



MACAU NOT AFFECTED BY OIL TANKER BLAZE

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EDUCATION BUREAU APPEALS FOR VACCINATION

Following the case of a boy with encephalitis, DSEJ wants schools to intensify preventive measures against contagious diseases

P3 HEALTH



KIM JONG UN ARRIVES IN BEIJING FOR TALKS

Kim's trip, announced earlier by both sides, comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are believed to have met in Vietnam

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WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND About 200 protesters staged a rare demonstration yesterday in military-ruled Thailand, demanding that there be no further delays in holding elections, which were expected next month but have been put in doubt.

SINGAPORE-MALAYSIA

Officials from Singapore and Malaysia met yesterday and agreed to resolve disputes over airspace and territorial waters that have driven a wedge between the Southeast Asian neighbors. *More on p12*



INDIA's lower house of Parliament approved a bill yesterday that would grant residency and citizenship rights to non-Muslims who entered India illegally, allegedly after fleeing persecution in several neighboring nations.

SYRIA

A top Syrian Kurdish official said yesterday his fighters are prepared to confront Turkish forces if they enter northeastern Syria, adding that it's clear from Ankara's latest statements that Turkey has a plan to invade the region.



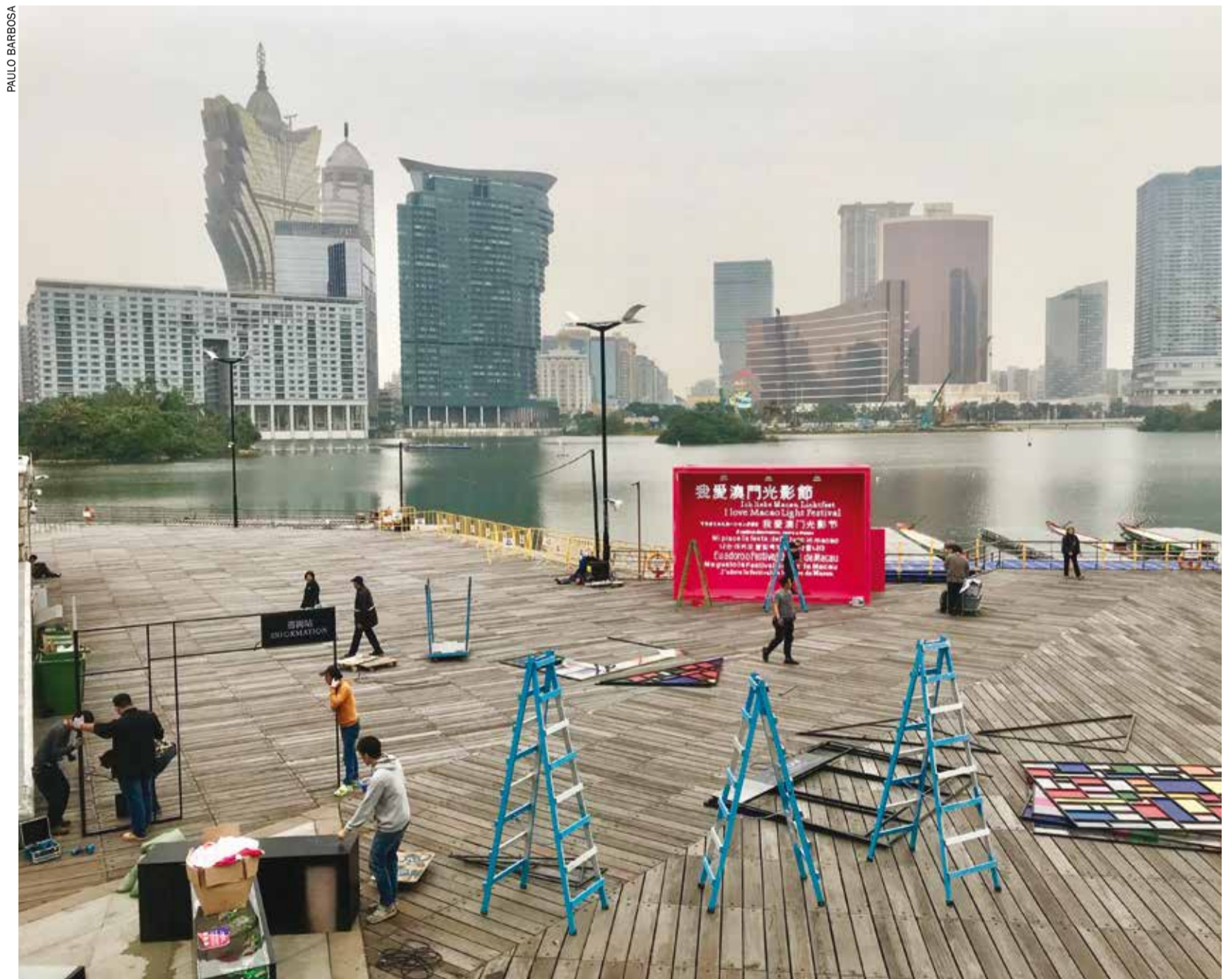
ISRAEL In what was billed as a "dramatic announcement," Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu used a prime-time address to again dismiss a series of corruption allegations against him.

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THE RETURN OF THE POS TERMINALS

Police bust shadow bank, 21 arrested

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Features of Light Festival dismantled, event's extension to cost MOP7m

P5 MDT REPORT

RENATO MARQUES

■ ■
The rise in the pricing of the main essential goods is really very high. Macau is a very costly city.

PEREIRA COUTINHO



ATFPM: Civil servants' wage increase 'not satisfactory'

Lynzy Valles

THE SAR government has increased salaries of the civil servants by 3.5 percent this month, following calls for wage increase due to inflation.

From January 1, the public workers' remuneration index was increased from 85 to 88 points.

In October last year, the Ma-

cau Civil Servants Association (ATFPM) called on the government to increase the salary of civil servants by five percent in 2019, with a group of 10 members from the association visiting the government headquarters to express their opinions.

According to ATFPM's president Pereira Coutinho, the association submitted a document to the Chief Executive (CE) that mentioned the inflation Macau

had experienced since the handover, calculating the total wage increase the SAR granted to civil servants.

The document listed that there is still a 4.6 percent inflation that has not been covered by the public servants' salary increases.

"We requested a 5 percent increase to cover that 4.6 percent. Still, it is not satisfactory to the civil servants because the rise in

the pricing of the main essential goods is really very high. Macau is a very costly city," Coutinho told the Times, explaining that housing rents remain a big burden to residents, especially those paying mortgages in the bank.

Meanwhile, Coutinho also previously requested the government to build some 80,000 public housing units for civil servants.

Since no reply was given towards such request, the lawmaker criticized the government for failing to build public housing since 1999.

"Besides that, we must understand that the government has not built a single house since the handover [for civil servants]. All the houses given in these past years are the remaining ones from the Portuguese administration," he said.

As the Chief Executive's (CE) term is about to end in December 2019, the lawmaker believes that the city's only hope for the request is through the incoming top official.

He recalled that Chui Sai On pledged that the government was evaluating the situation and that it was open to the idea.

The call was given to the Secretary for Public Administration to study the feasibility of the project, along with the Secretary for Transport and Public Works to check whether it would allocate land to build housing units.

"We requested but the government has not constructed a single unit, and not a single house was constructed for the civil servants," Coutinho said.

Questioned whether progress would be made before the CE ends his term, the lawmaker said, "I don't think so because this CE does not seem to be deciding on big issues, so our hope remains on the next CE," he added.

Coutinho recalled that during the Portuguese administration, there were at least 10 buildings that were constructed specifically for civil servants.

Meanwhile, Coutinho also expressed his discontent with the elimination of funds for civil servants.

"That is a wrong decision. We think that the government should give pension funds [especially] for the public security officers so they can have more stability and job security, especially when they retire," he commented.

Gov't open to pledge no interception of calls' content

LAWMAKERS have suggested that the government should write down clear articles in the law regarding its promise to not intercept communication content. The First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) had a meeting on the Cybersecurity Law on

Monday with the government representatives. During the meeting, the government representatives reaffirmed to the lawmakers that the concerned governmental departments will only monitor network traffic; they will not monitor nor will they save communication

content.

The committee then proposed to the government whether it could state such promise in the legal articles regarding not monitoring communication content.

According to the chairman of the committee, Ho Ion Sang, the government

is open to such a proposal.

The bill further proposes that the cyber security monitoring body can appoint representatives to enter radio and television organizations in order to obtain data.

Government representatives promised that the government will not install

any surveillance equipment inside TV companies, and that the monitoring authority will only collect data given by the radio and television operators.

One committee member considered the government's definition of private operator of key infrastructure facility to be unclear.

Moreover, the government representatives noted that the cyber security law is applicable to a total of 116 key infrastructure facility private operators, and that the government also promised to deliver the relevant checklist to the AL committee at the next meeting.

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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 Segui
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 arry@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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CRIME

21 arrested for illegal card swiping activities

THE Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday that it has arrested 21 mainlanders who used POS terminal machines to carry out illegal card-swiping activities for cash-backs.

During the joint operation with the mainland's police authority, the PJ busted an underground bank in Macau.

The arrested mainlanders

are suspected of using modified POS terminals to cash in on behalf of others in Macau.

The PJ seized a total of MOP30 million from the suspects, including the group's MOP25 million in liquidity deposited in five accounts in the casino VIP room.

According to the PJ, the cri-

minal group applied for POS machines in the mainland and modified the machines so that the machines could be used in Macau.

According to bank cards' company's information, the suspects had swiped a total of MOP1.2 billion using the POS machine, and the card companies recorded a loss of MOP2.4 million.

PJ started the investigation in November after the department had exchanged information with the mainland police authority.

On Monday, the police au-

■ The police seized a total of MOP30 million in cash from the suspects

thorities of Beijing, Hebei province, Tianjin, Hubei province and Zhuhai, as well as Macau, simultaneously took action.

Mainland police authorities arrested 16 people in total.

AL hires Portuguese judge



A Portuguese judge has been hired as a legal adviser at the Legislative Assembly (AL). Maria José da Costa Machado has signed a two year contract and will begin to work at the AL. Machado has been a judge with around 30 years of service in Portugal. Her move to the MSAR was approved on December 4, Radio Macau reported. The AL had 24 legal advisers by year-end. Recently there was a controversy where the contracts of two veteran AL legal advisers – Paulo Cardinal and Paulo Taipa – were not renewed. The two Portuguese legal advisers ended their work at the AL on December 31.

HONG KONG

1 killed, 4 injured, 2 missing in oil tanker blaze off Lamma Island



Black smoke billows from an oil tanker after catching fire off Lamma island

ONE person was killed, while four others were injured and another two went missing after an oil tanker caught fire yesterday off Hong Kong's Lamma Island.

