



TYCOON NOT IN CRITICAL CONDITION

Family members have denied that Stanley Ho has been admitted to intensive care, saying that he is resting in a Hong Kong hospital

P3



VICTIM FACED WITH HEAVY MEDICAL COSTS

Lawmaker Agnes Lam organized a press conference to call for support for a domestic violence victim who needs support to continue treatments

P4



'THE MACAU KID' TO FIGHT IN HAINAN

P7 BOXING

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

TAIWAN A strike among pilots at Taiwan's flag carrier China Airlines dragged into a third day yesterday, resulting in further flight cancellations. [More on p10](#)

INDONESIAN police have acknowledged officers terrorized a Papuan man with a live snake after a video of the incident circulated online showing the man screaming in fear and his interrogator laughing.



THAILAND A political party swore loyalty to the king after its stunning decision to nominate the monarch's sister as its candidate for prime minister backfired when the king called the move inappropriate and unconstitutional. [More on p12](#)



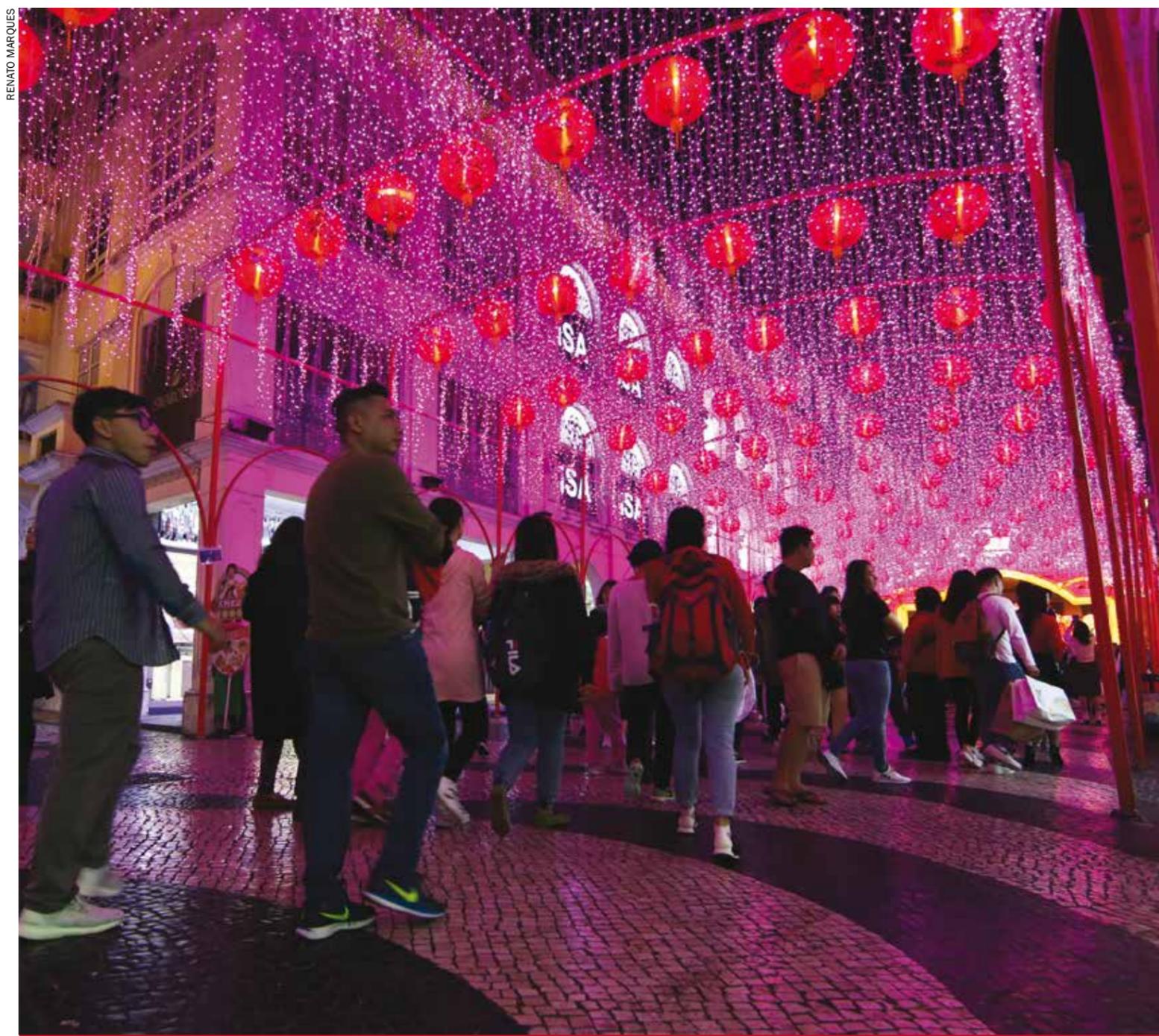
VENEZUELA The U.S. is seeking support for a United Nations Security Council resolution condemning Venezuela's government for blocking humanitarian aid from entering the country and calling on President Nicolas Maduro to hold new elections.

GERMANY Five watercolors attributed to Nazi dictator Adolf Hitler from his early days as a struggling artist have failed to sell at auction in the southern German city of Nuremberg, possibly over fears they could be fakes.

More on backpage

CNY tourist arrivals above expectations

P2,7



South Korea, US sign cost-sharing deal for American troops

P13

Direct flights to Cebu City launched

A direct flight route between Macau and Cebu City, in the central Philippines, was launched on Friday. The new route, with daily direct flights, is operated by Air Asia. It is also the airline's second route to the Philippines from Macau, and their 10th international destination from Macau. Southeast Asia is an important market, with an increasing number of air passengers travelling to Macau each year, said Director of the Macau International Airport's (MIA) Marketing Department Eric Fong at the launch ceremony. About 25,000 passengers used the airport every day in January, up 20 percent year-on-year, according to the MIA.

10 detained in illegal gambling operation

The Public Security Police Force (PSP) has cracked down an illegal gambling operation at an industrial building located on Av. de Venceslau de Moraes. Eight people were detained, including the illegal venue operators and gamblers, and two further mainland women were also detained as suspected illegal workers. Four of the 10 detainees were local men acting as the operators, two illegal mainland workers were dealers, and three Hong Kong men and one local woman at the scene were gamblers. These people are aged between 30 and 40 years old. Additionally, PSP seized two gambling tables, 17 chairs, chips with an estimated value between HKD5 and HKD5,000, as well as decks of cards and several computers. Among the suspects' belongings, the police seized telecommunication tools and a total of MOP180,000 in cash. The 10 detainees admitted to their illegal conduct.

CNY tourist numbers over MGTO's expectations

THE total number of visitor arrivals for the 2019 Chinese New Year holiday had already exceeded last year's figures, with nearly 1.4 million tourists recorded visiting the region as of yesterday afternoon.

According to data issued by the Public Security Police Force, Macau received a total of 84,799 visitors on the first day, the majority of which came through the Outer Harbor.

As of the sixth day of the Lunar New Year, 511,939 tourists passed through the Border Gate to visit the region.

During the Golden Dragon Parade on Thursday, Director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said that

the number of incoming visitors had exceeded the office's expectations.

Previously, the official had estimated that visitor arrivals would increase by 8 to 9 percent during the seven-day period.

"It seems to be attracting a lot of people, so definitely we're looking for a prosperous New Year; and as far as I know in terms of the numbers we've seen so far, this has been over our expectations. So obviously, we'll need to see what pans out in the next few days," Fernandes told TDM on the sidelines of the event.

Total mainland visitor arrivals as of Saturday totaled to 768,817, of which nearly 471,900 passed through the Border Gate.

RENATO MARQUES



CRIME

Dispute ends in brawl, 1 arrested

A man was caught on video wielding a knife while chasing two others down a street, as shown in footage posted on a social media network. The incident occurred last week, during a dispute between the three men from Vietnam who were working in Macau and sharing an apartment in the surround-

ings of Kiang Wu.

After the brawl took the streets and the authorities were warned, an off-duty police officer eventually put an end to the disorder, stopping and detaining the man wielding the knife, TDM reported.

According to the report, the man in custody had sustained a

head injury which was allegedly the result of being hit with several objects thrown by the other two men who are still at large.

After being treated at a public hospital, the man was discharged and delivered to authorities who charged him for at least two offenses – possession of a forbidden weapon

and bodily harm.

The suspect was said to be working in Macau as a waiter and his case has already been forwarded to the Public Prosecutions Office, who will continue the investigation. The police continue to search for the other two men involved in the brawl.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

KENNEL TRAINING A PUPPY

KENNEL training a puppy can be an easy task if done correctly. Be patient with your puppy until he is excited to spend time in his kennel.

VALUE OF KENNEL TRAINING

Dogs are den animals, so many of them gravitate naturally to their kennels as a place where they feel safe and can relax. Some dogs develop an aversion to kennels because they have spent too much time in them, or have been punished or felt trapped while within them.

A puppy shouldn't have any aversions to kennels since he won't have spent a lot of time with one, so you have a fresh slate. It's important to use a kennel for potty training as well as restricting your puppy's freedom when you aren't available to train him where to relieve himself and objects on which to chew.

When you're kennel training a puppy, put an old shirt that smells like you inside it, as well as a comfortable bed or blanket. Add a

toy or two and a special bone that he only gets when in his kennel. Try to keep the kennel in the same room where you are, as dogs are social animals and don't like to be alone.

CREATING KENNEL EXCITEMENT

When you first introduce your puppy to his kennel, make it an exciting place. Don't just place him inside and then close the door and leave.

Begin by feeding your dog his meals in his kennel. Don't close the door. Allow him to come and go as he pleases. Toss treats inside throughout the day so he eagerly runs in to get them.

Find a special treat for your dog, such as a bone or toy stuffed with peanut butter or liver paste. Get your dog excited about the treat. Toss it in the kennel and close the door with your puppy on the outside of the crate. Allow him to spend a few minutes trying to get in the kennel before finally letting him in.

Close the door to the kennel and keep him in the crate while he enjoys his special treat. Put him in the crate with special treats occasionally so he is excited to spend time in there. Sit next to the crate while he's enjoying his treat, so he isn't so isolated when inside.

KENNEL COMMAND

Teach your dog to go in his kennel on command by tossing a treat inside and giving a command, such as, "Kennel up," or "Go to bed." When he runs inside, praise him and give another reward.

After a few repetitions, stop throwing the treat and just gesture with your hand. Continue to reward with a treat until he can easily run into his kennel on command.

KENNEL MISTAKES

Don't put your puppy in his kennel on a full bladder. Make sure he has recently relieved himself. If your puppy cries when in his kennel, you need to ignore it. However, if he needs to relieve himself, that can't be ignored. If you let your dog out of his kennel each time he cries, he will learn to cry for attention. Take him outside briefly on leash



if you aren't sure when he last relieved himself. Return him immediately to his kennel. If you've spent time kennel training a puppy and he learns to tolerate it, he usually won't cry because he's used to spending time inside. This is a valuable skill for him to learn.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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GAMING TYCOON HOSPITALIZED

Relatives say Stanley Ho's health condition is not serious

INA Chan, Stanley Ho's third wife, dismissed reports that the casino tycoon has been admitted to intensive care, as reported by several media outlets.

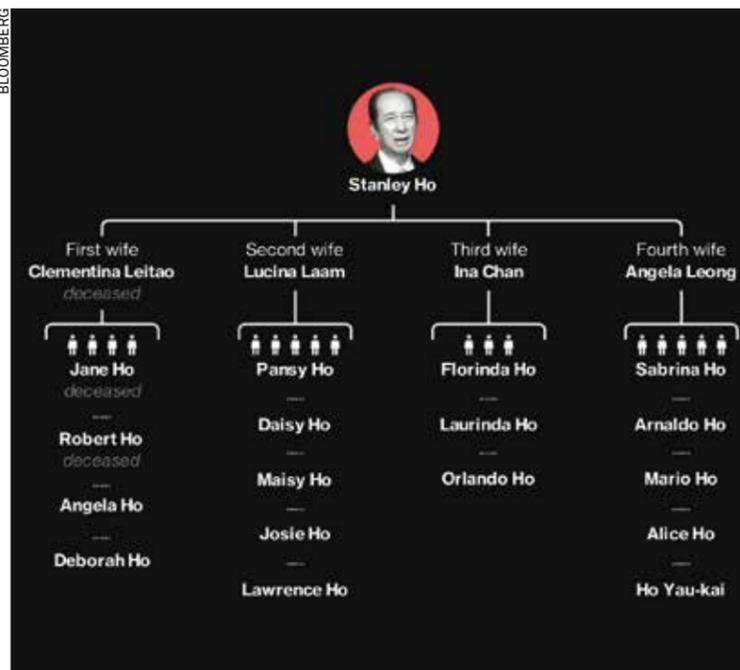
According to Chan and Ho's daughter Laurinda Ho, the 97-year old gaming magnate is in good shape and is only resting at Hong Kong Sanatorium & Hospital in Happy Valley, Hong Kong.

