stayed, or what he discussed. The Ministry of Commerce didn't immediately respond to a fax seeking comment on Liu's appearance. U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer is expected to meet with Liu later this month, a person familiar with the situation said last week.

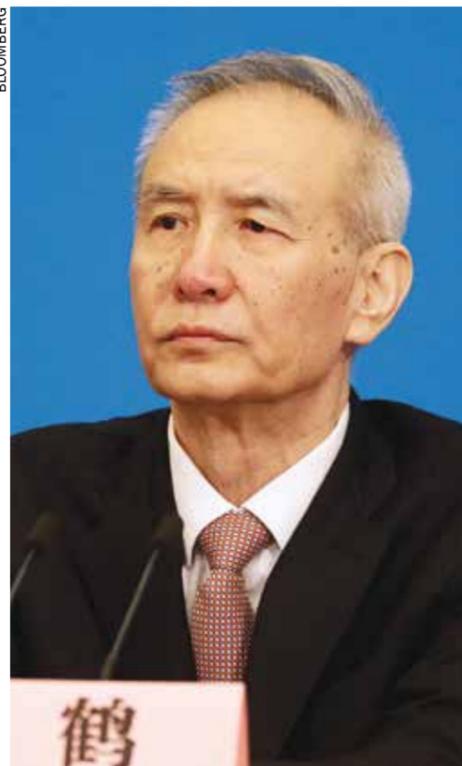
Liu's participation in the meeting, held at the ministry's premises, signals that China is attaching high importance to the talks, even if the main participants this time are mid-level officials. While markets have rallied the past few sessions, a wider down-

turn over the past month and a deepening economic slowdown are increasing pressure for a deal.

The talks are the first face-to-face interactions between the U.S. and China since both presidents met in Argentina and agreed a temporary truce in their tit-for-tat tariff war. More senior-level discussions are expected later this month, with the South China Morning Post reporting that Trump and Chinese Vice President Wang Qishan may meet at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

China's foreign ministry yesterday confirmed that Wang would deliver a keynote speech at Davos. Lu Kang, a spokesman for the ministry, told reporters he's unaware of any plans for Wang to meet Trump. He also said he had no further information on this week's trade talks.

The American delegation in Beijing is being led by Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Jeffrey Gerrish. Preliminary discussions were "a little more optimistic than usual," White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow told Bloomberg TV Friday. Bloomberg



THAILAND

Police say they won't deport Saudi woman seeking asylum

Kaweewit Kaewjinda, Aya Batrawy

THE head of Thailand's immigration police said yesterday that an 18-year-old Saudi woman who was stopped in Bangkok as she was trying to travel to Australia for asylum to escape alleged abuse by her family will not be sent anywhere against her wishes.

The woman, Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun, was allowed to temporarily enter Thailand under the protection of the U.N. refugee agency, which was expected to take at least five to seven days to evaluate her case and claims for asylum status.

Thai immigration police released photos of Alqunun after she left the room at a Bangkok airport hotel where she had been holed up. Where she would stay in the Thai capital was not announced.

Alqunun had stayed in the room while sending out desperate pleas for help over social media. She began posting on Twitter late Saturday after her passport was taken away when she arrived in Bangkok on a flight from Kuwait.

The agreement allowing her to leave the airport came after officials from the U.N. refugee agency, known as UNHCR, met with Thai immigration police chief



Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun (second left) shakes hand with Chief of Immigration Police Maj. Gen. Surachate Hakparn before leaving the Suvarnabhumi Airport

Maj. Gen. Surachate Hakparn, and then with Alqunun.

UNHCR declined to release any details of its meeting with Alqunun, but its representative in Thailand, Giuseppe De Vincentiis, noted "a good spirit of collaboration so far" with Thai officials.

According to Surachate, Alqunun's father was due to arrive in Bangkok yesterday night, and officials would then see if the young woman was willing to de-

part with him. He said the woman would be asked if she was willing to meet with her father. "As of now, she does not wish to go back and we will not force her. She won't be sent anywhere tonight," Surachate said at one of several news conferences at the airport. "She fled hardship. Thailand is a land of smiles," he said. "We will not send anyone to die. We will not do that. We will adhere to human rights under the rule of law."

On Twitter, Alqunun had written of being in "real danger" if forced to return to her family in Saudi Arabia, and has claimed in media interviews that she could be killed. She told the BBC that she had renounced Islam and is fearful of her father's retaliation.

Alqunun's planned forced departure was averted as she stayed in her hotel room, with furniture piled up against the door, photos she posted online showed. Her plight mirrors that of other Saudi women who in recent years have turned to social media to amplify their calls for help while trying to flee abusive families. Alqunun's Twitter account attracted more than 50,000 followers in less than 48 hours and her story grabbed the attention of foreign governments as well as the U.N. refugee agency.

Her pleas for asylum have also brought international attention to the obstacles women face in Saudi Arabia under male guardianship laws, which require that women, regardless of their age, have the consent of a male relative — usually a father or husband — to travel, obtain a passport or marry.

They also show the limits of reforms being pushed by Saudi Arabia's powerful Crown Prin-

ce Mohamed bin Salman as he struggles to repair damage to his reputation after the grisly killing three months ago of Saudi writer Jamal Khashoggi by Saudi agents in Istanbul.

Alqunun told Human Rights Watch that she was fleeing beatings and death threats from her male relatives who forced her to remain in her room for six months for cutting her hair. Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director for Human Rights Watch, said Thailand should give Alqunun back her passport and let her continue her journey to Australia. "She has a valid Australian visa," he said. "The key thing is she should not be sent back to Saudi Arabia, she should not be sent back into harm's way."

Immigration police chief Surachate challenged parts of Alqunun's story, including her claim that she had an Australian visa. However, he did not show her passport. "The fact is she didn't have any money," he said. "She intended to come here and didn't have any visa to go to Australia. So we have to state the facts here. But we will provide assistance nonetheless."

