



AIKIDO PROMOTED IN MACAU

P5 MDT REPORT



MORE TOURISTS IN HONG KONG

More than 10 million tourists have visited Hong Kong via the cross-border rail link and the new bridge

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JAPANESE POPULATION SHRINKS

Japan faces unforeseen risks in guiding economic policy as its population of about 126 million ages and declines

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WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Echoing the campaign tactics of Donald Trump, former Indonesian Gen. Prabowo Subianto says his country, the world's third-largest democracy, is in dire shape and he is the leader who will restore it to greatness.

AUSTRALIA's prime minister sidestepped a diplomatic dispute over a suspected extremist's nationality and brushed off criticism that he is burdening Pacific neighbors with unsustainable debt as he began a two-day visit to Fiji.



IRAN kept up its criticism yesterday of the FBI's apparent arrest of an American anchorwoman from Iran's state-run English-language TV channel, with its foreign minister saying "she's done nothing but journalism." More on p15

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Taiwan holds live-fire exercises

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INSIDE

New deputy director appointed for Public Security Forces



Choi Wai Hou has been appointed as the new deputy director of the Public Security Forces Affairs Bureau (DSFSM) in a ceremony held on January 16, which was chaired by the Director of DSFSM, Kok Fong Mei. Choi worked at the Fire Services Bureau (CB) from 1992 to 1997, where he attended the Officer Training Course. He holds a degree in Fire Protection and Safety Engineering and has the certificate of the 3rd Command and Direction Course by the Macau Security Forces Training College. He has served in several departments of the CB namely as the Head of the Division of Services, Head of Operations and Ambulance Division of the Islands, Head of Airport Division, Head of Macau Operations Department, Head of the Fire Services, and Head of the DSFSM Technical Support Department before his new post as Deputy Director of DSFSM.

66 property management licenses approved

As of January 16, the Housing Bureau received a total of 66 applications for licenses to operate property management services, the bureau announced yesterday. These licenses are specifically for the common areas of condominiums. All license applications were approved. In addition, there were another 190 temporary license applications, 184 of which were approved, four were rejected, and two are currently under review. Since the city's condominium property management law came into effect in August 2018, all property management companies require a valid license to operate.

Work suspended at site where fatal accident occurred

The Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) and the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) have issued orders to suspend construction work at a site where a fatal accident was reported on Wednesday. The construction site is located in the Areia Preta area, across the Centro de Actividades Juvenis do Bairro do Hipódromo. Immediately after the accident, staff from the DSAL went to the site to investigate. Preliminary analysis revealed that a local male employee was carrying formwork to prepare a wall. While he was working, 20 templates near him slipped, resulting in the victim's accidental fall.

Lawmaker calls for more information on food products

JOSÉ Pereira Coutinho is concerned about the quality, safety and information on food products consumed in Macau. The lawmaker wrote an enquiry calling on the government to assume a stronger position to require suppliers to provide more accurate information on products regarding their production, ingredients and what chemicals are added, among other aspects, to ensure food safety.

Coutinho also wants to be informed of the frequency of health inspections conducted along all points of the supply chain, including the cool rooms, transport vehicles and point of sale displays.

According to the lawmaker



, an agreement was signed by the local Consumer Council and the Portuguese food safety inspection counterparties in 2014 to cooperate and exchange

information but there has been no report or any additional information made available as to what partnership has been promoted to date.

He claims that currently food product labeling requirements "are not strict and do not allow for tracing of the origin of the products or to determine who the producer was, which lot it belongs to as well as under what conditions it was produced or stored."

Pereira Coutinho calls for a better system of inspection from by food safety specialists, which should include an immediate alert system for the removal from the market of products found to compromise health and safety, and to proceed with the imposition of penalties to all involved in the supply chain that fail to comply with safety rules and regulations.

PROPERTY

Realtor says residential transactions may stay low

Lynzy Valles

REAL estate firm Jones Lang LaSalle (JLL) is expecting local properties to face pressure this year due to slower economic growth and various regulatory measures in the region's property market.

JLL predicts that capital values of high-end residential properties will drop 5 to 10 percent, while rental values will remain stable.

Capital values of mass-to-medium residential and retail properties could also drop by 5 percent.

In JLL's Macau Year-end Property Review 2018 which took place on Wednesday, the firm expressed the belief that the government should further relax the mortgage lending ratios for residents.

Currently, only properties valued below MOP8 million are eligible to apply for a higher ratio of mortgage lending.

"If they can move the bar to MOP12 million, it can facilitate residents to change their homes," said managing director of JLL Macau, Gregory Ku, explaining that a two to three-bedroom apartment in Taipa

already costs up to MOP12 million.

Residents who wish to upgrade to a bigger home are subject to a higher initial payment requirement, as they can only apply for mortgage lending of up to 40 percent and are required to pay an additional stamp duty of 5 percent.

"This has created difficulties for end-users to upgrade, and at the same time has significantly reduced residential supply in the secondary market. In fact, the existing mortgage guideline has been in use since 2012 when the price levels were much lower than now," Ku explained.

"We hope the government will review the guideline and adjust the set property value so as to alleviate the problem of supply shortage in the secondary market," he added.

Meanwhile, due to the launch of a series of corrective measures in 2018 including the imposition of a new stamp duty on buyers acquiring more than one residential property, the firm saw a significant decrease in speculative activities in the residential market due to the increased investment costs.

Jeff Wong, senior director of Capital Markets at JLL Macau said that with the current volatility in the external economic environment, end-users and investors have generally adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude.

Coupled with the government's announcement that 4,000 public housing units will be made available in 2019, Wong said that residential transaction volume may stay at the low level in the near term while transaction value may fall slightly.

Meanwhile for office properties, Gregory Ku called for more spaces that could accommodate offices.

According to Ku, Grade A offices in the city are scarce and the government should also increase plans for such premises.

During the first 11 months of 2018, a total of 5,569 new incorporations were registered in Macau, up 15.4 percent year-on-year, thus office rentals prices increased as Grade A office leasing supply reduced.

"I think for Macau to become international city, Grade A new offices are a must and should be planned rather than [just] talking all about residen-

tial [properties]. Co-working should be something in their minds. This is our future," Ku told the press.

According to the firm, it has recently been receiving enquiries on co-working spaces from overseas and China-based operators.

"We don't have supply for offices. [...] People will need to go to Hengqin, because it has a lot of these and Macau has none," Ku added.

In the sales market, the number of retail units transacted in the first 11 months of 2018 totaled 595, up 12.7 percent year-on-year.

Notable sales transactions recorded in 2018 were mostly in the tourist areas, including two shop units in Praça de D. Afonso Henriques and Avenida do Infante D. Henrique which were sold for approximately HKD300 million and HKD200 million respectively.

Further, JLL also called on the government to carefully plan on building more residential properties, citing the city's integration in the Greater Bay Area.

"It's important for the next Chief Executive to think about it because this whole big agenda [GBA] needs to be rethought, because in the old times, we were isolated, but now we are integrated with other cities, which means we think much bigger in terms of planning and housing demand and supply," said Wong.

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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Occupy Central leader rejected entry to Macau

YVONNE Leung, a student leader in Hong Kong's 2014 Umbrella Movement and former president of the Hong Kong University Students' Union (HKUSU), was barred from entering Macau on Wednesday.

The Macau Public Security Police Force, which is responsible for immigration services in the city, justified the decision with the fact that there were strong signs showing that Leung would practice activities that could harm Macau's public order.

In addition to serving as HKUSU president in 2014, the 25-year-old Leung was one of the student leaders during the Occupy Central movement. The HKUSU Campus TV issued a statement on its Facebook page announcing the incident.

Hong Kong pro-democracy lawmaker Claudio Mo told Agence France-Presse that Macau's refusal to admit Leung was sending "a chilling message that you have to pay your price for being disobedient, being a government critic".

"On the one hand, we respect that Macau has all the right to deny anybody from entering the territory," Alvin Yeung, the leader of Hong Kong's Civic Party told public broadcaster TDM. "But on the other hand,



Yvonne Leung

we expect something more concrete and more reasonable than merely a one-line reason saying that the person being denied entry will harm the security of Macau. It's totally groundless."

"I wonder how on earth the Macau government obtained a list [of pro-democracy activists]," he said, alluding to assistance from the HKSAR. "She was an activist and an iconic person during the movement back in 2014. Since the end of the movement, Yvonne returned to the university as a stu-

dent and after that she simply joined society like any other person. It's ridiculous and we just don't understand why. Even assuming that she is still an activist in civil society, does that mean she could bring harm or threat to Macau?" he added. "You cannot punish someone for voicing out her views."

It is not the first case of Macau immigration officers barring Hong Kong-based journalists and pro-democracy activists from entering the SAR.

Last year, several writers dro-

pped out of the Macau Literary Festival after authorities allegedly instructed event organizers that they would likely not be permitted to enter.

In the aftermath of Typhoon Hato and during the 2017 Legislative Assembly election, Macau authorities prevented 15 journalists from entering the SAR, as well as a number of lawmakers and activists. According to immigration authorities, these individuals constituted a threat to the city's stability and security.

Even assuming that she is still an activist in civil society, does that mean she could bring harm or threat to Macau?

ALVIN YEUNG
LEADER OF HK'S CIVIC PARTY

Macau's Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak has on previous occasions said that the decision to deny the of certain Hong Kong residents bears no relation to their profession. He has also denied the existence of a 'black list' and said that such decisions are "normal practice" for every country worldwide.

Authorities in Macau did not reply to AFP requests for comment.

UnionPay says SAR app transaction volume doubled in December

THE transaction volume of Hong Kong and Macau customers using the UnionPay app doubled last month, according to a statement from the company. This is a sign of rising popularity for the service in the two special administrative regions, the company said.

The mobile payment service first became available in September 2018, on account of the rising number of cross-border payments brought about by the construction of the Greater Bay Area project. As of January 16, over 10,000 merchants in Macau and Hong Kong accepted the UnionPay QR code payment.

Customers in the two special administrative regions can download the app and link their locally-issued UnionPay cards to enjoy cross-border mobile payment services both locally and overseas. According to the UnionPay, most of the major card issuers in Hong Kong and Macau offer compatibility with the app, including the Hong Kong and Macau Branches of the Bank of China.

"With the launch of the UnionPay app in Hong Kong and Macau, UnionPay International has continued to expand the acceptance scope of the app in Hong Kong and Macau, taking into consideration the payment needs of both local consumers and tourists from the mainland," the company noted in a statement released on Wednesday.

Now available in 46 countries and regions, the UnionPay QR code payment and mobile QuickPass services are popular among Hong Kong and Macau residents using certain services in the mainland, including high-speed rail ticket purchase, mobile phone top-up, flight ticket and hotel booking, and catering, according to the firm's statement.

