



### RESEARCH ON DEMOCRATIC IDEALS NEEDED

leong Meng U is the author of a study that sampled 825 students in the city and found the majority supported the idea of universal suffrage

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### COOKING SHOW OVER THE WEEKEND

A cooking event open to the public with chefs from the UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy will be held over the weekend

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### MAJOR DISPLAY OF RUSSIAN FINE ART

The exhibition "Masterpieces of Russian Art from the State Tretyakov Gallery" will be inaugurated on Friday

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## WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA** Navy divers have recovered the cockpit voice recorder of a Lion Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea in October, Indonesian officials said yesterday, in a possible boost to the investigation into why the 2-month-old plane nosedived at high velocity, killing 189 people. **More on p13**



**RUSSIA-JAPAN** Russia's top diplomat yesterday threw cold water on Tokyo's hopes for a quick return of disputed islands in the Pacific, warning Japan that it must recognize them as part of Russia's territory as a starting point for talks.

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE** The Western-backed Palestinian Authority is threatening to step up pressure on Hamas amid renewed tensions in Gaza, even as Israel allows a lifeline of Qatari aid to flow directly to the Islamic militants.

More on backpage



## Cargo plane crash in Iran kills 15

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# Author of democracy study says more research needed but it won't be him

Daniel Beitler

A local academic says that much more research is needed on the findings of his latest study that revealed widespread support for democratic ideals among Macau students - but he would not be the one to do it.

Ieong Meng U, an academic and lecturer at the University of Macau's Department of Government and Public Administration, told the Times last week that the preferences of young people toward democracy was not the original purpose of his research and it would require further studies to verify his findings.

Published last month, Ieong's study sampled 825 students in the city and found that the majority supported the idea of universal suffrage and had a "preference for a minimal definition of democracy." The study also showed that most believed it was important to live in a democratic system and agreed with the view that student leaders in the neighboring territory's Umbrella Movement were "fighting for democracy".

Building on his previous work exploring authoritarianism and the Chinese political landscape, the paper challenged the traditional view that Macau residents - especially the youth - are more concerned with economic and quality of life issues rather than political ones.

However, Ieong insists that there is still much more work



Ieong Meng U

to be done.

"The questionnaire was originally about the influence of social media on young people," he explained, adding that the revelations about widespread support for democracy were not expected. "Of course, as a political scientist, I am interested in what the youth think about democracy, but it was not the original point of my research."

One conclusion of the study was that over 90 percent of the respondents ranked the pursuit of universal suffrage as five or above on the 10-point scale, with 10 representing the highest preference and with a mean score of 6.67.

However, according to Ieong, "we only have one dimension of understanding people's opi-

nion on democracy because [the study] did not look at the meaning given to democracy [by Macau people]."

The academic said that those in China and the West hold differing views about what constitutes democracy as a political form of governance. He said that studies in the mainland have shown that Chinese people overwhelmingly regard their system as democratic, but they use an alternative definition of democracy.

In the traditional concept of democracy, the will of the people is expressed via elected institutions and that supports the legitimacy of the government. However, the alternative, known as "guardianship democracy" or "performance legitimacy," suggests an al-

ternative view whereby the accomplishments of an administration or party can legitimize rule. Some scholars have criticized the theory as a form of indoctrination to disguise authoritarian rule.

## Macau people want more say in decision-making and the mechanisms behind it.

IEONG MENG U

Ieong, who specializes in the study of authoritarianism, said that he agreed that the idea of "guardianship" is "not enough to constitute democracy." However, he insists that he does not represent the opinions of other people and "it is their freedom to interpret democracy like that."

He argued that it is unclear which definition of democracy the Macau respondents used in their ranking on the 10-point scale.

"People in Macau want democracy not for the same reasons as in Hong Kong. In Macau, people are dissatisfied with the government, which they feel can't address some of the social problems [in the city]. Macau people want more say in decision-making and the mechanisms behind it," he said, adding that this did not

necessarily translate to universal suffrage.

"Theoretically, performance legitimacy is sustainable, but that's very difficult. [...] There is a contradictory outcome. On the one hand, the government can say it is boosting economic development, but on the other there may be violations of individual freedoms. An example of where it has worked is Singapore."

Although more research is needed on the topic, Ieong said there are no plans for follow-up studies. Instead, he wants to continue his research on authoritarianism and the political landscape of mainland China.

International observers have highlighted a recent rise in the authoritarian tendencies of Chinese President Xi Jinping's administration.

In spring last year, Xi reversed decades of government policy by abolishing term limits for the country's top post. The country has also upped online censorship, expanded internment and re-education camps from Xinjiang to Hainan, and is planning for the implementation of a "social credit" ranking system that will monitor the behavior of its 1.41 billion people.

Asked about whether he feels authoritarianism is on the rise, Ieong said, "I generally follow the consensus of my colleagues... the presidency in China is becoming more authoritarian - that's the basic logic. But we need more data and perspective to see the trend."

# Report highlights changes to technical education

Renato Marques

FOLLOWING a 40-day public consultation in June and July last year, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has issued a report on changes it intends to implement in the technical and vocational education field.

According to the report, the public consultation gathered a total of 298 opi-

nions and highlighted six main topics in which the government should act to boost the technical and vocational education system and to make it useful and adaptive to the needs of the job market.

A statement issued by DSEJ notes that several measures should be implemented, including raising awareness about this type of education to more

students and their families as well as the job opportunities that are created by it. In addition, adjustments could be enforced over time in order to keep the system effective and support the needs of the job market. Integration with higher education should be established, allowing an easy and smooth transition from the technical and vocational system to tertiary

education.

Another measure that needs to be implemented, according to DSEJ, is to raise the professional level and recognition of technical and vocational education to be at the same level as secondary education so as to remove the existing stigmatization that causes it to be less favored.

The report also mentions the need to elevate the ef-

fectiveness of internships, enrich students' experiences, more "hands-on" and practical workplace situations, which would allow students to network and make it easier for a full-time job placement after the internship concludes.

The report does not propose any concrete measures which the government will enforce and does not establish any precise time

frame for the promotion of such changes in the current system, noting only that such work "should be done in compliance with both the "10-year Plan for the development of the Non-tertiary Education 2011-2020", as well as the "Five-year plan" for Macao Development (2016-2020)," which is only a theoretical "declaration of intentions."

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# New MUST surgery bachelor to recruit locally

**T**HE local government yesterday approved a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery course at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), which course planners say will recruit predominantly from the local population. The aim, according to Dr Billy Chan, director of MUST's Center of Excellence for Medical Professional Development, is to train a cohort of young professionals to address medical issues that are prevalent in Macau.

"We managed to get the approval from the government today after years of working toward it," Chan told the Times yesterday. "This is almost a historical moment. To produce doctors here, we have to nurture young people. We are sending the message that we can have these courses [in Macau] – and it's exciting."

The course will start small, recruiting between 35 and 50 students at its inception, most of them coming from local



high schools. It will not initially focus on the recruitment of overseas students.

"We are focused on training Macau professionals. If we wanted to have international students then this course would be much larger. We want to produce good students for the local community," explained Chan.

With English and Chinese as the languages of instruction, the course will last for six years, including one year of internship. Chan says that organizers hope the course

can start in time for the next academic year this fall.

Not all medical professionals in the city are equally enthused about the course.

Rui Furtado, former president of Association of Macau Portuguese-Speaking Physicians, expressed reservations about the capacity of Macau to recruit physicians with the ability to teach, given the difficulty in hiring qualified medical practitioners to work at the local hospitals.

Furtado also noted that Macau lacks the diversity to have

such a degree since local patients don't exhibit enough pathologies to set up a medical school. "A medical degree is not made with patients suffering from flu or pneumonia," he told Radio Macau. "It is made with patients with diverse pathologies."

Chan disagrees. He told the Times that there are plenty of qualified medical practitioners in the city and course planners have the ability to "cherry-pick" from abroad to fill any gaps.

Moreover, he said that the students will be "instructed [in particular] to handle issues that are prevalent in Macau, like respiratory conditions, heart attacks and strokes, which are also common in Asia."

The latest degree is the fourth medicine-related bachelor at the educational institution, following the Bachelor of Biomedicine, the Bachelor of Traditional Chinese Medicine and the Bachelor of Pharmacy in Chinese Medicine.

## IC notifies police over unlicensed construction works

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) has notified the police that they must compel the managers of the Kun Iam Tong temple to stop unlicensed construction works. In a statement issued yesterday, the IC states that it met with the temple's management on Jan. 9. At that time, "the person responsible for the temple pledged to strictly respect the law." However, the IC visited the site over the weekend and found that the construction works were still ongoing, "causing damage to this heritage building." Regarding the fact that the temple did not follow a previous embargo order issued by the IC, the bureau says that it will "strictly follow [up on] the matter and take steps to assert the legal responsibility of this action." The bureau also warns that causing damage to heritage sites is a crime.

## Man arrested for robbery

The Judiciary Police arrested a mainland man yesterday suspected of robbery in a hotel room in Cotai. The victim was a mainland woman working as a sex worker. The suspect contacted the victim through mobile chat to meet in a hotel room. During the meeting, the woman was tied up by the man and two of his affiliates. The suspects took the woman's jewelry and cash, and forced her to transfer RMB20,000 to the arrested man. The other two suspects are still at large.

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# News At Hand



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# MGTO supports heavier fines for illegal inn operators

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, said that sites suspected of hosting illegal inns have been under inspection.

Just last month, the government set up an interdepartmental working group to study the possible criminalization of the operation of illegal inns.

Speaking on the sidelines of the traditional blessing ceremony of a gastronomy event yesterday, the official explained that the bureau also aims to have heavier measures to penalize these illegal inns' operators.

"We have never stopped the inspections. Basically, the inspections are being carried out every day. When the police force spotted some illegal guesthouses, they would inform us to follow up, including sealing the houses, and cutting the water and electricity supply. Regardless if it's the police or us, we are doing our own work," said Fernandes.

The official noted that operators of these illegal inns are not local residents. Thus if these operators refuse to pay fines amounting to a minimum of MOP200,000, these operators may opt to leave Macau for good.

She noted that this would be of limited consequence for these non-residents, thus questioning the effectiveness of such a measure.

"We have to consider how to make illegal guesthouse punishment more effective. Our secretary [Alexis Tam] has already made his stance [clear] regarding illegal guesthouse criminalization. Let's give a little bit of time to the government, let the government do what we need to do," she said.

"Officers working on frontline



Helena de Senna Fernandes speaks to the press

duties also think that there should be a bigger deterrent effect. We, including our secretary, think that criminalization is one [such method with a stronger deterrent effect], [but] it's not singularly decided by us. We have already expressed our stance," the official stressed.

The bureau has already issued penalties in the over 1,000 cases, and according to the official, hundreds of offenders have already paid the penalty, with the majority of these offenders being non-local residents.

Meanwhile, commenting on the functionality of old shops in the

city, some of which have operational problems, Fernandes said that the government is creating a series of measures for these shops to be passed onto the next generation.

"The government can't promise 100 percent that all of the old shops can continue their businesses, but the government will work with the public regarding this matter," she explained.