For runaway Saudi women, fleeing can be a matter of life and death, and they are almost always doing so to escape male relatives. In 2017, Dina Ali Lasloom triggered a firestorm online when she was stopped en route to Australia, where she had planned to seek asylum. She was forced to return to Saudi Arabia and was not publicly heard from again, according to activists tracking her whereabouts. **AP**

EAST TIMOR

Nobel laureate Ramos-Horta urges Indonesia-Papua dialogue

Oki Raimundos, Dili

NOBEL Peace Prize laureate Jose Ramos Horta has urged Indonesia's government to hold talks with the Papuan independence movement to help end a decades-long insurgency in the country's easternmost region.

Ramos-Horta, joint recipient of the 1996 Nobel prize for efforts to bring independence and peace to East Timor, which suffered a brutal Indonesian occupation for nearly a quarter century, said he believes the Papua region's future is within Indonesia, not as a separate state.

"Talk to the Papuans, the OPM [Free Papua Organization], but as brothers of Indonesia," Ramos-Horta said in an interview last

week. "The Papuans, they have to feel that the government, the people in Java, really care about them."

The conflict between Indonesia and the rebels, who number perhaps just several hundred, flared again last month when armed separatists in Nduga killed at least 17 people working on a trans-Papua highway construction site that's a key part of President Joko Widodo's efforts to bring development to the impoverished region.

The government has said accusations that the military fired at villages with white phosphorous projectiles, a banned chemical weapon, in retaliation are "totally baseless, nonfactual and gravely misleading." At least four people were killed in the security operation. Wiran-

to, the top security minister, has rejected the idea of talks.

Police have arrested then released hundreds of suspected independence supporters and raided offices of the West Papua National Committee, a civilian group that advocates for self-determination. In Timika, police occupied the committee's secretariat, graffitied it with slogans such as "Indonesia Forever" and demolished symbols of the independence movement.

Ramos-Horta, East Timor's president from 2007 to 2012, said restraint is needed on both sides.

"So first, they must give up on armed attacks on Indonesian civilians or military authorities, but at the same time the Indone-

sian military also have to restrain themselves from not cracking down, attacking [...] people every time they demonstrate," he said.

An independence movement and an armed insurgency have simmered in the formerly Dutch-controlled region since it was annexed by Indonesia in 1963. Indonesian control was formalized in 1969 with a referendum known as the "Act of Free Choice" held in an atmosphere of heavy intimidation in which only 1,026 Papuans were allowed to vote.

Nowadays, indigenous Papuans, largely shut out of their region's economy, are poorer, sicker and more likely to die young than people elsewhere in Indonesia. Decades of Indonesian military brutali-



Ramos-Horta

ty and impunity have contributed to deep resentment of Indonesian rule.

Ramos-Horta, however, said the situation in Papua is not comparable to East Timor's independence struggle and there's no role for the U.N. in the conflict.

East Timor, Ramos-Horta said, was a Portuguese colony for more than 400 years before Indonesia invaded in 1975, whereas Papua was part of the Dut-

ch East Indies empire that was the basis for the borders of modern Indonesia.

He believes Widodo, who is seeking a second five-year term in elections due April, is committed to ending the conflict without revising Indonesia's borders.

"He will make every effort to engage the brothers and sisters in Papua in dialogue to find a resolution for the conflict," he said. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Royals to pick new king Jan. 24 after abdication

MALAYSIA'S royal families will meet on Jan. 24 to pick a new king after Sultan Muhammad V abdicated unexpectedly after just two years on the throne, an official said yesterday.

The 49-year-old ruler resigned Sunday as Malaysia's 15th king, marking the first abdication in the nation's history and cutting short his five-year term. No reason was given, but the move came after he reportedly married a 25-year-old former Russian beauty queen in November while on medical leave.

Keeper of the Ruler's Seal, Syed Danial Syed Ahmad, said the Council of Rulers held a meeting yesterday and set Jan. 24 to elect a new king. He said in a statement that the new king would be sworn in on Jan. 31.

The council comprises nine hereditary state rulers who take turns as Malaysia's king for five-year terms. Malaysia is the only country in the world

to have a rotational monarchy under a unique system maintained since the country's independence from Britain in 1957.

Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said earlier that it was up to the Council of Rulers to pick the new king, but added that he hoped it would be done quickly.

During his first stint as prime minister for 22 years until his retirement in 2003, Mahathir pushed through constitutional amendments that stripped the sultans' power to veto state and federal legislation, and curbed their legal immunity.

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 Islam and Malay tradition.

Still, some sultans have in recent years become more active in business and politics. Sultan

Muhammad V delayed Mahathir's swearing-in as prime minister after a historic election victory in May last year, and also delayed giving his consent to the appointment of a non-Muslim attorney general.

Sultan Muhammad V was installed as king in December 2016. He was one of Malaysia's youngest constitutional monarchs and has a love for extreme sports.

Reports in Russian and British media and on social media featured photos of his wedding with a former Miss Moscow that 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 last week, shortly after he returned from a two-month leave, but Mahathir had said Friday that he was unaware of any abdication plans.

National police chief Moha-



Malaysia King Sultan Muhammad

mad Fuzi Harun warned the public yesterday not to speculate on Sultan Muhammad V's abdication. He was quoted as saying by local media that police had received several reports of provocative statements being made on social media and were investigating.

Next in line for the top job is Sultan Azlan Shah of central Pahang state, who was king

from 1979 to 1984, but the 88-year-old is now unwell and didn't attend yesterday's council meeting. Some observers said he can abdicate in favor of his son, who can become king.

After Pahang is the billionaire Sultan Ibrahim Ismail of southern Johor state, who is involved in business, owns a fleet of jets and loves Harley-Davidson motorcycles. AP

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AP PHOTO



Andy Samberg (left) and Sandra Oh



Jeff Bridges accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award

GOLDEN GLOBES

Snubs, surprises and a Satanic shout-out? Key moments

Jocelyn Noveck, New York

IT was a moment when everyone — absolutely everyone — expected to see an ebullient Lady Gaga climbing to the stage in her dramatic periwinkle gown. Instead, a visibly stunned Glenn Close got the Golden Globe. But her deeply personal speech about women's need for fulfillment outside the family soon had the crowd on its feet, providing the emotional highpoint of the night.

A year ago the Golden Globes were all about #MeToo and Time's Up. A year earlier, it was all about politics. The 2019 Globes were much less overtly activist or political, but speeches by Close as well as co-host Sandra Oh and actress Regina King kept issues of equality and diversity alive in a more personal way.

