



AIR MACAU EXCLUSIVE CONCESSION NOT EXTENDED
The Civil Aviation Authority revealed that Air Macau was informed "that their exclusive right will not be extended after 2020"

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NO-CONFIDENCE VOTE AFTER BREXIT DEFEAT
The British Prime Minister faced a no-confidence vote early today, after Parliament rejected her Brexit deal by a historic margin

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WORLD BRIEFS

KOREA North Korea is no longer South Korea's "enemy," though Pyongyang's nuclear program still poses a security threat, according to Seoul's biennial defense document published this week.

AUSTRALIA-VANUATU Australia's prime minister has brushed off Vanuatu's resistance to a bilateral security treaty after a meeting in the South Pacific island nation that comes amid concerns about growing Chinese influence in the region.



PAKISTAN Aasia Bibi, a Pakistani Christian acquitted of blasphemy, still lives the life of a prisoner, nearly three months after her release from death row, awaiting a final ruling on her fate.

SYRIA An explosion struck yesterday near a patrol of the U.S.-led coalition in the northern Syrian town of Manbij, killing and wounding more than a dozen people, a Syrian war monitoring group and a local town council said.



KENYA's security forces have killed the Islamic extremist gunmen whose assault on a luxury hotel and shopping complex took 14 "innocent lives," the country's president said yesterday. *More on p14*

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Four-year-old death at hospital not flu-related

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RENATO MARQUES



Prison almost at full capacity, cameras to be placed in special cells

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AIR MACAU

Exclusive concession not extended

THE Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) announced yesterday that Air Macau's 25-year concession agreement, set to expire in November 2020, will not be renewed.

In a statement issued yesterday, AACM confirmed a report published earlier this week by Portuguese language newspaper *Hoje Macau*, saying that the local government "already informed Air Macau in October last year that their exclusive right will not be extended after 2020."

Noting there are currently 35

airlines connecting Macau to 56 destinations, AACM considers that the operation of any routes to Macau by a foreign airline is not restricted by the present concession of Air Macau. "Any foreign airline who wishes to operate scheduled flights to Macau can file their flight application to AACM for approval on the condition that the airline is designated by the aeronautical authorities of the contracting party and fly the route in accordance with the provisions as laid down in the bilateral air services agreement between Macau

and the contracting area," the statement reads.

AACM also mentioned that it hired an international consultancy firm to study the future development of the air transport market for Macau in 2017. However, the authority did not disclose what plan will be implemented, noting that the Basic Law required that the local government must communicate with the Central Government when devising the plan. Hence, "the direction for the future development is yet to be formalized," according to AACM.



TOURISM

HKZMB, Border Gate Square and UM proposed as new scenic spots



Rua da Felicidade is among the nominated places

THE Chinese Cultural Exchange Association (CCEA) this week launched a voting website to pick the city's eight new scenic spots, having even nominated one of the city's most crowded places, the Border Gate Square, to be one of the eight spots.

The nominated locations were proposed by the Macao Government Tourism Office, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, and many of the city's associations. The online voting is available to inter-nauts around the world.

In total, 20 places have been nominated. These places include Lotus Square, Senado Square, Mount Fortress, Penha Hill, Macau Science

Center, St. Augustine's Square, Travessa da Paixão, St. Lazarus Church Creative Industry District, Mandarin's House, Rua de Felicidade, Camões Garden, Kun Iam Ecumenical Center, Cotai Strip, Long Chao Kok, Rua do Cunha, Coloane Fishing Village, Two Lakes and One Tower.

In addition to the abovementioned 17 places, the campus of University of Macau, and two border crossings, including the Border Gate Square and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, have also been nominated.

"In order to celebrate the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Ma-

cau SAR, we're calling for a vote for Macao New Eight Scenic Spots that represents Macau's new landscape and achievements," the association said.

The voting period will be from Jan. 15 to Feb. 28, 2019. People from all over the world can choose from the 20 candidates to vote for their top eight preferred scenic spots in Macau.

Additionally, those who vote are eligible to join the lucky draw to win various prizes.

According to organizers, the Macao New Scenic Spots is said to "give full play to Macau's role as a bridge between the cross-strait relations, boost stable develop-

ment of the cross-strait relations, enhance interaction between the four regions across the straits, unite the Chinese people across the world, increase understanding and communication in such sectors as society, culture, economy, education, technology."

Lei Pui Lam, president of the CCEA, explained that tourists may not know how to choose among Macau's attractions because several years of changes have shaped the city and, as result, there are many new attractions.

Lei hopes that, through the vote, people can review and think about the changes in Macau that have taken place over the past 20 years.

The vote event was prepared in August last year with the support of several governmental departments and organizations.

The attractions were nominated and named on the basis of their uniqueness, balance and continuity.

Following the creation of the new eight attractions, the Post and Telecommunication Bureau will issue relevantly themed stamps. The association will also work with local recreational groups to create related products. The association will also organize a variety of events to promote the new eight locations.

HEALTH

95 ambulances were called to non-critical emergencies



THE majority of people who requested an ambulance were not in the first category of people in need of emergency service, according to the coordinator of Conde S. Januário Hospital emergency division, Chang Tam Fei.

During a call to a TDM radio show this week, Chang said that 95 percent of the people sent by ambulance to CHCSJ were only in a second-level emergency, and sometimes not even in emergency.

Chang explained that patients who were sent to the hospital's emergency room by an ambulance were not immediately attended to just because they arrived by ambulance. The hospital provides medical treatment to patients based on the severity and urgency of

their illness.

"Regardless of how they arrived at the hospital, we adopt the principle of fairness and long-practiced procedures in providing treatment," declared Chang.

Currently, Macau is in the peak of flu season. Chang urged the public to use the Health Bureau's mobile application to find out how many people are waiting at the emergency division in the hospital. He also mentioned that if the patients' symptoms are mild or ordinarily uncomfortable, then those patients should go to a non-scheduled clinic in the health center or seek medical advice from a subsidized non-profit medical institution in order to avoid long waiting times and reduce the chance of cross-infection.

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Doctors say influenza did not cause child death

A 4-year-old child died at the Conde S. Januário Hospital yesterday morning after it was discovered she was suffering from heart disease and hyperthyroidism. While receiving treatment at the hospital, the child developed a fever and contracted Influenza A, but doctors say that was not the cause of her death.

The girl was initially admitted to the hospital's emergency ward on January 13 with cardiac problems. Her heart was dilated and after physical examination, the doctors understood that she was suffering from heart disease and hyperthyroidism.

Despite treatment, the child's condition worsened until she stopped responding and suffered a heart attack. The doctors tried to resuscitate her, but were unsuccessful.

At a press conference organized yesterday by the Health Bureau, doctors stressed that influenza was not the cause of the child's death.

"Regarding the child that died this morning, the parents did not know that she had hyperthyroidism and heart problems. The diagnosis for these problems was made here at the hospital," said pediatrician Jorge Sales Marques at



Pediatrician Jorge Sales Marques

yesterday's press conference.

"Influenza A had nothing to do with her death. It was simply discovered in the middle of this case. A serious thyroid problem was the main reason [for the death]."

Macau is in peak season for the flu and the past week has seen the admittance of several children to Macau hospitals with serious cases of the

virus. As of yesterday, about 127,000 influenza vaccines have been administered out of the 170,000 ordered by health services in the city.

Meanwhile, a male child of four years, who was admitted last week with a life-threatening case of the virus, has started to recover. As of yesterday he was receiving medication and the state of his health was

improving, according to doctors at yesterday's press conference.

The medical professionals added that two other children who were hospitalized due to influenza have seen their situation improve substantially and are now in a stable condition.



The occupation rate of hospital beds at the central hospital reached 95 percent

During the press conference, it was revealed that the occupation rate of hospital beds at the central hospital reached 95 percent, slightly more than usual. At Kiang Wu Hospital 75 percent of the available beds are being used.

Industrial accident results in one death

Yesterday, an industrial accident at a construction site in Areia Preta led to the death of one man. The accident was reported at the construction site of a rainwater discharge interception project located across the Centro de Actividades Juvenis do Bairro do Hipódromo. The victim was a 59-year-old local man. He is believed to have fallen from the site pedal into a hole which is about 4 meters deep. The accident took place yesterday morning, at around 8 a.m.. According to firefighters, the deceased was found with head trauma. His death was confirmed at the location. The accident was handed over to the Judiciary Police for follow-up.

Nine arrested for fraud

Nine mainland residents have been arrested for usury fraud, the Judiciary Police (PJ) reported yesterday. The nine suspects are aged between 29 and 53 years old. According to PJ, the group of criminals only defrauded other usury groups. They would borrow money from the usurers and then transfer casino chips. The group admitted that they took advantage of the usurers' psychological state, because usurers do not dare to report to the police as they are afraid of getting arrested. The group is said to have been operating for nearly one year, during which period their defrauding amounted to at least MOP5 million.

Heritage report submitted by China to remain confidential

CHINA'S National Administration of Cultural Heritage has submitted to UNESCO a conservation report on the heritage situation in Macau, but its contents will not be shared with the public before the summer. The report, which was submitted by the Chinese agency on the behalf of the Macau SAR, promises to protect both "the historic landscape and urban setting of Macau as a 'city of hills and sea'."

First reported by local Portuguese newspaper JTM, the conservation report was submitted to the United Nations agency on December 1, but only an abridged version is currently available to the public.

According to JTM, UNESCO explained that the full version of the report was not published



on its website at the request of the Chinese government. Moreover, Macau's Cultural Affairs Bureau told the newspaper it would not be "appropriate to release the report until the conclusion of the evalua-

tion" at the 43rd session of the World Heritage Committee, to be held in Azerbaijan this summer.

At just one page in length, the abridged version of the report mentions in broad terms the heritage goals of "safeguard[ing]

of important structures and their spatial composition within the World Heritage zones" and the preservation of "landscape characteristics that are found within the buffer zones, outside the buffer zones and extended to the entire Macau Peninsula."

Macau has been criticized in recent years for what some observers have characterized as a slackening of heritage protection standards. Several recent projects were thought to be in possible violation of the city's commitment to preserving the state of the historic center of Macau, as inscribed on the UNESCO World Heritage List.

In 2017 the United Nations body weighed in on the matter, expressing concern about one project at the Fisherman's

Wharf and another near the Guia Hill, where the developers had been granted permission to exceed local building height restrictions.

"Technical analysis and heritage impact assessments have been conducted prior to the commencement of any construction project that might potentially exert an adverse impact on the outstanding universal value of the Historic Centre of Macau," the report noted in an apparent answer to these concerns.