"We saw that the cultural fund launched a program helping the old shops to conduct renovation, and helping the designers to do some new designs for the old shops to make the old shops more modern," Fernandes added.

When asked whether the bureau has plans to impose an international tourists tax – similar to recent measures in Japan that require departing tourists to pay MOP75 – Fernandes said that further research was still required.

## Measures proposed prior to criminalizing illegal guesthouse

Guests at the Macau Forum, including lawyer Paulino Comandante, expressed their doubts about criminalizing illegal guesthouse operations. Comandante suggested that the government should first amend Macau's law with particular focus on improving the requirements for property owners and real estate agents so that they are careful about to whom they rent out their houses. He also proposed that the government enhance promotional campaigns to tourists and collect information from illegal guesthouse websites. The lawyer proposed that the Macau government consider issuing licenses to guesthouses.

## IAM advisor criticizes housing transportation non-coordination

Lam U Tou, member of the advisory council of the Municipal Affairs Bureau, believes that Macau's public housing projects did not take into consideration public transportation when they were built, according to a report by Macau Daily News. Lam criticized the government for never having considered the overall transportation situation when designing public housing projects. He also noted that this oversight has been frequently covered by the Housing Bureau with public funds. Lam also proposed that public housing project transportation conditions should be a key element in future considerations on public housing.

## First cooking show with UNESCO chefs

**T**HE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will hold its first cooking show that is open to the public with chefs from the UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy, with a budget of MOP3.5 million.

Themed "Possibilities of Gastronomy and Creativity", the forum will take place from Jan. 19 to 21, with presentations and discussions on January 21.

The outdoor culinary demonstration is a highlight of the "International Gastronomy Forum, Macau 2019."

In a traditional blessing ceremony held yesterday at Anim'Arte Nam Van, MGTO director Helena de Senna Fernandes said that the event aims to enhance the city's position in gastronomy.

During the weekend, the event will feature some 30 chefs from 20 Creative Cities of Gastronomy, including Macau, in addition to two candidate cities from China.

As the host city, Macau will conduct five cooking performances during the two days, inviting local celebrity chefs such as Jacky Lam (honored by the SAR with the Medal of Merit for Tourism in 2017), Joseph Tse (executive chef of three Michelin star restaurant, The 8) and Tam Kwok Fung (executive



Joseph Tse will take part in the event

chef of Wing Lei Palace restaurant).

There will be also ten gastronomy booths, four with drinks, and three eateries, presenting local dishes, drinks and more, brought by local food and beverage industry operators.

All food will be free, while the food prepared by the chefs from Creative Cities of Gastronomy will be distributed in limited portions, on a first-come first-serve basis. LV

# Beijing received 5,900 residency applications

**I**N 2018, Beijing handled a total of 5,900 applications for residency submitted by Hong Kong, Macau, and Taiwan residents, according to mainland reports.

In addition to these, 618 people were given permanent residency in China due to their high-level professional skills.

Last year, on Sept. 1, China issued a document announcing a new regulation which would allow residents of Hong Kong,

Macau and Taiwan to apply for residency in the Chinese mainland.

Until now, the exact number of applications submitted by residents from the three regions had yet to be disclosed by the mainland Chinese authority.

However, according to a news report by Macau Daily News, as of Sept. 8 of 2018, Zhuhai claimed to have received a total of 2,111 applications submitted by residents from

the three regions, with 1,100 being Macau residents.

As of Sept. 8, approximately 2,000 Macau residents had applied for residency across various cities in mainland China.

Last week, China's Ministry of Education, together with other mainland authorities responsible for Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan affairs, issued a new document announcing that residents from these three areas



The Palace Museum at the Forbidden City in Beijing

could apply to become teachers at non-tertiary schools in the mainland.

Anyone interested in becoming a teacher at a mainland non-tertiary school must hold a re-

sidency permit in addition to their travel card to mainland China. They must also pass mainland China's teaching exams, and have qualified mandarin skills.

## Restoration of Science Center to cost MOP100m

Renovation works of the exterior of the Macao Science Center could cost some MOP100 million, after it was damaged by the two strong typhoons that hit the SAR in 2018. According to Liu Chak Wan, chairman of Shareholders of the Macao Science Center, the project is costly as it requires re-designing and re-installing the fixtures. "If you only fix it piece by piece when it falls, then it would be very cheap if you just supplement it. Yet this won't guarantee that more pieces would drop off next year, so we took them all this time so we could replace them, which is what makes the project more expensive," said Liu, as cited in a TDM report. The revamp project is set to be concluded within a year.



# 'First major display of Russian fine art' opens on Friday

**T**HE exhibition "Masterpieces of Russian Art from the State Tretyakov Gallery" will be inaugurated on Friday at 6:30p.m. at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM). The exhibition features a total of 70 oil paintings and sculptures collected by the State Tretyakov Gallery from the end of the 18th century to the present.

With more than 180,000 works, the State Tretyakov Gallery in Moscow is an art museum that houses the largest collection of Russian paintings in the world. This exhibition in Macau includes masterpieces by celebrated artists of "The Wanderers" and works by Russian artists depicting the folk culture, natural landscapes and portraits of Russian celebrities. According to a press release issued yesterday by MAM, the event will be "the first major display of Russian fine art in Macau."

"The exhibition presents the major artistic styles and trends of Russia from the end

of the 18th century to the mid-20th century through different exhibits, reflecting the unique features of Russian art from different perspectives as well as the living habits and traits of Russians in the past 200 years. All works are from famous artists such as I.N. Kramskoi, I.Y. Repin, I.I. Shishkin, and V.Y. Makovsky, among others, allowing the public to get close with firsthand originals by Russian arts masters," MAM stated.

The exhibition is jointly organized by the Macao Museum of Art, the State Tretyakov Gallery, the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Russia-China Foundation of Developing Culture, Education and Science the Macao Artists Society and the Macao Daily. The exhibition runs until April 22.

Free commemorative tickets with particular value for collectors will be distributed on a first come, first served basis at the reception on the 1st floor of MAM from 6 p.m. at the opening ceremony.



Children Running from a Thunderstorm by Makovsky

## Gov't suggests cyber security professional training

**T**HE government is intending to send local cyber security personnel overseas to allow them to train in cyber security, according to the First Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Last Friday, government representatives including Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, met with the AL committee to discuss matters regarding the cyber security law.

According to Ho Ion Sang, chairman of the committee, the government has claimed that there is a massive shortage of talented personnel in cyber security. Furthermore, according to Ho, the government's central recruitment of these professionals is also not optimal.

In the near future, the government will send civil servants to Singapore and Interpol to receive training.

The government believes that once the cyber security law is passed, more local youth will choose to undertake cyber security studies as there will be potential for development within that industry.

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# Plan for Greater Bay Area to be published next month

**T**HE development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay is expected to be announced at the end of February following consultations with the region's governments, according to the South China Morning Post.

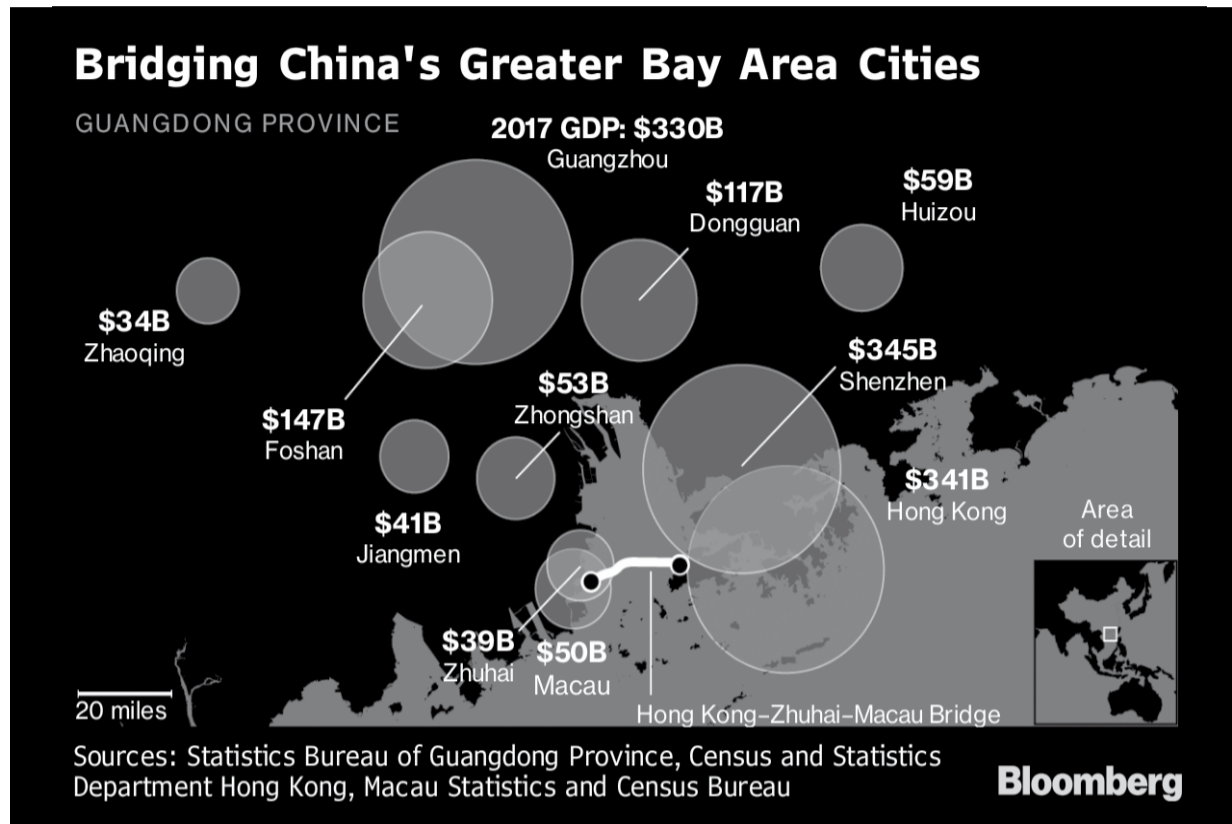
The Hong Kong newspaper reported that Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng, who is in charge of Macau and Hong Kong affairs, approved the document that is expected to be released on February 21. Zhang Xiaoming, director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, also confirmed that the plan is ready.

The document will set out in detail the role that each of the cities of the Pearl River Delta will play in this project, which aims to transform the region into a high-tech economic zone.

Under the plan to be announced Hong Kong will keep its role as financial, international trade, shipping, transport, services and high technology centre while Macau will be focused on tourism and being a platform in relations with the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Guangzhou will be the project's main city in mainland China, which has Shenzhen as a city of technological innovation.

The Greater Bay, covering nine cities in Guangdong province and the special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau, covers 55,500 square kilometers with a population of 67.6 million people and accounted for more than 12.5 percent of China's Gross Domestic Product. **MDT/Macauhub**



## CRIME

# Unknown man breaks into apartment, uses toilet

Renato Marques

A spokesperson reported that an unknown suspect is being sought after a local family reported an intrusion into their home.

The case occurred on the afternoon of Saturday, Jan. 12 around 4 p.m. when the daughter from a family of three living in the apartment arrived home after work and saw that the entrance gate had been unlocked.