Oh, and of course there was the usual Globes craziness: "Bohemian Rhapsody" as best drama? The groundbreaking "Black Panther" snubbed? And nothing for Bradley Cooper — really?

Some notable moments of the night, in no particular order:

THE POWER OF NICE

Taking the stage for their opening monologue, co-hosts Oh and Andy Samberg had an explanation for why they'd been chosen: they were "the only two people left in Hollywood who haven't gotten in trouble for saying something offensive." Then they riffed on that by pretending to roast people by actually saying nice things. ("Bradley Cooper: You are hot!" "Jeff Bridges, I wish you were my Dad!") The bit didn't get uproarious laughs but was pleasantly, well, pleasant.

BUT ... SATAN?

Was this the first time Satan got a shout-out in an acceptan-

ce speech? If so, we have Christian Bale to thank. The Welsh actor was accepting his award for "Vice," in which he made a stunning transformation into a chubby and bald Dick Cheney. After thanking castmates and director Adam McKay, he extended a "thank you to Satan for giving me inspiration for this role." He also mused that he might try to play Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell next.

A DECENT NIGHT FOR 'OLD MEN'

"Mary Poppins Returns" may have gone home empty-handed, but 93-year-old Dick Van Dyke, who has a wonderfully spry cameo in the film, got a big ovation when he came out with Emily Blunt, who plays Mary. And Michael Douglas, winning his Globe for "The Kominsky Method," exulted that "alte kakers rule!" using the Yiddish term for "old man." The 74-year-old actor also dedicated his award to his 102-year-old father, Kirk Douglas.

A TIME'S UP CHALLENGE

A year after the Globes carpet was a sea of shimmering black, worn in solidarity with #MeToo and Time's Up, colorful gowns were back — though some attendees wore ribbons saying "TIMESUPx2," marking the second year of the gender equality movement. On the carpet was actress Alyssa Milano, who sent the tweet that made #MeToo go viral; she noted that in the past year, a "really wonderful sisterhood has formed." It was actress Regina King of "If Beale Street Could Talk," though, who made the most memorable reference to Time's Up, resisting the orchestra's efforts to play her off, and vowing that in the next two years, her producing

projects would be staffed by 50 percent women. She challenged those in other industries to do the same.

OH TURNS EMOTIONAL

After an opener with Samberg full of zingers, Oh suddenly became emotional, explaining that she'd agreed to host the show — and overcome the fear — to celebrate the diversity of the nominated casts. "I wanted to be here to look out on this audience and witness this moment of change," she said. "I am not fooling myself. Next year could be different. But right now this moment is real." Soon after, Oh herself won best actress in a TV drama for "Killing Eve," and thanked her parents, movingly, in Korean.

UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL

When Close won best actress

in a movie drama, she seemed as shocked as everyone else. But then the 71-year-old actress made a heartfelt connection between her role in "The Wife," in which she plays a wife who sublimes her own ambitions to those of her husband in a stunning way, and her own life. "I am thinking of my mom who really sublimated herself to my father her whole life," Close said. She added that women are expected to be nurturers, "but we have to find personal fulfillment. We have to follow our dreams. We have to say, I can do that and I should be allowed to do that." The crowd rose to cheer.

GAGA'S WIN

At least Lady Gaga didn't go home empty-handed: She won as a co-writer for best song, "Shallow," which she performs with Cooper in "A Star is Born."

In her speech, she too referred to the challenges women face, not in the film industry but in music. "As a woman in music it is really hard to be taken seriously as musician and as a songwriter," she said, adding that her co-writers "lifted me up, they supported me." Gaga wrote the song with Mark Ronson, Anthony Rossomando and Andrew Wyatt.

COLMAN'S 'FAVOURITE' THING

Not every speech had a serious tone to it. Olivia Colman, who won best actress in a musical or comedy for "The Favourite," in which she plays a comically troubled queen, told the crowd: "I would like to tell you how much this film meant to me, but I can't think of it." She also noted that one of her "favourite" things about making the film was that she "ate constantly through the film."

WHAT WAS THAT, DUDE?

We're not really sure what he was saying in his rambling speech accepting the Cecil B. DeMille Award — especially when he started talking about ships, and saying, "Tag, you're it!" But hey, Jeff Bridges is best known as a stoner icon in "The Big Lebowski," so it was sort of apt that he wasn't so easy to follow. It was simply fun to experience his joy; it's just too bad he wasn't wearing a bathrobe. Harrison Ford, coming next, was even cruder than usual. "Nobody told me I had to follow Jeff Bridges," he said.

WOW, SHE KNOWS ME?

It was a sweet red carpet moment as Elisabeth Moss, star of "The Handmaid's Tale," discovered that Taylor Swift was a fan. Ryan Seacrest presented her with a video from Swift, gushing about the show. "I can't believe she even knows who I am!" Moss exulted, showing that stars can sometimes be exactly like us. AP

COMPLETE LIST OF WINNERS AT 76TH GOLDEN GLOBE AWARDS

FILM

Drama: "Bohemian Rhapsody"
 Actress, Drama: Glenn Close, "The Wife"
 Actor, Drama: Rami Malek, "Bohemian Rhapsody"
 Comedy or Musical: "Green Book"
 Actor, Comedy or Musical: Christian Bale, "Vice"
 Actress, Comedy or Musical: Olivia Colman, "The Favourite"
 Actress-Supporting Role: Regina King, "If Beale Street Could Talk"
 Actor-Supporting Role: Mahershala Ali, "Green Book"
 Foreign Language Film: "Roma"
 Best Director: Alfonso Cuarón, "Roma"
 Screenplay: Nick Vallelonga, Brian Currie, Peter Farrelly, "Green Book"
 Animated: "Spider-Man: Into the Spider-Verse"
 Original Score: Justin Hurwitz, "First Man"
 Original Song: "Shallow," "A Star Is Born"

TELEVISION

Drama: "The Americans"
 Actress, Drama: Sandra Oh, "Killing Eve"
 Actor, Drama: Richard Madden, "Bodyguard"
 Musical or Comedy: "The Kominsky Method"
 Actress, Musical or Comedy: Rachel Brosnahan, "The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel"
 Actor, Musical or Comedy: Michael Douglas, "The Kominsky Method"
 Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"
 Actress, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Patricia Arquette, "Escape at Dannemora"
 Actor, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Darren Criss, "The Assassination of Gianni Versace: American Crime Story"
 Actress, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Patricia Clarkson, "Sharp Objects"
 Actor, Supporting Role, Limited Series or Movie Made for Television: Ben Whishaw, "A Very English Scandal"

USA

Hundreds of federal scientists miss conferences in shutdown

Claire Galofaro

THE world's largest airborne observatory was supposed to be parked in Seattle this week, so thousands of scientists attending the "Super Bowl of Astronomy" could behold this marvel: a Boeing 747 outfitted with a massive telescope used to study the fundamental mysteries of the universe.

