



TARGET OF 8.7 MILLION PASSENGERS
The Macau International Airport is aiming to increase its passenger traffic to 8.7 million this year

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ELÈKRON SHOW OPENS
The 75-minute indoor theatrical stunt show Elèkron opens to the public starting from today at Studio City

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LEGISLATURE TAKES UP NATIONAL ANTHEM BILL

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WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Torrential rains overwhelmed a dam and caused landslides that killed at least eight people and displaced more than 2,000 in central Indonesia, officials said yesterday. [More on p12](#)

MALAYSIA The family of a Mongolian woman murdered in Malaysia 13 years ago hopes to find answers with a lawsuit that opened in court this week, their lawyer said yesterday. [More on p12](#)



JAPAN-KOREA South Korea's military accused Japan of a "clear provocation" over what it said was a threatening low-altitude flight by a Japanese patrol plane over a South Korean warship yesterday.

PAKISTAN Officials have raised the death toll from a collision between a bus and an oil tanker to 27, saying DNA tests are required to identify most of the victims.

ZIMBABWE's president said "unacceptable" violence by security forces will be investigated after a days-long crackdown on economic unrest, while a doctor said the 12 documented deaths and more than 300 people wounded are likely "are just a fraction of the actual victims."

[More on backpage](#)

2019 TOURISM GOALS

MGTO to work on bridge link to HK airport

▲ P4



Thailand to hold first general election since coup in 2014

▲ P13

Macau Famine 2019 starts with hopes of HKD1.1m in donations

Julie Zhu

This year's Macau Famine is hoping to raise a total of HKD1.1 million to be used in support of children and families in South Sudan and Syria.

Amelia Che, manager of World Vision of Macau Association, told the Times at the launching ceremony that "today, about 490 million people in the world are both hungry and affected by conflicts. The conflicts in South Sudan and Syria have caused refugee children and families to suffer."

On the sidelines of Tuesday's ceremony of the Macau Famine 2019, Che stated the goal of this year's event. "Actually, each year, our goal is to raise HKD1.1 million, which can be used to help refugees who have different needs," Che said, adding that "last year, we met our goal. All the money was used for helping the refugees, while other costs [involved in the donation procedures] were supported by the sponsors."

This year, proceeds from Macau Famine will be used to support the association's food, security, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and livelihood assistance projects for children and families affected



Amelia Che (third from left)

by conflicts in South Sudan and Syria.

Last year, the target of Macau Famine also included Myanmar. Che explained to the Times that "this year, we [will] only focus on South Sudan and Syria because their situations are the most serious." This year, Macau Famine con-

sists of six separate events: Red Packet, Drawing Competition, Flag Day, School Famine, Charity Sale, and Skip-A-Meal.

Targets of the Red Packet activity are students in primary, secondary, and tertiary education levels, as well as churches in Macau. The collection period happens between February 15

and 26. It is hoped that the activity will encourage Macau students to care for others by donating and sharing their red packets with the needy.

In the Drawing Competition, participants (primary schools students in Macau) should draw a picture themed "Hunger - Violence in Disguise" as

an act to support Aluel and many other starving children.

By volunteering for the Flag Day, participants (the general public) will walk through the streets of Macau raising funds for hungry children and for the alleviation of global hunger.

Students and teachers in kindergartens, primary schools, secondary schools and universities can join the School Famine. Through Famine talks and workshops, students are encouraged to discuss and learn about hunger issues. By taking part in the Rich and Poor's Banquet, students eat different meals to experience the gap between the rich and the poor.

Today, about 490 million people in the world are both hungry and affected by conflicts.

AMELIA CHE
WORLD VISION OF MACAU
ASSOCIATION

The Charity sale details will be announced at a later date.

Corporations, organizations and churches can join Skip-A-Meal by donating MOP100 (or more) to support the projects.

Macanese diaspora documentary to screen today

A documentary presenting the personal testimonies of the Macanese diaspora in North America will be presented to the Macau public today at the University of Macau (UM).

The project stems from the work of journalist and researcher Joaquim Magalhães de Castro, who traveled to several North American cities in late 2016 to collect the histories, experiences and testimonies of the Macanese who emigrated there.

As a result of this work, the International Institute of Macau began to prepare a series of videos about the

Macanese diaspora in North America, including the experiences of those who lived during the troubled times of the invasion of northern China by the Japanese, the withdrawal of Macanese families from Shanghai, the subsequent Pacific War, and the occupation of Hong Kong.

The aim of this initiative is to preserve the memories of the Macanese communities spread throughout the world, according to the International Institute of Macau. It also serves to inform younger generations of the social changes that contributed to the great migratory flow of

the Macanese to other parts of the world, and the reasons for their "displacement".

The documentary, titled "Macaenses - an Odyssey (part one)", was produced based on a script by Mariana Leitão Pereira, and completed by António Pinto Marques, with original music by well-known composer-musician Armando Santos, performed by Isabela Manhão Seto.

The documentary showing will be held at the UM's Faculty of Business Administration today at 2:30 p.m. Admission is free and open to the public.

New version of bus location app to be released

The Transport Bureau's (DSAT) "Bus Location" application releases an updated version tomorrow with the additional functions of real-time visualization and prediction of the state of road traffic, as well as a survey of passenger satisfaction, the DSAT announced in a statement released yesterday.

The real-time visualization and prediction functions of road traffic will allow users to check in real-time the status of roads across all districts for the next hour and the

road traffic on all Macau's A-class routes.

The official WeChat account of Bus Location will simultaneously be updated to accommodate these new functions. The Bus Location WeChat mini program will also go live tomorrow.

With the new update, road condition will be classified according to five categories compared to the previous two: "unimpeded flow"; "basically unimpeded flow"; "slight congestion"; "medium congestion"; and "severe congestion."

The new app will also provide several travel alternatives, including providing the shortest bus route, the shortest walking distance, the lowest number of transshipments, the lowest number of bus stops and the capacity of buses utilized in the route.

The advantage of the new version lies in the fact that it offers a variety of options, such as GPS, selection of locations on the map, the insertion of key words such as bus number, name of bus stop, a building, or a location.

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

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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Airport has target of 8.7m passengers in 2019

THE Macau International Airport is aiming to increase its passenger traffic to 8.7 million this year, after it recorded a 15 percent increase in its total passengers in 2018.

According to a statement, the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd. (CAM) proposed new targets of 69,000 flight movements, 42,750 tonnes of cargo, and 3,438 business jets.

CAM also assured that the South Extension project will be started in the first quarter of this year, while security facilities will be upgraded in order to enhance the safe operation of the airport, as was discussed in CAM's 2018 Business Summary and 2019 Work Plan.

The implementation of a city check-in service will be further expedited to provide more convenient and diversified services.

Around 8.2 million passengers used the local airport in 2018, which is an increase of 15 percent compared to the previous year. Within this, the number of passengers from



mainland China increased by 34 percent, and over 65,000 aircraft movements were handled, representing an increase of 12 percent.

A total volume of 41,500 tonnes of cargo was transported at an 11 percent year-on-year increase. Business jet movements recorded 3,270, a yearly increase of 6.4 percent.

The overall revenue of the airport reached MOP5.49 billion, an increase of 11 percent from 2017.

Last year, six new airlines were introduced into MIA and 10 new routes were added, totaling 27 airlines now operating 51 routes to the world from Macau.

With the establishment of the Airport Operations Department in 2018, CAM said that the company's overall structure and operating system had been enhanced to help improve management standard and efficiency in a bid to enhance the competitiveness of the air-

port in the Greater Bay Area.

"Also, with the completion of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, MIA will actively combine to the development orientation and unique advantages of Macau to strengthen logistics cooperation using Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, to provide direct express service between the five major airports in the region to strengthen traffic connectivity," the firm noted in the statement.

New social service center to be completed in 2020

The second phase of renovations to the social service building on R. da Praia do Manduco is expected to be finished in the second quarter of 2020. In its reply to lawmaker Ella Lei's inquiry, the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau revealed that the penalty procedure regarding the delay of the first phase of the project is still undergoing the judicial procedure. The second phase started construction at the end of 2017, with a construction period of 630 work days. So far, the project is being carried out according to the plan.

CEM to install 50 charging stations

Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) expects that an additional 50 electric vehicle quick charging stations will become available this year, according to Chinese reports. Charles Leong, a senior technician of CEM Customers Services Department said that currently the company is operating 172 public electric vehicle charging stations. Before the end of January, CEM will install two charging stations in Taipa. According to Leong, for the past two years, CEM assisted approximately ten vehicle owners in installing charging stations in private buildings. The CEM staff said that the company will continue to search for suitable locations to install charging stations.

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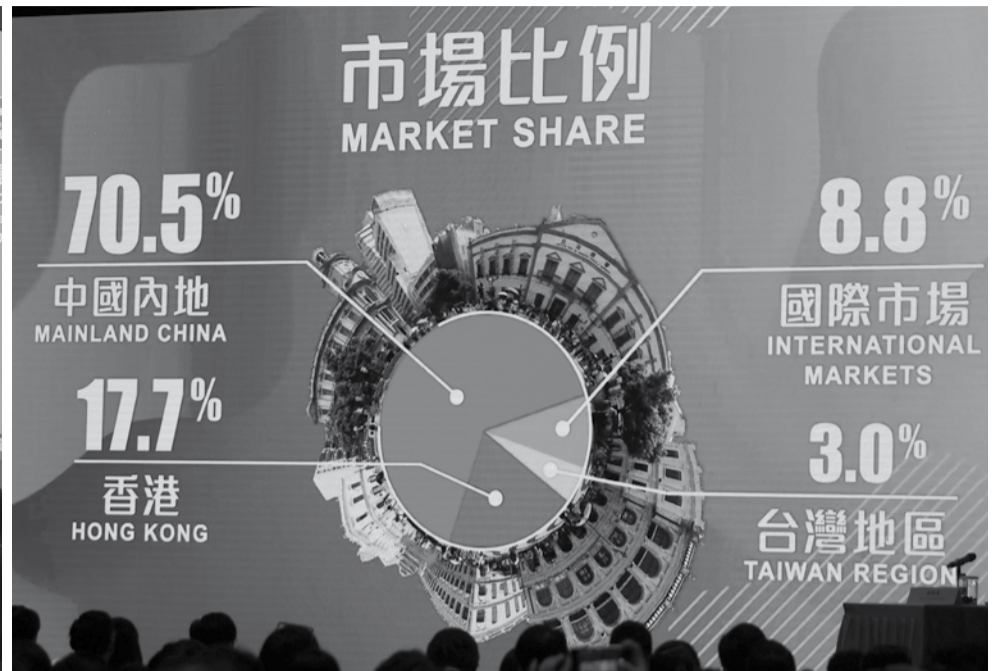
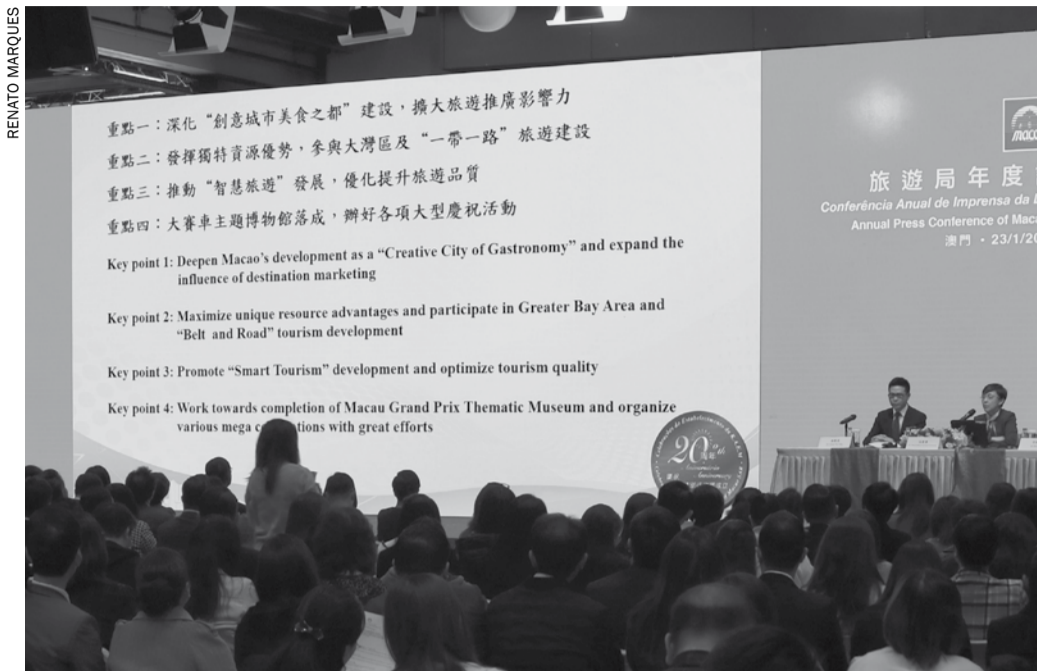
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MGTO 2019 FORECAST