"For the project at Macau Fisherman's Wharf and the unfinished building project on the periphery of Guia Hill, tremendous efforts have been invested in the negotiation process with the respective owners of the said properties, in order to determine a solution that works best for the reduction of potential negative impacts on the area surrounding the World Heritage project."

Local airport opens third family room

The Macau International Airport (MIA) recently opened a family room at the Departure Landside of the Passenger Terminal Building. The new facility is decorated to provide a warm atmosphere and is equipped with a wash basin, sofa, and changing and feeding facilities. According to a statement issued by the airport, "MIA has been committed to provide family-friendly facilities and environment." In 2014, the first fully-equipped family room opened at Departure Airside of the Passenger Terminal Building for passengers to attend to their babies. Due to the increasing number of passengers in recent years, another family room was opened at Mezzanine Airside of the Passenger Terminal Building North Extension in early 2018 to cater for needs of an increasing number of family passengers. There are currently three family rooms in the Passenger Terminal Building of MIA: one at Departure Landside, one at Departure Airside, and one at Mezzanine airside. In the future, the South Extension will continue to add new facilities and services to create a more convenient and comfortable environment for passengers.

MGTO announces Lunar Year celebrations



THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) will present the celebrations of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the MSAR – Parade for Celebration of the Year of the Pig, on February 7 and February 10.

For the upcoming Chinese New Year (CNY), MGTO has prepared a series of celebrations for residents and visitors. Yesterday, it announced that the range of activities include a float parade, performances, fireworks display and float exhibition and the Favorite Parade Float Voting.

The two parades will be staged in the central and northern districts.

The parades will be themed “Return home from Chinese New Year.”

Eighteen floats will represent various CNY dishes that symbolize auspicious wishes, showering abundant blessings on residents and visitors.

According to MGTO director

Helena de Senna Fernandes, MGTO has been enhancing both hardware and software facilities of the parade and deepening the level of enjoyment among spectators so that the parade will gain wider popularity.

Joined by a total of 32 local and international performance groups, 18 floats will set off from Sai Van Lak Square before Macau Tower at 8 p.m., march along Avenida Dr. Sun Yat-Sen on Macau Peninsula until the destination at the Macau Science Center.

Starting from 5:30 p.m., warm-up performances will take place at intervals in designated performance zones.

Hong Kong and Macau singers including MC Jin, Terence Chui, Vivian Chan and Germano Guilherme will perform and a 15-minute fireworks display will take place at 9:45 p.m..

Spectator stands will be set up at Sai Van Lake Square, the

front square of Rua da Torre de Macau, the front square of Kun Iam Ecumenical Center and the roundabout in front of Macao Science Center.

MGTO will also operate free shuttle bus service around five routes between event locations and various districts in the Macau peninsula, Taipa and Coloane.

Starting from 8 p.m. on the night, MGTO will live broadcast the parade on LED screens set up at multiple locations so that more people can watch the parade.

There will be another float parade and finale show of cultural performances on the 6th day of the CNY. The float parade will commence with a kick-off ceremony at Rua Norte do Patane at 8 p.m.

The floats will be showcased at the seafront of the Science Center between February 7 and 10, and following that, on display at Tap Seac Square between February 10 and 17.



Gov't reveals deadlines of MJC proposed projects

THE government and the Macau Jockey Club (MJC) have agreed to add an appendix to the horse racing exclusive contract, according to a notice published in the Official Gazette yesterday.

Relevant provisions include that “as one of the conditions for extending the concession to August 31 of 2042, the contractor shall perform in good faith the implementation of the investment plan submitted to the government and the prescribed obligation regulated by the contract to change the company’s capital, and use the relevant money for the investment and construction projects specified in the investment plan.”

MJC is expected to complete the investment and construction projects listed in its investment plan before the deadline.

In total, there are 12 investment plans, including the refurbishment of the horsing swimming pool, which has been completed.

The major renovation of the stables should be completed before 31 December of 2019.

The refurbishment of the first floor of the event building, which should have been completed before 31 December 2018, is not yet completed. The refurbishment works on the second

through to fifth floors of the building should be completed before the end of 2019.

The replacement of the computer project is supposed to be finished before December 31 of 2021.

The improvement of the runway should be completed on or before December 31 2021.

The construction of the pedestrian atrium, the catering and retail shops, the car park and the cargo unloading area in Area 1 should be completed by the end of 2024.

In Area 2, the two hotels and two apartment-style hotels and tennis courts that will be built should be completed before December 31, 2026. In Area 2, there will be members facilities, VIP lounges, shops, and office buildings. The projects should be finished before December 31 2025.

In Area 3 and Area 4, the horse racing theme park (together with a riding school) and another public entrance will be built. The construction of these projects is expected to be completed by the end of 2026.

Also in Area 4, a construction project is planned to be finished before December 31 2024 which connects the Light Rapid Transit to Area 1.

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GAMING | LIONEL LEONG

Good performance in 2019 would be slight improvement

THE government is committed to ensuring Macau has stable gaming sector revenues for 2019, Lionel Leong told reporters this week. According to the Secretary for Economy and Finance, the local gaming industry would perform well this year if gaming revenues showed slight improvement compared to 2018. The Secretary justified this opinion quoting uncertainties in the global economy linked to friction on trade issues between China and the United States, possible interest rate rises, and other issues affecting the world economic system.

Leong stressed that the expanding proportion of non-gaming activities offered at the city's integrated resorts and hotels would help diversify Macau tourism's source markets and help the city provide a unique experience for visitors.

The Secretary also commented on issues relating to any refreshment of gaming rights for Macau's



current gaming concessions and sub-concessions. The Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance is currently analyzing a technical report – submitted by the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau – and will announce to the public in due course the results of that analysis.

According to Leong, factors when considering the possible granting of gaming rights for current operators

included whether such a path would help Macau achieve its goal of transforming and of holding a strategic position as a world center of tourism and leisure and whether it would help maintain Macau's competitiveness internationally and regionally.

The concessions and sub-concessions of the six current gaming operators will expire on various dates between 2020 and 2022.

Trade across Taiwan Strait reaches record high in 2018

THE trade volume between the Chinese mainland and Taiwan reached 226.2 billion U.S. dollars last year, a record high, a mainland spokesperson said yesterday.

This was an increase of 13.2 percent year on year, said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson of the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, at a regular news briefing held in Beijing.

Taiwan investors' investment on the mainland was also growing steadily. A total of 4,911 projects were approved over the past year, up 41.8 percent year on year, said Ma. According to Xinhua, Ma said the "mainland was ready to share its development opportunities with compatriots from Taiwan first."

Official data from the Chinese government indicates that since the launch of the 31 measures of preferential policies for compatriots from Taiwan, more than 2,000 enterprises with investment from Taiwan have enjoyed preferential tax treatment in the mainland and more than

100 enterprises have secured special financial support under programs for industrial transformation and upgrading, green manufacturing and intelligent manufacturing.

While answering a question about the revised individual income tax law, Ma said people from Taiwan working on the mainland had the same rights and obligations as their Hong Kong and Macau peers.

According to Ma, more than 800 residents of Taiwan have obtained professional qualifications in the mainland and over 100 won honorary titles of various types in the mainland last year.

More than 9 million people traveled across the Strait in the past year. Ma added that the mainland had an open attitude towards and was willing to support exchanges among cities across the Taiwan Strait, as long as the participants maintained the right understanding of the nature of relations and city exchanges across the Strait. **MDT/Xinhua**

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

'Essence of the problem of illegal hostels' must be found, Wong says

Renato Marques

ALLUDING to the recent controversy related to illegal hostels, the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak said that the "essence of the problem must be found."

Wong was speaking to the media on the sidelines of the celebration of the Lunar New Year yesterday morning at the Coloane Prison when questioned on the recent incidents involving deaths and the debate over the need to turn the exploitation of illegal hostels into a crime, said, "[The matter of the criminalization of illegal hostels] has been already addressed in a study by several departments some years ago. Criminalization is the last resort." He added, "in a previous occasion at the Legislative Assembly, I have said before that we need to find [first] the

essence of the problem, as turning [the practice] into a crime is just a final method to solve this problem."

According to the Wong, the problem, which has been a point of concern for much of society, is already being addressed by the government, namely the Secretariat of Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan.

"Yesterday [Tuesday], Sonia Chan already held a working meeting about this subject and in this meeting we decided to collect public opinion and analyze it," Wong revealed noting that in the meanwhile, "the Secretariat for Security is committed to put all efforts to fight this kind of problems and the PSP [Public Security Police Force] will put all the possible efforts to do more inspections in cooperation with MGTO [Macao Government Tourism Office]."

RENATO MARQUES



Wong Sio Chak

TAIPA ILLEGAL GUESTHOUSE SEALED

On the sidelines of a press conference yesterday, MGTO director Helena de Senna Fernandes said that there are around 40 inspectors dedicated to illegal guesthouse inspections. The tourism head admitted that the bureau is facing some pressure due to the small number of inspectors and comparatively large number of

illegal guest houses. Regarding the Taipa housing unit which was deemed an illegal guesthouse and in which a fight and one death were reported on Tuesday, Helena said that the property has already been sealed, and that MGTO will take follow-up action to investigate the operator of this specific illegal guesthouse. JZ

To topic of the illegal hostels has been high on the government's agenda after two deaths, the latest of which occurred earlier this week when a 47-year-old man, the owner of an illegal hostel, was killed during a brawl that followed a dispute with one of his guests.

Another two men that were also involved in the case sustained injuries in an incident that is still under investigation by the

Judiciary Police.

In response to questions by the media on a separate topic, Wong said that in regard to the case of the PSP officer who fired a warning shot in a casino while trying to control the actions of a group of tourists that were smoking in an illegal area, "the PSP are still investigating. When they reach a final conclusion they will make the results public." Wong also noted the officer, after a prelimi-

nary evaluation, has already resumed his normal work duties.

Regarding the suggestion of equipping the officers with pepper spray, Wong said that such proposal would move forward but that before that is put into force, the PSP would reinforce training officers to deal with such situations that as the Secretary acknowledged, "are very frequent in the Casinos and it is not possible to avoid them all".

RENATO MARQUES



Cheng Fong Meng



The male ward of the prison

Surveillance cameras to be installed only in special cells

THE proposal from the government to install surveillance cameras in prison cells is going to move forward but only for a few "special cells," according to the director of the Correctional Service Bureau (DSC), Cheng Fong Meng.

Questioned by the media on the current status of the plan to install surveillance cameras (CCTV) in some prison cells, Cheng said, "for the time being we have no cameras installed yet, but we do have the plan to install CCTV in 'specials cells'."