Speaking to the Hong Kong press, Chan said, "He is in good shape. I don't know why there were such rumors," as cited in a report issued by South China Morning Post, adding that Ho could eat and talk to family members.

Chan added that Ho's Lunar New Year wish was that his children would remain obedient.

"Touch wood! There are such rumors in the new year," said Laurinda Ho, who also met the press with her mother outside the hospital on Saturday.

Chan was one of the many family members who visited Ho at



the private hospital amid reports that the tycoon was suffering multi-organ failure.

As previously reported, Ho's fourth wife, local legislator and gaming businesswoman Angela

Leong, was also spotted at the Hong Kong hospital.

However, when asked about Ho's condition, she denied that she was there to visit him and said that she had only gone to the

hospital "to handout lai sees."

The health of the founder of gaming group Sociedade de Turismo e Diversoes de Macau (STDM) has become increasingly fragile in recent years, prompting disputes between his heirs for control of his many assets.

In 2009, Ho fell in his apartment at Repulse Bay in Hong Kong, injuring his head and subsequently underwent brain surgery. He was discharged from hospital six months later, but had to return to hospital care in 2014.

In April 2018, Ho became the latest Hong Kong billionaire – after Li Ka-shing – to step away from the empire he built, passing on the top roles at casino operator SJM Holdings Ltd. to his heirs, as revealed by a filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange.

The casino tycoon retired as chairman and executive director of SJM on June 12. He became chairman emeritus. Daisy Ho, his 53-year-old daughter, took

on his roles. Angela Leong, 57, is SJM's second-largest shareholder and acts as co-chair with another executive director.

"While Ho hasn't been involved in operations for many years, we can't help but think that the proposed board structure is a bit messy," said JPMorgan Chase & Co.'s analyst DS Kim in a note. "This complicated structure, in our view, leaves room for a potential power tussle within the board, given the lack of clear control," he told Bloomberg.

Kim is looking for a clearer plan, such as a single chairperson, to fine-tune SJM's corporate structure before the opening of the operator's first property in Macau's key Cotai district this year.

More recently, a new alliance has emerged among some of Stanley Ho's 17 children in the decade-long family battle for his Macau casino empire. and eldest daughter Pansy Ho looks the likely victor.

As the Times reported in January, Pansy Ho announced that she had joined up with some of her siblings and the Henry Fok Foundation, and would hold a combined 53 percent in STDM, which controls casino operator SJM Holdings Ltd. The alliance gives her the upper hand over Angela Leong, her main rival in the battle for control of Macau's original gaming company.

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Wong Sio Chak not considering running for CE

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said that he has never considered running in the next Chief Executive (CE) election, according to media reports. During the Lunar New Year holiday, Wong paid visits to the Border Gate building and the Macau Port of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. Wong was questioned by the media about whether he would run for the CE election. In response, Wong indicated that he had already answered the same question last year at a fire service open day and that his answer remains unchanged since then.

Decrease in number of students in universities

The Director of the Tertiary Education Services Office, Sou Chio Fai, expects a decrease in the ratio of local students matriculating into Macau's universities between 2020 and 2022. The drop is related to the decline in the number of high school graduates. Between 2020 and 2022, there will be around 3,000 to 4,000 high school graduates. This scenario will pose a challenge to the development of Macau's local tertiary education institutions, according to Sou. As a result of the decrease in number of students enrolling in local universities, Sou believes that universities can fill in the gap by expanding their scientific research and social welfare efforts. Sou has suggested that schools should provide more courses, including double-degrees and postgraduate courses. Sou also recommended that local students consider obtaining more degrees, rather than just pursuing one bachelor's degree.

More locations to be available for health measurements

The Health Bureau's (SSM) "My Health Depends On Me" program will have more service points this year, according to SSM Director Lei Chin Ion. During TDM Macau Forum, Lei reported that the program was used by 530,000 people, and that the number had been continuously increasing. The figure proves that the program has been successful, in Lei's opinion. The program currently has 35 service points, where equipment for measuring blood pressure, blood sugar levels and other important health metrics are available. SSM will purchase new equipment for the new points. In addition, Lei noted that currently, Macau is effectively controlling the flu situation.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Recovering victim has MOP1.8m in medical expenses

AUTHORITIES have issued an update on the condition of a 31-year-old woman who was the victim of a domestic violence case in July 2018.

According to the Health Bureau (SSM), the patient has been under the care of local health authorities who sent her to the Ophthalmology and Burns units at Prince Wales Hospital, Hong Kong in August 2018, in order to minimize the impact of the injuries sustained.

In spite of this, her vision has been seriously compromised, although the SSM notes that she has been showing good progress in her recovery.

In a statement, the bureau noted that the government has been sponsoring the woman's treatment, both locally and abroad, with expenses that already amount to over MOP1.8 million.

In an update on the patient's medical status, SSM said that the woman's burns are now healed and the patient had undergone several surgeries in Hong Kong to repair her ocular injuries, but her eyesight could not be restored to an acceptable level.

At the request of the family, the patient has been discharged from hospital but continues to be treated in the outpatient clinic of the public hospital.

The case has once again come to the public's attention, after the patient's request for surgery in the United Kingdom was



The victim of a domestic violence case

denied by SSM. Osteo-odonto-keratoprosthesis is a medical procedure to restore vision in

the most severe cases of corneal and ocular surface patients. SSM notes that after a discus-

sion with the medical board which decides on medical treatments performed abroad, this kind of surgery was not considered compatible with the type of injuries sustained by the patient, and that some surgical complications could lead to complete blindness, or even necessitate removal of the eye. Hence the bureau found it was "not advisable for the patient to receive such treatment."

The Social Welfare Bureau also issued a statement on the case, noting that they have been in close contact with both the family and SSM to provide assistance, namely financial support in the form of several subsidies, as well as supporting the victim's six-year-old son who is housed in an institution for the time being. **RM**

Agnes Lam calls for support of victim

LAWMAKER Agnes Lam organized a press conference to shed light on the victim's case and call for support for the woman, whose severe injuries had been inflicted by her husband.

Lam explained that the attack, performed with boiling oil and drain cleaning liquid, resulted in injuries including burns in 40 percent of her face, head and body, blindness, and loss of control of her limbs.

The woman was comatose for 13 days, and has made a partial recovery after many surgeries and medical interventions.

Lam also highlighted that the patient's request for osteo-odonto-keratoprosthesis surgery was reiterated in her last medical report in Hong



Agnes Lam (center)

Kong, where the physician in charge of her case reported that it was the "only option left" to restore some degree of the patient's eye-sight.

Alexis Tam meets Portuguese Minister of Education

SECRETARY for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam met with Portuguese Minister of Education Tiago Brandão Rodrigues last week. Topics discussed during the Lisbon meeting included strengthening cooperation between the two parties in areas such as education and sports, the office of the secretary noted in a statement.

Tam took the opportunity to thank the Portuguese government for supporting teachers' training activities. He also noted the MSAR government's continued support of local students' growing interest in Portuguese language learning, citing the increased number of scholarships allocated, as well as the increasing numbers of summer courses or night classes.



Tiago Brandão Rodrigues (left) and Alexis Tam (right)

The important role of

the Portuguese School of Macau was also mentioned. The local government is supporting it in several ways, such as financially, or through training and the supply

of Mandarin teachers.

On the Portuguese side, Rodrigues noted the progress achieved and work done since the previous meeting in September 2017, and stated the desire to intensify cooperation between the two parties, namely through the Confucius Institute, in order to consolidate the teaching of Chinese language in Portugal.

Tam noted that at the university level, the University of Macau now also possesses a more defined strategy regarding Portuguese language learning, and reaffirmed the SAR government's intention to transform Macau into a Portuguese

language-learning center by allocating funds and developing the necessary policies for its success.

Regarding cooperation in sport, both officials agreed to develop contacts so that a selection of sport teams from Portuguese schools could come to Macau to participate in several friendly matches during the 20 years after the handover celebrations. Still, Tam noted that the Portuguese delegation participating in the upcoming 2020 Tokyo Olympic Games could also benefit from sports facilities in Macau, assisting them in adjusting to the conditions and time zone. This suggestion was accepted by the Portuguese minister, who agreed that the opportunity could help both the Portuguese Olympic and Paralympic teams to adapt. **RM**



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Fantastic apartment in a central location. What was a large four bedroom apartment has been converted into three bedrooms, making the most fabulous master suite with masses of built in storage, dressing area and en suite bathroom.



Pacifica - Perfect Locality Taipa

(Ref: 19015575)
948 sq.ft. HKD 10.88 M
Rate: HKD 11,485

Rarely on the market this super apartment makes the most fabulous home, and in such a convenient location. Excellent condition, with lovely views over the Taipa mountain. Two double bedrooms with an ensuite bathroom off the master and shower room for the guest double and single bedrooms.. A car parking space is available for rent only.



Coloane Village (Investment Property) - Coloane

(Ref: 16095490)
664 sq.ft. HKD 4.25 M
Rate: HKD 6,404

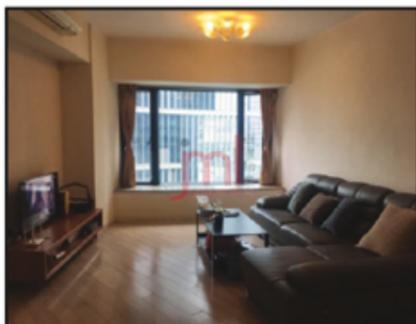
Located in the quiet village of Coloane. Renovated 8 years ago this apartment needs no further investment. Two bedrooms; a double & single size. Shower room with built in cabinets. Compact kitchen. Small balcony. Close to bus stop, village square, cafes and post office.



Nova City, T9 - Taipa

(Ref: 19015574)
2503 sq.ft. HKD 17.8 M
Rate: HKD 7,111

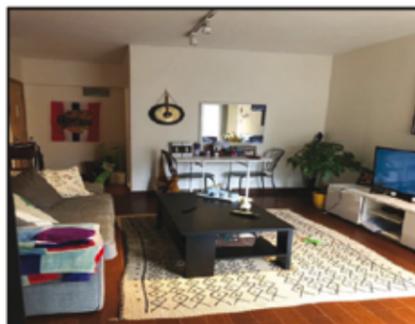
Beautiful, large 4 bedroom apartment in the popular complex of Nova City in Central Taipa. This mid floor apartment has great views over Central Park and swimming pool. Clubhouse facilities include gymnasium, outdoor pool, mini theater, function rooms and more. Car park space is available in Tower 5.



LAKE VIEW TOWER

(Ref: 19015572)
1497 sq.ft. HKD 11.82 M
Rate: HKD 7,900

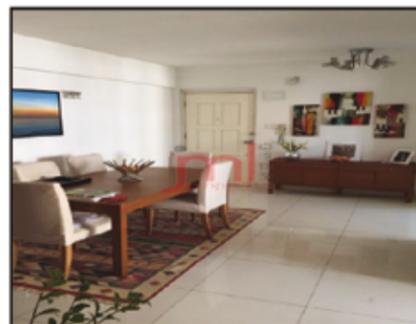
Located in front of the Nam Van Lake, beautiful spacious and bright 2 bedroom apartment with 2 bathrooms. Well designed Kitchen with built in appliances. This lovely home, in the popular area of Nam Van Lake is within 5 minutes walking from Ferreira Amaral and Senado Square. Stunning Clubhouse facilities include pool, sauna, gym.



Taipa, Nam Long

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

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



WA BAO, TAIPA

(Ref: 18115568)
1020 sq.ft. HKD 8.5 M
Rate: HKD 8,333

Taipa, fabulous and bright two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms. Lovely views one the Taipa Stadium, Galaxy and across to Hengquin are just stunning. Well designed kitchen. This beautiful home is located close to shops, cafes, restaurants and banks. Very convenient for all types of transportation and within walking distance to Taipa village and Cotai.