The app is currently accepted by taxi services in Hong Kong and soon the city's MTR network. In Macau, over 400 food stalls of the 18th Macau Food Festival all accepted payment through the UnionPay app, while the app will be the only digital payment option accepted by many food stalls having special offers at the Victoria Park Lunar New Year Fair in Hong Kong.

Major brands that accept the UnionPay app include Tai Hing, Chow Tai Fook, Broadway Lifestyle, Commercial Press, Pricerite, Sasa, Wai Yuen Tong, Ajisen Ramen.

Extra stamp tax rebate for building reconstruction

Julie Zhu

THE Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) signed an opinion-based report on the region's regime of tax benefits for the reconstruction of old buildings, with the government including an "extra stamp tax" rebate in the regime.

Chairman of the Committee Chan Chak Mo reported the discussion to the media.

In total, there are six tax types: stamp tax for property transfer; extra stamp tax; special stamp tax; stamp tax for obtaining the second or subsequent properties; the stamp tax; and, fees for notary endorsements and registration.

The tax rebate can be requested for the reconstruction of buildings which aim to strengthen Macau's social development and preservation of cultural heritage. It can also be applied for the reconstruction

of buildings according to their original plan or to a plan approved by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DS-SOPT), for the reconstruction of buildings that pose a risk to the public, and for the reconstruction of buildings which DS-SOPT has approved for demolition.

Originally, the government only proposed rebates on five tax types, with the tax rebate on the "extra stamp tax" not included.

According to the regime, a real estate development company that has obtained an immovable property which is to be demolished can see the stamp tax waived.

In order to protect the benefits to the eventual property owners, the bill proposed that the developer should first pay the common stamp tax, the stamp tax for transferring properties, and the registration and notary fees.

These taxes can be refunded to the developer after the reconstruction project is completed. However, if the developer fails to complete the project, the tax for these three categories will not be refunded.

The regime further proposed a three-year ban on property sales. If the owner of a reconstructed building, or a building under reconstruction, sells the property within three years after the tax rebates were approved or after the reconstruction license was issued, the tax benefits will be deemed invalid.

During the meeting between the government and the lawmakers, one lawmaker declared that the city's cultural heritage committee should play an important role in the demolition or reconstruction of cultural heritage. The lawmaker believes that the committee's opinions should be binding regarding the reconstruction of buildings, as they worry that the



PAULO BARBOSA

cultural heritage committee's functions are being impacted.

The government replied to the lawmakers by explaining that the reconstruction projects of the Municipal Affairs Bureau and the Marine and Water Bureau will be referred to as cultural heritage reconstruction.

The government did not take the lawmakers' suggestion of listing the cultural heritage committee as one of the departments for consultation.

MUST's medical program aims to produce int'l doctors

THE new Bachelor of Medicine program at the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) is aiming to produce competent local doctors after six years.

Given the green light to operate the degree on Monday, dean of the Faculty of Health Sciences Dr Manson Fok stated that the university is keen to train these medical students to an international standard.

He added that MUST has the international recognition of over 20 universities willing to assist them.

In an interview with TDM, Fok mentioned that the professors – who are mainly doctors from Hong Kong – would run the curriculum.

“In doing our curriculum, we [will be] able to send our students overseas for part of the training. I think it's a very exciting curriculum, which I don't think is available anywhere else,” he said.

“I want to add also [that] we're all starting fresh. We learn from mistakes from the past how not to train doctors,”



said the dean.

For Fok, training doctors to an international standard is the university's priority. He noted that the new curriculum is “more fulfilling than what is available.”

“Right now if you look at the statistics, the majority of the graduating doctors are from mainland China. They are trained in that standard and we hope to do something different,” said Fok.

“I'm not saying that [their] standards are not up to par, but I wish that we would train our doctors in an international standard and we would be

able to learn a much broader sense of what well-community medicine is doing,” he added.

MUST has signed agreements with universities in Australia, the U.K., Portugal and the United States.

During the six-year course, the medical students have two to four opportunities to go abroad on exchange that lasts from six weeks to two months.

The dean also called on exceptional students to join the medical program, hinting that the university is willing to provide full scholarships to its

top students.

With subsidies applied, the estimated cost of the bachelor's degree is MOP55,000 per year for local residents, while the estimated cost for overseas students is MOP160,000.

The course will start small, recruiting between 35 and 50 students at its inception, most of them from local high schools. It will not initially focus on the recruitment of overseas students.

Tomorrow, the university will hold its Open Day, hoping to attract students to this field of study. **LV**

Public consultation on procurement law concluded

THE public consultation on the public procurement law, held for 60 days from November 6 to January 4, has concluded, having gathered around 1,000 opinions, the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) informed in a statement.

The DSF noted that the three clarification sessions, held by the bureau to encourage the participation of different sectors, were attended by a total of 500 participants, including individual citizens as well as representatives of associations and public officials. Their opinions and suggestions were collected for analysis and reference.

The bill proposes to promote changes in the current government procurement regime, creating a legal framework for public procurement through which the government seeks to effectively promote and balance equality, efficiency and accountability systems.

Although the preliminary statistics indicate that only around 200 opinions have been officially collected, the DSF estimates that the total number of opinions may exceed a thousand, citing the significant attention paid to the topic by the population and sectors of society. Now the government will organize and analyze all the opinions and comments collected in order to present a final report, which should give some indication of what the final proposal's draft might include.

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The president of the Macau Aikido Association Iong Weng Hei and student Damien Lam

Association aims to promote aikido events

Lynzy Valles

A group of aikido enthusiasts is set to host a seminar tomorrow, aiming to promote the modern Japanese martial art in the SAR.

The goal of aikido is to present the art of self-defense, while also protecting aggressors from injuries.

According to the president of the Macau Aikido Association, Iong Weng Hei, the sport – which originated in Japan – was brought to the city by a master

from Laos who came to Macau in 1973.

Iong was part of the first batch of students that were taught the martial art techniques, which now vary with broad range of interpretation and emphasis.

“When aikido was still developing in Macau, there were also Japanese masters who came to teach us some techniques,” Iong told the Times.

The black belter kicked off a dojo – a space where martial arts is practiced – in 2013, after mastering the techniques in dojos in

Japan. “We also always go to Japan to follow up with the techniques of aikido so that we and our students are always updated,” he said, adding that the local association is affiliated with aikido associations in Japan.

Although the master admitted that it is challenging to retain a stable number of participants, Iong said he is pleased that more residents are becoming increasingly interested in this martial art.

Aside from training, the association also regularly holds seminars, which attract up to a

hundred participants from the region.

Regarding how the government supports this martial art, Iong explained that the government does not promote it to the extent of other martial arts – such as karate or taekwondo – yet assists the association in funding its events.

“Aikido is not a competitive match but it’s more like training with other participants. From my point of view, I believe that the government thinks that aikido is just a mere self-defense practice for the elderly,” he explained.

“But we want to follow the aikido tradition, which does not hold any competition as there are no winners or losers in this specific martial art. We all learn from each other,” he added.

Currently, Iong holds classes at the dojo and at a local institute,

aside from classes he holds in Zhuhai.

According to him, his aikido training sessions count nearly 100 participants, yet only a few train regularly, because of conflicts in his students’ schedules.

“Students come in and go. Aikido is not a competitive sport. Kids nowadays are leaning more into the competitive side, so I think that is also a factor into why youngsters are not that eager to learn,” he said.

Tomorrow, the association is set to hold a seminar, inviting an aikido master from Kobayashi dojo – one of the martial art’s well-known dojos in Japan.

Its speaker, Mikio Kobayashi, will promote the martial art in the region. The seminar aims to allow foreign participants to practice and enhance their skills and knowledge in Aikido.

He will also be holding a seminar the next day in Zhuhai.

Meanwhile, a local student of the association, Damien Lam, remarked that the martial art is one of the many ways that young people could take part as an extra-curricular activity.

“I want to learn a lot of things and this martial art allows me to learn to protect myself and my opponent by not being aggressive. This is one of the many ways we can spend time when we are free,” said the 17-year-old student.

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Government agrees to install cameras in taxis

THE latest article of the amendment to taxi regulations has settled on the installation of in-facing cameras inside taxis, according to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário.

On Wednesday, Rosário and the Transport Bureau's (DSAT) director Lam Hin San met with the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) to discuss the regime.

After the meeting, Rosário said that the decision of adding the aforementioned article into the law reached a consensus after thorough consideration and in-depth investigation. He believes that there will be no problem in the implementation of the law.

As explained by the committee chairman Vong Hin Fai, the lawmakers and the government focused on discussing the location where the cameras can be installed in taxis.

The government represen-



tatives prefer to mount the lens above the inverted mirror facing the driver and passengers.

Some lawmakers questioned whether it is appropriate to record the faces of the driver and passengers.

They proposed that the camera should be installed at the back of the taxi in order to protect the privacy of both the driver and the passengers.

The government maintains

its stance that the camera should film the people from the front.

According to Vong, the recordings will not be uploaded to public organizations. Instead, they will be stored in appropriate storage equipment protected with a password, which shall be set by an authorized bureau or authorized person. The taxi driver will not know the password.

If an investigation is requi-

red, the video records can only be obtained after the investigation procedure is filed, and the recordings would only be obtained by investigators authorized by the DSAT director.

The video data will be automatically deleted from the taxi's black box after 30 days.

Vong believes that the committee can complete the review of the regulation within 10 days.

Road tax payable until April

THE government has set the period for the payment of 2019's road tax from January 1 to April 1. All owners of motorized vehicles should proceed with the payment within the aforementioned dates to avoid a financial penalty for overdue payment, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) explained in a statement.

The bureau also reminds citizens that at the time of the payment, the vehicle owner or their representatives should be in the possession of the original vehicle registration card.

Payments can be made at any of the DSAT branches as well as at MSAR Service Centers and at the Financial Services Bureau, as well as at the Post Office, the Museum of Communications shop and at several banking institutions indicated by the government. The road tax is also payable online through the DSAT "epay" system website or mobile phone application. The DSAT also reminds citizens that in order to proceed with the settlement of the annual road tax, the vehicle should have a clean record of any administrative offenses. The DSAT is calling on vehicle owners to verify and settle such matters prior to the payment of the road tax in order to avoid delays and hassles.

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More than 10m tourists visit Hong Kong via cross-border rail link, bridge

MORE than 10 million tourists have visited Hong Kong via the Hong Kong section of Guangzhou-Shenzhen-Hong Kong Express Rail Link and the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge since the operation of the two cross-border infrastructures began, according to Hong Kong Monthly Digest Statistics released last week.

The data published by Hong Kong's Census Statistics Department shows that around 5.27 million visitors used West Kowloon Station to travel to and from Hong Kong, with visitor arrivals reaching 1.81 million in December. As for the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, more than 4.81 million visitors made trips to Hong Kong via the bridge, with 2.21 million in December.