But conference-goers will not be able to see NASA's space-exploring plane. Its visit to the 233rd Meeting of the American Astronomical Society was canceled, one of a growing list of scientific casualties of the partial government shutdown now stretching into its third week.

Along with the plane, hundreds of government scientists are also no longer allowed to attend the conference or two other major scientific gatherings scheduled to begin this week. Those meetings will address pressing issues in the fields of technology, space exploration, extreme weather and climate change.

But the shutdown's impact on science stretches well beyond the empty chairs at this week's conferences, said Keith Seitter, executive director of the American Meteorological Society. It means some of the nation's smartest scientific minds are sitting at home, not doing science, for weeks, with no clear end in sight.

"That's difficult to recover from," said Seitter. "We'll be seeing ripple effects from this for a long time."

Attendees of the events descri-



SOFIA over the snow-covered Sierra Nevada mountains with its telescope door open during a test flight. The world's largest airborne observatory

be them as crucial opportunities for scientists from the government, the private sector and academia to exchange research and ideas. The gatherings are like three-legged stools, said Kevin Petty, the chief science officer for the private climate company, Vaisala. And this week one of the legs is missing.

"That's the value of these conferences, it's the people I run into in the hallway or the coffee line, start up a conversation and realize there's a connection between what they're doing and what I'm doing," said Amanda O'Connor, a satellite imaging expert who is attending a wea-

ther conference. "It's those serendipitous encounters that are lost and really important."

Some 700 federal employees who planned to attend the American Meteorological Society conference in Phoenix are staying home. Another 500 will miss the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics' SciTech Forum and Exposition in San Diego. The American Astronomical Society estimates that between 300 and 450 scientists will be absent this week from the world's largest annual astronomical meeting, where the NASA plane was supposed to be. But it's hard to get

a firm count, said Rick Fienberg, the organization's press officer: Organizers emailed a survey, but furloughed government employees aren't even allowed to check their email.

Even Jim Bridenstine, NASA's new administrator, and the leaders of the National Weather Service are no longer able to attend the weather conference, and the organizers scrambled to replace their presentations.

Until late last week, Fienberg said the astronomical organization had hoped the politicians in Washington could work out a deal to resolve the impasse over President Donald Trump's de-

mands for USD5.6 billion to build a wall on the southern border.

But on Thursday, employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, which includes the National Weather Service, were told to cancel their conference plans. Scientists and engineers from NASA and the Smithsonian were also told they couldn't attend.

Conference organizers have scrambled to shift speakers, relax the rules to allow non-governmental employees to present the work of their federal colleagues and negotiate with hotels to allow government employee to cancel reservations made long ago.

"In the same week that the Chinese government lands a rover [on the far side of the moon] and the U.S. sends a probe to the furthest object ever visited by humanity," said Kevin Marvel, the astronomy organization's executive officer, "scores of scientists at all career levels are being prevented from attending our meeting."

One concrete casualty could be the government's ability to recruit and retain the next generation of scientists, said Seitter, with the American Meteorological Society. Take E.L. Meszaros, a doctoral student at Brown University, who had been scheduled to present her research on human-drone communication techniques at the San Diego technology conference.

But her work was funded by NASA, as was her trip to the conference. So she's stuck at home in Rhode Island. She always imagined she'd work as a public servant. But now she has scientist friends who work for the government who haven't been paid in weeks and are interviewing at other places.

"If you can't guarantee that you're going to be able to pay your employees," she said, "then it does make you second guess whether that's where you want to work." **AP**

BREXIT

Britain testing 'no-deal' scenario as vote nears

Britain is testing how its motorway and ferry system would handle a no-deal Brexit by sending a stream of trucks from a regional airport to the port of Dover — even as some legislators try to pressure the government to rule out the scenario.

The tests began yesterday and are intended to gauge how severe the disruption would be if Britain leaves the European Union on March 29 without an agreed upon withdrawal deal.

It is expected that an abrupt departure without a deal would lead to the



Some 150 trucks participated in the test to assess where 6,000 trucks could be parked at the former airfield near Ramsgate in south east England

introduction of tariff and customs barriers that would slow fast-moving

ferry and rail traffic that links Britain to continental Europe. There are con-

cerns that major traffic jams leading into and out of ferry ports like Dover could greatly hamper trade and leave Britain without adequate food and medicine.

Parliament is expected to resume its debate over the government's planned withdrawal deal tomorrow, with a vote tentatively scheduled for early next week.

There are no indications that lobbying over the holidays has garnered Prime Minister Theresa May more support for her plan, which has sparked wide opposition in Parliament.

A vote that had been scheduled in November was delayed as May admitted it would face certain defeat.

The prospect of the bill's possible defeat next week has renewed concern about the "no-deal" situation that Britain would face as the withdrawal date approaches without any arrangements in place.

Fears about economic disruption yesterday sparked roughly 200 legislators including some from the prime minister's Conservative Party to write to May asking her to

rule out the no-deal scenario.

May has not spelled out how she will respond if the withdrawal bill is voted down next week.

Brexit minister Kwasi Kwarteng said yesterday that the government is still focused on winning the vote.

"A week is a very long time in politics. We don't know what the numbers are," he told BBC. "We have got a week. I think the situation — as it always does — has developed, it evolves. I am very hopeful that the deal will be voted through next week." **AP**

what's ON



VESTIGES OF LINES, GUILHERME UNG VAI MENGE 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

Offbeat

KEVIN SPACEY TO APPEAR IN COURT ON SEXUAL ASSAULT CHARGE



Actor Kevin Spacey was set to appear today [Macau time] in a Nantucket courtroom to answer accusations that he groped a young man in a bar on the small Massachusetts island in 2016.

