



### USJ RENEWS REQUEST TO CHINA

The University of Saint Joseph submitted a new request in November to be able to recruit mainland students

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### SINULOG FESTIVAL HELD IN MACAU

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### FUEL PIPELINE FIRE HORROR

The death toll from a pipeline fire in Mexico rose to 79, with another 81 hospitalized in serious condition

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# MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

# Times

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### WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA** An Islamic cleric who was the ideological leader of the Bali bombers and other Indonesian militants is being released early from a 15-year prison sentence after the country's president relented on a condition that he renounce radical beliefs.  
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AP PHOTO



**MYANMAR's** military announced that the Arakan Army, a Buddhist rebel group in Rakhine state, has been classified a terrorist organization after mounting a flurry of recent attacks.  
More on p13

**AUSTRALIA** A 20-year-old man appeared in court charged with murder and rape in the death of an Israeli student in the city of Melbourne in a savage attack that shocked Australia.

AP PHOTO



**BANGLADESH** Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who won a third straight term with an overwhelming majority in last month's election, sought the people's support at a victory rally amid international calls for an investigation into alleged irregularities during the polls.

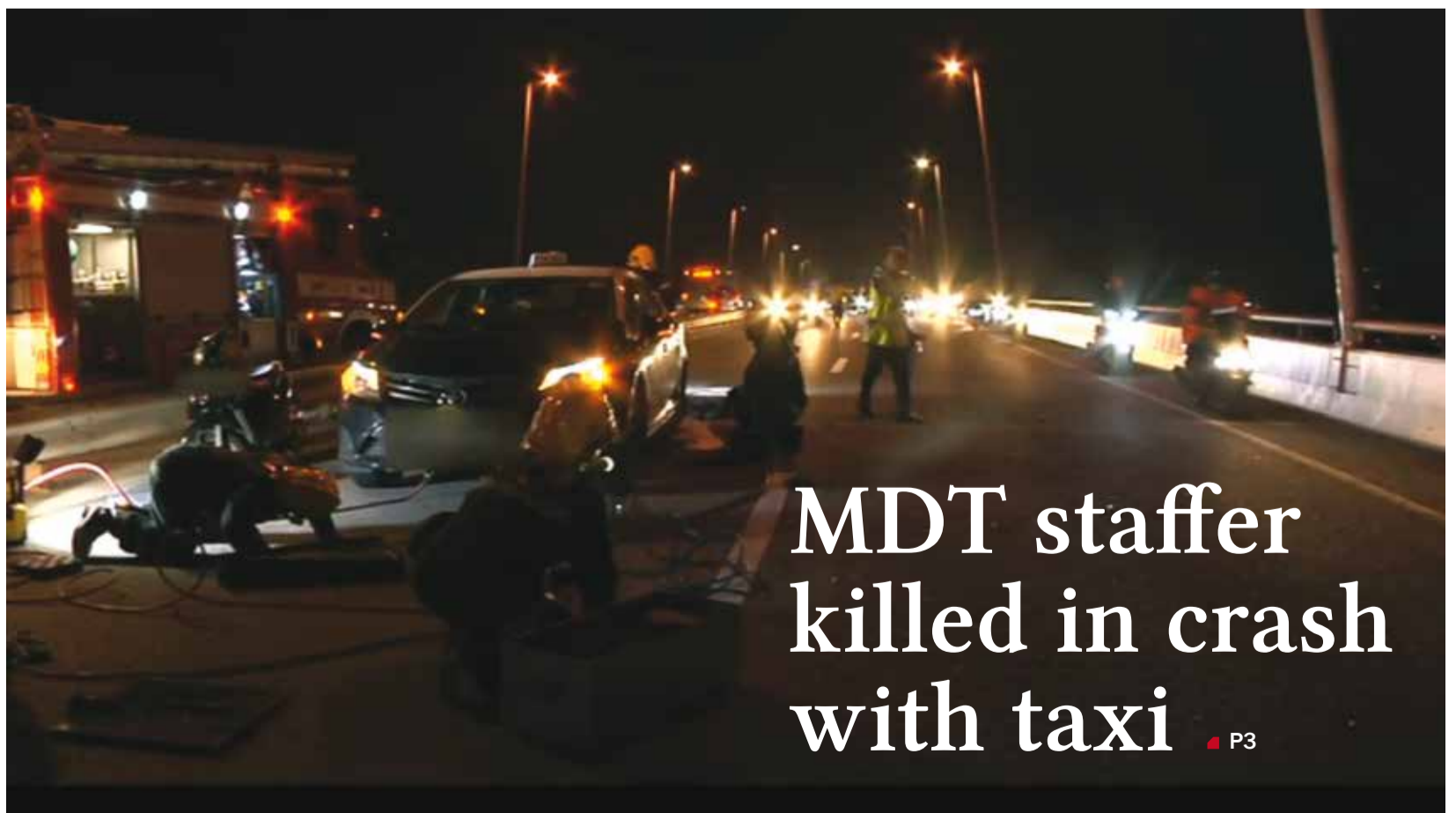
**CONGO's** capital was calm yesterday with residents attending church after the Constitutional Court confirmed the presidential election victory of Felix Tshisekedi. It was not clear if the population would heed runner-up Martin Fayulu's call for non-violent protests against the court ruling.

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# Hong Kong house prices are tumbling

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# MDT staffer killed in crash with taxi

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# Two-day cooking show event concludes

A UNESCO Creative Cities of Gastronomy Cooking Show in Macau concluded yesterday after two consecutive days of culinary activities. Featuring young chefs from 20 participating Creative Cities of Gastronomy, the outdoor culinary demonstration was described by organizers as a highlight of the International Gastronomy Forum, Macau 2019.

The weekend kicked off with a ceremony held on Saturday at Anim'Arte Nam Van, counting the attendance of Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, other senior government officials as well as culinary representatives from the UNESCO Creative Cities Network.

Macao Government Tourism Office's (MGTO) director Helena de Senna Fernandes, remarked at the opening ceremony, "This is a very special occasion for Macao as a new Creative City of Gastronomy, as for the first time we are staging an opportunity for Creative Cities of Gastronomy from around the world to meet with our residents and visitors."

"Our event this weekend is a celebration of the diversity of gastronomic culture in the UNESCO Creative Cities Network," said Senna Fernandes.



"It is about presenting the history and the stories beyond the food of the different cities through the modern creations of traditional flavors by its chefs," she added. "It is also to showcase the objective that brings us together as a network, of using creativity to develop sustainable and vibrant cities."

The participating cities invited some of their most talented young chefs to hold cooking shows at the event, according to local organizers, with the aim of projecting traditional culinary arts from different geographies, sometimes with a modern interpretation. The young chefs took turns on stage to prepare starter dishes, main courses and desserts live, sharing with the public their passion for cooking and how they integrate

their culture into recipes.

As the host city, aside from one demonstration conducted by local chef Ao Ka Lok, Macau also presented five special cooking performances during the two days, including several from students of the culinary arts at the Institute for Tourism Studies and the Macau University of Science and Technology.

Moreover, three local Cantonese cuisine celebrity chefs prepared specially-crafted creations and shared their professional experiences on site; namely Jacky Lam, Joseph Tse and Tam Kwok Fung.

In addition to the cooking performances, there were also 10 gastronomy booths, some of which presented Macau dishes arranged by local food and beverage industry operators.

# Committee discusses measures to improve MICE industry

THE Committee for the Development of Conventions and Exhibitions is holding its first plenary ordinary meeting of the year last week, calling on industry players to enhance its competitiveness.

Chairman of the Committee and Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, moderated the meeting and recalled that the SAR's strategy to develop the industry by "prioritizing conventions" resulted in an increase in the value of the MICE industry - totaling MOP3.5 billion, compared to MOP1.44 billion in 2015.

Meanwhile, a total of 28 conventions of more than a thousand attendees were brought to Macau via the "One-stop Service" for MICE Bidding and Support, reaching an annual growth of nearly 50 percent.

According to the chairman, the MICE sector should map out an effective way to

enhance the region's competitiveness by taking into consideration factors such as competition for talent, diversification of customer base, software and hardware facilities, and the spillover effect of policies launched in neighboring areas.

As cited in a press release issued by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), he also identified some of the major tasks for the future development of the SAR's convention and exhibition industry, namely, making better use of the city's advantages, and deepening collaboration via "+Macao."

Meanwhile, the committee suggested adopting the practice of banks, which encourage students of local tertiary education institutions to actively join MICE activities by acknowledging their participation in MICE with "growth points," thus facilitating talent recruitment for the lo-

cal MICE sector.

Other opinions included further enhancing existing support measures for MICE training according to the latest developments in the industry, improving the planning of hardware and software facilities for transportation services over the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

During the discussion of the neighboring region's newly launched MICE support measures, the secretary general of the Committee and acting president of IPIM Irene Lau pointed out that the new measures taken in adjoining areas like Hong Kong, Zhuhai, Guangzhou and Shenzhen will improve the competitiveness of the industry.

She also consulted the committee about the region's response to relevant measures, aiming to promote the qualitative development of the city's MICE industry.

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### ABNORMAL LIVER FUNCTION IN DOGS

**Y**our dog's liver and pancreas work together to make the digestion process run smoothly and efficiently. The liver stores essential Vitamins A,D,E and K and it produces bile, which is crucial to the breakdown of fats. The pancreas plays an important role in controlling blood sugar by secreting insulin and glucagons, two very important hormones. The pancreas also produces pancreatic juices. These juices contain digestive enzymes that help breakdown food. If the dog liver and pancreas malfunction, a number of conditions can develop. Below are some signs to look out for to keep your pet's liver and pancreas healthy. Abnormal liver function is both one of the most crucial conditions to your pet's health and also one of the most difficult to recognise for an owner. The liver is one of the single most important organs in the body; it is responsible for storing different types of vitamins and for producing bile and other substances that help to process fats and other cells in the body. Without proper liver function, your pet will decline in health. Liver disease is one of the more

common causes of death amongst older pets, although it can affect dogs at any age.

#### Detecting abnormal liver function

The best way to prepare for and detect abnormal liver function is to have your pet's liver routinely examined by your vet. Because the liver is difficult to access directly, the way that a veterinarian tests the liver functionality is by taking a small blood sample and running a series of tests. This set of tests is not entirely inexpensive, and it may be prohibitively expensive for some pet owners. However, if you can have your pet's liver function tested with blood work, it's a good idea to test it approximately once per year, particularly after the age of about five years in most dogs.

Otherwise, it's a good idea to always be on the lookout for signs of the liver damage and liver disease. Liver damage is difficult to pinpoint and recognise because it is associated with a wide variety of different symptoms. There are also many different ways in which abnormal liver function can be caused (i.e. diseases of dif-

ferent types, diet, genetics, and more). Some of the more common symptoms associated with abnormal liver function in dogs include:

- Vomiting and diarrhea
- Seizures
- Lethargy
- Changes in attitude or behavior
- Increased thirst
- Distended abdomen
- Jaundice (yellowing around the eyes, face and other parts of the skin)

Of all of these different symptoms, jaundice is the only one that is distinctly associated with liver function problems.

#### Diagnosing and treating liver function problems

At the first sign of any of these symptoms, it's a good idea to have your veterinarian take a look at your pet. He'll need to conduct a series of tests in order to figure out exactly what is causing the problem; in many cases, it may be a mild disease or other condition that presents symptoms that are similar to those of abnormal liver function. Between a physical examination, analysis of the symptoms, and a series of blood and urine tests, your veterinarian will be able to determine whether your pet's liver function is causing his health issues.



Antioxidants are a great dietary supplement for dogs with poor liver function. In the case of serious problems of the liver, your vet may prescribe any number of different drugs and supplements to help remedy the problem. Consult with your vet for more information.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com  
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com  
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84  
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# Motorcycle rider dies in Ferry Bridge crash with taxi

A motorcycle rider, Ms San, aged 52, who was a Macau Daily Times staffer for over 11 years, died on Friday around 5:46 a.m. due to an accident at Ponte da Amizade.

According to information by the Public Security Police Force (PSP), that hour, the police received a traffic accident report involving a taxi and a motorcycle that left one injured person in a critical condition being sent to the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center. At 6:50 a.m., Ms San was pronounced dead at the hospital as a result of multiple fractures.

The police report also stated that she was found under the

taxi after being dragged underneath the vehicle for some period following the initial collision.

Ms San had been a part-time collaborator of the Macau Daily Times since the newspaper was launched in June 1, 2007. She was responsible for the distribution of the newspaper to government departments in Macau and to subscribers in Taipa.

At the time of the accident, she was starting her daily job distributing the Macau Daily Times newspaper.