The Vietnam-registered tanker burst into flames just before 11:30 a.m. as it prepared to refuel at Lamma Southwest Anchorage, said Yiu Men-Yeung, commander of the Hong Kong Fire Department marine and diving division.

The force of the blast left the 140-meter-long tanker at a 30-degree angle and threw its 25-member crew into the water, Wong Wai-hong, a Hong Kong Police deputy commander, said at a news conference. The refueling barge was destroyed.

Among the 26 people aboard, one man was found dead at the scene, while 23 were rescued from the sea.

Four of the rescued were injured and sent to hospital. Among them, one was seriously burned, according to the information service department.

Emergency crew and a total of six vessels from the HKSAR's Fire Service Department and the Marine Region of the Hong Kong Police Force rushed to the scene to rescue the victims. The fire was brought under control by 3:42 p.m.

The HKSAR Government Flying Service also sent helicopters to search for the two missing people. The police is looking at the cause of the fire.

The Marine and Water Bureau (DSAMA) contacted Hong Kong authorities and was informed that the vessel was not carrying oil and therefore there is no danger of a black tide in Macau. **MDT/Agencies**



HEALTH

Education Bureau appeals for vaccination

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is calling on schools to intensify preventive measures against contagious diseases following the case of a four-year-old boy who is in critical condition due to Type A influenza associated with encephalitis.

The DSEJ has contacted the school where the boy is enrolled to "express concern and provide support." According to a statement, the Bureau will strengthen the communication with schools "advising them to intensify cleanliness and hygiene in the school environment."

The DSEJ also stated that there is a mechanism of exchange of informa-

tion between schools and the Health Bureau in order to identify cases of collective infection caused by contagious diseases in schools as soon as possible.

Given the cold weather and the peak flu season, the DSEJ extended the calls made to schools to parents and guardians, saying that they must pay attention in case minors feel unwell and to contact a doctor if there is suspicion of illness. In cases when the students were not vaccinated yet, the Health Bureau is making an appeal for parents to go to the health center closest to their residence and to get an appointment for the flu vaccine.

Nearly MOP25m approved for building maintenance

The Housing Bureau approved a total of nearly MOP25 million from the building maintenance fund in 2018, according to the latest statistics released by the bureau. Some 129 approvals were issued to applicants who applied for maintenance of low building's common facilities, involving a total of MOP15 million. Around MOP8.55 million were granted to 43 applications for maintenance of elevators, water systems, as well as other building constituents. There were four applications for a subsidy to demolish illegal buildings which were built by the applicants themselves. Two of these applications were approved with a total MOP5,500. Another MOP660,000 was given for building management.

300 live pigs exported to Macau daily

On a daily basis, Macau is importing approximately 300 live pigs from mainland China, according to the vice president of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, Lei Wai Nong. Recently, an African swine fever (ASF) outbreak has been continuously reported in mainland China. There is a concern in Macau regarding the reduction in the supply of live pigs to the city. Lei noted that the current live pigs supply to Macau is sufficient. Additionally, in order for Macau to prevent a potential future ASF situation, the city has already prepared a plan to ensure an alternative supply of live pigs to the city.

Property price index increases 8pct year-on-year

THE overall residential property price index for the period between September to November 2018 increased by 0.7 percent over the previous period of August to October, reaching 270.5, according to latest information from the Statistics and Census Service. The property price index for Macau (272.4) rose by 0.8 percent, while the index for Taipa and Coloane (261.5) held steady.

In comparison with September to November 2017, the overall residential property price index increased by 8.3 percent, with the indexes for existing residential units and pre-sale residential units rising by 7.7 percent and 12.8 percent respectively.

Analyzed by type of property, the index for existing residential units (291.8) increased by 0.5 percent considering the period between September to November 2018, with those in the Macau peninsula (287.3) rising 0.6 percent and those in



Taipa and Coloane (312.3) falling 0.2 percent.

Based on the year of completion of building construction, the indexes for those built within the last five years increased by 0.4

percent, while the index for those completed between 11 and 20 years ago grew by 1.6 percent. The index for buildings completed between six and 10 years ago fell by 0.8 percent and those completed

over 20 years ago dropped 0.7 percent.

Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units decreased by 0.3 percent to 272.3 during the September to November period.

Experts gather at UM to discuss development of future cities

A seminar on future electricity supply for smart cities was recently held at the University of Macau's (UM) Institute of Collaborative Innovation. The event was organized by UM's State Key Laboratory of Internet of Things for Smart City and Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM). During the event, experts and scholars discussed about technologies for the future development of smart energy supply system to be used in a smart city.

In his speech, UM's Rector Yonghua Song said that UM established China's first State Key Laboratory of Internet of Things for smart cities. He said that the laboratory will further enhance the quality of research studies in this field and will develop basic theories, algorithms, and systems, in order to provide technical support in the development of future smart cities for Macau, the Greater Bay Area, and other parts of China.

During the seminar, Professor Wang Xiuli from Xi'an Jiaotong University, Professor Wang Furong from the University of Bath, and Lee Chi Chio from CEM each gave a presentation. They shared their latest research results in the fields of power system reliability evaluation, future 3D transformation of distribution power networks and smart grid platforms for Macau with participating experts, scholars, engineers, and students.

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Macao Light Festival extension to cost MOP7m



Some features of the event were being dismantled yesterday

THE Macao Light Festival's 20-day extension period will cost the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) around MOP7 million, according to information provided to the Times yesterday.

Late last month MGTO informed that, due to a surge in visitors and positive coverage by the media, the month-long Macao Light Festival in December would be extended until January 20, in order to enable more of the public to enjoy the illuminations and "prolong its compelling effect as a mega event."

The original budget for the festival this year was MOP18.5 million, up from MOP18 million last year. The extension, which represents a two-thirds increase from the initial length, will cost MGTO just over one-third more.

The budget for the festival is in line with other large cultural events in the MSAR. For example, last year the Macao International Parade had a budget of MOP16 million, while the Macao Arts Festival (organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau) was budgeted at MOP22 million.

On several visits last month to some of the 11 locations of the Macao Light Festival, the Times found audiences of more than a hundred attendees, including at the Taipa Houses-Museum and at the Ruins of St. Paul's on one rainy Friday night before the new year. According to MGTO, the popularity of the events was the impetus for the 20-day extension.

However, not all of the attractions are to remain until January 20.

In a note to the Times yesterday, MGTO clarified that, due to the limited availability of certain venues, the activities at St. Dominic's Church, the Camões Garden, the Taipa Houses-Museum and the Taipa Municipal Market would not be extended.

Moreover, the Gastronomy Night Market in the square in front of Pak Tai Temple, the Cultural and Creative Night Market Outdoor, Local Concert at Anim'Arte Nam Van and the Light Dancers at Rua das Estalagens would also conclude early.

Some attractions of the festival on the Nam Van Lake promenade were dismantled yesterday. In a press release issued on December 21, MGTO stated that "the Gastronomy Night Market at the square in front of Pak Tai Temple as well as the Cultural and Creative Night Market and the Outdoor Local Concert at Anim'Arte Nam Van are not to be extended." However, some of these events remained open during the first week of January.

The other locations of the festival, including the popular projection mapping show at the Ruins of St. Paul's, will continue every day from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. until January 20.

Themed "Time Travel in Macao", the Macao Light Festival 2018 is organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office, co-organized by the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau, the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Sports Bureau.

MELCO WHOLE PERSON DEVELOPMENT Providing career opportunities and striving for excellence

ONE of Macau's largest employers, Melco Resorts & Entertainment fosters talent and career prospects for employees through lifelong learning

Asian gaming company Melco recently announced its record-breaking achievement in the Michelin Guide 2019; with the company's six signature restaurants attaining a total of 10 Michelin Stars, Melco has been established as the world's integrated resort operator with the highest number of Michelin stars. This esteemed mark of excellence highlights Melco's dedication to brilliance in its food and beverage offerings; none of which would be possible without the determination and commitment of its extraordinary line-up of culinary talents.

City of Dreams' Jade Dragon is honored as Macau's one and only three Michelin-starred Cantonese restaurant. Speaking about the team's achievement of the industry's most coveted recognition, Jade Dragon's executive chef Kelvin Au Yeung said "this has been the single most defining moment in my career so far. I worked for many years under the guidance of my mentor at Jade Dragon and took over the helm a year ago."

That being said, Chef Au Yeung is no "newcomer" to Jade Dragon; with close to 25 years' experience in top Chinese restaurants, he has been a member of the Jade Dragon team since its inception in 2012. Supported by his managers, Chef Au Yeung rose through the ranks of senior sous chef, chef de cuisine and executive sous chef before being appointed executive chef in November 2017.

When asked about the team's key to success as illustrated through the restaurant's one-Michelin star achievement (2014-2015), two-star award (2016-2018), and finally today achieving the most celebrated three-star accolade; Chef Au Yeung explained, "my mentors have always taught me to grasp firmly onto opportunities when they come along, by performing to our best ability and positively confronting challenges, always seeking to better ourselves in order to overcome such obstacles".



Representatives from Melco's management team and six signature restaurants receive recognition at the Michelin Guide Hong Kong Macau 2019 awards ceremony



Mr. Kelvin Au Yeung, Executive Chef of Jade Dragon

THE FUTURE IS OURS

Self-improvement is an overarching vision at Melco. "Our vision is to offer everyone better – because they deserve better," said Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho, "and that is why, at Melco, we encourage continuous learning and development. As one of the largest employers in the city, we hope to inspire all employees to build a better future for themselves." Established in 2010, Melco's in-house Learning Academy was created with the intention to enable em-



Lawrence Ho congratulates a colleague on his achievement of a bachelor's degree co-organized by Melco's in-house Learning Academy

ployees the opportunity to learn and further develop skills and knowledge to enhance professionalism.

So far, the Learning Academy has run over 200 programs per year including both in-house courses and programs in partnership with external training bodies. On-site taught courses' categories include leadership and management, corporate governance, HR policies, hotel operations, languages, computer skills as well as lifestyle courses. Classes are developed with colleagues' convenience in mind and held either within the properties, or at Melco's Learning Academy. The academy also collaborates with other educational institutions to provide educational credits as well as diploma certificates.

Melco's fundamental Whole Person Development philosophy promotes learning as a lifelong goal to help employees build a better foundation, gaining knowledge today to in preparation for tomorrow's challenges and opportunities. Looking ahead, the Melco Learning Academy is continuing to support over 120 colleagues with the chance to study for bachelor degrees, diplomas and advanced diplomas in the fields of Hospitality, Casino and Gaming Management with the aim to positively transform both the working and personal lives of its employees.

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

French Chamber of Commerce to hold gala dinner on Jan 25

THE France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) will hold its annual charity gala dinner on January 25, aiming to raise some MOP80,000 for a project that will benefit underprivileged elderlies.

