



LOWER DECK CONNECTION

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works confirmed that the Sai Van Bridge will be used to connect the LRT between Taipa and Macau

P3 AL PLENARY



REGULATORS TO FINE WYNN RESORTS

Wynn Resorts former executives turned a blind eye to claims of sexual misconduct against Steve Wynn, US regulators said

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CHINESE PROVINCES SLASH GROWTH GOALS

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES The head of the world's largest body of Muslim-majority countries has strongly condemned the bombing of a Catholic church in the Philippines that killed 20 people and wounded nearly a dozen.



MALAYSIA Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that proceeding with a multibillion-dollar China-backed rail link project would impoverish the country, saddling the government with excess debt for the next 30 years. [More on p13](#)

THAILAND's military government has suspended the licensing of commercial marijuana-based products for medical use amid concern that foreign pharmaceutical companies might try to monopolize the market.



NORTH KOREA is unlikely to give up its nuclear capabilities, the top U.S. intelligence official said, even as President Donald Trump expresses confidence he can persuade Kim Jong Un to disarm.

PAKISTAN's top court yesterday upheld its acquittal of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy, paving the way for Asia Bibi to leave the country in a blow to radical Islamists who had demanded her execution. [More on p12](#)

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PRESIDENT'S DECEMBER VISIT

Xi to deliver 'important speech' in Macau

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AP PHOTO



TRADE WAR

Huawei charges escalate tension between China and US

P10-11

More trash spotted at Inner Harbor

Significant amounts of trash have recently appeared in the coastal area of the Inner Harbor. Yesterday, the Marine and Water Bureau dispatched a team to clean it up. The bureau said that on a daily basis it collects approximately 500 kilograms of marine refuse. Recently, the amount of collected refuse has increased by 20 to 30 percent. The bureau noted that in the coastal area of both the Inner Harbor and Fai Chi Kei, marine refuse consists mainly of domestic trash which even includes large pieces of rubbish such as sofas, mattresses and refrigerators.

Number of old dumpsters reduced by 90pct

The number of Macau's conventional 1,100-liter dumpsters has been reduced by nearly 90 percent from 1,600 during the peak period to 170, according to the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), replaced with 130 closed garbage houses and 82 waste compactors. According to the IAM, each of the newly installed compactors is equivalent to more than 20 1,100-liter trash units. Currently, the institute cleans the compressed trash collectors once every day. In 2018, it completed the beautification of 16 compression bins.

Driver lodged false accusation after overcharge refusal

Recently, a taxi driver lodged a false accusation against his passengers after they refused to be overcharged. In total, there were four passengers who got in the driver's vehicle at Cotai to go to the Border Gate. The driver asked for MOP300 for the trip, but his request was declined. Upon the refusal, the local man returned his vehicle to the pick-up spot and left it to go to the bathroom. During his absence, the passengers, who remained inside the vehicle, took information from his license and left. When he spotted his license being removed, the driver called the police saying that the passengers had stolen the license and MOP1,000 from him. The suspect is in his 30s with 38 previous records of infractions in the police system.

EDUCATION

Private school regime considered unfair to school operators

Julie Zhu

THE Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) members consider the regime of the System Framework for Private School of Non-tertiary Education unfair to schools in regard to liability for violations, according to the chairman of the committee, Chan Chak Mo.

Yesterday, the committee made the first detailed review of the regime, with several of the AL's legal advisers raising many questions about the bill. The committee hopes that the government can explain and clearly answer the questions.

The bill indicates that if a school's running entity or operator violates the rules when performing its duties, the operator then must bear civil, criminal and administrative responsibilities.

According to Chan, many of the committee members expressed their disapproval toward this particular article.

Lawmakers in opposition to these clauses argue that the school operator is not aware of the situations in the school, or the violations, and they thus deem it unfair for school operators to be wholly accountable for the responsibilities. In addition, the members expressed their concerns over the requirements for a school board.

The framework proposes that the operational entity must es-

RENATO MARQUES



establish a school board that will be able to appoint and dismiss the rector, approve the number of permanent school staff, make decisions regarding the school's teaching policies and development plan, as well as supervise the school's operation.

The school board will be composed of a minimum of seven members, consisting of the rector, teachers, and parents.

Previously, lawmaker Pereira Coutinho expressed his worries

about a school board depriving schools of their autonomy.

Sulu Sou also criticized that a school board might be established for vested interests.

The regime proposes that the chairman of the board should select secretaries who are not members of the school board.

The lawmakers asked the government to clearly state the recruitment procedure for secretaries and the selection method of the members of the board.

In addition to the above con-

troversial articles, the bill also proposed conditions under which a school could take the initiative to shut itself down or for a school to be mandatorily required to close.

In the committee members' opinion, the law did not clearly state the solution for a closure situation, as it is unclear whether the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) will first be involved in handling a closure situation as well as handling the transformation of the operators of a school.

CRIME

PSP dismantles drug selling spot in Toi San

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson told the media at a press conference this week that a selling point of the drug known as 'ice' was found and dismantled over the weekend in the Toi San neighborhood of the Northern District.

According to the PSP spokesperson, three suspects were detained

and almost 64 grams of ice were seized, with a market value of around MOP200,000.

The investigation began when a police officer questioned a local resident behaving suspiciously in the street. He was found to possess over 5 grams of ice that he told the police he had acquired from an apartment building in the surroundings.

A further inspection of his residence revealed more ice that he had bought a few days before for MOP1,000.

The same man tested positive for consumption of ice.

The PSP then mounted a surveillance camera to the apartment building where the first suspect at-tested he had bought the drugs and found a

second suspect exiting the building, in possession of 0.75 grams of the same drug. This second suspect refused to cooperate with the authorities and refused to be drug tested. The force found a third suspect inside, a local woman who was over 50 years old.

Inside the apartment were 19 packages of the drug amounting to al-

most 58 grams, with a market value of about MOP190,000, according to the police.

The woman also tested positive for drugs and all three suspects were transferred to the Public Prosecutions Office under the charges of illicit drug trafficking (third suspect) and illicit drug consumption (first and second suspects). **RM**

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LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

HKZMB connections and traffic issues take over AL session



Raimundo do Rosário (center)

Renato Marques

THE commencement into operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) in late October last year, which added traffic congestion pressure to an area already suffering from the consequences of being the largest border checkpoint to mainland China, was the main topic that gathered lawmakers' attention during yesterday's ses-

sion at the Legislative Assembly (AL). The plenary meeting had been scheduled to address enquiries from the lawmakers to the government and hear its replies.

From the start, lawmakers Angela Leong and Chan Hong launched the topic of the HKMZB adding to traffic congestion – in particular the trouble at the roundabout of the Pérola Oriental – wanting to know how and when the government plans to address

this and other problems related to traffic.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, led the government's reply, noting the recent enforcement of several measures in the place, which included more road lanes to and from the Border Gate as well as easing the access of traffic coming from the bridge port and heading to Taipa with the addition of an exclusive corridor for such direction.

A representative of the Transport Bureau noted several other measures, such as the inclusion of an "emergency circulation lane" in the area of Avenida Marginal do Hipódromo and a restriction imposed on tourism buses from December 8, restricting access during several hours of the day and on weekends. The representative said that the measures form the basis of a strategy that is "already showing positive results."

Regarding the planned connection between Zone A of the new landfills and the peninsula, the Secretary said, "besides the existing connection, we are planning three others, [one of which is] a connection to Rua dos Pescadores, which is now in conception phase."

Another connection "would link the area in the surroundings of the Outer Harbor to Zone A," but first a feasibility study will be required "as we need to take into account several factors such as the maritime traffic in the Outer Harbor and the existing flyover structures."

The third connection "would

link Zone A to Zone B around the [Macau] Science Centre, which is in design phase and I can say that we already decided that would be through an underwater tunnel since we are very close to Ponte da Amizade."

"We expect to present a plan for [the Rua dos Pescadores connection] at the end of this year," said the Secretary, and "we foresee the presentation of the final plan for [Zone A to Zone B] construction in 2020."

The government also took the opportunity to discard once more the idea of using the lower deck of the Sai Van Bridge as a corridor for motorcycles, replying to a suggestion from lawmaker Chan Hong followed by clarifications called for by Pereira Coutinho.

"The lower deck of the Sai Van Bridge will be used for the LRT [Light Rail Transit]," said the Secretary, noting, "this deck is not for regular access; its purpose is for emergency use. It does not have the conditions to be used for regular vehicle circulation."

Besides, "with the construction that is currently undergoing at Barra for the Transport Hub, this deck access would be suppressed," the representative of Transport Bureau added, noting that the bridge is already served by an motorcycle exclusive corridor that has proved effective. Using that as an example, the government plans to adopt the same solution for the fourth bridge between the Peninsula and Taipa.

The lawmakers insisted on a concrete timeline and budget, noting that there is also urgency for such links to be built.

"Yes, there is urgency," acknowledged Rosário. "There is a great traffic jam. We would like to expedite all this - including the fourth bridge - that we will launch the public tender for next month. [...] At that time we will know the timeline and an approximate budget. Only after the tender is launched we can know more. I think it should be around MOP1 billion, but soon we will know for sure."

Advancing on time, the government noted that the public tender conditions have already established a maximum construction time of 1,440 working days. According to the Secretary, "an overrun of about 20 percent in terms of budget and 10 to 20 percent in terms of time is considered normal for this kind of project."

Health Bureau notes difficulties inspecting illegal smoking in VIP rooms

A representative from the Health Bureau (SSM) said yesterday that its smoke inspectors face difficulties when inspecting certain areas of the gaming venues, especially inside VIP rooms.

"The security guards warn everyone about our arrival. Obviously, that is a difficulty for us and for our work. If people are warned as soon as we arrive at the door and we still need to go in and sometimes reach a room that is located on the 38th floor, this takes time," he said, justifying why the smoke inspectors rarely discover any law infringement in such venues although it is commonly known that such incidents occur.

"But I'm sure that there are no cases in which are our inspectors inform in advance [of our visit to] some venues," he noted in reply to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's question during yesterday's plenary session at the Legislative Assembly.

In response to a comment about smoking lounges located on gaming floors being ineffective - due to the constant movement of people in and out of the room - the same representative noted, "there is a possibility of smoke particles traveling through clothes and through people's bodies into the room but that is negligible." The

representative explained that the negative pressure inside the room and a warning against the doors being left open for too long were reducing the potential for smoke to travel outside of the lounges.

Replying to another enquiry regarding the "old shops" to be considered to hold "traditional value" in Macau, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam said that for the first phase, a total of 12 establishments would be listed, with the final list being published next month.

Tam was criticized by lawmakers for a lack of coordination and dialogue between government departments and an apparent disconnect on several already-announced policies. "I believe that some small incidents that occurred have been solved already," the Secretary replied. "I never heard of an old shop that had to close due to tourism or to Municipal Affairs Bureau [IAM] services matters," he said, although noting that such services cannot issue licensing aimlessly.

"We must safeguard aspects such as fire and food safety, among others," he concluded.

A representative of the IAM added that there was one noodle shop that had to close for a period of time but has since reopened.

ROSÁRIO CLARIFIES PENINSULA LINE OF LRT

ON THE sidelines of Legislative Assembly session, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works clarified that the so-called "Eastern Line" of the Light Rail Transit (LRT) would connect the Pac On Ferry Terminal in Taipa to Zone A of the landfills and then through the shoreline to the Border Gate. He said it would, for the time be-

ing, be the only route considered after the conclusion of the Taipa line and the connection of the route to the Barra Transport Hub. The Secretary also hinted that the connection would be made through an underwater tunnel as there is no plan for it to be included in the fourth link bridge between Macau and Taipa.

AP PHOTO



Steve Wynn, founder and former CEO of Wynn Resorts

GAMING

Nevada regulators to fine Wynn Resorts over sex allegations

NEVADA gambling regulators announced a settlement yesterday with casino mogul Steve Wynn's former company over allegations that former executives failed on multiple occasions to investigate claims of sexual misconduct against him.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board detailed at least seven allegations of misconduct by Wynn dating to 2005 in which former executives and managers of Wynn Resorts became aware of the claims but failed to act. The board also said Wynn's conduct was "inappropriate and unsuitable" and violated company policies.