MDT contacted the police for more information on the accident, but no further details were revealed. The case is still under investigation. **RM**



## Malaysian court rules in favor of Wynn Macau



A Malaysian court has ruled in favor of Wynn Macau in a case of a fund manager, who owed the casino's operator millions of dollars, according to a report by Reuters. This is the first such case in the country where a casino has been permitted to recover gambling debt.

Wynn's lawyers argued that the casino operator was not seeking the enforcement of a gambling contract, but of a credit agreement that the Malaysian individual, named Paul Poh Yang Hong, had failed to honor.

According to attorney Vincent Law, should there be no appeal to the judge's decision, the ruling may set a precedent in the country where gambling contracts have not previously been recognized.

The lawsuit was filed against Poh in 2017, after the individual was granted a HKD40 million (USD5.1 million) line of credit, but later failed to return 80 percent of it. He was sued for the remaining HKD33 million in the Malaysian court.

Reuters reported that Poh had earlier said he was unaware he had signed a credit agreement and disputed owing the casino operator HKD40 million.

The individual must now pay the outstanding amount of HKD33 million, plus interest, back to Wynn Macau.

## 400m yuan lost in abandoned Zhuhai shopping complex

A group of about 300 investors from Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China have lost a total of 400 million yuan (USD59 million) after plans to develop a sprawling shopping center in Zhuhai were allegedly abandoned.

According to a report from the South China Morning Post, which cited information provided by the Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, mainland developer Zhaohong Shengshi Industrial Company had started to construct the 690,000 square foot shopping center in the city's Xiangzhou district, when it established a subsidiary to seek out



The Gongbei district of Zhuhai

rental agreements, promising significant returns for investors.

The complex was supposed to open to the public by 2015, but construction was halted and the project is thought by some to have been aban-

doned. Since the project is unlikely to be completed - and the subsidiary responsible for signing the investor agreement has no significant assets of its own - there is little that buyers can do to recover their investments.

According to the SCMP report, such cases are becoming more common in southern China as eager investors seek to cash in on the fast-growing property market. The eagerness is encouraged by the Central Govern-

ment's plans improve connectivity between 11 cities around the Pearl River Delta, known as the Greater Bay Area.

"Since the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, real estate agents and other companies have been actively trying to persuade Hong Kong buyers to invest in commercial property, promising a high profit. But unfortunately many end up falling into a trap," a representative of Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions, which is offering assistance to some of the investors, told the SCMP.

Gan Xianmiao, the general manager of the developer company, said that the matter was being handled by the authorities. "Meetings are being held. I'm not in a position to comment on this," Gan told the SCMP.

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# Illegal World Cup bets scheme goes to court from today

**T**HE trial involving a group of 15 people, including Malaysian businessman Paul Phua, known for his connections to the gambling underworld starts today, Radio Macau reported.

The defendants are accused of running and exploiting an illegal betting scheme during the 2014 FIFA World Cup and according to the prosecution, they profited about HKD5 billion in just one week of operations. According to the reports when the scheme was unveiled, the group was running the illegal betting scheme from Paul's luxury Villa at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas. The case was unveiled after some staff at Caesars Palace were suspicious over a large number of computers installed in one of the villas, which the hotel reserves for high-rollers. The group of defendants are from Hong Kong, China and Malaysia and also includes Darren Phua, Paul's son.

Paul was released from jail about one year after being arrested, after a federal ma-



Paul Phua

gistrate judge in Las Vegas agreed that the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) used false and misleading information to obtain a search warrant for the villa and recommended that the U.S. be barred from using

contraband found during the police raid at Caesars Palace.

Regarding the case, the U.S. authorities said earlier that through the analysis of the computers and mobile phones found at the villa,

it was possible to ascertain that the bets were being processed through the equipment installed in Las Vegas and that the funds received were being transferred to accounts overseas, namely in Southeast Asia.

## Macau Business School is not a higher education institution, GAES clarifies

**T**HE government, through the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES), came to clarify rumors and questions from citizens regarding an institution that goes by the name of Macau Business School, noting that such institution is not registered and is not recognized by the Macau SAR government as a higher education institution. As such, it is not qualified to lecture any higher education course in the region, the GAES said in a statement.

According to the statement, the clarification comes after a number of questions were raised from citizens regarding the Macau Business School, which was offering higher education courses in collaboration with a higher education institution abroad. GAES noted that the government has never authorized the school to provide any higher education courses locally, by itself or in collaboration with any institution, reminding also that any institution engaging in higher education teaching in Macau without obtaining prior authorization is committing an unlawful act.

The Office also calls on the citizens to be informed and seek information prior to enrolling in any course, making sure that such course and institution are running lawfully.

AD

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This spacious commercial space is immediately available for rent in the NAPE area of Macau. The former lawyer's office is well suited for any commercial tenant looking for a convenient park-side work space, including architectural firms, law firms and design companies. Viewing available upon request.



#### Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden

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### FOR SALE



#### LAKE VIEW TOWER

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Rate: HKD 7900

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#### Taipa, Nam Long

(Ref: 18095561)  
550 sq.ft. HKD 4.08M  
Rate: HKD 7,418

Fully renovated apartment with a bright street view situated on the edge of the popular Taipa Village. The original two bed layout has been converted into a large one bedroom configuration that can easily turn back into two. Great investment apartment. Central location means easy access to restaurants, supermarkets, shops, bus stops and the Cotai Strip.



#### Taipa, Supreme Flower City

(Ref: 13105367)  
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Rate: HKD 7961

The large living spaces in Supreme are very popular with families thanks to the amount of natural light, the high ratio of usable area and the generous room sizes. This 4 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment has recently been renovated, it features a good sized western style kitchen including a built in oven and fitted cupboards, and high a quality finish.



#### Sea View Condo, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18085559)  
1663 sq.ft. HKD 8.8 M  
Rate: HKD 5,291

This lovely 3-bedroom apartment features two balconies with breathtaking views of the South China Sea and the beautiful green hillside, where you will awaken to stunning sunrises. Recently renovated, the apartment also features a luxuriously spacious open kitchen with white cabinets, bar counter and high quality, European appliances.



#### Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)  
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A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



#### One Central, Tower 7 - Macau T7

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Rate: HKD 11814

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(Ref: 16105507)  
1720 sq.ft. HKD 13.6M  
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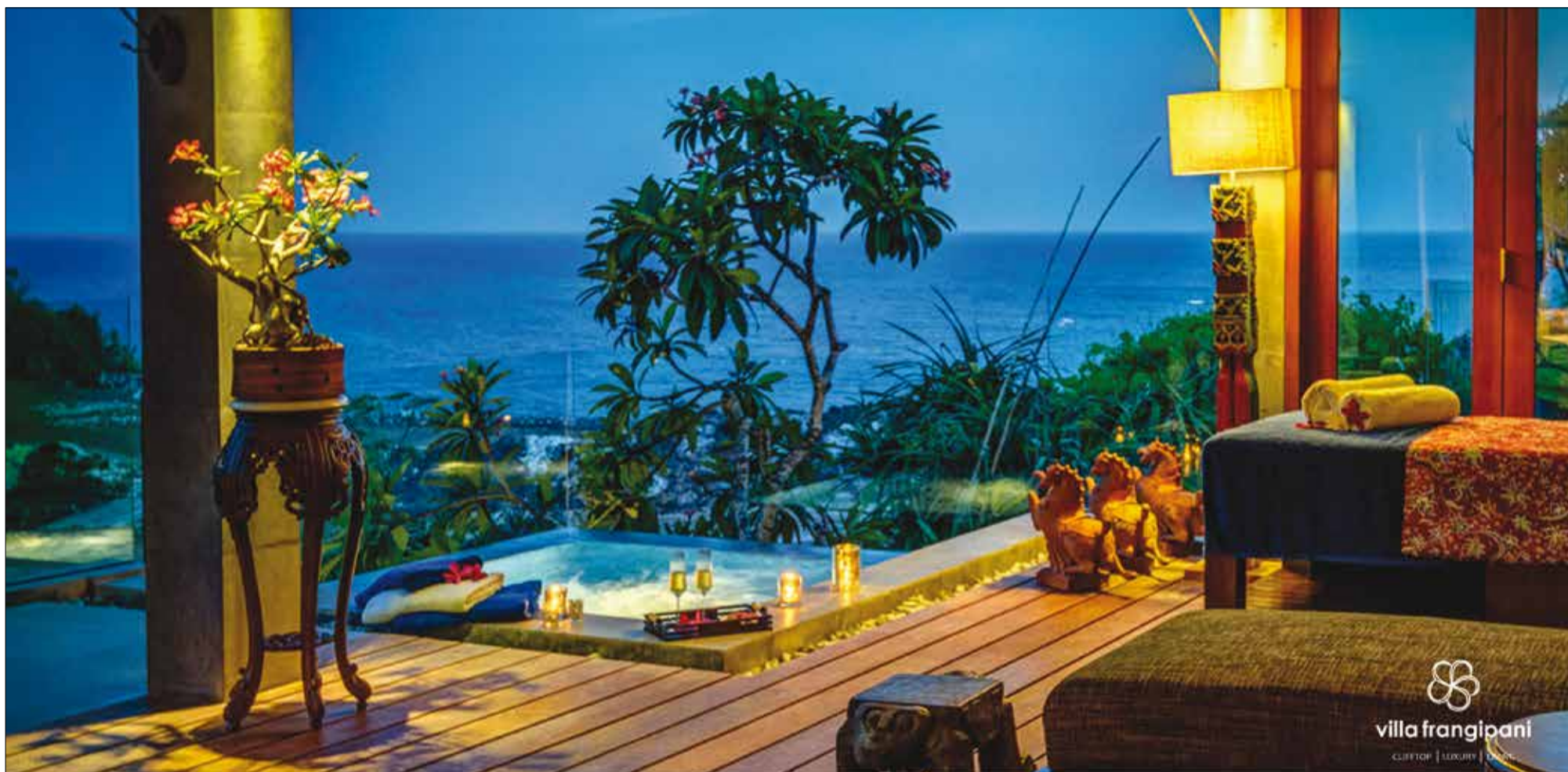
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EDUCATION

# USJ renews hopes to have mainland students

Julie Zhu

**T**HE University of Saint Joseph is looking forward to becoming accredited by the British Accreditation Council (BAC), as well as obtaining the Chinese government's approval to allow the school to recruit mainland students, USJ rector Peter Stilwell told the Times on Friday at the sidelines of the USJ 2018/2019 Community Scholarships and Fellowships Award Ceremony.

Talking to the Times about USJ's plans for the future, the rector said "we would like, as normal, to be able to recruit some students from mainland China."

"Our request was submitted in November. We know it is being processed. We are waiting to see what mainland China's government considers [...] given that we are a Catholic university," said Peter Stilwell.

Questioned about when the school is expecting to hear an answer from mainland China, the USJ rector responded with uncertainty.



USJ rector Peter Stilwell

"I'm not sure. Because it's not just a simple institutional question. It also has to do with wider considerations. I'm sure that China's government is not looking at us individually, they are looking at us in a context, so it depends on their own policy and deci-

sions," explained Stilwell.

USJ is the only local higher education institution not allowed to enroll mainland students.

The school is looking forward to enrolling master's students from mainland China.

"Because we believe that that is where we would have the strength for our university for master's students," said Stilwell.

In addition to the aim of enrolling more students from mainland China, the school is currently getting an accreditation from BAC.

"At the moment, we are preparing for accreditation. [...] We would like to get accreditation by the BAC [...] that depends on whether the local authorities consider that our agency is appropriate for doing assessment here in Macau," Stilwell revealed.

Currently, USJ has a total of 1,400 to 1,500 students, but the school is hoping to expand.

"We intend to grow, and what we have noticed in the last two years is that our master's programs are growing faster than

our bachelor's programs, which is not surprising because we know our bachelor's programs have a big limitation as there is a decrease in the number of students coming from Macau secondary schools, and also that they are being attracted by scholarships from mainland China, so there are fewer and fewer students," the USJ rector told the Times.

"But the fact that our master's programs are growing is a sign of confidence in USJ that we are providing not only the basic higher education, but we are providing higher level master's and doctoral education," the rector added.

According to the USJ rector, this marks the first year the school received more new master's students than new bachelor students.

Regarding the scholarship this year, 53 undergraduate students received a total of 56 scholarships and fellowships donated by different organizations and individuals amounting to MOP689,000.

## Two buses collide, 10 injured

Two buses collided at the junction of the Av. Leste do Hipódromo and R. Graciosa on Friday. There were 10 female passengers, aged between 5 and 79 years, sustaining light injuries. The vehicles were severely damaged. According to one of the drivers, he started to slow down the vehicle when he saw pedestrians crossing the road at the zebra crossing. As he stopped his vehicle, the bus following behind crashed into his bus. The accident is being followed up by the investigation department of the Public Security Police Force.