GP Museum and research on HKZMB are priorities

Renato Marques

THE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced yesterday the four major tourism goals for 2019. The director of MGTO, Helena de Senna Fernandes announced at a session held yesterday that sought to review the works done in 2018 and launch the 2019 tasks. The completion and opening of the new Grand Prix Museum and a research study on the challenges and opportunities arising from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) are two of the top priorities.

Questioned by the media on the importance of the works related to the HKZMB, Senna

Fernandes said, “the HKZMB is very significant. Our data shows that in a very short period [since the opening on October 24 until the end of 2018] over 1 million visitors entered Macau via the Bridge.” She also noted that during this period, the HKZMB had already become the second largest port of entry after the Border Gate checkpoint.

As she further explained, “we are going to have some research on visitor behavior to formulate promotion strategies [for the Bridge].” These studies should also include some regional cooperation, specifically with the neighboring region of Hong Kong.

“We will be working on the possibility to make the bridge

more accessible, especially in what concerns the Hong Kong airport to make it easier [to use] by the visitors,” she concluded.

In response to questions on reports of illegal activities making use of the HKZMB, namely group tours using non-registered tour guides in the trips to Macau, the director of MGTO said that there were several inspections conducted on this matter, but “so far we haven’t prosecuted anyone. We have been cooperating with the tourism department of Guangdong province and we already decided that we would strengthen our inspection at different checkpoints, but at this moment we have not seen as many [cases] of these unlicensed tour guides as before.”

As for the other of the major goals for the year regarding the completion of the Macau Grand Prix Thematic Museum, Senna Fernandes noted, “we want to speed up the renovation [works] progress so that by the end of the year the museum will be ready to receive visitors.”

We will be working on the possibilities to make the bridge more accessible, especially in what concerns the Hong Kong airport.

HELENA DE SENNA FERNANDES

Further addressing the topic, namely regarding the total cost of the project, the deputy director of MGTO, Ricky Hoi, said,

“last year we already requested the budget of MOP380 million for the construction works of the GP museum. Of course, besides the construction we will also need equipment which is not included on that initial budget.” He also noted, “we must understand that this [new GP Museum] will be six times bigger than the old GP Museum and it will not only showcase the traditional exhibitions [as was the case in the former one] but will also include some aspects of new technologies and interactivity such as ‘AR’ [Augmented Reality] and ‘VR’ [Virtual Reality] experiences.”

Hoi, who is responsible for the project at MGTO added also, “We are now finalizing the list [of features] that we are going to have in the museum and only after that we can have a final budget.”

In his final remarks on the topic, Hoi recalled that there is an amount included in this year’s Public Investment and Development Plan (PIDDA) for the MGTO of over MOP247 million, in which is included the budget for such equipment, “but we don’t expect to spend all this.”

In relation to other events which will occur this year, Senna Fernandes noted, “this year we will also have the year of China in Portugal so we will carry on a large scale promotion in Portugal.”

As she explained, this promotion will be hosted together with Portuguese travel agencies, “in order to increase the number of travellers from Portugal to Macau.”

2018 tourist numbers are ‘good result’

THE MGTO director, Helena de Senna Fernandes, said that it was a “good result” to have the number of visitor arrivals to Macau in 2018 growing by 9.8 percent to a total of 35.8 million (see page 5). Helena de Senna Fernandes also highlighted growth between 6 and 7 percent in relation to both hotel overnight guests and visitor expenditure.

Contributing to that extra spending was the average rate of hotel rooms. For units classified from three to five stars (the large majority of the region), the average rate was USD168.8 (approx. MOP1,364) per night. Local hotels also registered throughout 2018 an average occupancy rate of above 90 percent, which grew by 3 percent year-on-year.

In response to media questions on the topic of the high occupancy rate of local hotels, and high hotel rates and how this may relate to the growing numbers of illegal accommodations, the director of MGTO said, “we carried out two surveys in the past and from the results we can see that more than 90 percent of people supported ‘Bnb’ (bed and breakfast style accommodations) in Macau but [these same] people don’t



Helena de Senna Fernandes

want the ‘Bnb’ to be near their houses. So we think that the community does show concern over [the establishment] of ‘Bnb’ in Macau. So I think we will need to first decide whether illegal accommodation would be considered as a criminal offence and the next step would be more research to see if we really can have ‘Bnb’ in Macau.”

CNY VISITORS EXPECTED TO INCREASE BETWEEN 8 TO 9 PERCENT

THE DIRECTOR of MGTO, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said yesterday that the government is expecting a surge in visitors during the Chinese New Year (CNY) period of between 8 to 9 percent. Senna Fernandes was replying to media questions after the presentation of the Tourism Work Plan for 2019 when she

said. “The Public Security Police Force also said a few days ago that they expect a 3 to 4 percent increase. According to Helena de Senna Fernandes, “this will be the first CNY after the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, so we expect the increase to be higher than in previous year.”

TOURISM | 35.8 MILLION

Macau hits new record in visitor arrivals

THE number of visitor arrivals to Macau set a new record of 35.8 million in 2018, representing 9.8 percent year-on-year growth, according to the latest information released by the Statistics and Census Service. Overnight visitors reached 18.49 million, while same-day visitors totaled 17.31 million, growing by 7.2 percent and 12.7 percent respectively.

The average length of stay held stable compared with 2017 at 1.2 days; overnight visitors stayed about 0.1 days longer last year (2.2 days) and same-day visitors stayed an unchanged amount at 0.2 days.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China (25.26 million), Hong Kong (6.32 million) and Taiwan (1.06 million) increased by 13.8 percent, 2.6 percent and 0.1 percent respectively. At the same time, visitors from South Korea (812,000), a key target market of the tourism authority, saw a decrease of 7 percent.



Visitors from the United States (201,000), Australia (90,000) and the United Kingdom (58,000) recorded year-on-year growth, while the number of those from Canada (74,000) held steady in 2018.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitors arrivals by land surged by 18.9 percent year-on-year to 22.15 million in 2018, with 1.05 million entering via the Hong Kon-

g-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, according to the Statistics and Census Bureau. The number of visitors arriving via the Border Gate, accounting for more than 80 percent of land arrivals, reached 18.22 million, 13.2 percent more than in 2017.

Visitor arrivals by air increased by 20.1 percent year-on-year to 3.29 million, with those arriving via the airport (3.27 million) rising by 19.9

percent. Meanwhile, visitor arrivals by sea decreased by 7.8 percent to 10.35 million, with those disembarking at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal (6.1 million) and the Taipa Ferry Terminal (4.24 million) dropping 11.3 percent and 2.3 percent respectively.

The 2018 visitor total was tallied after the data for the month of December was released. In December, visitor arrivals set a new monthly record of nearly 3.57 million, showing 16.9 percent growth year-on-year and a 9.3 percent rise month-to-month.

Overnight visitors numbered 1.74 million in December, while same-day visitors surpassed 1.82 million, increasing 6.5 percent and 28.9 percent respectively year-on-year. The average length of stay of visitors held steady at 1.2 days compared with December 2017, with that of overnight visitors rising by 0.1 days to 2.2 days and same-day visitors staying at 0.2 days.

Elēkron show opens at Studio City

ELĒKRON – the world's first all-electric indoor theatrical stunt show – launched at Studio City yesterday evening, according to a press release from the property's operator Melco Resorts and Entertainment.

Elēkron joins The House of Dancing Water at City of Dreams as the operator's latest high-profile attraction. It was developed in partnership with globally renowned entertainment architect Stufish, and with the support of the Macau SAR Government, according to Melco.

The 75-minute show features dozens of custom-made electric vehicles designed exclusively for Elēkron, engaged in a rapid succession of feats.

The stunts are confined to a tight space of only 900 square meters, smaller than an Olympic size swimming pool, requiring drivers to have impeccable control over their high-torque electric vehicles. According to organizers, they are performed at a "super-close range to the audience."

Assembled from all over the world, the cast of Elēkron is comprised of more than 150 international performers, creative specialists, designers and technicians. All the vehicles featured in the show are bespoke and designed from scratch, and powered by Tesla motors with a custom-designed control system.

The show opens to the public starting from today, organizers said.

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INTERVIEW

MSAR will always have a role to play in Portugal's ties with China

MACAU will always have a role to play in Portugal's relationship with China, as the relationship began with Macau and has become stronger through it, the new Portuguese consul-general told the *Plataforma* newspaper.

Paulo Cunha Alves also said that China itself will have an advantage in listening to what the Macau government has to say about how to develop the relationship with Portugal and added, "Macau will always have a contribution because there will be entrepreneurs, managers, lawyers involved in the business processes on both sides."

The diplomat, when asked how Portugal could benefit from its inclusion in China's 'Belt & Road' initiative, said that the virtue of the initiative is to be able to develop the existing privileged relationship between the two countries, deepening it in terms of economic relations and human contacts.

"When we talk about economic investments we have to mention the movement of communities from one country to another, and about tourism, because there will certainly be an increase, and it is these flows and human contacts that will help strengthen the bilateral relationship, and Portugal has to take advantage in various fields – economic, commercial, business and tourism and language," he said.

Alves also said he viewed the Greater Bay Area project as an opportunity to assert the Portuguese community and culture and stressed that "the Portuguese language could be the business lifeblood of Macau."