Wynn resigned from his company in February 2018 and has denied any misconduct.

The control board's settlement with Wynn Resorts does not revoke or limit its gambling license but requires the company to pay a fine. The amount will be set by

the Nevada Gaming Commission, but it wasn't immediately clear when that could occur.

Wynn Resorts said in a statement the closing of the board's investigation was "an important remedial step" and noted that any employee named in the control board's report as having been aware of the allegations but who failed to investigate or report them are "no longer with the company."

"We have fully cooperated and been transparent with the board in this in-depth investigation. We look forward to appearing before the Nevada Gaming Commission to review the settlement and establish the final resolution of the investigation," the statement said.

Wynn's attorney L. Lin Wood said he was busy with a deposition for another case Monday and was not in a position to respond.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board's investigation began last year after a January 2018 report in the Wall Street Journal that said a number of women reported they were harassed or assaulted by Wynn, including one case that led to a USD7.5 million settlement with a manicurist.

Its complaint said that the woman in 2005 alleged she had been raped by Wynn and became pregnant as a result. The

■ The control board's settlement with Wynn Resorts does not revoke or limit its gambling license

complaint said the salon's management reported the allegations to human resources and at least four former executives failed to take action after learning of the allegations.

The complaint said former executives also failed to investigate after a cocktail server alleged that Wynn pressured her into a nonconsensual sexual relationship from 2005 to 2006, which resulted in him paying a private settlement of \$975,000 to the woman and her parents.

The complaint also says Wynn sexually harassed multiple flight attendants with Las Vegas Jet, LLC., a Wynn Resorts subsidiary that provided pilots and other flight services for several aircraft owned by the company.

The report also included allegations from three workers at the Wynn Resort spa that Wynn sexually harassed them while he was receiving massages in 2014,

allegations that Wynn engaged in sexual misconduct in 2005 against a former cocktail server and flight attendant, allegations that a Wynn employee, not named in the report, facilitated sexual relationships for Wynn and hotel guests with cocktail servers, and allegations made in a 2007 email to Wynn's former general counsel alleging that a former executive not named in the report "loves sleeping with cocktail servers."

Along with the probe by Nevada regulators, a similar investigation was launched in Massachusetts, where Wynn Resorts plans to open a \$2 billion casino-hotel this summer near Boston. Wynn has sued to block the release of a Massachusetts Gaming Commission report on its investigation, arguing it contains confidential information that is protected by attorney-client privilege.

A Nevada judge has temporarily blocked the report's release.

The Macau gaming authority did not open its own investigation into Wynn Resorts but said last year that it was seeking more information from local subsidiary Wynn Macau. The local arm of the Wynn casino empire said it would "fully cooperate with any requests" from the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau.

Wynn Resorts said the company had "undergone an extensive self-examination over the last twelve months," to create a safe, healthy and supportive workplace.

The changes included leadership changes, including a new CEO and changeover at the company's board of directors, sexual harassment prevention training for all employees, a women's leadership council that promotes equality in the workplace and studies of pay and promotion equity.

Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Officer Larry Hadfield said he was not aware of the police department launching any criminal investigations based on allegations released in the report. **MDT/AP**

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Xi Jinping to attend MSAR's 20th anniversary

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping is set to visit Macau to mark the 20th anniversary of the SAR's handover, Guangdong's security chief revealed.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



A South China Morning Post report mentions that a security plan is being worked on, adding that the communication center for police forces will be set up by October to handle the "security details and operational command" for the president's trip.

"In October, a Greater Bay Area police communication center will be set up in Zhuhai," Li Chunsheng, head of the Guangdong Provincial Public Security Department said.

"[Xi] will come and join the celebrations for the 20th anniversary in Macau, where he will deliver an important speech."

The information was revealed at a meeting in Guangzhou where dozens of officials from the city of Maoming discussed its annual report.

The province intends to collaborate with Hong Kong and

Macau to create an international innovation and technology hub – which is a top priority for this year.

According to Li, this year is a "politically significant year," as it celebrates the 70th anniversary of the establishment of China, as well as Macau's 20th year of handover. Li also indirectly mentioned the crackdown on the pro-democracy movement in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989.

"It's the 70th anniversary of the establishment of the People's Republic of China, it's the 20th anniversary of Macau's

handover, and of course, it's the anniversary of a series of incidents, which took place 20, 30 and 10 years ago," he said. "The hostile forces inside China have long marked this year as an important time to implement their plan – which is a vain attempt – to overthrow our system."

The official added that Guangdong had recently organized a special meeting and rolled out eight operations to strike "illegal activities that will jeopardize political security," including strengthening control over universities, the social sciences sector, and the internet.

Hostile forces inside China have long marked this year to implement their plan ... to overthrow our system.

LI CHUNSHENG
GUANGDONG PROVINCIAL PUBLIC SECURITY DEPARTMENT

"We must resolutely defend the country's political security," Li said. "Among all types of security, political security is the most prominent and its two essential parts are the security of our socialist system and the security of the Chinese Communist Party's regime."

GBA railway network plan expected in 2019

The unveiling of a railway network plan for the Greater Bay Area (GBA) is expected to be introduced in the first half of this year, according to Ge Changwei, Director of the Guangdong Provincial Development and Reform Commission. Ge also said that by 2035, the GBA will "fully become a world-class bay area." In the first half of this year, the Guangdong, Macau, and Hong Kong governments will organize joint overseas promotion activities to expand the influence of the GBA. In addition, according to Ge, Guangdong is planning to build a world-class airport group in the GBA, and the province will seek to enhance cooperation with the SARs' airports.

Burmese have little inclination to work in Macau

The first intention of a Myanmar worker is to get a job in Singapore, since people from Myanmar have little inclination to work in Macau, according to the director of the Macau Myanmar Overseas Chinese Association. Macau has a total of 2,467 workers from Myanmar, according to the Association. According to the association's director, these nationals work mainly as security, domestic helpers or restaurant staff.

ADVERTORIAL

GEG Volunteer Team – Making a Difference in the Community



SINCE it was established in 2011, the Galaxy Entertainment Group Volunteer Team has brought caring team members together in projects of service to the local community. With members coming from different departments across GEG, and in cooperation with a variety of local charitable organizations, the Volunteer Team is an expression of community solidarity to promote the ethos expressed in GEG's philosophy of "what is taken from the community is to be used for the good of the community."

The members of the Volunteer Team enjoy the support of their department heads, who encourage the enlistment of new volunteers and adjust team members' work

schedules to free up time for volunteer projects. In a recent briefing session to welcome new volunteers, two Volunteer Team veterans discussed their experiences.

Xu Xianfeng, from the Galaxy Macau spa Foot Hub, said that his

most memorable experience as a GEG volunteer was the charitable session of the Gudetama in Macau show, which brought members of the Macau Down Syndrome Association to the exhibits in advance of the opening to the public.



"Walking to the game booths with his father, an excited youngster caught my eye. The

youngster had some mobility issues, so I walked over to see if there was anything I could assist with. I was delighted by the boy's and his father's smiles as we walked together, hand in hand. Even though we weren't related, I felt a connection through our conversation and smiles. It is the smiles of people I encounter at volunteer activities that motivate me to continue as a volunteer."

Kuan Cheng Hei, from GEG's Information Technology and Services Department, described the heart-warming experience he had during a food hamper distribution to underprivileged families in cooperation with the Macau Holy House of Mercy Welfare Shop.

"My five-year-old son came to the event with me. It was the second year he joined me. He assisted with registering the food hampers for redemption. I brought him along because I wanted to teach him the joy of helping others through words and deeds. Although he is quite young, I believe the positive atmosphere at these volunteer activities will help him develop the habit of helping people and maintain a positive attitude as he grows."



By empowering its team members to participate in service activities, GEG hopes to advance the positive psychological and social benefits to team members, people in need of a helping hand and the broader community in Macau, truly making a difference in our community.



MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A COMMITMENT



Zhuhai property market is underestimated, real estate agent says

ZHUHAI'S real estate market has been underestimated and there is no room for the city's housing prices to go down, according to Roy Ho, director of Centaline Macau Property Agency Limited.

A recent report that laid out 16 cities in China with the highest property risk profiles - known as "Red Flag Towns" - found that the neighboring city of Zhuhai was the third riskiest. The ranking was determined by the average loan-to-deposit ratio of property purchases, as of 2017 data.

According to the report, average property loans in Zhuhai reached about 140 percent of deposits in 2017 and were exceeded only by the property markets of Huai'an in Jiangsu Province and Xiamen in Fujian Province, which both exceeded 175 percent. With the exception of Hefei in Anhui Provin-

ce, ranking fourth on the list just below Zhuhai, the next 12 cities all measured below 110 percent.

■ Average property loans in Zhuhai reached about 140 percent of deposits in 2017

Contacted by the Times, Ho declined to comment on the abovementioned ranking of Zhuhai. However, he said that Zhuhai's real estate market is worth more than its current valuation. "Zhuhai is a city [where] the real estate market is being underestimated," he

argued. "It's not a city that has high housing prices."

There is a growing interest in purchasing property in Zhuhai among Hong Kong and Macau residents. Residents from the two SARs account for 40 percent of the total number of buyers of projects in Zhuhai, while they constitute 60 percent of Hengqin property buyers, according to Ho.

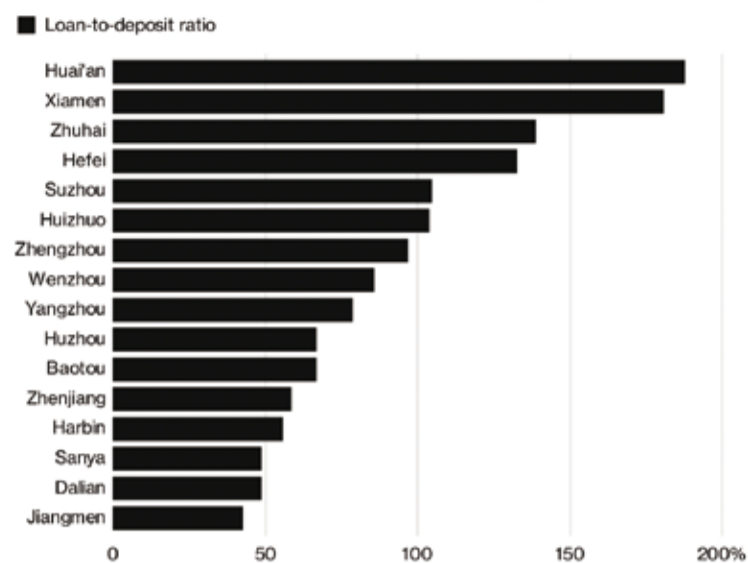
"I will not say that Zhuhai's housing prices will go up. But there is not much room for the price to decline either," said Ho, adding that many people are paying close attention to Zhuhai.

When talking about people borrowing money to purchase properties in Zhuhai, Ho expressed that he does not think Zhuhai has a high rate of loans.

"It's actually not high at all," said Ho, explaining that "the house purchase restriction po-

Red Flag Towns

China's 16 cities with the highest risk profiles as property slows



Note: Loan-to-deposit ratio data for 2017.

Source: HSBC estimates, CEIC, CREIS, local government websites, PBOC

Bloomberg

licy [in Zhuhai] restricts everything in a [strict] manner, regardless of the size of the property or whether the purchase involves a second property."

"Loans are at most 50 percent [of one property's total value]. Normally they are 30 percent or 40 percent if buyers are purchasing their first property. The first installment is normally paid with cash," said Ho.

In Ho's opinion, Zhuhai currently enjoys several favorable

policies for the development of Hengqin, including its free trade zone.

"When these things [projects that benefit from favorable policies] become mature, [the Zhuhai real estate] market will probably change a lot. However, these projects are currently being carried out [and are not completed yet]. Now, [the Zhuhai real estate market] is only waiting for a critical moment," Ho told the Times. **JZ**

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Heavier penalties for phone use, no seat belt when driving

THE Transport Bureau (DSAT) has proposed a public consultation on the amendment of the road traffic law.

According to DSAT Director Lam Hin San, the amendment includes a review on the penalties for traffic infractions, although DSAT does not have any direct suggestions regarding the penalty changes.