He added, "we have already exchanged opinions with the Office for Personal Data Protection in what relates to the protection of personal data and after an inspection [from this bureau] the cameras can be installed."

For the time being, the

cells in which cameras will be installed are the "disciplinary cells and the medical services [ones] in which we have needs and do not breach the personal data protection laws," Cheng said. According to him, the application of this technology is

a trend in many countries and territories to help to keep the order, discipline and safety of the inmates and the staff and also as a way to reduce the need for staff.

One of the problems that the DSC is trying to tackle is staff shortage. "Now we struggle with lack of staff due to the constant growth of the inmate population. We are currently doing a recruitment of 70 more prison guards," the

DSC director said, noting that the bureau currently counts over 600 guards of which around 180 are foreigners.

Cheng also said that expansion works planned for the Coloane Prison would allow the placing of a maximum of 100 more inmates in the facilities of the institution. "The expansion works will allow the placing of 80 to 100 more inmates in prison," he said, adding, "at the moment, the figures as of December 31 2018 show that we have a total of 1,458 inmates, of a total capacity of 1,600. This means that we have reached about 90 percent of the maximum capacity and we have a tendency of growing figures in inmate population." As Cheng explained, the needed addition of space would be achieved through a "modification of the inner spaces of the prison," not involving any exterior construction works. **RM**

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PROPERTY

London, NYC, HK no longer immune to housing slump



IN the years since the financial crisis, global cities like London, Hong Kong and New York appeared to defy housing-market cycles, thanks to a concentration of financial jobs and the self-fulfilling belief that they offered investors a safe haven. Now every release of data seems to turn those assumptions on their head.

In Manhattan, the median condo price dipped below USD1 million for the first time in three years. Hong Kong home values endured their longest losing streak since 2008, while prices in outer London neighborhoods fell for the first time since 2011. Sydney home owners are grappling with the worst real estate slump since the 1980s.

Luxury residential prices are growing at the slowest rate since 2012, according to a Knight Frank index of prime properties in 43 cities. Where some see an orderly retreat, others see cause for concern. A November working paper by the

International Monetary Fund warned that the tendency of housing prices in global cities to move in sync means that local shocks could upend markets around the world.

There are a few global cities that affect "the sentiment about risk perception," said Albert Saiz, a professor of urban economics and real estate at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. "If New York and London are catching a cold, the primacy is large enough that they might have an impact on the overall market."

International investors in search of higher-yielding investments have poured cash into the biggest, most-expensive housing markets, pushing prices ever upward. Governments became concerned the gains were unsustainable, and reacted with measures aimed at curbing the flows of international money.

U.K. lawmakers will publish details later this month of a tax on foreign real estate buyers in London. That plan follows mo-

ves to increase charges on second homes and properties owned by corporate entities. The government also eliminated tax breaks for rental homes bought with mortgages. Home prices in the most-expensive parts of London are down 19 percent from their peak in 2014, according to data from Savills Plc, but the move to curtail investor purchases is still on.

Similar dynamics are playing out around the world. The number of home sales in Vancouver dropped 32 percent in 2018 from the previous year, following a series of new taxes, stricter mortgage rules and rising interest rates. Median prices in Auckland registered their first annual drop since 2008 after the New Zealand government passed legislation to restrict foreign buying that it said was partly to blame for escalating housing costs. Home prices have dropped 11 percent in Sydney from their 2017 peak after government restrictions on foreign purchases and tighter credit. **Bloomberg**

US

Online gambling reversal puts 'chill' on industry

Edvard Pettersson

THE U.S. Justice Department's decision to expand a federal prohibition on internet gambling will cast a pall on the industry as businesses and state lotteries evaluate the implications of the change and the government's plans to enforce it.

The U.S. now says the U.S. Wire Act bars all internet gambling that involves interstate transactions, reversing its position from 2011 that only sports betting was prohibited under the law passed 50 years earlier.

While the federal law specifically prohibits transmission of wagers and related information across state lines, the Justice Department's new interpretation will impact all online gambling because as a practical matter it's difficult to guarantee that no payments are routed through other states, said Aaron Swerdlow, an attorney with Glaser Weil Fink Howard Avchen & Shapiro LLP in Los Angeles.

"This will have a chilling effect on investment and expansion in the industry," Swerdlow said. "You are going to see legal challenges."

Shares of casino operators and suppliers fell on Tuesday. That included MGM Resorts International, down as much as 1.3 percent, and International Game Technology Plc, which dropped as much as 3.7 percent.

The reversal was prompted by the department's criminal division, which prosecutes illegal gambling. The opinion issued about seven years ago that the 1961 Wire Act only banned sports gambling was a misinterpretation of the statute, according to a 23-page opinion by the department's Office of Legal Counsel dated Nov. 2 and made public Monday.

The new reading of the law probably will be tested in the courts as judges may entertain challenges to the government's view of the law's scope, the Justice Department said. It may also affect states that began selling lottery tickets online after the 2011 opinion, as well as casinos that offer online gambling.

A coalition backed by billionaire casino executive Sheldon Adelson lobbied the Justice Department in 2017 to reconsider its 2011 decision that cleared the way for states to allow online gambling.

The businesses that will be most directly affected are interstate lotteries that have become well established after 2011, said Dennis Gutwald, an attorney with McDonald Carano LLP in Las Vegas. The Justice Department's new reading of the law won't affect intrastate online wagering, where patrons bet only from within a single state.

The U.S. Supreme Court ruled last year that states other than Nevada could also permit sports betting. New Jersey and other states that now allow sports wagering restrict those activities to individuals physically within the state. The Justice Department's change of heart will be an obstacle to an exemption between Delaware, Nevada and New Jersey that allows people from those states to play poker against each other online, Gutwald said.

Online poker and blackjack operations are much less developed than the lotteries, but they will have to examine how they can continue to be run in light of the Justice Department's opinion, according to Gutwald.

"Every company has got to take a close look at what they're doing," Gutwald said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

MGM OFFERS FESTIVE MENU FOR LUNAR NEW YEAR



During the Lunar New Year, the Chinese restaurants Chun in MGM Cotai and Imperial Court in MGM Macau, will offer two types of traditio-

nal "Big Bowl Feast" set between January 30 to February 17.

Both sets include abalone, fish maw, Japanese dried

scallop, sea cucumber and ten more other luscious choices, as cited in a press release issued by the gaming operator.

In addition, both restaurants will offer a range of New Year's Special Set Menus, a-la-carte dishes and dim sums from February 5.

Meanwhile, throughout the Lunar New Year period, Five Foot Road is dedicated to bring authentic Sichuan festive delicacies, "Chengdu Nine Dishes Banquet" between January 21 and February 17.

The statement added that other restaurants at MGM COTAI and MGM MACAU will offer a variety of festive set meals, buffets and desserts during the Chinese holiday season.

WYNN PALACE TO OPEN SICHUAN RESTAURANT



This spring, Wynn Palace will unveil a new restaurant – Sichuan Moon – in partnership with award-winning Chef André Chiang, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

In his role as culinary director, Chef André will present Sichuanese cooking in a contemporary way.

In 2018, Chef André received two awards including The

15 Most Influential Chefs of the Next Decade by Elite Traveler and The Diners Club Lifetime Achievement Award from the Asia's 50 Best Restaurants Awards 2018.

"I aim to break the mold and showcase the essence of Sichuan dishes so that they will shine on the world stage," Chef André said. "I want the world to fall in love with Sichuan cuisine through Sichuan Moon," he added.

Although originally from Taiwan, he spent his formative years in France where he began cooking at 13 years of age.

Chef André has opened restaurants in Singapore, Taipei and Paris which include the award-winning Restaurant ANDRÉ, Burnt Ends and RAW.

China criticizes Trudeau comments on death penalty case

Yanan Wang & Rob Gillies

CHINA expressed its “strong dissatisfaction” with Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau over his criticism of a death sentence given to a Canadian accused of drug smuggling at a retrial that followed a chilling of relations over the arrest of a senior Chinese technology executive.

Trudeau should “respect the rule of law, respect China’s judicial sovereignty, correct mistakes and stop making irresponsible remarks,” foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said.

“We express our strong dissatisfaction with this,” Hua told reporters at a daily briefing.

Her comments are the latest sign of a sharp cooling of China-Canada ties since Canada detained Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei, on Dec. 1 at the request of the United States.

The U.S. wants Meng extradited to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about the company’s business dealings in Iran.

The Liaoning provincial court in northeastern China announced the death sentence for 36-year-old Robert Lloyd Schellenberg on Monday.

Schellenberg was detained more than four years ago, went on trial in 2016 and was initially sentenced to 15 years in prison in November. The Chinese media began republicizing Schellenberg’s case after Meng’s detention. Within weeks, an appeals court suddenly reversed the earlier decision, saying the sentence was too lenient, and scheduled Monday’s retrial with just four days’ notice.

The court gave no indication that the death penalty could be commuted, but observers said Schellenberg’s fate is likely to be



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau

drawn into diplomatic negotiations over China’s demand for Meng’s release.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said Canada has asked China to spare the life of Schellenberg. “We believe it is inhumane and inappropriate, and wherever the death penalty is considered with regard to a Canadian we speak out against it,” Freeland said.

Freeland said she had “a very emotional conversation” with Schellenberg’s father on Monday.

Schellenberg’s defense lawyer, Zhang Dongshuo, said his client plans to appeal the verdict.

“I can’t tell you the relationship between Mr. Schellenberg’s last appeal procedure and sensitive events which happened in Canada,” Zhang said, but he described the timing of Schellenberg’s appeal and retrial as “very significant.”

He declined to elaborate on the significance or to comment spe-

cifically on whether recent developments were linked to Meng.

Zhang, a Beijing-based lawyer who has taken on several high-profile cases involving foreigners arrested in China, previously represented Phan “Sandy” Phang-Gillis, an American woman convicted of espionage and deported back to the U.S. in 2017.

Questions have swirled over the court’s rapid retrial and sentencing of Schellenberg. Zhang said while the court’s actions were all lawful, they were also “abnormal.” Among the unusual features of the proceedings, according to Zhang: the public nature of Schellenberg’s December appeal, the swift scheduling of the retrial and the fact that the court announced its sentence just one hour after the trial ended Monday.

Trudeau suggested on Monday that China was using its judicial system to pressure Canada over the arrest of Meng, who is also the daughter of Huawei’s founder.

“All countries around the world” should be concerned that Beijing is acting arbitrarily with its justice system, Trudeau said.

“It is of extreme concern to us as a government, as it should be to all our international friends and allies, that China has chosen to begin to arbitrarily apply a death penalty,” Trudeau said.

Canada later updated its travel advisory for China, urging Canadians to “exercise a high degree of caution due to the risk of arbitrary enforcement of local laws.”