According to data released yesterday by the PJ during a press conference, the daughter was the last person to leave



the apartment that morning around 10 a.m. and she is certain that she locked the gate and doors.

Seeing the gate unlocked, she initially thought that

her parents were in the house. As she entered, she noticed movement and noise coming from the toilet. She reported to police that she knocked on the

door and called for her parents but nobody replied.

At the same time, she reached her parents on the phone and realized that they were not in the house, and that the person in the toilet was a stranger.

Scared, she left the apartment. Once she was out, she remembered that the apartment had a surveillance camera system installed that she could use to view a live feed on her mobile phone. She decided to turn on the system and a few minutes later she saw the man walking around the house.

Although the family told the police that they did

not notice any items or valuables missing from the apartment, the case is being treated as "unlawful entry in apartment with the purpose of robbery."

In a separate case, the PJ caught a man suspected of fraud regarding currency exchange.

The case was reported on Jan. 11 by the security staff of the Venetian Macao, who were alerted by noise coming from one of the rooms in which a brawl was happening.

Arriving at the scene, the PJ officers confronted two men who were fighting inside the room. One of them explained

that he had intended to exchange RMB11,000 for HKD12,100 but after handing the cash to the suspect for him to count, the suspect tried to scam him by keeping it and saying that it belonged to him and that the victim had no way to prove otherwise, leading to the brawl.

After questioning, the suspect admitted to the police that he was involved in an illegal scheme of currency exchange and that he had intended to scam the victim.

He was taken into custody and presented to the Public Prosecutions Office and charged with fraud.

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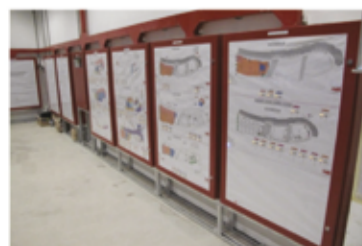
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# Cuban cigar maker eyes growing market in Macau and mainland China

**C**UBAN premium hand-rolled cigars are becoming quite popular in China, which is considered the most important emerging market for at least one particular company.

In an interview with Xinhua, Jose Maria Lopez, development vice president of Habanos S.A., said the company will seek to expand and diversify its presence in China in 2019. "China has the potential to be in the medium term the first market for Habanos S.A." and there are "great possibilities" to increase sales in China, Lopez said.

According to official figures, China became the third largest market worldwide for the company in 2017 after Spain and France, with an increase in sales of 33 percent from 2016.

Premium cigars in China was an undersized segment until a decade ago because there was preference for cigarettes, said Lopez, adding that an increasing fondness of Chinese consumers for handmade tobacco has emerged in recent years and Cuba is currently the top producer in the world.

Due to the growing demand, Habanos S.A. reached an agreement with the China National Tobacco Corporation in the summer of 2017 to increase sales and work together to promote knowledge of and develop a taste for Cuban cigars in China.

"The Chinese consumer prefers our most exclusive and premium products with an authentic admiration for the Cohiba brand, which is our most important trademark and greatest exponent of luxury within the Cuban cigar market," Lopez said.

"Between 40 and 50 percent of the Chinese demand is concentrated in the Cohiba brand, which is very



high. One of our intentions when we talk about developing the tobacco culture in that country is to educate the Chinese consumer that not all cigars are Cohiba," he said.

Habanos S.A. also sells another 26 brands of cigars and each of them has its own characteristics, flavors and different price ranges, according to the senior executive, adding that it is the company's focus to make these brands widely known to the Chinese consumers.

According to Lopez, sales of Cohiba with respect to other brands is much higher in China than in other countries in Latin America and Europe.

With the State Tobacco Monopoly Administration through which domestic imports are made to the Chinese mainland, growth rates between 20 and 30 percent per year are expected, according to Lopez.

"Based on the collaborations that we are having, without doubt we trust that, with a relationship of mutual benefit, we will be able to grow in the market," said Lopez.

Habanos S.A. plans to continue growing in three other marketing channels that have been identified in the Asian nation.

The company has shops in Hong Kong and Macau. It is also working to attract customers through the China Duty Free Group in the two regions.

Lopez told Xinhua the company is working on an exclusive product for 2020 to commemorate the Chinese Spring Festival as a sign of the growing demand and constant expansion of sales in the Asian nation.

"We believe that we have a very interesting idea to satisfy the expectations and interests of Chinese consumers in a moment so special for them as the celebration of the New Lunar Year," he concluded.

Founded in 1994, Habanos S.A. is dedicated to commercializing handmade Cuban premium cigars. Its distribution network includes 144 sale points on the island and over 700 additional establishments in more than 150 countries around the world. **MDT/Xinhua**



## HK airport sees record high passenger, cargo throughput

**H**ONG Kong International Airport (HKIA) witnessed continuous traffic growth in 2018, with the volume of passengers and cargo throughput growing 2.5 percent and 1.5 percent respectively, said Airport Authority Hong Kong (AA) this week.

According to the AA, three air traffic categories reached new annual heights. During last year, HKIA handled 74.7 million passengers and 5.1 million tons of overall cargo throughput. Flight movements reached 427,725, with an increase of 1.7 percent than last year.

Amid the uncertain global economic situations, Hong Kong flight movements and passenger volume experienced steady growth, benefiting from growth in visitor traffic to Hong Kong, said the AA.

Data from Hong Kong Tourism Board showed that total visitor arrivals from January to Novem-

ber last year reached 58.56 million, up 10 percent over the same period in 2017.

The airport would continue to launch new initiatives, including the upcoming Terminal 1 Annex Building, to cater for the surging demand and therefore to solidify HKIA's leading position as a regional and international aviation hub, said AA CEO Fred Lam. As a major infrastructure in Hong Kong, HKIA connected over 220 destinations worldwide.

Together with Hong Kong section of the Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link, the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge and forthcoming land control point at Liantang/Heung Yuen Wai, the third runway system under construction would improve the statue of Hong Kong as "double gateway" to the Chinese mainland and the world, said Hong Kong's financial secretary Paul Chen. **MDT/Xinhua**

### corporate bits

#### SANDS' VOLUNTEERS CONDUCT SPRING-CLEANING



In preparation for Chinese New Year, Sands Cares Ambassadors helped to clean the homes of approximately 100 elderly residents living alone at Seac Pai Van public housing in Coloane on Saturday. The spring-cleaning is one

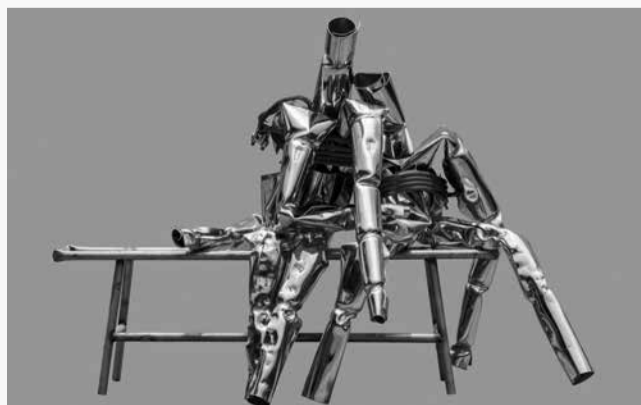
in a year-long series of celebratory activities leading up to the 10th anniversary of the Sands Cares Ambassador program in August 2019, which will have the theme 'Spreading Love and Embracing Our Community'.

It is the 10th year in a row that volunteers from Sands China have visited the homes of elderly residents living alone at the Peng On Tung Tele-Assistance

Sands China Ltd. President Dr. Wilfred Wong, who participated in Saturday's activity said, "the elderly, in particular, are treasured members of the community, and it is our collective responsibility to help care for them in their golden years."

With cleaning supplies in hand, nearly 150 Sands Cares Ambassadors also gave out Chinese New Year gift packs purchased from Fuhong Society of Macau, which contain useful staples like oil, grain and noodles.

#### MGM PRESENTS FIRST ART EXHIBITION OF THE YEAR



MGM is presenting "Celebrating Life - Ju Ming Living World Sculpture Selling Exhibition" to kick start the com-

pany's first public art project of the year. From now until April 7, the renowned artist's "Living World" series

will be exhibiting at MGM Cotai.

The series features Ju's survey on human relationships with an emphasis on the aesthetic concept of merging art into life, as cited in a press release by the gaming operator.

Living World series is one of the most iconic series of Ju Ming, conveying Ju's exploration on human sentiments using vivid and lively images and postures, with a number of works particularly depicting traditional family values.

MGM exhibits over 40 pieces of unique wood carving works by Ju, including painted wood, black and white painted wood, as well as wood relief sculptures.



## TRADE WAR

# The wounded: Companies improvise to dodge cost hikes



Paul Wiseman, Washington

**I**N Rochester, New York, a maker of furnaces for semiconductor and solar companies is moving its research and development to China to dodge President Donald Trump's import taxes — a move that threatens a handful of its 26 U.S. jobs.

In California's San Joaquin Valley, the CEO of a company that makes precision parts for the biomedical and chip making fields jokes bitterly that he's running "a nonprofit" and might have to cut jobs.

And west of Detroit, a metal stamping company that supplies the auto industry is losing business to foreign rivals because Trump's steel tariffs have raised metals prices in the United States.

Trump frequently boasts that the taxes he's imposed on imports — steel and aluminum and nearly half of all goods from China — have showered the U.S. Treasury with newfound revenue. "We are right now taking in billions in Tariffs," he tweeted last month. "MAKE AMERICA RICH AGAIN."

Yet tariffs like Trump's account for barely 1 percent of federal revenue. It's actually companies like Linton Crystal Technologies in Rochester, Accu-Swiss Inc. in Oakdale, California, and Clips & Clamps Industries in Plymouth, Michigan, that are paying the price for his trade wars.

Tariffs tend to swell the cost of these companies' materials and leave them at a competitive disadvantage to foreign rivals unburdened by import taxes.

And their exports can be taxed when other countries retaliate with their own tariffs.

"Wars are messy," said Todd Barnum, chief operating officer at Linton Crystal Technologies. "All the troops get hurt."

Back in December 2017, Trump gave those companies and others a gift when he signed a measure that slashed the corporate tax rate from 35 percent to 21 percent. The next month, though, he started slapping tariffs on imports — beginning with solar panels and dishwashers, before moving on to steel and aluminum and then hitting USD250 billion in Chinese goods.

"Thank you for the tax cut," said Jeff Aznavorian, president of Clips & Clamps. "However, I'm not going to be benefiting because I'm not going to have any profits to pay tax on." For his company, "tariffs have completely undermined everything good that those tax cuts brought."

The higher costs resulting from Trump's tariffs have yet to inflict much overall damage to a still-robust American economy, which is less reliant on international trade than most other countries are. Fueled by lower taxes, the economy grew at an impressive 3.4 percent annual rate from July through September after having surged 4.2 percent in the previous quarter. And employers added 2.6 million jobs last year, the most since 2015.

And while numerous companies are hurting from the president's confrontational tra-

de stance, some are benefiting from it. An aluminum smelter in Missouri reopened under new ownership this year, for instance, and credited the aluminum tariffs for reducing foreign competition and bringing 450 jobs to New Madrid County.