The DSAT director also revealed that there are bus drivers proposing to increase the penalty for people who illegally park at bus stops.

Lam also reported that the maximum number of bus passengers on a single day has exceeded 710,00, and that the number of bus passengers in January increased by 5 percent compared to the same period last year with an average number of 610,000 passengers per day.

In 2018, the number of cars recorded a negative growth of 0.2 percent. By comparison,



Lam Hin San

son, 2017 recorded a negative growth of 3.6 percent, in comparison to an increase of 0.6 percent in 2016.

Lam also noted that the DSAT will seek to rectify five traffic black spots in 2019.

The amendment consultation text proposes to introduce a number of measures, including mandatory use of seat belts for rear-seat passengers, heavy-duty vehicle drivers and front-seat passengers, and a mandatory installation of seat

belts for vehicles that transport school children. It has also been proposed that school children should mandatorily wear seat belts.

The consultation text further proposes to introduce vehicle idling requirements, recommending that heavy-duty truck drivers not be able to use mobile phones to talk while driving, even if the phone is on speaker.

It also proposes that while driving, drivers are prohibited

from operating or watching video equipment installed in the front row of the vehicle.

Moreover, the amendment proposes to increase the punishment for driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs from the current maximum of one year's imprisonment and three years' license suspension to a maximum of two years' imprisonment, a fine of MOP90,000, and being banned from driving for four years.

The amendment also recommends to introduce a recidivism system, with penalties for repeat offenders proposed to be a maximum of three years in prison, or a fine of MOP150,000 and no driving for five years.

Drunk driving, which is considered a minor offence, is recommended to be upgraded to a maximum fine of MOP60,000 in addition to a ban on driving for two years.

Recidivism of drunk driving has been proposed to incur a maximum of a MOP90,000 fine and ban on driving for four years.

The amendment suggested the introduction of a recidivism system for a variety of minor violations. Under this system, if a drunk driving scenario occurs within two years of a previous one, then it will be regarded recidivism. **JZ**

MUSIC

OM to play Valentine's Day concert

THE Macao Orchestra (OM) will present the "Valentine's Day Concert - Piano in Love" on February 16 at 8 p.m. at the Macau Cultural Centre Grand Auditorium. Under the baton of local conductor Lio Kuokman, the orchestra will join with Chinese pianist Chen Sa to present a repertoire specially selected for Valentine's Day.

This year marks the 200th anniversary of the birth of Clara Schumann, a remarkable pianist and composer of the 19th century, highly accomplished in the fields of piano performance and music composition. Her loyalty and love to her husband Robert Schumann, and her lifelong friendship with composer Johannes Brahms have also become immortal, much-told stories. In commemoration of these three musicians, the programme of this Valentine's Day concert features Robert Schumann's Overture to Genoveva, Clara Schumann's Piano Concerto in A minor and Johannes Brahms' Symphony No. 4 in E minor.

Tickets for the "Valentine's Day Concert - Piano in Love" are priced at MOP250, MOP200 and MOP150, with various discount packages available.

AD

ALBERGUE SCM
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Vestiges of Lines
 線 · 跡
Vestígios de Linhas

Guilherme Ung Vai Meng
 吳衛鳴

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

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

Opening Hours
 Monday, from 03:00PM to 08:00PM
 Tuesday to Sunday, from 12:00PM to 08:00PM

Exhibition Venue
 Albergue SCM – A2 Gallery

Free Admission

ALBERGUE SCM ALBcreativeLAB
 MORADA: CALÇADA DA IGREJA DE SÃO LÁZARO No. 8, MACAU
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Managing Expectations

Most of the biggest Chinese regions have lowered GDP targets

Region	2018 Growth (%)	2018 Target (%)	2019 Target (%)	Target change
Guangdong	6.8	About 7	6-6.5	Lower
Jiangsu	6.7	Above 7	Above 6.5	Lower
Zhejiang	7.1	About 7	About 6.5	Lower
Henan	7.6	About 7.5	7-7.5	Lower
Sichuan	8	About 7.5	About 7.5	Same
Hubei	7.8	7.5	7.5-8	Higher
Hunan	7.8	About 8	7.5-8	Lower
Hebei	About 6.6	About 6.5	About 6.5	Same
Fujian	8.3	About 8.5	8-8.5	Lower
Shanghai	6.6	About 6.5	6-6.5	Lower

CHINA

Provinces slash growth goals as slowdown hits home

CHINESE provinces are downgrading their targets for economic growth in 2019 as exports and consumption slow, pointing to a lower national goal likely to be agreed in March.

Of the 30 provinces which have released their 2019 growth targets, 23 lowered their goals from those set for 2018, according to local government work reports. Guangdong - the nation's manufacturing heartland - is seeking growth between 6 percent and 6.5 percent, while coastal Jiangsu is aiming for expansion above 6.5 percent, compared with about 7 percent targeted by both for last year. The regions have the two highest gross domestic product totals in the country.

China plans to set a target range for national economic growth of 6 to 6.5 percent for 2019, Reuters reported earlier this month, compared with the 2018 target of "about 6.5 percent," signaling policy makers are embedding

the ongoing economic slowdown into their goals for the year. Data for December hint that while a slump may for now be avoided, the government's preference for drip-feed stimulus means a rebound is unlikely as well.

China's economy slowed for an eighth straight month in January, as weaker global demand and decelerating factory inflation combined to undercut growth, according to a Bloomberg Economics gauge aggregating the earliest-available indicators on business conditions and market sentiment. The data suggests Beijing's stimulus efforts have yet to translate into more business activity so far in the first quarter.

The overall growth target is usually delivered along with detailed economic plans at the National People's Congress in March.

Sixteen out of the 30 regions

met their targets for 2018, including Beijing and Shanghai, which both grew around 6.6 percent and pledged to exercise fiscal restraint in 2019. Tianjin and Chongqing missed, expanding 3.6 percent and 6 percent respectively. All four provincial-level municipalities have lower targets for this year.

Xinjiang, the nation's largest province by size, lowered its GDP target to around 5.5 percent from around 7 percent. The detention and "re-education" of up to 1 million minority Muslim Uighurs in the far western region has attracted global outcry.

There are 31 administrative regions in China, not including the Special Administrative Regions of Hong Kong and Macau. Only Shandong, the third-largest by GDP, hasn't set its growth target for 2019 as officials plan to hold their annual legislative meetings after the Chinese New Year holidays. **Bloomberg**

GAMING | US

Luxor Capital to own Atlantic City's Ocean Resort Casino

A New York hedge fund that lent money to Atlantic City's Ocean Resort Casino is assuming ownership of it. Luxor Capital Group was identified as the new owner in a press release from the casino. The company, which is not related to the Luxor casino in Las Vegas, will take over the ownership interest of Bruce Deifik and his family.

Luxor Capital will assume control once it receives interim authority to own a casino. Until it gets that approval, which could come within three to four months, a trust will be created for the casino's temporary ownership.

Once Luxor Capital completes a promised USD70 million investment into the property, a trustee will be appointed to oversee the trust until the company is deemed suitable to hold a casino license in New Jersey.

The casino-hotel plans to operate normally during the transition. The ownership change comes less than seven months after the property's re-opening.

"We are incredibly proud of the progress our team members have made in establishing Ocean Resort Casino as one of the premier gaming and leisure destinations in the United States," said Frank Leone, the casino's CEO. "We are thankful for the support we have received from the broader Atlantic City and New Jersey community and look forward to an exciting 2019."

Deifik, who earlier this month said he would retain a small, non-controlling interest in the casino, will have no ownership of it at all. In announcing the casino would change hands earlier this month, Deifik said the new ownership would invest \$70 million to help get the property through the slow

winter months.

Ocean Resort was one of two formerly shuttered casinos that reopened the same day last June, along with Hard Rock.

The reopenings brought Atlantic City's casino total to nine, shortly after five casinos had shut down in a market that could not support them all. The Atlantic Club, Showboat, Revel and Trump Plaza all closed in 2014, and the Trump Taj Mahal closed in 2016. (The Taj Mahal reopened as Hard Rock last year.)

The revival of the two casinos immediately raised questions as to whether Atlantic City was making the same mistake that led to the first wave of shutdowns: having too many for all to thrive.

In its first incarnation as Revel, the \$2.4 billion casino lasted just over two years before closing in 2014. Florida developer Glenn Straub bought it out of bankruptcy court for \$82 million, and sold it last year to Deifik, a Colorado developer, for \$200 million.

Deifik decided to buy the casino sight unseen on the recommendation of his advisers, and set about renovating it, adding an indoor golf facility and one of the state's most extensive sports betting facilities.

He and his management team said they were confident they had fixed what went wrong with Revel. Deifik reconfigured the maze-like casino floor, allowed smoking on it again, welcomed gamblers of all income and playing levels, and placed a premium on customer service.

He took over Ocean Resort with far less debt than what sank Revel. But the casino's gambling revenue remains near the bottom of the pack along Atlantic City's nine casinos. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS HOLDS CARNIVAL FOR CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL NEEDS



Around 60 Sands Cares Ambassadors assisted children with special educational needs and their families at The Venetian Macao's Cotai Expo Sunday for an afternoon of fun activities at the Special Cares Network Carnival. Nearly 600 participants at-

tended the carnival, which offered various activities including photo-shooting, collecting souvenirs and snacks, and game booths, the gaming operator said in a statement.

Sponsored by Sands China Ltd., the Special Cares Ne-

twork Carnival aims to provide opportunities for children with special educational needs to enjoy a fun outing with their families, while encouraging the strengthening of society's care for and support of children with special educational needs.

The carnival also helps promote the network of nongovernmental organisations in Macau that provide services to children with special educational needs.

Winnie Wong, vice president of corporate communications and community affairs for Venetian Macau Limited, said: "Sands China is continually proud of our Sands Cares Ambassadors. They represent some of the best qualities of our team members - compassion, service-mindedness and professionalism."

RESTAURANT FADO PRESENTS FESTIVE DISHES



Cod with egg and angel hair fried potatoes "à Brás"

Fado, the restaurant at Hotel Royal Macau, has prepared a host of Portuguese delicacies to welcome the Year

of the Pig.

According to a statement issued by the hotel, the restaurant's crab bread stew

with octopus carpaccio and bell peppers, which is served with premium olive oil and the chef's secret seasonings will be one of its appetizers. The dish is complemented with the crabmeat marinated in onion, olive oil and red pepper.

For the main course, Fado will present its version of roasted suckling pig with potato chips and orange salad as well as cod with egg and angel hair fried potatoes "à Brás."

The restaurant's chef will fry the codfish, onion, egg and potatoes in front of the guests.

Groupers with corn stew with shrimp, smoked sausage and coriander will also be served featuring Portuguese corn stew, lobster bisque, coriander, garlic and olive oil.

EAST TIMOR

Non-oil economy expected to grow by 5 percent

THE growth rate of East Timor's non-oil economy is expected to be around 5.0 percent by 2019, after two years of political uncertainties that have negatively affected economic activity, according to a forecast from a mission of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) that visited the country from January 14 to 25.

The mission's recently released document notes that public spending will continue to depend on the withdrawal of funds from the Oil Fund, since state revenue sources remain small. The members of the mission, led by Niklas Westelius, argue for the need to develop a fiscal strategy to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability while also protecting assets currently held by the Oil Fund.

"Continued investment in infrastructure, education and health care should be given priority, and policy actors should accelerate the introduction of structural reforms so that economic diversification and job

creation can be fostered," the statement said.

The document released in Washington once again mentions the political uncertainties that could undermine short-term forecasts, and that in the medium term insufficient progress to diversify the economy and create jobs in the private sector could have a negative impact on the labor market.

"In addition, with revenues from active oil fields due to end in 2022, continued withdrawals from the Oil Fund could jeopardize long-term fiscal sustainability," with the IMF team emphasizing the need to ensure long-term fiscal sustainability and to safeguard the assets of the Fund.