From January to November last year, visitor arrivals from the mainland witnessed a 14.2 percent increase to reach 46 million compared to the same period



The West Kowloon Terminus for the Express Rail Link

in 2017. In 2018, visitors from the mainland spent on average HKD21,000 per visit, 3 percent higher than 2017, said Nielsen Hong Kong, a global market research and study company.

Michael Lee, managing director

of Nielsen Hong Kong, predicted that retailing and other tourism-related industry might flourish due to the growing number of tourists from the mainland fueled by the cross-border rail link and the bridge. **MDT/Xinhua**

HEALTH

New whooping cough vaccine program set up

A new whooping cough vaccine and immunization program was recently introduced by the government with the aim of fighting the significant increase in the number of cases of the disease worldwide, followed also by a local increase registered during the first half of 2018, the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement.

According to the same statement, in order to protect the health of babies, last year the SSM started to make changes to the vaccination program, adding vaccinations for pregnant women and older children.

In addition, the program also replaces the old vaccine used in the territory in the last few years which had a short-term effect and was likely to cause side effects. The whooping cough is caused by the bordetella pertussis bacteria and is transmitted directly via droplets of saliva from infected patients.

After contracting the infection, the patient has symptoms such as spasmodic coughing, wheezing and vomiting. If the infected patient is not treated promptly, the disease may last up to three months carrying risks of causing complications such as pneumonia and encephalopathy which could potentially lead to death.

Vaccination is the most effective preventive measure against whooping cough with an effective rate of 80 to 90 percent when administered with three doses of the pertussis vaccine. The resistance increases after the inoculation with the fourth dosage usually at the age of 18 months.

Over the past 30 years, cases of whooping cough have become rare but new outbreaks of the disease are appearing due to cases of spontaneous infections as well as a gradual reduction of antibodies in pregnant women and other adults. **RM**

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 婆仔屋文創空間

Vestiges of Lines
 線·跡
Vestígios de Linhas

Guilherme Ung Vai Meng
 吳衛鳴

On the Occasion of the Celebration of the
19th Anniversary of Macau Handover to China

12 / 12 / 2018 → 13 / 02 / 2019
Opening Ceremony
 December 12th 2018, 18:30
 (Wednesday)

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 INFO: facebook.com/AlbergueSCMMacau
 EMAIL: creativealbergue@gmail.com

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH
2018/2019 USJ Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony

University of Saint Joseph held its 2018/2019 Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony at the Auditório Centenário de Fátima de Ilha Verde Campus, on 18th January, 2019. Fifty-three undergraduate students received a total of 56 scholarships and Fellowships donated by different organisations and individuals, that amount to MOP 689,000.

Representatives from USJ's Community Scholarships and Fellowships donors were present at the ceremony including (listed alphabetically): Alumni Association of USJ, BNU, Bank of China, CEM, CESL Asia Ltd., CPTTM, CPM - Macau Parking Company Ltd., CTM, Galaxy Entertainment Group, Henry Fok Foundation, International Ladies' Club of Macau, Mr. Kuan Vai Lam, Macao Foundation, Macau Tower Convention & Entertainment Center, Sands China Ltd., Ms. Sio Wai Chu, Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and Society of the Divine Word (SVD).

The USJ's Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony takes place annually to encourage and support students with outstanding academic performance or those with financial difficulties.



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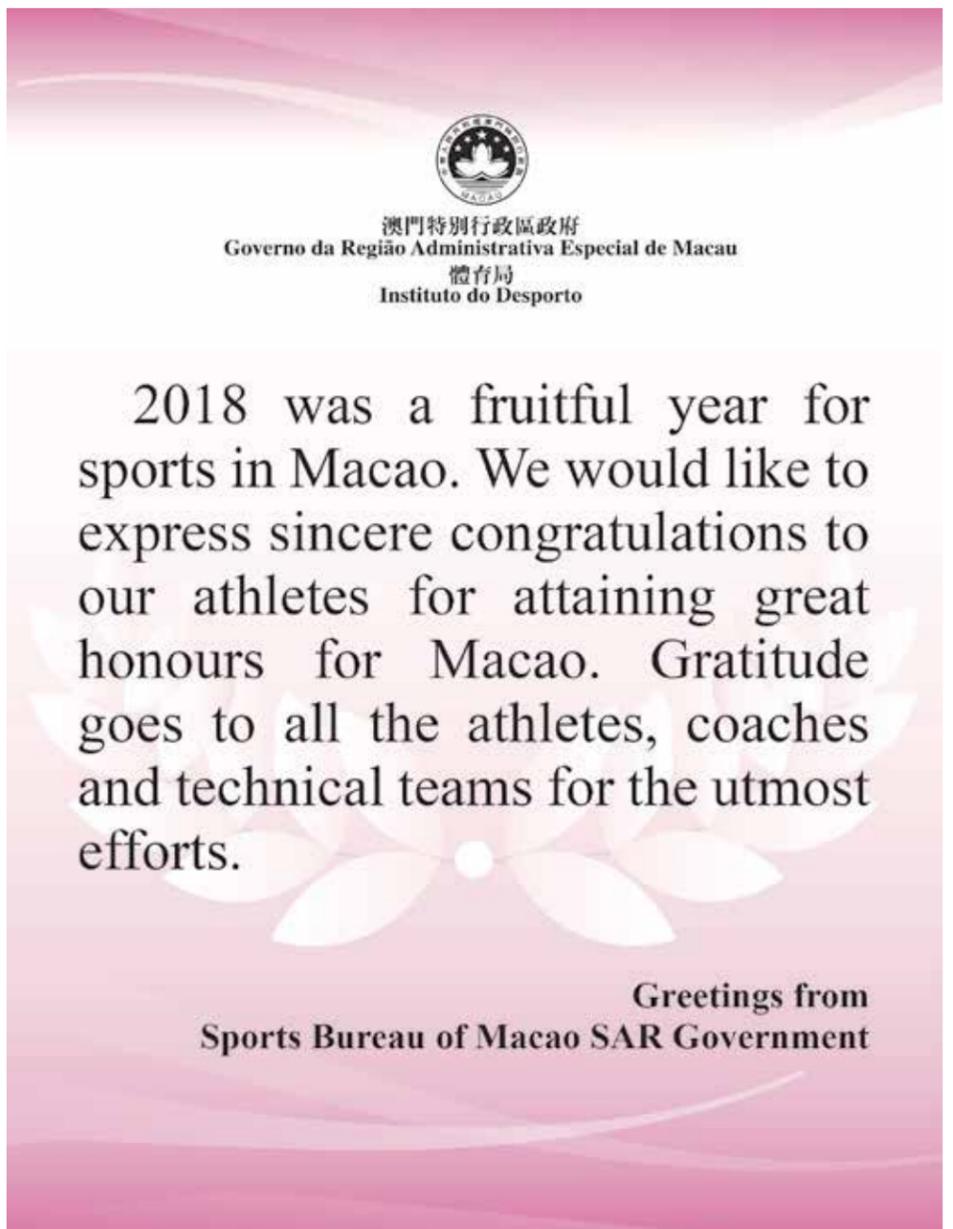


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2018 was a fruitful year for sports in Macao. We would like to express sincere congratulations to our athletes for attaining great honours for Macao. Gratitude goes to all the athletes, coaches and technical teams for the utmost efforts.

Greetings from
Sports Bureau of Macao SAR Government



Tailors sew costume pieces for performers at Walt Disney World



Actors with giant puppets perform the show Finding Nemo

A peek at how Disney resort shows are made

Mike Schneider, Lake Buena Vista

WITH excitement building over a new "Star Wars" land opening later this year at Walt Disney World, as well as at its California cousin, it's easy to forget a slew of new entertainment shows also are debuting in the biggest year for the Florida theme park resort in two decades.

If the famous Disney Imagineers provide the "wow" factor with their fantastical feats of engineering on rides and attractions, it's the entertainment division that provides Disney World's heart.

Disney World recently invited The Associated Press for an exclusive, behind-the-scenes look at how it puts the shows together. The AP saw dancers rehearsing in a studio, rows of seamstresses stitching together costumes, a warehouse full of parade floats and a room where virtual reality technology is used

to help build a new animatronic show.

The results of those labors take stage Friday when Disney World unveils a new Magic Kingdom parade, a Hollywood Studios street showing off the characters from "The Incredibles" franchise, a Caribbean-style street band in Animal Kingdom and the start of an arts festival at Epcot. In a few months, the resort opens a new animatronics show based on the "Cars" character Lightning McQueen.

Here's a look at the behind-the-scenes people who produce the pixie dust. Many of them started out as performers and have been at Disney World for decades.

THE BOSS

Bettina Buckley oversees the entertainment division's 6,700 workers in 100 different disciplines responsible for more than 200,000 performances a year at the resort.

Putting a show based on a character under the Disney corpo-

rate umbrella in Disney World extends the life of that franchise, ultimately making it more valuable to the company. When deciding on which character or property to use for a show, she pays attention to what visitors say in surveys and letters.

She also considers the available space and how the show would affect the brand.

"If a character resonates, we stop and say, 'Hey, maybe we should do something,'" said Buckley, vice president of live entertainment at the resort.

THE DREAMERS

Once a character or intellectual property is picked, creative development director Reed Jones, show writer Allison Hirsch and a team consisting of a puppeteer, a juggler, a musical theater pro, an improv artist, technicians and musicians meet for weekly brainstorming sessions to figure out how to bring the story into the three-dimensional world through writing, costumes, mu-

sic and lighting.

No idea is off the table.

"It's a one-hour variety show. We kind of can't let people see it because it's really wacky and funny," Jones said.

THE REALIST

Joseph Gregory "GG" Cook makes sure the ideas that "the dreamers" come up with can actually work. "I am the rubber that meets the road," said Cook, manager of theatrical design and technical production.

He is helped by a darkened "pre-visualization" room where two large screens and a virtual reality headset help him see what shows will look like in a 3D model, and how they will be maintained, before they are built.

"It's the hub of the wagon wheel, if you will. We previsualize our entire show, soup to nuts," Cook said. "It allows us the opportunity not to have to build a real-world model."

THE COSTUME DESIGNER

Harmony McChesney has a piece of Velcro in her purse at all times. When it's time to test a fabric's durability, she rubs the Velcro against the fabric. If it snags, "I say, this doesn't belong to us. It's not our friend,"

said McChesney, a costume designer with big glasses, auburn hair swept up and large costume jewelry.

Durability is a must since the costumes worn by dancers, singers and costumed characters are washed every day. The department makes 10,000 costume pieces with the help of 300 sewers and six designers.

McChesney works in a room the size of a football field. Hundreds of bright-colored costumes and dozens of torso dummies, hang from racks along the wall. On a recent day sewers sat in rows of sewing machines near a dressing room where performers try on their costumes.