Sea View Condo, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18085559)
1663 sq.ft. HKD 7.95 M
Rate: HKD 4,780

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



Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)
1,610 sq.ft. HKD 11.88 M
Rate: HKD 7,378

A beautiful modern stylish apartment in the popular Ocean Garden complex in Taipa. A fabulous family or first time buyer home. Clubhouse facilities which include a gymnasium, outdoor pool, function rooms etc. can be used under a monthly membership. Free shuttle bus to Macau is also available. A car park is available, asking HKD1.48M



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

(Ref: 18025544)
1186 sq.ft. HKD 9.1 M
Rate: HKD 7,672

Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)
638 sq.ft. HKD 4.48 M
Rate: HKD 7,021

Lovely apartment on the third floor of a five storey building in Taipa Village. The apartment has been well maintained and managed by JML of the last eight years, historical maintenance data available on request.



Taipa, The Manhattan

(Ref: 18095560)
HKD 1.59 M

Car park space available for Sale in the Manhattan, Taipa. Good size space and great location on the 4th floor. Convenient parking and access for The Manhattan, Kingsville, The Buckingham, Treasure Garden as well as central Taipa, the Supreme Supermarket and numerous restaurants

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BOXING

'The Macau Kid' to fight in Hainan

Lynzy Valles

LOCAL boxer Ng Kuok Kun, most popularly known as KK or "The Macau Kid," is set to fight in Hainan in February, with a sponsorship from The Roadhouse Macau.

Last year, the local food and beverage outlet also supported the local boxer's fight, granting him a cooperation agreement in a bid to support him with his training costs.

According to Richard Loughlin, General Manager of The Roadhouse Macau, KK will also be their first sports ambassador, with the local boxer promoting the restaurant during screenings of sports events.

"We're trying to support him in what he's doing. It's great. There is a lot of support in Macau for general sport, but when it comes to an individual like KK, he's been struggling to find su-



Ng Kuok Kun

port," said Loughlin.

"We want to continue this support for him, he is going to be our sports ambassador," he added.

When questioned by the Times for further details of the deal, Loughlin refused to disclose the sum of the cooperation agreement and briefly said, "It's a significant amount."

Meanwhile, KK unveiled details about his upcoming fight, saying that he had received an invitation to fight for the International Boxing Organization title in Hainan.

KK is yet to lose 7 kilograms for his upcoming fight.

According to him, he will be fighting for the "ocean

title welterweight," and his opponent will be from Thailand.

The local athlete started boxing at the age of 13 and has competed in a total of 12 professional fights.

Nearly in his 30s, KK, who is a coach at the Macau Boxing Association, said that he would continue to train fighters to represent Macau.

When commenting on The Roadhouse's sponsorship, KK remarked, "I feel happy about this support because sponsorships aren't too common in Macau. It's difficult to find a good sponsorship in Macau."

According to the local boxer, he had also previously tried to approach the Sports Bureau, but implied that it was challenging for an individual athlete with no handler to be sponsored.

"I do not know how far I can go because I'm almost 30. I try my best to train and I continue my training by also teaching other children. This title that I'm about to fight for is the best yet," KK said.

In 2013, KK had a chance to be trained by Freddy Roach, Manny Pacquiao's trainer, at Pacquiao's gym in General Santos City.

Second CNY parade held yesterday



Following a parade to celebrate Chinese New Year on February 7, the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) organized a second float parade in the northern district yesterday night. A total of 18 floats marched alongside 32 performance groups composed of 800 performers, conveying messages of good luck to residents and visitors for a fruitful and wonderful year ahead, including "five blessings descend upon the home," "the phoenix appears," "gold and silver fill the home," "wishing you prosperity" and "fruitful harvest". The floats will be on display at the Tap Seac Square until February 17.

Department holds training on smart city, big data

The Cartography and Cadastre Bureau held a two-day training course focused on the latest developments in smart city research and big data. The bureau invited professors from the Department of Land Surveying and Geo-Informatics at Hong Kong Polytechnic University to hold the training course. According to a statement, the lecturers explained theory along with practical cases to introduce the integration and frontier development directions in Geographic Information System and Building Information Modeling technology, among other issues. Held for the fourth time, this year's training course attracted some 160 participants from multiple government departments.

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Spread the love all over, do the tradition right!

Throughout the past few weeks, our Macau community were all busy preparing for the most important festival of the year – Chinese New Year, and so as MGM Golden Lion Volunteer Team, who has conducted a series of festive volunteering activities to spread the love and to get the community CNY-ready.



Out of the long list of pre-CNY traditions, spring clean is among all one of the most emphasized, as it is believed to be a ceremony to trash all the misfortunes of the previous year. Therefore, MGM teamed up with Centro de Dia Brilho da Vida for the 8th time to give our local senior buddies a hand. Over 180 volunteers, of nearly half who were management members, participated and had nearly 230 homes of senior citizens households at the Fai Chi Kei housing freshened up for the Year of Pig.

MGM volunteers all worked together to spread the warmth; while some were catching up with the seniors, others were cleaning and decorating the homes with MGM designed Fai Chuns (red banners).



On top of all the hard works, this year MGM came up with a thoughtful gift for the senior buddies – a tailor-made Chinese soup that was prepared with the consultation of the Chinese Medicine Association of Macau, which was seasonally appropriate and health beneficial. MGM's lion mascot, Leo, dressed up as the God of Fortune to distribute the soup with the volunteers in specially designed MGM thermos, packed in gift bags along with Leo god of fortune plush toys.

Seeing smiles is the encouragement

Volunteer Leong Chu Tou, said after the day of volunteering, "It was such a bliss to see all these familiar faces. Every time after volunteering for our senior buddies, a lot of heartening feelings swell in me, making me more thankful for this opportunity to help and inspire people around me. Like today, seeing their smiles when they received our soup is the biggest encouragement for us."

One of the senior buddies, leong, expressed her joy, "I am so grateful to have all these loving volunteers who helped to clean my home, and even hand-delivered Chinese soup to us! As I am not quite physically capable to do heavy duty cleaning, I am really glad that someone can help me to get CNY ready. MGM also offer me free haircut every month!"



"Haircut for Love" - free makeover before CNY

Another MGM's pre CNY tradition – "Haircut for Love" program was held, where MGM volunteers provided complimentary haircuts to a total of 40 seniors. Established in 2015, the MGM Volunteer Haircut Team has been providing free haircuts on a monthly basis, benefiting over 2,000 senior citizens.



Usher out the old for a better cause

As CNY is the best time of the year to "usher out the old, greet the new", MGM hosted another year of clothes and toys donation at the back of house. This was to encourage its team member to clear their closets, and at the same time to further spread the warmth with our community. All collected items were donated to Salvation Army to send to people in need.

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Banks issued 1.3m credit cards by end of December

THE number of personal credit cards issued by local banks rose to over 1.3 million by the end of December 2018, as both credit card turnover and total repayments witnessed growth compared to last year, according to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macao on Saturday.

The number of personal credit cards issued by banks in Macau stood at 1,311,606 at the end of December 2018, equivalent to an increase of 2.3 percent from the previous quarter or 10.5 percent from a year earlier.

The number of pataca cards, Hong Kong dollar cards and renminbi cards grew year-on-year by 9.8 percent (to 923,128), 6.2 percent (to 93,950) and 14.3 percent (to 294,528) respectively.

By the end of December 2018, the credit card credit limit granted by banks in Macau reached

MOP35 billion, up by 7.8 percent since last quarter or 22.7 percent since last year.

Credit card receivables amounted to MOP2.8 billion, of which the rollover amount totaled MOP795.9 million, representing 28.2 percent of credit card receivables.

The delinquency ratio, that is, the ratio of the delinquent amounts overdue for more than three months to credit card receivables, dropped 0.17 percentage points to 1.32 percent when compared with the previous reporting period.

For the fourth quarter of 2018, credit card turnover totaled MOP6.1 billion, a rise of 8.6 percent quarter-to-quarter or 8.5 percent year-on-year. Credit card repayments, including interest and fees, rose 2.6 percent quarter-to-quarter or 10.3 percent year-on-year to MOP5.8 billion.

ENVIRONMENT

Single-use plastic bag charge legislation expected in 2019

THE Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) expects to complete legislation for a bill related to charging for single-use plastic shopping bags this year.

Director of DSPA Raymond Tam Wai Man said that DSPA would spend all their efforts to achieve the goal.

DSPA will also promote ceasing the use of bottled water in government department meetings, and will work with the Public Security Police Force to provide reusable water bottles.

According to Tam, DSPA plans to expand the bureau's electronic waste recycling program to include household appliance recycling. Furthermore, additional recycling spots and recycling schedu-

les will be made for the program.

During a TDM Radio program, Tam called on residents to recycle "Lai See" envelopes, noting that before February 28, DSPA would collect the envelopes across various districts in town.

Additionally, DSPA plans to build a domestic waste recycling center at a construction landfill area. The project is currently being planned.

In 2019, DSPA also plans to launch a subsidy scheme for domestic waste treatment facilities. The relevant administrative regulations are also expected to enter legislative procedures this year.

Until now, more than 260,000 people have participated in DSPA's plastic reduction activity.

Layan Odeh

Emirates to fill pilot gap with exodus from Etihad, Norwegian

EMIRATES, the world's biggest long-haul airline, may feed its appetite for new pilots with recruits from ailing neighbor Etihad Airways and cash-strapped discounter Norwegian Air Shuttle ASA, according to an internal memo from the Gulf carrier obtained by Bloomberg News.

Hong Kong Airlines has also contacted Dubai-based Emirates about opportunities to temporarily transfer some cockpit crew, according to the document. Pilots at the unit of beleaguered HNA Group are Airbus SE-rated, meaning they could be trained to fly the Mideast company's A380 superjumbos.

"The current situation with several airlines in financial difficulty globally leaves Emirates in a good position to be sourcing and selecting good-quality pilots," the memo says. It said the airline recruited 52 pilots last month, the highest number since August 2016, and that the number of viable applications it's receiving "is higher than the number of candidates that can be invited."

Emirates declined to comment on the communication, which was dated Jan. 29 and appeared to be a meeting report. A spokeswoman said there are sufficient pilots for current operations, though the airline will "continue to welcome qualified candidates."

Norwegian Air said it's not uncommon for members of



any company's workforce to seek opportunities elsewhere. Hong Kong Airlines couldn't be reached during the Chinese New Year holiday, while Abu Dhabi-based Etihad didn't

respond to requests for comment.

Emirates faces an annual hiring challenge to meet the needs of its expanding global network. President Tim Clark said last April

that there would be a shortfall of 100 to 150 flight crew over 2018's busy summer travel season. According to the memo, 499 crew have been deemed eligible to join from this coming April through

the end of 2019.

Applications from Norwegian Air and Etihad have been spurred by redundancies at the airlines, according to the Emirates memo.

Norwegian, heavily indebted after one of the fastest growth spurts in aviation history, resorted to a 3 billion kroner (USD354 million) rights issue last week after British Airways parent IAG SA walked away from a takeover bid. The Scandinavian carrier is also closing six bases and cutting routes to stem losses, proposing that pilots transfer to other locations.

Etihad last June offered captains and first officers a two-year secondment, or temporary transfer, to Emirates. In January, it revealed plans to cut 50 pilot posts as it cancels jet orders and shrinks operations to stem losses.

The Emirates memo said Hong Kong Air has identified a 10 percent surplus in pilot numbers. The carrier, whose debt-laden owner HNA is offloading \$20 billion in assets, is being sued by a Macau-based lender for failing to pay \$20 million in principal and interest, according to a court filing last month. **Bloomberg**

GAMING | US

Live from Caesars Palace: Sports betting will get TV spotlight

Eben Novy-Williams, Scott Soshnick

TURNER Broadcasting, the cable-TV giant behind CNN, TBS and TNT, plans to put a broadcast studio right inside the sportsbook at Caesars Palace in Las Vegas, an attempt to capitalize on the burgeoning growth of sports betting.

The deal with Caesars Entertainment Corp. is the first of its kind between a major sports broadcaster and casino operator - and a likely sign of things to come. As more states across the country legalize sports wagering, more fans will be betting on games. That's creating an opportunity for media companies to create shows or video aimed at those gamblers.

In addition to housing the studio, Caesars will be the presenting sponsor of all gambling programming across Turner Sports, a di-

vision of AT&T Inc.'s WarnerMedia. The studio will carry the Bleacher Report brand - Turner's digital offering aimed at younger fans - but there also could be segments that air during the company's sports coverage, including the National Basketball Association, the NCAA men's basketball tournament and Major League Baseball.