## CEM announces adjustment in tariff

In accordance with the calculation method stated in the concession contract, the Tariff Clause Adjustment (TCA) in the first quarter of 2019 for CEM's Tariff Group A, B, and C customers will be at 37 cents per kWh, a slight increase of 1 cent per kWh compared to the previous quarter. In a statement issued by the electricity firm, CEM pledged that it will continue to provide reasonable electricity tariff and reliable power supply services to Macau citizens through selecting the best energy mix.

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LYNZY VALLES



## Filipino Catholics hail 'Viva Pit Señor!' to celebrate festival

Lynzy Valles

A large group of Filipino Catholics gathered at the Sai Van Lake Square to celebrate the region's annual cultural and religious festival that celebrates Santo Niño - the baby Jesus.

Held every third Sunday of January, the Sinulog Festival is one of the Philippines' grandest festivals, where participants perform in colorful and vibrant costumes.

In Cebu, the festivities last for nine days, commencing with a mass followed by a series of re-

ligious activities.

Yesterday, the Santo Niño de Cebu in Macau Association organized its 19th edition, featuring a total of six groups parading from the square to Nam Van, dancing to the beat of the drums.

The festival is marked by a dance ritual that represents the current - a forward and backward motion.

While dancing, participants shout petitions and thanksgivings to the Santo Niño such as "Viva Pit Señor! Señor Santo Niño!"

According to the association's president, Violeta Duran, the number of performing groups last year was slightly higher by two groups due to insufficient time for preparation by some migrant groups.

"It's the biggest activity for the Filipinos here and we've united to make this happen. We also feel like we're in the Philippines for this event, even just for a short while as it lessens the homesickness," said Duran.

Since the festival will hold its 20th edition next year, Duran hinted that they are set to pre-

pare special performances and activities for its 20th year.

Meanwhile, explaining the significance of the festival, Fr Andy Vergara said that the annual event serves as a reminder of the Catholic devotees' faith.

"There are a lot of miraculous works that they feel [are] coming from Santo Niño, so because of their gratitude, they hold a Sinulog Festival to give thanks to the Lord for the miracles they had done to the people," said the priest who is a part of the Pastoral Care for Filipino Migrants.

"The dancing is a ritual dance that praises and glorifies Santo Niño, who is the child Jesus," he added.

Before the festival commenced, a mass - which, according to the priest, was attended by some 700 Filipino residents was held at St. Lawrence's Church, followed by a parade and a dance competition.

**It's the biggest activity for the Filipinos here and we've united to make this happen.**

VIOLETA DURAN  
ASSOCIATION PRESIDENT

"I'm happy and glad to be here with the Filipinos because I can see how they are devoted to the Santo Niño. It really evokes in them the faith and trust in the Lord," said the priest.

"This event [...] truly brings them closer to God and nourishes their faith. They are being reminded of their devotion and being nourished in their faith as they [...] want to continue what they started in the Philippines," he added.

According to Fr Vergara, the Catholic community in the SAR has recorded growth, noting that the churches have been adding more masses to accommodate more devotees.

## Alexis Tam says flu situation is stabilizing

THE current flu situation in the region seems to have stabilized, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, said on the sidelines of a public event on Saturday.

According to the Secretary, in the last few days, the number of people who are contracting influenza is declining. Tam noted that such control over the disease outbreak is due to both the preventive vaccination plan enforced by the government and the good services provided by Health Bureau (SSM) to day-care centers, kindergartens, primary and secondary schools and higher education institutions, which carried out programs of collective vaccination.

According to a statement issued by Tam's office, currently, the flu

situation is stable and there are no schools with classes suspended due to the disease.

Commenting also on other topics, Tam clarified that the two illegal works performed on the classified heritage site of Kun Iam Tong Temple are related to works performed in May 2018 on the rooftop of one of the buildings without the required prior authorization. According to Tam, at that time, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) issued an order to embargo the works after an on-site inspection by the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT). However, after another inspection done in June, the IC informed the police authorities that the works were still in progress, and it had violated the embargo order is-

sued by the DSSOPT.

The second case occurred in late December 2018, with renovation works performed in several parts of the Kun Iam Tong Temple, namely in the reception room and in the courtyard in front of and behind the temple, which, as soon as the IC was aware of the situation, started to monitor the case and verified that the works had also not been authorized, leading to a second embargo order by DSSOPT. Again, this order was not followed and attempts were made to continue with the works, possibly causing damage to the cultural heritage, which led the IC to report to the police authorities again. The Secretary noted that the IC is currently evaluating the extent of the damage caused by such works.

## Woman accused of fraud, victims include Chan Meng Kam

**B**USINESSMAN and former lawmaker Chan Meng Kam is victim of fraud, after he reported a loss of HKD96 million, according to a report by TDM.

Last week the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced it had received reports from a total of around 30 people who claimed to have been defrauded.

As reported by the PJ, the alleged victims said they had lost money to a local resident named Isabel Chiang, who absorbed money from these people by using the name of a real estate company.

In total, Chiang is said to have absorbed a total of HKD167 million, not including Chan's money, from these self-proclaimed victims. The smallest singular loss is HKD200,000, while the biggest singular loss reported is HKD60 million.

Contacted by TDM, Chan



Chan Meng Kam

confirmed he is also a victim of Chiang's scheme, and that he lost contact with Chiang about one month ago. The last time Chan saw Chiang was more than one month ago.

The former lawmaker has already filed an action in court to retrieve his loss. Chan, who is also currently a member of the Executive Council, said

that Chiang had proposed two properties as collateral to Chan, and that she even promised to pay back the loan in a short period.

However, Chan found out that the two properties had already been mortgaged to the bank. According to several reports, Isabel Chiang is currently out of Macau.



OBITUARY

# Henry Sy, billionaire who started as a shoe seller, dies at 94

BLOOMBERG



Henry Sy



The SM Mall of Asia complex

Ian Sayson

**H**ENRY Sy, who became a billionaire by parlaying a shoe store into the biggest retailer in the Philippines, has died. He was 94.

He died in his sleep this morning [Saturday], his daughter Teresita Sy-Coson and Jose Sio, chairman of SM Investments Corp. said. Sy had a net worth of USD7.2 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, making him the richest person in the Philippines. "This morning Mr. Sy passed away peacefully as a happy man," Sio said.

Sy's company started as a shoe store in 1948. Today, SM Investments is an empire that includes SM Retail Inc., which operates the nation's biggest supermarkets and department-store chains; SM Prime Holdings Inc., the largest shopping-mall operator; and BDO Unibank Inc. In the nation of more than 105 million people, his malls attract an average of 3.5 million shoppers a day.

"It's not overboard to consider Sy as the father of Philippine retail," said Astro del Castillo, managing director at First Grade Finance Inc. "His grocery, department stores and malls introduced the one-stop-shop concept in the country, and his malls changed not only the practice of retail but the way of life."

Sy amassed his fortune against the backdrop of unstable governments, political corruption and economic contractions, notably the Asian financial crisis of 1997-1998. He continued to expand his empire with new shopping malls and a bank that eventually became the nation's largest by assets.

Today, the group runs 62 department stores, 56 supermarkets, a network of 194 SaveMore grocery stores and 50 hypermarkets.

**RICE, SARDINES**

Henry Sy was born in the southeastern Chinese city of Xiamen, in Fujian province. He immigrated to the Philippines at the age of 12 and started selling

rice, sardines and soap at his father's neighborhood store in Manila in 1936. The store was burned and looted during World War II so Sy was called on to sell goods to help the family survive, according to Sy-Coson, the eldest of his six children.

Following World War II, he sold shoes imported by U.S. soldiers and set up of a footwear store, providing him with the platform to later found Shoe-Mart, the nation's largest chain and the first air-conditioned shop to sell shoes in the Philippines, in 1958.

After opening six shoe stores, he diversified the business into clothing and soft goods because shoe manufacturers couldn't meet his demands for higher volumes.

**RETAIL EMPIRE**

In 1972, Sy opened his first department store, two months after President Ferdinand Marcos placed the country under martial law. Marcos was ousted by a military and civilian uprising in 1986.

Sy first expanded into real-estate development in 1974 with the founding of Multi-Realty Development Corp., formed to develop high-rise condominiums and townhouse units in prime parts of Makati, a city in metropolitan Manila.

In 1976, he bought Acme Savings Bank, which had originally been set up as a thrift bank, and renamed it Banco de Oro Savings & Mortgage Bank. Initially, it provided services mainly to suppliers of ShoeMart. It was renamed Banco de Oro Universal Bank in 1996 when the Philippine central bank gave it the authority to operate as a commercial lender.

**FIRST MALL**

Sy opened his first shopping mall in 1985, when the economy was in its worst postwar slump. In the late 1980s and early '90s, power outages, a cement shortage and a series of coup attempts that dogged Corazon Aquino's government didn't deter Sy from opening more malls.

In 1994, he founded SM Prime to acquire existing shopping

malls and land for building new ones from his group's companies. The same year, it raised about 6 billion pesos, about \$220 million at the time, in an initial public offering.

In 2002, Banco de Oro raised \$37 million in an IPO and, in 2005, it took control of bigger rival Equitable PCI Bank. Banco de Oro became the nation's biggest bank by assets in 2008, overtaking Metropolitan Bank & Trust Co.

**■ Sy opened his first shopping mall in 1985, when the economy was in its worst postwar slump**

**FLAGSHIP MALL**

The Mall of Asia, as Sy's flagship mall is called, opened in 2006 with an Olympic-size skating rink, an eight-story movie screen and 800 shops. The \$124 million center was SM Prime's 25th mall and was then the nation's biggest shopping complex.

SM Investments, which raised \$532 million in an IPO in 2005, holds stakes in companies that built a Manila-casino resort with Melco Crown Entertainment Ltd. It also has a stake in Atlas Consolidated Mining & Development Corp.

SM Prime now has 72 shopping malls in the Philippines, making it the biggest operator of shopping centers in the Southeast Asian nation. The company bought Sy's three malls in China in 2008 and has built four more there since then, according to its website.

"If I'd be given the chance I'd do it again," Sy said in a July 2009 interview. "Every time the country is in a crisis, I think and decide where is the best way to go. We have to always think of ways to overcome these limitations." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

**SANDS CHINA TO PAY BONUS BY END OF JANUARY**



Sands China Ltd. will pay a discretionary bonus to all eligible full-time team members on January 31, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

A discretionary bonus equivalent to one month's pay will be paid to non-management team members who have been

with the company for one year or more. A discretionary bonus will also be paid to all management team members based on the company's Management Incentive Plan.

In addition, the company is adjusting the wages of eligible team members

effective from March 1.

An increase in wages of MOP 600 per month will be paid to eligible full-time team members who earn MOP13,000 or less per month (before tax); while eligible full-time team members earning monthly salaries above MOP13,000 will receive a 2.5 percent pay rise. "Sands China is very pleased to announce this discretionary bonus and wage adjustment for our team members. Our team members are the company's greatest asset and the key to our success, and each and every one of them has my sincere gratitude for their contributions in 2018," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

**TESLA GETS GREEN LIGHT TO START DELIVERING MODEL 3 IN EUROPE**



Tesla Inc. was cleared to begin delivering its Model 3 sedans across Europe, ac-

ording to Dutch vehicle authority RDW. Deliveries should start in

February and, as happened in the U.S., the first sales in Europe will be for the Model 3 Long Range Battery variant, according to Tesla.

Starting Model 3 deliveries in Europe is a key priority for Chief Executive Officer Elon Musk. He's pointed to sales of the sedan in Europe and China as a main reason he isn't concerned about any potential setback caused by the U.S. federal tax credit toward Tesla purchases halving to USD3,750 as of Jan. 1.

The company also said in its third-quarter shareholder letter that, "The mid-sized premium sedan market in Europe is more than twice as big as the same segment in the U.S."



## opinion

## CHINA INC. IS BATTLING A CRISIS OF CONFIDENCE

Anjani Trivedi, Bloomberg

China's industrial sector is facing a crisis of confidence. So far, Beijing's solutions haven't been enough to shore it up.

In response to streams of gloomy data — from retail sales and industrial profits to layoffs — officials have vowed billions of yuan in support for railway infrastructure investment, employment incentives, tax cuts and loan disbursements. China watchers are now forecasting a deeper slowdown and have put the big-spending Chinese consumer on life support.

While that's helped boost construction machinery makers and railway companies, as we wrote recently, a vast swath of the manufacturing sector is still struggling. New orders are down, receivables payback time is rising and inventory is piling up. For some firms, capacity is at 40 percent to 50 percent.