Themed "First Class to Tahiti," proceeds of the funds will support Macao Fok Sin Association's (MFS) project "Visit the Elderly," which aims to conduct visits and bring gifts to the elderly who have low mobility and are lacking emotional and financial support.

Last year, through selling lucky draw tickets, the gala dinner raised nearly MOP80,000 to support the project.

These funds were used to purchase kits that each contained a cane umbrella, reading glasses, cotton coat, wool hat and scarfs, along with other necessities.

The group visited the social housing complex in Ilha Ver-



Rutger Verschuren (center) and other FMCC members

de and Coloane and distributed a total of 160 packages to 80 elderly households.

"We will collect funds by selling lucky draws. It is quite successful every year and we hope to raise MOP70,000 to MOP80,000 which will go

straight to the hands of the elderly, the needy ones who have family troubles or financial issues," said chairman of FMCC Rutger Verschuren on the sidelines of the press conference held yesterday.

"We really make sure that

the items bought together with the MFS, will go to those people. We will hand deliver them like what we did last year," he added.

Since the Chinese New Year is an important time of the year, Verschuren said that the project is also a way to give back to the community, hinting that the visits and activities conducted are more important for the elderlies.

"Although Macau is such a rich place for a lot of people, it is not as rosy as we think it is. During Chinese New Year, a lot of people or maybe families have [...] children living far away, [so] by our activities; we give them some warmth during the time when it is expected," said the chairman.

"The money value per person may be not that much but with the visits [...] it's helping those people and helps the giver in a way that it enriches [us] by understanding that it is not all well-to-do in Macau," Verschuren added.

This is the second year that the chamber is working with the local association.

MFS is a group of residents who volunteer to offer services in a bid to provide a platform for the younger generation to volunteer through social work and raise awareness for community support. LV

Exhibition showcases Portuguese, Chinese paintings

A calligraphy and painting exhibition titled "The Fusion of the Chinese and Portuguese Cultural Horizons in the Painting," co-organized by the University of Macau's (UM) Confucius Institute and the Macau Orient Painting and Calligraphy Association, will be held at the UM's Wu Yee Sun Library from January 16 to 22. The UM's Confucius Institute aims to boost the development of the Chinese and Portuguese cultures, as well as promote the education of Chinese language in the Portuguese-speaking world, and to deepen the world's understanding of traditional Chinese culture. The exhibition will demonstrate the encounter and fusion of Chinese and Portuguese aesthetics and increase understanding of traditional Chinese paintings and calligraphy among UM faculty members, students, and the public.

Woman using fake ID pretends to faint

A mainland woman, who was using a fake travel ID to cross the Gongbei border gate to come into Macau, was caught by the Gongbei customs authority. Upon being spotted by a Gongbei customs officer, the woman refused to cooperate and used a health excuse to try to avoid punishment. The woman pretended to faint and lay on the floor. Eventually, the woman admitted that she is healthy and that she used her sister's ID. The woman's ID was seized and she was issued an administrative punishment.

ALBERGUE SCM
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Nissan's ex-chair Ghosn appears in court, asserts innocence

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

THE former chairman of Japan's Nissan Motor Co., Carlos Ghosn, denied any wrongdoing and proclaimed his loyalty to the company at a court hearing in Tokyo yesterday. It was Ghosn's first public appearance since he was arrested on Nov. 19 and charged with false financial reporting.

"Your honor, I am innocent of the accusations against me," Ghosn told the judge, speaking firmly and calmly as he read from a statement. "I am wrongfully accused."

Prosecutors have charged Ghosn, who led a dramatic turnaround at the Japanese automaker over the past two decades, with falsifying financial reports in underreporting his income by about 5 billion yen (USD44 million) over five years through 2015. They also say he is suspected of having Nissan temporarily take on his investment losses from the financial crisis.

Wearing plastic slippers and a dark suit without a tie, Ghosn rebutted the allegations against him point-by-point and said he had the option to leave Nissan but had decided to stay on.

"A captain doesn't jump ship during a storm," said Ghosn, who was visibly thinner than before his arrest.

The veteran auto executive, a familiar face at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, and other elite gatherings, was handcuffed and led into the courtroom with a rope around his waist as the hearing began. Officers removed his handcuffs and seated him on a bench.

Presiding judge Yuichi Tada then read out the charges and said Ghosn, a Brazilian-born



Judge Yuichi Tada (top center) and spectators sit in a courtroom ahead of a court hearing

Frenchman of Lebanese ancestry, was considered a flight risk — he was arrested on his arrival in Tokyo by private jet — and might try to hide evidence.

In Japan, suspects are routinely held without bail, often due to fears about evidence tampering.

During yesterday's hearing, Go Kondo, one of Ghosn's lawyers, argued he was not a flight risk.

"He's widely known so it's difficult for him to escape. There is no risk that the suspect will destroy evidence," he said.

Facing the courtroom, Ghosn spoke proudly of the automaker's — and his own — achievements, such as reviving iconic models like the GT-R and the Z, expanding operations in China, Russia, Brazil and India and pioneering electric cars and autonomous driving.

"I have a genuine love and appreciation for Nissan," he said.

Ghosn has been held in Spartan conditions at a Tokyo detention facility since he was taken into custody. However, Ghosn's defense lawyer Motonari Ohtsuru told reporters at the Foreign Correspondents' Club late yesterday that Ghosn was transferred to a bigger room with a bed at his request.

In keeping with Japanese regulations, he has been allowed visits only from his lawyers and consular officials.

Ghosn said he had "acted honorably, legally and with the knowledge and approval of the appropriate executives inside the company with the sole purpose of supporting and strengthening Nissan," according to a statement released to some media including The Associated Press before the hearing and confirmed by his legal team.

It said he had not failed to disclose any of his income from Nissan.

Ghosn also defended payments questioned by prosecutors and by Nissan that were made to Khaled Juffali, a Saudi businessman. He said the money was paid to Juffali for real work that he did to sort out problems with a local distributor.

Before the hearing, the Khaled Juffali Company issued a statement saying the \$14.7 million in payments over four years from Nissan "were for legitimate business purposes."

Other Nissan executives approved the payment, Ohtsuru said.

Ghosn said his personal investment losses stemmed from being paid in Japanese yen and that he had only asked Nissan to temporarily provide collateral for foreign exchange contracts. The company suffered no losses, he said.

Sent to Japan by Nissan's alliance partner Renault SA of France in 1999, Ghosn led a spectacular turnaround at the Yokohama-based automaker over two decades, during which he mostly served as chief executive.

Your honor, I am innocent of the accusations against me.

CARLOS GHOSN

Renault owns 43 percent of Nissan, while Nissan owns 15 percent of Renault. The alliance, which in recent years has added smaller Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp., has risen to be one of the most successful in the industry, rivaling Volkswagen AG of Germany and Japan's Toyota Motor Corp.

Ghosn remains the head of Renault and is still on Nissan's board of directors.

His courtroom appearance drew worldwide attention, with throngs of cameras set up outside the Tokyo Detention Center to capture his departure. No cameras or audio recordings are allowed in Japanese court sessions.

Authorities also arrested a fellow Nissan executive and aide to Ghosn, Greg Kelly, charging him with collaborating with Ghosn to underreport his income. Kelly, an American, was released on bail on Dec. 25. He also has maintained his innocence.

Tokyo prosecutors have repeatedly extended Ghosn's detention by adding new allegations. The latest is suspicion of breach of trust stemming from the claim he had Nissan temporarily shoulder his personal investment losses.

Formal charges on those allegations have not been filed and no trial dates have been set for Ghosn or Kelly. Ghosn's detention now runs through Friday.

Ohtsuru said that preparations for a trial on charges of breach of trust could take months. He said he would continue to appeal Ghosn's detention.

Ghosn's protege and successor, Nissan Chief Executive Hiroto Saikawa, has denounced Ghosn, claiming he used company assets and money for personal gain and falsified financial reports.

Nissan spokesman Nicholas Maxfield said an investigation by the company that found "substantial and convincing evidence of misconduct" prompted prosecutors to act.

Under Japanese law, falsifying financial reporting carries the maximum penalty of 10 years in prison, a 10 million yen (\$89,000) fine, or both. But some experts have questioned the allegations against Kelly and Ghosn since Nissan itself, not individual executives, should be responsible for filing such financial reports. **AP**

UK

Heathrow lays plans to add 25,000 flights even before new runway

LONDON'S Heathrow Airport aims to boost capacity even before a new runway opens, with the rejigging of the way two existing landing strips are used to add 25,000 aircraft movements a year.

The project, revealed yesterday as part of a consultation process on the 16 billion-pound (USD20 billion) third runway, may stir controversy at Europe's busiest airport due to

added disruption to local residents years before the planned infrastructure comes into use in 2026. The extra flights would represent about 5 percent more than a current cap.

A key change would allow jets to use existing runways for both landing and take offs in the same direction from 2022, breaking from an arrangement that sees one used for arrivals and the other for departures.

While that would boost punctuality, "flight paths could overfly areas that are not affected by Heathrow arrivals today," the airport said in the study on proposed airspace changes.

Heathrow also proposes that a limit of 480,000 flights a year from the existing runways be scrapped once planning permission for the third strip is received. That would allow about 5 percent more flights,

depending on terms of noise and night-flight curbs that have yet to be agreed. The third runway itself will lift annual capacity by almost 75 percent to 135 million travelers.

The London hub has been close to capacity since the start of the decade, squeezing in more passengers only because airlines are moving to bigger jets. Enlarging the airport will be crucial to the U.K. eco-



nomy, especially in the wake of Brexit, the government has said.