McChesney was focused on the costumes for the new parade in the Magic Kingdom park starring Mickey and Minnie. The costumes were white with colored confetti printed on the fabric in a look that resembled vanilla cupcakes with colorful sprinkles and colorful trim that looked like icing.

Call it couture for Disney characters. "There's a lot of stuff that people could use for theater that we can't use for theme parks just because of the durability and how much use it's going to get," McChesney said. "You want it to last a long time." **AP**

corporate bits

GEG TO PAY BONUS TO TEAM MEMBERS



Galaxy Entertainment Group will be giving a 2018 discretionary bonus equivalent to one month's salary to all eligible team members at and below senior manager level.

Eligible team members will receive the bonus on January 31, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

For team members who joined Galaxy between January 2 and October 3, 2018, the bonus will be calculated on a pro-rata basis according to their days of service in the year.

Although gaming revenue has slowed down in recent months, GEG noted that it had achieved an overall solid result last year.

MERCEDES-BENZ DELIVERS 512 UNITS IN MACAU IN 2018



Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Limited announced that in 2018, a total of 6,146 Mercedes-Benz Cars were delivered in Hong Kong and Macau (5,634 in Hong

Kong and 512 units in Macau). With a 7.8 percent growth in sold units in the markets, the brand has remained the market leader in the premium segment

in Hong Kong and is the overall best-selling brand in Macau, the firm said in a statement.

Frederik Gollub, president and CEO of Mercedes-Benz Hong Kong Limited, stated, "We are very proud of our performance in 2018 in both Hong Kong and Macau. [...] We will continue to work hard together with our partner Zung Fu to provide great experience to our customers with our sales outlets, service centers and the Mercedes me Store."

E-Class and GLC are the best-selling Mercedes-Benz models in Hong Kong.

In 2018, sales of the E-Class remained strong with 1,369 units delivered in Hong Kong and Macau.

TRADE WAR

Ministry says economy czar Liu to visit Washington for talks

Joe McDonald, Beijing

IN a possible sign of progress toward ending a costly tariff war over Beijing's technology ambitions, the top U.S. and Chinese trade envoys will hold talks in Washington later this month.

China's economy czar, Vice Premier Liu He, will travel to Washington for the talks Jan. 30-31, the Ministry of Commerce said yesterday. It said he was invited by U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Liu's participation reflects involvement at a higher political level than talks earlier this month in Beijing between lower-level officials. No details were released, but economists and business groups said a decision by Liu and Lighthizer to join them would indicate enough progress to require higher-level political decisions.

The two sides have imposed tariff hikes of up to 25 percent on tens of billions of dollars of each other's goods in the fight over U.S. complaints Beijing steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Washington also is pressing China to roll back plans for state-led industry development that its trading partners say violate its market-opening obligations.

The Washington talks are aimed at carrying out the Dec. 1 agreement by Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping to suspend further tariff increases for 90 days while they negotiate, said Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng.

The talks are likely to take up more complex and politically charged U.S. complaints about Chinese economic policy, said Yu Chunhai, a trade expert at Renmin University in Beijing. He said China must insist on a "bottom line" beyond which it won't go.

Chinese officials have sug-



Chinese Vice Premier Liu He

gested Beijing might adjust its industry plans. But they reject pressure to abandon what they consider a path to prosperity and greater global influence.

Liu probably will tell U.S. officials "what China can and can't do," said Yu.

For their part, Chinese leaders want Washington to relax export controls on "dual use" technology with possible military uses. They say Chinese companies are treated unfairly in national security reviews of proposed corporate acquisitions, though almost all deals are approved unchanged.

"It can't be denied that China has trade interests," said Yu. "Such communication must be made between officials at a higher level."

Chinese exports to the United States held up through much of 2018 despite Trump's tari-

ff hikes but contracted by 3.5 percent in December compared with a year earlier as the penalties began to depress demand.

Liu held talks in June in Beijing with U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross as trade tensions mounted. That meeting failed to produce a settlement and Trump went ahead the next month with his first round of tariff hikes.

Liu also made a surprise appearance at this month's talks in Beijing, which financial markets took as a positive sign. Global stock markets rose but then fell back after the meeting produced no agreements.

U.S.-Chinese relations are increasingly strained over technology, trade and cyber-spying.

An executive of Chinese te-

chnology giant Huawei Technologies Ltd., Meng Wanzhou, was arrested Dec. 1 in Canada on U.S. charges related to possible violations of trade sanctions on Iran.

This month's talks in Beijing went ahead despite Chinese warnings of severe consequences over Meng's arrest. Economists said that reflected how much importance Xi attaches to restoring access to the U.S. market for Chinese exporters.

Yesterday, The Wall Street Journal reported that U.S. prosecutors are investigating whether Huawei stole trade secrets from U.S. companies.

The investigation was prompted in part by a lawsuit brought by T-Mobile U.S. Inc. that accused two Huawei employees of stealing technology for a robotic arm used to test mobile phones, the Journal

said, citing unidentified sources. The two companies settled their dispute in 2017.

The U.S. demands strike at the heart of a state-led development model the ruling Communist Party sees as a great success over the past three decades and is reluctant to give up.

Neither side has shown any sign of changing its basic position and economists say the 90-day window is too short to resolve all the conflicts between the biggest and second-biggest global economies.

Even if negotiators agree to a deal that resolves some of their disputes, U.S. hardliners might persuade Trump to reject it.

A U.S. government statement after the Beijing talks said they focused on Chinese promises to buy more American exports and addressed the need for any deal to be subject to "ongoing verification" — a reflection of U.S. frustration that the Chinese have failed to live up to past commitments.

Trump has complained repeatedly about the U.S. trade deficit with China. China reported Monday its 2018 trade surplus with the United States swelled to a record USD323.3 billion.

Beijing has sought to defuse pressure for more sweeping changes by emphasizing its growing importance as an import market and promising to open further its auto and some other industries.

Lighthizer has pressed Beijing to scrap or change rules Washington says block market access or improperly help Chinese companies.

U.S. companies also want action on Chinese policies they complain improperly favor local companies. Those include subsidies and other favors for high-tech and state-owned industry, rules on technology licensing and preferential treatment of domestic suppliers in government procurement.

Beijing also faces complaints from the European Union. The 28-nation trade bloc has filed a challenge in the World Trade Organization against Chinese licensing rules it says hinder foreign companies from protecting and profiting from their own technologies. **AP**

BELT & ROAD

Sri Lanka considers big China loan to repay foreign debts

SRI Lanka is considering a USD300 million loan offer from the Bank of China as it prepares to repay foreign debts this year, a Finance Ministry official said.

The government has appointed a three-member committee to negotiate the deal, according to Finance Ministry spokesman M.R. Hasan.

The loan is repayable in

three years, he said yesterday [Macau time].

Sri Lanka must repay \$5.9 billion in foreign loans this year, of which 40 percent needs to be serviced during the first

three months. It paid back \$1 billion this week.

A large chunk of Sri Lanka's foreign debt is from China, which considers the island nation to be part of its Belt and

Road Initiative. China has heavily invested in Sri Lanka infrastructure such as a seaport, airport and highways.

It has invested \$1.5 billion in a port city being built on reclaimed land off the island's west coast.

President Maithripala Sirisena's government had criticized the previous administration for leading the country into a Chinese debt trap by

allowing unsolicited projects at high commercial interest rates. However, it has retracted its opposition to Chinese projects owing to economic pressures.

The seaport and airport generate little revenue despite their high maintenance cost and Sri Lanka has leased out the seaport to a joint China-Sri Lanka venture, with China holding a major share. **AP**

AP PHOTO



A rocket is fired from a Thunderbolt 2000 multi-rocket launcher during a military exercise in Taichung, central Taiwan, yesterday

▲ The drills are Taiwan's first since Xi Jinping reasserted Beijing's willingness to use military force to bring the island under Chinese control

Taiwan holds live-fire exercises following threats

Johnson Lai, Hsinchu

TAIWAN held live-fire exercises along its east coast yesterday amid renewed threats from China to bring the island under its control by force if deemed necessary.

Artillery and assault helicopters fired at targets off the west coast city of Taichung, while French-made Mirage fighter jets took off

amid rainy conditions from the air base at Hsinchu to the north.

The drills are Taiwan's first since Chinese President Xi Jinping on Jan. 2 reasserted Beijing's willingness to use military force to bring self-ruling Taiwan under Chinese control.

The drills also follow a new Pentagon report laying out U.S. concerns about China's growing military might, underscoring worries about a possible attack

against Taiwan.

Taiwan's independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen has made national defense a priority while refusing China's demand that she recognize Taiwan as a part of China. That's led to Beijing ratcheting up economic, military and diplomatic pressure on the island of 23 million.

In a meeting with U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Adm. John Richardson in Beijing on Tues-

day, China's Chief of Staff Li Zuocheng issued a warning against foreign forces coming to Taiwan's assistance. The U.S. is Taiwan's chief source of military hardware and is legally bound to respond to threats against its security.

China's military will "pay any price" to ensure China's sovereignty, Li told Richardson at their Tuesday meeting. China considers Taiwan, which split

from the mainland amid civil war in 1949, as an integral part of Chinese territory.

U.S.-China relations have become increasingly frayed on the military and economic fronts over the past year. President Donald 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 disinvented China to a major, multinational Pacific exercise, citing Beijing's militarization of man-made islands in the South China Sea. **AP**

Beijing hits back at criticism of its detention of Canadians

CHINA minced no words yesterday as it rejected an accusation by Canada's foreign minister that its detentions of Canadians pose a threat to all countries.

"I think your foreign minister may be in a hurry, and can't help speaking without thinking," foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said in response to a question from a Canadian journalist. "What threat has China posed to Canada?"

She said Canada instead poses a threat to Chinese

by detaining a Chinese citizen for "no reason." She was referring to the arrest of Chinese telecoms executive Meng Wanzhou in Canada at the request of the United States.

"It is understandable that Canada is a little worried, but we hope it will avoid speaking freely without thinking because its reputation and image would be badly damaged by such behaviors," Hua said. "And such remarks cannot help settle the issue, either."

Meng's arrest while she

was transiting Vancouver airport on Dec. 1 created a diplomatic rift that has continued to grow. Meng is the chief financial officer of Chinese telecom giant Huawei and the daughter of its founder. She is wanted by the U.S. in relation to an investigation into Iran sanctions violations.

China detained two Canadians shortly after her arrest in what Western analysts see as an attempt to pressure Canada to release her.

Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said

earlier this week that China's "arbitrary detentions of Canadians [...] represent a way of behaving which is a threat to all countries."

China also sentenced another Canadian, Robert Schellenberg, to death on Monday in a sudden retrial of his drug-smuggling case.

The U.S. State Department called the death sentence "politically motivated." A statement from deputy spokesman Robert Palladino said U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and Freeland spoke

AP PHOTO



Tuesday and "expressed their concerns about the arbitrary detentions and politically motivated sentencing of Canadian nationals."