Meanwhile, economy-wide lending data on Tuesday showed outstanding credit continued to grow at its slowest pace in a decade. Earlier this week, a survey of 2,500 small and medium-size companies remained in contraction territory in the last three months of 2018, a government report showed. Tax cuts have amounted to little benefit, according to one private chemical manufacturer in southern China.

Anecdotally, too, uncertainty is high. All of this, no doubt, is compounded by trade tensions with the U.S.

In theory, opening the taps should revive spirits. In reality, the beneficiaries are still limited to state-backed companies in specific sectors. That means the majority of privately owned enterprises, with historically weak access to credit, are out of luck. And these are the ones that need it most: The bulk of the companies that defaulted in the four years through December 2018 weren't state-backed, according to Moody's Investors Service.

In fact, loss-making private enterprises have only increased as the total number of such firms stopped growing. Meanwhile, centrally controlled firms this week reported record high combined revenues and profits for 2018. Will re-lending resurrect the confidence to do business? That might help pay off interest, but it's unlikely to inspire investment in operations.

We can see this shaken confidence playing out. Manufacturers are now parking cash in industrial land, which is typically cheaper than residential and commercial lots. While that's contributed to an uptick in fixed-asset investment, it essentially amounts to a deposit. Firms are also holding back purchases of equipment and machinery, a shorter-term gauge of future outlays. Bernstein Research's Jay Huang warned that smaller manufacturers were aggressively cutting costs (and employees) at the end of last year, which could mean dismal fourth-quarter results.

Part of the problem is that this has happened before with uninspiring results. China's 4 trillion yuan (\$590 billion) stimulus in 2008 also cut taxes (including reforms to value-added tax), loosened credit and boosted infrastructure spending. To its credit, Beijing thwarted the sharp economic contraction that the rest of the world eventually faced. It also created a dark underbelly of debt at the root of the current slowdown and pushed private firms further to the margins. Despite the stimulus, a quarter of the auto industry didn't reach half its annual sales targets that year.

Meanwhile, all the infrastructure spending went into highway and railway deals that still don't make money. Income from highways couldn't cover interest and principal payments on borrowing used to build them last year. That pushed debt in the road system up almost 9 percent to 5.3 trillion yuan, according to Rhodium Group analysis. Beijing just announced more of these projects.

It's little wonder, then, that China's private companies and manufacturers have been unresponsive to the latest drip feed of stimulus. Once bitten, twice shy.

## Slump squeezes workers, hammers consumer spending

Joe McDonald, Beijing

YU Mingang had a good job helping Chinese manufacturers prepare to sell shares to the public until the cooling economy derailed those plans. As demand for auditing services sank, the 25-year-old accountant in the eastern city of Hangzhou was laid off in December. Yu tightened his belt: No more movies or eating out. He put off buying a computer. "I pay rent out of my savings," Yu said.

The downturn is squeezing urban workers and entrepreneurs the ruling Communist Party is counting on to help transform China from a low-wage factory into a prosperous consumer market.

Headline economic numbers still look healthy. Growth in 2019 is forecast at more than 6 percent, down only slightly from about 6.5 percent last year. But it is propped up by higher government spending, which masks sharp declines in other areas. Those are spooking the public and discouraging spending, which could make the downturn worse.

A tariff war with Washington over Beijing's technology ambitions is adding to anxiety over job losses and tumbling sales of cars, real estate and consumer goods.

"I am worried about my job security and have cut spending on everything including clothes, vacations and changing smartphones," said He Siying, who works for an investment consulting firm in Beijing.

He, 32, was rattled when friends were laid off. One found a new job but the employer wanted her to work six days a week. "I really dare not spend much," said He, who has a 1-year-old son.

That anxiety is hitting China's trading partners and global companies that increasingly count on Chinese consumers.

Apple Inc., General Motors Co., jeweler Tiffany & Co. and others say sales are down. Auto purchases shrank in 2018 for the first time in three decades. Japan and South Korea report lower exports of components for smartphones and other electronics sold in China.

The decline in economic growth that peaked above 14 percent in 2007 is partly intentional. Regulators clamped down on lending in late 2017 to cool a debt boom. But the downturn was shar-



A worker monitors rolls of fabric at a dyeing factory in Hangzhou

per than expected.

The private sector has been hit hard. "Many people have been laid off. People are having a hard time finding a new job and are panicking," said Summer Li, a 28-year-old product manager for an electronics company.

Yu, the Hangzhou accountant, said he lost his 100,000-yuan-a-year (USD 14,000-a-year) job after demand for auditing services fell by one-third. Clients put off plans for stock market listings after profits sank below the level required by regulators. "It happened due to the bad economic situation," he said.

### Anxiety is hitting China's trading partners and global companies that increasingly count on Chinese consumers

The ruling party promised in 2013 to support entrepreneurs who create China's new jobs and wealth. But reform advocates complain President Xi Jinping's government has instead focused on expanding state-owned companies that dominate oil, banking and other industries.

Jolted by the deepening slump, Xi and other leaders have pledged to help private business by cutting taxes and regulation.

Premier Li Keqiang, the top

economic official, met with bankers in December and told them to make 30 percent of new loans to private business, state media reported. The central bank announced a 100 billion yuan (\$14 billion) loan fund on Dec. 19 for small companies.

Exports to the United States held up through late 2018 despite President Donald Trump's tariff hikes. But sales shrank 3.5 percent in December compared with a year earlier as those penalties started to hurt demand.

Jittery companies and consumers already were putting off investments and big purchases.

"Consumer confidence is weaker and uncertainty has increased. The U.S.-China trade war is feeding into that," said Rajiv Biswas, chief Asia-Pacific economist for IHS Markit. "That is obviously a risk to the growth outlook for 2019."

The slowdown is adding to pressure from wrenching changes in jobs and industry that already were under way.

The ruling party has wiped out millions of steel and coal mining jobs in a marathon campaign to shrink those bloated state-owned industries.

Since 2017, Beijing, Shanghai and other big cities have forced out migrant workers who lack official permission to live there. Local leaders say they want to reduce crowding, but restaurants, retailers and other companies depend on migrants as employees and increasingly as customers.

The sales manager at a Beijing dealership for one of China's biggest automakers said purchases have fallen by half. He blamed the departure of migrants who buy lower-priced models starting at 50,000 yuan (\$7,000).

"Many such customers returned to their hometowns because there wasn't much work for them," said the manager, who asked that he and his employer not be identified by name. "Sales of high-end cars also plunged because the buyers own businesses serving migrant workers."

Overall, disposable consumer income rose by a relatively healthy 5.7 percent in the first three quarters of 2018, but that was down from 2017's 6.6 percent. Retail sales growth fell to a lower-than-expected 8.6 percent from a year earlier in November, its weakest rate in five months.

Construction, the industry that powered China's boom in past decades, also is struggling.

Some cash-strapped developers in China's northwest have resorted to paying contractors by giving them apartments, according to Anne Stevenson-Yang of J Capital Research, a financial research firm.

The contractors hope to sell later, but some developments are three-quarters vacant, said Stevenson-Yang.

The owner of a Cantonese restaurant in southwestern Beijing said she wants to give up and return to her hometown near Shanghai but can't find a buyer for the business.

"I am making a profit but can't earn a lot from it," said the owner, who would give only her surname, Yue.

Economists expect the downturn to bottom out this year as government stimulus gains traction. But cautious spenders like Paige Fu, an assistant to the general manager of a company in the film industry, are wary. "I worry the economy will keep sliding," Fu said. AP





HONG KONG

# Property prices drop by 10pct since August

Shawna Kwan

**H**OME buyers in the world's most-expensive property market may finally have something to cheer about - Hong Kong's housing market is officially in correction territory.

Secondary home prices have fallen by 9.8 percent from their peak in August, latest figures from Centaline Property Agency Ltd. released Friday show. That puts them at their lowest level since February 2018.

"You can say it's a correction with a 10 percent drop in prices, though it's not a collapse," said Patrick Wong, a real estate analyst with Bloomberg Intelligence.

**You can say it's a correction with a 10 percent drop in prices, though it's not a collapse.**

PATRICK WONG  
REAL ESTATE ANALYST

Various factors have combined to put downward pressure on home values, from worsening sentiment due to volatile markets and the U.S.-China trade war, to interest-rate rises and a looming vacancy tax. Pri-

ces still probably have about 5 to 10 percent further to drop, Wong said.

The dip has been welcomed by would-be home buyers trying to get on the property ladder as well as government officials concerned about affordability. The question is how long the softness will last, particularly considering demand is still strong and there are growing signs the U.S. Federal Reserve may pause its upward trajectory.

Citigroup Inc. sees signs of prices bottoming in the next two months as buyers begin to unleash pent-up demand, while Morgan Stanley expects a 2 percent rise this year for the same reason. **Bloomberg**

# Beijing using detainees as 'bargaining chips,' Trudeau envoy says

**P**RIME Minister Justin Trudeau will only call President Xi Jinping as a last resort if the Chinese government doesn't release two detained Canadians, Ambassador John McCallum said.

Canada will first use international pressure to resolve the matter, McCallum told reporters Friday after a closed-door meeting with lawmakers in Ottawa. Michael Kovrig, on leave from his foreign service job in Hong Kong to work for the International Crisis Group, and Michael Spavor, an entrepreneur who ran tours into North Korea, were detained on Dec. 10, nine days after the arrest of Huawei Technologies Co. Chief

Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou in Vancouver on a U.S. request. She is now free on bail.

McCallum said there's a perception in the global community the Canadians are being used as "bargaining chips." Canada also wants clemency for a third citizen given a death sentence in China on drug charges.

It's not in the interests of corporate China, "when they run into trouble internationally, if the Chinese government arrests people to use as bargaining chips," McCallum said. "That is the perception of much of the world, and that isn't good for the reputation of Chinese business people."

China's ambassador to Ca-

nada held a rare press conference last week where he said the cases aren't connected and efforts to rally others against China aren't helpful. Lu Shaye declined to comment on whether a call from Trudeau to the Chinese president would resolve matters. McCallum said the time for such a step isn't yet at hand.

"The prime minister calling the president is essentially the last arrow in our quiver, and I think other actions have to be taken first," McCallum said. "I expect there will be a moment when it is appropriate for the prime minister to make that call, but I don't think that moment has yet arrived." **Bloomberg**

# US said to prepare Trump order to restrict Chinese telecoms



Margaret Talev,  
Sheridan Prasso

**T**HE Trump administration is preparing an executive order that could significantly restrict Chinese state-owned telecom companies from operating in the U.S. over national security concerns, according to people familiar with the matter.

The order, which hasn't yet been presented to the president, would not mention companies such as Huawei Technologies Co. or ZTE Corp. by name and would not outright ban U.S. sales by the firms. But it would give greater authority to the Commerce Department to review products and purchases by companies connected to adversarial countries, including China, one of the people said.

Huawei is pushing to take a global leadership position in 5G, but many American officials suspect the company's products could be used by Beijing to spy on Western governments and companies. Both Huawei and ZTE have also been targeted by the U.S. for alleged schemes to dodge American sanctions on Iran.

Huawei executives have denied that the company is controlled by China's government or that it's involved in espionage.

Rumors have abounded that the Trump administration would target Chinese telecom companies with an executive order to ban their U.S. sales. Reuters reported in December that Trump would consider an order declaring a national emergency related to the firms.

Some U.S. companies are preparing for a possible executive order by the Trump administration in the next few weeks

that could inflict serious harm on Huawei, perhaps making it impossible for the company to operate, according to James Mulvenon, a China specialist formerly for the Rand Corp. who now works for defense-contractor SOS International of Reston, Virginia.

"The maximal version is that they would have a death sentence for Huawei like they threatened to do to ZTE," the Chinese network-equipment supplier that President Trump spared last year from a threatened cutoff from crucial U.S. parts. "The minimal version is that Huawei will be banned from sales in the U.S."

An order could be presented to Trump as soon as next month, according to one person familiar with the discussions who asked not to be identified. The order the person outlined would give the Commerce Department discretion to decide which companies and which products to scrutinize.

The preparation of the order comes against the backdrop of Trump's trade war with Beijing. But national security, not economic concerns, are driving the discussion, the person said.

A spokesman for the White House National Security Council wouldn't confirm whether an order is in the works.

"The United States is working across government and with our allies and like-minded partners to mitigate risk in the deployment of 5G and other communications infrastructure," the spokesman, Garrett Marquis, said in a statement. "Communications networks form the backbone of our society and underpin every aspect of modern life. The United States will ensure that our networks are secure and reliable." **Bloomberg**





Nguyen Xuan Phuc



A Samsung plant in Vietnam

# Vietnam makes pitch as an investor safe haven in trade war

Nguyen Dieu Tu Uyen,  
John Boudreau

A red-hot economy, business-friendly policies and a Communist party led by free-traders: that's the elevator pitch Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc is delivering to global investors amid the U.S.-China trade war.