Other proposals detail how flights could alternate from the three future

runways to best manage noise and offer periods of respite. Detailed plans for the new strip and physical infrastructure will be revealed in June. **Bloomberg**

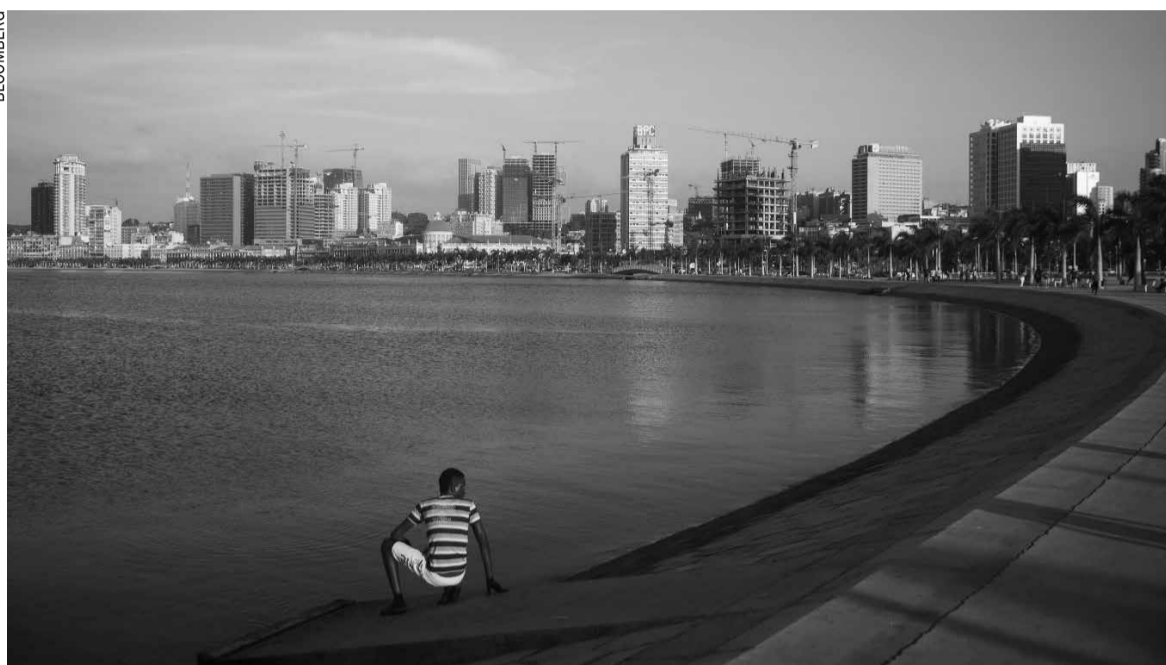
ANGOLA

Agreement with IMF gives credibility to reform process

ANGOLA'S agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) will make the ongoing reform process in the country more credible, the minister of state for economic and social development said in an interview with state newspaper Jornal de Angola.

Manuel Nunes Júnior said that with the Extended Fund Facility (EFF), approved by the IMF, on August 7, 2018, it is possible to increase foreign investment in the country, as well as to accelerate the implementation of economic and social improvements for Angolans.

The minister also said that the USD3.7 billion in funding will help Angola implement the Macroeconomic Stabilization Programme, including the fiscal adjustment process, allowing the process of revitalization of the productive sector to begin. In addition to financial aid, the minister highlighted IMF technical support, which he said has the best people in the world on issues related to macroeconomic management.



The Bay of Luanda, Angola

The plan signed with the IMF was drawn up on the basis of the Macroeconomic Stabilization Program launched by the government in January last year and the 2018-2022 National Development Program.

The three-year program aims to open Angola up to the inter-

national capital market under more advantageous conditions, among other benefits. The loan has a grace period of four and a half years and a repayment period of ten years, with an interest rate of no more than 3 percent.

This agreement will strengthen the government's ability to solve

social problems, ensure the success of the economic diversification program, increase exports, the amount of non-oil foreign exchange revenues and the supply of jobs, according to President João Lourenço speaking at a press conference held on 21 December 2018. **MDT/Macauhub**

More demand from China increases soy exports from Brazil

IN 2018, Brazil exported a record 83.8 million tonnes of soybeans, an increase of 23.1 percent when compared to 2017, the Foreign Trade Secretariat of the Ministry of Development, Industry and Commerce Exterior said last week.

The increase in exports, which benefited from a record harvest of 120 million tonnes, was due to the growth of demand for Brazilian soybeans from China, which is involved in a trade war with the United States.

This trade war meant that the Chinese government decided to apply customs duties to US soy imports, leading Chinese companies to turn to Brazilian producers to meet demand.

Figures from the Brazilian National Association of Grain Exporters (ANEC) showed that in the first 11 months of 2018 Brazil sent 82 percent of global soy exports to China, which reached 80.1 million tonnes.

In addition to soybeans, coffee also recorded a record harvest of 60 million 60-kilogramme bags, driven by the biennial cycle of the Arabica variety, the one most cultivated in Brazil.

The record coffee harvest meant that the number of bags exported in 2018 surpassed the number registered in 2017 by 10.7 percent with a total of 30.4 million bags or 1.82 million tonnes.

Brazilian corn exports fell by 18.3 percent in 2018 to 23.9 million tonnes and raw sugar exports dropped 21.5 percent to 18.3 million tonnes and refined sugar fell 42.2 percent to 3.1 million tonnes. **MDT/Macauhub**

THE São Tomé and Príncipe government restored the country's standard time on January 1, when clocks moved from 2:00 am to 1:00 a.m., putting an end to the previous standard time adopted a year ago, according to official information.

The decision to change standard time was taken less than a month ago at a Cabinet meeting of the government headed by Prime Minister Jorge Bom Jesus, fulfilling one of the

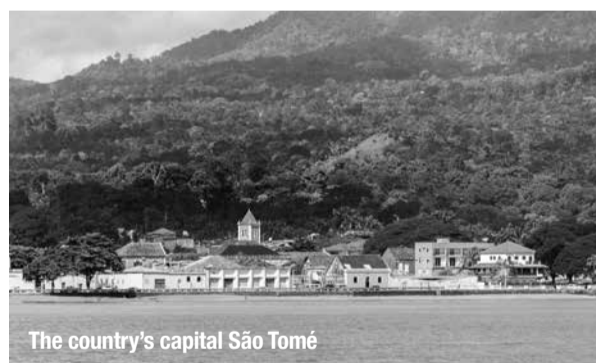
São Tomé and Príncipe returns to previous standard time

pledges he made during the campaign for the October 7 general elections.

"The Council of Ministers decided that from January 1 2019 our secular time will be restored," said the Government spokesman and Secretary of State for Social Communication,

Adelino Lucas.

The change to standard time by moving it forward by one hour was made in January 2018 by the former Independent Democratic Action government led by Patrice Trovoada, as part of a new strategic and development plan for the country. **MDT/Macauhub**



The country's capital São Tomé

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TRADE WAR

No word on progress after second day of China-US talks

Joe McDonald, Beijing

TALKS between the U.S. and China on ending their tariff war were ending their second day yesterday without word on whether they've made any progress, as an official newspaper warned not to push Beijing too hard.

China is strong and has its own needs, said the Global Times, published by the ruling Communist Party. Washington "cannot push China too far" and must avoid a situation that "spins out of control."

Negotiators began the talks Monday on the trade war launched by President Donald Trump in July with tariff hikes on Chinese goods in response to complaints that Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology.

Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping agreed on Dec. 1 to postpone more tariff hikes on each other's goods for 90 days while they negotiate. But neither side appears to have budged, and economists say three months is too little time to resolve issues that have disrupted U.S.-Chinese relations for years.

Washington is pressing Beijing for changes including rolling back plans for government-led creation of Chinese global champions in robotics and other fields. Europe, Japan and other trading partners echo Washington's complaints that those violate Beijing's market-opening obligations.

Chinese officials have suggested Beijing might alter its industrial plans but they have rejected



Undersecretary for International Affairs David Malpass (left) who is part of U.S. trade delegation leaves from a hotel for a second day of meetings with Chinese officials in Beijing yesterday

pressure to abandon their blueprint for greater prosperity and global influence. They have tried to defuse pressure for more sweeping change by offering concessions including purchasing more American soybeans, natural gas and other exports.

"China would need to significantly recalibrate its industrial policies to fully meet the U.S. trade team's demands," Nick Marro of the Economist Intelligence Unit said in a report. "The limited policy movement that we've seen so far suggests that

a game-changing deal remains unlikely."

Also yesterday, North Korean leader Kim Jong-un arrived in Beijing in a possible effort to coordinate with the North's only major ally ahead of a possible meeting with Trump. U.S. and North Korean officials are believed to have met in Vietnam to discuss a location.

A Chinese foreign ministry spokesman rejected suggestions that Kim's visit was intended as a bargaining chip during the trade talks.

China's position on trade is

"transparent and the U.S. side is well aware of it," said Lu Kang. "China does not need to use any other tactics."

As the talks began Monday at the Chinese Ministry of Commerce, Beijing complained about a U.S. warship in what it said were Chinese waters, but it was unclear whether that would disrupt the proceedings. Both sides have provided scant information about their discussions.

The talks went ahead despite tensions over the arrest of a Chinese tech executive in Canada on U.S. charges related to possi-

ble violations of trade sanctions against Iran.

The American delegation is led by a deputy U.S. trade representative, Jeffrey D. Gerrish, and includes agriculture, energy, commerce, treasury and State Department officials.

Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on USD250 billion of Chinese imports. China 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.

The Global Times commentary said China's growing economy means it can "carry out a more intense boycott" of trade with the United States if needed.

Beijing's growing commercial and political ties with its neighbors will make it harder for Washington to find Asian countries willing to help it try to "contain China," the newspaper said.

Still, cooling economic growth in both countries is increasing 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 growth will slow this year.

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. **AP**

Man injures 20 kids with hammer in Beijing primary school

A 49-year-old man injured 20 children with a hammer yesterday inside a primary school in China's capital, officials said.

Three of the children have serious but non-life-threatening injuries, the Xicheng district government said on its social media account, adding that the attack took place at 11:17 a.m.

The suspect, surnamed Jia, was apprehended at the scene, the statement said. A native of northern Heilongjiang province, Jia was employed through a labor service company to

perform daily maintenance work at the school. His contract was set to expire this month and had not been renewed.

As an expression of his dissatisfaction, Xicheng district said, Jia wielded a hammer that he normally used for work to injure students during a class.

All the harmed children were receiving hospital treatment.

The school, Beijing No. 1 Affiliated Elementary School of Xuanwu Normal School, was founded in 1908. According to the school's website, it has

2,537 students and 199 teaching personnel.

Outside the school gates yesterday afternoon, parents who were there to pick up their kids said they had received little information about the attack.

"I was terrified," said an elderly man who gave only his surname, Xie. His grandson is a second-grader at the school.

"[The school] didn't tell us anything," Xie said. "It would be fine if he attacked us old people, but kids are young and innocent, and they don't know how to defend themselves."

Many schools in China have beefed up security following violence against students and family members.

In 2010, nearly 20 children were killed in knife attacks outside school gates.

Last April, nine people were killed outside a middle school in northwestern China, allegedly by a former student seeking revenge for having been bullied. In November, five people were killed when a car plowed into a crowd of children outside a northeastern Chinese kindergarten. **AP**



Parents gather at an entrance gate to the Beijing No. 1 Affiliated Elementary School of Xuanwu Normal School following an attack yesterday

BBF?

Kim Jong Un arrives in Beijing for talks

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un arrived in Beijing yesterday at the start of a four-day visit, in what's likely an effort to coordinate with his only major ally ahead of a second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump that could happen early this year.

A long motorcade including motorcycle outriders reserved for state leaders left a Beijing train station shortly after the arrival of an armored train consisting of 20 to 25 cars — most of whose windows were blacked-out — along tracks lined by police and paramilitary troops.

Kim's trip, announced earlier by both sides, comes after U.S. and North Korean officials are believed to have met in Vietnam to discuss the location of a second summit.