Hua dismissed such concerns, saying the 222 kilograms (489 pounds) of methamphetamine that Schellenberg was accused of smuggling merited the harsh penalty.

Schellenberg’s defense lawyer said his client plans to appeal the verdict

“When facing such a serious drug smuggling crime, I think any responsible government that takes resolute measures to deal with the case just reflects the responsible attitude and strong determination of the government in protecting the lives and safety of its people,” Hua said.

A Chinese man convicted of involvement in the same operation was earlier given a suspended death sentence.

Describing the case as “highly politicized,” the human rights group Amnesty International urged that Schellenberg’s sentence be revoked.

“The sudden retrial and apparent rush to judgment has highlighted the numerous flaws in China’s judicial system,” China

researcher William Nee said in a statement.

Since Meng’s detention, China has arrested two Canadians in apparent retaliation. Michael Kovrig, a former diplomat, and Michael Spavor, a businessman, were both arrested on vague national security allegations. A Canadian teacher was detained but released.

Hua on Monday denied Kovrig was eligible for diplomatic immunity as Trudeau has maintained.

A senior Canadian government official said Chinese officials have been questioning Kovrig about his diplomatic work in China, which is a major reason why Trudeau is asserting diplomatic immunity. The official, who was not authorized to comment publicly about the case, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Kovrig, a Northeast Asia analyst for the International Crisis Group think tank, was on a leave of absence from the Canadian government at the time of his arrest last month.

Ren Zhengfei, Meng’s father and Huawei’s founder, told foreign reporters on Tuesday that he doesn’t believe the death sentence and arrests of the Canadians are related to Meng’s detention.

“Personally, I don’t see a connection between these cases and Meng Wanzhou,” he said.

Canada has embarked on a campaign with allies to win the release of Kovrig and Spavor. Freeland thanked countries and organizations — Germany, France, the Netherlands, the European Union, the United States, Britain, Australia, Estonia, Lithuania and Latvia — for “publicly coming out and speaking against these arbitrary detentions. And that is very important.”

Last week, Poland arrested a Huawei director and one of its own former cybersecurity experts and charged them with spying for China. The move came 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. AP

XIE HAOJIE

Philippines arrests, hands over corruption fugitive

PHILIPPINE officials have turned over to China a former government official wanted for alleged economic crime and corruption.

Xie Haojie was arrested on Sunday in Manila in an operation coordinated with Chinese authorities.

The 49-year-old is wanted back home on charges of corruption that amounted to USD210 million.

Officials from the Philippine Bureau of Immigration handed him over yesterday to China’s authorities in Manila for deportation.

Li Shulei, vice chairman of China’s National Supervisory Commission, says the case involved a huge amount of money that made Xie “a very terrible social influence.”

Xie was presented to the media in the Philippines but did not make any statement.



US assessment raises concerns over China attacking Taiwan

Lolita C. Baldor, Washington

AMID increasing tensions with Beijing, the Pentagon yesterday [Macau time] released a new report that lays out U.S. concerns about China's growing military might, underscoring worries about a possible attack against Taiwan.

Speaking to reporters, a senior defense intelligence official said the key concern is that as China upgrades its military equipment and technology and reforms how it trains and develops troops, it becomes more confident in its ability to wage a regional conflict. And Beijing's leaders have made it clear that reasserting sovereignty over Taiwan is their top priority.

The official added, however, that although China could easily fire missiles at Taiwan, it doesn't yet have the military capability to successfully invade the self-governing island, which split from mainland China amid civil war in 1949. The official spoke on condition of anonymity in order to provide more detail on intelligence findings in the report, which was written by the Defense Intelligence Agency.

Its release comes just a week after Chinese President Xi Jinping called on his People's Liberation Army to better prepare for combat. China has warned the U.S. against further upgrading military ties with Taiwan and has threatened to use force against the island to assert its claim of sovereignty. Under President Donald Trump, the U.S. has taken in-



AP PHOTO

cremental moves to bolster ties with the island, including renewed arms sales and upgraded contacts between officials.

U.S.-China tensions have become increasingly frayed on the military and economic fronts over the past year. Trump imposed tariff increases of up to 25 percent on USD250 billion of Chinese imports over complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Xi responded by imposing penalties on \$110 billion of American goods.

And last year the Pentagon disinvited China to a major, multinational Pacific exercise, citing Beijing's militarization of

man-made islands in the South China Sea.

The ongoing rise of China, in fact, has triggered greater U.S. military attention on the Indo-Pacific region over the last several years. And last year's release of the U.S. National Defense Strategy emphasized the importance of great power competition with Russia and China. And it asserted that China's rapidly expanding military and Russia's increasing aggression are threatening America's military advantage around the world.

Just after taking over as the acting defense secretary, Pat Shanahan told his military service leaders on Jan. 2 that their

focus should be "China, China, China."

The DIA report talks broadly about the steps China is taking to modernize its military and expand its operations around the globe. The worry, said the defense intelligence official, is that China will reach the point where leaders will decide that using military force for a regional conflict such as Taiwan is more imminent.

"Beijing's longstanding interest to eventually compel Taiwan's reunification with the mainland and deter any attempt by Taiwan to declare independence has served as the primary driver for China's military mo-

derization," the report says. "Beijing's anticipation that foreign forces would intervene in a Taiwan scenario led the PLA to develop a range of systems to deter and deny foreign regional force projection."

Over time, the report said, the PLA is "likely to grow even more technologically advanced, with equipment comparable to that of other modern militaries." That would include advanced fighter aircraft, ships, missile systems and space and cyberspace capabilities.

China upgrades its military equipment and technology and reforms how it trains and develops troops

Cyberthreats from China have long been a major U.S. concern, stretching from massive data breaches and the theft of trade secrets to Beijing's campaign to improve its ability to conduct cyberattacks. The U.S. official said China has been working very hard on developing ways to combine cyberattack capabilities with other kinetic weapons that can be used in combat.

Still, the official said Beijing will face a significant challenge as it tries to bring generational change to its military.

Until now, China has mainly done tightly controlled regional operations and some counterpiracy missions. It will be more difficult, the official said, to create a joint force capable of conducting large, complex combat operations far abroad. **AP**

Beijing opposes ban on Huawei products in Taipei institute

THE mainland firmly opposes a decision by Taiwan-based Industrial Technology Research Institute (ITRI) that bans its employees from using mobile phones and computers produced by mainland-based IT firm Huawei, Xinhua state-run agency reported.

"We are strongly against such an action that undermines regular economic and trade activities across the Taiwan Strait for the sake of politics," said Ma Xiaoguang, spokesperson with the State Council Taiwan Affairs Office, when asked to comment

on the ITRI move at a press conference yesterday.

It not only harms interests of mainland enterprises but also consumers in Taiwan, Ma said, adding that the action was "pandering to certain foreign forces," with the institute serving as a pawn, he said as quoted by Xinhua.

Earlier, Central News Agency (CNA) reported that the Institute for Information Industry (III) also announced it was banning smartphones made by Huawei Technologies from accessing its

network, a day after ITRI said it was imposing a similar ban.

The III, which is a government-sponsored high-tech research group, told CNA this week that in order to improve cyber security at the organization, it is planning to completely ban devices made by Huawei by May of this year.

Institute spokesman Chen Wen-tang told CNA that the III last week carried out an equipment inventory which confirmed that neither the core host nor the backbone network used Huawei products. Equipment inventory

management procedures for all products made by the Chinese brand are expected to be completed in June this year, said Chen.

As to when Huawei devices will be completely banned from all III's internal wireless networks, Chen expects that the relevant procedures will be completed as soon as the end of April this year. Chen estimates that the complete ban of Huawei devices from III's internal wireless networks will go into effect in May.

Chen yesterday told RTI that devices made by other Chinese companies that are



AP PHOTO

found to pose security risk will also be banned.

Concerning the banning of other Chinese-made devices, Chen said, "I would like to emphasize that there are some Chinese-made products that pose risks, but of course there must be some definitions. We will comply with projects put forward by the Cabi-

net or government departments before we can take concrete actions."

In response to questions as to whether this would include Chinese brands such as OPPO or Xiaomi, he said, "perhaps products from other Chinese companies will be also be within the scope of consideration." **MDT/Agencies**

INDIA

In life and death, fight against rulers joins Kashmir teens

Aijaz Hussain, Hajin

ON a hot day in August, members of a Kashmiri youth soccer team watched their 16-year-old captain, Saqib Bilal Sheikh, and goalkeeper Mudassir Rashid Parray, two years his junior, walk off the field toward a man on a motorcycle. The two teenagers were not seen again until months later, when they were returned to their hometown in body bags.

Dying with his teammate in an 18-hour firefight in December, Mudassir became the youngest militant slain fighting Indian troops in a three-decade insurgency in Kashmir. The rebellion is drawing greater numbers of teenage boys and young men as New Delhi has increased its suppression of protest against Indian rule in the Himalayan region.

Anti-India unrest has been on the rise since a charismatic rebel leader was killed in a 2016 gunbattle with Indian troops in southern Kashmir. Police say since then, hundreds of young Kashmiris have joined rebel groups, leading to a surge in attacks on government troops and pro-India Kashmiri politicians in the region, which is divided between India and Pakistan and claimed by both in its entirety.

Indian authorities have responded by stepping up anti-rebel operations and cracking down on civilian protests, often responding to stone-pelting with live bullets.

"Young people feel frustrated and pushed to the wall," said Khurram Parvez, a program coordinator for the Jammu-Kashmir Coalition of Civil Society. "They feel the only way by which the government of India is going to listen to them is by coming out and joining militancy."

Saqib and Mudassir came from different economic backgrounds, united by their passion for soccer and their hometown, Hajin, which since the 1990s has seen brutal fighting between anti-India rebels and pro-India counterinsurgent groups armed and funded by the Indian military.

The two boys watched as the peaceful summertime street marches that began in Kashmir in 2008 turned into battlegrounds.

Their parents had generally distanced themselves from the civilian uprising against India. But both families described their sons as martyrs, speaking to a common resentment of India in Kashmir as a violent occupying force.



Asim Aijaz prays near the grave of his nephew Saqib Bilal Sheikh, who was 16-years-old when he died in a gunbattle, at martyrs graveyard in Hajin village, north of Srinagar

Saqib, who was famous among his friends for appearing as an extra in the Bollywood film "Haider," an adaptation of Shakespeare's "Hamlet" set in Kashmir, grew up in a wealthy farming family, excelled at school and aspired to become an engineer.