Canada has embarked on a campaign with allies to win the release of ex-diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor, who were detai-

ned 10 days after Meng's arrest. They were arrested on vague allegations of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China.

Freeland said the detained Canadians will be at the top of her agenda when she visits Davos for the World Economic Forum next week. **AP**



JAPAN

BOJ warns country faces new risks as population shrinks

Kaori Hitomi, Tokyo

JAPAN faces unforeseen risks in guiding economic policy as its population of about 126 million ages and declines, the governor of its central bank said yesterday.

Bank of Japan Gov. Haruhiko Kuroda told fellow financial leaders that policies must be devised to prevent the shrinking population from hindering economic growth.

Since taking his post in April 2013, Kuroda has flooded Japan's economy with cash through central bank asset purchases to help fight deflation and keep the economy growing. The BOJ also imposed a nega-

tive interest rate policy to keep lending costs ultralow in the longer term.

The conventional strategy of controlling short-term interest rates to keep inflation in check while stimulating business activity is well understood, Kuroda said. But he warned that the unconventional methods the Bank of Japan has adopted can have unexpected consequences.

Kuroda has repeatedly emphasized the limits to what the central bank can do to promote sustained growth in an age of rising national debt and feeble consumer demand. He has urged the government to push ahead with labor and other

reforms to help achieve faster growth and attain the government's inflation target of about 2 percent.

Kuroda said one of the potential pitfalls of the current policies could be if banks use cheap credit to seek higher yielding, high-risk investments harmful to financial stability.

"Policymakers need to manage prudential policy appropriately, taking into account the fact that the risk profiles of financial institutions could be dramatically transformed during times of demographic change," he said.

Japan's population began shrinking several years ago and is rapidly aging. That has

discouraged companies from investing and hiring within Japan, while they direct their efforts toward faster growing overseen markets.

On the other hand, aging populations create new markets for many products and services, so there are positives along with the challenges, he added.

Kuroda and other senior financial officials were speaking at a seminar linked to Japan's hosting of the Group of 20 major economies in 2019. The G-20 summit is due to be held in Osaka later this year.

Taro Aso, Japan's 78-year-old finance minister, told the gathering that as one of the eldest holding that post, "to give you

an illustrative example ... many elderly in Japan are healthy and in good condition and remain very active like myself — and that implies the emergence of new opportunities."

One of the biggest challenges is providing support and care for the elderly when the working population becomes much smaller than in the past, Kuroda noted.

That is raising the levels of public debt as costs for medical care and pensions rise, and that causes people to save more money to prepare for such burdens, which in turn hurts growth, he noted.

The key is to devise better ways to manage social safety nets, manage the financial system and promote innovation and greater productivity, Kuroda said, adding that "If pessimism about future economic growth prevails not only future but also present demand could be stifled as people are discouraged from current investment and consumption." **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Police find body of German tourist in Outback

THE body of a 62-year-old German tourist was found beneath a tree in the searing heat of the central Australia Outback yesterday, eight days after she was reported missing, police said.

Desert Palms Resort staff in Alice Springs reported guest Monika Billen missing on Jan. 9, but her last reported sighting was on Jan. 1, a police statement said.

Her body was spotted by searchers in a helicop-

ter under a tree far from hiking tracks and 3 kilometers west of Emily Gap in the East MacDonnell Ranges, police said.

The location had already been searched twice in a 16-square kilometer targeted area but was densely covered with trees and foliage, Police Superintendent Pauline Vicary said.

Police worked with Billen's German mobile phone provider to narrow the search to the targeted area over the past two

days, Vicary said.

When asked why it took eight days to find her, Vicary said the search involved "a lot of technology and information and extensive work, interpreting data" and using outside experts.

Billen's extended family in Cologne has been told the news, police said.

Police do not believe the death was suspicious and a coroner will investigate the cause of her death.

The last reported sigh-

ting of the keen hiker was on Jan. 1 at Emily Gap, 15 kilometers east of Alice Springs. Security video showed her leaving the Desert Palms Resort that morning.

There was confusion last week when a woman told police she had given a dehydrated and disoriented-looking Billen a lift in the area on Jan. 2. But the woman later told police she was mistaken and that she had encountered Billen two days ear-

lier, on Dec. 31.

That would suggest Billen had headed out on a walk again in 44 degree Celsius heat a day after she had appeared dehydrated.

"It was 44 degrees that day and other factors such as the heat radiating off the road makes it even hotter," Vicary told reporters.

Deaths and injuries occur around Alice Springs during the southern hemisphere summer, with walkers heading out in extreme heat.

Police rescued a 60-year-old hiker last weekend on the 223-kilometer Larapinta Trail which heads west from Alice Springs. The woman was found injured and dehydrated on the same day rescuers called off a search for Billen. The search was restarted on Tuesday based on the new phone data.

This time last year, a 33-year-old Californian man died after talking a wrong turn while hiking the Larapinta Trail. **AP**

Belarus model who claimed Trump info deported from Thailand

A Belarusian model who claimed last year that she had evidence of Russian involvement in helping elect Donald Trump president was deported from Thailand yesterday, police said.

Anastasia Vashukevich along with seven co-defendants pleaded guilty this week in a case related to holding a sex training seminar in Thailand. They were arrested almost a year ago in the seaside resort town of Pattaya, which is especially popular with Russian tourists.

Thailand's immigration police chief Lt. Gen. Surachate Hakpam said most of the group left on flights shortly after noon, those going to Russia on one flight and those headed to Belarus on another. Vashukevich and at least one of the other deportees hold passports from Belarus.

While in custody, Vashukevich claimed to have recordings of Russian oligarch Oleg Deripaska talking about interference in the 2016 U.S. election, but never released them.

Deripaska is close to Russian President Vladimir Putin, and



Belarusian model Anastasia Vashukevich is escorted by Thai Immigration police officers from the Immigration Detention Center in Bangkok

also had a working relationship with Paul Manafort, Trump's former campaign manager who was investigated by special counsel Robert Mueller and convicted last year of tax and bank fraud.

Vashukevich — also known on

social media as Nastya Rybka — and her co-defendants were convicted of soliciting and conspiracy and given suspended 18-month prison terms. The group had said that they were conducting a class on sexual relationships.

Surachate said Russian self-styled sex guru Alexander Kirillov, Vashukevich's mentor in the sex training business, would take a yesterday night flight because no more seats were available earlier.

In the early stages of their detention, the sex training group sent a note to the U.S. Embassy via an intermediary seeking help and political asylum. Vashukevich indicated she would turn over the recordings she claimed to have if the U.S. could help secure her release, but later withdrew the offer, suggesting that she and Deripaska had reached an agreement.

A public scandal erupted in early February last year when Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny published an investigation drawing on Vashukevich's social media posts suggesting corrupt links between Deripaska and a top Kremlin official, Deputy Prime Minister Sergei Prikhodko. The investigative report featured video from Deripaska's yacht in 2016, when Vashukevich, who has also worked as an escort,

was aboard.

On Wednesday in Washington, the U.S. Senate narrowly upheld a Treasury Department decision to lift sanctions from three companies connected to Deripaska.

The Treasury Department says the Russian companies have committed to separating from Deripaska, who will remain blacklisted as part of an array of measures announced in early April that targeted tycoons close to the Kremlin.

Deripaska was one of 24 Russian officials and tycoons faced with sanctions imposed by the United States last year as Washington stepped up its condemnation of Russia's actions in recent years, including its 2014 annexation of Crimea, support for Syrian President Bashar Assad, hacking attacks and meddling in Western elections.

The metals tycoon controls a business empire with assets in aluminum, energy and construction and is worth \$5.3 billion, according to Forbes magazine. **AP**

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USA

Man wanted to attack White House with anti-tank rocket

Kate Brumback, Atlanta

A Georgia man accused of plotting to use an anti-tank rocket to storm into the White House was arrested in a sting yesterday [Macau time] after he traded his car for guns and explosives, authorities said.

Hasher Jallal Taheb, 21, of Cumming was arrested and is charged with attempting to damage or destroy a building owned by the United States using fire or an explosive, U.S. Attorney Byung J. "BJay" Pak said.

It wasn't immediately clear whether Taheb had an attorney who could comment on the allegations.

A local law enforcement agency contacted the FBI in March after getting a tip from someone who said Taheb had become radicalized, changed his name and planned to travel abroad, according to an FBI agent's affidavit filed in court.

The affidavit says Taheb told a confidential FBI source in October that he planned to travel abroad for "hijra," which the agent wrote refers to traveling to territory controlled by the Islamic State. Because he didn't have a passport, he couldn't travel abroad and told the FBI source that he wanted to carry out an attack in the U.S. against the White House and the Statue of Liberty.

He met with the undercover agent and the FBI source multiple times last month and was also in frequent contact using an encrypted messaging application, the affidavit says.



Screenshot captured from a video of police investigating Taheb's neighborhood

During one meeting with the agent and the source, Taheb "advised that if they were to go to another country, they would be one of many, but if they stayed in the United States, they could do more damage," the affidavit says. Taheb "explained that jihad was an obligation, that he wanted to do as much damage as possible, and that he expected to be a 'martyr,' meaning he expected to die during the attack."

At another meeting, he showed the undercover agent a hand-drawn diagram of the

ground floor of the West Wing of the White House and detailed a plan for attack, the affidavit says. He asked the undercover agent to obtain the weapons and explosives needed to carry out the attack, and they discussed selling or exchanging their cars to pay for them.

Taheb told the undercover agent they needed a "base" where they could regroup and where he could record a video to motivate people: "He stated he would be the narrator, clips of oppressed Muslims would be shown, and American and

Israeli flags would be burned in the background."

Last week, Taheb told the undercover agent he wanted to pick up weapons this week and drive directly to Washington to carry out the attack, investigators said.

Taheb said they would approach the White House from the back road, causing a distraction for police and then would proceed into the White House, using an anti-tank weapon to blow open a door and then take down as many people and do as much damage as possible, the

affidavit says.

Taheb told the undercover agent he had never shot a gun but could learn easily and also said he had watched some videos of how grenades explode, authorities said.

Taheb met with the FBI source and undercover agent on Wednesday in a parking lot in Buford to exchange their cars for semi-automatic assault rifles, three explosive devices with remote detonators and an anti-tank rocket, the affidavit says.

Hasher Jallal Taheb, 21, of Cumming was arrested and is charged with attempting to damage or destroy a gov't building

A second FBI source met them and inspected the vehicles, and a second FBI undercover agent arrived in a tractor trailer with weapons and explosives that had been rendered inert by the FBI. The undercover agent and Taheb talked about the guns, how to arm and detonate the explosives and how to use the anti-tank rocket, the affidavit says.