But for many businesses, the tariffs are escalating costs, creating hardships and magnifying uncertainty. The Institute for Supply Management's manufacturing index plunged last month to its lowest point in more than two years partly because of the tariffs. And the Federal Reserve appears increasingly worried that damage from the trade war will undercut the economy.

The potential costs of Trump's tariff campaign became clear early this month when Apple warned that trade hostilities with Beijing were hurting its business in China — a key reason why its first-quarter revenue would fall below expectations.

"It's not going to be just Apple," Kevin Hassett, chairman of the White House's Council of Economic Advisers, acknowledged to CNN. Companies with significant sales in China will "be watching their earnings downgraded next year until we get a deal with China."

Trump's tariffs are, in theory, supposed to help U.S. producers by raising the prices of goods their foreign competitors ship from abroad. But tariffs, a tax paid by importers, can backfire. They tend to hurt American companies that buy foreign goods for resale or for use as components in U.S.-made products.

Many U.S. importers face a wrenching choice: They can pass their higher costs on to their customers and risk losing business. Or they can absorb the extra costs themselves and sacrifice profits.

**Companies with significant sales in China will 'be watching their earnings downgraded next year until we get a deal'**

And tariffs, of course, invite retaliation. The European Union, Canada, Mexico and others have retaliated against U.S. products as payback for Trump's steel and aluminum tariffs. China has imposed tariffs on \$110 billion in American goods.

Among the products on Beijing's hit list are American soybeans, an important export among Trump supporters in the U.S. heartland. To ease the pain, the administration last year handed farmers relief worth \$11 billion — money that reduces the trade war's contribution to the Treasury. Peter Meyer, head of grain and oilseed analytics at S&P Global Platts, said the payments allowed soybean farmers to recoup their losses from the trade war.

But the damage could prove longer-lasting. Before the trade hostilities erupted, China bought 60 percent of U.S. soybean exports. Now, it's turning to Brazil and other countries for soybeans.

"It takes you months to years to cultivate a client and only weeks to piss them off," Meyer said. "The concern now is that we've pissed off the Chinese and they're going to go away."

Linton Crystal Technologies is being walloped by tariffs both coming and going. The components it sends to an assembly plant in Dalian, China, are subject to import taxes when they arrive in China. And the assembled furnaces it ships back to Rochester for sale are hit with Trump's tariffs at the U.S. border.

The U.S. import tax on a \$2 million furnace amounts to \$500,000. So, in desperation, the company has decided to move operations to China to avoid the tariffs. And it plans to lay off four or five American workers.

"It just doesn't make any sense for me to ship it back here so I can be penalized half a million dollars," Barnum said.

In the meantime, the higher costs are hurting Linton's business. It expects revenue to drop 25 percent in 2019.

Accu-Swiss, which buys imported stainless steel on the tariff list, is negotiating with customers to split the higher costs. It's also trying to make its operations leaner. It has, for example, reengineered its California factory so production can continue at night when the lights are off and employees are gone. Still, it, too, expects a 25 percent drop in revenue this year.

"I'm just hoping against hope that this thing will go away," said CEO Sohel Suresh. "I'm just sustaining myself, almost becoming a nonprofit organization."

Clips & Clamps, the Michigan auto supplier, buys steel from U.S. producers that don't have to pay the tariffs. But domestic steel suppliers have been able to sharply raise their prices because Trump's tariffs have priced out foreign competition.

"I am losing business to competitors outside the United States," Aznavorian said, "and I am losing it due to raw materials pricing."

Initially, Suresh and Aznavorian say, they assumed that Trump's metals tariffs were just a negotiating tactic, intended in part to pressure Canada and Mexico to embrace a new North American trade pact. But the tariffs remained intact even after Trump signed a revamped regional agreement in November.

"My jaw dropped," Aznavorian said. "I thought, 'You've got to be kidding me.'"

Now, he can't tell whether the tariff squeeze is ever going to end. "The uncertainty is horrible," he said. **AP**



# 2018 trade surplus with US hits record high USD323b

Joe McDonald, Beijing

**C**HINA'S 2018 trade surplus with the United States surged to a record USD323.3 billion but exports contracted in December as the delayed impact of President Donald Trump's tariff hikes started to hurt demand.

Exports to the United States in 2018 rose 11.3 percent to \$478.4 billion despite Trump's punitive duties in a fight over Chinese technology ambitions, customs data showed yesterday. Imports of American goods rose just 0.7 percent over 2017, reflecting Beijing's retaliatory tariffs and encouragement to importers to buy more from non-U.S. suppliers.

In December, Chinese exports to the United States that had held up through much of the year fell 3.5 percent from a year earlier to \$40.3 billion. Sales to the U.S. market had kept growing by double digits in previous months as Chinese exporters rushed to fill orders, but forecasters said American orders would slump once the full impact of Trump's penalties hit.

The slowdown adds to pressure on Beijing to resolve the battle with Trump at a time when the ruling Communist Party also is trying to reverse an economic slowdown.

"The external environment is still complicated and severe," a customs agency spokesman, Li Kuiwen, said at a news conference.

Li cited dangers including "protectionism and unilateralism" — a reference to Trump's import controls — a possible slowdown in global economic growth and a decline in cross-border investment.



U.S. and Chinese officials ended a three-day negotiating session last week with no sign of agreements or word on what their next step would be.

"The record U.S. trade deficit with China will sit uncomfortably with the Trump administration," Nick Marro of the Economist Intelligence Unit said in a report. "That may cast a shadow over the next round of trade talks."

Trump and his Chinese coun-

terpart, Xi Jinping, agreed on Dec. 1 to postpone additional tariff hikes by 90 days while they negotiated. But penalties of up to 25 percent already imposed on billions of dollars of each other's goods remain in place, raising the cost for American and Chinese buyers of soybeans, medical equipment and other goods.

Trump is pressing Beijing to roll back plans for state-led creation of Chinese champions in robotics and other tech fields. Washington, Europe and other trading partners complain such policies violate its market-opening obligations. Chinese offi-

cial have suggested initiatives such as "Made in China 2025" might be opened to foreign companies, but they refuse to abandon strategies they see as a path to prosperity and more global influence.

Chinese leaders are trying to reduce reliance on trade and nurture self-sustaining economic growth based on domestic consumer spending. But their plans call for keeping exports stable to avoid politically dangerous job losses.

Some companies have shifted production of goods bound for the United States out of China to avoid Trump's tariffs. Others

are lining up non-Chinese suppliers of industrial components.

December's trade contraction is "like to continue into 2019 due to falling foreign demand, including demand for Chinese-made electronic products," Iris Pang of ING said in a report.

Pang noted Chinese imports of more advanced technology for use in manufacturing smartphones and other higher-technology products declined 14.9 percent in December, nearly double the size of the contraction in overall trade.

That likely is due in part to "foreign companies avoiding using China-made electronic components," said Pang in a report.

In December, China's global exports shrank 4.5 percent to \$221.2 billion while imports declined 7.2 percent to \$164.2 billion.

For the full year, global exports rose 7.1 percent to \$2.5 trillion, down from the 7.9 percent rate for 2017. Imports rose 12.9 percent to \$2.1 trillion, down from the previous year's 15.9 percent.

The country's global trade surplus was \$352 billion, a marked drop from 2017's \$509.7 billion. That reflects relatively stronger Chinese economic growth and consumer demand compared with its trading partners.

Given Trump's frustration with China's huge trade gap with the United States, the latest data might fuel demands by hardliners in Washington to punish Beijing.

Still, Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics says he expects Washington to extend its 90-day deadline following the "positive vibes" of last week's talks.

"We do not see the U.S. fully removing the specter of tariff hikes any time soon," he said in a report. But a deal for "a more lasting suspension of new tariffs" looks more likely. **AP**

# Detained Canadian does not have diplomatic immunity

**A** former Canadian diplomat detained in China last month does not enjoy diplomatic immunity, a Chinese spokeswoman said yesterday, rejecting a complaint from Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau that the man's rights were being denied.

Trudeau said last week that Chinese officials were not respecting the diplomatic immunity of Michael Kovrig. He was arrested along with Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor on vague national security allegations after a top Chinese executive with telecommunica-

tions network equipment giant Huawei was detained in Canada on Dec. 1 at the request of Washington.

However, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that Kovrig is no longer a diplomat and entered China on an ordinary passport and business visa.

"According to the Vienna Convention of Diplomatic Relations and international law, he is not entitled to diplomatic immunity," Hua said at a daily briefing.

Kovrig, a Northeast Asia analyst for the Interna-

tional Crisis Group think tank, took a leave of absence from the Canadian government.

Washington wants Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou — the daughter of the company's founder — extradited to face charges that she misled banks about the company's business dealings in Iran. She is out on bail in Canada and awaiting a bail extradition proceeding next month.

China's ambassador to Canada accused the country last week of "white supremacy" in calling for the release of the two Canadians, while describing

the detentions as an "act of self-defense."

However, Hua said the allegation that China arbitrarily detained Canadian citizens is "totally groundless."

On Friday, Poland arrested a Huawei director and one of its own former cybersecurity experts and charged them with spying for China. That comes amid a U.S. campaign to exert pressure on its allies not to use Huawei, the world's biggest maker of telecommunications network equipment, over data security concerns.

Poland's move has raised concerns over the safety



Michael Kovrig

of its nationals in China, although Hua appeared to brush off such worries, emphasizing China's desire for the "sound and steady" development of relations with Poland.

"As long as the foreign citizens in China abide by Chinese laws and regulations, they are welcomed and their safety and freedom are guaranteed," Hua said. **AP**





Hindu devotees dry their clothes after taking spiritual-cleansing dips in the Sangam during the Kumbh Festival, in Allahabad

## INDIA

# Gov't boosts massive Hindu festival, eyeing election

Emily Schmall, Prayagraj

**I**NDIA'S Hindu nationalist-led government is splashing out on a religious megafest, spending unprecedented sums as part of a strategy to focus on the country's majority Hindu population ahead of a general election due this year.

Both the central government in New Delhi and the government of Uttar Pradesh — the north Indian state where the Kumbh Mela, or pitcher festival, is taking place beginning this week — are controlled by the Bharatiya Janata Party, which espouses the view that India is a Hindu nation, despite the religious diversity of its 1.3 billion people and the secularism enshrined in its constitution.

The Kumbh Mela is a series of ritual baths by Hindu sadhus, or holy men, and other pilgrims at the confluence of three sacred rivers — the Yamuna, the Ganges and the mythical Saraswati — that dates back to at least medieval times. Pilgrims bathe in the river believing it cleanses them of their sins and ends their process of reincarnation.

The event, which UNESCO added to its list of intangible human heritage in 2017, is the largest congregation of pilgrims on earth. Some 150 million people are expected to attend this year's Kumbh, which runs through early March.

The Kumbh rotates among four pilgrimage sites every three years on a date prescribed by astrology. This year's festival is of the type that occurs every six years. The BJP-led governments are spending about USD650 million, more than triple the public money spent in 2013 on an event that was religiously far more important because it happens only every 12 years.