"Sports gambling is one of the most unique opportunities that's happened in quite a long time in this industry," Turner President David Levy said in an interview. "We're all scratching around, looking for engagement with our fans and our consumers, and we know that gaming and legalized sports gambling is going to increase engagement with sports."

Turner saw this firsthand back in November, when it broadcast "The Match," a head-to-head golf showdown between Tiger

Woods and Phil Mickelson. The in-game wagers between the two rivals - with proceeds donated to charity - were a big driver of interest in the event, Levy said.

"We're bringing that to the forefront," Levy said, "and it's going to change the way that televised sports are produced."

Based in Las Vegas, Caesars has moved quickly to capitalize on sports-betting opportunities outside of Nevada

Not every broadcaster will jump on gambling, however. CBS made a point to avoid all gambling talk during its Super Bowl coverage last week. And Walt Disney Co., which has long avoided doing business with betting operators on moral grounds, has no plans to change its position, according to Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger. He told investors Tuesday that ESPN will likely provide more information relevant to bettors. "But getting into the business of gambling, I rather doubt it," he said.

Based in Las Vegas, Caesars has moved quickly to capitalize on sports-betting opportunities outside of Nevada, including partnerships with some of the sports world's leading brands. It recently became the National Football League's first-ever casino partner - a deal that doesn't include sports betting adver-



tising - and has team deals with hockey's New Jersey Devils and basketball's Philadelphia 76ers.

This Turner partnership is an opportunity for Caesars to attract younger customers to its rewards program, which has more than 55 million members. Every month, Bleacher Report reaches more than a third of the country's sports fans aged 18 to 34, according to Levy. Turner calls it the top digital destination for millennial and Gen Z sports consumers.

The deal also presents an opportunity for Caesars to promote its offerings to more casual sports fans. Levy said the company will

have some room to showcase its own bets or odds within the content itself.

The partnership does not include affiliate fees - meaning Turner won't receive payment for each bettor it refers to the Caesars sports book. That, however, could be a reality in the near future when Turner gets a better handle on the regulation and legal restrictions.

"There are things that we're going to move into as things change," Levy said. "Obviously, with Caesars being our partner here, this is a way for us to start working together and feel more comfortable with each other." **Bloomberg**



Pilot strike at Taiwan's China Airlines drags into 3rd day

A strike among pilots at Taiwan's flag carrier China Airlines dragged into a third day yesterday, resulting in further flight cancellations.

There was no immediate word of a settlement as the pilots'

union remained firm in its demands for an additional backup pilot on flights lasting eight hours or more, a more transparent system of promotion, a year-end bonus and other concessions.

The official Central News

Agency said a total of 47 flights will have been canceled by Sunday.

The strike came in the middle of the Lunar New Year travel rush. About 70 percent of the carrier's 1,300 pilots belong to the union,

which has accused management of insincerity and mistreating its workforce to keep costs down.

CAL crews went on strike for 24 hours in 2016 for better conditions.

The airline has said it is willing

to continue negotiations but that the union's demands in talks are different from those it makes in public.

Flights canceled included those bound for Hong Kong, Bangkok, Los Angeles, Manila and Tokyo. Most of those were departing from Taiwan's main international airport at Taoyuan, just south of the capital Taipei.

Founded in 1959, China Airlines is one of the island's two largest carriers with a fleet of 88 aircraft. **AP**

THE U.S. ambassador to Canada said Saturday her country is "deeply concerned" about China's "unlawful" detention of two Canadians. Ambassador Kelly Craft said in a statement to The Associated Press the arrests of ex-diplomat Michael Kovrig and entrepreneur Michael Spavor are "unacceptable" and urged China to end the arbitrary detentions. It is her first public comments on the cases.

China detained the two Canadians on Dec. 10 in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release Chinese executive Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested Dec. 1 at the request of U.S. authorities.

Meng is the chief financial officer of the Chinese tech giant Huawei and the daughter of its founder.

The U.S. wants her extra-

US ambassador: 'Unlawful' arrests of Canadians deemed unacceptable

ditioned to face charges that she committed fraud by misleading banks about Huawei's business dealings in Iran.

Craft said the U.S. Department of Justice's criminal case against Meng is based solely on the evidence and the law.

"The United States appreciates Canada's steadfast commitment to the rule of law," she said.

Craft made no mention of China's planned execution of a third Canadian. China re-sentenced a convicted Canadian drug smuggler to death after the Meng arrest as part of an apparent cam-

paign of intimidation and retribution against Canada.

Some analysts have said the U.S. response to China's arrests of the two Canadians has been muted. President Donald Trump himself has not commented on the Canadians. But U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo has, saying China ought to release them. White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders and the State Department have also issued statements of support.

"We urge China to end all forms of arbitrary and unlawful detentions and to respect the protections and freedoms of all individuals

in accordance with China's international commitments," Craft said.

Robert Bothwell, a professor at the University of Toronto, called Craft's statement "tepid."

"It doesn't bespeak ringing support," Bothwell said.

Beijing threatened grave consequences for America's neighbor and ally after Meng was arrested at Vancouver's airport.

Canada has embarked on a campaign with allies to win the release of Kovrig and Spavor and many countries have issued statements in support.

The two were detained on

vague allegations of "engaging in activities that endanger the national security" of China. They remain locked up without access to lawyers.

Meng is out on bail in Canada and living in one of her two Vancouver mansions awaiting extradition proceedings.

Despite the escalating frictions resulting from the detentions, trade talks between Beijing and the Trump administration remain ongoing.

The U.S. has taken pains to emphasize that their trade talks are entirely separate from the U.S. case

against Meng. They have been doing so since Trump said in an interview that he might be willing to drop the charges against Meng as part of a trade deal with China.

Trump's comment frustrated Canadian officials who have been adamant Canada is following the rule of law and that Canada has an extradition treaty it must respect. A Canadian judge could deny the extradition request if it the charges are deemed political.

"The next time the U.S. asks Canada will be hard of hearing," Bothwell said. "Trouble with Trump and company is that they are entirely transactional. They don't think ahead. And in this case Trump's own words will probably be enough to get the U.S. extradition request denied." **AP**

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TURKEY has called China's treatment of its minority Uighurs "a great cause of shame for humanity." In a statement Saturday, Foreign Ministry spokesman Hami Aksoy said it's "no longer a secret" that China has arbitrarily detained more than a million Uighurs in "concentration camps." He said the Turkic Muslim population faced pressure and "systematic assimilation" in western China.

Aksoy said Turkey has shared with China its position on "all levels" and urged authorities to close the detention facilities and respect human rights.

The minister said Turkey had also learned of the death in prison of famed Uighur musician and poet Abdurehim Heyit, who had been sentenced to eight years over one of his songs.

"This tragedy has further reinforced the reaction of the Turkish public opinion toward serious human rights violations committed in the Xinjiang region," Aksoy said.

"We expect this legitimate response to be taken into account by the Chinese authorities. We respectfully commemorate Abdurehim Heyit and all our kinsmen who lost their lives defending their Turkish and Muslim identity," Aksoy said.

Turkey urges Beijing to respect Uighur rights, close camps

Heyit was a master of the dutar, a type of two-stringed instrument with a long neck that is found in Iran and throughout Central Asia. His detention was considered indicative of China's determination to crack down on Uighur intellectuals and cultural figures in an effort some say to eradicate a separate Uighur language and identity.

Heyit's death could not be independently confirmed.

China's Embassy in Ankara called Aksoy's comments "completely unacceptable" in a lengthy response posted on its website that defended its policies in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, the Uighur homeland.

"Both China and Turkey face the arduous task of fighting terrorism. We are opposed to maintaining double standards on the question of fighting terrorism," said the statement, attributed to an embassy spokesman.

"We hope the Turkish side will have a correct understanding



Uighurs living in Turkey and their supporters, some carrying coffins representing Uighurs who died in Xinjiang

of the efforts made by China to legally deploy measures to effectively fight terrorism and extremism, withdraw its false accusations and take measures to eliminate their harmful effects," it said.

Beijing has intensified a security clampdown on Uighurs that was put in place after a bloody 2009

riot. Drove of Uighurs have fled, many traveling to Turkey, where the language and culture are similar to that in Xinjiang.

After months of denying their existence, Chinese authorities under increasing outside pressure acknowledged the system of camps, terming them vocational training centers. They

have provided little or no information on how many are interned within them and how long they are being held.

Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan had once accused China of "genocide" but has since established closer diplomatic and economic relations with Beijing. **AP**

US

Fentanyl sanctions bill announced before China talks

Michael Balsamo, Washington

THE Senate's top Democrat is introducing legislation to "hold China accountable" and sanction laboratories and other traffickers who export fentanyl to the United States.

The bill, which will be introduced by Sen. Charles Schumer, of New York later this week, is likely to add to growing tension between the U.S. and China, days before Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer will lead high-level trade talks in China.

In December, China agreed to label fentanyl, the deadly synthetic opioid responsible for tens of thousands of American drug deaths annually, as a controlled substance.

Schumer's legislation — known as the Fentanyl Sanctions Act — would direct U.S. officials to publicly iden-



Sen. Charles Schumer

tify foreign opioid traffickers, would deny the traffickers visas in the U.S. and would prohibit them from doing business using American banks.

The bill aims to "hold accountable" fentanyl manufacturers in China and other countries that illegally drugs to the U.S., Schumer said. It could also be used to target transnational gangs and cartels involved in fentanyl trafficking, as well as banks that help those organizations, he said.

"For years, Chinese

laboratories have been cooking-up formulas of death and freely exporting lethal fentanyl across New York, and to many other places across America, where it is killing tens-of-thousands of people—and it has to stop," Schumer said in a statement to The Associated Press.

The legislation would also require the U.S. to create a commission to oversee synthetic opioid trafficking, which would monitor efforts to combat fentanyl trafficking from China and Mexico and issue reports on its

findings. It also provides additional funding for law enforcement agencies that are trying to combat synthetic opioid trafficking.

Schumer expects the bill will receive bipartisan support, according to his spokesman, Angelo Roefaro.

Schumer said the bill is necessary because Congress hasn't been provided with a "signed and enforceable agreement, a solid plan or genuine commitment" since China has agreed to label fentanyl a controlled substance after a mee-

ting between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping during the G-20 summit in December.

U.S. officials have been pressing the Chinese government for years to take a tougher stance against fentanyl, which is 50 times more powerful than heroin. Most U.S. supply of the drug is manufactured in China.

"We must present China with a tough but fair consequence when it comes to the wave of fentanyl flowing into the United States," Schumer said.

Preliminary data released by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration in November showed that about 49,060 people died from opioid-related overdose deaths in 2017, a rise from the reported 42,249 opioid overdose deaths in 2016.

Fentanyl and other related opioids, which tend to be cheaper and much more potent than heroin, remain one of the biggest concerns for federal drug agents. A bill signed by the president in the fall requires the U.S. Postal Service to screen overseas packages for fentanyl. **AP**

CNY

13 killed in highway accidents amid travel rush

ACCIDENTS on icy highways in central China left at least 13 dead and dozens injured this weekend as millions of families were heading home from the Lunar New Year holiday.

Five were killed shortly after 5 a.m. on Sunday in a 23-car pileup near the city of Anqing in Anhui province.

A second accident followed three hours later near the provincial capital of Hefei after a minibus collided with a passenger vehicle.

On Saturday night, two pileups involving at least 100 vehicles killed two and injured 50, 10 seriously, in Guizhou province.

Police said investigations were underway. Both Guizhou and Anhui have been hit by snow and freezing rain, leaving highways dangerously slick.

Photos of the Anhui accident that left five dead posted by online news website The Paper showed smashed vehicles squeezed up against each other along a mountainous section of highway.

Despite those incidents, this year's three-week travel rush has seen relatively few deadly accidents compared to previous years, possibly as a result of tighter vehicle inspections to reduce the number of overloaded or poorly maintained vehicles. **AP**

Thailand puzzles over political surprises from royals

Grant Peck, Bangkok

A Thai political party swore loyalty to the king after its stunning decision to nominate the monarch's sister as its candidate for prime minister backfired when the king called the move inappropriate and unconstitutional.