The North's Korean Central News Agency said Kim departed Monday afternoon with his wife, Ri Sol Ju, and other top officials. It said Kim is visiting China at the invitation of Chinese President Xi Jinping. Yesterday also happens to be Kim's birthday.

China's official Xinhua News Agency issued a nearly identical report.

Beijing's North Railway Station was cocooned in security, with dozens of police and paramilitary troops patrolling outside.

Kim is expected to stay at the highly secure Diaoyutai State Guest House in the capital's west, with meetings held at the Great Hall of the People, the hulking seat of the legislature that sits next to Tiananmen Square.

The trip marked a further break with past practice in that it was announced in advance of Kim's arrival, a possible sign of growing confidence on the part of North Korea and China, the North's most important trading partner and a key buffer against pressure from Washington.

After years of cool relations following Kim's assumption of power 2011, ties have improved remarkably over the past year as Xi seeks to maintain his influence in the region.

Kim's trip comes as the U.S. and North Korea look to settle the North's decades-long pursuit of a nuclear arsenal.

The U.S. and North Korea seemed close to war at points during 2017 as the North staged a series of increasingly powerful weapons tests that brought it closer to its nuclear goal of one day being able to target anywhere on the U.S. mainland.

Possibly fearing the economic effect of crushing outside sanctions imposed over his wea-



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un walks with his wife Ri Sol Ju at Pyongyang Station in Pyongyang, before leaving for China

pons tests, Kim abruptly turned to diplomacy with Seoul and Washington last year. He also visited China three times, notably without a reciprocal visit from Xi in a break with diplomatic convention.

But even after what was seen as a blockbuster summit between Kim and Trump in Singapore last June — the first ever between the leaders of the war enemies — there's been little real progress in nuclear disarmament.

Washington is pressing North Korea to offer up a detailed accounting of its nuclear arsenal, while the North says it has already done enough and it's time for the U.S. to ease the harsh international sanctions that hold back the North Korean economy.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang gave no details about China's role as an intermediary between the U.S. and North Korea, but said Beijing remained supportive of all efforts toward a solution.

"We always believe that, as key parties to the Korean Peninsula issue, it's important for the two sides to maintain contact and we always support their dialogue to achieve positive outcomes," Lu told reporters at a daily briefing.

He said further information about Kim's activities, the ou-

come of his meetings and a possible Xi visit to North Korea would be "released in due course."

South Korean presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said yesterday that Seoul hopes Kim's trip to China will act as a "stepping stone" for a second Trump-Kim summit.

Trump has offered assurances that another summit will allow him and Kim to make a grand deal to settle the nuclear standoff and change a relationship marked by decades of animosity and mistrust.

However, outside analysts are highly skeptical that North Korea will easily abandon a nuclear arsenal constructed in the face of deep poverty and likely seen by Kim as his only guarantee of regime survival.

Instead, Kim may be seeking to gauge China's attitude toward sanctions ahead of the talks, including what North Korea would have to concede in order to win Beijing's support at the U.N.

China, a veto-wielding permanent member of the U.N. Security Council, has agreed to several rounds of punishing economic sanctions against the North. However, Xi has called on the sides to "meet each other halfway," and China's foreign minister in September urged some form of sanctions relief in response to any positive outco-

mes from the first Kim-Trump summit.

North Korea has held off on additional nuclear weapons and missile tests for more than a year, possibly in response to China's displeasure, while carrying out its new diplomatic offensive.

Further information about Kim's activities, the outcome of his meetings and a possible Xi visit to N. Korea would be 'released in due course'

"The two leaders will further communicate over the issue of sanctions to further refine their previously general and vague attitudes," said Cheng Xiaohu, professor at Renmin University's School of International Studies in Beijing.

"It is impossible to see the cancellation of all sanctions, but

what kind of sanctions can be canceled and what are China and North Korea's views on that will be discussed," Cheng said.

Trump has pushed heavily for Chinese support in convincing North Korea to give up its weapons programs, suggesting that could win Beijing better terms in a trade deal with Washington.

Kim's arrival in Beijing coincides with U.S.-China trade talks in Beijing that seek to end the trade dispute between the world's two largest economies ahead of a March deadline.

Asked whether China was linking the two issues in an interview Monday with CNBC, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said, "The Chinese have been very clear to us that these are separate issues."

"Their behavior has demonstrated that as well and we appreciate that," Pompeo said. "China has actually been a good partner in our efforts to reduce the risk to the world from North Korea's nuclear capability. I expect they will continue to do so."

Lu echoed those sentiments in his response to a similar question, saying trade talks and the North Korean issues are "not the same thing."

"Our positions on the trade talks are very consistent and clear and we don't need any other techniques to help the U.S. to get our message." AP

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

OFFICIALS from Singapore and Malaysia met yesterday and agreed to resolve disputes over airspace and territorial waters that have driven a wedge between the Southeast Asian neighbors.

The spat concerns waters off western Singapore that are contested by both countries. The countries also disagree on an instrument landing system used by a Singapore civilian airport since January that allows landings in low visibility. Malaysian officials have said these landings would encroach on its airspace and stop parts of an industrial town from having tall buildings or even mobile cranes. It has declared an area as restricted for military activities.

Yesterday, Singapore Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan and his Malaysian counterpart, Saifuddin Abdullah, suspended the landing system and restrictions for a month. They promised further discussions and also announced a working group for maritime tensions.

The ministers had a “positive and constructive meeting” in the city-state, a joint statement released by Singapore’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs said. “They agreed on the importance of keeping the situation on the ground calm to allow discussions to take place in a conducive atmosphere,” it added.

Last October, Malaysia extended its port limits into waters Singapore regarded as its own. In response, Singapore claimed the area and reported 14 “intrusions” by Malaysian government vessels between Nov. 24 and Dec. 5. Both sides have refused to budge on their claims but have said they want a peaceful resolution.

Singapore, Malaysia move to cool airspace and sea disputes



“At the moment, because there is no decision, the vessels are there. Singaporean vessels are there, our vessels are there,” Malaysian Prime Minister

Mahathir Mohamad told reporters.

Mahathir led Malaysia for 22 years before stepping down in 2003. During his term there

were frequent sharp exchanges with Singapore and its first prime minister, Lee Kuan Yew.

Last May, an electoral upset brought Mahathir into power

again. He had put aside a dispute with a former political nemesis to lead a four-party coalition to victory. Since then, the 93-year-old has been fully occupied with establishing his own government and trying to repair Malaysia’s finances following a massive corruption scandal that helped topple his predecessor, Najib Razak.

The Malaysian leader’s return worries some in Singapore who fear he will raise prices for the water that the city-state relies on. He has already postponed a high-speed rail project that cuts traveling time between Singapore and Malaysia’s capital, Kuala Lumpur.

The island nation, which made the leap from colonial port to bustling metropolis, is widely seen as the smaller but wealthier of the two countries.

Rais Hussin, a supreme council member from Mahathir’s political party, Parti Pribumi Bersatu Malaysia, said in a commentary that Singapore will suffer “pain by a thousand cuts” for its stance at sea.

“A small gesture of kindness to Malaysia, even the occasional appreciative word, would be nice. Instead, Singapore often takes a holier-than-thou approach — believing that only they are right and everyone else is wrong,” he wrote.

“Chill, man,” Ho Ching, the wife of Singapore’s prime minister, responded on Facebook.

The countries were briefly merged in 1963 but separated soon after. AP

REPORT

Trump, Kim likely to choose Hanoi for second summit

U.S. President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un could meet in Vietnam’s capital for their second summit on Pyongyang’s nuclear ambitions, the South Korean newspaper Munhwa Ilbo said.

Denuclearization talks have sputtered since Trump and Kim held an unprecedented June meeting in Singapore, with Washington and Pyongyang each calling on the other to take action. A second summit could address concerns to global security after Kim piled pressure on Trump by threatening in his annual New Year’s address to take a “new path,” if the U.S. didn’t relax economic sanctions.



U.S. officials have met their North Korean counterparts in Hanoi for discussions to adjust scheduling for the talks, the

newspaper said, citing high-level diplomatic sources in Seoul and Washington it did not identify. Government officials haven’t com-

mented on the report.

Such a summit would be certain to grab global attention and help boost the profile of the host nation.

But it also presents enormous security challenges for Trump, the leader of the world’s biggest economy, and Kim, head of arguably one of the world’s most paranoid states.

Vietnam is a long-standing ally of Pyongyang that has good relations with Washington. Speculation about the country’s prospects as a summit site grew following North Korean Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho’s visit there from Nov. 29-Dec. 2.

The South Korean newspaper JoongAng Ilbo previously reported that Mark Lambert, a senior U.S. State Department official handling North Korea issues, visited Vietnam in December. It was unclear whether

he was in Vietnam at the same time as North Korea’s foreign minister.

Hanoi - about a four-hour direct flight from Pyongyang and in airspace over countries friendly to North Korea - boasts several top-class hotels. Vietnam’s ruling Communist Party also has the security apparatus to squelch protests and keep curious onlookers far away from Trump and Kim.

Trump has previously said he plans to hold a second meeting with Kim as early as this month, although a date and location have not yet been announced. Other places floated as hosts include Singapore, Mongolia and Switzerland. Bloomberg

Thai, Saudi officials meet over case of young refugee

THAILAND'S immigration police chief met yesterday with officials of the Saudi Embassy in Bangkok, and said the officials told him they are satisfied with how the case of a young Saudi woman who claims to be fleeing her abusive family has been handled.

Maj. Gen. Surachate Hakparn explained the Saudi reaction to reporters after a meeting with its diplomats. The embassy issued a statement yesterday denying accusations that it had requested the extradition of Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun or seized her passport, as the 18-year-old woman had charged several times. The statement said the case is a "family affair but yet, it is under the care and attention of the Embassy."

"The position of two countries on this matter is the same — that the priority is to provide her safety. We are both concerned for Miss Rahaf's safety and well-being," said Surachate. "The Saudi charge d'affaires said he



Rahaf Mohammed Alqunun

is satisfied and expressed confidence on the work of Thai immigration, of the Thai government, and of the Foreign Ministry yesterday."

Alqunun grabbed global attention when she sent out pleas for help via social media, saying she feared for her life if she were put

on a plane back to Kuwait, where she had slipped away from her family, or her homeland.

Instead, she was given back her passport and allowed to enter Thailand temporarily under the protection of the U.N. refugee agency, which was expected to take about five to seven days to

study her case and her claim for asylum. The office of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees said in a Tuesday statement that it would look into Alqunun's case "to assess her need for international protection." She has said she wants to go to Australia to seek refuge there.

Surachate said Alqunun's father and brother were due to arrive soon in Bangkok, but that it was her decision whether to meet with them. On Twitter, she has expressed fear of such a meeting. The father had previously been expected Monday night.