Spacey has said he will plead not guilty to a charge of felony indecent assault and battery.

The court appearance by Spacey comes more than a year after former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh accused the former "House of Cards" star of sexually assaulting her son, then 18, in the crowded bar at the Club Car, where the teen worked as a busboy.

Spacey's lawyer, Alan Jackson, has sought to poke holes in the case, noting that the teen didn't immediately report the allegations.

If convicted, Spacey faces up to five years in prison.

It's the first criminal case brought against the 59-year-old Oscar-winner since other allegations of sexual misconduct surfaced against him in 2017.

A judge denied Spacey's bid to avoid appearing in person Monday at the Nantucket District Court. Spacey had argued his presence would "amplify the negative publicity already generated" by the case.

Unruh told reporters in November 2017 that Spacey got her son drunk and then grabbed his genitals during the incident. She said her son fled the restaurant when Spacey went to the bathroom.

After the charge was announced last month, Spacey released a video in the voice of Frank Underwood, his character on Netflix's "House of Cards," in which he said, "I'm certainly not going to pay the price for the thing I didn't do." It was unclear whether he was referring to the charge.

Spacey has also faced other allegations.

His first accuser, actor Anthony Rapp, said Spacey climbed on top of him on a bed when Rapp was 14 and Spacey 26. Spacey said he did not remember such an encounter but apologized if the allegations were true.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	Zig Zag
16:05	Os Compadres
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:40	Os Maias
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	O Contrato Sr.1 - Estreia
22:40	Viajante da Música
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Filhos da Nação Sr.2
00:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:10	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

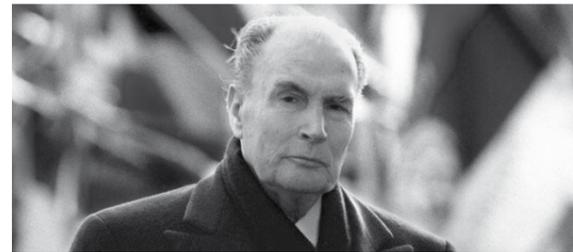
Director: Rich Moore, Phil Johnson

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

this day in history



1996 FRANCE'S FORMER PRESIDENT MITTERRAND DIES

France is mourning the loss of its longest-serving president, Francois Mitterrand, who has died at the age of 79 from prostate cancer.

The news was announced by President Jacques Chirac at a news conference at the Elysee Palace.

He told journalists: "For 14 years M Mitterrand wrote an important page in the history of our country. A great figure has left us."

World leaders have paid tribute to France's former president, but Germany's Chancellor Helmut Kohl's was probably the most heartfelt. The pair had formed a close friendship in their shared goal of seeing through European integration. "Europe has lost a great statesman," he said.

"I am mourning a good friend. We worked together in a close and trusting way for many years in building Europe and the deepening of German-French friendship."

He leaves behind him two sons by his wife, Danielle, and one daughter by his mistress Anne Pingeot.

Mr Mitterrand was a controversial figure with a murky past.

The son of a stationmaster, he graduated from the prestigious Institute of Political Sciences. In 1940 he was taken prisoner after the fall of France and escaped from Germany in 1941 to join the collaborationist Vichy government. He then switched allegiances to the resistance movement.

He held ministerial posts in many cabinets from 1947 until 1958 when Charles de Gaulle became president. A strong opponent of de Gaulle, he made first unsuccessful attempt at the presidency in 1965.

In 1971 he became leader of a new Socialist Party consisting of various disparate left-wing groups. Three years later, in 1974, he tried once more to win the top job but was defeated by Valery Giscard d'Estaing.

Finally he won the presidential elections in 1981 to become the first socialist president in 35 years.

He left office in May 1995 after two seven-year terms and two periods of "cohabitation" - having to work with a right-wing majority in parliament, first with Mr Chirac as prime minister in 1986 and then with Edouard Balladur in 1993.

Mr Mitterrand earned himself nicknames from friend and foe alike.

Socialists called him Tonton (meaning Uncle) and admired him for bringing the left back into power. The tabloids dubbed him the Great Seducer for his reputation as a womaniser, counting film stars Brigitte Bardot, Michele Morgan and Josephine Baker among his lovers, as well as France's first female prime minister Edith Cresson and former minister Elisabeth Guigou.

And his critics called him "God" because of his expensive architectural "Grand Projects" in Paris - including the glass pyramid at the Louvre and the massive Arche de La Defense - and his monarchic style of leadership similar to his predecessor General de Gaulle.

And like de Gaulle, Mr Mitterrand rejected the pomp of a state funeral. He will instead be buried after a private ceremony in the family tomb in the village of Jarnac, near Angoulême, where he was born.

A mass will be held simultaneously at Notre Dame in Paris attended by world leaders.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Francois Mitterrand's legacy to his right-wing rival Jacques Chirac was high unemployment, mounting public debt and rising taxes. The new president struggled to tackle these problems. His attempt in 1995 to reduce costs in the heavily subsidised railway system led to a crippling transport strike and capitulation to the workers.

President Chirac called elections in 1997 to try to boost the number of right-wingers in parliament. The move backfired, the socialists won and, like his predecessor, the president was forced to "cohabit", this time with Socialist prime minister Lionel Jospin.

Even after his death, the Mitterrand name was linked with scandal.

In October 2004, in what has been described as France's Watergate, 12 people went on trial for running a phone-tapping operation used by the late president to monitor his opponents.

A few weeks later Francois Mitterrand's son Jean-Christophe received a suspended 30-month jail sentence for tax evasion.