Anti-India unrest has been on the rise since a charismatic rebel leader was killed in a 2016 gunbattle with Indian troops

From their two-story home in Hajin, Saqib's elder brother, Aqib Bilal, played a video on his phone of his brother using an iron to straighten his thick, black hair. He flipped through one of his brother's notebooks: mathematics exercises, physics notes and poetry.

One couplet, written in Urdu, read, "Everyone should participate in the freedom struggle; everyone's dream is freedom but no one wants to fight and die for it!"

Unlike Saqib, Mudassir was skinny, soft-spoken and shy, and struggled with his studies.

He sometimes took menial jobs to help his sickly parents, younger sister and mentally disabled elder brother, his parents

said from their modest home, some 500 meters away from the Bilals.

"At such a tender age, he was already our family's backbone," Mudassir's father, Abdul Rashid Parray, said as he shuffled kangri, a traditional earthenware firepot filled with embers used in Kashmir to keep warm in the harsh winter months.

"Police snatched my son from us," Mudassir's mother, Fareeda Begum, shouted in tears, surrounded by consoling women.

"He was fated to die on that day," Parray said in response. "Thank God he died as a martyr."

Mudassir's cousin Ahmed, who gave only his middle name, fearing reprisal from the authorities, said police had detained and tortured Mudassir for over two weeks in 2017, listing him as an "over-ground worker," a term Indian government forces use to describe people who actively support rebels.

Police denied detaining Mudassir, saying they only brought him into the station to counsel him as part of what police call a de-radicalization campaign.

"We called Mudassir to dissuade him from participating in protests and stone-pelting," said the area's police chief, Sheikh Zulfkar Azad. "We counseled his father as well. But Mudassir had already been too radicalized."

Conflict observers say last year's death toll was the highest since 2009, including at least 260 militants, 160 civilians and 150 government forces.

The United Nations has called for an independent international investigation into reports of rape, torture and extrajudicial killings in Kashmir. In a June

report, the U.N. particularly criticized Indian troops for firing shotgun pellets at protesters, blinding and injuring hundreds of people, including children.

India's Foreign Ministry dismissed the report as "fallacious."

Kashmir has known little other than conflict since 1947, when India and Pakistan gained independence but were unable to resolve their rival claims on the mountain territory. Since then, the archrivals have fought two wars over those claims.

The Indian side of the territory has seen several uprisings, including the ongoing bloody armed rebellion launched in 1989 to demand independence or a merger with Pakistan. Since then, about 70,000 people — mainly civilians and rebels but also soldiers and police — have been killed.

India has long treated the Kashmiri struggle for self-determination as Islamabad's proxy war against New Delhi, responding to public protest with disproportionate force, critics say.

The conflict has intensified since Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi came to power in 2014 amid rising attacks by Hindu hard-liners against minorities in the country, further deepening frustration with New Delhi's rule in Muslim-majority Kashmir.

Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharitya Janata Party-led government has toughened its stance against both Pakistan and Kashmiri separatists with policies that experts say are intended to project the BJP as strong and uncompromising.

"This all becomes perversely useful for the BJP in the run-up to elections" due this year, said

Paul Staniland, a political science professor focused on South Asia at the University of Chicago.

Amid mounting public defiance against Indian rule in Kashmir — including publicly mourning dead rebels as martyrs, disobeying curfews, producing resistance art and engaging in social media activism — some former federal ministers and Hindu nationalists have questioned Modi's Kashmir policy.

India is holding Kashmir "only by dint of the fact that we have our armed forces there," India's former finance and foreign minister Yashwant Sinha said during a recent panel discussion in New Delhi.

"Unfortunately, Kashmiri body bags and anti-Pakistan rhetoric sells well in India for gaining votes," said Parvez, the human rights activist. "That's exactly what Modi's party is doing."

Modi's policies have also had the unintended consequence of strengthening the resolve of those fighting for an end to India's rule in Kashmir.

"How can any Kashmiri ever back India?" said Ali Mohammed, one of the Parrays' neighbors. "Supporting India is like supporting soldiers killing and blinding children and destroying our homes. Supporting India is just inhumane."

During armed confrontations, Indian soldiers are often engaged on two fronts. Increasingly, when soldiers approach suspected rebel hideouts, civilians barrage troops with stones while shouting anti-India slogans and sheltering the militants, even at the expense of their own lives. In the last two years alone, more than 120 civilians were killed and hundreds wounded during such confrontations.

"We're not just fighting militants, we're fighting masses as well," said Azad, the police officer.

Such was the case for the two teens from Hajin.

On the evening of Dec. 8, Indian troops surrounded a neighborhood on the outskirts of Srinagar, Kashmir's main city, and cornered Mudassir, Saqib and a militant commander, leading to a fierce gunfight. As the battle raged, residents tried to march to the site, hurling stones at the troops to try to help the rebels escape the security cordon.

Troops destroyed at least seven homes in the fighting, blasting them with explosives and shells. By the end of the night-long clash, the boys and the commander were dead.

One bitterly cold December day, Saqib's maternal Uncle Asim Aijaz visited a cemetery in Hajin reserved for martyrs, where over three dozen militants and civilians killed in the armed conflict in the area are buried, to pray and light incense at the two boys' common grave.

"This occupation must die, not our young kids," he said. **AP**

South Korea stops paintings brought from North



Paintings on display in Pyongyang

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korean officials said they have stopped businessmen from bringing North Korean paintings into the country that a report said were purchased at an art studio under U.N. sanctions.

Observers say similar incidents could occur frequently as South Korea's liberal government pushes for deeper exchanges with North Korea.

The Korea Customs Service said it has nine North Korean paintings that an unidentified number of businessmen tried to bring into the country after a trip to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, last November. It said the businessmen did not have the required South Korean government permission to bring in North Korean products.

South Korea's largest newspaper, Chosun Ilbo, reported yesterday that the paintings were purchased from Pyongyang's Mansudae art studio, which is on a U.N. sanctions blacklist.

The studio is subject to an asset freeze and travel ban because of its dispatch of artists and other workers abroad to do projects to generate

revenue for the North Korean government. In its Pyongyang studio, thousands of artists produce propaganda-themed paintings, huge bronze statues, mosaics and watercolors.

South Korea's Unification Ministry, which deals with North Korean policy, said it couldn't immediately confirm the Chosun report. Spokesman Baik Tae-hyun said government agencies will determine whether there were violations of U.N. sanctions imposed over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

An earlier investigation of the paintings showed that none contains pro-North Korea propaganda, a customs service official said on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to speak publicly on the matter. According to the Chosun report, the paintings were of animals and each cost 300,000-500,000 won (USD270-450).

The businessmen were among about 100 people, mostly foreign-based South Korean businesspeople, who made a four-day trip to Pyongyang in mid-November. The customs service official refused to identify them.

Personnel exchanges between the two Koreas have increased sharply since North Korea abruptly began talks early last year with a vague promise of denuclearization. South Korean President Moon Jae-in wants to expand ties with North Korea, but any resumption of stalled large-scale joint Korean economic projects needs to receive an exemption from the U.N. sanctions. AP

AD



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**"After the Opening of the HKZM Bridge
What's missing?"**

- 1. Opening of the bridge doesn't seem to make an instant impact to different sectors and especially on the real estate market;
- 2. Review of the impact of the two policies launched last year by the government who aim to cool down the residential side;
- 3. What's next? mainly focus on our view in building a healthy real estate market and policies that the government can consider at the moment.

Venue: Ocean Room 1/F
Mandarin Oriental Macau
12:30 Drinks
13:00 Lunch
13:45 Presentation
14:30 pm: Close

AmCham | BBAM | FMCC
Members – HKD/MOP 450
Non-Members – HKD/MOP 600

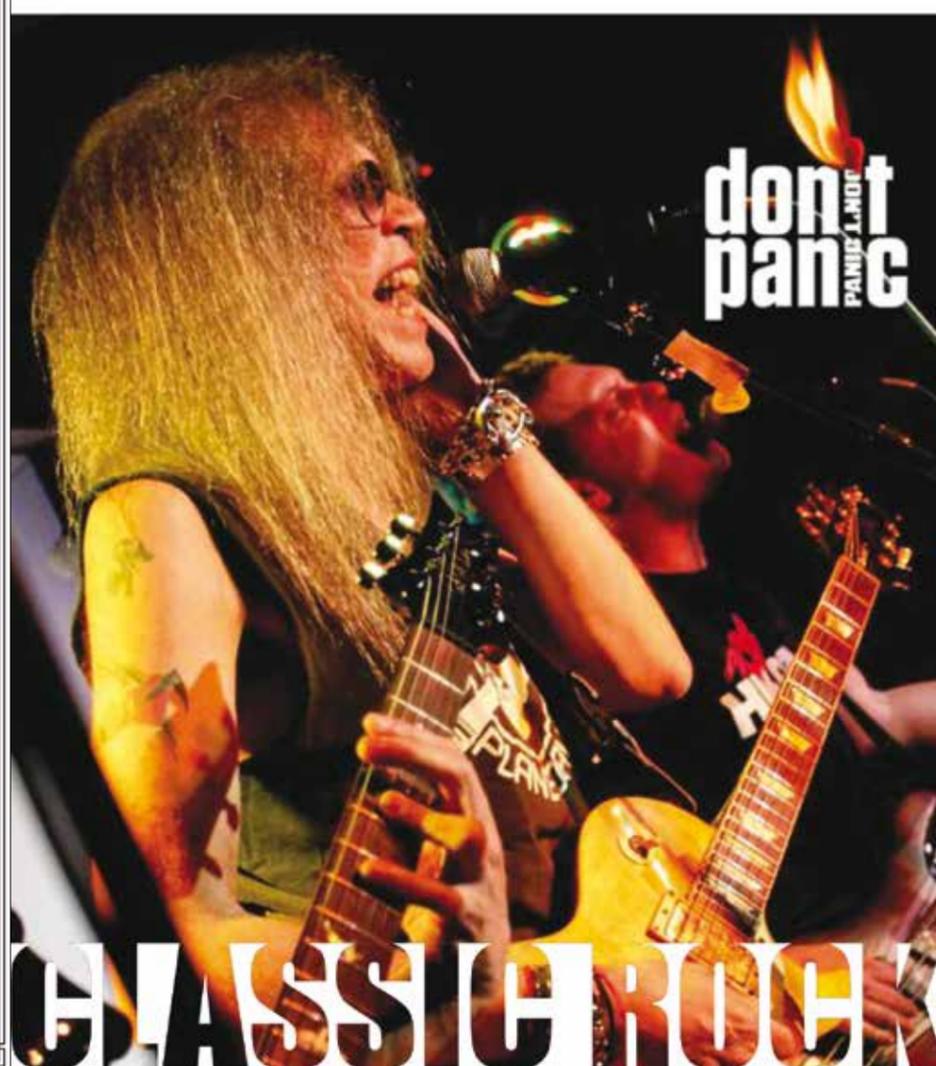
Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event
Deadline to book and request vegetarian meal: Thursday 24 January 2019

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KENYA

President Kenyatta says all gunmen killed at hotel complex

Ben Curtis, Nairobi

KENYA'S security forces have killed the Islamic extremist gunmen whose assault on a luxury hotel and shopping complex took 14 "innocent lives," the country's president said yesterday.