Meanwhile, Human Rights Watch called on the Australian government to allow Alqunun's entry into that country.

Alqunun said she had a visa to continue her journey to Australia, but media reports say the Australian government has now canceled it. Australian officials have not responded to multiple requests for comment.

While Surachate claimed Alqunun never had a visa to enter Australia, Human Rights Watch's Australian director, Elaine Pearson, said she had seen electronic confirmation of the visa, shown by Alqunun to HRW's Asia deputy director, Phil Robertson.

But, Pearson said, Alqunun could no longer access her visa page on Australia's immigration website yesterday, sparking concern that the document had been canceled. An Australian visa is usually processed electronically and not stamped in one's passport, but confirmed by a document that the visitor can print out. **AP**

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USA | TRUMP TOUGHEST CONTENDER?

Eyeing 2020, democrat Harris addresses prosecutorial past in memoir

Juana Summers, Washington

As she nears a decision on whether to seek the presidency, Sen. Kamala Harris is taking on what could be a hurdle in a Democratic primary: her past as a prosecutor.

In her memoir published yesterday, the California Democrat describes herself as a “progressive prosecutor” and says it’s a “false choice” to decide between supporting the police and advocating for greater scrutiny of law enforcement. The argument is aimed at liberal critics of her record who argue she was sometimes too quick to side with the police and too slow to adopt sentencing reforms.

“I know that most police officers deserve to be proud of their public service and commended for the way they do their jobs,” Harris writes in “The Truths We Hold.” “I know how difficult and dangerous the job is, day in and day out, and I know how hard it is for the officers’ families, who have to wonder if the person they love will be coming home at the end of each shift.”

But, she continues, “I also know this: it is a false choice to suggest you must either be for the police or for police accountability. I am for both. Most people I know are for both. Let’s speak some truth about that, too.”

After high-profile fatal shootings involving police officers and unarmed people of color, the criminal justice system’s treatment of minorities is a top issue among Democratic voters. The passage suggests Harris is aware that her seven years as the district attorney in San Francisco, followed by six years as California’s attorney general, is something she will have to explain and signals how she may frame her law enforcement career if she decides to run for the White House.

“It’s a presidential campaign, and every aspect of a candidate’s record is going to be scrutinized and they’re going to have to answer for it,” said Mo Elleithe, a longtime Democratic operative who leads Georgetown University’s Institute of Politics and Public Service. “She knows that this is something that’s heading her way and a good candidate is one who doesn’t wait for it to hit them. A good candidate is someone who addresses it proactively, and she appears to be doing that.”

Beyond the book, Harris recently supported legislation that passed the Senate late last year and overhauls the criminal justice system, especially when it comes to sentencing rules.

AP PHOTO



US Sen. Kamala Harris (D-Ca.) leaves a campaign event at Miami Dade College last October

In the book, Harris recounts an instance when she was an intern at the Alameda County district attorney’s office and an innocent bystander was one of many people arrested during a drug raid. Harris said she “begged” and “pleaded” on a late Friday afternoon for a judge to hear the case so the woman could avoid spending the weekend in jail.

It is a false choice to suggest you must either be for the police or for police accountability. I am for both.

KAMALA HARRIS
IN ‘THE TRUTHS WE HOLD’

Kate Chatfield, the policy director of the California-based criminal justice reform group Re:store Justice, said that Harris did do “some good” when she was in law enforcement but that it was “incumbent on the public to hold her accountable for the ways in which she either didn’t do enough or actually did some harm.”

“When the conversation shifts, one should be expected to be questioned about those choices,” Chatfield said, noting among other issues Harris’s advocacy for tougher truancy laws.

By addressing policing in the book, Harris is taking on an issue that confronted Democrats and some Republicans in 2016. Democrat Hillary Clinton was criticized for her husband’s role in passing the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which created stricter penalties for drug offenders and funneled billions of dollars toward more police and new prisons.

The issue is likely to be the subject of fierce debate in 2020 as well and could expose divisions among the wide field of candidates — presenting hurdles for some and opportunity for others.

Former Vice President Joe Biden was the head of the Senate’s Judiciary Committee when the 1994 crime bill — which is now criticized as having helped create an era of mass incarceration — was passed and signed into law, which could be an obstacle for him. New Jersey Sen. Cory Booker was central to the passage of the Senate’s criminal justice overhaul package and is certain to tout it if he decides to launch a presidential campaign. Meanwhile, Minnesota Sen.

Amy Klobuchar, who is also considering a 2020 bid, often refers to her own prosecutorial past.

The memoir — and the publicity surrounding it — will shift the 2020 campaign spotlight to Harris this week after much of the focus has been on her Senate colleague, Elizabeth Warren. Last week, the Massachusetts Democrat became the most prominent person yet to take steps toward a presidential run by launching an exploratory committee. Her weekend trip to the leadoff caucus state of Iowa also generated largely flattering headlines.

Some criminal justice advocates said they were happy the issue would get more attention in 2020.

“When we had the 2016 elections, it was at the height of Ferguson and Baltimore, and we still didn’t have serious engagement with criminal justice reform,” said Phillip Goff, the director of the Center for Policing Equity, referring to the protests that followed the deaths of black men by police officers in Missouri and Maryland. “My hope is that we require candidates to demonstrate that they know more than the catchphrases of the activists in their bases.”

Surveys underscore the potency of criminal justice issues among Democrats. A February 2018 poll conducted by the

Associated Press-NORC Center for Public Affairs Research found that majorities of Democrats — but far fewer Republicans — think there’s been little progress for African-Americans on criminal justice or policing issues over the past 50 years. The poll showed that 45 percent of Americans, including 62 percent of Democrats and 19 percent of Republicans, thought there had been little to no progress on fair treatment for black Americans by the criminal justice system. Similarly, 46 percent of Americans, including 63 percent of Democrats and 23 percent of Republicans, said there’s been little to no progress for African-Americans on fair treatment by police.

While it is not yet clear how Harris’ prosecutorial background could affect her primary bid, it could help her if she faces President Donald Trump in the 2020 general election.

“He ran as the law-and-order president,” Elleithe said of Trump. “Being able to go toe-to-toe with him on law and order in a smarter way, I think, is going to be important. Should she win the nomination and does it by navigating this topic well, then I think she would be a strong voice and a force to be reckoned with when it comes to issues of law and order, criminal justice and civil rights as they collide in a general election.” AP

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what's ON



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

SPARKLING GARDEN - GUAN HUAI BIN WORKS
TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
UNTIL: February 24, 2019
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)
ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

LA PARISIENNE CABARET FRANCAIS
TIME: 8pm (except on Mondays)
 5pm (Sundays)
UNTIL: February 3, 2019
VENUE: The Parisian Theatre
ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488
COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818
KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

SURFACE REVEALED - DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHAN HIN IO
TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: February 8, 2019
VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

Offbeat

RATINGS DIP TO 18.6M FOR GOLDEN GLOBES DESPITE NFL LEAD-IN



Preliminary figures from Nielsen show this week's Golden Globes were watched by 18.6 million viewers, a slight drop from the 19.1 million that tuned in last year.

The NBC broadcast dipped despite an enviable lead-in from the nail-biter NFL Wild Card game between the Philadelphia Eagles and the Chicago Bears. This year's nominees also featured a number of hit films, including "Black Panther" and "A Star Is Born." The night's best drama picture winner, "Bohemian Rhapsody," has made USD743.1 million worldwide.

Hosted by Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg, the 76th Globes at least stopped recent dramatic ratings skids for awards shows like the Oscars and Grammys. Last year's Globes fell 5 percent and 11 percent among those aged 18-49. This time, viewership in that key demographic increased four percent.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:55	Cerimónia de Imposição de Medalhas e Títulos Honoríficos do Ano 2018 (Directo)
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:40	A Entrevista - Manuela Eanes
18:10	Os Maias
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	O Último Reino Sr.1 - Estreia
22:35	LiteraturAqui
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Curso de Cultura Geral
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	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



2005 ABBAS TRIUMPHS IN PALESTINIAN ELECTIONS

Early indications in the Palestinian presidential elections show former Prime Minister Mahmoud Abbas is set to win by a comfortable margin.

Polling closed at 1900 GMT, two hours later than scheduled after voting difficulties forced an extension.

One exit poll, by the Palestinian Centre for Policy and Survey Research, gave Mr Abbas 66% of the vote and his closest challenger, Mustafa Barghouti, 19.7%.

A high margin of victory, as well as good voter turnout, are considered crucial if Mr Abbas is to command enough of a mandate to push through his agenda of peace talks and an end to the armed Palestinian uprising.

Although a final result is not expected until tomorrow, supporters of Mr Abbas are already celebrating.

This is the first presidential election for Palestinians since 1996, and about 1.1 million people registered to vote.

There were problems with registration, heavy turnout and the turning away of hundreds of voters from a big Israeli-run polling station in East Jerusalem.

East Jerusalem has special voting arrangements, with Palestinians allowed to vote in Israeli post offices.

Voters complained Israeli officials were not allowing them to vote even though the Palestinian central election commission had properly registered them.

Mr Abbas himself cast his vote at the Ramallah compound where the late leader of the Palestinians Yasser Arafat is buried. He said the vote was taking place in a "marvellous" fashion.

"It is an illustration of how the Palestinian people aspire to democracy," he said.

The death of Mr Arafat in November last year has raised hopes for new peace talks between the Palestinians and Israelis.

The Israeli Prime Minister, Ariel Sharon, had refused to do business with Mr Arafat.

Mr Abbas, also known as Abu Mazen, is the nominated candidate and a founding member of the main Palestinian political faction, Fatah.

He is widely regarded as a moderate and is considered to have been the main architect of the Oslo Peace Accord which came close to resolving the conflict in the early 1990s.

He served as prime minister to Yasser Arafat in 2003 but resigned again after four months of a power struggle in which Arafat refused to hand over crucial powers to him.

He became chairman of the Palestinian Liberation Organisation after Arafat's death and has been the front-runner to succeed him ever since.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Mahmoud Abbas was formally sworn in as president on 15 January. Despite Mr Abbas' support for a return to peaceful resistance, attacks by militant groups continued after his election.

However, Mr Abbas deployed Palestinian police in northern Gaza and by February had persuaded Hamas and Islamic Jihad to begin a temporary, unofficial cessation of violence.

Mr Abbas and the Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon went on to announce a mutual ceasefire at a summit in Egypt, although the militant groups stopped short of making it official.

In August, Israel pulled out of the Gaza Strip, with emotional scenes as Israeli troops removed some settlers by force.

Mr Sharon's policies caused bitter resentment within his party, Likud, and in November 2005 he resigned to form a new centrist party of his own.