"The vision of the government was to make sure that the Indian heritage, the Indian culture, the Kumbh heritage which actually personifies what India is, is shown to the entire world," said Vijay Anand, an Indian civil servant and the head Kumbh official.

At the entrance to the Kumbh, and throughout the 3,200-hectare fairgrounds, the faces of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Uttar Pradesh's chief minister, Yogi Adityanath, himself a Hindu monk, appear on posters touting government rural electrification projects, stipends for cooking fuel and pipe-borne water.

Kumbh money has been deployed to widen roads, construct a massive temporary city with free tents and portable toilets for pilgrims, monitor more than a thousand CCTVs and construct a new airport terminal, where builders' scaffolding remained at the beginning of the festival.

It has also been spent on a marketing blitz that included a dramatic, minute-long ad broadcast on CNN, and on a Modi-directed promotional push at India's 190-plus embassies abroad.

## ■ The Kumbh Mela is a series of ritual baths by Hindu sadhus, or holy men, and other pilgrims at the confluence of three sacred rivers — the Yamuna, the Ganges and the mythical Saraswati

The Uttar Pradesh government directed local administrators to display a new logo with the tagline "Sarvsidhiprad Kumbh," which in Sanskrit, the language of Hinduism, means "Kumbh is everything," on publicity materials and on screens

at movie theaters after India's national anthem is played.

In Prayagraj, constant Hindu chants blared over loudspeakers throughout the grounds. The air was thick with smoke from cooking fires, incense and hashish, which sadhus smoke ritualistically.

In time for this year's Kumbh, Adityanath led the charge to change the city's Mughal-era name from Allahabad to Prayagraj, part of a BJP Muslim-to-Hindu name-changing effort nationwide to "connect the current generation to our glorious past, and to erase the deep scars of subjugation that have badly injured our cultural psyche," according to party spokesman G.V.L. Narasimha Rao.

Adityanath's government also changed the name of Faizabad district to Ayodhya, after the ancient city where Hindus believe the god Ram was born, and has echoed Modi's 2014 election campaign pledge to build a Ram temple at a site where Hindu hard-liners destroyed a 16th-century mosque in 1992.

The Supreme Court recently assembled a five-justice bench to hear petitions regarding ownership of the disputed site.

India's government has gradually withdrawn spending for other religious groups, including a subsidy scheme for Haj pilgrims, following a 2012 Supreme Court order that cited an

article in the constitution that prohibits "taxes for promotion of any particular religion."

Dr. Surendra Jain, the international secretary of the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, or World Hindu Organization, a Hindu nationalist group allied with the BJP, downplayed the religious orientation of the Kumbh.

"The Kumbh is a pot which is able to contain many things, so our concept of Kumbh is all-inclusive," he said, adding that "when Hinduism is promoted, obviously humanity is promoted. The values which we call the ideals of India are the values of Hinduism."

To be sure, it's not the first time Indian politicians have capitalized on the Kumbh to invoke their relationship to the country's Hindu ethos. For years, the central government has given the sadhus a boost.

In 1954, the Congress Party-led government of Indira Gandhi injected the Mela with nationalist objectives, timing Republic Day celebrations to take place during the Kumbh and setting up booths on family planning and public health, according to Australian academic Kama Maclean, author of the 2008 book "Pilgrimage and Power."

When Italian-born Sonia Gandhi, the former prime minister's daughter-in-law, entered Indian politics in 2001, newspapers featured photographs of her in a sari wading into the Ganges during the Kumbh, symbolic of her adopted Hindu heritage and the washing away of her foreignness, said political commentator Arati Jerath.

Rahul Gandhi, the Congress Party leader and Sonia Gandhi's son, has been visiting Hindu temples across India in the run-up to the vote, and is planning to take a dip at the Kumbh, party officials have said.

"Obviously the BJP will use this to drum up Hindu support. Congress is trying to move into that space as well, but [the Kumbh] can't be an election issue because this election is going to be fought on economic grounds," she said, adding that Indian voters "can tell the difference between a festival and their own economic reality."

But for some Kumbh pilgrims, Hinduism belongs at the forefront of Indian elections.

"This is a very important fight," said Reva Goyal, a 49-year-old homemaker from New Delhi. "And in this, politics and religion are mixed. I feel the BJP government has done a lot for us, and should come back into power."

Narendra Giri, the head sadhu at the Kumbh, said the government's arrangements and facilities for the religious festival would "obviously affect the election," and that while previous governments had also adhered to the "guest is a god policy," the BJP's performance this year had outdone them all. **AP**



INDONESIA

# Navy recovers Lion Air jet's cockpit voice recorder

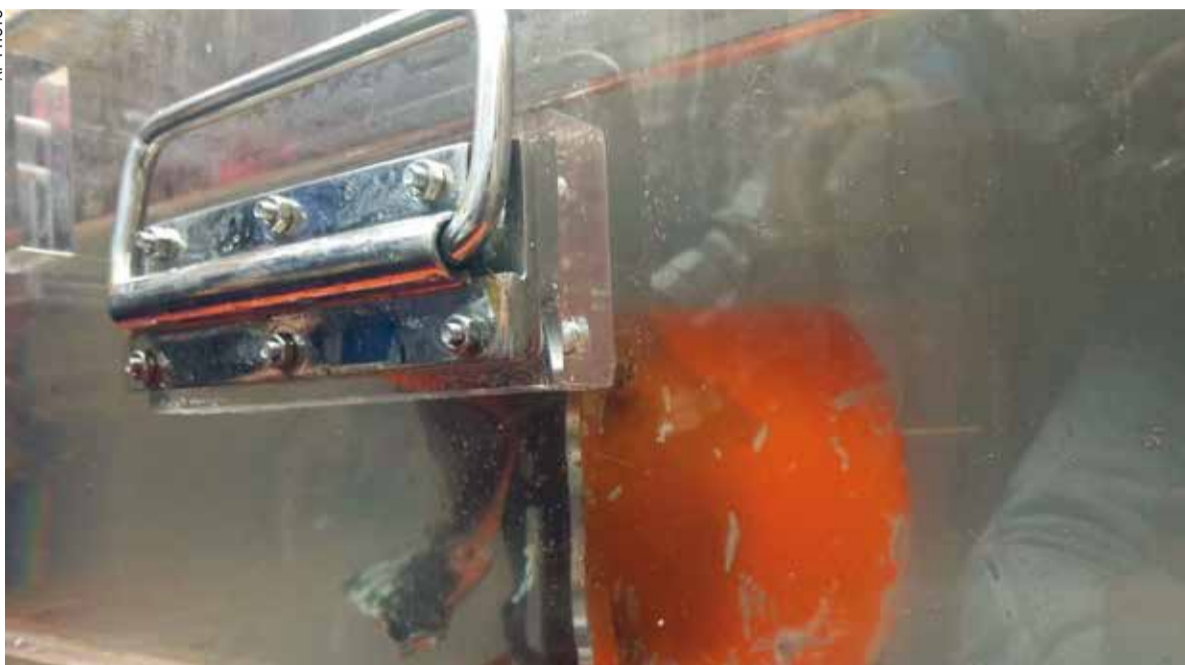
**N**AVY divers have recovered the cockpit voice recorder of a Lion Air jet that crashed into the Java Sea in October, Indonesian officials said YESTERDAY, in a possible boost to the accident investigation.

Ridwan Djamiluddin, a deputy maritime minister, told reporters that remains of some of the 189 people who died in the crash were also discovered at the seabed location.

A spokesman for the Indonesian navy's western fleet, Lt. Col. Agung Nugroho, said divers using high-tech "ping locator" equipment started a new search effort on Friday and found the voice recorder beneath 8 meters (26 feet) of seabed mud. The plane crashed in waters 30 meters (98 feet) deep.

The device is being transported to a navy port in Jakarta, Nugroho said, and will be handed over to the transportation

AP PHOTO



The recovered cockpit voice recorder of Lion Air flight 610 is kept in a water-filled container on board of Indonesian Navy ship KRI Spica in the waters of Tanjung Karawang yesterday

safety committee, which is overseeing the accident investigation.

"This is good news, especially

for us who lost our loved ones," said Irianto, the father of Rio Nanda Pratama, a doctor who died in the crash.

"Even though we don't yet know the contents of the CVR, this is some relief from our despair," he said.

The 2-month-old Boeing 737 MAX 8 jet plunged into the Java Sea just minutes after taking off from Jakarta on Oct. 29, killing everyone on board.

The cockpit data recorder was recovered three days after the crash and showed that the jet's airspeed indicator had malfunctioned on its last four flights.

If the voice recorder is undamaged, it could provide valuable additional information to investigators.

Navy chief Rear Adm. Harjo Susmoro said the voice recorder was found just 50 meters (164 feet) from where the data recorder was located. He said the voice recorder's signal, designed to last 90 days following a crash, would have stopped in about 15 days.

The Lion Air crash was the worst airline disaster in Indonesia since 1997, when 234 people died on a Garuda flight near Medan. In December 2014, an AirAsia flight from Surabaya to Singapore plunged into the sea, killing all 162 people on board.

Lion Air is one of Indonesia's youngest airlines but has grown rapidly, flying to dozens of domestic and international destinations. It has been expanding aggressively in Southeast Asia, a fast-growing region of more than 600 million people. AP

AD



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Ellen Knickmeyer, Washington

USA

# Developers, not farmers, get biggest hit from wetlands rule

**PRESIDENT** Donald Trump often points to farmers as among the biggest winners from the administration's proposed rollback of federal protections for wetlands and waterways across the country.

But under longstanding federal law and rules, farmers and farmland already are exempt from most of the regulatory hurdles on behalf of wetlands that the Trump administration is targeting. Because of that, environmental groups long have argued that builders, oil and gas drillers and other industry owners would be the big winners if the government adopts the pending rollback, making it easier to fill in bogs, creeks and streams for plowing, drilling, mining or building.

Government numbers released last month support that argument.

Real estate developers and those in other business sectors take out substantially more permits than farmers for projects impinging on wetlands, creeks, and streams, and who stand to reap the biggest regulatory and financial relief from the Trump administration's rollback of wetlands protections.

But Trump and his administration put farmers front and center as beneficiaries of the proposed rollback because of the strong regard Americans historically hold for farming, opponents say. Trump was scheduled to speak today [Macau time] to a national farm convention.

"The administration understands good optics in surrounding themselves with farmers," in proposing the rollback, said Geoff Gisler, a senior attorney at the Southern Environmental Law Center. "Surrounding themselves with folks that would represent the industries that actually benefit would not be as good an optic."

Backers "have been really happy to have farmers be the face of it," said Kenneth Kopocis, the Environmental Protection Agency's deputy assistant administrator for water under the Obama administration. But the building industry, oil and gas and others with lower profiles in the campaign "are going to be some of the big beneficiaries."

The more than 300-page financial analysis the administration released last month when it formally proposed the rollback appears to starkly quantify that disparity. Of 248,688 federal permits issued from 2011 to 2015 for work that would deposit dirt or other fill into protected wetlands, streams and shorelines, the federal government on average required home builders and other developers to do some kind of mitigation — pay to restore a wetland elsewhere, generally — an average of 990 times a year, nationwide, according to the government's analysis.