Taheb and the undercover agent and FBI source whom he believed to be part of his group turned over their car keys to the second confidential source and then loaded the inert explosives and guns into a rental vehicle, the affidavit says. Then, after they got into the car and closed the doors, agents arrested Taheb. **AP**

UK

May battles to keep Brexit on track after no-confidence win

BRITISH Prime Minister Theresa May is reaching out to opposition parties and other lawmakers yesterday in a battle to keep Brexit on track after surviving a no-confidence vote.

European Union countries are also debating on how to move forward now that the U.K. Parliament has rejected May's Brexit deal with the bloc and with the March 29 exit date looming.

Parliament overwhelmingly rejected the deal this week, in a crushing

defeat for May. Opposition leader Jeremy Corbyn immediately called for a no-confidence vote, but May's government survived it early yesterday [Macau time].

May invited opposition leaders for talks about how best to avoid leaving the EU without an agreement. But Corbyn has so far declined to meet with May unless she takes the "no-deal" possibility off the table.

EU countries have generally reacted to the Brexit political crisis unfolding

in the U.K. by putting the onus on the British government and its lawmakers to decide what they want to do.

Some British lawmakers want May to call for an extension of negotiations with the EU and postpone the March 29 deadline to leave the bloc, while others are lobbying for a second Brexit referendum. The prime minister has so far rejected those options.

France's prime minister is holding a special government meeting Thur-

sdays on how his country will cope with a possible "no-deal" Brexit.

The French parliament adopted a law yesterday allowing emergency measures after March 30 in the event Britain leaves without a deal.

Such measures could aim to reduce problems in cross-border trade and transport, notably through the Eurotunnel beneath the English Channel, and allow British workers and retirees based in France temporary permission to stay until a lon-



ger-term deal is worked out.

EU Brexit negotiator Michel Barnier was expected in Lisbon, Portugal, where he was due to meet with local officials and give a

news conference yesterday. Barnier said Wednesday in Strasbourg he was more concerned than ever about the possibility of Britain leaving the EU without an agreement. **AP**

USA

American anchor for Iranian TV is arrested on visit to New Orleans

Janet McConnaughey, New Orleans

A prominent American anchorwoman on Iranian state television has been arrested by the FBI during a visit to the U.S., the broadcaster reported yesterday [Macau time], and her son said she was being held in a prison, apparently as a material witness.

Marzieh Hashemi, who worked for the network's English-language service, was detained in St. Louis, where she had filmed a Black Lives Matter documentary after visiting relatives in the New Orleans area. She was then taken to Washington, according to her elder son, Hossein Hashemi.

The FBI said in an email that it had no comment on the arrest of the woman who was born Melanie Franklin in New Orleans and has worked for Iran's state television network for 25 years.

Hossein Hashemi said his mother lives in Tehran and comes



American-born news anchor Marzieh Hashemi at a studio in Tehran, Iran

back to this country about once a year to see her family, usually scheduling documentary work somewhere in the U.S. as well.

"We still have no idea what's going on," said Hashemi, a research fellow at the University of Colorado who was interviewed by phone from Washington. He also said he and his siblings had been subpoenaed to appear before a grand jury.

The incident comes as Iran faces increasing criticism of its own arrests of dual citizens and other people with Western ties. Those cases have previously been used as bargaining chips in negotiations with world powers.

Federal law allows judges to order witnesses to be arrested and detained if the government can prove their testimony has extraordinary value for a criminal

case and that they would be a flight risk and unlikely to respond to a subpoena. The statute generally requires those witnesses to be promptly released once they are deposed.

Asked whether his mother had been involved in any criminal activity or knew anyone who might be implicated in a crime, Hashemi said, "We don't have any information along those lines."

Hashemi said his mother was arrested as she was about to board a flight from St. Louis to Denver. A spokesman for St. Louis Lambert International Airport declined to comment and referred questions to the FBI.

The constitutionality of the material witness law has "never been meaningfully tested," said Ricardo J. Bascuas, a professor at the University of Miami School of Law. "The government only relies on it when they need a reason to arrest somebody but they don't have one."

No matter the reason for Mar-

zieh Hashemi's detention, she should have been granted a court appearance by now, Bascuas said.

She apparently was unable to call her daughter until Tuesday night. The family is trying to hire an attorney, but it has been difficult because she has not been charged with a crime, her son said.

Iran's state broadcaster held a news conference and launched a hashtag campaign for Hashemi, using the same techniques families with loved ones held in the Islamic Republic use to highlight their cases.

"We will not spare any legal action" to help her, said Paiman Jebeli, deputy chief of Iran's state IRIB broadcaster. Iran's Press TV aired footage of her anchoring news programs and discussing the war in Syria, set to dramatic music.

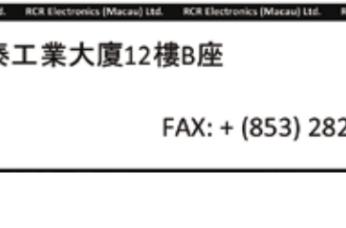
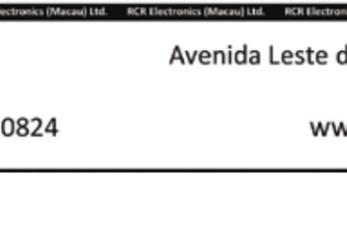
There were no references to any case against Hashemi in U.S. federal courts, nor in Missouri. AP

AD



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TV canal macau

FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:50	Zig Zag
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:40	Portuguese In New England
18:05	Os Maías - Fim
18:55	TDM Talk Show (Repetição)
19:30	Livros com João Guedes (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.3
22:00	Contentor 13
22:30	Motel Bates Sr.1 - Estreia
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Assim Assim

SATURDAY

11:40	Chai Chai
12:00	Novos Descobridores
12:30	Uma Mesa Portuguesa... Com Certeza!
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Compacto
16:45	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
17:30	Janela Indiscreta com Mário Augusto
18:10	Animais Anónimos
18:50	Joker
19:35	O Mundo da Dança Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Amor Fora da Lei
22:55	A Essência
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Cá Por Casa Sr.2

SUNDAY

11:00	Missa Dominical
12:00	Visita Guiada Sr.2
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Top Chef Jr. Sr.1
15:15	Rat-A-Tat Sr.1
15:25	Múdo Graúdo
16:05	Viva a Música Sr.4
17:00	Brainstorm
17:45	Amor Fora da Lei (Repetição)
19:25	Bem-Vindos a Beirais
20:10	Aqui Há História
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:20	Atentado em Manchester - A Nossa História
23:15	TDM News
23:50	TDM Reportagem (Repetição)

Offbeat

GIANT ROTATING ICE DISK DRAWS ATTENTION, VISITORS



Think of it as a crop circle, but in a river.

A curious formation that's getting attention in Greater Portland is actually a spinning ice disk that is roughly 91 meters wide.

The formation in the Presumpscot River was widely shared on social media and has drawn comparisons to an alien spacecraft, a carousel and the moon.

The oddity drew a crowd that stood mesmerized by the slow-turning disk earlier this week in Westbrook.

The ice formation is believed to have formed naturally in a part of the river where there's a circular current that creates a whirlpool effect, said Tina Radel, the city's marketing and communications manager.

Locals say they've seen smaller ice disks before, but nothing like this one, Radel said.

Rob Mitchell, who owns a nearby office building, spotted the alien-looking disk Monday morning and immediately notified the city.

Officials say the disk is spinning slowly counter-clockwise, and has served as a big raft for ducks and other birds. "The ducks were rotating on this big Lazy Susan," Mitchell said.

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



1967 'BOSTON STRANGLER' SENTENCED TO LIFE

The man who claims to be the 'Boston Strangler' has been jailed for life after being found guilty of assault and armed robbery against four women in Connecticut.

Albert DeSalvo says he murdered 13 single women in the Boston area between June 1962 and January 1964, creating a climate of fear in the city.

The women, aged between 19 and 85, were sexually assaulted and then strangled to death in their homes.

Some were found with trademark ribbons around their necks.

But the 35-year-old has not been charged with any of the murders because of a lack of evidence.

During the seven-day trial, DeSalvo's lawyer, F. Lee Bailey, attempted to prove that his client was guilty of the murders, and should be found insane and sent to a psychiatric hospital for life.

Mr Bailey described DeSalvo as "uncontrollable" and sending him to prison would be a cruel punishment.

He said: "There were 13 acts of homicide by a completely homicidal vegetable walking in the form of a human being."

But the jury found DeSalvo legally sane and not guilty of the murders.

The judge said: "This defendant must be incarcerated for as long as he shall live or until psychiatric science can cure him."

The former military police officer has been held on charges of rape in the Bridgewater State Hospital in Massachusetts since 1964.

He will be kept there pending an appeal against his conviction.

Mr Bailey has said that shortly after DeSalvo arrived at the hospital, which has a designated section for patients with criminal records, he told other inmates that he murdered the women.

DeSalvo has said: "I would go home and watch what I had done on TV. Then I would cry like a baby."

Because DeSalvo's police record was filed under "breaking and entering", he never came under suspicion during the murder hunt.

Detectives, pathologists and psychologists were investigating known sex offenders.

Some women in Boston were so terrified by the murders that they carried pepper, ammonia and tear-gas bombs to protect themselves.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Shortly after he was sentenced, DeSalvo caused panic when he briefly escaped from the hospital in Massachusetts where he was being held. He was then moved to the maximum security Walpole State Prison where he was stabbed to death in November 1973.

Prosecutors claimed DeSalvo died because he was trying to enter the prison's drug trade.

Three inmates were tried for the killing but none was convicted.

Casey Sherman, the nephew of the Boston Strangler's last victim, 19-year-old Mary Sullivan, believes DeSalvo confessed to the murders because it would lead to a lucrative book and film deal.

He says DeSalvo was killed after he told his psychiatrist he was going to tell the truth.

Mr Sherman and DeSalvo's family say there is no physical evidence to link him to the crimes and he did not match any witness descriptions of possible suspects.

Also, when the murders happened the police did not believe one individual was responsible.

But Julian Soshnick, a prosecutor who worked on the investigation, has said that during interviews DeSalvo described in detail facts about the killings that were not known to the public.

These include what ligatures were used and how they were tied around the victims' necks.

In December 2001, DeSalvo's body was exhumed and tests showed his DNA did not match evidence found on the body of Miss Sullivan.

Mr Soshnick says this does not prove DeSalvo is innocent of the 19-year-old's murder or any of the other killings.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Reversal of fortune takes a lot less than you think...