Then in July 2005 Admiral Pierre Lacoste, the former head of the DGSE spy agency in France, confirmed Mitterrand had authorised the bombing of a Greenpeace boat, the Rainbow Warrior, in Auckland harbour, New Zealand, in 1985. The New Zealand government called the bombing the country's first terror attack.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Can you think your way out of a paper bag? It would be a lot easier than relying on your charm...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You'd love to chat, but it's just not happening. Coworkers are either deep in their own work or nowhere to be found...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Sooner or later it will start to get dull, but in the meantime, you keep starting projects that your coworkers can finish...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Issues around the home are bleeding into your workday. Does making a living really require serious adjustments?...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Computer equipment and communications technologies -- now that's a good combination. Make good use of it, because those you need to work with won't be there in the flesh...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Meetings can be dull, but use whatever method works to stay focused. Otherwise you could make a big splash, and not in the deep and meaningful way you've always daydreamed of...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 It's a good situation: Getting things done is your forte today, and your high energy earns you plenty of attention from others. But don't let them distract you from the tasks still at hand...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Flipping a coin is out of the question, but just how can you best make decisions? Don't base them on subliminal impulses. Toss the issues back and forth with a colleague, instead...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Pouncing on an opportunity is the wrong image. What the day calls for is tuning into the big picture. Wait until everything is just right before voicing your hopes and desires...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Focusing all of your energy on work still won't earn you the big bucks. Office culture is more important than productivity. When your jokes fall on deaf ears, so do your requests for a raise...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you're in management, you may be cool towards the mailroom clerk. Don't be. And if you get the nagging feeling you've seen the face above a suit and tie before, search your memory from the top down...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's just not worth it. Thinking about what others owe you is eating away at your productivity, not to mention your soul. Letting bygones be bygones will be a big improvement...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

4x4 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with numbers 4, 3, 8, 6, 6, 3, 9, 1, 1, 7, 3, 5, 9, 2, 7, 5, 6, 2, 7, 5, 2, 8, 5, 5, 7, 2, 4, 4, 9, 6, 1.

Easy+

4x4 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with numbers 8, 1, 6, 9, 7, 3, 8, 2, 8, 7, 3, 7, 5, 7, 6, 5, 2, 7, 6, 4, 8, 7, 5, 2, 1, 8, 9, 5, 5, 2, 4.

Medium

4x4 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with numbers 6, 5, 2, 7, 2, 3, 8, 1, 7, 5, 6, 1, 3, 9, 4, 3, 3, 7, 9, 3, 6, 9, 7, 8, 1, 9, 4, 3.

Hard

4x4 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with numbers 7, 5, 4, 2, 1, 6, 1, 2, 4, 3, 8, 5, 6, 9, 8, 2.

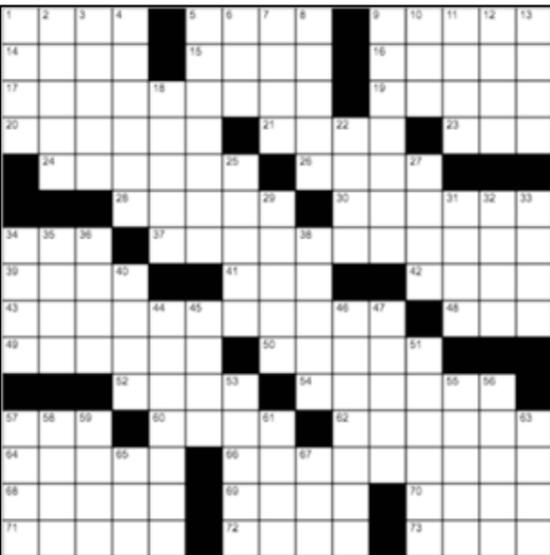
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, WORLD, Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- all-time high; 5- Exploitative one; 9- Wynonna's mother; 14- Singer Lovett; 15- Trifling; 16- Small bay; 17- Sanction; 19- The Mutiny; 20- Try again; 21- Exxon, once; 23- Gang; 24- Fast day after Ramadan; 26- Alleviate; 28- Impressionist Edgar; 30- Bridal paths; 34- Pie mode; 37- Proclamation; 39- Bog down; 41- Abner; 42- Sicilian resort; 43- Expansion; 48- Nile biter; 49- Smelting residue; 50- January, in Juárez; 52- Cheers regular; 54- Discharges; 57- Actress Merkel; 60- Arduous journey; 62- Bewail; 64- Basil-based sauce; 66- Scotland; 68- French farewell; 69- Trendy; 70- Soaks (up); 71- Romanov rulers; 72- Work without; 73- Tu; 1974 hit;

DOWN: 1- Chemical used on trees; 2- Laid-back; 3- Beta preceeder; 4- Sea nymph; 5- Offense; 6- Large body of water; 7- Harper's Bazaar illustrator; 8- Witherspoon of 'Legally Blonde'; 9- Capital of Cyprus; 10- Santa, California; 11- Potpourri; 12- Course list?; 13- Roman road; 18- Paddled; 22- German river; 25- Twinned crystal; 27- Town near Padua; 29- Thin glutinous mud; 31- Director Wertmuller; 32- Seemingly forever; 33- Ginger cookie; 34- Iowa city; 35- 'The Mod Squad' role; 36- He sang about Alice; 38- Coeur d'Alene; 40- Merit; 44- Very funny; 45- Teri of 'Tootsie'; 46- Disregard; 47- Step; 51- Seep through, biologically; 53- Birthplace of Muhammad; 55- Andrea Bocelli, for one; 56- Long-billed sandpiper; 57- the crack of dawn; 58- Actor Beatty and others; 59- China setting; 61- Actress Madeline; 63- Soviet news agency; 65- Thrice, in prescriptions; 67- Fail to tell the truth;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



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Real estate advertisement for JML Property. Includes '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. Includes JML Property logo and contact information.



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MAGNUS SECURITY (MACAU) LTD

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69

Edif. Ind. Fok Tai, 12 floor "B", Macau SAR

Tel.: (853) 2822 1341

Fax.: (853) 2822 0824

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LA LIGA

Real Madrid back in trouble as Solari effect loses luster



Santiago Solari gestures during a Spanish La Liga match

THE Santiago Solari effect has worn off at Real Madrid. The Spanish club hoped it had found a coach to turn its season around when it promoted Solari from its reserve team to take over from the fired Julen Lopetegui in late October.

But two weeks after Solari guided Madrid to the Club World Cup title, the club is back in trouble after consecutive stumbles left it far behind in the Spanish league title race.