"We are ready to grab the opportunity," Phuc said in an interview with Bloomberg TV's Haslinda Amin, a few days before departing this week to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland.

Vietnam is quietly positioning itself as a safe haven for manufacturers wary of getting caught in the crossfire of the tariff war between the U.S. and China. With a raft of free trade agreements, relatively cheap labor and close proximity to China, Phuc has a good story to tell global executives he'll meet in Davos.

"We are trying to increase exports in both quantity and quality of our products, especially in which we have advantages,

such as seafood, commodities, footwear and electronics," Phuc said. "We aim to become an export economy that can grow fast and provide more jobs with higher income for our people."

Nonetheless, the Southeast Asian nation is yet to see a flood of companies moving in from China, he said. And the economy has some serious challenges to overcome: inadequate infrastructure and lack of skilled workers make it difficult to attract manufacturing beyond assembly-line work such as garment stitching.

Global economic conditions are also worsening. The U.S.-China trade war and more subdued world growth is weighing on export demand, a threat to an economy like Vietnam where trade accounts for about twice the nation's gross domestic product - more than any country in Asia apart from Singapore. About a quarter of Vietnam's total trade is with China.

Vietnam's economy seems to be sheltered for now. Growth quickened to 7.1 percent in 2018, among the fastest in the world.

Phuc said he is confident growth will reach the higher end of the government's forecast range of 6.6 percent to 6.8 percent this year. He also vowed to keep the Vietnamese dong stable in 2019. "We see growth momentum in different areas and have good foundations to achieve our goals," Phuc said.

**We are trying to increase exports in both quantity and quality of our products.**

NGUYEN XUAN PHUC  
VIETNAMESE PRIME MINISTER

Vietnam, which has completed about 16 free trade agreements, began tethering itself to global trade after introducing market-oriented "doi moi" reforms in the

1980s. Exports surged to a record \$244 billion last year, with U.S. customers accounting for about \$48 billion of that - more than double compared with five years ago.

Several large manufacturers already operate in Vietnam, the biggest of which is Samsung Electronics Co., which accounted for about a fifth of the country's exports last year.

Phuc, concerned about anti-trade sentiments from the Trump administration, is vowing the country will step up imports from the U.S., from Boeing Co. aircraft to products from oil companies.

Vietnam faces a possible \$3 billion trade deficit in 2019 amid growing global protectionism, VnExpress news website reported yesterday, citing Deputy Minister of Industry and Trade Hoang Quoc Vuong. Volatile trade policies in the U.S. and European Union could hurt Vietnam's exports this year, Vuong was cited as saying.

The Southeast Asian country ended 2018 with a \$6.8 billion

trade surplus, according to the General Department of Vietnam Customs. Other factors that could contribute to a trade deficit include any decline in Vietnam's agricultural exports as other countries ratchet up domestic production to reduce external reliance, and as its growing manufacturing sector imports more materials and machinery, VnExpress reported.

"The challenges this year will include global trade tensions, climate change and insufficient infrastructure," Hoang Quoc Vuong said. As a developing economy, he added, "we have to keep growing to bring more jobs to our people and eliminate poverty. We have to grow at more than 6 percent annually to boost per capita income and to escape the middle income trap."

Still, Phuc has a good story to sell to global investors. Vietnam was ranked No. 1 among seven emerging Asian countries as manufacturing destinations by Natixis SA, which looked at demographics, wages and electricity costs, rankings in doing business and logistics, and manufacturing as a share of total foreign direct investment.

"The government has been doing a lot to help foreign investors to grow businesses long-term in Vietnam," Phuc said.

**Bloomberg**

**T**HE world's oldest man has died at his home — a hot springs inn — in northern Japan at the age of 113.

Masazo Nonaka died in the early hours of yesterday while sleeping at home in Ashoro on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, his family said.

He died peacefully from natural causes, according to his granddaughter Yuko Nonaka.

The supercentenarian, whose family has run a hot springs inn for four generations, was certified by Guinness World Records in April 2018 as the world's oldest living man at 112 years and 259 days.

Born on July 25, 1905, Nonaka grew up in a large

**JAPAN**

## World's oldest man, 113, dies at his home

family and succeeded his parents running the inn. The 106-year-old inn is now run by his granddaughter Yuko.

She said her grandfather appeared to be as usual until her elder sister noticed he was not breathing. He was pronounced dead by his family doctor.

"He didn't have any health problem. [...] He went peacefully and that's at least our consolation," she said.

Nonaka, who enjoyed eating sweets, used to regularly soak in the springs, and would move about in the inn in a wheelchair,

wearing his trademark knit cap.

He outlived all seven of his siblings, as well as his wife and three of their five children.

The fastest-aging country in the world, Japan as of September 2018 had a centenarian population of 69,785, nearly 90 percent of them women, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

The world's oldest living person is also Japanese — Kane Tanaka, a 116-year-old woman from Fukuoka on the southern main island of Kyushu. **AP**



Masazo Nonaka eats a cake after receiving the certificate from Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living man at then age 112



INDONESIA

# Cleric to be freed despite holding to radicalism

NinieK Karmini, Stephen Wright

**A**N Islamic cleric who was the ideological leader of the Bali bombers and other Indonesian militants is being released early from a 15-year prison sentence after the country's president relented on a condition that he renounce radical beliefs, lawyers confirmed Saturday.

Abu Bakar Bashir had previously been ineligible for parole because of his refusal to recognize the secular government's authority. He insists he is only answerable to God and that Indonesia should be governed by Islamic law.

His planned release comes during campaigning for a presidential election due in April in which opponents of President Joko Widodo have tried to discredit him as insufficiently Islamic.

Lawyer Yusril Ihza Mahendra, chairman of an Islamic political party and adviser to Widodo's re-election campaign, said at a news conference Saturday that he had brought the issue of Bashir's imprisonment to Widodo, who was able to "respect" Bashir's beliefs and ease the conditions of his release.

"The president put aside the ministerial regulations," he said.



Radical cleric Abu Bakar Bashir

"In terms of law, the ministerial regulation was a policy so that the president as the highest policy maker could override the ministerial regulation."

Widodo announced Friday that the 80-year-old Bashir, who is in frail health, would be released on humanitarian grounds. The date of his release hasn't been announced, but it is expected to happen within days.

The firebrand cleric was arrested almost immediately after the 2002 Bali bombings. Most of the

202 people killed in the bombings were foreigners, including dozens of Australians, leaving a deep scar on that country.

But prosecutors were unable to prove a string of terrorism-related allegations, and Bashir was instead sentenced to 18 months in prison for immigration violations.

In 2011, he was sentenced to 15 years in prison for supporting a military-style training camp for Islamic militants. Bashir, an Indonesian of Yemeni descent,

was also a founder of an Islamic boarding school in the central Javanese city of Solo that terrorism experts regarded as a factory for violent extremists.

**These people that just go around in these radical groups inflicting pain on the world shouldn't be let out.**

DANIEL MORTENSEN  
BALI BOMBING SURVIVOR

The Bali bombings were a turning point in Indonesia's battle against violent extremists, making heavy security a norm in big cities and forging closer counterterrorism cooperation with the U.S. and Australia.

Australia urged Indonesia last March against any leniency toward Bashir when the Indonesian government was considering house arrest and other forms of clemency. News of the cleric's imminent release has sparked outrage and renewed

grief among Australians. "It's not a good feeling," said Bali bombing survivor Daniel Mortensen. "For me personally, I'm not happy about it. And for me personally — [he's a] terrorist."

"These people that just go around in these radical groups inflicting pain on the world shouldn't be let out as far as I'm concerned. I believe in an eye for an eye really," Mortensen said. "So it's disappointing to hear that he's being let out, and apparently for political reasons, by the Indonesian president."

Bashir's lawyer, Muhammad Mahendradatta, who is also a lawyer for Widodo's challenger in the presidential election, former Gen. Prabowo Subianto, said the release is a legal process and shouldn't be politicized.

"Abu Bakar Bashir's release was based on humanitarian reasons and based on acceptable reasons according to law," Mahendradatta said Saturday. "Abu Bakar Bashir also experienced illness for which he should have been released and hospitalized."

Last year, Bashir was being treated for pooling of blood in the legs, a common condition in old age known as chronic venous insufficiency.

"Stunned that he is about to be released," said Jan Laczynski, an Australian who lost five friends in the 2002 bombing of the Sari Club in Bali and narrowly avoided being at the venue himself.

"Truly devastating news, as effectively he gets on with his life whilst everyone else suffers from seeing him walk out of jail," he said. AP

MYANMAR

# Military ordered to take offensive against Arakan Army

**M**YANMAR'S military announced Friday that the Arakan Army, a Buddhist rebel group in Rakhine state, has been classified a terrorist organization after mounting a flurry of recent attacks.

The state earlier was the site of a brutal counterinsurgency campaign by the military against the Muslim Rohingya minority, causing more than 700,000 to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

Military officers said at a news conference in the capital, Naypyitaw, that leader Aung San Suu Kyi ordered security forces to launch the offensive against the Arakan Army.

The insurgent group, which seeks autonomy from the central government, killed 13 police officers and wounded nine in attacks on Jan. 4. The moves to counter the rebels were decided at a Jan. 7 meeting at



Maj. Gen. Nyi Nyi Tun (left) and Maj. Gen. Soe Naing Oo, chairman of the Myanmar's military information committee

Myanmar's presidential offices, the officers said.

Suu Kyi "said the Arakan Army is just a terrorist group and instructed us to defeat them effectively, quickly and clearly," Maj. Gen. Nyi Nyi Tun, vice chairman of the Myanmar Military Information Committee, told reporters. A terrorist designation criminalizes a group and bans all communication with them.

He said Suu Kyi suggested that if she did not order the military to attack the

Arakan Army, the international community would accuse her of religious prejudice for attacking the Muslim guerrillas of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army but not Buddhist rebels who committed similar actions with similar goals.

The military in Buddhist-majority Myanmar has been accused of ethnic cleansing, and even genocide, against the Muslim Rohingya. Its counterinsurgency campaign was triggered when a group of Rohingya guer-

rillas attacked security outposts in August 2017.

The officers said the military clashed with the Arakan Army 15 times in 2015, 26 times in 2016, 56 times in 2017 and 61 times in 2018, while the rebels also planted some mines. They said there have been at least eight armed encounters this year. The guerrillas are known to have trained in areas controlled by other ethnic rebel forces, especially in Kachin state.

The Arakan Army, founded in 2009, is estimated to have several thousand well-armed and organized uniformed members, in contrast to the ragtag and virtually dormant Rohingya guerrillas.

Myanmar's military in December announced cease-fires in five areas where ethnic rebellions are active, but did not include Rakhi-

ne state because it had information that the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army planned attacks, the officers said.

Brig. Gen. Zaw Min Tun said he believed that the fighting with the Arakan Army would not interfere with plans to repatriate Rohingya refugees from Bangladesh.

At U.N. headquarters in New York, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres spoke about his "enormous frustration with the lack of progress" by Myanmar's government in creating conditions for the return of the more than 700,000 Rohingyas who fled to Bangladesh in 2017 and are living in "extremely difficult circumstances."

"It is absolutely essential to create the conditions of confidence and trust," he told a news conference. "It's not only physical recons-

truction, it's a matter of reconciliation of communities and strong commitment by the government for that reconciliation of communities to be possible, and for the safety of the Rohingya population to be guaranteed."

"Unfortunately, the truth is the situation on the ground has not been conducive to it. Things have been too slow," he said. "One of the dramatic aspects when you fail in solving the root causes of the problem is that violence then tends to erupt again, and that's what we have seen recently in Myanmar."

"We insist in the need to create conditions for them to be willing to go back" to Myanmar, Guterres said.

One of first steps could be to solve the problem of the Rohingya who are internally displaced which would "give credibility" to future returns, he said. AP





One of the hostages seized when Islamic radicals stormed the U.S. Embassy in Tehran

## HISTORY

# Climactic events in 1979 shaped modern Mideast

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

**REVOLUTIONARIES** in the streets give way to black-and-white images of blindfolded American hostages. Two enemies sign a peace deal after years of hostilities. And one of the world's two superpowers invades its southern neighbor, launching a bloody, decade-long conflict.

These moments and others in 1979, which dominated television sets and newspaper front pages 40 years ago, have shaped the modern Middle East.

Iran's Islamic Revolution changed a stalwart U.S. ally into a regional adversary. Israel's accord with Egypt brought a peace that endures today. The Soviet Union's invasion of Afghanistan began an insurgency in the country that continues even today.

Like the lines drawn in the sand by the British and French

after World War I carving up the Ottoman Empire, the events of 1979 also unexpectedly rippled out to affect today's world.