The statement of fealty comes as the country ponders a whirlwind Friday in which Princess Ubolratana Mahidol broke with tradition proscribing the monarchy's involvement with politics to become a candidate for the Thai Raksa Chart Party, only to have her brother, King Maha Vajiralongkorn, invalidate her action with a late night order.

Thai Raksa Chart's statement said the party loyally accepted the king's order and expressed deep gratitude to Ubolratana for her kindness toward the party.

Ubolratana, who is active on Instagram, did not directly mention the king's order in a Saturday message, merely thanking people for their support and encouragement and insisting on her sincere desire to see Thailand progress with rights and opportunities for all its people.

Thailand's March 24 election will be the country's first since a 2014 military coup put in place a junta determined to reshape the



Thai Princess Ubolratana Mahidol

political system to eradicate the influence of former Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, whose allies have won every national election since 2001.

So it was not only a shock that Ubolratana was formally entering politics, but also that she was doing so in alliance with a Thaksin-backed party. Her candidacy would have pitted her against the junta leader and current Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha, the preferred choice for premier of the pro-royalist military.

Thaksin has been in exile since

2008, two years after was ousted by the military in a 2006 coup. Thailand's establishment has spent more than a decade trying to neuter his political machine through court rulings, constitutional rewrites and other changes to the electoral system. In addition to deepening political divisions that have flared into protests and street violence, the campaign has had little success.

"Chin up and keep moving forward! We learn from past experiences but live for today and the future. Cheer up! Life must

go on!" Thaksin tweeted on Saturday.

Just eight years after ousting him, the military stepped in again to remove his sister's government.

■ It was widely assumed that Ubolratana, thought to be close to her brother, had at least received his approval for her action

Thaksin remains wildly popular with the country's rural majority, who were drawn to his populist policies such as universal health care and rice subsidies and were willing to overlook accusations that he was enriching himself while in office. But Thaksin's popularity made the country's Bangkok-based establishment uneasy and some saw his popularity as a threat to the monarchy itself.

Thaksin, who escaped from Thailand to avoid serving prison time on a conflict of interest con-

viction he insists was political, was generally believed to have been involved in setting up Ubolratana's candidacy. That shook the Thai royalists, who have long seen their campaign against Thaksin as way to protect the monarchy.

It was widely assumed that Ubolratana, thought to be close to her brother, had at least received his approval for her action. What actually had happened behind the scenes is unlikely to become public, because the royal family's private affairs are almost never leaked.

Vajiralongkorn's order stressed that Thailand's Constitution insists that the king and those around him stay above politics, and the principles of democratic government also put politics off-limits.

It directly addressed the point that his sister was a member of the royal family even though her formal royal titles had been lifted decades ago when she married a foreigner.

Her candidacy had caused great excitement, because it offered the possibility of a strong challenge to Prayuth winning his job back. Her association with the monarchy was seen as making it difficult for royalists in parliament, which picks the prime minister, to vote against her.

Prayuth had been considered the front-runner, because changes in constitutional law and election rules were implemented by his government to make it difficult for political parties without military backing to capture the premier's post. AP

Woman acquitted of blasphemy still can't leave Pakistan

Kathy Gannon, Islamabad

A Christian woman acquitted of blasphemy after spending eight years on death row in Pakistan has been transferred from a secret location near the capital to another in Karachi, but is still unable to leave the country to join her daughters in Canada, a friend said Saturday.

Aman Ullah, who spoke to Aasia Bibi by telephone Friday, said the 54-year-old Bibi is being held in a room in the southern port city. He said Bibi, who faces death threats by radical Islamists, is frustrated and frightened, uncertain of when she will be able to leave Pakistan.

"She has no indication of when she will leave ... they are not telling her why she cannot leave," said Ullah, who fled the country Friday after receiving threats from ex-

tremists angered by his assistance to Bibi, which began while she was on death row.

Ullah has been a liaison between Bibi and European diplomats, who have sought to assist her. The Associated Press spoke to Bibi by telephone with Ullah's assistance following her October acquittal, which was upheld last month.

Bibi's ordeal began in 2009 when two fellow farmworkers refused to drink from the same container as a Christian woman. There was a quarrel and the two Muslim women later accused Bibi of blasphemy. The Supreme Court judges said there were widespread inconsistencies in the testimony against Bibi, who has steadfastly maintained her innocence.

The acquittal should have given Bibi her free-

dom, but Ullah said diplomats were told that her departure from Pakistan, where she feels her life would be in danger, would come not in the short term, but "in the medium term."

He said Bibi told him she is locked in one room of a house.

"The door opens at food time only," said Ullah, and she is allowed to make phone calls in the morning and again at night. He said she usually calls her daughters.

Bibi's husband is with her, he said.

"She is living with her family and given requisite security for safety," Information Minister Fawad Chaudhry said in an email.

He said the government was responsible for taking "all possible measures" to protect her and her family, adding that

"she is a free citizen after her release from jail and can move anywhere in Pakistan or abroad."

Bibi told Ullah the security detail assigned to her refuses to explain why she is still confined.

Bibi's case has brought international attention to Pakistan's blasphemy law, which carries an automatic death sentence for a conviction of insulting Islam. There have been widespread complaints that the law is used to settle scores and intimidate religious minorities, including Shiite Muslims.

The mere suggestion of blasphemy can incite mobs to kill. After Bibi's October acquittal the radical Tehreek-e-Labbaik party called its followers onto the streets, where they protested for three days demanding Bibi's immediate execution as



Aasia Bibi

well as the death of the judges who acquitted her. The party leadership also advocated overthrowing Prime Minister Imran Khan's government and incited the military against the army chief. Since then the party's leadership has been arrested along with dozens of their supporters for inciting violence.

Ullah, a rights activist, first began aiding those falsely charged with blasphemy when his wife was wrongly accused, and has

since helped several people gain their freedom. Bibi's case brought him to the attention of religious radicals.

In recent months, he has been physically assaulted, gunmen have opened fire on his home, and several religious radicals attacked his home. Ullah said he fears being attacked again or charged with blasphemy.

Bibi hopes to be able to join her daughters in Canada, where they have been granted asylum. AP

South Korea, US sign cost-sharing deal for American troops

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH Korea and the United States struck a new deal Sunday that increases Seoul's contribution for the cost of the American military presence on its soil, overcoming previous failed negotiations that caused worries about their decades-long alliance.

South Korea last year provided about USD830 million, covering roughly 40 percent of the cost of the deployment of 28,500 U.S. soldiers whose presence is meant to deter aggression from North Korea. President Donald Trump has pushed for South Korea to pay more.

On Sunday, chief negotiators from the two countries signed a new cost-sharing plan, which requires South Korea to pay about 1.04 trillion won (\$924 million) in 2019, Seoul's Foreign Ministry said in a statement.

The statement said the two countries reaffirmed the need for a "stable" U.S. military deployment amid the "rapidly changing situation on the Korean Peninsula." The ministry said the U.S. assured South Korea that it is committed to the alliance and has no plans to adjust the number of its troops in South Korea.

South Korea began paying for the U.S. military deployment in the early 1990s, after rebuilding its economy from the devastation of the 1950-1953 Korean War. The big U.S. military presence in South Korea is a symbol of the countries' alliance, forged in blood during the war, but also a source of long-running anti-American sentiments.



South Korean Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha (right) and Timothy Betts

About 20 anti-U.S. activists rallied near the Foreign Ministry building in Seoul yesterday, chanting slogans like "No more money for U.S. troops." No violence was reported.

"The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and peace and stability in the region," chief U.S. negotiator Timothy Betts said Sunday in Seoul. "We are very pleased our consultations resulted in agreement that will strengthen transparency and deepen our cooperation and the alliance."

The deal, which involves the spending of South Korean taxpayer money, requires parliamentary approval in South Korea, but not in the United States, according to Seoul's Foreign Ministry.

The allies had failed to reach a new cost-sharing plan during some 10 rounds of talks. A five-year 2014 deal that covered South Korea's payment last year expired at the end of 2018.

Some conservatives in South Korea voiced concerns over a weakening alliance with the United States at the same time as negotiations with North Korea to deprive it of its nuclear weapons hit a stalemate. They said Trump might use the failed military cost-sharing negotiations as an excuse to pull back some U.S. troops in South Korea as a bargaining chip in talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump told CBS' "Face the Nation" on Feb. 3 that he has no plans to withdraw troops from South Korea. During his election

campaign, Trump suggested he could pull back troops from South Korea and Japan unless they took on greater a share of the financial burdens of supporting U.S. soldiers deployed there.

South Korean media earlier reported that Trump demanded South Korea double its spending for the U.S. military deployment, before his government eventually asked for 1.13 trillion won (\$1 billion). Seoul's Foreign Ministry said the U.S. had called for a sharp increase in South Korean spending but didn't elaborate.

Trump announced last week that he will sit down with Kim for a second summit in Vietnam in late February. Their first summit in Singapore last June resulted in Kim's vague commitment to the "complete denucleariza-

tion of the Korean Peninsula," a term that his propaganda machine previously used when it argued it would only denuclearize after the U.S. withdraws its troops from South Korea.

Trump's top envoy for North Korea, Stephen Biegun, visited Pyongyang last week to work out details of the upcoming summit. After being briefed by Biegun about his Pyongyang trip, South Korea's presidential office said Sunday that U.S. and North Korean officials plan to meet again the week of Feb. 17 in an unidentified Asian country.

The United States government realizes that Korea does a lot for our alliance and peace and stability in the region.

TIMOTHY BETTS
CHIEF U.S. NEGOTIATOR

The U.S. military arrived in South Korea to disarm Japan, which colonized the Korean Peninsula from 1910-45, following its World War II defeat. Most U.S. troops were withdrawn in 1949 but they returned the next year to fight alongside South Korea in the Korean War. **AP**

INDONESIA

Gov't sees USD1.6b windfall from halal labeling rule

Viriya Singgih

INDONESIA is set to make halal labeling mandatory for consumer products and services this year with the government assuming greater control of the certifying process from the Muslim-majority nation's Islamic cleric council.

Issuing halal certificates to consumer goods from shampoos to toothpaste and cosmetics may net the government about 22.5 trillion rupiah (USD1.6 billion) in annual reve-

nue, said Sukoso, head of the Halal Product Guarantee Agency, known as BPJPH. The draft regulation on mandatory halal labeling is awaiting President Joko Widodo's approval, he said.

Indonesia is overhauling the halal certification rules as the country's Shariah economy is set to swell to \$427 billion by 2022, with halal food alone accounting for more than 50 percent, according to Bank Indonesia estimates. Under a law passed in 2014, the

country will need to implement compulsory halal labeling latest by Oct. 17. Halal products and services cater to Muslims by complying with the religion's tenets.

The new rules also aim to usher in greater transparency in the certification process and guarantee a steady stream of revenue for the government, Sukoso said. The rules require certification for all goods and services related to food, beverage, drugs, cosmetics, chemical, biological and geneti-

cally engineered products as well as all consumer goods, he said.

Once the regulation comes into force, the BPJPH will start managing halal certification requests in partnerships with the Indonesian Ulema Council - the issuer of religious edicts - and auditors under a so-called halal inspection agency, Sukoso said.

The labeling requirement will be gradually implemented and it may take three to five years before covering most food

and beverage products and five to seven years for health products, Sukoso said.

"We will first focus on food and beverage. If some products are still unable to meet the halal requirements, there is a period of as long as five years for the producers to fix the issues," Sukoso said.

The agency also sees potential revenue from certifying unpackaged products as well as slaughterhouses, training services and sponsorship.

The number of halal certificates issued last year more than doubled to 17,398 last year from a year ago as firms rushed to label their products ahead of the implementation of the law, according to Muti Arintawati, a deputy director at the cleric council's Food and Drug Analysis Agency.

The government agency wants to issue at least 100,000 certificates next year and plans to boost the number of auditors to 5,000 by 2020, Sukoso said. **Bloomberg**



US Trump's Year 3 aims for dramatic sequels to rival originals

Catherine Lucey, Jonathan Lemire

AS US President Donald Trump prepares to meet North Korea's Kim Jong Un for a second time, he's out to replicate the suspenseful buildup, make-or-break stakes and far-flung rendezvous of their first encounter. The reality star American president will soon learn if the sequel, on this matter and many others, can compete with the original.

In his third year in office, Trump is starting to air some reruns. Trump is headed into fresh negotiations with North Korea, is still pushing for his long-promised U.S.-Mexico border wall and is considering a new round of tax cuts. The focus on his greatest hits in part reflects Trump's desire to fulfill campaign promises and energize voters for his 2020 re-election campaign. But it's not wi-

thout risks.