Paulo Cunha Alves

The Portuguese language could be the business lifeblood of Macau.

PAULO CUNHA ALVES

The beginning of construction of this project could lead the Portuguese community to extend the scope of its intervention and leave Macau to contribute in other cities in the region, where, although there is no significant Portuguese community, economic interests are beginning to emerge.

The consul-general recalled the opening of a Portuguese consulate in Guangzhou in 2018, which will serve to develop further ex-

change with Macau in terms of companies, law firms and other interests.

He also noted the issue of language, given the interest shown in China, as demonstrated by the number of universities with Portuguese language courses, adding that cities around Macau in Guangdong province will be interested in deepening the relationship and in hiring staff that speak the language so they can do business with the Portuguese-speaking world.

Alves told the *Plataforma* newspaper that the Portuguese expatriate community in both Macau and Hong Kong, covered by the consulate, ranges from 6,000 to 7,000 people, and the number of Portuguese passport holders in the two special administrative regions is between 165,000 and 170,000. **MDT/Macauhub**

Report cites Macau as shipping port for wildlife smuggling

THE Hong Kong Wildlife Trade Working Group is calling on its government to enhance its current enforcement strategy against wildlife smuggling, also citing Macau as a shipping port for these syndicates.

In a report titled "Trading in Extinction - The Dark Side of Hong Kong's Wildlife Trade," the non-governmental organization noted that over the last decade, the diversity of endangered species imported into Hong Kong has increased by 57 percent.

At the same time, the estimated value of the trade has increased by 1,600 percent, added the report conducted by Hong Kong animal rights associations and international NGOs.

The group believes that since Hong Kong is the largest cargo airport, the SAR's illegal wildlife trade has been increasing, thus leading to a global extinction crisis.

The report cited that the Shuidong Syndicate, led by a Hong Kong businessman, has reportedly freighted quantities of ivory and pangolin from Africa to mainland China inside shipments of plastic waste, possibly since the 1990s.

It also alleges that the Teng Group, comprised of Taiwanese and Philippine nationals, run an ivory empire reportedly earning as much as HKD39 million every two months from regular shipments of tusks to Taiwan via Hong Kong and Macau, as well as through money laundering and drug trafficking.

The report said that 603 ivory tusks were hidden as part of a timber shipment destined for re-export to Macau.

The Teng Group was said to have operated out of Came-

ron and Nigeria, sending ivory to Taiwan, and utilizing both Macau and Hong Kong as transshipment ports.

Also, the report recalled that on March 4, 2016, the Zhuhai Border Defence Force received a tip-off that someone was planning to smuggle goods from Hong Kong to mainland China, via Zhuhai.

"That evening, in the sea north of Qi'ao Island, Zhuhai, officials discovered an unregistered 8-meter long boat travelling at high speed from Hong Kong towards Zhuhai," the report noted.

"Inspections found boxes in the hold of the boat and scattered around it on the beach. 221 pieces of ivory were found in the boxes, weighing around 450kg in total," it added.

With the expansion of regional trade agreements, facilitated through the likes of the Belt and Road Initiative and expanding cross-border infrastructure, such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the group feared that trade routes would multiply, providing further options for traffickers.

The Hong Kong Wildlife Trade Working Group stated that "gaps in legislation, enforcement and monitoring have allowed the city's illegal wildlife trade to continue and in recent years to proliferate."

It also noted that with its current enforcement focus on prosecuting carriers (also known as mules) instead of investigating and prosecuting the networks and organized criminality, a reputation as a 'black hole' or 'safe harbor' for such activities has developed and will likely worsen unless addressed.

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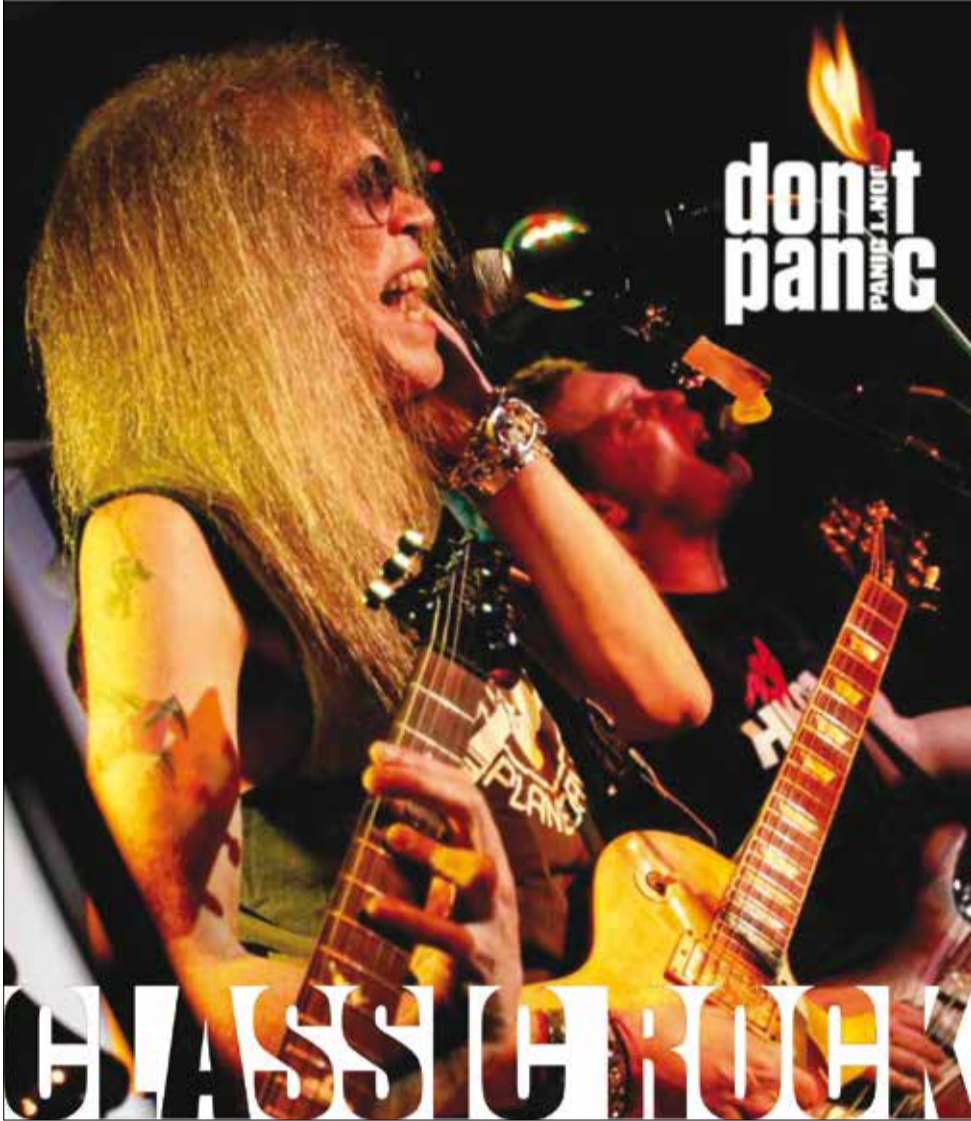
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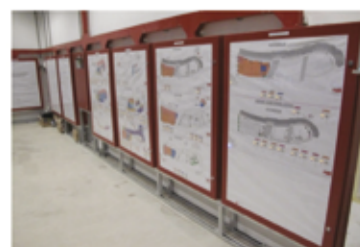
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澳門馬場東大馬路25-69號福泰工業大廈12樓B座

Avenida Leste do Hipodromo N.S 25-69, Edif. Industrial Fok Tai, 12 Floor "B", Macau

TEL: + (853) 2822 1341

FAX: + (853) 2822 0824

www.rcr-macau.com

email: contact@rcr-macau.com

Google, Facebook, Amazon spent record amounts on lobbying

Ben Brody

GOOGLE, Amazon.com Inc. and Facebook Inc. set company records for lobbying spending in 2018 as Washington's scrutiny of Big Tech intensified.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google unit spent more than USD21 million to influence Washington, according to federal disclosures, in a year when its chief executive officer, Sundar Pichai, made his first appearance before Congress. The search giant, which spent \$4.9 million in the last three months of the year, according to a Tuesday filing, beat its previous record of more than \$18 million from 2017.

Amazon.com Inc. reported spending \$3.7 million in the fourth quarter, bringing its total to \$14.2 million for the year, more than the record \$12.8 million the company spent in 2017.

Although the online retailer has faced less ire in Washington than Facebook and Google, it's had its share of criticism, including allegations by Trump that it doesn't pay its fair share of U.S. Postal Service costs to deliver its packages.

Facebook spent nearly \$13 million on lobbying, the filings say, as it dealt with the fallout from privacy scandals, the congressional testimony of its chief executive officer, Mark Zuckerberg, and data vulnerabilities. It spent \$2.83 million during the quarter. In 2017, Facebook spent more than \$11.5 million on lobbying, the previous record.

When including spending by Microsoft (\$9.5 million) and



Apple (\$6.6 million), the industry's Big Five shelled out \$64.3 million to fight numerous legislative and policy battles in 2018. The companies had good reason to up their influence game: They face a so-called techlash of greater congressional and regulatory scrutiny after repeated privacy breaches and disclosures that Russia used social media platforms to distribute propaganda meant to influence the 2016 presidential election.

Industry critics also say some tech companies have grown too big and too powerful, leading to suggestions by politicians and organizations, on the left and the right, that the companies be broken up.

Google usually leads the tech sector in lobbying outlays and often is among the top-spending companies overall in Washington. Pichai was called to testify before a congressional committee in December to answer allegations that the company's search and news algorithms are biased against conservative opinions, a view President Donald Trump has echoed.

Pichai also faced questions about privacy, antitrust and the company's possible use of a censored search engine to gain access to the Chinese market.

The company's global policy chief, Karan Bhatia, who joined Google in June, is considering a shakeup of the Washington lobbying shop amid the backlash. He is said to have circulated an organizational chart with blank boxes for all the positions reporting to him. Google's longtime Washington director, former Representative Susan Molinari, a New York Republican, resigned at the end of 2018, although she remains in an advisory role.

Bhatia's challenges include responding to possible U.S. antitrust scrutiny, tough new privacy rules in California, a bipartisan congressional push for a new law to protect consumer privacy and attempts to make tech companies responsible for the content disseminated by their services.

Google said it lobbied on dozens of issues, reflecting how integral its services have become to American lives and commer-

ce. The filing cited privacy, data security, antitrust, taxes, tariffs, trade, the opioid crisis, artificial intelligence, cloud computing, autonomous vehicles, immigration, the future of work, encryption and national security.

Facebook's Washington office also has undergone a shakeup, including the firing in November of a Republican public-affairs firm. It had distributed information on financial ties between the company's critics and prominent Jewish philanthropist George Soros, which some Soros aides interpreted as an anti-Semitic attack.

In April, soon after a scandal involving Cambridge Analytica, the political consulting firm that acquired the data of millions of Facebook users without their consent, Zuckerberg endured a marathon grilling before congressional committees.