In all, other industries and

AP PHOTO



Acting EPA administrator Andrew Wheeler speaks in Lebanon, Tennessee

agriculture obtained an average of 3,163 such wetlands permits with some kind of extra payment or other mitigation strings attached each year.

Farmers represented just eight of those on average in a year, according to the administration's figures.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which administers the wetlands protections with the Environmental Protection Agency, and the National Association of Home Builders confirmed Friday that developers and other industries, not farmers, have felt the biggest impact from the federal wetlands protections and would get most of the financial breaks under the rollback.

"The residential construction industry does pull more wetlands permits than farmers do," Liz Thompson, spokeswoman for the National Association of Home Builders, said in an email.

The Trump administration's pending rollback of wetlands protections "could be a benefit to builders who will see some relief in terms of cost and time. That said, builders will still be regulated and will still be the industry that pulls the largest number of 404 permits which are very costly," Thompson wrote, referring to the section of the Clean Water Act dealing with the regulatory enforcement and permits.

The administration's proposal greatly narrows what kind of wetlands and streams fall under federal protection. If it is formally adopted after a public

comment period, it would change how the federal government enforces the landmark 1972 Clean Water Act and scale back a 2015 Obama administration rule on what waterways are protected. Environmental groups say millions of miles of streams and wetlands would lose protection.

Trump signed an order in February 2017 directing the rollback. With farmers as well as homebuilders by his side, Trump called the waterways protections then in force a "massive power grab" targeting "nearly every puddle or every ditch on a farmer's land."

The farm bloc has been one of the most loyal to Trump, despite farmers' complaints that the administration has favored oil and gas producers over corn ethanol farmers, and their worries over a trade war with China.

Acting EPA head Andrew Wheeler surrounded himself with farm bureau representatives and farm-state Congress members in signing the rollback proposal last month.

In Tennessee, Wheeler, Agriculture Secretary Sonny Perdue and farm industry leaders from Washington stood in front of tractors and U.S. flags last month to urge farmers to campaign for the rollback.

"The EPA has done its job, now all of us in this room have to help to get this over the finish line," Zippy Duvall, head of the American Farm Bureau Federation, told the Tennessee farm crowd then.

Farmers who support the rollback call the federal protections

of wetlands and creeks a burden, and insist farmers know best how to protect their property.

Environmental groups, public-health organizations and others say it's impossible to keep the country's downstream lakes, rivers and water supplies clean unless upstream waters are also regulated federally. The targeted regulations also protect wildlife and their habitats.

## Real estate developers and those in other business sectors take out substantially more permits than farmers for projects impinging on wetlands

The Clean Water Act permits deal with work that would dump dirt or fill into a wetland or waterway. Breaks for farmers long have been written into the law, so that a farmer doesn't need permits for ordinary ongoing farming that, for instance, sends some soil running off into a wetland.

The American Farm Bureau Federation — one of the most

active promoters of the scaling back of the Clean Water Act's reach — says the 2015 Obama version of the rule could force farmers to pursue costly wetlands permits and mitigation for routine plowing and other farm work.

"It's just really a nightmare for farmers to have to navigate," said Don Parrish, the senior director of regulatory relations at the agriculture trade group. "It can cost them the use of the land, generally they have to stop using their land" if they run afoul of it.

"If you could see me, I'd be laughing" at that claim, Kopocis, the lead Obama water official behind the 2015 rule, said by phone yesterday. "Every single exemption or exclusion that agriculture had" was preserved in the Obama administration's 2015 work on the wetlands rule, he said.

In an email, Cindy Barger, an Army Corps of Engineers official involved in the proposed regulatory change, confirmed that the rules targeted by the Trump administration had kept the regulatory relief for farmers.

Compared to other industries, as wetlands protections currently stand, "the agricultural industry has less economic exposure because of the permit exemptions," Barger said. The gain for farmers would be the Trump administration's attempt to streamline definition of protected wetlands, meaning farmers wouldn't have to consult experts to know if an area is protected, she said. **AP**



Nasser Karimi, Jon Gambrell

IRAN

# Cargo plane crash kills 15, leaves one survivor

A decades-old Iranian Boeing 707 military cargo plane reportedly carrying meat from Kyrgyzstan crashed yesterday while trying to land west of Iran's capital, killing 15 people on board and leaving a sole survivor, authorities said.

The crash of the jetliner marked just the latest aviation disaster for Iran, which hoped to replace its aging fleet under terms of the 2015 nuclear deal with world powers.

But instead, President Donald Trump's withdrawal from the accord in May scuttled billions of dollars in planned sales by Airbus and Boeing Co. to the Islamic Republic, only increasing the danger for passengers in Iran planes.

The aircraft, which bore the paint scheme of the Iranian air force's civilian Saha Airlines, was an making emergency landing around 8:30 a.m. yesterday at Fath Airport, an airfield controlled by Iran's powerful paramilitary Revolutionary Guard. The plane skidded off the runway, crashed through a perimeter fence and into a residential neighborhood.

Iranian state television aired images of smoke-charred homes and the fuselage of the aircraft lying on the ground in the neighborhood. Nearby was one of its landing gears, torn away. Small fires burned around it.

The plane was meant to land at the nearby Payam International Airport, about 40 kilometers (25 miles) west of Tehran, the Iranian capital.



Authorities did not immediately offer a reason for the crew's decision to land instead at Fath Airport. That airport is some 10 kilometers southwest of Payam. Its runway is some 1,100-meters long, compared to Payam's 3,600 meters. In November, a commercial airline reportedly mistook Fath for Payam, but was able to abort its landing.

Iran's state-run IRNA news agency later quoted an anonymous aviation official saying yesterday's doomed flight likewise mistook Fath for Payam.

Pirhossein Koulivand, the head of the country's emergency medical services, said that of the 16

people on board the plane, only the flight engineer was known to have survived. IRNA reported all 15 bodies of the crew who died had been recovered by yesterday afternoon.

Iran's air force said in a statement that the fate of the crew, including their possible "martyrdom," is under investigation. It wasn't immediately clear who owns the plane, though Gen. Shahin Taghikhani, an army spokesman, told state TV that the plane and its crew were Iranian. Iranians often use the word "martyrdom" for those who die in war or national service.

The plane reportedly was

carrying a cargo of meat from Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan's capital, to Iran. Since 2016, Iran has been importing meat from Kyrgyzstan, usually via Saha. It imported 150 tons in 2016 and 350 tons in 2017.

Saha Airlines operated one of the world's last commercial flights of the Boeing 707, which was first manufactured in 1958 and helped usher in the jet age. The four-engine, narrow-body aircraft were built until 1979.

Maintenance information regarding the Boeing 707 that crashed Monday was not immediately available. However, Iran has struggled to obtain parts for

its aging fleet of airlines, nearly all purchased during the time of the Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi and before the 1979 Islamic Revolution.

Saha Airlines' Boeing 707s suffered a previous fatal crash in April 2005, when a flight coming from the Kish island crash-landed at Mehrabad Airport in Tehran, killing three passengers.

Iran has suffered a series of major aviation disasters in recent decades. Its last major crash happened in February 2018, when an Aseman Airlines ATR-72 brought back into service only months earlier after being grounded for seven years crashed in a foggy, mountainous region of southern Iran, killing all 65 people aboard.

In January 2011, when an Iran Air Boeing 727 broke to pieces on impact while trying an emergency landing in a snowstorm in northwestern Iran, killing at least 77 people.

In July 2009, a Russian-made jetliner crashed shortly after taking off from Tehran, killing all 168 on board. A Russian-made Ilyushin 76 carrying members of the Revolutionary Guard crashed in southeastern Iran in February 2003, killing 302 people.

In February 1993, an Iranian airliner with 132 people aboard collided with an air force jet after takeoff from Tehran's main airport, killing everyone on the two aircraft. And in July 1988, the USS Vincennes in the Strait of Hormuz mistook an Iran Air flight heading to Dubai for an attacking fighter jet, shooting down the plane and killing all 290 people aboard. AP

SAUDI ARABIA

# Pompeo says US wants accountability for Khashoggi's murder

THE Trump administration expects Saudi Arabia to hold "every single person" responsible for the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi accountable, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said yesterday after talks with senior Saudi officials that also focused on Mideast crises and countering threats from Iran.

Pompeo, speaking to reporters at the end of a trip to Riyadh, said he had raised the Khashoggi case in his meetings with Saudi King Salman and Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman as well as other human rights concerns, and the fate of women's rights activists who have been detained in the kingdom.

"We spoke about human rights issues here in Saudi Arabia, women activists," he said. "We spoke about the accountability and the expectations that we have. The Saudis are friends and when friends have conversations you tell them what your expecta-



King Salman (right) meets with U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo at the Royal Court in Riyadh yesterday

tions are."

"Our expectations have been clear from early on: every single person who has responsibility for the murder of Jamal Khashoggi needs to held accountable," Pompeo said. He said the Saudis understood and had reiterated pledges to pursue the case wherever it leads. He would not

comment on U.S. intelligence suggesting the crown prince may have ordered the killing.

The relationship between Riyadh and Washington remains tense following Khashoggi's brutal slaying and dismemberment at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul in October. Members of Prince Mohammed's entou-

rage have been implicated in the killing and U.S. lawmakers have demanded America pull back its support of the Saudi-led war in Yemen.

On the detained women rights activists, Pompeo said the Saudis had committed that the "lawful judicial process would take place and they would do so quickly and that they would continue down that path."

"They understand the concerns that some have and they are going to do their best to communicate as appropriate," he said.

Pompeo travelled to Saudi Arabia as part of a broader Middle East tour that has already taken him to Jordan, Iraq, Egypt, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates. He was to depart from the kingdom for Oman shortly after his meetings in Riyadh but cancelled plans to wrap up the trip in Kuwait on Tuesday, due to a death in his family.

At each stop, Pompeo has sought to reassure Arab leaders

that President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw U.S. forces from Syria does not mean Washington is abandoning the Middle East or the fight against the Islamic State group.

Pompeo said he believed he had been successful in explaining Trump's position despite a lack of detail on exactly how and when the withdrawal will take place and differences with Turkey over the fate of U.S.-backed Syrian Kurdish fighters after American forces leave.

He also tried to impress upon leaders the importance of a political solution to the conflict in Yemen, the Arab world's most impoverished country, and the need to step up efforts to counter Iran's increasing assertiveness in the region, manifested by its support for Lebanon's militant Hezbollah movement, Syria's government of President Bashar Assad, Shiite militias in Iraq and the Houthi rebels in Yemen.

In Riyadh, Pompeo lamented that the Houthis were not living up to pledges they made at U.N.-brokered peace talks in Sweden. "We need both sides to honor those commitments and to date the Iranian-backed Houthis have chosen not to do that," he said. AP



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

**DAVE? DAVE? KANSAS CITY MAN GETS TICKETS FOR HELPING CHIEF**



Kansas City Chiefs offensive tackle Jeff Allen

A random act of kindness has netted AFC Championship tickets for a man called Dave who helped dig a Kansas City Chief out of the snow.