"The danger is the public starts recognizing this is Groundhog Day," said presidential historian Douglas Brinkley. "You keep thinking there is a win and there is no win. It's not clear Trump is scoring durable history points."

With his reality TV background and instinctive sense of how to control a news cycle, Trump has long micromanaged the staging of his image, eager to project power and drama.

Those instincts were on full display during the recent scrap over his second State of the Union address. Trump rejected his aides' suggestions that he deliver the address from an alternate site after House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., withdrew her invitation for him to speak at the Capitol during the government shutdown. Trump opted to wait for the real deal.

"There is no venue that can compete with the history, tradition and importance of the House Chamber," he tweeted.

In his dealings with North Korea, both past and future, Trump has been intent on ginning up excitement.

After months of trading escalating nuclear threats with the North, Trump memorably popped his head into the White House briefing room last March to hint at big news to come. Not long afterward, officials announced that a Trump-Kim meeting was in the offing.

From there, Trump teased dates and locations, threatened to cancel it — and did so at one point — before signing off on the plan for the historic meeting in Singapore last June.

Trump was delighted that the first summit received round-the-clock cable TV coverage for days, something he had hoped

to repeat last summer when he met with Russia's Vladimir Putin in Helsinki, according to two Republicans close to the White House not authorized to speak publicly about private matters. But Trump saw the Putin coverage take a negative turn after he refused to side with U.S. intelligence agencies over the Russian president in a post-summit news conference.

This time, Trump has again tried to draw out the suspense, teasing the possibility of another meeting with Kim for months and waxing poetic about his relationship with the authoritarian leader. But Trump has glossed over the fact that the first meeting produced little in the way of tangible results toward denuclearization, instead stressing that North Korea's threats have fallen off and suggesting there is an opportunity for further progress.

Aides counseled the president that a second summit would probably not carry the same drama as the first, and needed more concrete results, but Trump urged them to push forward before deciding to announce it during this past week's State of the Union address. He insisted to advisers that the Vietnam summit would still be must-see TV, and told one confidant that the idea of "good vs. evil" would be irresistible.

Brinkley noted there is precedent for requiring more than one summit to make a deal, citing the repeated arms control meetings between the United States and the Soviet Union during the Cold War. But he argued that those were a better investment, given that "Russia is a great power" while "North Korea is a rogue actor."

As for other White House sequels, Trump would be happy to produce Tax Cut 2.0. He oversaw a massive tax cut at the end of 2017 and teased the possibility of another in the runup to the 2018 midterm elections. Economic adviser Larry Kudlow pushed back on the suggestion that it was simply a pre-election ploy as he spoke to reporters at the White House this past week.

"We're kicking it around," said Kudlow. "We're looking at a couple of very interesting things that may wind up surprising folks."

You can also count on Trump to continue the tough immigration rhetoric that defined his campaign and became a central part of his midterm election push. He forced the government into a 35-day partial shutdown over his demand to fund a wall along the U.S.-Mexico border and views his immigration efforts as key to his re-election campaign.

Brinkley said of Trump's repeat performances: "He's a child of the 1970s with boxing matches. It's like the rematch with Muhammad Ali and Joe Frazier." **MDT/AP**

TURKEY

Death toll at Istanbul building collapse reaches 21

TURKEY'S interior minister says the death toll from a collapsed apartment building in Istanbul has risen to 21.

Minister Suleyman Soyly spoke late Saturday, saying those who made "mistakes" would be held accountable. The eight-story building in the city's Kartal district collapsed on Wednesday.

Rescue workers remain at the site and it is unclear how many more people are missing.

Thirteen people pulled from the rubble have been hospitalized and seven



Mourners attend the funeral prayers for members of a family killed

remain in intensive care. Chief Doctor Recep Demirhan says that two are in very serious condition, according to Turkey's offi-

cial Anadolu news agency. The collapsed building had 14 apartments, 43 registered residents and three businesses.

The building's top three floors were constructed illegally, the state-run news agency Anadolu cited Istanbul Governor Ali Yerlikaya as saying on Wednesday. Rescuers are continuing to search for people who could be trapped, state TV channel TRT News reported on Saturday.

"There are lots of lessons we need to learn from this incident," Erdogan said after a visit to the hospital. There are very serious problems with illegally constructed buildings and the

nation needs to support the government's urban transformation initiative, he said, adding that "necessary" steps will be taken.

The government is drawing criticism for its so-called zoning amnesty, introduced last year and running through June, which has allowed the legal registration of about 13 million irregular or illegally constructed buildings. The residents of the collapsed building in Kartal had applied for the amnesty program, which doesn't require

applicants to prove their buildings are safe, the Haberturk newspaper reported on Thursday.

"The disaster in Kartal is a result of the government's wrong zoning policies," Emin Koramaz, chairman of the Union of Chambers of Turkish Engineers and Architects, said in a statement on its website on Thursday. Koramaz called for the government to immediately end the initiative, which "vindicates all practices that compromise the safety of life and property." **MDT/Agencies**

Spain takes an economic gamble on an unprecedented wage hike

Jeannette Neumann

SPAIN is embarking on a major economic experiment: A 22 percent jump in the minimum wage that's ignited a high-stakes debate about how it will impact the economy.

The Socialist government says the increase will bolster spending and hiring, giving legs to Spain's expansion. But opposition lawmakers and wary business executives say any additional pep to the economy won't be enough to offset the thousands of jobs they expect to be destroyed because companies can't afford the jump in costs.

The increase to 900 euros (USD1,021) from 736 euros a month came into effect at the start of the year and directly impacts about 8 percent of Spain's workforce, or 1.2 million employees. Its effects are already rippling through Spain's economy, forcing companies to respond.

Jorge Montes, who runs a dry cleaners in Madrid, is about to raise his prices for the first time in a decade to cover the 164 euros more per month in salary he'll pay to one of his two full-time employees.

"I'm going to try to pass that on to the consumer," Montes said.



"I didn't dare do it before because I didn't want to lose market share."

Madrid joins other governments around the world, including France, Greece, a Canadian province and some U.S. states, that have recently lifted minimum-wage rates to jump start broader salary growth, which has remained sluggish despite the economic recovery. For politicians, it's a way to curry favor with voters and diminish the appeal of anti-establishment

parties.

Spain's central bank estimates the wage jump could destroy around 125,000 jobs this year. But it acknowledges it can't know for sure given the "uncertainty associated with a national minimum wage increase on an unprecedented scale in Spain."

Budget watchdog AIREF has a more modest estimate of 40,000 jobs this year, while Spanish bank BBVA says more than 160,000 positions could be lost in the medium-term.

Those forecasts are particularly jarring in Spain, where unemployment is the second-highest in the euro zone. But Raymond Torres, an economist at Funcas think tank in Madrid, says recent evidence shows higher salaries fuel greater spending that sparks more hiring, offsetting most of the job loss.

There's additional uncertainty given the timing: Spain, along with all of Europe, is moving into a slowdown that could worsen this year.

"We are in uncharted waters, nobody quite knows what the impact will be," Moody's analyst Kathrin Muehlbronner said by phone. It "does come at an unfortunate time."

At the European Central Bank, officials may be watching as they monitor labor-market developments and underlying price pressures across the region. Its efforts to lift inflation have had limited success: Core inflation is 1.1 percent in the euro area, and even lower in Spain.

Assuming that employers pass on most of the increased labor costs to consumers, Spanish inflation could get a boost of as much as 0.4 percentage points during the next year, according to Bloomberg Economics.

Profit margins have been on the rise in recent years, which means some companies will be able to shoulder higher labor costs. Those that don't may have to cut employees' hours, slow hiring or lay off workers.

"We can't have poor workers," said Hilario Alfaro, the owner of several clothing stores in Madrid. "We support an increase in wages as long as it's linked to productivity."

Jose Miguel Rosell, co-associate general director of Valencia-based cyber-security firm S2 Grupo, says his employees earn more than the minimum wage and won't be directly impacted. He's concerned, though, that the sudden increase could affect clients, hurting his sales.

It's a "necessary measure," he said. "But they shouldn't have done it so abruptly and with so little planning." **Bloomberg**

REPORT

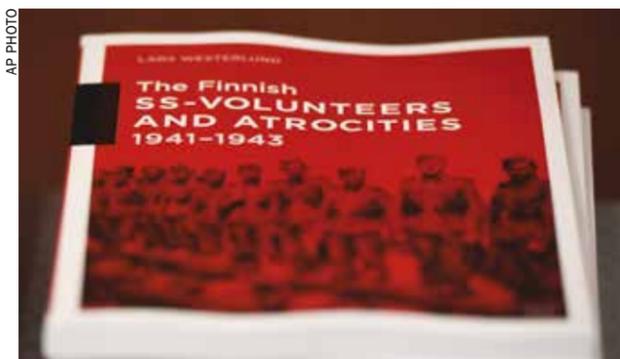
Some Finnish troops helped to kill Jews in WWII

Jari Tanner, Helsinki

AN Israeli Holocaust historian yesterday praised Finnish authorities for publishing a report concluding that the country's volunteer battalion, which served with Nazi Germany's Waffen-SS, took part in atrocities during World War II, including participating in the mass murder of Jews.

Efraim Zuroff of the Simon Wiesenthal Center lauded the determination of the National Archives of Finland to release its findings, even if it was "painful and uncomfortable" for Finland. He called it an "example of unique and exemplary civic courage."

The independent 248-page investigative report in English — commissioned by the Finnish government and released Friday — said 1,408 Finnish volunteers served within the SS Panzer Division Wiking during



1941-43, most of them aged between 17 and 20 years old.

"It is very likely that they (Finnish volunteers) participated in the killing of Jews, other civilians and prisoners of war as part of the German SS troops," said Jussi Nuorteva, director-general of the National Archives.

A significant part of the study's material is based on diaries kept by 76 of the Finnish SS volunteers. Finland was invaded by Moscow in November

in 1939 in what became known as the Finnish-Soviet Winter War. Battles lasted until March 1940, when Finland, overwhelmed and outnumbered by Soviet troops, agreed to a bitter peace treaty, losing several territories but maintaining its independence.

Isolated from the rest of Europe and afraid of another Soviet attack, the small Nordic country entered into an alliance with Nazi Germany, receiving weapons and other material help from Berlin.

As a part of the pact, Nazi SS chief Heinrich Himmler insisted that the Finns dispatch soldiers to the SS Wiking division similar to the volunteers it demanded from Nazi-occupied Belgium, Denmark, the Netherlands, Norway and elsewhere.

Reluctantly, Finns complied and covertly recruited the first group of 400 SS volunteers to be sent for training. The vast majority of them had no ideological sympathies with the Nazi regime, the report said.

"At the beginning of the attack (on the Soviet Union), Finns were unaware of the Germans' goal of eradicating the Jews," Nuorteva said. "Finns were, above all, interested in fighting against the Soviet Union" due to their brutal experiences in the Winter War and the nearby threat from Moscow.

In this way, "the starting

point for Finns' involvement was different compared to most other countries joining SS foreign volunteers," he said.

When Nazi Germany invaded the Soviet Union in June 1941 under Operation Barbarossa, Finnish regular army troops fought independently alongside Wehrmacht soldiers on the northeastern front. They were not under Nazi command.

The Finnish SS volunteers with the SS Wiking division operated on the Eastern Front until 1943, entering deep into Ukraine.

The leading Finnish military historians who undertook the probe into the country's wartime role wrote that those Finnish troops likely witnessed shootings and other atrocities against Jews and other civilians by advancing Nazi troops.

The volunteers returned

to Finland in mid-1943, following the Finnish government's decision as it sensed the tide of the war had turned against the Germans. Many of the SS volunteers then served in the Finnish military until the end of the war.

Eight of the Finnish SS volunteers are still alive, Nuorteva said.

A copy of Friday's report was given to Paula Lehtomaki, a state secretary with the Finnish government, who said it was an valuable contribution to existing research "on difficult and significant historical events" in Finland's complex World War II history.

"We share the responsibility for ensuring that such atrocities will never be repeated," said Lehtomaki.

The historical probe was launched following Zuroff's request in January 2018 to Finnish President Sauli Niinisto. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: February 23, 2019

VENUE: Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION AND PAVILION OF RARE ANIMALS

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park

ADMISSION: MOP10 (Pavilion of Rare Animals)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0087

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

Offbeat

WHAM! GEORGE MICHAEL'S ART HEADS TO AUCTION

George Michael's art collection, including a couple of Damien Hirst's pickled objects, is heading to the auction block next month.