That month, the social-media giant tapped Kevin Martin, a Republican and former chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, to head its Washington operations. The company has faced calls to oust

other top executives, and is in the midst of a Federal Trade Commission inquiry into the Cambridge Analytica matter.

The company's chief operating officer, Sheryl Sandberg, also testified before Congress in September, and in October, the company hired Britain's former deputy prime minister, Nick Clegg, to run its global lobbying efforts.

In the fourth quarter, Facebook lobbied on issues including cyber security, privacy, government surveillance and immigration, according to the filings.

Amazon increased its Washington presence with the November announcement that it would build one of two new headquarters complexes in Northern Virginia, not far from the capital.

The company is seen as the front-runner for a \$10 billion contract to provide cloud computing services to the Defense Department in a bidding process that has turned unusually nasty, with allegations of corrupt procurement practices directed at Pentagon officials and company managers. Microsoft Corp., International Business Machines Corp. and Oracle Corp. are the biggest names jockeying against Amazon for the award.

The Internet Association, a trade group that represents companies including Google and Facebook, spent \$840,000 in lobbying in the fourth quarter, a group record, according to the filings.

A spokesman for the group, Noah Theran, said in a statement that it is "committed to working with policymakers and other stakeholders and are aligning resources in pursuit of a national privacy law." **Bloomberg**

Chinese demand drives Aussie wine exports to USD2b in 2018

Matt Goss

THE value of Australia's wine exports grew 10 percent to AUD2.82 billion (USD2 billion) in 2018 with China again leading the way, data has revealed.

Wine Australia on Tuesday night announced that 94 million nine-liter cases of Australian wine were sold around the world in 2018, up 5 percent from 2017. Red wine remained the biggest seller and now accounts for 76 percent of

Australia's total wine exports.

China was not only the biggest buyer of Australian wine, but also the fastest growing market with exports to the nation, including Hong Kong and Macau, worth AUD1.14 billion (USD812 million); an 18 percent increase from 2017.

However, despite China spending almost three times as much as any other country on Australian wine, Britain still imported the highest volume.

"We're in a really strong position in China, in terms of the continuing trade's appreciation for what Australian wine has to offer across all our price points, so we have a really solid platform of what we're taking to market there," Andreas Clark, chief executive officer of Wine Australia, told the Australian Broadcasting Corporation (ABC) on Tuesday night.

"It's a really strong premium story that is getting traction in our major markets and it's where we

need to play in the longer term.

"An interesting figure, which always brings it into a bit of perspective, is that 22 million glasses of Australian wine is consumed by our global customers every day."

The export volume of wines worth between 100 and 200 Australian dollars (71-142 U.S. dollars) per bottle grew 92 percent, comfortably the strongest growth by any price point.

The United States remained the second most



lucrative market for Australian wines despite the value of exports to the country falling 5 percent to 425 million Australian dollars (USD 302 million).

The value of exports to other major markets including Britain, Canada, New Zealand, Singapore and Japan all rose by at least 12 percent. **Xinhua**



Yang Hengjun

Australian writer detained while visiting China, friend says

Karen Leigh

WRITER and former Chinese diplomat Yang Hengjun, who is now an Australian citizen, has been detained by the Chinese government, according to one of his friends.

Yang boarded a flight from New York to the southeastern Chinese city of Guangzhou and was scheduled to arrive at 5 a.m. on Saturday, Feng Chongyi, an associate professor in China studies at the University of Technology Sydney, told Bloomberg News yesterday. Yang was then due to catch a connecting flight to Shanghai with his wife and daughter, but he never made it through security, Feng said.

Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs spokeswoman Hua Chunying said she wasn't aware of Yang's situation at a news briefing in Beijing yesterday.

The Australian first reported

that Yang was feared missing. Asked to confirm that Yang had been detained, a spokesperson for the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade told Bloomberg News it was "seeking information about an Australian citizen who has been reported missing in China." Australian Defense Minister Christopher Pyne is scheduled to arrive in China today as part of a previously announced visit.

The Sydney Morning Herald reported that Yang hasn't communicated or posted anything on social media since Friday. Yang had previously worked in the Chinese Foreign Affairs Department in Beijing, before becoming an Australian citizen and a novelist, the Australian newspaper said. He has been living in the U.S. with his wife and stepson and had returned to China late last week, it said.

Feng said he spoke with contacts at the Ministry of State Se-

curity, China's spy agency, and he believes Yang is being held there in Beijing.

The ministry has been in the global spotlight in recent months amid tensions between the U.S. and China. After a top Huawei Technologies Co. executive was arrested in Canada on a U.S. extradition request, MSS agents detained two Canadians in China, sparking a diplomatic feud. It's been involved in high profile detentions of foreigners and has put dissidents under house arrest without criminal charges.

Feng, who researches human rights, said pressure on the global Chinese diaspora has escalated in recent years. He was detained in China for more than a week in 2017. At the time, his lawyer told the Guardian newspaper that Chinese authorities had cited "national security" in barring him from leaving the country. **Bloomberg**

Beijing rips into Tencent's news service, kills 9,300 mobile apps

CHINA is stepping up its efforts to rein in the country's internet, singling out Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s popular news app for spreading vulgar information while shutting down more than 700 websites and thousands of apps in the span of just three weeks.

The Cyberspace Administration of China has scrubbed the web of more than 7 million items since Jan. 3, deleting more than 9,300 smartphone apps to

screen out information deemed inappropriate or harmful, the watchdog said in a notice distributed to media. Tencent's Tian Tian Kuai Bao, which means quick daily news, was singled out for spreading "vulgar and low-brow content that was harmful and damaging to the internet ecosystem" the agency said.

The latest raft of shutdowns, part of a six-month campaign intended to eradicate "vulgarity" from the domestic

internet, stands out for its scale and speed. Baidu Inc. and Sohu.com Ltd. were ordered to suspend a plethora of news services just weeks ago.

Beijing has increasingly taken a hard line as the country's internet ecosystem flourishes, instigating crackdowns on video games and social media that've hurt industry leaders such as WeChat-operator Tencent and the world's largest startup, Bytedance Ltd. They represent the

most severe digital crackdown in the country's history, shuttering services or temporarily forcing them from app stores for spreading everything from crude jokes to banned information.

Tencent and other websites have been ordered to overhaul their operations, the watchdog said in its notice without elaborating. Its shares fell 0.8 percent in Hong Kong.

Tencent said it couldn't immediately comment. **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

Lam not optimistic on lasting US-China trade deal



Carrie Lam

HONG Kong's chief executive Carrie Lam said she wasn't "too optimistic" that the U.S. and China can reach a lasting trade deal before their three-month truce expires in March.

During recent discussions she held with U.S. officials and business people, it became clear to Lam that fundamental issues beyond the trade deficit still need to be addressed between the two sides, she told Bloomberg Television at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, on Tuesday. "I doubt those fundamental problems can be addressed in a short period," she said.

The U.S. and China held mid-level trade talks in Beijing earlier this month, but people close to the discussions have said they made little progress on U.S. allegations of state-coordinated Chinese theft of American intellectual property.

The next round of talks is scheduled for Jan. 30-31, when Vice Premier Liu He visits Washington to meet U.S. trade czar Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Business groups in Hong Kong are worried the Trump administration will open the door to ending the financial hub's preferential trade status amid the trade war, rendering it "just another Chinese city" as Lam's government gets closer to Beijing. Hong Kong has also been forced to defend its free speech protections after a series of Beijing-backed efforts to restrict dissent in the former British colony, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997.

Hong Kong was on track to meet its 3.2 percent economic growth forecast for 2018, but reaching 3 percent in 2019 "would be a challenge," Lam said. Hong Kong's financial secretary will make this year's official forecast next month, she said.

Lam said high property prices and a shortage of land are the greatest challenges facing the city. "Creating land and laying out transport infrastructure requires a lot of investment," she said. "That would be a helpful stimulus" to the economy, she said.

Hong Kong has been named the world's least affordable housing market for a ninth straight year, according to a report released this month by Demographia, an urban planning policy consultancy. The city's median property price climbed to 20.9 times its median household income in 2018 - up from 19.4 times a year earlier.

Prices have declined 9.8 percent from their peak in August, according to Jan. 18 data from Centaline Property Agency Ltd., fueled by market volatility, rising interest rates and a looming vacancy tax.

Lam said high property purchase and rental prices inhibit business activity, making it hard to attract talent to the city and undercutting the livelihood of residents.

"I feel there is still room for some correction," she said, declining to give an estimate. She said her goal was for a family to be able to spend about 40 percent on mortgage costs. **Bloomberg**

Violet Law, Hong Kong

HONG KONG

Legislature takes up national anthem bill

HONG Kong's legislature took up a controversial bill yesterday that would punish anyone who publicly and intentionally insults the Chinese national anthem with up to three years in prison, raising concerns about Beijing's growing influence in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory.

The move came after soccer fans repeatedly booed the anthem at the start of international qualifiers, upsetting leaders of the ruling Communist Party in Beijing.

■ The move came after soccer fans repeatedly booed the anthem at the start of international qualifiers

Ever since Beijing suppressed the pro-democracy movement in the semi-autonomous city in late 2014, heckling China's national anthem has emerged as a form of protest. The bill will be up for passage this summer.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to Chinese rule in 1997 but continues to enjoy civil liberties such as freedom of the press that are denied in China. The "one country, two systems" framework was supposed to last for 50 years but has been significantly eroded under authoritarian Chinese leader Xi Jinping, critics say.

"We're worried that by passing the bill, people's right and liberty to express themselves in terms of political ideology will be restricted," said Alvin Yeung, a

AP PHOTO



Pro-Beijing protesters raise the Chinese National flag and the Hong Kong flag during a protest outside Legislative building in Hong Kong yesterday

lawmaker in Hong Kong's Legislative Council, known as LegCo.

Pro-Beijing legislator Holden Chow disagreed, saying the bill was merely about upholding the sanctity of national symbols.

"We are simply deterring people from showing disrespect to the national anthem," Chow said.

In 2017, Beijing enacted a national anthem law and entered it as an amendment to Hong Kong's

constitution. The anthem, "March of the Volunteers," begins with a call for defiance: "Rise up, you people who refuse to be subjugated."

The bill is virtually assured of passage since the legislators who tend to side with Beijing outnumber the pro-democracy camp. But the law steps into untested waters since it represents Beijing's first effort at requiring Hong Kong to

pass a mainland Chinese law, a potential breach of "one country, two systems."

It shows that more and more laws passed by the National People's Congress, China's rubber-stamp parliament, will "sooner or later be fully applicable to Hong Kong," said Willy Lam, a political analyst and adjunct professor at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. "This

is a distributing trend."

Newspaper columnists have pointed to the example of American footballers kneeling at the playing of the U.S. anthem as a form of protest that should be tolerated. Some also decry the Hong Kong bill as carrying the harshest penalty of any jurisdiction that has a punitive national anthem law, including Russia, Singapore and Malaysia. **AP**

Chinese model in derided Dolce & Gabbana ads apologizes

THE Chinese model in widely derided advertisements for Italian fashion line Dolce & Gabbana has apologized for her appearance in the campaign.