The statement said that this fiscal strategy should focus on strengthening control and efficiency of expenditure, mobilizing domestic tax revenue through the introduction of Value Added Tax and the effective use of financing on preferential terms. **MDT/Macauhub**



THE Angolan government wants the Program to Support National Production, Export Diversification and Import Substitution (Prodesi) to be the turning point for increasing domestic production and making the country self-sufficient in food, the Minister of State for Economic and Social Development said this week in Luanda.

Manuel Nunes Júnior also said that the country has, initially, to be self-sufficient in terms of food, "we have to stop importing food products that are popularly consumed," at the opening session of the lecture series on Support Measures to Increase National Production.

To illustrate the almost total external dependency in terms of consumer goods the minister said that between 2016 and 2017 the average import value of the basic basket goods reached about USD1.5 billion, not including transport and insurance costs. Products such as rice, corn flour, wheat

Angola wants to be self-sufficient in food products

flour, sugar, oil, and palm oil had the largest share of imports of the basic basket of goods in 2016, accounting for around 60 percent of imports.

The Minister pointed out that the Government, aware that the country still has a weak production sector, approved an Action Plan under Prodesi to increase production and internal competitiveness and to ensure that action is concerted, and 54 products were selected on which national entrepreneurs should focus.

After the capital, the lectures will

be taken to other regions of Angola in the provinces of Benguela, Huambo, Bié, Moxico, Huíla, Uíge and Cabinda, focused on local business associations, with a view to collecting subsidies and informing them about the steps being taken to improve the business environment and competitiveness of domestic production.

Following the regional talks, in March Luanda will host the national conference on measures to support domestic production, according to a statement from the Ministry of Economy and Planning. **MDT/Macauhub**

AD



CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

PINTURA/PAINTING



A L

ATELIER LIVRE
OPEN WORKSHOP

monitora/monitor: **Madalena Fonseca**

horário/schedule:
Segundas
Mondays
18h30- 21h30

preço/price:
à hora/per hour:
30 MOP sócios/members
50 MOP não sócios/ non members

mensalidade/monthly:
500 MOP sócios/members
900 MOP não sócios/non members

Horário válido entre 28 de Janeiro a 1 de Abril./Schedule valid between January 28th and April 1st.

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n.º431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 13º andar D, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
8 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
8 (The registration order will be respected and registration is considered when payment is done).

morada/address: Rua Pedro Nolasco da Silva, n.º 28, R.A.E. de Macau www.casadeportugal.org
tel: (853) 28 726 828 fax: (853) 28 726 818 portugal@macau.ctm.net

autora/author: Madalena Fonseca
patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau



CASA DE PORTUGAL
EM MACAU 澳門葡人之家協會

Escola de Artes e Ofícios
School of Arts and Crafts

CERÂMICA/CERAMICS



A L

ATELIER LIVRE
OPEN WORKSHOP

monitor: **Paulo Reis**

Diurno/Daytime
de Segunda a Quinta
from Monday to Thursday
15h00 - 18h00

número máximo de participantes
maximum number of participants: 6*

Pós-Laboral/Evening
de Segunda a Quinta
from Monday to Thursday
18h30 - 21h30

número máximo de participantes
maximum number of participants: 4*

preço/price:
à hora/per hour:
sócios/members não sócios/ non members
30 MOP 50 MOP

mensalidade/monthly:
sócios/members não sócios/non members
500 MOP 900 MOP

Horário válido até dia 28 de Fevereiro de 2019./Schedule valid until February 28th 2019.

local/venue:
Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n.º431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 13º andar D, sala 1, Macau

número máximo de participantes/maximum number of participants:
8 (Será respeitada a ordem de inscrição sendo esta efetiva mediante o pagamento de propina).
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TRADE WAR

US charges against Huawei could inflame

Christopher Rugaber, Washington

THE Trump administration's unveiling of criminal charges against the Chinese tech giant Huawei has complicated high-level talks set to begin today in Washington that are intended to defuse the trade war between the administration and Beijing.

The Justice Department charged yesterday [Macau time] that Huawei had violated U.S. sanctions against sales to Iran and stolen trade secrets from T-Mobile, a U.S. partner. Those charges cut to the heart of some of the

administration's key complaints about China's trade practices.

Analysts said the trade talks would likely proceed, but reaching any substantive agreement would probably be harder. And unless the two sides can forge some sort of accord by March 1, U.S. tariffs on USD200 billion of Chinese imports are set to rise from 10 percent to 25 percent.

"The Chinese will keep talking," said David Dollar, a senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former U.S. Treasury official. "They won't be happy with the Justice Department action, but I think they would like to keep it

separate from the trade talks."

Representatives of U.S. business groups privately raised concerns that the administration's actions could poison the atmosphere between the two sides. Any backlash in China against the indictment of Huawei, one of the country's global powerhouses, could limit Beijing's ability to agree to anything that might be seen as bowing too willingly to U.S. demands.

The Justice Department has also charged Huawei's chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou. The United States is seeking to extradite Meng, who has been

Australia's TPG abandons mobile network plan over Huawei ban

AUSTRALIAN company TPG Telecom said yesterday it had abandoned the rollout of what would have been the country's fourth mobile network because of a ban on Chinese giant Huawei, which would have been the main equipment vendor.

In light of the ban announced in August, "that upgrade path has now been blocked," TPG's statement said.

Australia blocked Huawei and Chinese mobile device maker ZTE Corp. from its 5G network due to security concerns. The government said involvement of a company "likely to be subject to extrajudicial directions from a foreign government" presented too much risk.

Several governments have been scrutinizing Huawei over its links to the Chinese government. The private Chinese company started by a former People's Liberation Army major in 1987 suffered a setback in the U.S. market in 2012 when a congressional report said it was a security risk and warned phone companies not to buy its equipment.

The U.S. Justice Department unsealed criminal charges Monday against Huawei, two of its subsidiaries and a top executive, who are accused of misleading banks about the company's business and violating U.S. sanctions.

The company is also charged in a separate case with stealing trade secrets from T-Mobile, according to federal prosecutors.

Prosecutors are seeking to extradite the company's chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, and allege she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran. She was arrested on Dec. 1 in Canada.

TPG said it had explored other options but concluded "it does not make commercial sense to invest further shareholder funds [...] in a network that cannot be upgraded to 5G."

TPG executive chairman David Teoh said: "It is extremely disappointing that the clear strategy the company had to become a mobile network operator at the forefront of 5G has been undone by factors outside TPG's control." AP



A T-Mobile store in New York. The federal indictment accuses Huawei of stealing trade secrets.

■ The trade talks reaching any substantive agreement would probably be

held in Canada since Dec. 1.

Sarah Sanders, the White House spokeswoman, was asked whether the criminal charges against Huawei were linked to the trade talks with China and amounted to a carrot-and-stick approach.

"No, those two things are not linked," she said. "They are a totally separate process."

This week's negotiations were already facing low expectations.

"We are anticipating no big outcomes this week," Erin Ennis,

senior vice president at the U.S.-China Business Council, said before the Huawei charges were announced.

The Trump administration, with support from U.S. businesses, wants China to make fundamental changes to its economy that China is reluctant to accept and that will be difficult to verify, analysts say. The administration has accused Beijing of deploying predatory trade tactics, ranging from requiring U.S. and other foreign companies to hand over

Duke moves to reassure grad students after

DUKE University moved quickly yesterday [Macau time] to offer apologies, launch an investigation and reassure a core group of graduate scholars after a medical school administrator sent an email warning Chinese students to speak in English.

The administrator's message — which suggested students could face consequences — came at a time when Duke and other elite U.S. universities are working hard to remain attractive to top international students despite negative rhetoric toward foreigners by President Donald Trump and other politicians.

"Duke's engagement with China, with Chinese students and with Chinese scholars is broad, deep and longstan-



ding," Duke Vice President for Public Affairs Michael Schoenfeld said in an interview yesterday.

"We deeply regret that this particular incident might have compromised the very valuable and mutually beneficial relationship that Duke has with its Chinese students."

Across all of Duke's graduate and professional programs, 1,300 of about 8,500 students come from China, according to university data. Duke also partners with Wuhan University on Duke Kunshan University in China, which began enrolling students in 2014.

Outcry mounted after an email sent Friday by Megan Neely, who teaches in the biostatistics master's degree program and served as its director of graduate studies.

Neely's message to an email list for about 50 biostatistics students said two faculty members approached her to complain about students loudly speaking Chinese in a common area. She wrote that both were disappointed the students weren't working to improve their English and wanted their names. The email urged international students to "keep these unintended consequences in mind when you choose to speak in Chinese in the building."

She had also sent an email last February to students

saying that "many faculty" noticed students were speaking other languages in break rooms.

"As a result they may be more hesitant to hire or work with international students because communication is such an important part of what we do as biostatisticians," she said in the email.

Since the weekend, screenshots of the emails and stories about them have received wide attention in the U.S. and China. The thousands of comments on Chinese social media included some calls for Chinese universities to ban speaking English.

A petition demanding a thorough investigation has drawn more than 2,000 signatures of students, alumni

and others, organizers said.

The Duke Asian Students Association also issued a statement slamming Neely's emails as discriminatory and harmful.

"For international students, speaking in their mother tongue is a means of comfort and familiarity with a home and culture that is already oftentimes suppressed within the United States," the association said.

Amid the angry response, Neely stepped down as the program's director of graduate studies, according to a letter from Dr. Mary Klotman, the medical school dean.

Klotman apologized to students in the program in her letter, saying there was no restriction on using foreign languages in conversations.

China talks



would proceed, but substantive agreement is harder

s from T-Mobile

elusive if not impossible. Chinese officials deny that they force U.S. companies to transfer technology. And they regard the support of their state-owned companies and the acquisition of cutting-edge technology, much of it from abroad, as vital to China's economic development.

U.S. companies in China say that forced technology transfers typically happen at the local level and stem from informal pressure by Chinese officials, which would make it difficult to verify whether Beijing has complied with any major agreement.

In previous rounds of talks, China has shown little inclination to yield to the administration's demands.

"China has yet to show any indication that it is ready to address U.S. and global concerns about its structural issues," said Scott Kennedy, a China specialist at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "The two sides are pretty far apart."

Beijing has previously offered to increase its purchases of U.S. products, notably soybeans and other agricultural goods as well as natural gas. This would help address Trump's concern about the gaping U.S. trade deficit with China. Beijing could also open more industries to U.S. companies and pledge better protection for U.S. intellectual property. In return, China could press the U.S. to remove the tariffs that President Donald Trump imposed last year.

Derek Scissors, a China expert at the American Enterprise Institute, said that China would likely accept such a deal, if it were offered. Doing so would outweigh any concerns China has about Huawei.

"If they think they can get the deal that they want, they won't cancel the talks over Huawei," he said. **AP**

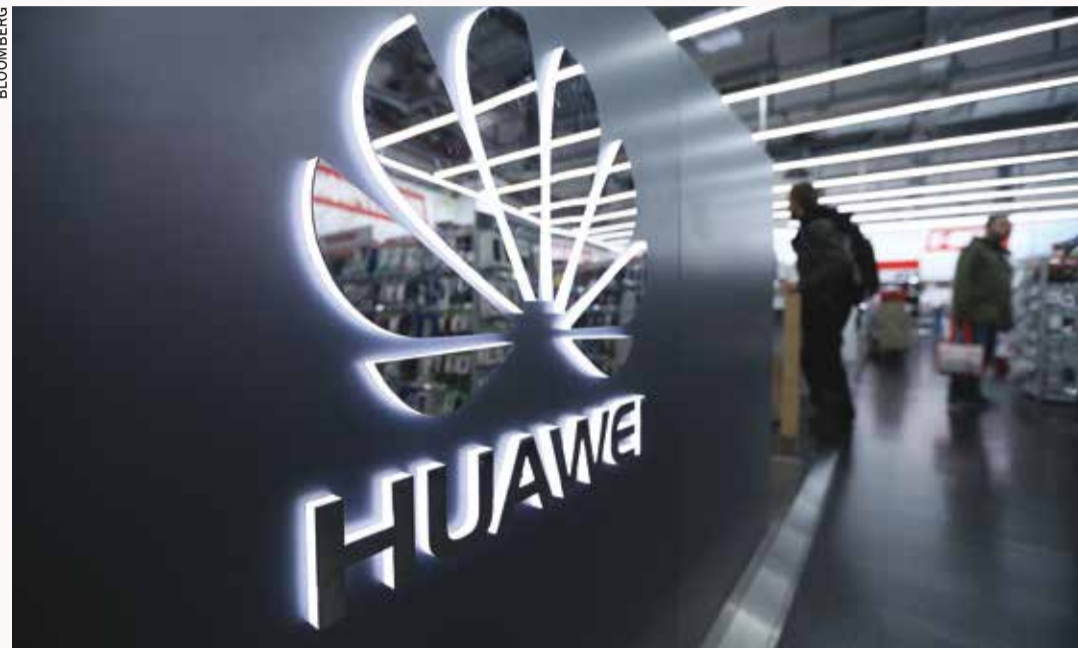
technology in return for access to the vast Chinese market to outright cyber-theft.