Offensive linesman Jeff Allen posted on Twitter that his car got stuck as he was heading to Arrowhead Stadium to take on the Indianapolis Colts in Saturday's playoff. Allen says "a nice guy named Dave," who didn't know he is a Chief, got him back on the road.

The Chicago native asked his 21,000-plus followers to help him track down the Good Samaritan so he could reward him with tickets.

Hundreds of people replied — many claiming to be Dave — and thousands retweeted the plea.

Yesterday [Macau time], Allen tweeted that he has found the real Dave "despite the recent influx in people changing their name to Dave in the KC area lol."

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

10 JAN - 16 JAN



**MORE THAN BLUE**  
 ROOM 1  
 2:30, 9:30 pm  
 Director: Gavin Lin  
 Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen  
 Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)  
 Duration: 105min

**THE POOL**  
 ROOM 1  
 4:30, 7:30 pm  
 Director: Ping Lumpraploeng  
 Starring: Theeradej Wongpuapan, Ratnamon Ratchiratham  
 Language: Thai (Chinese & English)  
 Duration: 95min

**YOU ARE THE APPLE OF MY EYE**  
 ROOM 2  
 4:30, 7:30 pm  
 Director: Yasuo Hasegawa  
 Starring: Yuki Yamada, Asuka Saito  
 Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)  
 Duration: 89 min

**BUMBLEBEE**  
 ROOM 2  
 7:15 pm  
 Director: Travis Knight  
 Starring: Hailee Steinfeld, Dylan O'Brien, Megyn Price  
 Language: English (Chinese)  
 Duration: 113min



**A DOG'S WAY HOME**  
 ROOM 3  
 2:30, 4:30, 9:30, pm  
 Director: Charles Martin Smith  
 Starring: Bryce Dallas Howard, Ashley Judd  
 Language: English  
 Duration: 96min

this day in history



**1997 PRINCESS DIANA SPARKS LANDMINES ROW**

Princess Diana has angered government ministers after calling for an international ban on landmines.

Her comments - made during a visit to Angola to see for herself some of the victims of landmines - are being seen as out of step with government policy.

The Junior Defence Minister, Earl Howe, has described the princess as a "loose cannon", ill-informed on the issue of anti-personnel landmines.

Although he is now seeking to distance himself from the criticism, other Conservative backbenchers have been more outspoken.

Peter Viggers, Tory member of the defence select committee, said: "We all know landmines and other weapons are vicious and nasty. The question is how best to negotiate so they are not used in future."

"The government's policy on this has been an extremely careful one and the statements made by the Princess of Wales have not been in line with that policy."

The government is involved in international negotiations for a worldwide ban on landmines, but in the meantime the army is still using them.

The princess has insisted the row over her comments is a distraction and all she was trying to do was help.

She is in Angola as a guest of the International Red Cross, which has been pressing for a landmine ban.

Labour has welcomed the intervention by the princess. It is backing calls for an international moratorium on the use of anti-personnel mines.

Shadow defence spokesman, David Clark, said: "I think we should all welcome the fact she has gone to Angola and she has tried to warn the world of the dangers of these terrible weapons. I think we should be applauding what she's doing."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Princess died in a fatal car crash in Paris on 31 August 1997. Labour was elected to power in May 1997. Shortly after, the Prime Minister, Tony Blair, promised to ratify the international Ottawa convention on banning landmines in time for the anniversary of her death.

The convention came into force on 1 March 1999 but a number of key countries refused to sign, including the United States, Russia and China.

To date, they have still not signed the treaty. Campaign groups are continuing to press for a worldwide ban.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Communication is important today — but keep it short and sweet. At least one colleague or family member starts to derail the conversation with digressions and distractions, but you can politely keep them on track.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Focus on today as much as possible — long-term thinking is best put off for a few more days. You may have an emergent problem to deal with, or maybe you just need to learn more before making plans.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
You are in motion today, which is just how you want it. Even your down-time probably involves web surfing or other forms of active entertainment in which you seek out new opportunities.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You need to deal with a few extra elements you hadn't counted on when handling big projects today — but you can do it! It may be time to call in that favor from a friend or colleague, though.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
You're torn between two equally appealing options — which is a pretty good problem to have! Unfortunately, one key player wants you to hurry up and make up your mind, so get on it.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
You can't let your heart make decisions today — it's all about your head and the left-brain logic that sometimes gets you in trouble. Right now, that's your best bet for getting ahead, so go for it!

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
You need to try new things today — even if you'd rather poke around in the garden or just watch that same movie for the hundredth time. Fortunately, your positive mental energy is on the job.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You can't stop thinking about some weird little detail that seems to be popping out from a spreadsheet or presentation. It's worth following up on, so make sure that you look into it carefully.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You are thinking hard about things, but you're not really sure what you need to do next. See if you can get your people to offer up ideas, but don't expect much depth to come until time has passed.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Today is all about communication, and even your quiet wisdom is much in demand now. Make sure that you're available for those who need you, and then check out what needs to happen next to make it all work.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Something small but meaningful could spark a new romance today — if you're looking for one, that is! You may find that a stray comment about your favorite author or politician leads to something big.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Your creative mind is much more active today, so you may need to find a way to capture all the great ideas that are coming your way. Your friends may be amused, but you know one of these is a winner!

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
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**CHINA**

Beijing	-8	-2	cloudy/clear
Harbin	-18	-13	snow shower/cloudy
Tianjin	-5	-2	clear
Urumqi	-18	-12	clear
Xi'an	-4	3	cloudy/overcast
Lhasa	-7	7	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	5	12	clear
Chongqing	7	9	drizzle
Kunming	4	17	cloudy
Nanjing	4	6	drizzle/sleet
Shanghai	5	9	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	2	6	cloudy/overcast
Hangzhou	4	7	drizzle
Taipei	19	22	cloudy/drizzle
Guangzhou	16	21	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	17	21	cloudy

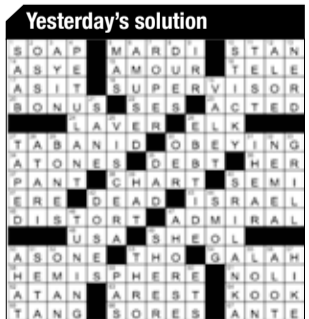
**WORLD**

Moscow	-4	-2	flurry
Frankfurt	3	5	drizzle
Paris	6	8	drizzle
London	6	10	cloudy/drizzle
New York	-4	2	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Winter fall; 5- Large motor vehicle; 10- Grandma; 14- Plaster backing; 15- Caravansary; 16- Hydroxyl compound; 17- Yours, in Tours; 18- Writer Loos; 19- Capital of Yemen; 20- Makes a sign; 22- Web-footed mammal; 23- Latin being; 24- First class; 26- Shaping tool; 29- Ceylon, now; 33- Cream-filled cookies; 34- Every 24 hours; 35- Suffix with cloth; 36- Precisely; 37- Trig functions; 38- Champagne bucket; 39- Univ. aides; 40- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 41- Journalist \_\_\_ Rogers St. Johns; 42- Aeschylus trilogy; 44- Equine; 45- 1/100 of a monetary unit; 46- Daredevil Knievel; 48- "The Crucible" setting; 51- Theatrical; 55- Dash; 56- Big dos; 58- VCR alternative; 59- \_\_\_ kleine Nachtmusik; 60- Commerce; 61- Caboose; 62- AAA suggestions; 63- "Them" author; 64- Pull abruptly;

**DOWN:** 1- Smelting waste; 2- \_\_\_ Dogg; 3- Western Indians; 4- Extremely hot; 5- Autocratic Russian rulers; 6- Actress Zellweger; 7- "Exodus" author; 8- Siamese, calico, or tabby; 9- Sephia maker; 10- Lipton competitor; 11- Med. school course; 12- What the fourth little piggy had; 13- Banned apple spray; 21- Takes advantage of; 22- Just; 24- Disney mermaid; 25- Lubricates; 26- Numbers game; 27- Bellowing; 28- Poke fun at; 29- Capital of Yemen; 30- More pleasant; 31- Boat spines; 32- Lineup; 34- Toe or finger; 37- Perceived; 38- Excessive admiration; 40- Stalk; 41- Excuse me; 43- Views; 46- Eat away; 47- Urns; 48- Psychic; 49- Touched down; 50- Highway division; 51- Curses!; 52- \_\_\_ yellow ribbon...; 53- Lendl of tennis; 54- Wine topper; 56- From \_\_\_ Z; 57- Brother's title;



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



AD

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	<p><b>Macau Square Office Space.</b> Macau CBD Macau <b>Square Office Space</b> HKD 21,000 / 837 sq ft Ref: 18100691</p>	<p><b>Office - Dynasty Plaza</b> Macau <b>Spacious Commercial Space</b> HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft Ref: 18070685</p>	<p><b>Kok Vui Apartment, St. Paul's Ruins</b> Macau <b>Two Bedroom Apartment</b> HKD 10,800 / 622 sq ft Ref: 18110696</p>	<p><b>Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden</b> Taipa <b>4 Bedroom Apartment</b> HKD 35,000 / 3,700sq ft Ref: 18040674</p>



# ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
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Katherine Legge of England waits to drive during a test session at Daytona



Simona de Silvestro (right) and Christina Nielsen watch a test session

MOTORSPORTS

# All-female team out to prove women racers aren't a gimmick

Jenna Fryer, Daytona Beach

**E**VERY racing series in the world is full of wealthy enthusiasts with ideas that sound too good to be true. Expensive promises to fund life-changing opportunities are usually broken before cars even make it to the track.

Jackie Heinricher has defied those odds and turned an outlandish idea into one of the most highly anticipated debuts in racing.

She has put together an all-female team of drivers that will debut later this month at the Rolex 24 at Daytona, one of the most prestigious endurance races in the world. Her vision became a reality because she found a commercial sponsor with Caterpillar, landed a partner in Meyer Shank Racing and signed up top racers — all of whom wanted to be part of the unique project.

"I am scared, a little bit," admitted British driver Katherine Legge. "I am scared that it will be gimmicky and we won't be taken seriously. That's why we have the drivers we have, that's why we are going with a professional team, that's why we made sure we had everything to do it right."

"We are going to be under a spotlight whether we like it or not, and the last thing we want to do is go out there and be like the 'girl team.' That is detrimental to what we are trying to achieve."

Heinricher is an Air Force veteran, scientist and founder of her own biotech company, Booshoot Technology, based

in Sun Valley, Idaho. She is also the female equivalent of a "gentleman racer" in the world of exotic cars, which means she pays her own way for the right to race against professionals on the top circuits in the world. Heinricher found that racing was the same as the STEM field in that women are an anomaly. There just were many female role models to follow.

**I started having this vision to bring these top women professionals together to race a season together.**

JACKIE HEINRICHER  
TEAM FOUNDER

Heinricher is a racing fan who often rooted for the female drivers, and just as the drivers themselves grew frustrated with their inability to advance in American racing, Heinricher grew tired of seeing the women leave the U.S. for opportunities in Europe. "I started having this vision to bring these top women professionals together to race a season together," Heinricher said.