Zuo Ye said on her Weibo microblog that as a recent college graduate, she hadn't had time to consider the effect of the ads, in which she was filmed trying to eat pizza, spaghetti and a giant version of a cannoli pastry using chopsticks.

"I will grow from this experience and will better display the character of a

Chinese citizen," Zuo wrote in the posting dated Monday.

Following the criticism of the ads, the Milan designers canceled a Shanghai runway show last year meant as a tribute to China, as their guest list of Asian celebrities joined protests.

Many Chinese social media users called the advertisements racist and based on outdated stereotypes.

As retailers began pulling their wares, co-founders Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana went on

camera to apologize. The pair appeared in a nearly 1 1/2 minute video posted on Weibo, saying they hoped to be forgiven and will do their best to better understand and respect Chinese culture.

The advertisement controversy was aggravated by insulting remarks made on the Instagram accounts of both the company and Gabbana against China and Chinese people. The company blamed hackers for the Instagram comments. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Family of slain Mongolian seeks answer as lawsuit begins

THE family of a Mongolian woman murdered in Malaysia 13 years ago hopes to find answers with a lawsuit that opened in court this week, their lawyer said yesterday.

Altantuya Shaariibuu was shot dead and blown up with military-grade plastic explosives in a jungle outside Kuala Lumpur in October 2006. Her killing touched off a scandal linked to former Prime Minister Najib Razak, but he has repeatedly denied any involvement.

Two members of an elite police unit who were Najib's bodyguards were convicted of killing Altantuya. Her lover Abdul Razak Baginda, a close aide to Najib, was tried but acquitted of abetting the crime, whose planner was never determined. Altantuya was 28 and pregnant at the time of her death.

There was speculation that Altantuya, who was also working as a translator for Abdul Razak, was killed to shut her up from exposing alleged corruption involving the purchase of submarines from France under Najib, who was then deputy premier and defense minister. Najib later became prime minister, until his party lost power in a shocking defeat in May last year.

The new government last year ordered investigations into her death to be reopened following appeals from Altantuya's fa-

AP PHOTO



Burma Oyubchineg, cousin of the murdered Mongolian model

mily. The family filed a lawsuit in 2007 seeking 100 million ringgit (USD24 million) for the shock and trauma they suffered over her death, but the case was delayed pending conclusion of the criminal trial.

Lawyer Sangeet Kaur Deo said Altantuya's family wants justice for her. One of her two sons died last year, she said.

The family "wants to know who ordered her murder and we hope to get some answers from this trial," she told The Associated Press. The lawsuit names the government, Abdul Razak and the two policemen as defendants.

Burma Oyubchineg, a cou-

sin of Altantuya, testified yesterday that Altantuya and Abdul Razak were lovers since 2004. She said Altantuya had shown her photographs of a trip to Paris with Abdul Razak in 2005, including one of her taken with Abdul Razak and Najib.

"I remember I saw a picture of three people, two men and Altantuya. I asked her who they were, and she said one was the deputy prime minister and the other was [Abdul] Razak who worked with him and do business together," said Burma, the first witness in the trial. She didn't elaborate further.

Najib reiterated later yester-

day that he didn't know the Mongolian nor had any connection with her. "That is slander. Lies. I never met her," he was quoted as saying by the Malay-siakini online news portal.

One of the policemen convicted of the murder fled to Australia while his conviction was on appeal. Sirul Azhar Umar has been detained there since 2015 for overstaying his visa and has offered to return to Malaysia to provide evidence in the case if he is promised a pardon. His colleague is on death row.

Altantuya's father, Shaariibuu Setev, is due to testify later this week. **AP**

INDIA

Sonia Gandhi's daughter enters politics ahead of vote

Ascion of India's most famous political dynasty yesterday formally entered politics, with the opposition Congress party assigning her a position as it prepares for national elections due before May.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra is the 47-year-old daughter of Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi. She has in the past helped her mother and brother, party president Rahul Gandhi, campaign in their constituencies in Uttar Pradesh but had never held a party post.

She is a popular figure in Indian politics, drawing crowds wherever she goes. The party hopes to capitalize on her popularity in the coming elections where it

AP PHOTO



Priyanka Gandhi Vadra

will be challenging Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party.

The Congress party in a statement yesterday announced she will hold the title of All India Congress Committee ge-

neral secretary, looking after the eastern parts of Uttar Pradesh state.

The party is expected to face a tough election battle in the state with two powerful regional parties reaching an agreement that left the

Congress party to fend for itself.

She is expected to campaign for the party elsewhere in the country, also in view of a formidable challenge from Modi's Bharatiya Janata Party, which is considered to be a front-runner in the coming national elections.

She is married to a businessman and they have a son and a daughter.

Priyanka Gandhi Vadra will take up the party position in the first week of February, nearly 14 months after her brother Rahul took over as the party president from their mother, Sonia Gandhi.

Sonia Gandhi stepped down as the party's longest-serving chief in

2017, leading the party for 19 years. She has been unwell in recent years and pushed her son to the fore.

Rahul Gandhi is the sixth member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to lead Congress. His father, Rajiv Gandhi, grandmother Indira Gandhi and great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru have all served as prime minister since India's independence in 1947. Rahul Gandhi entered politics in 2004.

The Congress party lost to Modi's BJP in 2014 and it suffered humiliating defeats in several state elections despite Rahul Gandhi's active campaigning to win back support. The trend was reversed recently as the Congress party won three state elections in Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Chhattisgarh states, raising the party's hopes for a good showing in the upcoming national vote. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Residents ride a makeshift raft as they evacuate their flooded homes in Makassar

INDONESIA

Landslides, flooding from dam kill eight in South Sulawesi

TORRENTIAL rains overwhelmed a dam and caused landslides that killed at least eight people and displaced more than 2,000 in central Indonesia, officials said yesterday.

The dead included two infants who drowned and a man who was electrocuted after the floods began late Tuesday, said Adnan Purichta Ichsann, the chief of Gowa district near Makassar, the provincial capital of South Sulawesi.

Rescuers were evacuating residents to shelters at a government office and mosques, Ichsann said. The national disaster agency said four people are missing and more than 2,000 were in temporary shelters. It said nine districts including Makassar were affected.

Indonesian TV and video posted on YouTube showed half submerged homes and rescuers in boats reaching people clinging to tire inner tubes in the floodwaters.

Staff at the Bili Bili dam, a rock-fill embankment, didn't have time to provide advance warning of the water release, Ichsann said.

"Torrential rain caused a dam to be overwhelmed by water, forcing us to open it to prevent a greater danger. This is what caused flooding in some areas," Ichsann said.

Deadly landslides and floods are a frequent occurrence during seasonal rains in Indonesia. A landslide in Sukabumi on the main island of Java earlier this month killed 32 people.

Ichsann said the death toll could rise as areas hit by landslides are still being searched.

Several bridges were damaged by the flooding and power cut off in affected areas. **AP**



AP PHOTO

THAILAND

First general election since 2014 coup in to be held

Anuchit Nguyen,
Siraphob Thanthong-Knight

THAILAND will hold a general election on March 24 for the first time since a coup in May 2014.

The date was set by the Election Commission in Bangkok yesterday, a few hours after a royal decree was issued authorizing the poll. Voting will take place under a military-backed charter, ending one of the longest periods of rule by a junta in Thailand's modern history.

The military government over the years repeatedly pushed back the election timeline, after seizing power in 2014 following a period of unrest that included bloody street protests. The looming vote now puts the focus back on political risk in a country with a history of polls followed by demonstrations and coups.

The issue of the decree sparked a rally in Thai stocks, with the benchmark SET index rising as much as 1.2 percent to the highest level since mid-December.

"The announcement was a knee-jerk boost to market sentiment after a long wait for some clarity on the election,"

said Poramet Tongbua, a strategist at Bualuang Securities Pcl in Bangkok. "But any further gains will be limited as there's uncertainty about the outcome of the vote. The stability of the next government may be the main worry."

The junta in December lifted restrictions on political gatherings after indicating that Feb. 24 was the preferred poll date. It subsequently signaled another election delay was needed, to avoid a clash with preparations for the coronation of King Maha Vajiralongkorn on May 4-6.

■ The military gov't over the years repeatedly pushed back the election timeline

The military-backed charter requires an election by May 9. Critics say the constitution gives appointed soldiers and bureaucrats in the planned Senate the power to stifle elected politicians in the

lower house.

Protesters took to the streets again this month, but in much smaller numbers than before the coup, calling for faster progress toward the election.

The start of the election process won't disrupt economic activity, Kobsak Pootrakool, a minister in Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-Ocha's office, said in Bangkok. Stock market investors are welcoming the transition back to democracy, he added.

The military intervention in 2014 unseated a Pheu Thai Party-led administration headed by Yingluck Shinawatra, sister of exiled former premier Thaksin Shinawatra. Thaksin or his allies have won every election dating back to 2001, only to be unseated by the courts or the military.

Prayuth, a former army chief who led the coup, has hinted at tying up with a political party to seek a return as premier, but he has yet to clearly declare his intentions.

His administration has tried to accelerate investment in Southeast Asia's second-largest economy, whose expansion has slowed as global growth and trade feel the effects of the tension in U.S.-China economic ties. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Exports sink 3.8pct in Dec, hit by China slowdown



AP PHOTO

JAPAN'S exports fell 3.8 percent in December from a year earlier, hit by slowing demand in China, as the trade balance shifted back into deficit for the year, the government reported yesterday.

For the year, imports outpaced the rise in exports, leaving a trade deficit for the first time in three years, the Ministry of Finance reported.

Japan's imports rose 1.9 percent in December from the same month in 2017, leaving a deficit of 55.3 billion yen (about USD507 million).

The preliminary data from the Ministry of Finance showed that shipments to China sank 7 percent in December from the same month of 2017.

China's economy has slowed most quickly than anticipated recently, partly as a result of trade friction with the U.S. Economic growth in 2018 fell to 6.6 percent, the slowest annual pace since 1990 and well below the 6.9 percent expansion in 2017.

Vibrant growth in the U.S. and China, among other regions, is vital for Japan's export-oriented economy.

Junichi Makino, chief economist at SMBC Nikko Securities in Tokyo, said the trade balance will likely turn to a surplus in the long run because of healthy auto exports to the U.S. and the recent fall in oil prices. Japan imports much of its oil. **AP**

Philippines, an archipelago, imports fish to ward off inflation



AP PHOTO

THE Philippines, among the top 10 producers of fish globally, is preparing to import anew to contain food prices that pushed inflation to the fastest in almost a decade last year.

Overseas purchases of "galunggong" or round scad that's popular in the Philippines as the poor man's fish, will start as early as the second quarter to ensure supply during the lean season beginning October, Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources Director Eduardo Gongona told reporters in Manila. Imports will also include other fish varieties, he said.

The Philippines, which has more than 7,100 islands between the South China Sea and the Pacific Ocean, was the eighth largest fish

producer in 2016 and accounted for about 2 percent of total output, according to the bureau's latest data. A three-month fishing ban imposed annually, usually starting November, to allow the fish to breed limits supply.