Robert Lighthizer, the U.S. trade representative and lead negotiator in this week's talks, wants China to toughen its protections of intellectual property and to stop unfairly subsidizing its state-owned enterprises.

"The scope of these talks will be the broadest and deepest in U.S.-China history," Larry Kudlow, a top White House economic adviser, said.

Yet reaching the kind of deal the United States wants could prove

Beijing to Washington: Stop 'unreasonable crackdown'



CHINA called on Washington yesterday to "stop the unreasonable crackdown" on Huawei after the U.S. escalated pressure on the tech giant by indicting it on charges of stealing technology and violating sanctions on Iran.

Beijing will "firmly defend" its companies, a foreign ministry statement said. It gave no indication whether Beijing might retaliate for the charges against Huawei Technologies Ltd., China's first

global tech brand and the biggest maker of network switching gear used by phone and internet companies.

Huawei denied committing any of the violations cited in Monday's indictment by the Justice Department.

The charges are the most serious allegations yet against Huawei, which has spent a decade battling U.S. accusations that it is a front for Chinese spying and a security risk.

The Chinese foreign minis-

try complained Washington has "mobilized state power" to hurt Chinese companies "in an attempt to strangle fair and just operations" for political reasons.

"We strongly urge the United States to stop the unreasonable crackdown on Chinese companies including Huawei," said the statement read on state TV. It said Beijing will defend the "lawful rights and interests of Chinese companies" but gave no details. **AP**

Canada's foreign minister says why China envoy fired

CANADA'S foreign minister said yesterday [Macau time] the country's ambassador to China was fired because he expressed views that were contrary to the federal government's position on the detention of a Chinese tech executive.

Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland said the central job of an ambassador is to represent accurately the government's position. She said John McCallum didn't do that and that is why his position was untenable.

Freeland and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau have stressed that Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou is the subject of a legal proceeding that is not politically motivated. The U.S. wants Meng extradited to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

But McCallum told the Toronto Star Friday it would be "great" if the U.S. dropped its extradition request. That came a day after he issued

a statement saying he misspoke about the case earlier in the week and regretted saying Meng has a strong case against extradition.

Canada's Department of Justice confirmed later yesterday that officials had received the formal U.S. request for Meng's extradition to the United States.

The arrest of the daughter of Huawei's founder at Vancouver's airport on Dec. 1 has led to the worst relations between Canada and China since the Tiananmen Square massacre in 1989.

China detained two Canadians shortly after her arrest in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release her. A Chinese court also sentenced a third Canadian to death in a sudden retrial of a drug case, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier.

McCallum told Chinese-language media in the Toronto area last week that the extradition of Meng to the U.S. "would not be a happy

outcome." But on Thursday he walked back the remarks before doubling down again Friday.

McCallum's remarks surprised many and fueled speculation that Canada might be trying to send a signal to China to reduce tensions.

But Trudeau clearly had enough after the envoy spoke off script again and fired him Friday night.

Trudeau has been calling leaders around the world in a campaign to win the release of the two detained Canadians and seek clemency for the Canadian facing the death penalty.

Many countries, including the United States, Britain and Australia, have issued statements in support.

"We are deeply grateful to the Government of Canada for its assistance and for its steadfast commitment to the rule of law," U.S. acting Attorney General Matt Whitaker said at a news conference to announce new charges against Huawei. **AP**

Chinese complaint

She said the university's Office of Institutional Equity would conduct a review of the biostatistics master's program. It's expected to examine which faculty members complained to Neely.

Neely, who remains an assistant professor, also apologized in an email to program members, saying: "I deeply regret the hurt my email has caused. It was not my intention."

Thirty-six of the 55 students in the biostatistics master's degree program are from China, and Chinese scholars represent one-fifth of the program's approximately 50 faculty members, Duke said.

International students

are particularly attractive to U.S. graduate programs because many countries abroad place more emphasis on math and science education, and because foreign students with the means to study in the U.S. often can pay full tuition rather than seek financial assistance, said Scott Jaschik, the editor of Inside Higher Ed.

He commended Duke for moving quickly to investigate, but said the school's reputation could still suffer.

"There is a quite a grapevine of information about international students back home," he said in an interview. "You can be sure people will hear about this."

Chi Liu, who's pursuing a chemistry PhD at Duke, said the university can maintain a good reputation abroad if it shows it's taking the situation seriously. Liu, who's from China's Hunan Province, believes Duke should fire Neely and the two unnamed faculty members who complained to her.

"All of us are angry. We feel offended," he said, referring to the reaction among students from China. "You have this email to the Chinese students saying [...] if you speak Chinese you will be remembered and identified, and that will affect your performance. That is very serious." **AP**

PAKISTAN

Top court upholds acquittal, frees Christian woman

PAKISTAN'S top court yesterday upheld its acquittal of a Christian woman sentenced to death for blasphemy, clearing the last legal hurdle and freeing Asia Bibi to leave the country in a move that dealt a blow to radical Islamists who had demanded her execution.

Following the landmark decision, Bibi will finally be able to join her daughters who earlier fled to Canada where they have been given asylum.

Bibi's lawyer, Saiful Malook, who returned to Islamabad after fleeing the country amid death threats, called the decision a victory for Pakistan's constitution and rule of law. The three-judge Supreme Court panel had "insisted on very strict proofs of blasphemy" and found none, he said.

Pakistan's Chief Justice Asif Saeed Khan Khosa who led the panel of judges dismissed the petition filed by radical religious leaders. The extremists had petitioned the court to overturn its acquittal and send her back to prison for execution. He said in court that Bibi's accusers were guilty of perjury and if the case had not been so sensitive, they should have been jailed for life.

AP PHOTO



Pakistani troops surround the Supreme Court building in Islamabad yesterday

"The image of Islam we are showing to the world gives me much grief and sorrow," Khosa said.

Bibi, who spent eight years on death row and who has been under guard at a secret place

since her acquittal last October, was overjoyed at the news, which she heard over the TV.

"I am really gratefully to everybody, now after nine years it is confirmed that I am free and I will be going to hug my

daughters," a friend quoted Bibi as saying. The friend spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity fearing for his own safety.

Following her October acquittal, radical religious parties took

to the streets to protest, calling for the killing of judges who acquitted Bibi and for the overthrow of Prime Minister Imran Khan's government. They also filed the last-minute appeal for a review of the Supreme Court acquittal.

The protests were spearheaded by the radical Tehreek-e-Labbbaik party, whose single point agenda is protection of Islam and the Prophet Muhammad.

Bibi's case goes to the core of one of Pakistan's most controversial issues — the blasphemy law, often used to settle scores or intimidate followers of minority religions, including minority Shiite Muslims. A charge of insulting Islam can bring the death penalty.

But the accusation on its own is sometimes enough to whip up vengeful mobs, even if the courts acquit defendants. A provincial governor who defended Bibi was shot and killed, as was a government minority minister who dared question the blasphemy law.

Bibi, who always insisted that she was innocent, has said she will leave the country as soon as her legal battles are over. Her lawyer, who fled the country after receiving death threats, returned to Pakistan for the final review.

Bibi's ordeal began on a hot day in 2009 when she brought water to fellow farmhands who refused to drink from the same container as a Christian woman. **AP**

AL-ARAIBI

Australian PM asks Thailand to free detained soccer player

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Scott Morrison has urged Thailand to stop the extradition to Bahrain of a detained soccer player who has refugee status in Australia, his office said yesterday.

In a letter to Thai Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, Morrison emphasized that Hakeem al-Araibi's case was an important matter to him personally, as well as to the Australian government and Australian people, his office said. The letter was reported earlier by The Sydney Morning Herald newspaper.

Al-Araibi, 25, a former Bahraini national team player, says he fled his home country due to political repression. Bahrain wants him returned to serve a 10-year prison sentence he received in absentia in 2014 for vandalizing a police station, which he denies.



Prison guards escort Bahraini football player Hakeem al-Araibi from a court in Bangkok in December

Human rights groups, soccer governing bodies and activists have pushed for Thailand to release al-Araibi, who plays for the semi-professional soccer club Pascoe Vale FC in Melbourne. They believe he risks being tortured if he is sent back to Bahrain.

Morrison noted that al-Araibi has a permanent

protection visa issued by Australia, that the government only issues such visas after a careful process, and that Australia considers him a refugee.

Al-Araibi was detained upon his arrival in Bangkok in November while on a holiday, and a court ruled in December he could be held for 60 days

pending the completion of an extradition request by Bahrain.

Thailand said it received an official extradition request on Monday.

Thai foreign ministry spokeswoman Busadee Santipitaks said that the request has been forwarded to prosecutors for deliberation.

Thailand's attorney general is expected to decide within a week whether to proceed with the extradition case, said Chatchom Akapin, director general of the international affairs department.

Chatchom said Thailand would not extradite al-Araibi "if the sought extradition is political."

"If it is, then the request must be denied," he said.

Prime Minister Prayuth said the situation was complicated.

"Thai officials have to follow the law in every aspect. However, Thailand has good relations with Bahrain and FIFA," he said, referring to soccer's world governing body. "How can we find a solution? I understand everyone's concerns."

Human Rights Watch's Asia director, Brad Adams, said Thailand would make a "huge mistake" if it extradites al-Araibi because "global opinion and international law are clearly opposed to this rights-violating move."

The Asian Football Confederation yesterday followed FIFA and the International Olympic Com-

mittee in asking for al-Araibi's release.

The AFC, led by Sheikh Salman Bin Ibrahim Al-Khalifa, a member of Bahrain's royal family, had faced criticism for not calling for al-Araibi's freedom.

Al-Araibi has said he suspects he is being sought by Bahrain in part because of critical comments he made about the AFC leader.

Al-Araibi said he was blindfolded and had his legs beaten while he was held in Bahrain in 2012. He said he believed he was targeted for arrest because of his Shiite faith and because his brother was politically active. Bahrain has a Shiite majority but is ruled by a Sunni monarchy, and has a reputation for harsh repression since its failed "Arab Spring" uprising in 2011.

Bahrain's interior minister issued a statement yesterday asserting that the country has a legitimate claim in asking for al-Araibi's extradition and accusing critics of interfering in the country's internal affairs. **AP**

MALAYSIA

Mahathir suggests China-backed rail plan may be axed

MALAYSIAN Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said yesterday that proceeding with a multi-billion-dollar China-backed rail link project would "impoverish" the country, saddling the government with excess debt for the next 30 years.

Since winning a historic vote last May, Mahathir's government has axed or reviewed large-scale infrastructure projects to rein in surging national debt that it blames mostly on corruption in the previous government.

But there is confusion over the status of the USD20 billion East Coast Rail Link following recent conflicting statements by two Cabinet ministers. Mahathir's comments suggested it might be called off.

He said the cost of the project could exceed 100 billion ringgit (\$24.3 billion) upon completion.

"It is not that we do not want to honor our contracts, but we just cannot pay," Mahathir said. "It will impoverish us so we seek

understanding of the parties concerned, that it is not because we just want to frustrate or throw out a contract, but because we are really tied in terms of finance."

It is not that we do not want to honor our contracts, but we just cannot pay.

MAHATHIR MOHAMAD

Paying compensation won't be as much as "the amount of debt we will carry for the next 30 years," he added.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said the project had been agreed



Malaysia's Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad

to "on the basis of mutual respect and equality."

He said the two sides were discussing the issue.