Madrid, a 33-time champion, is about to reach the midway point of the league season in fifth place. It is 10 points behind leader Barcelona but also trailing Atletico Madrid, Sevilla and Alaves. Madrid slumped to a humbling 2-0 loss at home to Real Sociedad on Sunday, three days after a 2-2 draw at relegation-threatened Villarreal.

Sociedad appeared to be the ideal opponent for a Madrid team needing a convincing win: it had lost four straight and was playing its first match under a new coach.

Instead, an unnecessary foul by Madrid's Casemiro gave Sociedad an early penalty, and two more rash tackles got Lucas Vazquez sent off before the visitors scored late to crush all hopes of a comeback. "Today everything went wrong," Solari said.

Luka Modric, Madrid's Ballon d'Or winner, tried to shield Solari from all the blame.

"Our coach is doing a great job, but he can't score goals nor stop [the penalty] at the start of the match," Modric said. "He is motivated, but we players who are on the pitch have to do things better and be more focused."

"There are several players who are not playing at their best. I have to improve and take responsibility."

At this point last season after 18 rounds, Madrid was 16 points behind Barcelona.

But club legend Zinedine Zidane was in charge at the time and still had plenty of credit after winning back-to-back Champions League crowns. The club stuck with him, and even though it never challenged Barcelona in la Liga, Zidane steered it a third straight European title.

The inexperienced Solari, however, has no track record to fall back on.

And with speculation rampant that Madrid could be interested in reuniting with former— and now unemployed— coach Jose Mourinho, Solari's tenure in the job apparently is increasingly fragile.

While lamenting the loss, Madrid's fans found some solace in the scintillating performance by Brazilian teenager Vinicius Jr. The 18-year-old Vinicius was Solari's pick to take the place of the injured Gareth Bale, giving him his first start in the league.

Showing verve and confidence, Vinicius proved to be by far the biggest threat to Sociedad with his bursts of speed from the left flank.

His chip shot was tipped wide by goalkeeper Geronimo Rulli early, and after the restart he got more attention when he cut back past two defenders along the edge of the box before floating a lob that just missed the far post. He also clamored for a penalty that was not awarded when he dribbled at Rulli and was stripped by the goalkeeper of the ball.

Madrid paid 46 million euros for Vinicius last year, just days after he made his professional debut for Flamengo. He played for Madrid's reserve team under the orders of Solari at the start of this season, and Solari has featured him since taking over the senior team.

Vinicius "has been a source of joy for the club ever since he arrived," Solari said. "I think his progress has been much faster than we expected." **AP**



ASIAN CUP

Thailand fires coach Rajevac after loss to India

THE Football Association of Thailand has fired Milovan Rajevac as head coach after the national team's 4-1 opening loss to India at the Asian Cup.

Thai FA president Somyot Poompanmoung had warned ahead of the continental tournament that Rajevac's job was on the line if he couldn't take the team to the second round.

He announced the decision to fire Rajevac after Sunday's game in Abu Dhabi, despite Thailand

still having group games against Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates to play.

In a statement released early Monday he says, "It was not the playing format that Thai FA and the team supporters desired. I hereby announce the suspension of the contract with Milovan Rajevac as the coach of Thailand's national team."

Assistant Sirisak Yodyathai will take over as interim head coach for

the tournament. Rajevac was hired as the Thailand head coach in April 2017 to replace Kiatsisak Senamuang and had been under increasing pressure since Thailand failed to defend the AFF Cup title last month, losing to Malaysia in the semifinals on away goal rules.

The 65-year-old Serbian was voted the African confederation's coach of the year in 2010 after guiding Ghana to the World Cup quarterfinals. **AP**

Wayne Rooney charged with public intoxication

WAYNE Rooney was arrested last month on a public intoxication charge and taken to jail to sober up after he triggered a door alarm at a Washington-area airport, authorities said Sunday.

Rooney was arrested Dec. 16 by police at Dulles International Airport in Virginia after he caused the alarm to go off at an international arrivals gate, according to a statement from the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority. Authorities said he didn't breach airport security.

Rooney, who plays for a Washington soccer team, had been traveling abroad in the days prior to his arrest, according to his social media posts. The airport authority said he was charged with misdemeanor public intoxication and taken to a county jail in the Virginia suburbs of the nation's capital "to be held until sober." The statement didn't include further details on his arrest.

The Loudon County Sheriff's Office said Rooney, 33, was later released on his own recognizance. A mugshot from his



Rooney pictured in August 2013, when he was playing for Manchester United

booking shows Rooney in what appeared to be an orange jail jumpsuit.

Court documents, which list Rooney as living in the capital suburb of Bethesda, Maryland, show he paid a \$25 fine Friday. Rooney appeared to have been traveling abroad in the days before the arrest. He posted a picture on his verified Instagram account on Dec. 14 in an airplane seat and said he was traveling to an auto race in Saudi Arabia.

Before coming to play in the U.S. this year, Rooney had starred for Manchester United in the English Premier League. His 208 career goals make him the league's second all-

time scorer. He was also the all-time leading scorer for England's national team.

When he joined Washington-based D.C. United, he became the latest in a series of European stars to play for U.S.-based Major League Soccer late in their careers. He helped the team reach the playoffs last year.

D.C. United said in a statement that it was aware of news reports of the arrest, but declined further comment. "We understand the media's interest in this matter but we believe this is a private matter for Wayne that D.C. United will handle internally," the team said. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk

Lynzy Valles



ON INCREASING FESTIVALS AND EVENTS

The recent Macao Light Festival was said to be in demand, thus the Macao Government Tourism Office extended the event in order for tourists and residents to further enjoy the illuminations.

The event themed "Time Travel in Macao" is budgeted at MOP18.5 million – an increase from the previous years' MOP18 million.

The fourth edition of the event introduced a series of highlights including 3D architectural projections and mapping technology, light installations and various interactive games.

The bureau seeks to turn the annual festival into an international event for the city, hence the significant amount of investment it was willing to put in the event.

The festival had three themed routes this year, covering 11 locations across the city's five districts, having a series of activities that engaged with the public.

I went to four locations that featured light installations including the large ones in Taipa Houses Museum and in Arte Nam Van, and I thought that it was quite impressive for Macao to host such festivals, alongside the festive season.