Perhaps the one moment that still dominates is Iran's Islamic Revolution. Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi, at the time stricken with terminal cancer, left Iran in January 1979. His departure and the revolution the following month brought to an end to 2,500 years of monarchical rule across Persia.

In its place came the Islamic Republic, where absolute power rests with the country's supreme leader, a Shiite cleric who oversees elected officials and the nation's military and paramilitary forces. Islam suddenly found itself firmly wedded to a newly formed, modern government.

Though Shiites represent a minority of all Muslims worldwide, the takeover offered inspiration to all Islamic militants. It marked

a warning for nations across the Middle East that the threat of leftist militants had given way to religious extremists who said they fought in the name of God against the corrupt.

A band of ultraconservative Saudi Sunni militants in November would seize the Grand Mosque in Mecca, home to the cube-shaped Kaaba that Muslims pray toward five times a day, demanding the Al Saud royal family abdicate. A two-week siege that followed ended with an official death toll of 229 killed. The kingdom's rulers soon further embraced Wahhabism, an ultraconservative Islamic doctrine.

In losing Iran's shah, the United States lost its closest ally in the Middle East, one who purchased billions of dollars of American weaponry and allowed spying from his nation on the Soviet Union. America

tilted toward Saudi Arabia as the kingdom grew stricter.

Other Mideast nations, nearly all majority Sunni, the main branch of Islam, looked worriedly toward Shiite Iran. In neighboring Iraq, Saddam Hussein orchestrated a televised purge of his Baath Party in July, giving birth to his dictatorship.

Saddam would invade Iran in 1980, starting a bloody eight-year war that killed 1 million people. Dubai's new Jebel Ali port, the world's largest man-made harbor that opened in 1979 in the United Arab Emirates, became a safe haven. That increased trade would boost the sheikhdom, which would see other skyscrapers join its lone high-rise that would become the Dubai World Trade Center, also built in 1979.

President Jimmy Carter, whose administration would be continually challenged by Iran throughout the year, found success elsewhere in the Middle East, bringing two longtime foes together. Egypt under President Anwar Sadat became the first Arab country to make peace with Israel.

The deal saw the two nations end a state of war that existed between them since 1948. Israel withdrew from the Sinai Peninsula, which was demilitarized. The countries would exchange ambassadors and establish air routes.

Although the peace deal led to Sadat's assassination in 1981, the truce opened the door for Jordan to strike its own pact with Israel in 1994. Today, Gulf Arab nations appear closer to acknowledging Israel themselves. Meanwhile, Egyptian President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi now openly acknowledges that Israel backs Egypt's campaign against Islamic extremists in Sinai.

Iran again would dominate the news with the Nov. 4, 1979, takeover of the U.S. Embassy in Tehran, sparked by Carter allowing the shah to receive medical treatment in the U.S. For 444 days, Iran held 52 Americans as captives. A few staffers

fled and hid in the home of the Canadian ambassador to Iran before escaping the country with the help of the CIA, a story recounted in the 2012 film "Argo."

American nightly newscasts counted the hostages' days of captivity. Confusion surrounded the crisis. American officials initially thought Iran could be behind the attack on the Grand Mosque in Mecca, which occurred just after the takeover.

Meanwhile, protesters in Pakistan burned down the U.S. Embassy in Islamabad over rumors America had attacked Mecca. Days later, a mob attacked the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli, Libya.

Carter, a Democrat, ultimately would lose the 1980 U.S. election, held on the first anniversary of the hostage crisis, to Republican Ronald Reagan. The hostages were released minutes after Reagan's inauguration.

Reagan also promised a more muscular U.S. response to the Soviet Union.

The Soviets at the end of 1979 invaded Afghanistan to prop up the deeply unpopular Communist government that had seized power in a bloody coup the year before. They'd occupy the country until 1989 and would face an insurgency of both Afghan and foreign Muslim fighters who viewed the conflict as a holy war, or jihad. The CIA armed the rebels with weaponry, including sophisticated shoulder-fired missiles allowing them to shoot down Soviet helicopters and airplanes.

Among those fighters was a young Saudi from a wealthy family named Osama bin Laden, who years later would create the terror group al-Qaida and mastermind the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

The U.S. would abandon Afghanistan to infighting that would see the rise of the Taliban, whom America went to war with after the 9/11 attack for harboring bin Laden and al-Qaida. That war, the longest in American history, continues today. **AP**

## Saudi Crown Prince shows a 'chilling' instability

**SAUDI** Arabia's Mohammed bin Salman has shown "a level of instability that is chilling," and U.S. lawmakers will take action against the crown prince for his role in the murder of journalist Jamal Khashoggi, Senator Lindsey Graham said.

Sanctions are forthcoming, likely in the next few days or weeks, the Republican senator said in an interview on Saturday in Ankara, without providing any specific details on the penalties that may be imposed. "Congress will send a very clear signal to the

world and Saudi Arabia that we would not be doing business as usual."

The heir to Saudi Arabia's monarchy, widely known as MBS, has so far largely dodged any reprisals against himself, with President Donald Trump opting in November to impose sanctions against 17 lower-level Saudis implicated in the murder following global outrage. Critics in Congress have said that was only an initial step, with a bipartisan group proposing stronger penalties including suspending the sale of arms to

the Riyadh government in a challenge to the Trump administration.

"We have to deal with bad people, but we don't have to have special relationships with bad people," Graham told Bloomberg News. "There's strong bipartisan support not only to condemn the actions of Saudi, MBS, but actually do something about it."

Graham has been an outspoken critic of the crown prince amid Trump's efforts to maintain ties with the kingdom, which has been an important U.S. ally in the Middle East. The Se-

nator in October slammed MBS as a "wrecking ball" and "toxic" figure who, he said, was directly responsible for the murder of Khashoggi at the Saudi consulate in Istanbul earlier that month. The influential Republican said at the time that he'd support efforts to "sanction the hell out of Saudi Arabia."

"This is what we expect of rogues, barbarians," Graham said in the interview Saturday. "To give him a pass would be to open up a Pandora's box in a region already in turmoil." **Bloomberg**



Mohammed bin Salman



MEXICO

# Death toll reaches 79 in fuel pipeline fire horror

Mark Stevenson, Tlahuelilpan

**T**HEY were warned to stay away from the geyser of gasoline gushing from the illegally tapped pipeline in central Mexico, but Gerardo Perez says he and his son joined others in bypassing the soldiers. As they neared the spurting fuel he was overcome with foreboding.

Perez recalls telling his son: "Let's go [...] this thing is going to explode."

And it did, with a fireball that engulfed locals scooping up the spilling gasoline and underscored the dangers of an epidemic of fuel theft from pipelines that Mexico's new president has vowed to fight.

By yesterday the death toll from Friday's blaze had risen to 79, with another 81 people hospitalized in serious condition and dozens more were missing.

Perez and his son escaped the flames. On Saturday, he returned to the scorched field in the town of Tlahuelilpan in Hidalgo state to look for missing friends. It was a fruitless task. Only a handful of the remains still had skin. Dozens were burned to the bone or to ash when the gusher of gasoline exploded.

Just a few feet from where the pipeline passed through an alfalfa field, the dead seem to have fallen in heaps, perhaps as they stumbled over each other or tried to help one another as the geyser of gasoline turned to flames.

Several of the deceased lay on their backs, their arms stretched out in agony. Some seemed to have covered their chests in a last attempt to protect themselves from the blast. A few corpses seemed to embrace each other in death. Lost shoes were scattered around a space the size of a soccer field. Closer to the explosion, forensic workers marked mounds of ash with numbers.

On Friday, hundreds of people had gathered in an almost festive atmosphere in a field where the duct had been perforated by fuel thieves and gasoline spewed 20 feet into the air.

State oil company Petroleos Mexicanos, or Pemex, said the pipeline, which supplies much of central Mexico with fuel, had just reopened after being shut since Dec. 23 and that it had been breached 10 times over three months.



Soldiers guard the area near an oil pipeline explosion

The tragedy came just three weeks after President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador launched an offensive against fuel theft gangs that have drilled dangerous, illegal taps into pipelines an astounding 12,581 times in the first 10 months of 2018, an average of about 42 per day. The crackdown has led to widespread fuel shortages at gas stations throughout the country as Pemex deviates distribution, both licit and illicit.

Lopez Obrador vowed on Saturday to continue the fight against a practice that steals about USD3 billion per year in fuel.

He said the attorney general's office will investigate whether the explosion was intentional — caused by an individual or group — or whether the fireball occurred due to the inherent risk of clandestine fuel extraction. He called on townspeople to give testimony not only about Friday's events in Hidalgo, but about the entire black-market chain of fuel theft.

"I believe in the people, I trust in the people, and I know that with these painful, regrettable lessons, the people will also distance themselves from these practices," he said.

Lopez Obrador faces an uphill fight against a practice that locals say is deeply rooted in the poor rural areas where pipelines pass, covered by only a foot or two of dirt. In some cases, locals support the fuel thieves.

Tlahuelilpan, population 20,000, is just 8 miles (13 ki-

lometers) from Pemex's Tula refinery. Pemex Chief Executive Octavio Romero said an estimated 10,000 barrels of premium gasoline were rushing through the pipeline with 20 kilograms of pressure when it was ruptured.

Locals on Saturday expressed both sympathy and consternation toward the president's war on fuel gangs.

Arely Calva Martinez said the recent shortages at gas stations raised the temptation to salvage fuel from the gusher.

Her brother Marco Alfredo, a teacher, was desperate for gas to drive 90 minutes back and forth to work when word spread via Facebook that fuel spewing into the field. Marco Alfredo and another brother, Yonathan, were in the field when the fire erupted. They haven't been seen since.

"I think if there had been gas in the gas stations, many of these people wouldn't have been here," Calva Martinez said while holding a picture of her brothers.

Tears streamed down Erica Bautista's cheeks as she held up her cellphone with pictures of her brother, Valentin Hernandez Cornejo, 24, a taxi driver, and his wife, Yesica, both of whom are also missing. Valentin faced "enormous lines" for a limited ration of gas, she said. Then he received a phone call alerting him to the fuel spill.

"We want to at least find a cadaver," she said while weeping.

Health officials were taking DNA samples from direct relatives at the local community

center in Tlahuelilpan to aid in identification. Outside, a long, chilling list of the missing was taped to a window.

Wrapped in a blanket, Hugo Olvera Estrada said he had gone to six nearby hospitals looking for his 13-year-old son, who had joined the crowd at the fuel spill. He hasn't been seen since.

"Ay, no, where is my son?" he wailed.

Lopez Obrador launched the offensive against illegal taps soon after taking office Dec. 1, deploying 3,200 marines to guard pipelines and refineries. His administration also shut down pipelines to detect and deter illegal taps, relying more on delivering fuel by tanker truck.

Mexican Defense Secretary Luis Cresencio said there are 50 soldiers stationed every 12 miles along the pipelines, and that they patrol 24 hours a day. But the soldiers have been ordered not to engage with fuel thieves out of fear that an escalation could result in more shootings of unarmed civilians or more soldiers being beaten by a mob.

"We don't want this sort of confrontation," Cresencio said.

A second pipeline burst into flames Friday in the neighboring state of Queretaro as a result of another illegal tap. But in this fire there were no reported casualties.

In December 2010, authorities also blamed thieves for a pipeline explosion in a central Mexico near the capital that killed 28 people, including 13 children. **AP**

opinion

## Brazil's Bolsonaro takes a reckless gamble on guns

The Editors, Bloomberg

Brazil's President Jair Bolsonaro ran for office vowing to reduce the country's epidemic of violent crime. But his decree this week making it easier to buy firearms could lead to the violent deaths of hundreds or thousands more Brazilians.

Brazil is already the world's most murderous country. A record 63,800 were murdered in 2017. Of those fatalities, some 43,000 were caused by firearms. That is almost three times as many gun-related homicides as there were the same year in the United States.

Here's a simple fact, affirmed by worldwide research, for Bolsonaro to consider: More guns means more deaths by gun — whether by homicide, accident or suicide. A study in Brazil's state of Sao Paulo, for instance, found that a 1 percent increase in the number of guns in circulation resulted in a 2 percent increase in the homicide rate.

Brazil currently has strict gun control laws. You have to be over 25 years of age, have no criminal record, demonstrate an "effective need" for a firearm, pass tests on psychological aptitude and gun handling, and pay a hefty fee for a license that must be renewed every five years. Partly as a result of this thicket of controls, Brazil has among Latin America's lowest rates of civilian firearm possession (registered and unregistered), according to the 2017 Small Arms Survey, ranking well below the world's top 25.