The 688 kilometer (430 miles) East Coast Rail Link is a key part of China's regional Belt and Road infrastructure initiative. It

would connect Malaysia's west coast to rural eastern states. It is largely financed by China and the main contract was awarded in 2016 to the China Communication Construction Company, or CCCC, by former Prime Minister Najib Razak.

Officials have said the project's final cost is about 50 percent higher than estimated by the previous government.

During a trip to China last August, Mahathir initially said the project would be cancelled. He later said negotiations were underway about scaling down the project or delaying it. The situation was muddled when Economic Affairs Minister Azmin Ali on Saturday said the Cabinet had agreed to terminate the project but Finance Minister Lim Guan Eng disputed that.

Mahathir also said that Lim will make an official announcement soon.

The government has also said it is investigating whether any money in the rail project has been channeled by Najib's government to repay debts at the 1MDB state investment fund. A massive financial scandal at 1MDB led to the ouster of Najib's coalition. Najib is facing multiple corruption charges linked to 1MDB. **AP**



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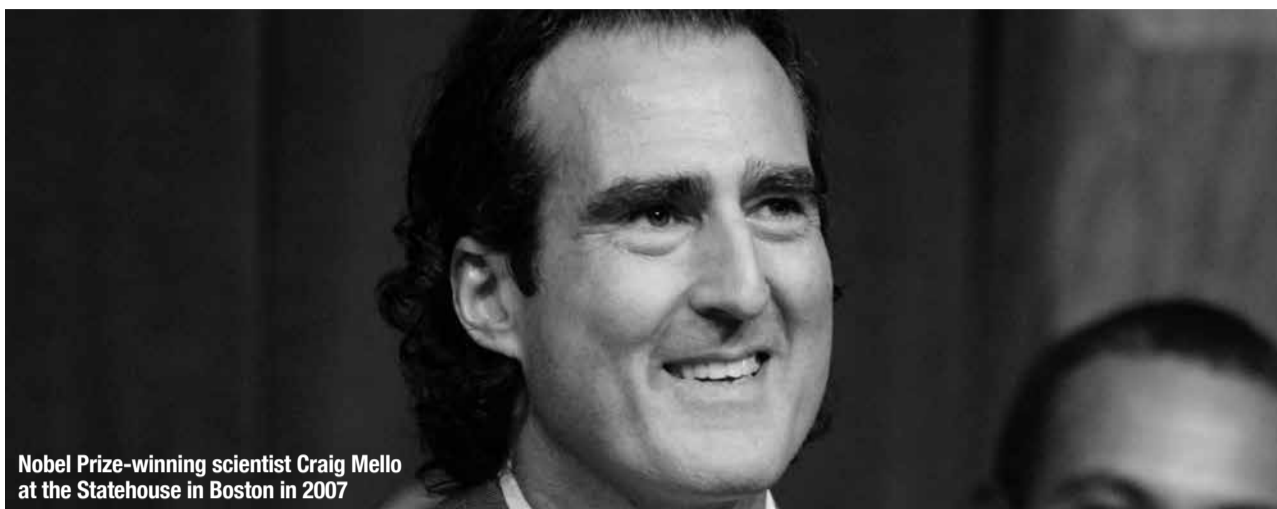
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AP PHOTO



Nobel Prize-winning scientist Craig Mello at the Statehouse in Boston in 2007

EXCLUSIVE

US Nobelist was told of gene-edited babies

Candice Choi & Marilyn Marchione

LONG before the claim of the world's first gene-edited babies became public, Chinese researcher He Jiankui shared the news with a U.S. Nobel laureate who objected to the experiment yet remained an adviser to He's biotech company.

The revelation that another prominent scientist knew of the work, which was widely condemned when it was revealed, comes as scientists debate whether and how to alert troubling research, and the need for clearer guidelines.

Emails obtained by The Associated Press under a public records request show that Nobel Prize winner Craig Mello of the University of Massachusetts learned about the pregnancy last April from He in a message titled "Success!"

"I'm glad for you, but I'd rather not be kept in the loop on this," Mello replied. "You are risking the health of the child you are editing [...] I just don't see why you are doing this. I wish your patient the best of luck for a healthy pregnancy."

Mello stayed on as a scientific adviser for He's Direct Genomics company for eight more months, until December, just after news of the births became public and drew international scorn. The Chinese scientist's gene-editing work was not a company experiment. He tried to alter the genes of twin girls to help them resist possible future infection with HIV, the AIDS virus.

Several U.S. researchers knew or strongly suspected He was considering trying embryo gene editing, and his disclosure to Mello in April is notable because it specified the pregnancy had been achieved, and came on the day He himself said he learned of it.

Editing embryos intended for a pregnancy is not allowed in the U.S. and many other places because of the risk of harming other genes and concerns that these DNA changes can be passed to future generations. But there's no certain way to stop a rogue scientist from experimenting, no matter what rules are in place, because the gene-editing technology is cheap and easy to use.

It's not clear how someone would have raised concerns about He's project, said University of Wisconsin bioethicist Alta Charo, who was one of the leaders of the Hong Kong gene-editing conference where He gave details of the experiment. He's work has not been published in a scientific journal.

University of Minnesota bioethicist Leigh Turner said the lack of action by scientists who learned of He's intentions indicates a broader culture of silence. "There seems to have been multiple lost opportunities," Turner said.

Last week, China's state media reported that He could face consequences after investigators determined he acted alone and fabricated an ethics review by others. The Xinhua report said the twins and people involved in a second, ongoing pregnancy with a gene-edited embryo will remain under medical observation with regular visits supervised by government health departments. Efforts to reach He were unsuccessful.

Mello declined requests for an interview. In statements provided through his university, Mello said he had no idea He was "personally interested" in human gene editing or had the means to pull it off, and that their discussions were "hypothetical and broad." Mello repeated his disapproval of He's project and said he resigned from Direct Genomics' scientific advisory board because he felt that a company led by He could no longer be effective.

You are risking the health of the child you [He Jiankui] are editing ... I just don't see why you are doing this.

CRAIG MELLO

Mello said he started on the board in October 2017, and said he didn't accept compensation for the role. A representative for his university said faculty members are allowed to serve on scientific advisory boards. Mello is paid by the Howard Hughes Medical Institute, which also supports AP's Health & Science Department. Mello's work with Direct Genomics was not as an HHMI representative, according to the university and an email from an HHMI lawyer to He.

According to a statement Mello's university provided, He approached Mello during a break at a company meeting in November 2017 to talk about the possibility of using the powerful gene-editing tool CRISPR to prevent HIV infection from parent to child. The statement said Mello said he had no idea of He's intention to try this himself.

After the meeting, emails show that Mello connected He to a colleague for advice on "pediatric HIV transmission risks for a therapy he is contemplating."

Infectious disease expert Dr. Katherine Luzuriaga replied that she looked forward to talking. She did not respond to requests for an interview. The university released a statement saying that Luzuriaga and He had a brief phone call, and that she was not aware the advice she was providing could be for He's work on gene-edited embryos.

In April, He emailed Mello: "Good News [...] the pregnancy is confirmed!" He asked Mello to keep the news confidential.

Mello, who won a Nobel in 2006 for genetics research, expressed concern about health risks.

"I think you are taking a big risk and I do not want anyone to think that I approve of what you are doing," he wrote. "I'm sorry I cannot be more supportive of this effort, I know you mean well."

The emails show Mello attended another Direct Genomics meeting in China in November, about a week before the Hong Kong conference where He made his claim public.

Mello's statement said he resigned from the company's scientific advisory board on Dec. 6. **AP**

USA

Trump hits Venezuela with oil sanctions to pressure Maduro

THE Trump administration yesterday [Macau time] sanctioned Venezuela's state-owned oil company, ratcheting up pressure on socialist President Nicolas Maduro to cede power to the U.S.-backed opposition in the oil-rich nation in South America.

The action means Maduro's embattled government would lose access to one of its most important sources of income and foreign currency along with around USD7 billion in assets of the state-owned company, Petroleos De Venezuela S.A.

Hours after the White House announced the sanctions, Maduro went on state TV and called the U.S. action "immoral, criminal." In words directed at President Donald Trump, he said, "Hands off Venezuela!"

The sanctions follow the unusual decision by more than 20 countries, including the U.S., to recognize the opposition leader of the National Assembly, Juan Guaido, as the interim president of Venezuela. Maduro was re-elected last year in an election widely seen as fraudulent. The once prosperous nation has been in an economic collapse, with several million citizens fleeing to neighboring countries.

"We have continued to expose the corruption of Maduro and his cronies, and today's action ensures they can no longer loot the assets of the Venezuelan people," national security adviser John Bolton said at a White House news conference to announce the sanctions with Treasury

Secretary Steven Mnuchin.

Bolton said he expects yesterday's actions against PDVSA — the acronym for the state-owned oil company — will result in more than \$11 billion in lost export proceeds during the next year.

Oil production — the lifeblood of Venezuela's economy — has been collapsing for years. Despite sitting atop the world's largest reserves, Venezuela currently pumps just a third of the 3.5 million barrels a day it did when the late Hugo Chavez took power in 1999.

The nation's refining capacity has also declined because of poor maintenance and lack of skilled personnel. That has left it reliant on Citgo, the Houston-based refining arm of PDVSA, to refine the oil and send gasoline back to Venezuela to meet domestic needs.

"They have just lost that source," said Russ Dallen, managing partner of Caracas Capital, a brokerage company.

Venezuela is very reliant on the U.S. for its oil revenue, sending 41 percent of its oil exports to the U.S. Maduro can divert the roughly 500,000 barrels per day of oil currently being sold to Gulf Coast refineries to markets in Russia, China, India, Malaysia and Thailand.

But processing international financial transactions is hard without going through the U.S. or European banks. Transport costs would also jump because Venezuela's ports aren't well-equipped to load supertankers for transporting oil to distant markets. **AP**

AP PHOTO



National security adviser John Bolton speaks as Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin listens during a press briefing at the White House

BREXIT

British Jews apply for German nationality as deal looms

Kirsten Grieshaber, Berlin

SIMON Wallfisch grew up in London as the grandson of an Auschwitz survivor, who had sworn to never return to the country that murdered her parents and 6 million other Jews.

But more than 70 years after the Holocaust, Brexit has prompted Wallfisch and thousands of other Jews in Britain to apply for German citizenship, which was stripped from their ancestors by the Nazis during the Third Reich.

"This disaster that we call Brexit has led to me just finding a way to secure my future and my children's future," said Wallfisch, 36, a well-known classical singer and cellist who received his German passport in October. "In order to remain European I've taken the European citizenship."

Britons holding dual citizenship from an EU country like Germany will retain the privilege of free movement and work across the soon-to-be 27-nation bloc.

Many Britons whose ancestors



Holocaust survivor Anita Lasker-Wallfisch (center) her daughter Maya Jacobs Lasker-Wallfisch (left) and her grandson Simon Wallfisch

came from other parts of Europe have been claiming citizenship in other EU member states so they can keep ties to the continent. But for Jews whose families fled Germany to escape the Nazis, the decision has meant re-examining long-held beliefs about the country.

The German Embassy in London says it has received more than 3,380 citizenship applications since the Brexit referendum in June 2016. In comparison, only around 20 such requests were made annually in the years before Brexit. Article

116 of the German Constitution allows the descendants of people persecuted by the Nazis to regain the citizenship that was removed between 1933 and 1945.

Wallfisch's grandmother, Anita Lasker-Wallfisch, was 18 in December 1943 when she was deported to Auschwitz, the Nazi death camp in occupied Poland where more than 1 million Jews were murdered.

She survived because she was a member of the camp's girls' orchestra. As a cellist, she had to play classical music while other Jews were taken to the gas chambers.

In November 1944, she was taken to Bergen-Belsen — the concentration camp where diarist Anne Frank died after also being transferred from Auschwitz at about the same time — where she was eventually liberated by the British army in April 1945.

Lasker-Wallfisch immigrated to Britain in 1946, got married and had two children. Her ca-

reer as a famous cello player took her around the world, but it took decades until she overcame her hatred enough to set foot on German soil again in the 1990s.

In recent years, Lasker-Wallfisch, 93, has become a regular visitor, educating children in Germany about the Holocaust.