Inflation accelerated to a nine-year high of 6.7 percent in October due to higher food costs, with fish surpassing other items. The price of fish - the third heaviest in the food basket - climbed to 9.9 percent last month. While the price gains eased from 12.5 percent in November, it still outpaced rice and meat inflation, according to the statistics agency.

The nation imported as much as 17,000 metric tons of round scad last year, mostly from China and Vietnam. **Bloomberg**

USA

Dueling Senate bills would end shutdown in different ways



Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky.,

Alan Fram and Andrew Taylor, Washington

SENATE leaders agreed to shod votes this week on dueling proposals to reopen shuttered federal agencies, forcing a political reckoning for senators grappling with the longest shutdown in U.S. history: Side with President Donald Trump or vote to temporarily end the shutdown and keep negotiating.

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky. set up the two showdown votes today, a day before some 800,000 federal workers are due to miss a second paycheck.

One vote will be on his own measure, which reflects Trump's offer to trade border wall funding for temporary protections for some immigrants. It was quickly rejected by Democrats. The second vote is set for a bill approved by the Democratic-controlled House reopening government through Feb. 8, with no wall money, to give bargainers time to talk.

Both measures are expected fall short of the 60 votes need to pass, leaving little hope they represent the clear path out of the mess. But the plan represents the first test of Senate Republicans' resolve behind Trump's insistence that agencies remain closed until Congress approves USD5.7 billion to build a wall on the U.S.-Mexico border. For Democrats, the votes will show whether there are any cracks in the so-far unified rejection of Trump's demand.

Democrats ridiculed McConnell's bill, which included temporarily extended protections for "Dreamer" immigrants, but also harsh new curbs on Central Americans seeking safe haven in the U.S.

Senate Minority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., said the GOP plan's immigration proposals were "even more radical" than their past positions. "The president's proposal is just wrapping paper on the same partisan package and hostage taking tactics," offering to temporarily restore programs Trump himself tried to end in exchange for wall funding, Schumer said.

McConnell accused Democrats of preferring "political combat with the president" to resolving the 32-day partial federal shutdown. He said Democrats were prepared to abandon federal workers, migrants and all Americans "just to extend this run of political theater so they can look like champions of the so-called resistance" against Trump.

The confrontational tone underscored that there remained no clear end in sight to the closure. Amid cascading tales of civil servants facing increasingly dire financial tribulations from the longest federal shutdown in history, the Senate chaplain nudged his flock.

"As hundreds of thousands of federal workers brace for another painful payday, remind our lawmakers they can ease the pain," Chaplain Barry Black intoned as the Senate convened.

The upcoming vote on the De-

mocratic plan marked a departure for McConnell, who had vowed to allow no votes on shutdown measures unless Trump would sign them.

The White House views its latest offer as a test of whether Democratic leaders can hold their members together in opposition, said a person familiar with White House thinking who was not authorized to speak publicly. The administration also wants to show they are willing to negotiate, hoping it will push more blame onto Democrats, who are opposing negotiations until the government reopens. Public polls show Trump is taking the brunt of the blame from voters so far.

"How long are they going to continue to be obstructionists and not solve the problem and not reopen the government?" White House spokeswoman Sarah Huckabee Sanders said of Democrats.

One freshman, Democrat Rep. Elaine Luria of Virginia, a state that's home to many federal workers, was circulating a draft letter yesterday [Macau time] urging Pelosi to propose a deal that would reopen the government and then consider border security legislation — including holding votes on Trump's demand for wall money — by the end of February. A similar effort was under way last week by a bipartisan group of senators.

As the stalemate grinded on, Alaska Airlines said the closure would cause at least a three-week delay in its plan to start

new passenger flights from Everett, Washington. Lawrence Yun, chief economist for the National Association of Realtors, said the shutdown could slow home sales by 1 percent in coming months. And a restaurant in Red Bank, New Jersey, owned by musician Jon Bon Jovi joined the list of establishments serving free meals to furloughed federal workers.

For Democrats, the votes will show whether there are any cracks in the so-far unified rejection of Trump's demand

McConnell's bill largely reflects the proposal Trump described to the nation in a brief address Saturday. It would reopen federal agencies, revamp immigration laws and provide \$5.7 billion to start building his prized border wall with Mexico — a project Democrats consider an ineffective, wasteful monument to a ridiculous Trump campaign promise.

Republicans posted the 1,301-page measure online late Monday. Its details provoked Democrats, particularly immigration provisions Trump hadn't men-

tioned during his speech.

The measure would provide a three-year extension of protections against deportation for 700,000 people covered by the Delayed Action for Childhood Arrivals program, or DACA. Democrats want far more to be protected — Trump last year proposed extending the safeguards to 1.8 million people, including many who'd not yet applied — and want the program's coverage for so-called "Dreamers" to be permanent.

Trump has tried terminating the Obama-era DACA program, which shields people brought to the U.S. illegally as children, but has been blocked so far by federal judges.

The GOP bill would revive, for three years, protections for people from El Salvador, Haiti, Honduras and Nicaragua who fled natural disasters or violence in their countries. Trump has ended that Temporary Protected Status program for those and several other countries.

Republicans estimated the proposal would let 325,000 people remain in the U.S. But the GOP proposal contains new curbs, providing those protections only to those who are already in the U.S. legally and who earn at least 125 percent of the federal poverty limit.

The bill would also, for the first time, require minors seeking asylum from Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador to process their applications at facilities the State Department is to establish in several Central American countries. Other new conditions include a limit of 15,000 of these minors who could be granted asylum. Currently, many asylum seekers apply as they're entering the U.S. and can remain here as judges decide their request, which can take several years.

As a sweetener, the Republican measure also contains \$12.7 billion for regions hit by hurricanes, wildfires and other disasters. The Democratic bill also includes the disaster aid.

One White House official said Trump was open to counter-offers from Democrats. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss private conversations, said Trump was also willing to use his proposed temporary extensions for "Dreamers" as a way to seek long-term deal.

The official said Trump would be willing to seek at least permanent legal status for "Dreamers," but probably not a path to citizenship.

Democrats have refused to negotiate until Trump reopens the government. Trump is worried Democrats won't agree to a wall compromise if he relents, while Democrats say Trump would use the shutdown tactic again if it works.

"If we hold the employees hostage now, they're hostage forever," House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., told reporters. **AP**

Emma Ross-Thomas

BREXIT

EU said to press Ireland for no-deal border plan

THE European Commission is pushing the Irish government to lay out its plans for the border in the event of a no-deal Brexit, a person familiar with the matter said.

Ireland has proved elusive when the Commission has attempted to pin down the government on its plan, according to the person, who spoke on condition of anonymity. A Commission spokesman told reporters in Brussels yesterday [Macau time] that a no-deal exit would mean a return of a hard border.

If the U.K. tumbles out of the bloc in March without a deal, then the question that has dogged Brexit talks - how to avoid a hard border on the island of Ireland - becomes an acute crisis. The Commission intervention could focus minds in Dublin on the potential consequences of sticking by the backstop, a policy which could catapult the U.K. out of the bloc without a deal.

Irish Prime Minister Leo Varadkar said last year his government would "never" build a border, though appears to have stepped back from that stance after it became clear that could mean a de facto frontier emerged between Ireland and the rest

BLOOMBERG



of the bloc. This possibility was raised in a government briefing with opposition leaders on Tuesday, broadcaster RTE said.

The EU has made clear that Ireland would be expected to

police the border with the U.K. as it would become the bloc's external frontier. Yesterday, in an interview with RTE, Irish Agriculture Minister Michael Creed repeatedly ruled out the return

of hard border "infrastructure" in all circumstances.

That raises the prospect of a light-touch system of checking goods, while maintaining a common travel area with the U.K.

would mean people can continue to move freely across the border.

Varadkar - who has staked his political career on getting Brexit right - said yesterday that no-deal would present a "real dilemma."

Varadkar already faces another dilemma: Back down on Ireland's demands to make sure the Brexit deal gets approved by the U.K. Parliament, or risk the possibility of a no-deal scenario that would be almost as damaging to Ireland as it would be to the U.K.

Insiders say that at one point, Varadkar had simply considered the option of refusing to police the border. That's now been dropped. Last week, Coveney offered a clue to a potential strategy.

The government would have "difficult talks" with the EU and U.K. about the border and the single market in a no-deal scenario, he said. That may involve Ireland arguing that the EU has clearly recognized in the Brexit process the importance of avoiding a return of a hard border, and using that as a guiding principle.

In response to questions, a Commission spokesperson said "as with all member states, especially after the vote, we are intensifying our no deal preparedness work." **Bloomberg**

AD

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what's ON



VESTIGES OF LINES, GUILHERME UNG VAI MENGE ON THE OCCASION OF THE CELEBRATION OF THE 19TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAU HANDOVER TO CHINA
 TIME: 12pm-8pm (Tuesday to Sunday)
 3pm-8pm (Monday)
 UNTIL: February 13, 2019
 VENUE: Albergue SCM
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

LANDSCAPE OF CHANGE - MACAU WATERCOLOUR PAINTINGS FROM THE MAM COLLECTION
 TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)
 UNTIL: February 10, 2019
 VENUE: Macau Museum of Art
 ADMISSION: Free
 ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

Offbeat

ORANGUTAN BITES ZOO VOLUNTEER, DETACHES HER THUMB



Bajik, a 14-year-old male orangutan

A zoo in Ohio says one of its volunteer's thumbs became detached when an orangutan reached through a barrier and bit her arm.

The Toledo zoo says the volunteer's injuries were not life-threatening and that she was treated at a hospital.

Zoo officials tell The Blade that what happened isn't the orangutan's fault. It is not clear how the volunteer's finger became detached.

The incident took place last week in an area not accessible to visitors while the orangutans were being fed.

Zoo officials say all its great apes attempt to sneak their fingers through to grab things and that it's a known behavior staff must watch for while they're near the enclosure.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
16:00	Os Compadres
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Millionário
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
22:00	Justiça de Chicago Sr.1
22:40	Todas as Palavras
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Macau Sítios: História Que Eu Ta Vai Contar - Penha
00:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:05	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

24 JAN - 30 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

SECOND ACT

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30, 9:30 pm

Director: Peter Segal

Starring: Jennifer Lopez, Vanessa Hudgens

Language: English

Duration: 89min



MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 2

4:30 pm

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min

TAKE POINT

ROOM 3

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

Director: KIM Byung-woo

Starring: Ha Jung-woo, LEE Sun-kyun

Language: Korean (Chinese & English)

Duration: 95min

MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 2

4:30 pm

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min

this day in history



1961: END OF THE ROAD FOR MONROE AND MILLER

The Hollywood screen star Marilyn Monroe has divorced her husband, playwright Arthur Miller, after less than five years of marriage.

The divorce was granted in Mexico, where a judge signed the decree. The grounds of divorce were listed as "incompatibility".

It has been rumoured that the pair have had frequent quarrels over their differing lifestyles.

Mr Miller has recently been working with his wife on her most recent film, *The Misfits*, based on a short story he wrote, although the pair were reported to be barely speaking on set.

The film is due to be released this month.

The divorce was officially announced last November, and a spokesman at the time said they had already separated.