Then she had to sell it, to drivers and sponsors. Sports car

racing is one of the few series that requires multiple driver lineups, and Heinricher's attempt to field an all-female team in a world-renowned series is unprecedented.

"I've watched many of these things fall flat on their faces, go out in the press without any substance," she said. "I started talking with drivers and I was always very transparent that I had to accomplish the money side. There was skepticism. They were like, 'Who is this crazy gentleman driver woman? What does she want from us?'"

Legge has been part of enough crummy deals to be wary of hair-brained ideas. Legge was part of Lotus' noncompetitive return to IndyCar, she was a centerpiece in the lineup for the weird DeltaWing sports car project and the driver for an Indianapolis 500 team that was going to be composed entirely of women. It never happened.

Legge knew of Heinricher's idea for two years and agreed to be part of it because, for once, it looked as if the pieces were in place for something to actually come together.

Legge was already part of Meyer Shank Racing, and her Acura team won twice last season and finished second overall in IMSA's GTD class. When Heinricher landed Caterpillar as sponsor for her vision, she was able to take it to Legge and the Meyer Shank team.

Then came signing the rest of the lineup. The roster for the twice-round-the-clock endurance race at Daytona is Legge, the

full-time driver of the car, along with:

—Simona de Silvestro. A former IndyCar driver who has been a Formula One test driver, the "Swiss Missile" most recently competed in the Virgin Australia Supercars Championship.

—Bia Figueiredo. She raced as Ana Beatriz in IndyCar because it was easier to pronounce, and the Brazilian is the only woman to have won races at that series' second level.

—Christina Nielsen. A two-time IMSA class champion, the Danish driver was brought in to complete the Rolex lineup because Heinricher injured her back in a crash testing the car in December.

The lineup has more combined experience and success than Danica Patrick, the most well-known female racer of this generation. And the group views it as a chance to further opportunities for women.

"Being the only girl you are given a hall pass. It's, 'Katherine is OK or Danica is OK,' and you are taken as an independent person in a sea of women and they still make fun of woman drivers, but you are different somehow," Legge explained. "And I am like, 'No, that is not true. We can if we are given the opportunity to prove that we can do it.'"

"There aren't that many girls coming up through the ranks. Give girls positive role models that aren't just stripping off and posing on the front of a car. You go to a race track and you see 'Grid Girls' and very rarely do you see engineers, peo-

ple working behind the scenes, working on race cars. If you are a parent, and you have a kid who wants to be in racing, I wanted to show that that's not the only way you can do it."

The team is slated to run the entire IMSA schedule, and Figueiredo posted the fastest lap in class during a qualifying session earlier this month. That proved the car is no joke, and the lineup goes into the Jan. 26-27 season-opening race determined to prove they can compete with their male counterparts.

"I think we can be a contender for the race win," Nielsen said. "We are all on the same page and have been for years. Kat and I frequently quote the saying 'Once you are behind the wheel, the car can't tell if it is a man or woman driving.'"

Heinricher still plans to be part of the lineup at some point this season, but for now revels in her creation. She knows Legge worries about an effort that might set women back in racing. She is confident this venture will be different.

"I never sold this partnership to go out and be on the podium every day. There are very few role models for young girls in STEM," she said. "Part of this partnership is not only does this do that, but it steps into cars and leadership and the STEM side. If I put together Humpty Dumpty with six broken pieces, I am sure that would be a gimmick and we'd be laughed at all day long. I just wanted to work with professional people."

Heinricher has a real race team, but Legge believes judgment will still be based on the bottom line.

"One race is not going to be gimmicky or not gimmicky, but over the season if we finish last every race, absolutely that would be gimmicky," Legge said. "But that's not going to happen with the people we've put in place." AP



opinion

**Our Desk**

Renato Marques



**My BIR (MACAU ID) IS BETTER THAN YOURS**

Forms of discrimination are a constant topic all over the world for the most varied of reasons. Whether based on skin color, political views, gender, religion, nationality or any other minor attribute, discrimination plagues our countries, our cities, our schools and our work places.

Recently, I was reminded of another reason why this lovely piece of land (and maritime waters) called Macau is a unique place in this world as, guess what, we have a few more of our own - in addition to the normal forms of discrimination.

We already have an ID card for Permanent Residents, another for Non-Permanent Residents and a third for Non-Residents, each with different benefits, advantages and perks, which are formalized and clearly stated by law. If this was not already enough, we also have the unofficial perks that are not stated anywhere but are "common practice."

To explain a bit further, while searching for a new apartment (again), I was confronted with a situation that in fact had already occurred a few years back, but which, this time, I decided to explore in depth.

At a real estate agency, an agent was on the phone trying to understand if a house unit owner was interested in renting his property to me. The conversation started to get weirder and weirder.

After wanting to know all about me, my age, my nationality, my work place, my salary and whether I had any intention to bring kids (or pets) to the apartment, as well as other details of my private life that I decided not to include in this text out of pure shame, the owner asked for time to think.

At this point, the real estate agent (a local woman in her fifties) turned to me and said, "You know, he is a Chinese, not easy to deal with..." I confess that such statement did not clear up any questions in my mind. In fact, it made me even more confused as the real estate agent was also Chinese, so I could not guess what she meant by saying "he is a Chinese."

After a few long minutes, which the agent used to search for other possible options, the man called. As she was busy looking through papers, she put the phone on loudspeaker mode.

On the other side of the line, the man was telling her: "I don't want to rent to Portuguese people, neither to Filipinos..." He said this several times while the agent holding my Permanent Resident Macau ID card (BIR) in her hands was telling him, "But he is a Macau Permanent Resident." To this, he replied, "You told me he was a Portuguese, so I don't want to rent my house to any Portuguese people or Filipino people," before hanging up the phone.

After the call, the agent tried to explain to me that he had refused to let us see the apartment, as he did not wish to rent the house to me because I am Portuguese.

The next image that crossed my mind was the waiting room of the Portuguese Consulate in Macau, where I had been a week before to renew my passport. The consulate was a room packed with "Chinese" people, all holding "Portuguese" passports and IDs in their hands. Why? The answer is simple - because they are Macau People! Although I can guess that, contrary to what happens with their Portuguese ID and Passport, their Macau ID has more perks than mine, maybe they can even rent a house to live in. Lucky them!

**THE SINGAPORE: MALAYSIA TO BEAR 'CONSEQUENCES' OF ACTIONS AT SEA**

Singapore's foreign minister says there will be "consequences" if neighboring Malaysia continues to escalate a dispute over waters that are claimed by Singapore.

In a speech to Parliament yesterday, Vivian Balakrishnan reported "daily intrusions" by Malaysian government vessels which have been in the waters off western Singapore since November. He also raised a widely publicized visit by a Malaysian chief

minister, who boarded one of the vessels last week.

The visit came a day after Balakrishnan and his Malaysian counterpart met in Singapore. They announced a working group for tensions in the waters, which are less than 24 nautical miles, or around 44 kilometers, wide.

The two countries, which were briefly merged in 1963, have agreed to peacefully resolve disputes over territorial waters and airspace.

**Heavy smog, worsened by weather, raises alarm across Asia**



**Tassanee Vejpongsa, Bangkok**

**UNUSUALLY** high levels of smog worsened by weather patterns are raising alarm across Asia, with authorities in Thailand's hazy capital Bangkok handing out face masks and preparing to seed clouds for rain to clear the air.

A combination of construction dust, auto exhaust and other pollutants, lingering over Bangkok due to prevailing weather patterns, has taken air quality to unhealthy levels in recent days.

"I admit these are temporary solutions but we have to do it. Other long term measures will also be implemented, Police Gen. Aswin Kwanmuang told a meeting of army, police, pollution control and other officials yesterday.

The city was handing out some 10,000 face masks, spraying water to help settle dust and tightening controls on when big trucks can use city streets - the Thai Pollution Control Department said that about half of the high levels of PM 2.5, tiny particulate matter that can dangerously clog lungs, was due to diesel engine emissions.

The Department of Royal Rainmaking and Agricultural Aviation said it was preparing to deploy two planes for cloud seeding from today until Friday, if conditions are suitable.

In South Korea, unusually high PM 2.5 levels prompted

emergency measures to reduce the health hazard. The country's National Institute of Environmental Research said the daily average of 120 micrograms per cubic meter in Seoul as of late yesterday afternoon was the worst since it began monitoring for PM 2.5 in 2015.

**■ Bangkok was handing out some 10,000 face masks, spraying water to help settle dust**

Over the years, South Korea has suffered repeated spells when silt and pollution-laden winds have swept over from northern China. But vehicle emissions are also a problem.

Thailand's air pollution problem tends to wax and wane partly depending on the season. As in much of the rest of Asia, burning of fields after harvests can cause severe smog at certain times of the year.

The spring smog has come early to tropical Bangkok.

"There are a lot of factories and now that the pollution score is higher we have to be more careful," said Oranart Phongpreecha, 55, a housewife who lives just

outside of Bangkok.

"It's not that I get sick more often. But when I go outside, I have a sore throat and I can't see clearly. [...] I'm afraid that polluted air is going into my lungs so I have to protect myself."

Pralong Dumrongthai, head of the Thai Pollution Control Department, said long term solutions would include switching to use of electric vehicles and better quality gasoline.

He said the weather patterns suggest Bangkok might be stuck with bad air for up to three months.

"I ask for public understanding when your vehicles are being checked, especially those that emit black smoke or big trucks," he said. "We need your cooperation."

Pollution generally is out of control by the time countries take action. India's cities are among the world's smoggiest and it is just starting to tackle the problem.

The Indian government has announced a five-year program to cut air pollution by up to 30 percent from 2017 levels in the country's 102 worst-affected cities.

Key targets include reducing burning of field waste, firewood and charcoal, cleaning up thermal power and auto emissions and heavily polluting brick production and controlling dust from construction.

Critics say the plan lacks details on enforcement and funding. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**IRAN** The head of Iran's nuclear program said that the Islamic Republic has begun "preliminary activities for designing" a modern process for 20-percent uranium enrichment for its 50-year-old research reactor in Tehran, signaling new danger for the nuclear deal.



**ZIMBABWE** Soldiers have deployed to some areas of the capital where police are clashing with protesters over fuel hikes.

**GREECE** Prime Minister Alexis Tsipras said he will ask for a vote of confidence in Parliament this week after the country's defense minister, who leads the coalition government's junior party, resigned over the Macedonia name deal.



**POLAND** The popular liberal mayor of the Polish port city of Gdansk died yesterday after he was stabbed during a charity event the evening before by an ex-convict who stormed onstage and said it was revenge against a political party the politician once belonged to.

**BRITAIN** Prime Minister Theresa May offered both a promise on workers' rights and a reassuring letter from European Union leaders yesterday as she implored British lawmakers to support her floundering Brexit deal.



**VENEZUELA** When Venezuelans rang in the new year, few in the crisis-racked nation had even heard of Juan Guaido. Two weeks later, the young backbench lawmaker has emerged as a key power broker as he leads the opposition-controlled congress in a high-stakes standoff with socialist President Nicolas Maduro.

**BRAZIL** A police officer died and three others were hospitalized yesterday after their helicopter crashed in Rio de Janeiro's Guanabara Bay.