"All the terrorists have been eliminated," President Uhuru Kenyatta said in announcing an end to the operation to secure the complex in the capital, Nairobi.

In a televised address, he did not say how many attackers were involved. He said more than 700 people were evacuated during the security operation and urged Kenyans to "go back to work without fear," saying the East African country is safe.

In the hours before Kenyatta spoke, sporadic gunfire could be heard from the scene after scores of people were rescued at daybreak during what police called a "mopping-up" exercise.

Surveillance video showed the attack involved at least four armed men.

Al-Shabab — the extremist group allied to al-Qaida and based in neighboring Somalia — claimed responsibility for the carnage at the DusitD2 hotel complex, which includes bars, restaurants, offices and banks and is in Nairobi's well-to-do Westlands neighborhood with many foreign expatriates. Al-Shabab carried out the 2013 attack at the nearby Westgate Mall in Nairobi that killed 67 people.



Civilians flee as security forces aim their weapons at the buildings of a hotel complex in Nairobi

The U.S. State Department confirmed that an American citizen was among those killed, but did not release the victim's identity. The British high commissioner in Kenya said at least one British national had been killed, without giving details.

Authorities sent special forces into the hotel to flush out the gunmen. At dawn, another explosion and gunfire were heard. Scores of people were rushed to safety in the early morning hours.

"To God be the Glory. We have been rescued. Over 50 people in my group. No injuries," tweeted a Kenyan businesswoman, Aggie Asiimwe Konde.

Describing the ordeal, Lucy Wanjiru said she had been trying

to flee when she saw a woman on the ground floor get shot. She ended up in a washroom with several other scared people. Her friend Cynthia Kibe stayed in contact with her by phone overnight.

"I think I panicked when she told me that the gunshots are next to her," Kibe said. "I had to keep telling her 'Just wait, help is on the way, they are almost there, they are almost there.' And then at one point she was like, 'Please tell me I am getting out of here alive' and then it was just like my breaking point."

Mourning families and friends gathered at a nearby mortuary.

"I am a Muslim and I am Somali, I am Kenyan living here, and in that way I can assure you

if al-Shabab found me today they call us what they call 'Mortad' [apostates], that is, someone who works against them and they wouldn't differentiate me from yourself," said Mohamed Yasin Jama, a friend of two work colleagues killed in the attack.

The coordinated assault began with an explosion that targeted three vehicles outside a bank, and a suicide bombing in the hotel lobby that severely wounded a number of guests, said Kenya's national police chief, Joseph Boinnet.

Kenyan hospitals appealed for blood donations even as the number of wounded remained unclear.

Associated Press video from inside the hotel showed Kenyan

security officers searching the building and scared workers emerging from hiding while gunfire could be heard. Some climbed out a window by ladder. One man got up from the floor where he appeared to be trying to hide under a piece of wood paneling, then showed his ID.

Like the attack at the Westgate Mall, this one appeared aimed at wealthy Kenyans and foreigners. It came a day after a magistrate ruled that three men must stand trial in connection with the Westgate Mall siege.

700 people were evacuated during the security operation and urged Kenyans to 'go back to work without fear'

Al-Shabab has vowed retribution against Kenya for sending troops to Somalia to fight it since 2011. Tuesday's violence came three years to the day after al-Shabab extremists attacked a Kenyan military base in Somalia, killing scores of people.

The group has killed hundreds of people in Kenya. In the deadliest attack, al-Shabab claimed responsibility for an assault on Kenya's Garissa University in 2015 that killed 147 people, mostly students.

The latest carnage demonstrated al-Shabab's continued ability to carry out spectacular acts of bloodshed despite a dramatic increase in U.S. airstrikes against it under President Donald Trump. **AP**

NEW ORLEANS

Satisfaction: Rolling Stones to headline 50th Jazz Fest

THE New Orleans Jazz and Heritage Festival has got satisfaction: The Rolling Stones are among the headliners for the 50th anniversary festival.

Organizers yesterday [Macau time] confirmed reports that the Rock and Roll Hall of Famers will play. Also headlining the 8-day event, which runs April 25-28 and May 2-5, are Katy Perry, the Dave Matthews Band, Al Green, Pitbull, Santana, Jerry Lee Lewis, Aaron Neville and gospel great Shirley Caesar.

"Fifty years is very rare and to be here, still, just as strong, just as relevant is amazing," festival producer Quint Davis said.

"For the Rolling Stones



and Katy Perry — two of the most highly produced artists — to want to come play our festival, held in a tent, during the day with

the scent of BBQ and oyster po-boys wafting over the field, that's just incredible."

Perry is scheduled to

perform April 27, the first Saturday, while the Stones will take over the festival's largest stage Thursday, May 2.

Seeing the Stones' performance will require a special ticket good only for that day. Cost? USD185.

Tickets go on a pre-sale tomorrow (Macau time) for Louisiana residents only, to buy tickets for the Rolling Stones' date. Up to two tickets can be purchased on the Plaza level of the Superdome from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Tickets go on sale Saturday at 10 a.m. in New Orleans or at www.nojazzfest.com or www.ticketmaster.com or by calling 1-800-745-3000.

For the first time, the festival's 11 other stages will go dark when Jagger and company hit the stage.

"Even though it's going to be a full fest day, with performances on all 12 stages, we don't want the stages where the Stones aren't performing to compete for an audience," Davis said. "We don't want the other stages to not have any people there, so we're gonna shut them down about an hour before the Stones perform, encourage them to get something to eat, to get a good spot and enjoy the show."

Before the lineup was announced at the news conference, Davis showcased musicians who performed at the first jazz festival —

Ellis Marsalis on piano, vocalist Germaine Bazzle, bass player George French, James Rivers on saxophone and Johnny Vidacovich on drums. Blues great Little Freddie King on guitar, Ronnie Kole on piano, clarinetist Orange Kellin and Lars Edegran on banjo also performed.

Bazzle said she can't believe 50 years have passed since she first took to a festival stage. "It's just mind-boggling," she said. "It's also overwhelming and very humbling to have an opportunity to do what I love doing and work with such quality musicians. I just can't believe it. I'll believe when I'm on that stage this spring!" **AP**

UK

May faces no-confidence vote after historic Brexit defeat

Danica Kirka, London

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May faces a no-confidence vote today [Macau time], a day after Parliament rejected her Brexit deal by a historic margin.

May is battling to save her job after staking her political reputation on a last-ditch effort to win support for the divorce agreement she negotiated with the European Union over the last two years. Though defeat was widely expected, the scale of the rout — 432-202 — was devastating for May's leadership.

Immediately after the vote, opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn tabled a no-confidence motion, saying it would give Parliament a chance to give its verdict "on the sheer incompetence of this government."

Still, most analysts predict May will survive because lawmakers from her Conservative Party are unlikely to vote against her, and the Democratic Unionist Party, which supports the government, has said it will continue to back the prime minister. If the government were to lose, it would have 14 days to overturn the result or face a national election.

After the biggest defeat for any British government in well over a century, May promised to consult with senior lawmakers on future moves, but gave little indication of what she plans to do next. Parliament has given the government until Monday to come up with a new plan for leaving the EU.

"The House has spoken and the government will listen," May said after the vote, which leaves her Brexit plan on life support just 10 weeks before Britain is due to leave the bloc on March 29.

May faces a stark choice: Steer the country toward an abrupt break without a deal on future relations with the EU, or try to nudge it toward a softer departure. Meanwhile, lawmakers from both government and opposition parties are trying to wrest control of the Brexit process from a paralyzed government, so that lawmakers can direct planning for Britain's departure from the EU.

But with no clear majority in Parliament for any single alternative, there is a growing chance that Britain may seek to postpone its departure date while politicians work on a new plan — or even hand the decision back to voters in a new referendum on EU membership.

Political analyst Anand Menon, from UK in a Changing Europe, said history is being made week



AP PHOTO
Jeremy Corbyn speaks in the House of Commons in London after British Prime Minister Theresa May lost a vote on her Brexit plan

after week in the Brexit saga, with government being held in contempt even as May soldiers on in Downing Street.

"She seems content with bringing something back to Parliament to vote on again," Menon said. "The thing about Theresa May is that nothing seems to phase her. She just keeps on going."

European leaders are now preparing for the worst. EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said the bloc is stepping up preparations for a chaotic "no-deal" departure by Britain after Parliament's rejection of the draft withdrawal deal left the bloc "fearing more than ever that there is a risk" of a cliff-edge departure.

Economists warn that an

abrupt break with the EU could batter the British economy and bring chaotic scenes at borders, ports and airports. Business groups expressed alarm at the prospect of a no-deal exit.

"Every business will feel 'no-deal' is hurtling closer," said Carolyn Fairbairn, director-general of the Confederation of British Industry. "A new plan is

needed immediately."

But investors have so far shrugged off the rejection of May's deal. The pound was up 0.1 percent at USD1.2869 in early morning trading in London, and the FTSE 100 index of leading British shares was down 0.1 percent at 6,888.

While the uncertainty surrounding Brexit remains elevated, many investors think the vote makes it less likely Britain will crash out of the bloc with no deal.

■ **Still, most analysts predict May will survive because Tory lawmakers are unlikely to vote against her**

Bank of England Gov. Mark Carney said the market reaction "would appear to reflect some expectation that the process of resolution would be extended and that the prospect of 'no deal' may have been diminished."

Britain is "looking to Parliament for direction and one would expect continued volatility," Carney told a parliamentary committee, stressing that he was giving the initial take of the markets. "I wouldn't put much weight on these short-term moves." **AP**

EU leaders plead with London to get its act together

EUROPEAN Union leaders were pleading yesterday with the U.K. to finally get its act together on Brexit, end internal strife and come up with a realistic plan to leave the bloc — well over two years after Britain decided to leave the EU and departure just 10 weeks away.

European politicians watched the spectacle with a mix of shock and utter bafflement after Britain's Parliament discarded Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit deal in a historic defeat for the government yesterday [Macau time].

EU officials immediately said that plans to cope with a disorderly, no-deal departure on March 29, rife with the prospect of chaos on roads, airports and administration would be sped up.