Sources close to the couple said Arthur Miller had in fact left Miss Monroe for German-born photographer Inge Morath, whom he met on the set of *The Misfits*.

The couple married in 1956, five years after they first met. Marilyn Monroe converted to Judaism for her new husband, who rose to prominence with his play "Death of a Salesman" in 1949, which won the Pulitzer Prize.

Soon after they were married, Arthur Miller told journalists: "Marilyn will only make one film in every 18 months or so, which will take her about eight weeks."

When asked what she would do for the rest of the time, he replied, "She will be my wife. That's a full-time job."

Marilyn Monroe disagreed, and continued to pursue her film work to the full, travelling to England to shoot "The Prince and the Showgirl" with Laurence Olivier shortly after the wedding.

However, she used her influence - and risked her own career - to help her husband after he was found guilty of contempt of Congress by the House Un-American Activities Committee for refusing to reveal the names of a literary group suspected of Communist sympathies.

Marilyn Monroe went with him to Washington to speak in his favour at the contempt hearings, and her intervention is widely thought to have contributed to the overturning of his conviction the following year.

Marilyn Monroe had been married twice before. Her first husband was Jimmy Dougherty, whom she married aged 16. The marriage did not survive her "discovery" and subsequent rise to fame.

In 1954, she met and married baseball star Joe DiMaggio, but it was a tempestuous partnership and ended just nine months later.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Marilyn Monroe's divorce was part of a decline which was marked by her erratic behaviour on set and persistent abuse of alcohol and drugs.

The *Misfits* was to be her last completed film. Soon after, in 1962, she also made her last major public appearance, singing "Happy Birthday" to President John F Kennedy at a televised party for him.

On 5 August 1962 she was found dead in her Los Angeles home, aged 36. Her death was officially attributed to suicide by drug overdose, but has been the subject of numerous conspiracy theories.

She had been due to re-marry her second husband, baseball star Joe DiMaggio, three days later.

Arthur Miller married photographer Inge Morath a month after his divorce from Marilyn Monroe.

He later wrote compassionately of Monroe in his autobiography, referring to his marriage to her as "the best of times, the worst of times".

He stayed with Inge Morath until her death in 2002. Arthur Miller died in 2005.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your love life may heat up quite a bit - or maybe you are just going through a spring thaw!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You know you're in the right this time - but that doesn't mean that others agree with you!

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You're having a great time debating the finer points of your big plan - or maybe it's a deeper philosophical issue that has you scratching your head.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your extravagance is not a luxury today - it's a necessity! If you spend more on yourself than usual, it's for a worthy cause.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your creative side is fully engaged today, and you should find that your answers are the smartest and funniest - so speak up!

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 This is not a good time to show off. If you must tell people how great you are, show them your successes rather than bragging or talking them up - most people are skeptical of what they hear today.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to stay active - people are wondering what's going on, and only you can offer them the guidance they need.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You've got an ego just like everyone else - but sometimes, yours causes problems that others can't understand.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your terrific personal energy helps you to prove yourself to someone who may be wondering where your loyalties lie.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 This is not the easiest day for you - it feels as if people are going out of their way to cause trouble, but they are just confused or impatient.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You are interrupted time and again today - it gets to be kind of funny after a while! Try to keep focused on what you need to do.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 How can you stay focused? It's not as easy as it sounds on a day like today, but if you can do so, you are sure to stay ahead of the pack.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Hit with an open hand; 5- Each; 9- Kick Out of You; 14- Heap; 15- Travel from place to place; 16- Connection; 17- Locomotive; 19- Secluded valleys; 20- Percussion instrument; 21- Freedom from war; 22- Tried; 23- Fog; 24- Mds.; 25- Assembly; 28- Flaming felony; 31- la vista; 32- Belonging to us; 34- Cut of beef; 35- State Farm rival; 36- Little Tenderness; 37- H.S. requirement; 38- Become less intense, die off; 39- Chinese menu phrase; 40- You don't bring me flowers; 42- Purge; 43- Children's author Blyton; 44- Climbing shoot; 48- Madame de; 50- Petrol; 51- Ogles; 52- Glow; 53- Teheran native; 54- Very, in Versailles; 55- Peruse; 56- Vice; 57- Finely powdered earth; 58- IRS IDs; DOWN: 1- Aromatic fragrance; 2- Turkish money; 3- At for words; 4- Polygon having five sides; 5- Makes amends; 6- Studied, with "over"; 7- Evict; 8- Opposite of post-; 9- Substances eaten or absorbed; 10- Trattoria treats; 11- Corp. VIP, briefly; 12- Melody; 13- Donkey; 18- "Surprise Symphony" composer; 21- Michelangelo masterpiece; 23- Intervening, in law; 25- Dull finish; 26- Standard; 27- Fellas; 28- Bar order; 29- Barrett of gossip; 30- Indication; 31- Listened; 33- Sleazy paper; 35- Bubbling; 36- Young children; 38- Loss of memory; 39- Sheer fabric; 41- Pines for; 42- Put up a fight; 44- Domesticates; 45- Ascends; 46- Early Peruvian; 47- City in West Yorkshire; 48- Shrivelled, without moisture; 49- Eye drop; 50- Mentor; 51- Actress Tyler; 52- Old Ford;



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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' listings for various properties in Macau and Taipa, including Lake View Tower, Ocean Garden Elm Court, Sea View Condo, and Taipa, Nam Long.

SOUTH KOREA

Human rights body to investigate abuse in sports

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's human rights commission plans to interview thousands of adult and child athletes about a culture of abuse in sports after a wave of female athletes came forward to say they had been raped or assaulted by their coaches.

The yearlong investigation will cover 50 sports and include children competing for elementary, middle and high schools, Park Hong-geun, an official from the National Human Rights Commission, said yesterday.

He said the commission aims to interview all minor and adult athletes competing for scholastic and corporate league teams in speedskating and judo, which have been marred with sexual abuse allegations. The investigation, pushed by dozens of government officials and civilian experts, could start as early as next week and could extend beyond a year if needed.

The commission plans to issue guidelines when it concludes its



Choi Young-ae, head of the National Human Rights Commission

largest-ever inquiry into sports, but it also could forward evidence to police for further investigation and possible criminal prosecution.

"Education processes will be a key part of the investigation because there are situations where athletes find it hard to disclose what they have been through or

even recognize they had been abused or sexually harassed," Park said. "We will have to discuss with the schools and teams to figure out how to proceed with the investigation in each sport, but we plan to build it mostly around face-to-face interviews."

South Korean competitive sports in recent weeks have been hit

by a growing #MeToo movement, which highlights deep-rooted problems over a brutal training culture and highly hierarchical relationships between coaches and athletes.

It began with two-time Olympic short-track speedskating champion Shim Suk-hee accusing her former coach of repeatedly raping her since she was 17. The coach, Cho Jae-beom, was the national team coach shortly before the Pyeongchang Olympics last year and is now serving a 10-month prison term for physically assaulting athletes, including Shim. Cho's lawyers said he denies sexually assaulting Shim.

A group representing speed skating athletes said Monday there were at least five more female skaters saying they were sexually abused by their male coaches, but did not reveal their names because of privacy concerns. Encouraged by Shim, female athletes in judo, taekwondo, soccer and wrestling have also accused their male coaches of sexual harassment or assault since.

Experts say abusive treatment of female athletes has long been a problem in South Korea's elite sports, which are predominantly run by men. Athletes often skip school to compete in athletic events and must live in dormitories, giving coaches often-overbearing control and leaving athletes undereducated and more vulnerable. South Korea has long associated national pride with achievement in the Olympics and other international sporting events, leaving problems overlooked as long as the athletes succeed.

After a previous inquiry into school sports, the human rights commission in 2010 recommended safeguards to the Korean Sport and Olympic Committee, including instructions and proposals for preventing abuse and providing better education. Choi Young-ae, the commission's chairwoman, criticized the KOC for ignoring the guideline for years, which she said worsened the abuse facing athletes today.

"Physical and sexual violence in [South Korean] sports does not happen incidentally, but is generated consistently under a structure," she said in a news conference yesterday. "A culture that puts medals and other awards over everything else has been exonerating violent behaviors and such violence has been closely associated with the sexual violence that occurs." AP

AD



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FOOTBALL

South Korea, Australia, Japan aiming to improve at Asian Cup

John Duerden, Abu Dhabi

SOUTH Korea, defending champion Australia and Japan made it through to the Asian Cup quarterfinals knowing there is much room for improvement as the continental tournament enters its finals stages.

Even with the arrival of Son Heung-min from Tottenham, South Korea struggled to get past Bahrain, ranked 60 places lower by FIFA at 113, in the second-round game in Dubai. It needed an extra-time goal from Kim Jin-su to settle the encounter and book a quarterfinal with Qatar.

"It was a tough game," Son told reporters. "It's all about attitude as well, and I'm a bit unhappy with our performance. I think we're better than that."

Australia, which beat the South Koreans in the 2015 final on home soil, needed a penalty shootout to get past Uzbekistan after 120 minutes of action ended goalless.

Japan was also below its best in eliminating Saudi Arabia 1-0, leaving Iran and Qatar as the best performers so far.

The quarterfinals take place today and tomorrow [Macau time] with the final held in Abu Dhabi on Feb. 1.

IRAN VS. CHINA

One of two big-name coaches will likely finish their current job after Thursday's showdown



Japan players celebrate win over Saudis

in Abu Dhabi. Carlos Queiroz has been in charge of Iran since 2011 and has led the team to become the highest-ranked in Asia.

The contract of the former Real Madrid coach ends after the tournament and the 65-year-old Queiroz has been widely linked with the vacant Colombia job.

Iran, the most consistent of the continental teams so far, is expected to record its fifth straight victory at the tournament.

Marcello Lippi will step down as China's head coach after the team's exit. The 2006 World Cup-winning coach has strug-

gled at times but victory over Iran would be the Italian's best result in his two years in charge of China's national team.

JAPAN VS. VIETNAM

Japan, seeking a fifth title, has won all four games so far. A second round 1-0 win over Saudi Arabia came as a result of a solid defensive performance from the team which has fewer big stars such as Keisuke Honda, Shinji Kagawa and Shinji Okazaki than in the past.

Japan, which reached the second round at last year's World Cup, has yet to find its fluency in attack under coach Hajime Mo-

riyasu but will still be expected to win against Vietnam in Dubai.

Vietnam is riding a wave led by South Korean coach Park Hang-seo. The penalty shootout win over Jordan in the previous round provoked street parties across the southeast Asian country, to rival those that greeted the win in the regional championship in December.

That would be nothing compared with the celebrations that would ensue should a young and talented Vietnam team, which has recovered well after losing its first two group games, defeats Japan.

AUSTRALIA VS. UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Australia held off Uzbekistan courtesy of a penalty shootout but will be without the suspended influential playmaker Tom Rogic against the tournament hosts in Al Ain on Friday.

The Socceroos bounced back after an opening loss to Jordan but have yet to show the form of title-winner and have especially struggled against teams that have sat deep.

United Arab Emirates may be playing on home soil but is also yet to find its form in the tournament.