After suffering a stroke on 4 January 2006, Sharon remained in a permanent vegetative state until his death in January 2014.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's time to take inventory - write down a list of everything you own that's of any importance, then get rid of the rest! It can be quite liberating to realize you don't need so much stuff.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've got some seriously intense feelings about someone new - but you're still just as balanced and together as usual! It's a really good day for you to step up and say something honest.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Try to have patience with that person or problem that's been such a pain - you can outlast it with ease as long as you don't flip out. Someone new needs to see that you can handle a little stress.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You have to deal with someone who's hard to pin down, so invite them over to your place or find some other way to get them where you want them. It's easier than you think, and more rewarding.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your reputation is more important than ever today, so make sure that you're checking out what people are saying about you. It's easier than usual for you to dispel rumors and put a good spin on the truth.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your mental energy is perfect for long, meandering discussions or philosophical meditation. Either way, you are sure to learn cool new things about yourself, so get to work on that!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your magnetic personality is fully engaged with the world now, so you should find it easier than ever to attract new romantic attention or get an interview with that one awesome employer.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your honesty is your best tool today - so do whatever you can to avoid cover-ups and little white lies. If people believe they can trust you, then you can move forward with confidence.

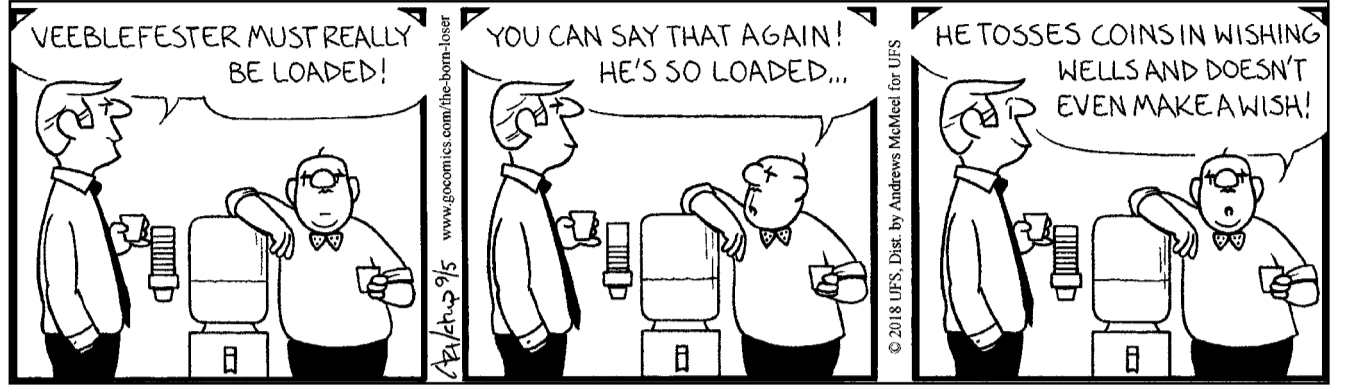
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's the small stuff that wears you down today, but you still have to deal with the little details. Keep focused on them and you should eventually be able to get to the end of the path.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your love life is taking off today - expect a new date request or a resurgence of feelings for your current partner. Things should get even better before they start to plateau.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You prefer to face the future, but for now, you need to make sure that your focus is on your past. That's not to say you should dwell there, but it is a good idea to learn your lessons.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your appearance is more important today - and your energy helps glam you up in some new way! It's a good time to attract romantic attention or to ask for favors from those in power.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- First king of Israel; 5- Scot's cap; 8- Burrows and Vigoda; 12- First name in scot; 13- Rocker Bob; 15- Fill to excess; 16- Certain Fed; 17- Triple; 18- Annapolis inst.; 19- Precarious; 22- Crazy ___; 23- Stage hog; 24- Able was ___; 26- Worldwide; 29- Add fizz; 31- Wreath of flowers; 32- Reprimand; 34- Fortune-teller; 36- Truck stop sight; 38- Monopoly buy; 40- Yuri's love; 41- Single things; 43- Capri and Man; 45- Illuminated; 46- Comfortable; 48- Make possible; 50- Amo, amas, ___; 51- Having four sharps; 52- ABA member; 54- Sinking more money into; 61- Big gulp; 63- Primp; 64- Intestinal sections; 65- Own; 66- Now you ___; 67- Mon ___; 68- River of Flanders; 69- RR stop; 70- Viscount's superior; DOWN: 1- Clockmaker Thomas; 2- ___ mater; 3- ___ Bator, Mongolia; 4- Crow's-nest cry; 5- Semester; 6- Currency exchange fee; 7- List from which to choose; 8- Sun Devils' sch.; 9- Court game; 10- Sicilian spewer; 11- Senate position; 13- Abdomen; 14- Fasten again; 20- Bar bills; 21- Word on a towel; 25- Banister; 26- Actress Davis; 27- Restrictive; 28- Sarge's superior; 29- Fred's dancing sister; 30- Eagle's nest; 31- Baton Rouge sch.; 33- Mil. officers; 35- Back muscle, briefly; 37- Tabloid tidbit; 39- Not strict; 42- German river; 44- Without; 47- Paces; 49- Happen; 52- Pale; 53- ___ the night before Christmas ...; 55- Angers; 56- Nair rival; 57- Blood vessel; 58- Hip bones; 59- ___-do-well; 60- Ancient France; 62- Neth. neighbor;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details for various locations like Sea View Condo, Ocean Garden Elm Court, and Va Fat Taipa.

FOOTBALL

Makeshift Liverpool team loses to Wolves 2-1 in FA Cup

A makeshift Liverpool team containing three teenagers making their senior debuts was beaten by Wolverhampton Wanderers 2-1 in the third round of the FA Cup, with a 30-meter strike by Ruben Neves sealing the win yesterday [Macau time].

Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp showed where the competition ranked on the current English Premier League leaders' list of priorities by leaving star forwards Mohamed Salah and Roberto Firmino on the bench until the 70th minute, and they failed to have an impact after coming on.

"I changed a lot because I thought we had to, not because I wanted to," said Klopp, who justified fielding a weakened team by saying some of key players were absent because of illness or "little problems."

Klopp, who also used the wind as a reason for his team's below-par display at Molineux, has yet to progress beyond the fourth round of the FA Cup in his four seasons in charge of Liverpool.



Wolverhampton's Ruben Neves (left) scores his sides second goal

Wolves went in front through striker Raul Jimenez in the 38th minute after James Milner lost possession in central midfield, but Liverpool equalized when Divock Origi scored from the edge of the area in the 51st.

Neves regained the lead for Wolves four minutes later, striking a low and fierce shot

inside the near post past the initially unsighted Simon Mignolet.

Klopp started midfielders Rafael Camacho and Curtis Jones — aged 18 and 17, respectively — and sent on another debutant in 16-year-old Dutchman Ki-Jana Hoever in the sixth minute after center back Dejan Lovren sustained a hamstring injury.

Hoever, at 16 years and 354 days, became the youngest Liverpool player in FA Cup history and the third-youngest player to make a senior appearance for the team.

Hoever's introduction meant Liverpool played the majority of the match with a 16-year-old debutant and a Brazil midfiel-

der, Fabinho, as its central-defensive partnership.

"I am not sure what you all would have said if immediately from the beginning our center-half situation was Fabinho and Ki-Jana," Klopp said. "Then probably a few very smart people would tell me that I don't respect the competition or whatever."

Only in the second half did Liverpool find its stride. Xherdan Shaqiri came closest to forcing a replay when he curled in a free kick that was tipped onto the post by Wolves goalkeeper John Ruddy.

Liverpool has won the competition seven times, but not since 2006. The Reds lead the league by four points after 21 games and are through to the round of 16 in the Champions League, with those competitions now Liverpool's only chance of silverware this season.

Some of the momentum in its season might have been lost, with the defeat to Wolves coming four days after a 2-1 loss at Manchester City — its first league defeat of the season.

Klopp, who is without injured center backs Joe Gomez and Joel Matip, was unsure about how long Lovren would be out.

"I asked everybody, no signs, nothing, just out of the blue," Klopp said of Lovren's injury. AP

AD

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Egypt to host African Cup; Salah's chance to shine at home

Gerald Imray

EGYPT will replace Cameroon as the host of this year's African Cup of Nations football tournament, giving Mohamed Salah a chance to shine on his home stage.

Salah will undoubtedly be the face of the tournament in June and July, but Egypt's organizers face a tough task to get ready with kickoff only five months away. Deepening the challenge for the stand-in host country, this will be the first African championship to be increased from 16 to 24 teams.

The tournament also arrives in Egypt at a time of political unease after years of turmoil following a revolution and the overthrow of President Hosni Mubarak in 2011. Egypt's streets have been marred by deadly violence in the years since and it has sometimes spilled over onto the football field.

In 2012, more than 70 fans were killed in a riot at a game in the northern city of Port Said, one of world football's worst riots. Port Said has been put forward by Egyptian organizers as a venue.

Still, African football leaders decided on Tuesday that Egypt was the best choice, with doubts over whether the competing bid from South Africa, the 2010 World Cup host, had any government approval or financial backing. Also, the Confederation of African Football is based in Cairo, giving the Egyptian bid a logistical advantage.



Mohamed Salah takes a shot

Cameroon was stripped of hosting rights late last year because of poor preparations and its own political problems, which involve long-running violent clashes between separatist rebels and government forces in the western parts of the country and close to two of the planned tournament host cities.

It was the fourth straight African Cup of Nations to be switched from its initial host country, with CAF also having to find new venues for its top tournament and money-earner in 2013, 2015, and 2017. All of those switches were for political reasons.

Egypt and South Africa were the only two countries to submit

bids to replace Cameroon in a new, rushed hosting process for 2019. Egypt, which last hosted the African championship in 2006, was chosen after a vote of the CAF executive committee in Dakar, Senegal, a vote initially scheduled for Wednesday but brought forward 24 hours. Egypt won overwhelmingly, by 16 votes to one with one abstention.

The Egypt team is a record seven-time African Cup champion but its football slumped dramatically in the wake of the political turmoil following the ouster of Mubarak.

After winning three titles in a row in 2006, 2008 and 2010,

Egypt failed to even qualify for the African Cup in 2012, 2013 and 2015. The Egyptian team returned in 2017 and with Salah in its ranks made a surprising run to the final before losing to Cameroon.

Egypt has hosted the African Cup four times and won three of those tournaments, making Salah's team an early favorite to win this year. But it's unclear how the tournament will be greeted in Egypt.

Egyptians are fiercely loyal followers of their national team, and Salah is worshipped as a national hero, but football fans have long been associated with fierce protests against the politi-

cal leadership.

Three years after the Port Said crisis, 22 fans were killed in a stampede that was sparked when police fired tear gas at fans at a military-owned stadium in Cairo. Hundreds of football fans have been arrested in recent years as they took part in anti-government protests, including one in 2013 that torched the headquarters of the Egyptian football federation and vandalized a police social club. There have been other protests marking the anniversary of the 2012 Port Said tragedy.