Hours after the humiliating setback for May's government, EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier said that the EU was "fearing more than ever that there is a risk" of a cliff-edge departure.

Guy Verhofstadt, the chief Brexit official in the EU parliament, said in an interview with The Associated Press that Britain had better start seeing the impending departure as a national crisis that goes well beyond party politics.

"The only lesson for them is that they need to sit around one table, opposition and majority to sort out what is in the national interest," Verhofstadt said.

What started as a fight within the Conservative Party which led to the June 2016 referendum, then spread to a hostile and bi-



AP PHOTO
European Union chief Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier

ter divide across British society and most parties in Parliament.

And despite the urgency and the massive economic stakes in winning a smooth departure with a long transition period and a raft of accompanying measures, division has only increased.

"Brexit is a disgrace for the British people and for the EU. Nobody wins. We all lose, in particular the British people," Spanish Prime Minister Pedro Sanchez told EU legislators.

EU parliamentarians could hardly believe the chaos in one of the Western world's

greatest democratic institutions. Watching Tuesday's debate in the House of Commons, EPP legislator Esther de Lange said she "could not help but thinking 'Boy, collectively they don't know what they want, but, boy, do they hold great speeches.'"

Her EPP boss, Manfred Weber, showed more exasperation than admiration.

"Please, please, tell us finally what you want to achieve," Weber said.

There is a suspicion in EU circles that by running down the clock as close to March 29 as possible, Britain would seek to draw belated concessions from the 27 member states. But so far, unity among them has persevered and on Wednesday, each and all insisted that it would remain that way in the weeks to come.

Barnier said that any future deal would still have to include approving the withdrawal agreement, the 585-page document which the British parliament rejected on Tuesday.

"Whatever happens, ratification of the withdrawal agreement is necessary. It is a precondition," he said.

Barnier said that a linked political declaration on future relations offered "possible options" for further talks.

EU Vice President Frans Timmermans had one clear piece of advice for British legislators: listen to your own musical heroes and he started quoting from the Rolling Stones: "You cannot always get what you want. But if you try sometimes you just might find you get what you need." **AP**

what's ON



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

MOTIONS OF BRUSH AND INK - CALLIGRAPHY EXHIBITION OF HO LAI SIM AND HER STUDENTS

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: January 31, 2019

VENUE: Team Building, IFT Main Campus, Mong-Ha Hill

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

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

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

3pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: February 13, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION - CHE HO

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

Offbeat

SILICON VALLEY LANDLORD RENTS USD1,500 STUDIO TO TWO CATS

AP PHOTO



Two cats are living large at a USD1,500-a-month studio apartment their owner rents for them in Silicon Valley, where a housing shortage has sent rents skyrocketing.

The Mercury News reports the 20-pound cats named Tina and Louise moved to the studio in San Jose after their owner moved away to college.

The student's father, Troy Good, was unable to keep them and asked friend David Callisch to rent him the kitchen-less studio so he could keep his daughter's beloved cats.

The newspaper reports Good and his cats got a decent deal because an average studio apartment in San Jose rents for \$1,951 a month, according to RentCafe.

Callisch says he feels bad wasting valuable living space on animals during a housing shortage, but he wanted to help a friend.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Mistura Fina

15:50 A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos

16:00 Os Compadres

16:40 Quem Quer Ser Milionário

17:35 Moda Portugal Sr.2

18:10 João Semana

19:00 Montra do Lilau (Repetição)

19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Talk Show

21:50 Livros com João Guedes

21:55 Justiça de Chicago Sr.1

22:40 Todas as Palavras

23:00 Fotobox

23:15 TDM News

00:15 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:05 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

17 JAN - 23 JAN



GLASS

ROOM 1

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

Director: M. Night Shyamalan

Starring: Bruce Willis, James McAvoy, Samuel L. Jackson

Language: English

Duration: 112min

INSTANT FAMILY

ROOM 2

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

Director: Sean Anders

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Rose Byrne, Isabela Moner

Language: English

Duration: 92min

A DOG'S WAY HOME

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Charles Martin Smith

Starring: Bryce Dallas Howard, Ashley Judd

Language: English

Duration: 96min



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

this day in history



1991 'MOTHER OF ALL BATTLES' BEGINS

The Gulf War Allies have sent hundreds of planes on bombing raids into Iraq, at the start of Operation Desert Storm.

The American, British, French, Saudi and Kuwaiti aircraft took off at 2330 GMT last night.

Their bombs were aimed at military and strategic targets, including an oil refinery and Baghdad airport.

At least 400 raids took place. Latest reports say all the Allied aircraft have returned home safely, although France says four of its planes were hit.

US Defence Secretary, Dick Cheney, said the operation appeared to have gone "very well".

Two hours after the raids began, President George Bush made a televised address.

He said the military objectives were clear - force Iraqi troops out of Kuwait and restore the legitimate government.

In Baghdad, Saddam Hussein remained defiant. He said the "Mother of all Battles had begun". He urged the Iraqi people to "stand up to evil".

First news of the bombing came from reporters in Baghdad working for the American TV network, CNN. They reported hearing air raid sirens shortly before the bombs hit.

President Bush said: "Our operations are designed to best protect the lives of all the coalition forces by targeting Saddam's vast military arsenal."

"Initial reports from General Schwarzkopf are that our operations are proceeding according to plan."

The British Prime Minister, John Major, came out of Number Ten shortly before 0800 GMT to make a statement to reporters.

"No-one wanted this conflict. No-one can be pleased about the fact this conflict has been necessary," he said.

"I hope now it is clear to Iraq that the scale of the Allied operation is such that they cannot win."

"I hope that Saddam Hussein will now make a very swift decision that he will do what he's been invited to do by the world community for a long time, that he should get out of Kuwait and end this matter swiftly and decisively."

He said the attacks would continue until Saddam withdrew his troops.

Allied planes have taken off this morning to launch a second round of air strikes.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Iraq had refused to comply with a UN ultimatum for its troops to withdraw from Kuwait by 15 January, so at 2330 GMT on 16 January 1991, Operation Desert Storm began.

The Allies' devastating and sustained aerial bombardment involved cruise missiles launched from US warships. US, British and Saudi Arabian fighter planes, bombers and helicopters were also involved.

After more than a month of intensive air attacks, the Allies launched a land offensive on 24 February. One day later, the Iraqis began retreating. On 27 February, President George Bush declared victory. Kuwait was liberated but Saddam Hussein remained in power in Baghdad.

On 20 March 2003, President George Bush junior led a "coalition of the willing" on an invasion of Iraq with the aim of toppling the Bagdad regime. Within a month, Saddam Hussein had been ousted and the Americans were claiming victory in the war.

Saddam Hussein was captured after several months in hiding in December 2003. He was tried by an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and executed on 30 December 2006.

US-led coalition forces ran the country until power was officially handed back on 28 June 2004.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Fantasies of moving home to mom and dad should be all the incentive you need to keep working.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You're happy and content on a shoestring, but that doesn't mean you will be forever.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
Your first instinct is to be possessive, but being tight with money really won't help anything.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
If you could be in two places at once, you'd be doing a lot more than making money.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You're proud of your income, and why shouldn't you be? Even if all you're doing is putting a roof over your head.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Some mornings when you wake up, you feel like you're on a totally new planet.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You have no idea what course to take. Stick with current projects, if only because coming up with new ones seems next to impossible.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
If you stay strictly intellectual you may be able to talk yourself out of a sweat.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Your heart, your wallet, your financial advisor - they all have energies that are so very different.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
If you find yourself wanting to be anywhere but home, then you're more than likely doing the avoidance.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
Crying over spilled milk might be childish but it's ever so satisfying. Go ahead, get it out of your system.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Money is like poetry to your ears, and all you're doing is counting it in the abstract.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Flawless; 6- Salty drop; 10- Swiss river; 13- Actress Berger; 14- Witty Bombeck; 15- Passport endorsement; 16- Doctor; 17- Highway; 18- In ___ (stuck); 19- "___ Tu" ("70s hit); 20- Eternal; 22- Ford flops; 24- Rare metallic element; 28- Naked-faced Amazon monkey; 31- Quebec's ___ Peninsula; 32- Michelangelo masterpiece; 34- ... man ___ mouse?; 36- Miss; 37- Prohibition; 38- Montgomery's state; 41- DDE opponent; 42- Hardy boy; 44- Lord, is ___?; 45- Vote in; 47- Kentucky college; 49- As a whole; 51- The Last Frontier; 53- Deceives; 56- Capital of Nicaragua; 59- Gumshoes; 61- ...baked in ___; 64- ___-Tass (Russian news agency); 65- Must; 66- Pack ___ (quit); 67- Insult; 68- Late bloomer?; 69- China's Chou En-___; 70- Slippery; 71- Marriott competitor;
DOWN: 1- Woe ___; 2- Tractor maker; 3- Broke off; 4- Under discussion; 5- Fond du ___; Wis.; 6- Mother of Calcutta; 7- Switch ending; 8- ___ for All Seasons; 9- Spokes; 10- Broadcast; 11- Sun Devils' sch.; 12- Deserter; 15- One who wantonly destroys property; 20- Acid neutralizer; 21- Director Lee; 23- I could ___ horse!; 25- Sir ___ Newton was an English mathematician; 26- Unexpected victory; 27- Pigsty; 29- Redbreast; 30- Lyricist Gershwin; 32- Cartoon part; 33- Chief of the Vedic gods; 35- Aviator Earhart; 37- Ali ___ & the 40 thieves; 39- Corroded; 40- Burn soother; 43- Toadies; 46- Rapturous delight; 48- Wanted poster abbr.; 50- Indistinct; 52- Licorice-like flavoring; 54- Seed covering; 55- Eight singers; 57- Salt tree; 58- Ancient France; 60- Put in order; 61- Feel lousy; 62- School grp.; 63- Second sequel tag; 65- Fat chancel;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property. Includes 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details like 'LAKE VIEW TOWER', 'Ocean Garden Elm Court', 'Sea View Condo', 'Taipa, Nam Long', 'Macau Square Office Space', 'Office - Dynasty Plaza', 'Kok Vui Apartment', and 'Apartment B, Sakura Court'.



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Tim Dahlberg, Los Angeles

BOXING

Breakfast with Manny Pacquiao on a rainy day in LA

BREAKFAST at Manny Pacquiao's house began with a silent prayer, followed by more silence around the big dining room table as his massive entourage waited for the fighter to take the first bite.

On the morning menu in the Hancock Park house were steaming plates of rice, topped with slices of beef. A helper set a few pieces of chicken in front of Pacquiao and a small plate of dried fish to go with the rice and beef he had already half finished.