A lack of goals was a concern for coach Alberto Zaccheroni before the competition started. Those worries have eased somewhat after the 3-2 win over Kyrgyzstan in the second round, but the backline appeared vulnerable with the woodwork denying the Central Asians on three occasions.

SOUTH KOREA VS. QATAR

Another fancied team that has yet to move into top gear despite four wins out of four, South Korea had to work hard to get past Bahrain 2-1 after extra time.

Without injured captain and Newcastle United midfielder Ki Sung-yueng who has returned to England, the South Koreans have struggled to either create or convert chances.

Son Heung-min was peripheral and the Tottenham star is yet to score in the tournament. He should enjoy more space against Qatar on in Abu Dhabi on Friday.

Along with Iran, Qatar has been the most impressive team in the tournament so far, winning all four games without conceding a goal. In Almoez Ali, the 2022 World Cup host also has the top scorer of the tournament so far with seven goals. **AP**

TENNIS

Pouille's drought-breaking Australian run reaches semifinals

HAVING an Australian Open champion in his corner has helped Lucas Pouille overcome a drought at Melbourne Park, where he's reached the semifinals after five previous first-round exits.

Working with 2006 Australian Open women's champion Amelie Mauresmo has been one of the key factors.

Pouille reached the semifinals of a Grand Slam for the first time with a 7-6 (4), 6-3, 6-7 (2), 6-4 win over 16th-seeded Milos Raonic yesterday, fending off a strong comeback from the 2016 Wimbledon runner-up.

Pouille entered the quarterfinal 0-3 against Raonic — including a first-round meeting here in 2016 — but targeted the big-serving Canadian's second serve and won points on 35 of the 62 he faced. Pouille also protected his serve, and was broken just once in the match.

He has been working for a couple of months with Mauresmo, who won two major titles as a player and had previously worked as Andy Murray's coach.

"She's the right state of mind. She knows everything about tennis. It's not about being a woman or a man. It doesn't mat-

ter," Pouille said in an on-court interview when asked about the rarity of a top-ranked male player working with a female coach. "You just have to know what you're doing — and she does."

The 24-year-old Frenchman will next play either six-time Australian Open titlist Novak Djokovic or eighth-seeded Kei Nishikori.

"I didn't win a match in Melbourne before coming here" this year, Pouille said. "Now I'm in the semifinals. So just very, very happy."

The No. 28-seeded Pouille was up two sets and

had break points in the seventh and ninth games of the third but Raonic held serve in clutch moments.

Raonic rallied late in the third, after getting angry when he challenged a line judge's call as Pouille was serving to stay in the set.

His service return hit the baseline but was called out. When he challenged it, and a replay confirmed his shot was good, chair umpire Nico Helwerth ordered a replay of the point.

Raonic thought he deserved to be given the point and, when he asked why it wasn't awarded to him, told the umpire "because you don't watch, because



Amelie Mauresmo, coach of France's Lucas Pouille celebrates his quarterfinal win over Canada's Milos Raonic at the Australian Open

you're incapable."

Pouille won the replayed point and held serve for 6-6, but Raonic won the first six points of the tiebreaker and eventually forced a fourth set.

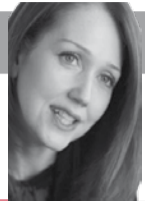
It was on serve until Pouille put serious pressure on Raonic's serve and volleys, and broke to clinch the match.

Raonic is now 1-3 in Australian Open quarterfinals, but he had a tough draw at Melbourne Park. He had to hold off Australian Nick Kyrgios in the first round, former champion Stan Wawrinka in the second and No. 4-seeded Alexander Zverev in the fourth. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



THE POLITICS OF TUFT LOVE

Are you rocking a fine 'pit this month, ladies? Januhairy is a campaign in which participating women grow their body hair. The aim is to get women to love the hirsute look. Tricky enough, you might think – but encouraging society to respect that look may take many more Januhairies.

First, let's consider the pros and cons of Januhairy.

For: The month of January is cold. Body hair adds warmth. No complaints here if the timescale were to be extended into February, at which point the campaign could change name to Fur-uary.

Against: January is just after Christmas and just before Chinese New Year. Both events involve a lot of eating. As well as being chubby, does one really want to be hairy? It might be better to wait a while – and launch an alternative campaign, say 'Armpil', in April.

Let's move onto the politics. The format of di-rised fuzz accumulation already exists for men - Movember, of course, held in November, when men are encouraged to grow moustaches and be unshorn to order.

Not to split hairs here, but there is a disparity between Januhairy and Movember. I call it the gender grooming gap.

One campaign – Januhairy - is to challenge convention. The other – Movember – is to raise awareness of men's health issues, and funds. Both have serious aims, but the means used by women elicits social condemnation, whereas the means used by men draws a laugh. Women have to fight. Men are just having fun.

Movemberers hold Mo-ments, like shaving together to get the month started. And by adding a swagger to the upper lip, Movemberers don't risk reactions of disgust. Theirs are comedy bristles, whether the chosen 'tache is a handlebar, Dali, Imperial or pencil. No one's masculinity is questioned. Social media talks about men 'rocking a fine Mo'. Companies even encourage male staff to join in.

Stubble brings more trouble for women.

Body hair on women is taboo. It's telling to see Big Hair (the industrial complex, not the condition so many women, including me, suffer when it's humid) marketing the latest techniques on hair removal. Gillette's YouTube video showing its 'Venus Swirl' in action shows a razor shaving a ribbon of purple. There's not a female leg in sight. The 'Venus Swirl' promises a flawless shave and one could not deny the ribbon looks silky and lustrous. The greater point is that women's body hair is so frowned upon that the process of getting rid of it doesn't visually refer to it.

It's against this background that Januhairy takes place, which makes it all the harder for women to post their shins and armpits, with shout outs like 'so, gang, how have you styled yours? A pigtail? Scrunch dried?' But they do. Thousands of hits come up on social media for #Januhairy.

Ultimately, though, it may be that Januhairy has a simpler and more achievable goal than Movember. Awareness-raising is a concept which doesn't necessarily get results. Think about the non-hairy profile boosts that already take place in relation to women's health: pink ribbons and other pink products for breast cancer, for example. Do not be sure this is working. The term 'pinkwashing' is used more and more, as companies are called out for making money from pink products, and the reality emerges that greater public perception does not equal cash to fund medical research.

Januhairy is bold enough to focus only on getting female body hair accepted. It offers no health awareness-raising as an excuse for joining in.

Overall, though, the political complexities of these issues are enough to make me tear my hair out.

THE CHINA TAKES SHOTS AT TRUMP
BUZZ TRADE POLICIES

China's vice president took not-so-veiled shots at President Donald Trump's aggressive trade policies in a speech to global elites at a ski resort in the Swiss Alps. Vice President Wang Qishan said at the World Economic Forum that "shifting blame for one's own problems onto others will not resolve the problems."

The United States and China, the world's two biggest economies, have imposed heavy taxes on each other's imports in a dispute over Beijing's aggressive push to challenge American technological dominance.

Wang noted that expanded trade and technological innovations leave many behind. In response, he said in a clear reference to Trump's America, "many countries are increasing looking inward [...] barriers to international trade and investment are increa-



sing; and unilateralism, protection and populism are spreading." He added: "What we need to do is make the pie bigger while looking for ways to share it in a more equitable way. The last thing we should do is to stop making the pie and just engage in a futile debate on how to divide it."

JAPAN

PM seeks trade reform as risks to world economy loom



Shinzo Abe

JAPAN'S prime minister says China's slowing growth, Brexit woes and U.S.-China trade disputes pose risks to the world economy, while decrying the World Trade Organization as "behind the curve" and in need of reform to help ease trade tensions.

Shinzo Abe used his return to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, after five years to hail the benefits of two "mega deals" in trade – on the Pacific Rim and between Japan and the European Union – at a time when populism and isolationism have elbowed in on an era of globalism.

"The world economy is gradually and moderately improving. I think without a doubt this is taking place," he said. "Worldwide, however, there are risks. U.S.-China trade friction is one of those risks and Japan traditionally has said tit-for-tat trade-restrictive measures are of no benefit."

Abe said the WTO needs to be changed, calling for a trading system that protects intellectual property rights. That was a veiled reference to China, which the Trump administration and others say is cheating on trade rules and stealing intellectual property from Western companies.

"Major changes are taking place and the WTO is behind the curve – it's not keeping up with pace," Abe said in a brief question-and-answer session with the forum's chief. "We have to make the WTO into a more credible existence. We need to reform it."

Abe's appearance and a later speech by Germany's Angela Merkel were shaping up as a one-two punch by major leaders in favor of global cooperation. A day earlier, Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro and U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo extolled their governments' renewed focus on national self-interest.

Meanwhile, several other leaders – like those of the United States, Britain, and France – decided to not travel to Davos to deal with political troubles back home, including the U.S. government shutdown, Brexit, and popular protests.

China was set to get its say, too – and possibly retort against Western complaints about its trade policies. Vice President Wang Qishan was set to speak later Wednesday, the second day of the elite Davos gathering.

Away from the Swiss slopes, efforts were looming to defuse the U.S.-China tensions on trade. A high-level

Chinese delegation is expected to visit Washington on Jan. 30, as the two sides seek to strike an accord to end their conflict.

However, Hong Kong's Beijing-backed chief executive said yesterday she's "quite worried" that the rules-based system that has governed global trade for decades is under threat. Carrie Lam said any erosion of traditional rules could lead to rising political tensions.

Worries over the future of the rules governing global trade have been stoked over the past couple of years, particularly since the election of U.S. President Donald Trump. His administration has taken umbrage against China and the two countries have imposed tariffs on hundreds of billions worth of traded goods, igniting a trade war that could seriously hobble the global economy.

Merkel, meanwhile, was to address the gathering amid growing uncertainty in Europe over Brexit after British lawmakers last week voted down Prime Minister Theresa May's deal with the European Union. Since then, speculation has risen that Britain could crash out of the bloc without a deal or that end up extending its date of departure from the current March 29. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

RUSSIA The military yesterday rolled out its new missile and spelled out its specifications, seeking to dispel the U.S. claim that the weapon violates a key nuclear arms pact.



AP PHOTO

ISRAEL A decade after discovering natural gas fields off its Mediterranean coast, Israel is starting to feel the geopolitical boost. Its newfound riches have fostered economic bonds with its neighbors, tightening relations with Arab allies, and built new bridges in a historically hostile region – even without significant progress being made toward peace with the Palestinians.



AP PHOTO

ITALY's interior minister called the French leader Emmanuel Macron "a terrible president," in comments that were sure to further add to tensions with Italy's trans-Alpine neighbor over immigration.

EUROPEAN UNION The EU is warning countries running lucrative schemes granting passports and visas to rich foreigners to toughen checks on applicants amid concern they could be flouting security and tax laws.



AP PHOTO

VENEZUELA's re-invigorated opposition faces a crucial test as it seeks to fill streets nationwide with protesters in an appeal to the military and the poor to shift loyalties that until recently looked solidly behind President Nicolas Maduro's socialist government.

BRAZIL Rio de Janeiro civil police arrested five leaders of a powerful militia gang, including an active-duty police major, during an operation in the city's West Zone.