At the height of the political crisis, fans were banned from attending any games in Egypt as the government recognized the threat they posed when they gathered in numbers. That ban has generally been lifted.

■ Egyptians are fiercely loyal followers of their national team, and Salah is worshipped as a national hero

Current Egypt President Abdel Fattah el-Sisi, a former army general who took power in 2014, supported the African Cup bid in an attempt to show his country is now safe and stable.

"The political leadership offered its full support to host the AFCON [African Cup of Nations]," sports minister Ashraf Sobhi said on Tuesday in a statement.

The Egyptian football federation said on Twitter in a message hailing the decision that Egypt was "a safe country." **AP**

BASEBALL

David Wright to become New York Mets special adviser

FORMER New York Mets captain David Wright is becoming a special adviser to chief operating officer Jeff Wilpon and general manager Brodie Van Wagenen.

In making the announcement Monday, the Mets said the 36-year-old third baseman would be placed on unconditional release waivers on Tuesday. His contract called for New York to pay him salaries of USD15 million this year and \$12 million in 2020, with \$2.5 million annually deferred without interest.

Sidelined with leg, back and neck injuries, Wright

did not play for the Mets from May 2016 until the final week of last season, when he announced his retirement. Wright made three plate appearances during the season's final series against Miami.

Wilpon called Wright "an iconic Met" and said he "will be forever remembered for his contributions on the field as well as his numerous charitable endeavors."

Wright attended last month's winter meetings as a member of the Mets' front office.

"We are thrilled he will remain close to the Mets

family and will be a great asset in this new role," Wilpon said.

A seven-time All-Star, Wright set Mets records for hits (1,777), doubles (390), runs (949) and RBIs (970).

"I will always be tremendously grateful for the way the fans treated me because playing in this city and for this team was a dream come true," Wright said in a statement issued by the team. "I look forward to contributing and taking on the challenges of this new role."

Wright and the Mets agreed to restructure his

contract to defer more of this year's salary. The \$138 million eight-year deal originally called for a \$15 million in salary this year and \$12 million in 2020, with \$2.5 million annually deferred without interest. The contract included \$15.5 million in deferred money to be paid in \$3.1 million installments each June 30 from 2021-25.

As part of the change, \$4 million of this year's salary is advanced and paid by Jan. 10 and \$6 million is deferred at 2.5 percent interest compounded monthly. That leaves the



David Wright

remaining \$2.5 million to be paid during the 2019 season.

The new deferred money is paid in three \$2 million payments each July 1 from 2021-23, and the interest is paid on Dec. 31, 2023.

NOTES: The Mets agreed to a minor league contract with 31-year-old

left-hander Hector Santiago, a move they planned to announce Tuesday. Santiago had a 4.50 ERA and two saves in 42 relief appearances and seven starts last year for the Chicago White Sox. He struck out 103 in 102 innings but allowed 102 hits and 60 walks. **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE HIDDEN TRAGEDY OF SUICIDE

I was recently reading that, in general, suicide rates are falling in most parts of the world. Reflecting on this issue, I feel that suicide in Macau may be significantly under or miss-reported. The only suicide I can remember in recent history was the very implausible case of a government employee who supposedly suffocated herself with a plastic bag while cutting her own throat. As I always tell students the first step in solving any problem is recognizing that a problem exists, and this begins with having reliable data. I suspect that a lot of medical and related data is missing or miss-reported in Macau and we need to do better if we want to improve our healthcare system.

Globally, suicide is a significant cause of death that wastes many otherwise productive lives and leaves major family and personal trauma in its wake. Globally, around 10/100,000 people commit suicide each year, implying that there are around 1-2 suicides each week in Macau (among residents and tourists), which is many more than I have ever heard reported.

Suicide seems to be more prevalent among young adults and the elderly and while both genders think about it, men seem to be more successful at killing themselves. Globally, suicide has fallen 29% since 2000, most notably among three different groups. Because of urbanization and changing cultural and economic circumstances young women in China and India now seem to have other ways of avoiding or getting out of abusive marriages and other bad personal situations without resorting to suicide.

Greatly reduced alcoholism and more healthy lifestyles among middle-aged Russian men has also led to reduced suicide there. And finally, better economic circumstances and better government support services has significantly reduced suicide rates among the elderly in many places. The exception to the general decline in suicide is white/native, poorly educated, middle-aged men in America's "rust belt", where suicides have risen by about 18% since 2000.

Easy access to guns is often used to explain why suicide rates in America are relatively high. Studies show that in many cases suicide is an impulsive act that is successful if a means to end your life is readily accessible. And, contrary to popular belief, most people who fail at suicide do not later repeat the attempt.

One of the most effective means for governments to reduce suicide rates is to reduce access to strong pesticides, large quantities of lethal drugs, charcoal and guns. For example, South Korean researchers found that when paraquat (a strong pesticide) was banned there in 2011 it accounted for 1/2 the big fall in the suicide rate in the following 2 years. The EU has already banned this pesticide, and China is planning to ban it; I am not sure of its availability in Macau.

Newspapers and other media can also reduce suicide rates by voluntarily limiting their reporting to not go into details about how people have killed themselves. After it was reported that Robin Williams hanged himself in 2014 the subsequent rise in death by hanging among middle aged men in the following months was very noticeable. Similarly, when Ahn Jae-hwan (a Korean actor) killed himself with the details widely reported, 8% of Korean suicides in the following years used the same method (up from 1% before his death).

Support services – suicide hotlines, emergency funds, and low cost health, food and housing – are also crucial to reducing suicide rates.

I am sure that problem gamblers and others in Macau who have missed out on the economic growth here in the last several years often feel very stressed and think about suicide and they need and deserve our support to ensure that these thoughts do not turn into action. I suspect that we can and should be doing more but without reliable data I cannot be sure.

THE TRUMP TO TAKE HIS CASE TO BUILD WALL TO PRIME-TIME AUDIENCE

With no breakthrough in sight, President Donald Trump will argue his case to the nation today [Macau time] that a "crisis" at the U.S.-Mexico border requires the long and invulnerable wall he's demanding before ending the partial government shutdown.

Hundreds of thousands of federal workers face missed paychecks Friday as the shutdown drags through a third week.

Trump's Oval Office speech — his first as presi-

dent — will be followed by his visit tomorrow to the southern border to highlight his demand for a barrier. White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders tweeted that he will use the visit to "meet with those on the front lines of the national security and humanitarian crisis."

The administration is also at least talking about the idea of declaring a national emergency to allow Trump to move forward on the wall without Congress approving the USD5.6 billion he wants.

Giving up gas: Shenzhen switches to electric taxis

ONE of China's major cities has reached an environmental milestone: an almost entirely electric-powered taxi fleet.

The high-tech hub of Shenzhen in southern China announced at the start of this year that 99 percent of the 21,689 taxis operating in the city were electric. Last year, it still had 7,500 gasoline-powered taxis on the roads. A few can still be found, but electric ones far outnumber them.

The metropolis of 12.5 million is the second to achieve this feat in China and the largest. The northern city of Taiyuan, with a population of 4.3 million, has had only electric taxis since 2016.

Shenzhen "has taken the lead among major Chinese cities," said Cui Dongshu, the secretary-general of the China Passenger Car Association.

Shenzhen's bus fleet has been all-electric since 2017. It's one of 13 pilot cities promoting alternative-energy public transport to cut smog and develop the alternative energy industry, the Shenzhen Municipality Transport Committee said.

Beijing and other Chinese



New electric taxis in Shenzhen

cities are served by legions of electric scooters, bicycles and three-wheeled delivery vehicles that help reduce emissions — and sometimes startle pedestrians with their near-silent operation.

Shenzhen's 20,000-plus electric taxis will reduce carbon emissions by about 850,000 tons a year, the city's transport committee said. However, the all-electric initiative doesn't include Uber-like ride-hailing and ride-sharing services, which are popular in China.

Providing places to recharge taxis has been a big hurdle since Shenzhen rolled out its first 100 electric cabs in 2010. Cui praised

the city for its network of about 20,000 public charging stations, which he said should be enough to meet most of the demand.

The electric taxis are equipped with an on-board terminal that tells drivers where taxis are in short supply, such as the airport, train station or other locations. It also clearly displays the fare and the taxi's route, which the Shenzhen transport committee said would help prevent drivers from overcharging or taking a roundabout route.

Shenzhen, which borders Hong Kong, is home to Huawei Technologies and a host of other Chinese technology companies. AP

Kevin Spacey pleads not guilty to groping young man at bar

KEVIN Spacey pleaded not guilty yesterday [Macau time] to groping an 18-year-old busboy in 2016 in the first criminal case brought against the disgraced actor following a string of sexual misconduct allegations that crippled his career.

Spacey's court appearance came more than a year after former Boston TV anchor Heather Unruh accused the former "House of Cards" star of sexually assaulting her son in a bar on the Massachusetts resort island of Nantucket.

Nantucket District Court Judge Thomas Barrett ordered Spacey to stay away from his accuser and the man's family. Spacey will not have to appear at his next hearing on March 4, but he must be available by phone, Barrett said.

The judge also ordered Spacey's accuser and the man's then-girlfriend to preserve text messages and other data on their cellphones from the day of the alleged assault and six months after. Spacey's attorney Alan Jackson told the judge they believe the cellphones



Actor Kevin Spacey arrives at district court in Nantucket, Massachusetts

contain information that is "likely exculpatory" for Spacey.

The actor and his lawyers declined to comment as they left the courthouse amid a crush of reporters. Spacey, wearing a gray suit, navy vest and polka dot tie, didn't speak during the hearing and his lawyers entered the not-guilty plea on his behalf. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	90-120 Bad
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

SOUTH AFRICA A former Mozambican finance minister yesterday appeared in a South African court following a U.S. extradition request linked to a USD2 billion loan scandal that plunged Mozambique into financial crisis.



EUROPE Deadly winter weather blasted Europe for yet another day yesterday, trapping hundreds of people in Alpine regions, whipping up high winds that caused flight delays and cancellations and raising the risks of more deadly avalanches in the mountains.

GREECE Police detained ten people and formally arrested two of them after the U.S. Embassy in Athens was vandalized with paint.

SPAIN Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez says he will take his 2019 national budget proposal to a vote in parliament, even though his center-left minority government doesn't currently have enough support to get it approved.



BRITAIN The government yesterday ruled out seeking an extension to the two-year period taking the country out of the European Union as Prime Minister Theresa May continued to seek further concessions from the EU ahead of a crucial parliamentary vote next week on her Brexit deal.

GUATEMALA has announced it was pulling out of a United Nations-sponsored anti-corruption commission after more than a year of tension between the government and the group, which has investigated top government officials and people close to President Jimmy Morales.