A group of 200 works will be offered at Christie's, with prices ranging from 400 pounds to 1.5 million pounds (\$1.9 million), the auction house said in a statement Friday. Proceeds will help keep the British singer's philanthropic work going. He died at age 53 in 2016.

Michael, who surged to fame as part of Wham! in the early 1980s and forged a best-selling solo career, collected works by Young British Artists such as Hirst, Tracey Emin, Sarah Lucas, and Jake and Dinos Chapman.

The most expensive item is Hirst's glass case with a white dove pickled in formaldehyde. Titled "The Incomplete Truth," the 2006 work is estimated at 1 million pounds to 1.5 million pounds.

A smaller glass case by Hirst piece contains a bull's heart with dove wings and pierced by a dagger. Called "The Immaculate Heart-Sacred," the work is estimated at 120,000 pounds to 180,000 pounds. Michael bought it for 313,250 pounds at Sotheby's as part of Hirst's famous auction that took place as Lehman Brothers collapsed in 2008.

Also for sale: a 2007 digital portrait of the singer by Michael Craig-Martin that changes color - the press release depicts Michael with a blue face, purple goatee and orange hair. Displayed on a mounted computer screen, it's estimated at 60,000 pounds to 80,000 pounds. And there's a blanket decorated with words "Drunk to the Bottom of my Soul" by Emin - it's valued at 180,000 pounds to 250,000 pounds.

The items were be previewed in New York over the weekend and then travel to Los Angeles, Hong Kong and Shanghai, before ending up in London. The works will be offered at an evening sale on March 14 in London as well as during the online auction taking place March 8-15.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Mistura Fina
15:50	Zig Zag
16:05	Os Compadres
16:45	Grande Entrevista - Nuno Morais Sarmiento
17:30	João Semana
18:20	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:25	Aqui Há História (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Desporto
22:20	Impostores Sr.1
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Madeira e a República - Parte IV - Fim
00:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:05	RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

11 - 15 FEB

I LOVE YOU, YOU'RE PERFECT, NOW CHANGE!

ROOM 1

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

Director: Wong Cho Lam

Starring: Eric Tsang, Teresa Mo, Ivana Wong,

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)



MARY POPPINS RETURNS

ROOM 2

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

Director: Rob Marshall

Starring: Julie Andrews, Meryl Streep, Colin Firth

Language: English

Duration: 130min



A LIFETIME TREASURE

ROOM 3

7:30, 9:30 pm

Director: Andrew Lam Man Chung

Starring: Louis Cheung, Ivana Wong, Andrew Lam Man

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min



THE LEGO MOVIE 2

ROOM 3

4:00, 7:45 pm

Director: Mike Mitchell

Starring: Chris Pratt, Elizabeth Banks, Will Arnett

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 106min

this day in history



1990 FREEDOM FOR NELSON MANDELA

Leading anti-apartheid campaigner Nelson Mandela has been freed from prison in South Africa after 27 years.

His release follows the relaxation of apartheid laws - including lifting the ban on leading black rights party the African National Congress (ANC) - by South African President FW de Klerk.

Mr Mandela appeared at the gates of Victor-Verster Prison in Paarl at 1614 local time - an hour late - with his wife Winnie.

Holding her hand and dressed in a light brown suit and tie he smiled at the ecstatic crowds and punched the air in a victory salute before taking a silver BMW sedan to Cape Town, 40 miles away.

People danced in the streets across the country and thousands clamored to see him at a rally in Cape Town.

Doctors treated over a hundred people as police clashed with youths looting shops in various cities and townships and several people were reported shot dead.

Mr Mandela, the deputy-president of the ANC, appeared on the balcony of Cape Town's City Hall to speak to the 50,000 people assembled outside at 2000 local time. He acknowledged Mr de Klerk was a man of integrity, but said: "Our struggle has reached a decisive moment. Our march to freedom is irreversible."

"Now is the time to intensify the struggle on all fronts. To relax now would be a mistake which future generations would not forgive," he continued.

As he addressed the crowd South African state television broadcast a profile of Mr Mandela - including a BBC interview from 1961 - which was the first time he had been shown speaking on TV.

Now 71, the lawyer from the Transkei homeland was convicted of treason and sabotage in June 1964 and sentenced to life imprisonment. He spent most of his sentence on Robben Island, off Cape Town, doing hard labor.

Since the 1980s he has refused numerous offers for early release from the government in Pretoria because of the conditions attached.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Nelson Mandela succeeded Oliver Tambo as president of the ANC later in 1991.

He divorced Winnie the next year following her convictions for kidnapping and being accessory to an assault.

Mr Mandela and FW de Klerk shared the Nobel Peace Prize in 1993 for their efforts to transform South African society.

In the first multi-racial elections in the country's history he was elected president and the ANC gained 252 of the 400 seats in the national assembly.

He was succeeded as ANC president by Thabo Mbeki in 1997 and stepped down in favour of Mr Mbeki as national president after the 1999 elections.

Mr Mandela re-married in 1998 and was diagnosed with prostate cancer in 2001, aged 83.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Someone needs your help -- but they may not know how to ask you. Make sure that you're really paying attention as you move through the day, as you can score bonus karma points!

Taurus April 20-May 20 You finally get that one friend or family member who's been so odd lately -- and the explanation is likely simpler than you would have thought. Just reach out and let them know you're savvy.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You need to really hunker down and focus on communication today -- in all its creative forms. Your energy is better spent on poetry than on drafting that email to get a new job.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You need to enjoy what you've got today -- your energy is terrific, and almost anything you choose to do should make life sweeter and more enjoyable for you and your people. Go for it!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Nothing is quite clear today -- you need to take a big step back before you can make sense of anything. That could work to your advantage, though, as you may spot details you'd never have seen otherwise.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Not much gets done today -- which could mean that you just need to deal with a backlog later. There's nothing wrong with that, especially as fighting too hard against today's pace could result in moving backward!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You need to stay flexible and enjoy life's little treasures -- there's no sense in walling over every little thing that goes wrong today! All should return to balance soon, and no one knows that better than you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your artistic license just got renewed -- make the most of it! All this great energy should make you a hit with your colleagues or friends, as long as you're free with your ideas.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Try something totally new today -- it could be almost anything! Your personal energy is somewhat restless and seeking new inspiration. A new friend, a random website or even a cloud can give it to you!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You have got to make social connections today -- though not necessarily new ones. Reach out to old friends (even old flames, possibly) to see if you've still got anything to talk about.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Take a chance on that new volunteer opportunity or charity pitch, even if it doesn't quite seem right -- you can always back off later if it falls apart. You need to give back on a day like today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got to rethink things a bit -- but your great energy helps you do just that with ease. See if you can get your friends to pitch you new ideas for transformative activities. Use them all!

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.

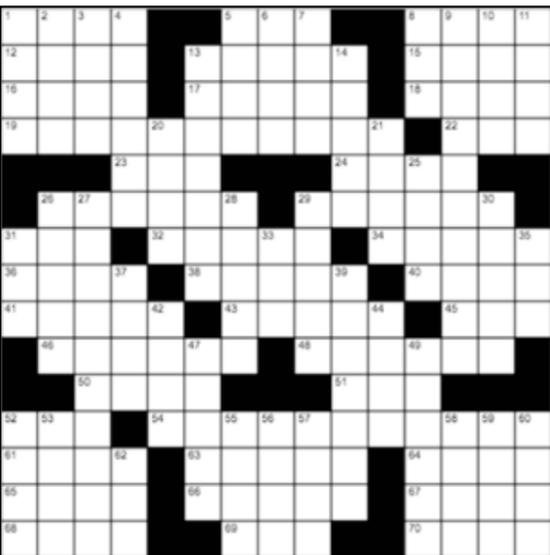
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Lists weather forecasts for various cities in China and the World.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Broadway opening; 5- Drumstick; 8- Mayberry boy; 12- Cut down; 13- Creator; 15- Modernists; 16- Fertility goddess of Egypt; 17- Bridge bid, briefly; 18- Jog; 19- Easy target; 22- El (Spanish hero); 23- Class; 24- Welles role; 26- Not up; 29- Hose; 31- Pampering, briefly; 32- Vestige; 34- Rocker John; 36- Contented sighs; 38- You can get a rise out of it; 40- Over-50 org.; 41- Old English coin; 43- Threep's buddy; 45- Watchdog warning; 46- Contemporary; 48- View in detail; 50- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 51- "Fancy that!"; 52- Intent; 54- Renter; 61- Ski lift; 63- Subway turner; 64- Urn; 65- Etta of old comics; 66- Stigma; 67- Greek vowels; 68- Matures, as wine; 69- Mornings, for short; 70- Lacking slack;

DOWN: 1- French friends; 2- Mozart's "___ fan tutte"; 3- Ninny; 4- Infuse; 5- Singer k.d.; 6- Barely managed, with "out"; 7- Knee; 8- Thunder Bay's prov.; 9- Rate per hundred; 10- ___ Arabian Nights; 11- Cornerstone abbr.; 13- Monastic life; 14- Like crags; 20- Belinda Carlisle's "Should ___ You In?"; 21- Cabbagelike plant; 25- Vincent Lopez's theme song; 26- Waker; 27- Companion at school; 28- Song of praise; 29- Tree houses; 30- Grieved; 31- License plate; 33- Automotive vehicle; 35- "Car Talk" ailer; 37- "Smooth Operator" singer; 39- Make tough; 42- Bluey-green color; 44- Sandwich cookie; 47- Like non-oyster months; 49- Velure; 52- Aleutian island; 53- ___ to differ; 55- ___ boy; 56- "The King and I" setting; 57- New Haven students; 58- Computer input; 59- Biblical twin; 60- Take a break; 62- ACLU concerns;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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

Boxing faces breakaway threat ahead of 2020 Olympics in Tokyo

AMATEUR boxing faces a breakaway threat ahead of the 2020 Olympics in Tokyo after its international federation elected a president accused of ties to organized crime.

The federation, known as AIBA, says a "rogue group" led by unnamed "Kazakhstani individuals" has asked national boxing federations to write to the International Olympic Committee offering to help run an Olympic boxing tournament without AIBA.

AIBA published late Friday what it said was a sample letter organized by the breakaway group. The unsigned letter addressed to the IOC says "our group is ready to provide with the necessary technical expertise and sufficient financial conditions" to run the tournament, citing "the



President of the amateur boxing federation Gafur Rakhimov

dire situation of the sport of boxing."

Relations between the IOC and AIBA are tense after Uzbekistan businessman Gafur Rakhimov was elected AIBA president in November, beating Kazakh candidate Serik Konakbayev.

The U.S. Treasury Department has alleged Rakhimov is a heroin trafficker linked to organized crime and placed him under sanctions. Rakhimov denies the allegations.

AIBA risks being derecognized in June after an IOC inquiry panel reports. Until then, AIBA is banned from contacting 2020 Tokyo Olympic organizers.

A person close to Kazakh boxing officials, speaking anonymously because they weren't authorized to discuss the letter, told The Associated Press the copy published by AIBA was genuine. A leading figure at a national boxing federation, speaking

anonymously because of possible retribution from AIBA leadership, said they had been approached to sign such a letter but had not done so. The IOC knows nothing about the plans, spokesman Mark Adams told the AP.

AIBA said it had launched a taskforce to investigate and discipline people involved in circulating the letter, accusing them of "sabotaging AIBA's position within the Olympic movement."

"AIBA assumes that the IOC has dismissed and distanced itself from any and all of these activities initiated by this group of individuals," AIBA added. "The IOC has been contacted with regards to the letter, however, no response has been provided in return." AP

African football official wants meeting over leaked letters

A member of African football's ruling executive committee warned of a situation "spiraling out of control" if sharp internal criticism of the organization's president, who is also a FIFA vice president, isn't dealt with.

Isha Johansen of Sierra Leone wrote to her Confederation of African Football executive committee colleagues on Saturday to request an urgent meeting after two leaked letters from another executive committee member accused CAF president Ahmad of violating financial procedures and adopting a dictatorial style at the African football body.

Johansen wrote "we are sitting on what I believe strongly has the potential of spiraling out of control" in a letter addressed to Ahmad and the rest of the executive committee and obtained by The Associated Press.

She also questioned the lack of response from the executive committee to the now-public criticism of Ahmad, calling it a "deafening silence."