Critics of Brazil's strict gun controls cite its horrific homicide rate as proof the laws don't work. Or as Bolsonaro put it during his campaign, "All the hoodlums already have guns; it's only the good guys who don't." Bolsonaro's decree will remove the "effective need" restriction and extend the length of licenses, which won't by itself boost gun ownership dramatically. But it's a first step toward dismantling Brazil's 2003 disarmament statute. That's a goal shared by Bolsonaro and the other members of Brazil's so-called "bullet caucus," the nation's largest gun manufacturer Forjas Taurus SA, and the U.S. National Rifle Association, which wants to extend its global reach. After Bolsonaro issued his decree, his chief of staff said the government wanted to invite more gun manufacturers into Brazil's market to make guns more affordable.

What prompted Brazil's Congress to pass the 2003 statute was a near-tripling of the country's firearm death rate over the previous two decades. According to one World Bank study, Brazil saw an 8 percent decline in gun homicides in 2004, the first drop in 13 years. Subsequent research credits the law with achieving a 12 percent decline in homicides from 2004 to 2007.

Since then, however, the law has been plagued by spotty enforcement and the failure of Brazil's beleaguered police to control criminal gangs, plug up the black market, and curb corruption in their own ranks. (Corrupt police selling guns have been part of the problem.) Brazil's severe recession sapped law-enforcement resources: Contrast the spike in homicides in municipalities under great financial pressure with the declines achieved in relatively well-run states such as Sao Paulo.

Bolsonaro's plan to put guns in the hands of more citizens appealed to some voters, no doubt — but not to most, according to a recent poll. Instead of embarking on a deadly and unwanted experiment, Bolsonaro should focus on enforcing the laws, ending the impunity that results in violent crimes going unreported and unpunished, and restoring public faith in the government that he was just elected to lead.



## what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: February 23, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

TIME: 10am-1pm & 2pm-5pm daily

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

## Offbeat

## SINGAPORE'S FEMALE PROFESSIONALS LAG MEN IN EARNINGS, TIMES SAYS



Female professionals in Singapore are, in some cases, earning just half the amount of their male counterparts, the Straits Times reported.

High-paying jobs with the widest earnings gap between the genders include specialist medical practitioners and managing directors or chief executives, the paper said, citing data from the Ministry of Manpower.

The data highlights room for improvement in Singapore even as the city-state was ranked in the top group for nations that have achieved high equality in human development between women and men. Singapore was ahead of the U.S., U.K. and Canada in the United Nation's Human Development Index in 2017.

A government-backed Diversity Action Committee said two years ago that it wants to double women's representation on company boards to 20 percent by the end of the decade. Singapore still lags most financial hubs when it comes to gender diversity on corporate boards, so much so that the committee started calling out companies with no female directors last year.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos
16:00	Os Compadres
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Moda Portugal Sr.2
18:10	João Semana
19:00	Montra do Lilau (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Talk Show
21:50	Livros com João Guedes
21:55	Justiça de Chicago Sr.1
22:40	Todas as Palavras
23:00	Fotobox
23:15	TDM News
00:15	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:05	RTPi Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

17 JAN - 23 JAN



## GLASS

ROOM 1

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

Director: M. Night Shyamalan

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

Language: English

Duration: 112min

## INSTANT FAMILY

ROOM 2

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

Director: Sean Anders

Starring: Mark Wahlberg, Rose Byrne, Isabela Moner

Language: English

Duration: 92min

## A DOG'S WAY HOME

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Charles Martin Smith

Starring: Bryce Dallas Howard, Ashley Judd

Language: English

Duration: 96min



## MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 1

2:30, 9:30 pm

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min

## THE POOL

ROOM 1

4:30, 7:30 pm

Director: Ping Lumpraploeng

Starring: Theeradej Wongpuapan, Ratnamon Ratchiratham

Language: Thai (Chinese & English)

Duration: 95min

## this day in history



## 1966 FUTURE OF MONTE CARLO RALLY IN DOUBT

The Monte Carlo rally has ended in uproar over the disqualification of the British cars expected to fill the first four places.

The first four to cross the finishing line were Timo Makinen (Finland) driving a British Motor Corporation Mini-Cooper, followed by Roger Clark (Ford Lotus Cortina), and Rauno Aaltonen and Paddy Hopkirk, both also driving BMC Minis.

But they were all ruled out of the prizes - with six other British cars for alleged infringements of complex regulations about the way their headlights dipped.

The official winner was announced as Pauli Toivonen, a Finn who lives in Paris, driving a Citroen.

BMC and Ford have lodged protests but even if they are upheld, the reputation of the rally has been severely dented.

After the race, a British official said: "This will be the end of the Monte Carlo rally. Britain is certain to withdraw."

Timo Makinen said: "None of us dreamed that the stewards would turn the results upside down - and for such a stupid reason."

The British cars were disqualified because they used non-dipping single filament quartz iodine bulbs in their headlamps, in place of the standard double filament dipping glass bulbs, which are fitted to the series production version of each model sold to the public.

According to new rules introduced at the end of last year, any car entering the rally must come off a standard production line, with at least 5,000 cars being built to a similar specification.

The British cars were equipped with standard headlamps - but the only way of dipping them was to switch to non-standard fog lamps.

Richard Shepherd, from the BMC, said: "There is nothing new about the lights at all. They have been used in our rallies, on rally cars, including the Monte for two years now and we've had no trouble at all in the past."

The confusion arose because the rally organisers initially said the race would be run under the old rules - and only announced the switch after entries had been accepted.

The BMC says it spent £10,000 on preparing for the Monte Carlo rally - and is now considering withdrawing from next year's race.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The British teams' protest to the race organisers was rejected. They boycotted the official farewell dinner held at the International Sporting Club.

Prince Rainier of Monaco showed his anger at the disqualifications by leaving the rally before attending the prize-giving which he had always done in previous years.

On 13 October 1966, the supreme motor racing and rally tribunal upheld the disqualifications.

The Federation Internationale de l'Automobile in Paris said the iodine quartz headlights fitted on the British cars were not standard.

The Citroen declared the official winner, which had similar lamps, was approved because the bulbs were fitted as standard on some models.

Pauli Toivonen never drove for Citroen again. In 1986, his son Henri won the Monte Carlo rally.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's a good day to hash out disagreements at work or nearly anywhere else. Your ability to make your case is heightened, and you should find that your adversaries come around to your side soon.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Take a second or third look at your situation - is it really as bad as you had feared? It may not be perfect, but you can still take something positive out of it if you have a mind to.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't get too excited about how much you've got to do - your energy is better spent on dreaming up new ideas and making plans. It's a good day for living in the present and letting others worry about the future.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Try not to miss the point of whatever news comes your way - though it may be hard to discern which bits are most important. Think things through and make sure it's all coming to you.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Its time for you to make a new friend! That doesn't mean you have to force anything, but you should at least open up to new coworkers or chat with folks in new social situations. It's easy!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Work - or the lack of it - may cause problems today, but there's good news: You're on the way back into balance! Just keep pushing yourself and bit by bit, you will find that you're where you want to be.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Your fierce, brainy energy is making life easier for you today - but not in a boring way! Your great ideas and big plans help you to see the best way to cut through the bureaucracy and get your way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The little details really matter - so make sure you're paying close attention! If you have to sign anything, read it twice and get someone else you trust to do the same. Even if you don't see anything, it's worth it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are not to be trusted today - though that's not to say they are actively trying to stab you in the back! It's just that a wave of selfishness has passed over the world, but it passes quickly.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You may be a little more social than usual today, but there's no need for you to go nuts. If anything, you may find that your energy is better spent on parties than on work projects or other stuff.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your unique take on today's events makes you perfect for finding solutions - or opportunities! It's a great day to advance your agenda, whatever it may be, and to show others where to go.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have two conflicting goals today, but you don't have to worry too much about choosing just yet. If anything, you may be able to find a way to have your cake and eat it, too!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

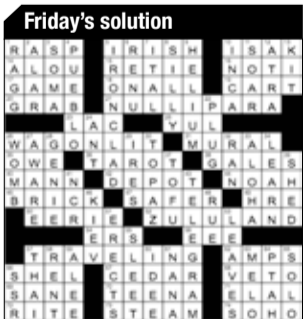
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Branches; 6- Censor's sound; 11- Purse; 14- First name in cosmetics; 15- \_\_\_ luck!; 16- Modern address; 17- To talk, usually in a pompous manner; 18- Majesty's Secret Service; 19- Numbered hwy.; 20- Author Morrison; 22- Homerun king Hank; 24- Depart in a secret manner; 28- Large woodwind instrument; 30- Magistrate; 31- Myopic Mr.; 32- Dark; 33- Salt of sulfuric acid; 37- \_\_\_-cone; 38- Shakespearean forest; 39- \_\_\_ Moines; 40- Indispensable; 43- Mends a shoe; 45- Horne and Olin; 46- Everett of "Citizen Kane"; 47- Real-estate dealer; 50- Eternal; 51- Heron; 52- Got it!; 53- Strong alkali; 54- Wrinkle removers; 57- Columbus's birthplace; 62- Clean air org.; 63- \_\_\_ Dame; 64- Teheran native; 65- Little green men; 66- Understand?; 67- Birth-related;

DOWN: 1- The Lion; 2- Syr. neighbor; 3- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 4- Wager; 5- Make sure; 6- Light-colored hair; 7- Anderson of "WKRP in Cincinnati"; 8- Biblical verb ending; 9- End for Siam; 10- Umbrella; 11- Small donkey; 12- Threepio's pal; 13- First American to orbit Earth; 21- Undivided; 23- Beginning on; 24- Misuse; 25- Marriage announcement; 26- Grain stores; 27- Second-century date; 28- Swiss city on the Rhine; 29- Son of \_\_\_; 31- Golden-touch king; 33- Wild rose; 34- Two-time loser to Dwight; 35- "Lovergirl" singer \_\_\_ Marie; 36- Ruhr city; 38- \_\_\_ extra cost; 41- Vogue competitor; 42- Bedroom mosquito protection; 43- Fizz ingredient; 44- Suffix with ball; 46- Get it?; 47- Noted Civil War biography; 48- Exodus origin; 49- Neighborhoods; 50- Item having exchange value; 52- Crucifix letters; 55- Shad delicacy; 56- Giant Mel; 58- Important time; 59- Jazzman Adderley; 60- \_\_\_ roll; 61- Suffer;



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
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BOXING

# Pacquiao dominates in retaining title against Broner

**M**ANNY Pacquiao showed yesterday [Macau time] he's still got plenty of fight for a fighter on the wrong side of 40. Whether Pacquiao's dominating win over Adrien Broner gets him a rematch with Floyd Mayweather, though, is a question that will have to be answered another night.

With Mayweather watching from ringside, Pacquiao showed flashes of his old speed in winning a unanimous 12-round decision over Broner to easily defend his piece of the welterweight title. It was the 61st win of a remarkable career in which Pacquiao has won titles in eight weight classes. And it put to rest any thoughts of retirement after 24 years as a pro.

"The Manny Pacquiao journey will still continue," Pacquiao said. Fighting for the first time at the age of 40, the senator from the Philippines won a lopsided decision that was never in doubt before a crowd that roared at every punch he landed. The decision was never in doubt, but Pacquiao pressed the fight into the later rounds as he tried unsuccessfully to score a knockout.

Two judges favored Pacquiao by a 116-112 score, while the third



Manny Pacquiao (right)

had it 117-111. The AP scored it a shutout 120-108 for Pacquiao.

There were no knockdowns, but Pacquiao landed the heavier punches — and lots of them. He caught Broner in the seventh and ninth rounds with big left hands that sent him backward, while Broner spent most of the fight looking for one big counter that never came.

"At the age of 40 I can still give my best," Pacquiao said. "Although I wanted to be aggressive more,

my camp told me don't be careless and to counter him and wait for opportunities."

Both fighters were cautious late, as the fight slowed in the final two rounds.

Pacquiao, whose pro career stretches back 24 years, showed he still has the speed that carried him over his spectacular career. He also displayed some power, though he was never able to drop Broner.

Pacquiao was clearly the favorite

of the crowd of 13,025, who gathered at the MGM Grand arena to see if the part-time fighter still had some fight in him. Turned out Pacquiao did, and then some as he pushed the attack against Broner.

Pacquiao was the aggressor from the opening bell, and he had to be because Broner threw only occasional punches in the opening rounds. Pacquiao attacked at will, winning round after round before the fight started to heat up in the middle rounds.

Broner, meanwhile, fought like he was merely trying to survive, despite being 11 years younger than his opponent. He was booed loudly as he raised his hands in victory and jumped on the corner ropes as if he had won.

"I beat him, everybody out there knows I beat him," Broner said. "I clearly won the last seven rounds."

Mayweather watched it all intently from his ringside seat, and was coy about possibly coming out of retirement for a reprise of the 2015 lackluster fight Mayweather won by decision over Pacquiao.