It brought both residents and tourists to these sites and it had them wait on the projection mapping shows at different areas – which had a countdown for spectators to anticipate the kick off of the show.

The festival also brought teams from Portugal, Belgium and Macau to tailor and stage three different projection mapping shows at the Ruins of St. Paul's at different periods.

Such investments brought a different entertainment and a different kind of ambience to both tourists and residents, and has added to some residents' "to do" or "to visit" list for the weekend – something that we should be continually doing.

I often hear locals describing the city as boring, or that there isn't really much to do on a weekend but I think the problem lies in how can we get attracted to attend smaller events such as art fairs or those craft products fairs that local creative stores are offering.

The Light Festival is one of the city's highlights and it is almost unavoidable not to see them because we have the tendency to pass through them as they are spread pretty much across the city, especially in the peninsula.

I reckon we always have a series of activities occurring on weekends – yet we just fail to involve ourselves in these smaller events – or in traditional events that showcases the city's culture.

Following the city's grand events last month including the colorful and vibrant 2018 Macao International Parade, which featured a total of 57 performing groups, January is hosting fun activities and performances including the upcoming 18th Macao City Fringe Festival, which is set to kick off this Friday.

The festival is set to bring an array of local troupes and overseas artists.

With the increasing number of events that the city is hosting, I believe there is always something to do and to see in the region.

The SAR's commitment to holding large festivals and annual events including the International Film Festival Macao, Macao Arts Festival or the annual Parade for Celebration of Chinese New Year – are slowly making progress towards its goal of becoming "world center of tourism and leisure."

These festivals take a significant amount of time to materialize, especially those events that require hundreds of performers from different countries and regions.

Although there is still a long way to go, it is obvious that they are committed to integrating colorful and vibrant festivals and events in the city – to not only attract tourists but to entertain and meet the demand of the local residents.

THE HONG KONG PICKS ADVOCATE OF CHINA-VATICAN DIALOGUE AS BISHOP

Retired head of the Catholic Diocese of Hong Kong Cardinal John Tong will serve as the church's interim administrator in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory, effectively blocking the succession of the highest-ranking serving bishop known to be critical of Beijing.

The announcement was made by the diocese yesterday after Bishop Michael Yeung died on Thursday.

At a time when the Holy See is eager for rapprochement with Beijing, Bishop Joseph Ha is widely

seen as being too outspoken to be an acceptable successor.

Cardinal Tong, however, has been an advocate for China-Vatican dialogue.

Some local bishops in Hong Kong, such as Ha, are politically active moral forces, often championing pro-democracy fights in a diocese of more than 500,000 Catholics.

The 79-year-old Tong stepped down as head of the diocese in 2017.

Gabon's government puts down coup attempt, arrests plotters

Yves Laurent Goma, Libreville

GABON'S government has retained control of the West African country after an attempted military coup yesterday, the government said.

Five army officers who took over state radio in the coup attempt have been arrested, government spokesman Guy-Bertrand Mapangou, told Radio France International.

Authorities have regained control of the state broadcasting offices and a major thoroughfare in the capital, Libreville, which were the only areas taken over by the officers, according to the spokesman.

Earlier yesterday a soldier who identified himself as Lt. Obiang Ondo Kelly, commander of the Republican Guard, read out a statement saying the military had seized control of the government of this West African country. He was flanked by two other soldiers holding weapons and all were dressed in camouflage uniforms and green berets.

He had said they were taking over to "restore democracy."

Those soldiers have been taken into custody and President Ali Bongo's government remains in control, said the spokesman.

A curfew has been imposed



Soldiers from Gabon's Republican Guard said on national TV they have launched a coup "to restore democracy" – probably the shortest in history

over the capital, Libreville, and the internet has been cut. The city on the Atlantic Ocean coast is being patrolled by military tanks and armed vehicles.

The African Union affirmed its support for the Bongo government.

"The African Union strongly condemns the coup attempt this morning in Gabon," the head of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, said on Twitter. "I reaffirm the AU's rejection of all anti-constitutional change."

Bongo, in power since 2009, has been out of the country since October amid reports that he had a stroke. He recently addressed the country in a New Year's message that was filmed in Morocco, where he has been receiving medical treatment.

Oil-rich Gabon has been ruled for more than half a cen-

tury by Bongo and his father, Omar, who died in 2009. Critics have accused the family of profiting from the country's natural resources while not investing enough in basic services for the population of more than 2 million.

In his brief New Year's speech, the 59-year-old Bongo declared that the country was "indivisible" and acknowledged his health problems without giving details. "A difficult period," he called it, and a challenge that he surmounted "thanks to God." He promised to put all of his efforts into improving the daily quality of life for Gabon's people.

The French-educated Bongo, who was the country's defense minister before becoming president, narrowly won re-election in 2016 while opposition rival Jean Ping claimed irregularities and continues to call himself the country's real president. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Blessing. Thousands of replicas of the image of the Black Nazarene are blessed with holy water during the traditional blessing ahead of tomorrow's celebration of the Feast of the Black Nazarene, in Manila.

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

WORLD BRIEFS



EGYPT'S president has inaugurated a new cathedral for the Coptic Orthodox Church and one of the region's largest mosques in a highly symbolic gesture at a time when Islamic militants are increasingly targeting the country's minority Christians.

POLAND The five teenage girls who died in a fire at an escape room entertainment site in northern Poland will be buried together in a joint ceremony this week, the city mayor said yesterday.



GERMANY'S IT security agency defended its response to the leaking of hundreds of politicians' private information, after lawmakers accused it of failing to inform them quickly enough. Politicians from several parties questioned why the Federal Office for Information Security didn't alert Parliament about the case when it first came to light.

SPAIN'S maritime rescue service says it has saved 549 migrants trying to cross the Mediterranean Sea. The service says its craft intercepted six small smuggling boats carrying a total of 350 migrants in waters east of the Strait of Gibraltar.



BRAZIL The attacks and fire-bombings sweeping Brazil's northeastern state of Ceara continued unabated despite the deployment of at least 300 members of the elite, military-style National Police Force to help bring an end to the violence.

GUATEMALA Authorities in Guatemala were holding a member of a U.N.-sponsored anti-corruption commission in the capital's airport, refusing him entry to the country in an escalation of tensions between the government and the commission.