On Sunday's International Holocaust Remembrance Day, Lasker-Wallfisch, her grandson Simon and her daughter Maya Jacobs Lasker-Wallfisch performed for the first time together on stage at the Jewish Museum Berlin in commemoration of their family. They played music with other members of their extended family and read letters from the past as a tribute to those who survived and those who perished in the Shoah.

Before the show, the three generations sat together on the red couch in the museum's dressing room and told The Associated Press about the emotional thoughts that went into the younger two's decision to take German citizenship.

"We cannot be victims of our past. We have to have some hope for change," said Maya Jacobs Lasker-Wallfisch, a 60-year-old London psychotherapist who is Simon's aunt and is still waiting on her German citizenship to be approved. "I feel somehow in a strange way triumphant. Something is coming full circle." AP

AD

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what's ON



SURFACE REVEALED - DRONE PHOTOGRAPHY BY CHAN HIN IO

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: February 8, 2019

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

Admission: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

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

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: January 31, 2019

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

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

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

3pm-8pm (Monday)

UNTIL: February 13, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

Offbeat

MICHAEL JACKSON FAMILY CONDEMNS NEW DOCUMENTARY ON ACCUSERS



Wade Robson (from left) director Dan Reed and James Safechuck pose for a portrait to promote the film "Leaving Neverland"

Michael Jackson's family members said yesterday [Macau time] that they are "furious" that two men who accuse him of sexually abusing them as boys have received renewed attention because of a new documentary about them.

The family released a statement denouncing "Leaving Neverland," a documentary film featuring Jackson accusers Wade Robson and James Safechuck that premiered last week at the Sundance Film Festival and is set to air in the spring on HBO and the U.K.'s Channel 4.

"Michael always turned the other cheek, and we have always turned the other cheek when people have gone after members of our family — that is the Jackson way," the statement said. "But we can't just stand by while this public lynching goes on.... Michael is not here to defend himself, otherwise these allegations would not have been made."

The family points out that Jackson was subjected to a thorough investigation that included a surprise raid of his home, the Neverland Ranch, but was still acquitted at his criminal trial in 2005, in a case involving another young man.

Robson testified at that trial, saying he had slept in Jackson's room many times, but that Jackson had never molested him. Safechuck made similar statements to investigators as a boy. Jackson died in 2009.

Both men filed lawsuits in 2013 saying stress and trauma had forced them to face the truth and admit they were sexually abused. The suits have been thrown out on technical grounds but are under appeal.

The Jackson statement calls the men "perjurers" because of this reversal, saying the family is "furious" that media outlets without evidence have chosen "to believe the word of two admitted liars over the word of hundreds of families and friends around the world who spent time with Michael."

"Leaving Neverland" director Dan Reed said in a statement Monday that the film focuses only on the two men and their families because he felt "no need to include the opinions of people with no direct knowledge of what happened" to them.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:40	Zig Zag
16:05	Os Compadres
16:45	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:40	Palcos Agora
18:10	João Semana - Fim
19:00	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Montra do Lilau
21:50	O Último Reino Sr.1
22:40	LiteraturAqui
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Curso de Cultura Geral
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	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



1965 LAST FAREWELL TO CHURCHILL

Thousands of people have paid their last respects to Britain's greatest wartime leader Sir Winston Churchill who was buried today after a full state funeral.

Silent crowds lined the streets to watch the gun carriage bearing Sir Winston's coffin leave Westminster Hall as Big Ben struck 0945. The procession travelled slowly through central London to St Paul's cathedral for the funeral service.

Sir Winston died six days ago, following a stroke earlier in the month from which he never regained consciousness.

A total of 321,360 people filed past the catafalque during the three days of lying-in-state.

Today, millions around the world watched the funeral procession at home and abroad as television pictures were beamed from 40 BBC cameras placed along the route.

The mourners were led by Sir Winston's wife, Lady Clementine Churchill, his son Randolph and daughters Mary Soames and Lady Sarah Audley. The Queen and other members of the royal family, the Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, and representatives of 112 countries packed into the cathedral for the service.

The funeral cortege was accompanied by a 19-gun salute and an RAF fly-past as it began the journey to Sir Winston's final resting place. At Tower Hill, the coffin was piped aboard the launch Havengore for the voyage up the Thames.

From Waterloo, it was placed onto a train drawn by a Battle of Britain locomotive named Winston Churchill. Thousands gathered to pay tribute at wayside stations. At many football matches a two-minute silence was observed.

Sir Winston was finally laid to rest in the Oxfordshire parish churchyard of Bladon, close to Blenheim Palace where he was born 90 years before, with only family members present.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Sir Winston Churchill was the first statesman to be given a state funeral in the 20th century.

Former prime ministers, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Henry Palmerston and William Gladstone, had preceded him in this posthumous honour in the 19th century.

Sir Winston left a wife and three children. His eldest daughter, Diana, had committed suicide in 1963 and another daughter died in infancy.

His political legacy lives on. His grandson, Nicholas Soames, is a Conservative MP and former armed forces minister. Another grandson, Winston Churchill, served as a Tory MP until 1997 when he lost his seat.

A BBC survey in January 2000 voted Sir Winston the greatest British prime minister of the 20th century. BBC viewers and users voted him the greatest Briton in November 2002.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Give yourself a break when it comes to running errands and taking care of other people and enjoy being taken care of.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Listen closely to what everyone's talking about today - there's a hotly debated topic that you need to weigh in on.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 No checking your email or voice mail every 15 minutes! Take a long walk or go on an adventure in the great outdoors - you'll distance yourself from the situation and gain a peaceful perspective.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 All of your carefully laid plans fly out the window early today, which is a blessing in disguise. You'll have to formulate your back-up plan very quickly, so act first and think later.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Listening to contrary points of view will be an educational experience today, but not a unique one. Thankfully, you've always been mature enough to listen to what others have to say.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Positive thinking and visualization are powerful tools for getting what you want, but they aren't the only things you need to focus on right now.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Things that used to intimidate you hold a strange and powerful curiosity for you now. This is a very positive thing. Being curious about new and unfamiliar people and ideas is something you should appreciate.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 When push comes to shove today, rely on your charm and silver tongue to buy you time until you're ready to make your decision.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Don't be caught off guard when someone asks for your insight today. You've been developing a strong opinion about what's been going on in this friend's life, but respectfully, you've avoided giving any lectures.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 The best tactic for you is to take an impersonal point of view in every situation, no matter how personal it may be - remove your emotions from the equation and keep your thinking calm.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Why is it that the richest people are always the ones looking for more? Your quest for greater fulfillment (emotionally or materialistically) is a waste of time.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Your social calendar is getting jam-packed, and you may be starting to feel the pressure that popularity can bring. Having your time so desired is a mixed blessing.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

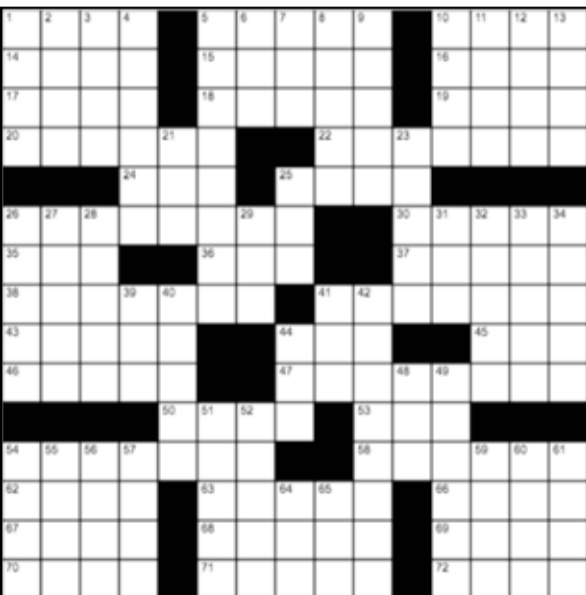
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Crooner Perry; 5- Light ___; 10- Dampens; 14- Be in front; 15- Took care of; 16- Canyon comeback; 17- Pot starter; 18- Lazybones; 19- Muffin choice; 20- Fails to; 22- Ascertain dimensions; 24- Cutting tool; 25- Woe ___; 26- Stew ingredient; 30- Alabama city; 35- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 36- Sunburnt; 37- Body of salt water; 38- Books of maps; 41- Indian baby; 43- Italian white wine; 44- Neighbor of Syr.; 45- This ___ test; 46- Goddesses of the seasons; 47- Act of seizing authority; 50- Movie-rating org.; 53- Live; 54- Locks; 58- Pertaining to the brain; 62- Bright star; 63- Berlin's "Blue ___"; 66- Ballot choice; 67- Not new; 68- Aquarium fish; 69- Hayworth or Moreno; 70- Actress Daly; 71- Smells; 72- Airline to Ben-Gurion;

DOWN: 1- Dressed; 2- Vintner's prefix; 3- Spouse; 4- Black Sea port; 5- So to speak; 6- Sorrowful; 7- Hole maker; 8- Units; 9- Composer Ned; 10- Entanglements; 11- Beige; 12- ___ she blows!; 13- Unit of loudness; 21- Capture; 23- Author of fables; 25- Not Rep. or Dem.; 26- Strap; 27- Playground retort; 28- Of the cheek; 29- DDE opponent; 31- Green prefix; 32- Ninth-century pope; 33- Pool stroke; 34- Lend ___ (listen); 39- Actress Gardner; 40- Appears; 41- Largest book of the OT; 42- State of USA; 44- Give ___ rest!; 48- Before; 49- Body of work; 51- Basil-based sauce; 52- Invited; 54- Hardware fastener; 55- Optimistic; 56- Tied; 57- "Smooth Operator" singer; 59- Disturb; 60- ___ boy!; 61- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 64- Lance on the bench; 65- Slip;



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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
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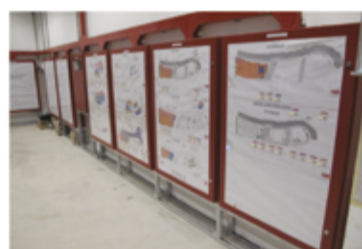
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SUPER BOWL

Atlanta braces for plunging temperatures, ice, maybe snow

Jeff Martin, Atlanta

ATTLANTANS awoke to relatively mild weather yesterday, but forecasters warned that streets could still become icy as fans arrive for the Super Bowl, with temperatures expected to drop more than 20 degrees during the day.

More than 100 of yesterday's flights were canceled at Atlanta's airport and schools were closed across the city "in an abundance of caution" ahead of the storm front, which was churning toward Georgia just as thousands of fans begin pouring into town for Super Bowl 53.

It was sweater weather for the morning commute. Office workers made crunching sounds stepping on the salt spread generously over Marietta Street, one of the main thoroughfares downtown. The salt caught the light from outdoor video boards set up for the Super Bowl, and reflected shades of blue, red and green.

Even a threat of icy weather is taken seriously in Atlanta, five years after cars, trucks and school buses became marooned on the southern city's freeways in what became known as "snow jam."

The storm system slowed somewhat overnight, but temperatures are still expected to plunge into the 30s by today [Macau time] and the 20s by evening, said Sid King, a National Weather Service meteorologist.

"When I came in this morning it was measuring about 50 in Atlanta, but it's still expected to drop considerably," King said.

AP PHOTO



Less than an inch of snow is now expected inside the perimeter highway that defines the metropolis, but emergency officials say they're more concerned about the potential for ice.

A winter weather advisory remained in effect for Atlanta, a city known for grinding to a halt in relatively light snowfalls.

Delta Air Lines "proactively" canceled about 170 flights at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport, its main hub, the Atlanta-based airline announced late Monday.

Georgia Gov. Brian Kemp on Monday said state offices in more than 30 counties in the northern part of the state would be closed today, including those in the Atlanta area. "Temperatures

are going to plummet," the governor said.

The Atlanta Public Schools system closed its campuses, and other area districts followed suit.

New England Patriots fan Pamela Wales of Quincy, Massachusetts said it's the potential for ice that concerns her most. During her visit to Atlanta this week, local television footage reminded her that Atlanta and ice don't mix well.