"You keep asking me about Manny Pacquiao," Mayweather said during the fight. "He needs to get past Adrien Broner first. And right now I'm living a happy and healthy life."

Showtime announcer Jim Gray tried to get Mayweather to climb in the ring after the fight and discuss a possible bout with Pacquiao, but Mayweather demurred.

It was the first fight in the U.S. in two years for Pacquiao, who reunited with trainer Freddie Roach for a bout that would determine how much he had left at the age of 40.

Turns out he had plenty, in a fight that was entertaining even if it wasn't a classic.

Ringside punching stats showed Pacquiao landing 112 of 568 pounds. Broner threw only 295 punches and landed just 50.

Broner landed no more than eight punches in any round, and just one in the final round. **AP**

MAJOR LEAGUE SOCCER

# Zlatan: I'm returning to MLS to lift Galaxy in standings

**A**LTHOUGH Zlatan Ibrahimovic's first season in Major League Soccer was a smashing individual success, his LA Galaxy were a serious disappointment in the standings.

The Galaxy's failure to make the MLS playoffs is a major reason why the Swedish superstar is back for another season in California instead of taking big money to return to Europe.

"My priority No. 1 was to stay with the Galaxy, because I feel I have much more to give to Galaxy and the MLS, the fans," Ibrahimovic said Saturday at a Los Angeles-area hotel during the league's media day. "The way we ended last season was not a situation normal for me, because normally where I go, I win. And I didn't succeed with that here, and that for me was not OK. I think the fans deserve more than what they got."

The 37-year-old Ibrahimovic scored 22 goals in 27 games after joining the Galaxy in March. He added 10



assists and dazzled the North American league with his offensive skill, which hadn't been diminished by his recent knee injury.

Although he led one of the most prolific goal-scoring teams in MLS, the Galaxy struggled defensively and in big games. They finished in seventh place in the Western Conference with a 13-12-9 record despite Zlatan's steady scoring.

Ibrahimovic had little doubt he could score goals against MLS defenses, but victories weren't as simple

to acquire. After proving he is still a force up front, he wants to lift the Galaxy's entire roster this year.

"For the upcoming season, I want to feel I have a challenge to win this thing," Ibrahimovic said. "The first season was more about, 'How do I feel?' What level I am, especially after my injury. Didn't play soccer for more than a year, but it took 10 minutes and I showed the world what I was. I showed them that I'm still there, that I'm still alive, and that was impor-

tant for me."

Ibrahimovic also got a new one-year contract paying him much more than last season, when he made a meager \$1.5 million. Zlatan agreed to the smaller initial deal to fit into the strictures on the Galaxy's payroll imposed by MLS' salary cap, but his new deal is more commensurate with his abilities.

"From being the worst-paid [superstar] to best, for me, is the same situation, because I still have to perform," Ibrahimovic said. "I performed under being the worst-paid, so imagine now how I will perform being the best-paid."

Ibrahimovic said he could have signed a multiyear deal with the Galaxy, but declined.

"I'll play as long as I can perform, and that's why I probably could sign two years, three years, four years," Ibrahimovic said. "That is how much the Galaxy believe in me. But I said, 'One year at a time.'

For the moment, I feel good. I feel I can give back. I don't want to put the club in a situation where I cannot perform and [still] have me [on the payroll], especially under these strict rules."

The five-time MLS Cup champion Galaxy are returning with much the same roster, but they will be led by new coach Guillermo Barros Schelotto, the former Boca Juniors boss, and new general manager Dennis Te Kloese, the former Mexican national team executive.

Although Ibrahimovic got along well with his first Galaxy coaches — the late Sigi Schmid and interim coach Dom Kinnear, who returns as an assistant to Schelotto — he supported the decision to hire the new Argentine coach.

"The Galaxy made big changes, and that's the sign of a big club," Ibrahimovic said. "Because when they're not successful, when they're not happy,

they make changes. [...] I'm just waiting to start with the preparation, but I think the vacation was too long. I never had so long a break like right now."

Ibrahimovic returns as the biggest name in MLS, which has balanced its usual lineup of over-30 European stars with a wave of younger talent from South America.

While the likes of Argentina's Gonzalo Martinez and Peru's Marcos Lopez should continue to raise the overall level of competition, stars like Zlatan, D.C. United's Wayne Rooney and the Chicago Fire's Bastian Schweinsteiger are keeping the world's eyes on the league.

"When guys like [Ibrahimovic] come, you hope that they don't just come and chill out," said Bradley Wright-Phillips, the New York Red Bulls' veteran English forward. "It helps our league when guys like him are playing and giving their all." **AP**



opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



FOR NOW, THE HKZMB IS A WHITE ELEPHANT

My first impression when arriving to the Macau port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge was the disproportionate grandeur of the facility, with many empty corridors and large bare halls, reminding me of the Pac On Ferry Terminal. As usual, the public is not aware of the studies and traffic predictions that led to such an enormous facility. In modern Macau, the mantra is build it huge.

Around one hour later I would arrive to the Hong Kong Port. The entrance port there is much more convenient to cross by users, particularly those with reduced mobility. The facility seems to be smaller than here and only a straight line needs to be crossed from the exit of the buses, the border control and the exit on the Hong Kong side. The design is also much more tasteful, with a corrugated roof and the use of warmer materials, unlike the funereal white marble in Macau.

This impression was corroborated by a letter I read later, sent by a bridge user to the South China Morning Post: "Regarding the bus passenger traffic, in the port area in Macau - where the facilities are clearly designed for thousands - the numbers could be counted in tens. Am I missing something? Was it just a quiet day or is this bridge one of the biggest and most expensive white elephants constructed in the history of mankind?" - Chris Stubbs wrote.

Similar to him, the second impression I got from crossing the bridge was the engineering marvel that is the world's longest sea-crossing bridge at a reported cost of USD20 billion. Only a powerful country is capable of such an accomplishment, as noticeable by the endless torrent of tours of excited elderly that are now heading to Hong Kong full of patriotic fervor and who continuously take selfies.

But what are, for now, the practical effects of the billion-dollar bridge? Traffic remains low and during my crossing, I saw almost no private vehicles and only a few buses. Those busses carry the already mentioned tours that are flooding Lantau Island, once an idyllic spot in Hong Kong, with crowds being led by unlicensed mainland travel agents that are overwhelming the Tung Chung residents. They can kiss Lantau goodbye if this influx is combined with the government plan to create four islands close by.

For people coming from Macau and heading to downtown Hong Kong, the bridge location is not convenient. Arriving to Lantau, there is the need to board bus (A11) or a taxi (expensive ride) and travel almost another hour to reach Causeway Bay. On the other hand, adding the bridge and city bus tickets, it is still cheaper for a family with children to use the bridge rather than the ferry. But the problem is that double the time is needed to reach central Hong Kong when compared to the ferry. This is why I think that the ferry will continue to be the most used option, particularly if ferry companies make a fare adjustment.

The other acknowledgement is that there are many obvious uses for the bridge that are not being explored yet. The most obvious is to link Zhuhai and Macau directly to the Hong Kong airport, which stands just beside the bridge terminal. Bags over 20kg are not allowed in the bridge's buses and that makes it unusable for long haul travelers. Another obvious use is cargo transport, which is practically not being done yet. Businesses could largely benefit from the fact that the bridge can cut travel time across the delta from several hours to around 45 minutes.

I suppose the heavy Chinese bureaucracy - with high restrictions on the circulation of vehicles, quotas allocated per city and unexplained privileges - is stifling these obvious developments.

The economic rationality of investment decision making must be questioned in this case. The bridge has a clear political agenda that far outweighs its economic benefits.

When the bridge opened, Bloomberg columnist David Flicking pointed out that there are several key barriers to the sort of integration apparently intended (ultimately leading to the obliteration of the SARs), such as distance, cost, legal differences and formal border checks.

THE BUZZ BALI TO IMPOSE USD10 TAX ON FOREIGN TOURISTS, JAKARTA POST REPORTS

Indonesia's resort island of Bali is set to impose a USD10 levy on foreign tourists to preserve its environment and culture, The Jakarta Post reported, citing Governor Wayan Koster.

The provincial government is deliberating whether the tax, which won't be imposed on Indonesian citizens, will be collected as part

of the airline ticket or at counters at the airport, Koster told the newspaper.

Tourism is forecast to earn Indonesia \$20 billion this year, more than double the amount in 2012, according to estimates from the Ministry of Tourism. More than a third of visitors to Indonesia go to Bali, known for its beaches, Hindu culture and nightlife.

Over hundred people bid Paulo Taipa farewell

MORE than one hundred friends, including several jurists, lawyers and scholars, gathered in an old Taipa village restaurant on Saturday night to bid an emotional farewell to legal adviser Paulo Taipa, who was dismissed from the Legislative Assembly (AL) last August, along with colleague Paulo Cardinal.

Until today, AL President Ho Iat Seng has failed to present a plausible reason for abruptly ceasing the collaboration of the two advisers, who are both very knowledgeable about local legislation and widely respected in the legal fraternity and the community in general.

A "sense of incredulity" was present during Taipa's speech at the farewell event. "Over 21 years, I did my job the best I could, in complete freedom and with total devotion, because I don't know otherwise."

"My life was turned around



Paulo Taipa (center)

in the snap of a finger, and I still don't know why." However, he said, "I leave Macau without any kind of rancor, because I love this town to my bones."

As his long-time friend, lawyer Jorge Menezes, said that night, "they were sacked not for their eventual shortcomings, but for their formidable merits."

Speaking at the farewell

party, Menezes re-affirmed that the dismissals of Taipa and Cardinal were "political sackings, without a shadow of a doubt."

Taipa will be leaving Macau at the end of this month and proceeding on to Lisbon to serve in the Portuguese public administration, after seeing "all doors being closed" for him to continue working in the SAR. PC

Researchers come face to face with huge great white shark

TWO shark researchers who came face to face with what could be one of the largest great whites ever recorded are using their encounter as an opportunity to push for legislation that would protect sharks in Hawaii.

Ocean Ramsey, a shark researcher and conservationist, told The Associated Press that she encountered the 6-meter shark Tuesday near a dead sperm whale off Oahu. The event was documented and shared on social media by her fiancé and business partner Juan Oliphant.

The Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources said it was aware of photos of the great white and that tiger sharks also have been feeding on the whale.

Oliphant, who photographed the now-viral images, said it's unclear if the shark is the famed Deep Blue, believed to be the largest great white ever recorded.

"She looks the part right now," Oliphant said about the shark spotted Tuesday. "Maybe even more exciting than there is another massive, you know, super-size great white shark out there. Because their populations are so dwindling."

Ramsey, who operates Oahu-based One Ocean Diving and Research with Oliphant, said she has been pushing for several years for a bill that would ban the killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii, and hopes this year the measure will become law.

She said the images of her swimming next to a huge great white shark prove the predators should be protected, not feared.

Still, the veteran shark diver doesn't think the general public should recklessly get into



the water with the giants, especially around a food source like a rotting whale carcass.

Ramsey said extensive training and time spent studying shark behavior has kept her team and customers safe. She teaches people about how to act and, more importantly, not act when they encounter a shark in the water.

Unlike many marine mammals, sharks are not a federally protected species, though there are laws against the sale of their fins. "There's not a lot of sympathy for sharks because of the way they're portrayed in media and they don't have the cute cuddly appearance," Ramsey said. "You can't hate them for being predators. We need them for healthy marine ecosystems."

Ramsey and Oliphant want to make sure that people realize that shark bites are uncommon.

"The idea that they see people as a food source, that is rubbish and that needs to go away because really that's ultimately leading to the demise of these animals," Oliphant said. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	45-65 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



LIBYA Three survivors of a rubber dinghy that sank in the Mediterranean Sea off the coast of Libya say up to 117 other migrants were aboard at the time, a U.N. migration official said.

SUDAN Security forces were deploying in large numbers yesterday in Khartoum in anticipation of fresh protests calling on longtime ruler Omar al-Bashir to step down, according to activists and video clips circulating online.



GREECE Protesters clashed with police outside Greece's parliament during a rally that drew tens of thousands of people yesterday against the Greek-Macedonia name deal.

GERMANY Iran has dismissed allegations by German prosecutors that an army employee was spying for Tehran. Last week a 50-year-old German-Afghan dual citizen was detained in the western Rhineland region.



FRANCE Thousands of yellow vest protesters rallied in several French cities for a 10th consecutive weekend, despite a national debate launched this week by President Emmanuel Macron aimed at assuaging their anger.

COLOMBIA called on Cuba to arrest 10 National Liberation Army commanders currently in Havana for stalled peace talks after a car bombing blamed on the leftist rebels killed 21 people and injured dozens at a police academy in Bogota.