No need to watch his food intake in this training camp. Five days before his crossroads fight with Adrien Broner, Pacquiao was on his normal routine of five meals a day totaling 7-8,000 calories, almost all of which he'll burn off in the day's workouts.

The Filipino senator, philanthropist and boxer is in the winter of his athletic career, gearing up for what could be one big last fight. Saturday's bout with Broner isn't it — even with a pay-per-view price tag of USD74.95. Pacquiao trains with the knowledge that a rematch with Floyd Mayweather could possibly be just months away if all goes well.

AP PHOTO



Pacquiao prays before breakfast at his home

His work ethic is great, his footwork brilliant.

FREDDIE ROACH
PACQUIAO'S COACH

It's why he began the day with a five-mile run in the rain through Griffith Park. It's why he was at the Wild Card Gym in Hollywood a few hours later, pounding the mitts of trainer Freddie Roach before piling in a caravan of vehicles to head down the interstate to Las Vegas and what he hopes will be a spectacular night in the familiar MGM Grand arena ring.

"Not all boxers who reach the age of 40 can be like me," Pacquiao said, pausing to turn some Sinatra on his phone to accompany his breakfast. "The discipline is still there, the hungriness to work hard and focus on the fight is still there. More importantly the fire is still there and so is the speed."

Pacquiao used that speed to build a reputation and then a career that, even in the hard-scrabble sport of boxing, is remarkable. He began boxing to earn a \$2 prize to help his mother feed the family. He made several hundred million dollars fighting, much of which he's given away to others in the Philippines.

He's back with Roach and on his way to his first fight in Las Vegas in more than three years. Everything seems familiar once again, a throwback to the days when he routinely fought for \$10 million or more — and in the case



Pacquiao (left) trains with Freddie Roach at the Wild Card Boxing Club

of his 2015 bout with Mayweather, much more.

The Los Angeles house is a gathering place for Pacquiao, his family, and the ever-changing entourage that follows him at every step.

It's also a shrine of sorts, with pictures of Pacquiao lining the hall and one of him standing over a prone Ricky Hatton upstairs. There's a 2009 trophy for fighter of the year from the Boxing Writers of America and an ESPY from the same year, a reminder that it's been a decade since some of the glory of his past.

And just behind Pacquiao's spot at the head of the dining table is a painting of the Last Supper, a reminder of his devotion to religion that starts with a morning prayer and ends with Pacquiao on his knees at night with a final prayer

before bed.

"When I punch I'm not relying just on my own strength," Pacquiao says. "In my hands is the power from God."

The talk is confident, though nothing more than what any fighter needs to believe before getting in the ring. Pacquiao has relied on his natural speed and power for a remarkable 24 years in a pro career that began at 16.

He's an icon in his country, a senator whose 40th birthday party had a special guest in President Rodrigo Duterte. There's speculation Pacquiao might one day hold that office, and he says he's devoted to his work in politics and his work in fighting poverty in the Philippines.

But he's also at an age where most fighters have long since retired. Boxing is a brutal sport,

and long-term exposure usually isn't good for your health.

But the sound of gloves hitting the mitts held by Roach at the Wild Card is unmistakable, a rat-a-tat-tat that is testimony to Pacquiao's claim that his speed and power remain intact. He wants to knock Broner out not only to set up a possible rematch with Pacquiao but to show he's still got fight in him.

"His work ethic is great, his footwork brilliant," Roach said. "This morning I got four calls from people telling me Manny was out running in the rain when he should have stayed inside. I said bring him an umbrella."

Pacquiao didn't get the umbrella. He was soaking wet as he came in the front door of his home to meet, back from his run with a white towel wrapped

around his neck.

This was moving day, when the entourage would pack up in vans and head down Interstate 15 to Las Vegas. Many would make the trip with Manny, others would come to Las Vegas later, hoping to get one of the 1,000 or so tickets that Pacquiao bought for his followers for the fight.

Pacquiao headed up the stairs to the shower, past a wall of photos of him in his biggest fights. For now, at least, time is frozen as he tries to will himself into the fighter he was a decade ago.

Downstairs, helpers started cleaning empty plates from the table. It was time to break camp, time to settle into the routine of fight week.

And, soon, time to find out just what Manny Pacquiao has left. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



CITY OF ROMANCE?

Lately, I saw some advertisements referring to Macao as the City of Romance. I guess being a City of Creative Gastronomy is not enough to bring in the crowds, our little city needs to make itself more attractive to the diverse taste of tourists around the world. "Romance" probably opens up a good deal of diversity in attracting lovers to spend more time in this city. But what is it that is so romantic about Macao? What do we think of when we think of a romantic city?

Firstly, there is flowers. The reference to Macao as the City of Romance is related to the flower exhibition being held in Taipa. Flowers are often related to romance. Unlike in places which have fields of lavender or roses or other seas of flowers, Macao turned itself into a romantic city with a floral exhibition. We do need to give credit to the effort on 'creating' a romantic site.

What else does a romantic city constitute? A romantic gondola ride in the water city of Venice? Check! We have that in the Venetian. A kiss underneath the Eiffel Tower? We can offer that too. How about the Northern Lights? That we don't have, but we created our own light show around the city. Over the years, Macao has developed different romantic destinations around the city. This may or may not be a step by step strategy to create a city of romance. But there is no lack of romantic sites for lovers to take photos or create romantic memories. However, we seem to have forgotten the natural part of romantic Macao.

Without all these gondola rides, Eiffel Tower, light shows, and flower shows, Macao is itself a romantic city. The walk around Senado Square, Ruins of St. Paul, and other cultural heritage site have always been a romantic experience, without the need to cover all these sites with lights. I still remember Rua da Praia Grande when it was along the water front, with waves splashing against the coast. Before the seafront was turned into various lakes, it was one of the most romantic spots in Macao.

Following the development of the city, these romantic locations were replaced by shopping malls, hotels, and high rise apartments. Rather than embracing the originally romantic little city, we destroyed it, and then used a large amount of resources to create man-made romance. Obviously, there is no turning back on the lands that have been reclaimed, so we can no longer get back the Praia Grande as it was. However, the cultural sites are themselves also romantic spots, without the need for extravagant light shows.

What is really needed is to preserve the natural beauty of the place, and allow for space to appreciate the sites instead of them being crowded over. But that is the price for developing tourism. In a place which is seriously overpopulated, it becomes harder and harder for lovers to find a quiet place for a date. Looking at the crowded streets with swarms and swarms of people everywhere. I'd say the most romantic places in Macao are quiet restaurants or bars with few tables and few customers where lovers can spend time with each other instead of thousands of people.

So, in the end, creating Macao as a city of romance should go hand in hand with creative gastronomy. Instead of investing in light shows and flower exhibitions which require large amounts of resources, why not combine our city of gastronomy with city of romance? We can develop dishes of 'Light up Ruins of St. Paul' instead of Baked Alaska, or 'Gondola romance' instead of Banana Boat. A city of romantic gastronomy may help boost business for the food and beverage industry, and perhaps lessen the crowds on the street, so we can once again see the real beauty of Macao.

THE BZZ US GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN: IRS RECALLS ABOUT 46,000 WORKERS

The Internal Revenue Service is recalling about 46,000 of its employees furloughed by the partial government shutdown to handle tax returns and pay out refunds. For now, they'll have to work without pay.

The White House tried to bypass House Speaker Nancy Pelosi in shutdown negotiations, but rank-and-file House Democrats declined an invitation

to lunch yesterday with President Donald Trump.

Some federal workers are taking on odd jobs to make ends meet. They have more options than in past shutdowns.

The partial government shutdown is slowing plans by some companies to issue stock to the public and potentially cutting off a key source of capital for the financial markets.

World Economic Forum warns of impact of global tensions

TENSIONS in international relations and nationalist politics have the potential to further weigh on the global economy this year, organizers of next week's gathering of business and political leaders in the Swiss ski resort of Davos warned yesterday.

In its annual Global Risks Report, the World Economic Forum said a "darkening" economic outlook, in part fostered by geopolitical tensions between the United States and China, "looks set to further reduce the potential for international cooperation in 2019."

In 2018, the global economy slowed more than most forecasters had been predicting and stock markets around the world posted their worst year in a decade. Some of that has been blamed on the standoff between the U.S. and China over trade that has led to both sides imposing tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of goods.

The report, which is based on the views of around 1,000 experts and decision-makers from around the world, found that 88 percent of respondents expect a "further erosion" of global trading rules



The congress centre, venue for the World Economic Forum, is covered with snow in Davos, Switzerland

and agreements that will further hold back growth. The world is evolving into "a period of divergence following a period of globalization," the WEF said.

One of the most exposed countries is Britain, which is due to leave the European Union on March 29. It is unclear whether the country will actually leave on that date and under what terms it might eventually exit the bloc after British lawmakers on Tuesday voted against the Brexit deal that Prime Minister Theresa May had negotiated with the EU.

The 2016 vote to leave the EU had been driven

in large part by a belief that Brexit would restore decision-making powers to Britain. U.S. President Donald Trump has used similar justifications to employ his "America First" policies on a range of international issues, such as climate change.

"The energy now expended on consolidating or recovering national control risks weakening collective responses to emerging global challenges," the WEF said.

"We are drifting deeper into global problems from which we will struggle to extricate ourselves," it added. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Off White. Designer Virgil Abloh, foreground, accepts applause at the end of the Off White men's Fall/Winter 2019/20 fashion collection presented in Paris, yesterday.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

ZIMBABWE police armed with AK-47 rifles arrested Evan Mawarire, an activist and pastor, from his home in the capital yesterday as a crackdown grew over protests against dramatic fuel price hikes in the economically shattered country.



SERBIA Russian President Vladimir Putin has accused the U.S. and the West of destabilizing the Balkans with NATO expansionist policies as Serbia prepares a hero's welcome for the Russian president.

ITALY A popular Naples pizzeria is the latest target of bombings in the area which Italian authorities have linked to mobsters.

NORWAY Police say the body of one of four skiers who were buried by an avalanche in northern Norway earlier this month has been recovered.



SPAIN Government figures show the country received a national record of 82.6 million foreign tourists last year. The figures show Spain remains competitive as it battles to overtake France, the world's top destination in 2017 with almost 87 million arrivals.

BRAZIL President Jair Bolsonaro has signed a decree making it easier for many Brazilians to own firearms, the first of many expected changes by the nascent administration to overhaul gun laws in the nation that leads the world in total homicides.

GUATEMALA The latest caravan of Honduran migrants hoping to reach the U.S. has crossed peacefully into Guatemala, under the watchful eyes of about 200 Guatemalan police and soldiers.