"They were showing all kinds of pictures on TV from 2014 when everyone got stuck," Wales said as she toured Super Bowl exhibits at the Georgia World Congress Center Monday afternoon.

The potential for black ice is also "the overriding concern" among emergency officials, said

Homer Bryson, director of the Georgia Emergency Management and Homeland Security Agency.

"It's very similar to what we saw in 2014 where the roadways will not have time to dry off before the moisture or precipitation on them refreezes," Kemp said. "And that's when you have black ice, and that's what causes wrecks, which causes gridlock and public safety issues, injuries."

Road crews began treating north Georgia's major interstates, state routes and overpasses on Monday with brine, a liquid salt mixture.

The routes that both the Patriots and Los Angeles Rams must use to travel to and from

practice venues will also be pre-treated. About 1,900 employees were on call and more than 420 pieces of snow removal equipment were ready, the Georgia Department of Transportation said in a statement.

Sunday's Super Bowl will be played in downtown Atlanta in Mercedes-Benz Stadium, and its roof will be open if weather permits, officials have said. There's a 40 percent chance of showers Sunday, but highs will be near 14 degrees Celsius. That's slightly warmer than average for Feb. 3 in Atlanta, climate records show.

Yesterday's weather posed the more immediate threat, and elected officials were already anticipating criticism as they calibrated their responses.

"It is often easy to pass judgment on how we in Georgia deal with snow and ice, but for those from the north what you do know is that an ice event is very different than a snow event," Atlanta Mayor Keisha Lance Bottoms said Monday.

Past Super Bowl weeks have been marred by wintry weather, including the 2011 game in Arlington, Texas. Ice coated roads around metro Dallas during the week before Green Bay defeated Pittsburgh that year. Chunks of ice also tumbled from the roof of Cowboys Stadium, hurting six workers on the ground.

In 2000, the St. Louis Rams and Tennessee Titans arrived in Atlanta shortly after an ice storm brought traffic in the city to a standstill.

Unseasonably cold temperatures followed, and both teams had to practice outdoors since the Georgia Dome was being used for Super Bowl pregame and halftime rehearsals. The Rams wore winter jackets and thermal underwear in the biting cold.

"It's ridiculous," Rams coach Dick Vermeil said at the time. "But there's nothing you can do about it except try to survive." AP

RUGBY LEAGUE

Most of 2021 World Cup to be in north England

THE 2021 Rugby League World Cup will be staged almost entirely in its north England stronghold.

Thanks to a grant of 25 million pounds (USD33 million) from the government, English Rugby Football League organizers of the World Cup easily met a requirement to play 80 percent of it in the north.

Only two of the 31 matches will be south of Sheffield, including a semifinal at Emirates Stadium, the first time the London home of Arsenal will host a rugby league match. Coventry will host the other, a group stage match.

The last time the RFL staged the event, in 2013 and very successfully, it was spread across England, Wales, France, and Ireland.

Other eye-catching venues at the announcement yesterday included a semifinal at Elland Road in Leeds, and the final at Old Trafford, which drew an international record crowd of 74,468 for the 2013 final between Australia and New Zealand.

Newcastle's St. James' Park will stage the opening ceremony, followed by the opening game featuring England.

The 16 teams will play

group matches in Bolton, St. Helens, Warrington, Leigh, Coventry, Doncaster, Workington, Leeds, Middlesbrough, Newcastle, Hull, and Sheffield.

The quarterfinals will be in Bolton, Liverpool, Huddersfield, and Hull.

The men's, women's, and wheelchair tournaments will be played concurrently for the first time. The women's final will be in a doubleheader with the men's at Old Trafford. The wheelchair final will be in Liverpool.

The draw will be on Nov. 27, two years before the final. AP



Australia's captain Cameron Smith celebrates with teammates after their 34-2 win over New Zealand in their match at Old Trafford Stadium, Manchester

opinion

World Views

Therese Raphael, Bloomberg

HAD ENOUGH OF BREXIT? HOW ABOUT 10 MORE YEARS

When moments of political drama capture the national attention, one at least expects some clarity to result. Alas, that would be setting the bar too high for today's Brexit votes in the U.K. parliament [Macau time].

We continually hear (and some of us have repeated the mantra) that Brexit is a process not an event. But that's not quite right. Processes are orderly and have an endpoint. There is, as yet, no order to Brexit and no endpoint. A sense of chronic impermanence is virtually certain whatever path parliament takes, according to trade specialists and analysts.

"It has the look of a many-years long exercise, however you look forward from here," says Tony Travers, a professor of government at the London School of Economics. "We are in the rolling foothills of an enormous mountain."

A no-deal scenario would bring the most uncertainty, leaving the Irish border question unresolved, no trading relationship in place and a great many sore feelings. Since Ireland itself will hold a veto over any future EU trade agreement with the U.K., Britain can't simply pretend the question of how to maintain an open border between the two countries is Dublin's problem.

May's negotiated deal at least sets out a transition period during which the work on a future trade relationship can begin. And yet exactly what shape that takes will be a matter of bitter internal debate and long, iterative negotiations.

If Brexit gets delayed, or May's deal morphs into a softer customs-union type arrangement, or a Norway-style one that leaves Britain in the single market but with no say in EU laws, extensive negotiations will be required to work out the details of the new relationship and their interpretation – all in a fractious domestic political environment. Likewise, a second referendum or a general election might state the public's wish for a say, but the decision must then be implemented – again, via more negotiations.

Even if there was a vote to reverse Brexit, life wouldn't return to its pre-2016 settled norm.

We have an idea of what the economic costs are from the uncertainty generated by the Brexit vote. How a country of Britain's size deals with a prolonged period of multi-faceted, multi-front negotiations, however, is impossible to predict. How will 10 or more years of up-and-down, publicly scrutinized negotiations affect domestic spending decisions and taxation, impact elections, reshape the civil services, determine investment decisions and impact consumer choices and voter preferences? We don't know.

Brexiters blithely claim the impact will be benign – but that is pure guesswork. Their logic is also tortured: If free trade is so desirable that Britain needs to get out of the customs union, leaving the closest possible free-trade deal with your largest trading partner in favor of greater friction and uncertain future relationships has to be acknowledged as a backward step.

And yet, the era of perpetual negotiation doesn't portend economic doom either. Britain has a robust, diverse, (modestly) growing economy with low unemployment; and for all the talk of constitutional crisis, its venerated democratic institutions appear able to handle the knocks. There is no danger of cardiac arrest if an orderly Brexit can be engineered.

Radical uncertainty – when no historical data or statistics are useful for mapping the outcome – seems axiomatic with Brexit. Maybe it's more apt to describe the best-case scenario as one of prolonged "insecure stability," a term Pacific Investment Management Company's global economic adviser Joachim Fels and former Pimco executive and now Fed Vice Chairman Richard Clarida circulated in 2016.

"It's with us for another half-generation," Travers says. "If pro-Brexit MPs feel that we didn't properly leave, they will go on campaigning for a more determined form of Brexit." Remainers, too, will be on their toes. "Whether we leave with no deal or not, I'm absolutely sure that a campaign will be set up on March 30," he says.

We'd better get used to it.
[Abridged]

THE TRUMP TO BE INTERVIEWED BY CBS' BRENAN BEFORE SUPER BOWL

CBS News says "Face the Nation" moderator Margaret Brennan will sit down with President Donald Trump for an interview that will air before Sunday's Super Bowl.

CBS says the interview will be taped Saturday (Macau time). Part of it will air during the regular "Face the Nation" broadcast Sunday morning, while the rest will be shown around 3:30 p.m. EST during CBS' pregame coverage.

Trump declined to be interviewed by NBC when it aired the Super Bowl in 2018. He did join Fox News Channel's Bill O'Reilly for an interview that aired during the Fox Broadcasting Company's pregame show before the 2017 Super Bowl.

President Barack Obama did a pre-Super Bowl interview during each of the eight years he was in the White House.

ORGANIZED CRIME

El Chapo tells judge he won't testify at US trial

Tom Hays, New York

MEXICAN drug lord Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman told a judge yesterday [Macau time] that he won't take the witness stand in his own defense at his U.S. drug-trafficking trial, ending speculation that he might go for broke and build on a notorious reputation already cemented by the sprawling government case against him.

"Your honor, me and my attorneys have spoken about this, and I won't testify," Guzman said through a Spanish interpreter in a rare instance of him standing up and speaking in court.

The decision, along with the defense's plan to call only two brief witnesses, could bring the trial to a sooner-than-expected conclusion. Closing arguments were set to begin Wednesday with deliberations starting as soon as Friday afternoon.

Guzman's lawyers say he's being framed by a cadre of cooperators who were far more culpable in the Sinaloa cartel's wildly lucrative cocaine-smuggling enterprise.

As the government was finally concluding a case that began in mid-November, an actor who played Guzman on a popular Netflix series caused a minor stir Monday by showing up in the courtroom as a spectator. The defendant cracked a smile and waved when "Narcos: Mexico" cast member Alejandro Edda was pointed out to him, Edda told reporters.

"It was a very surreal moment, I have to be honest," the actor said.

Surreal was an apt description for many aspects of the government's case, including testimony from several cooperators that made Guzman's delight at seeing Edda seem understandable. Some of the more than 50 government witnesses said Guzman had spoken often of his dream of being portrayed on film or being the subject of an autobiography about his rise to power as the Sinaloa cartel boss. The highlights of the go-



Actor Alejandro Edda, who portrayed the notorious drug lord El Chapo on a Netflix series, appeared at the kingpin's trial in Brooklyn, NYC

vernment case offered plenty of potential material, starting early in the trial with testimony by a former Sinaloa cartel lieutenant describing how a car carrying Guzman into Mexico City shortly after he escaped prison in 2001 got a police escort by highway officers. A suspected informant claimed he had survived several attempts on his life ordered by Guzman, including a knife attack at a jail right after he heard a brass band ominously playing a favorite "corrido" folk song of Guzman's – "Un Puno De Tierra" – over and over.

The decision, along with the defense's plan to call only two brief witnesses, could bring the trial to a [quicker] conclusion

A former Colombian kingpin who once supplied the cartel with tons of cocaine, Juan Carlos Ramirez Abadia, made an impact solely by the way he looked while testifying – with his face distorted by an extreme

makeover meant to hide his identity. Ramirez explained that he had undergone at least three plastic surgeries that altered "my jawbone, my cheekbones, my eyes, my mouth, my ears, my nose."

Much of the testimony was devoted to how corrupt Mexican authorities had a voracious appetite for drug money. One cooperator said Guzman had paid former President Enrique Pena Nieto USD100,000, a claim Pena Nieto denied.

Three of the latest witnesses kept the drama alive: A former cartel computer tech who testified how, after being flipped by the FBI, he showed them how to intercept the syndicate's phone calls and texts that Guzman had monitored with spyware; a member of the cartel security team who alleged Guzman shot a kidnapped victim before having the man buried alive; and an ex-girlfriend who described how they evaded a manhunt – one of his specialties – using a trapdoor underneath a safehouse bathroom that let to a drainage tunnel that he used to run away, naked, in 2014.

Guzman was captured in 2015 and escaped jail through a tunnel dug into his prison cell before he was sent in 2017 to the U.S. He's been in solitary confinement ever since and would face life in prison if convicted. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



IRAQ The leader of one of the most powerful Iranian-backed Shiite militias in Iraq said that he expects a vote in the coming months by Iraq's parliament calling for the withdrawal of U.S. troops, underscoring the jostling for power between Iran and the U.S. in this key Middle Eastern country.

SYRIA Government forces shelled a northwestern town held by al-Qaida-linked militants yesterday, killing at least 10 people and wounding others.



BULGARIA's prime minister said yesterday that his country still aims to adopt the euro by 2022 despite some opposition by some local businesses that fear greater scrutiny of the economy.

SPAIN Official statistics show that Spain's jobless rate dropped to 14.45 percent in 2018, the lowest in one decade.



BRAZIL Authorities issued arrest warrants yesterday for five people in connection with a dam collapse that killed at least 65 people as it plastered part of a city with reddish-brown mud and iron ore mining waste.

US Insurance claims from California's deadly November 2018 wildfires have topped USD11.4 billion, making the series of fires some of the most expensive in state history.