Taurus April 20-May 20 There's no point in telling you to avoid impulse buys...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Even your closest colleagues don't know you well enough to intuit your hopes and wishes...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 If dealing with others is hard for you, you'll get some practice. You have so many things that are begging for completion...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 While others socialized, you intellectualized. And now you're seeing the pay off...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You need a good night's sleep to deal with whatever comes at you. Having a good or bad day is what hangs in the balance...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're feeling dual natured. On the one hand, you have a lot of thinking to do...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you're a gambler, that old itch returns. If you're not, you can't fathom why some people take the risks they do...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Haven't you learned your lesson? There's no point in having deep conversations with certain colleagues...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Some people want personal service but others expect you to cut to the chase. Keep the chatting to a minimum today...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Every day can't be at the top of the scale. If you're the creative type, you need every project to be a sizzling affair...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's a capricious sort of day. Everything is mutable, even your energy level. One moment you're ready to take on the world...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

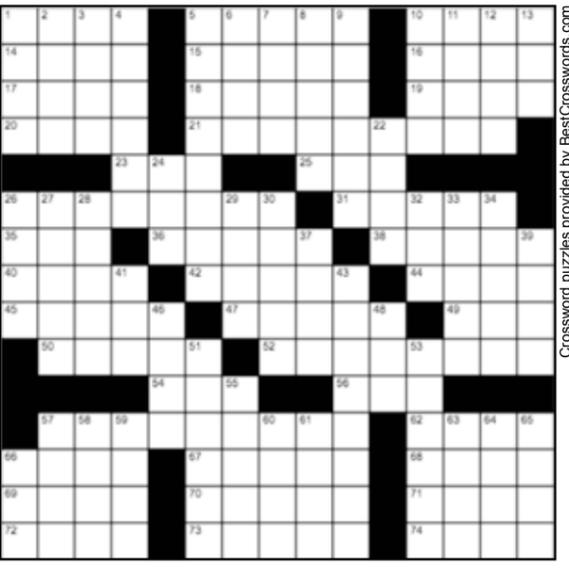
Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 5- Whiskey type; 10- Author Dinesen; 14- Baseball's Felipe; 15- Fasten again; 16- Denier's words; 17- Amusement; 18-___ fours (crawling); 19- Wagon; 20- Seize; 21- Woman who has never borne a child; 23- Fond du lac; 25- Actor Brynner; 26- Railroad sleeping car; 31- Wall painting; 35- Have debts; 36- Fortune teller's card; 38- Strong winds; 40- Jazz flutist Herbie; 42- Bus station; 44- Ark builder; 45- Clay block; 47- More secure; 49- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 50- Uncanny; 52- Black homeland in NE Natal; 54- Trauma ctrs.; 56- Wide shoe width; 57- Wayfaring; 62- Fuse units; 66- Cartoonist Silverstein; 67- Chest or closet material; 68- Rejection power; 69- Completely without madness; 70- "Lovergirl" singer ___ Marie; 71- Airline to Tel Aviv; 72- Baptism, e.g.; 73- Water vapor; 74- Manhattan neighborhood;



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



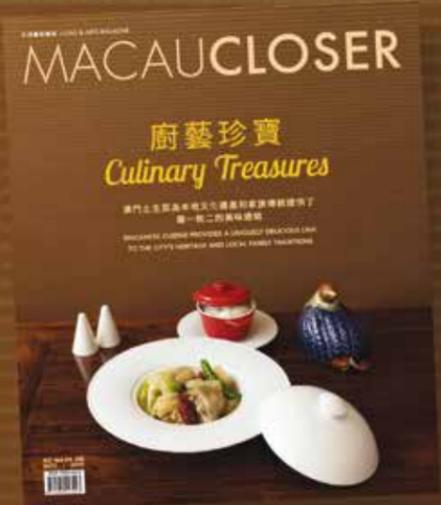
Real estate advertisement for JML Property. It includes 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties like Lake View Tower, Ocean Garden Elm Court, Sea View Condo, and Taipa, Nam Long. It also features the JML Property logo and contact information.

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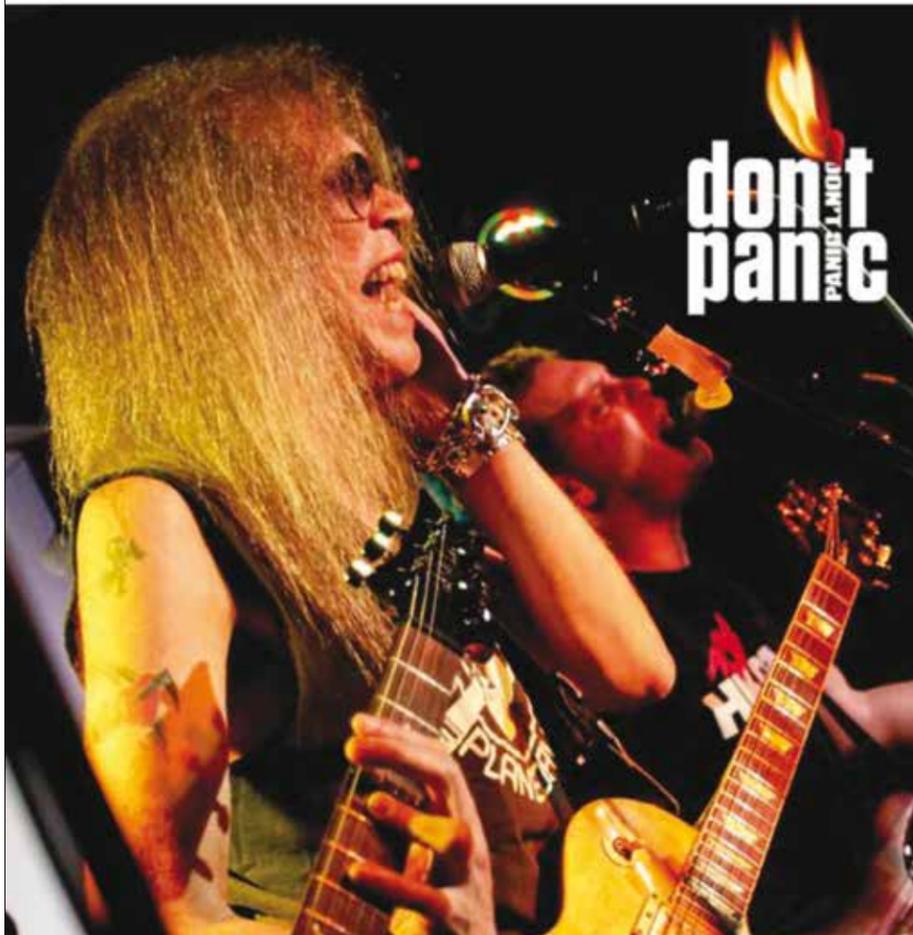
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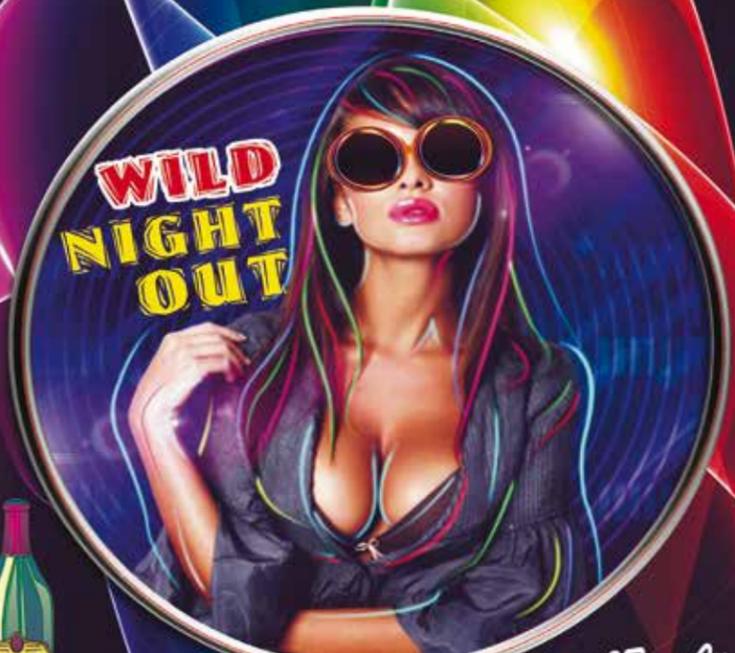
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FOOTBALL

Juventus beats Milan to win Italian Super Cup in Jeddah

AMID a background of protests and political outrage, Juventus beat 10-man AC Milan 1-0 in Saudi Arabia yesterday [Macau time] to win the Italian Super Cup for a record eighth time.

Cristiano Ronaldo scored the only goal of the match to win his first trophy with the Italian team.

"I'm very happy, it was what I wanted, I'm very happy to have won my first title with Juventus," Ronaldo said.

It was Ronaldo's fourth goal in his past four matches as he shows little sign of being affected — on the pitch at least — by a case of alleged rape involving an American woman.

Ronaldo has been asked by police to provide a DNA sample in an investigation of the allegation by Kathryn Mayorga, a former model and schoolteacher, that he raped her in his Las Vegas hotel penthouse in 2009 and paid her to keep quiet. Ronaldo has denied any wrongdoing.

Juventus, which has won the league the past seven seasons, leads Serie A by nine points and is in the quarterfinal of the Italian Cup as well as the last 16 of the Champions League.

"We have to take it step by step," Ronaldo continued. "The aim was to start well this year and we have done and now we



have to continue to work for our other objectives."

Italian politicians and human rights activists had objected to the game being played in Saudi Arabia, citing the assassination of Washington Post columnist Jamal Khashoggi at the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul.

But the match went ahead at a sold-out King Abdullah Sports City Stadium in Jeddah in front of more than 61,000 fans, including many women who were only allowed into Saudi sports stadiums a year ago for the first time to watch soccer matches.

Last June, the Italian league announced it agreed to a deal with Saudi Arabia's General Sports Authority for three of the next five Super Cups to be played in the kingdom. The deal will provide more than 20 million euros (USD23 million) to Serie A and 3.5 million euros to participating clubs.

"I'm very respectful of all the opinions," Lega Serie A President Gaetano Micciche said. "We've talked about it and we'll talk again. I think it has been useful to open this dialogue, we'll talk about it all civilly

and everyone will understand everyone else's positions."

Gonzalo Higuain, who is on loan at Milan from Juventus, had also been a focus of the buildup to the match ahead of a potential move to Chelsea, but the Argentina forward was named on the bench against his parent club, with Milan saying he had had a fever.

Blaise Matuidi had a goal for Juventus disallowed for offside while Ronaldo saw an acrobatic effort bounce narrowly over the crossbar in an even first half which also saw Juve goalkeeper

Wojciech Szczesny pull off a good save to deny Hakan Calhanoglu.

Milan almost took the lead immediately after halftime but Patrick Cutrone's effort came off the crossbar.

The Rossoneri were left to rue that missed opportunity as Ronaldo broke the deadlock in the 61st minute.

Miralem Pjanic floated a ball over the top and Ronaldo headed it past Gianluigi Donnarumma.

I'm very happy to have won my first title with Juventus.

CRISTIANO RONALDO

Juventus had another goal disallowed for offside but any chance Milan had of getting back into the match all but evaporated after midfielder Franck Kessie was sent off in the 74th following a poor tackle on Emre Can, which saw him stamp on the Juventus midfielder.

Referee Luca Banti initially showed Kessie only a yellow card but changed it to a red after seeing the late tackle again on video review.

Milan was infuriated after VAR was not used on what it felt was a penalty after Can appeared to clatter into the back of Andrea Conti.

Higuain, who had come on for the final 20 minutes, had to be dragged away by his former teammates. **AP**

Madrid enduring its worst struggles in more than 2 decades

THE first season without Cristiano Ronaldo is proving to be a difficult one for Real Madrid.

The Spanish powerhouse hasn't been this bad in more than two decades.

Not since 1996 had Madrid lost 10 matches at this point of the season. That team, led by Raul Gonzalez, lost 12 times by the end of January. Madrid's team coached by Guus Hiddink three years later also struggled, losing 10 of its first 32 matches in all competitions, exactly like this season.

But all had gone mostly well for Madrid since then, especially after Ronaldo arrived in 2009 and led the club to a trove of trophies.

"The last few years have been some of the best in the history of Real Madrid," defender Nacho Fernandez



says. "It's going to be difficult to match or surpass that."

Madrid's latest loss was at Leganes in the Copa del Rey on Wednesday. It still advanced to the quarterfinals after having won the first leg 3-0, but the defeat again exposed some of the team's problems since Ronaldo departed to join Juventus:

COACHING WOES

Zinedine Zidane left just before Ronaldo and his absence has been felt just as badly.

Madrid replaced the France great with Julen Lopetegui, but the former Spain coach lasted only about three months before he was sacked.

Former player Santiago

Solari arrived as an interim coach and was given the full-time job after a good start, but confidence in him has quickly eroded as the team continues to be inconsistent.

He has struggled to manage some of his players, including Francisco "Isco" Alarcon, who could be on his way out because of his lack of playing minutes. He was substituted in the second half against Leganes on Wednesday.

Calls for another coaching change have been getting louder, adding to the team's instability on the field.

BETTING ON YOUTH

Madrid did not make any blockbuster signing to try to replace Ronaldo, betting instead on youngsters such as Vinicius Junior, who is only 18.

The Brazilian has shown signs he could be a star, but still lacks the experience to lead the squad.

Mariano Diaz was given the No. 7 jersey when Ronaldo left, but his season has been marred by injuries and he hasn't been able to contribute much so far.

SLUGGISH VETERANS

Madrid hoped veterans Gareth Bale and Karim Benzema could take over the leadership role that Ronaldo used to carry, but that never happened even though their numbers improved significantly after the Portuguese star left.

They each have scored more goals, but haven't been consistent enough to also notch victories.

DEFENSIVE STRUGGLES

The club has conceded more than 30 goals and has one of the worst defenses among the teams in the top

half of the Spanish league standings.

It lost 3-0 to Sevilla, Eibar, and CSKA Moscow in the Champions League, and was demoralized by Barcelona 5-1 in the league at Camp Nou Stadium.

"We know that we have to get better," midfielder Casemiro says.

INJURIES

It hasn't helped coach Solari that he lost Bale, Marcelo, Toni Kroos and Diaz to lengthy injuries. Benzema is the latest concern for Solari because of a broken hand.

"It's been an atypical season with all the injuries," Fernandez says. "We haven't been playing our best soccer, but there is a lot of season left."

Madrid's next match is on Saturday at home against Sevilla in the Spanish league. Madrid is fourth in the standings, 10 points behind leader Barcelona after 19 matches. **AP**

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



THE BRIDGE AND OTHER SYMBOLS

Whether they be the most monumental, mundane or just plain, products and artefacts that we interact with each day hold meaning, even those that are hardly noticeable. A door handle to grasp suggests it should be pulled, a plate suggests it be pushed. Buses with steep steps suggest a disregard for the elderly and the disabled. A Spring Dinner invitation not received suggests a snub. Incessant public consultations, "scientific studies" and budget blow-outs suggest inability to act or to accept accountability. We construe meaning everywhere.

Things may be designed for function, but designs are not produced in a vacuum. They come from social and cultural contexts, even political ones, which imbue the design and the artefact with meaning.

Designs may come from a place of limited knowledge but the design of things always derives from the embedded environment of the designer, and his or her context of meaning.

Objects made and used by humans change and those changes are not always technological. Businesses are forever adjusting branding and service offerings to compete, or just because new management has different preferences, or a need to be seen to be doing something, anything.

Objects and artefacts also change as social values and politics change. They are symbolic of a change made and changes to be made. They can be used to nudge change, slowly and almost imperceptibly. There are signs of these sorts of changes in Macau.

The Financial Services Bureau has long been a favourite department of mine. The service is pleasant, prompt and helpful; explanations are clear and I always leave having achieved some level of success. A nice touch, unusual elsewhere, is the stamp the teller can add to one's blank cheque designating the tax office as payee. It is easier and fail-safe to have the teller add this, so it has been my customary practice to use this option. The change may have happened earlier, but this week I noticed the stamp was smaller; there was no writing in Portuguese this time, just three Chinese characters: 財政局. What is the meaning in the design of this new stamp to remove one of the official languages?

When recently attempting to open a new company bank account, the Articles of Association we submitted were not accepted by the local bank branch. Due to being written in Portuguese, it could not be read or verified by the branch staff. We live and learn. It would have been more pragmatic to have used a Chinese lawyer. Was there a design failure in HR allocation at that bank, or some intent in design here?

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge is one big symbol, full of meaning in design. Firstly, it does not seem to be meant for the likes of me, or international visitors: MICE-goers, foreign business people, non-Chinese tourists. The HKIA to Macau connection is ad hoc, cumbersome and time-consuming for travellers with luggage – it's more an option for a back-packer than the long-haul business executive or well-to-do moneyed visitor. The signage is huge and clear, for those of us that read Chinese. From Hong Kong to Macau – both being regions which use right-hand-drive vehicles on left-hand carriage ways – both road and driver flip sides for the length of the bridge following mainland Chinese road rules.

In terms of traffic management on this point-to-point bridge, the location of separated carriage ways makes little difference. The decision, however, is suggestive of a pecking order, and of future standards and expectations different from those used today. It offers a poignant reminder of symbolism in design.

THE AIRPORTS, CUSTOMS, TRADE: BUZZ EUROPE PREPS FOR A CHAOTIC BREXIT

One by one, European Union nations are spending millions, hiring thousands of workers and issuing emergency decrees to cope with the increasingly likely possibility that Britain will leave the bloc on March 29 without a plan.

A no-deal Brexit would shake up the rest of the continent in ways that many Europeans haven't even fathomed.

France is spending 50 million euros (USD57 million) to beef up security at airports and the Eurotunnel and hiring hundreds of extra cus-

toms officers.

Portugal is opening special airport lanes for British travelers, the nation's main source of tourists. Germany is fast-tracking a debate on solving bureaucratic problems if there is no Brexit deal.

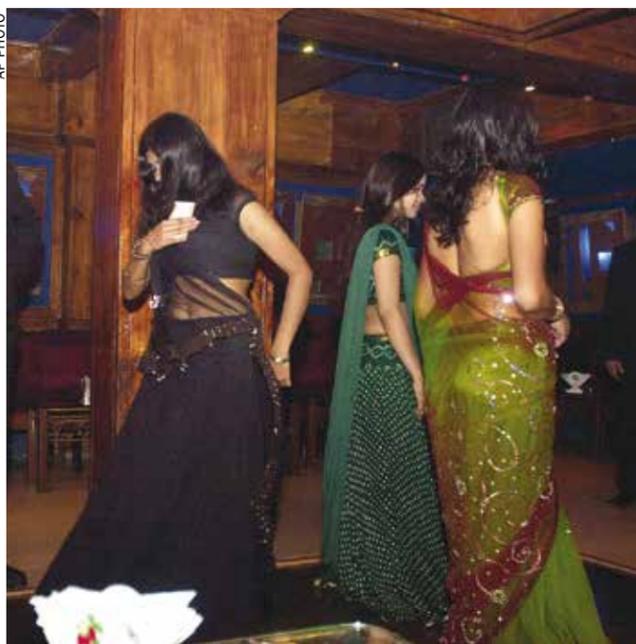
Governments from the Netherlands to Romania and the Czech Republic are preparing rules for British citizens to live and work in their countries once they no longer enjoy EU residency rights – and expecting that Britain is doing the same for their citizens.

India's top court paves way for bars with dancers to reopen

INDIA'S Supreme Court yesterday paved the way for the reopening of Mumbai's dance bars, which had been a nightlife staple in the country's entertainment capital until they were outlawed six years ago.

Bars featuring young women paid to wear sexy clothing and dance to Bollywood music no longer need to be a kilometer from religious sites

The court ruled that the bars featuring young women paid to wear sexy clothing and dance to Bollywood music no longer need to be more than a kilometer from religious si-



tes, schools and colleges. It also scrapped plans to force the bars to have security cameras and a partition between bar rooms and dance floors.

There were some 700 dance bars in Mumbai and another 650 in other parts of Maharashtra state, employing 75,000 dancers, before the state government ordered them closed in 2012 on the grounds they corrupted young people.

The state government framed a new law in 2016 imposing stiff restrictions, but

the hotel and restaurant owners found them to be unacceptable and petitioned the top court.

The court, however, accepted the state government's plea that the dance bars be allowed to stay open in Maharashtra state between 6:30 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. every day and not until 1:30 a.m. as demanded by the Bar Owners Association.

People at these bars can tip the dancers, but can't throw money at them as in the past, the court ruled. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Vuitton. A model wears a creation for the Vuitton men's Fall/Winter 2019/20 fashion collection presented in Paris, yesterday.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

YEMEN Houthi rebels hold dozens of women without bringing them to trial or charging them with a crime, often torturing the detainees and blackmailing their families, activists said yesterday.



KENYA The death toll from an extremist attack on a luxury hotel and shopping complex in Nairobi climbed to 21, plus the five militants killed, police said in the aftermath of the brazen overnight siege by al-Shabab gunmen.

TURKEY A Dutch newspaper says Turkish authorities have detained and later deported a journalist, the latest foreign reporter to be ousted from the country which is accused of stifling media freedoms.



GREECE Hundreds of striking Greek civil servants, mostly school teachers, are marching through central Athens to protest proposed new hiring criteria for state school teachers.

FRANCE A strong explosion and fire hit a science building undergoing repairs at the University of Lyon yesterday, injuring three people slightly, French officials said.



BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May says she has started meeting leaders of opposition parties about Brexit and called for politicians to "put self-interest aside" and find a consensus on Britain's path out of the European Union. More on p14

PERU Amid an unbearable stench, thousands of workers, police and soldiers struggled to contain and clean up a flood of sewage that has caused the government to declare a health emergency in one of the most populous parts of Peru's capital.