"Am I the only one feeling that there is a storm behind this calm?" Johansen wrote.

Johansen's plea for action —



Ahmad Ahmad (right) and FIFA president Gianni Infantino

and for the executive committee to come together — came after the two letters over the last week from fellow executive Musa Bility of Liberia, in which he resigned from two of his other committee positions within CAF and criticized president Ahmad for taking the organization in the "wrong direction."

On Friday, Bility was the first to call for an urgent executive committee meeting to investigate what he called Ahmad's "violations" of CAF's financial and other procedures.

One of Bility's concerns was the recent announcement of a major sponsorship deal CAF agreed with sports betting company 1xBet, and which he said happened without the approval of the executive committee. AP

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Bahraini Hakeem al-Araibi, center, leaves the criminal court in Bangkok



Tributes are placed outside the Cardiff City Stadium, Wales, for Emiliano Sala

John Leicester, Paris

ANALYSIS

A sad, shocking week that tested football's heart

IT was a week of sad and shocking images for football. From the murky depths of the cold sea that separates France and England came a chilling photograph, shot remotely, of the crumpled plane that crashed Jan. 21 as it was flying Emiliano Sala to a new career in the English Premier League, killing the Argentine forward and pilot David Ibbotson.

And on the other side of the world, in Thailand, TV cameras were on hand to film the pained, shuffling gait of imprisoned refugee footballer Hakeem al-Araibi in leg irons and bare feet, as he fought efforts in court to extradite him to Bahrain. The defender who was granted safe haven in Australia after fleeing a 10-year prison sentence in Bahrain in 2014 is terrified that he'll be tortured if returned to the kingdom with a well-documented history of abuses.

Piling on the pain in football's already tough week was a fire that torched the sleeping quarters of a soccer academy in Brazil on Friday, killing 10 people and injuring three.

In both the untimely death of 28-year-old Sala and al-Araibi's battle for freedom, there have been emotional and impactful responses from football, heartening demonstrations of soul and decency from the world's most popular sport, often so fixated by money. In mourning for Sala and campaigning for al-Araibi, there also have been signs that football and footballers are learning to leverage their power and reach for causes other than themselves, flashes of social conscience that should be nourished.

Had Sala not been a footballer, his body may never

have been found. But fellow players, coaches and thousands of others poured donations into a campaign by his family to fund the search that located the wrecked light aircraft in the English Channel. The pilot is still missing, presumed dead.

Over the weekend, Sala was honored with a minute of applause at all matches in the top two leagues in France, where his play had caught the eye of Cardiff City, the Premier League club now mourning its new recruit. Nantes, which sold him, says it plans to retire his No. 9 jersey in memory of his 3½ seasons with the French club.

But as footballers and fans say goodbye to Sala, knowing that their generosity and support helped offer closure to his grieving family, they have everything still to do for al-Araibi.

Detained Nov. 27 at the start of what was meant to be a honeymoon in Thailand, the former Bahrain national team player is wanted back in the kingdom for an arson attack on a police station in 2012 for which he was sentenced in absentia.

Campaigners believe the case was bogus and have unearthed footage they say supports his claim that he was playing in a televised match at the time. They doubt Bahrain's statements that he would be fairly treated if returned. That is partly because al-Araibi says

he was tortured in custody before he fled Bahrain, telling The New York Times in 2016 that an officer "beat my legs really hard, saying: 'You will not play soccer again. We will destroy your future.'"

Sounds familiar: Even a Bahrain government-ordered investigation reported deaths from torture in 2011 and said detainees were electrocuted, beaten on the soles of their feet, otherwise abused and reported being squeezed into tiny cells, sexually assaulted and other horrors.

Over the weekend, Sala was honored with a minute of applause at all matches in the top two leagues in France

Again, had 25-year-old al-Araibi not been a footballer, his plight likely wouldn't have evoked much of a reaction beyond the human rights groups whose days are filled with such cases. There was no global reaction for previous renditions from Thailand of refugees and asylum-seekers to countries where campaigners said they risked ill-treatment. There was no equivalent

of the #SaveHakeem campaign now catching on online when, for example, Thailand turned over a planeload of asylum-seekers to China in 2015, flown back with their heads covered in black hoods and flanked by masked Chinese security agents.

So kudos to the star players, the likes of Leicester City striker Jamie Vardy and Juventus defender Giorgio Chiellini, who have spoken up this time, with tweets. That may not seem like much, but it is a start, better than nothing and makes one realize how the industry could, if everyone in it pulled their weight, do so much more to sway public opinion behind virtuous causes. The majority of other players who have so far stayed silent on al-Araibi need to ask themselves why. Are they really that shallow, muzzled or uncaring?

Also bravo to Pascoe Vale FC, the club al-Araibi plays for in Melbourne, for its classy announcement this week that it has signed him up for a new season. Most of all, hats off to Craig Foster, the retired Australia and Crystal Palace midfielder who is spearheading lobbying for al-Araibi's release.

And what of FIFA? Well, although it remains hard to forget and forgive the many years when football's governing body was synonymous for corruption, thievery and turning a blind eye, FIFA's lobbying for al-Araibi deserves encour-

agement, because it suggests that the organization long so impervious to doing the decent thing is genuinely trying to change and that its human rights commitments since the 2015 ouster of Sepp Blatter as FIFA president aren't simply window-dressing.

A letter to the Thai prime minister from FIFA Secretary General Fatma Samoura laid out that al-Araibi should never, as a refugee, have been detained and urged his release. Federico Addiechi, a good-governance officer at FIFA who is in regular contact with human rights campaigners, also traveled this week from Switzerland to Thailand and back just for al-Araibi's hearing and, FIFA says, for meetings related to the case.

That isn't enough for critics who want Gianni Infantino, Blatter's successor as FIFA president whose silence on al-Araibi grows deafening, to speak out and for FIFA to consider ways to sanction Thailand and Bahrain. But, to be fair, what FIFA has said and done so far is surely more than it would have done in the past, and about a mess caused not by FIFA, but by authorities in Thailand, Bahrain and Australia.

The ultimate gauge will be if al-Araibi is released.

If not, then all of football, from FIFA down to the players, will have to answer the same question: Did we do everything we could? **AP**

opinion

Tax Matters

Paulo Cordeiro de Sousa



TAX-RELATED ISSUES IN THE MACAU SAR 2019 BUDGET

The Macau SAR Budget was approved by Law 19/2018, and was published in the Official Gazette on December 31, 2018 (the "2019 Budget"). As usual, it dealt with tax-related matters that are very important for Macau residents and companies – notably, it set forth better conditions for the upcoming year than those provided by the applicable tax statutes.

The 2019 Budget grants a total exemption from industrial tax (Contribuição Industrial). Industrial tax is levied annually and payable by all entities (natural and legal persons) that perform any kind of commercial or industrial activity – it is a one-off payment of a fixed, pre-determined amount. This exemption has long been granted by successive Macau SAR Annual Budgets.

Regarding stamp duty (Imposto do Selo), several exemptions are granted by the 2019 Budget: (i) exemption of stamp duty on insurance policies and on banking operations; (ii) exemption of stamp duty on the transfer of real estate for residential purposes, up to a transfer amount of MOP3,000,000, provided that some requirements are met by the purchaser (must be of legal age and cannot own any other immovable property in the Macau SAR); (iii) exemption of stamp duty on auctions of goods or assets; (iv) exemption of stamp duty on shows, exhibitions or amusements of any kinds; (v) exemption of stamp duty on the issue or purchase of public debt securities.

Also, licencing fees and stamp duty regarding the display of advertising and propaganda material will not be charged in 2019.

Another tax benefit in the 2019 Budget is that a tourism tax exemption has been granted to majority of the tourism operators.

With respect to personal income tax ("PIT" – Imposto Profissional), the 2019 Budget sets forth that: (i) there will be a deduction of 30 percent to the tax payable; (ii) the tax-exemption threshold will be of MOP144,000 (instead of MOP5,000, as established in the PIT Regulations); (iii) there will be a withholding exemption for salaries of up to MOP16,000 per month; (iv) the tax-exemption threshold for employees with more than 65 years or with a permanent disability equal or above 60 percent will be of MOP98,000 (instead of MOP135,000). In addition, the 2019 Budget establishes a reimbursement for 60 percent of PIT from 2017 up to a maximum amount of MOP14,000, which was paid by residents in the Macau SAR – this means that the tax bill of Macau SAR residents could, in fact, be much lower than it appears.

The 2019 Budget also provides a fixed MOP3,500 tax deduction to real estate property tax payable by resident individuals that are not entrepreneurs. Additionally, the real estate property tax rate for leased property has been reduced from 10 percent to 8 percent.

Regarding corporate income tax ("CIT" – Imposto Complementar de Rendimentos) applicable to companies and individuals that carry out industrial or commercial activities, the tax-exemption threshold for income obtained in the 2018 financial year has been increased to MOP600,000. Income above that threshold is taxed at a 12 percent rate. Furthermore, the 2019 Budget creates higher deductions for expenses related to innovation, and science and technology activities. Also, some kinds of income are exempt from CIT, notably: (i) interest obtained from debt securities issued in the Macau SAR by the Central State, local governments and central companies of the People's Republic of China; and (ii) income obtained or sourced in Portuguese-speaking countries, provided that it was taxed in said countries.

In conclusion, one may say that the Macau SAR budgets create exemptions (notably tax benefits) to the general tax law, which will apply during the year in which each budget will be in force. The Macau SAR Government could consider including such exemptions in the general tax law, at least in such cases where the exemptions are recurrently approved in successive annual budgets.

THE WEST CHINA BLIZZARDS KILL THOUSANDS OF HERD ANIMALS

Blizzards in Tibetan areas of western China have left thousands of head of livestock dead and roads covered in up to 45 centimeters of snow, state media reported Saturday.

Local authorities had sent veterinarians, medicine and animal feed to the hard-hit areas in Qinghai Province's Yushu Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, the Xinhua News Agency reported.

Villages in the area are above 5,000 meters (16,400 feet) and workers were seeking to clear roads to ensure the deli-

very of supplies, a task made more difficult by high winds and drifting snow.

Mainly ethnic Tibetan villagers in the area depend heavily on livestock, mainly Yaks, goats and sheep, for their livelihoods and to feed their families. Harsh winters are routine in the Himalayan region that long fell within Tibet's traditional borders.

Snow was also expected in other parts of northern and central China over coming days, leading to some travel disruptions as millions of Chinese returned home after the past week's Lunar New Year holiday.



SOURCE: DSHMG

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Moderate
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

For Amazon, it's business as usual despite CEO drama

Joseph Pisani, New York

FIRST it was a heart-wrenching tweet that he and his wife were getting a divorce after 25 years. Then a tabloid revealed that he'd been having an affair, releasing texts and photos of him and his mistress.

As if either of those weren't distracting enough, now Jeff Bezos – the world's richest man and CEO of Amazon – is accusing The National Enquirer in a blog post of trying to blackmail him by threatening to release more intimate photos of him unless he calls off an investigation into how that information was obtained in the first place.

But despite the all-consuming personal drama, analysts and experts don't expect it to make much difference to Amazon itself, the company Bezos has steered from an online bookstore two decades ago to a worldwide juggernaut.

Michael Pachter, an analyst at Wedbush Securities, estimates the impact on the company to be "0.000 percent."

"I'm certain investors won't care," he said.

Others point out that Bezos has been able to balance his responsibilities at the helm of the world's largest online retailer while also juggling his other pursuits: running a space exploration company and owning the Washington Post, one of the nation's most influential newspapers.

"He's extraordinarily driven," says Chris McCabe, who used to work at Amazon and now runs e-commerceChris, a consultancy for Amazon sellers. "He knows how to delegate."

Amazon has a steady line of longtime executives who are running each of its businesses, likely keeping investors calm.

Jeffrey Wilke, oversees the retail business, and Andrew Jassy runs the company's fast-growing cloud computing business Amazon Web Services. Both of them have been at the company since



Jeff Bezos

the 1990s. And unlike other CEOs, Bezos doesn't speak at conference calls with analysts and investors after the company releases its financial reports, leaving that to Chief Financial Officer Brian Olsavsky, who has been at the company since 2002.

Still, that hasn't stopped the Enquirer from casting doubts over whether Bezos can effectively oversee his company.

"All of these (text) messages raise serious questions about Bezos' judgment as the CEO of the most valuable company in the world," the tabloid said in a Jan. 24 article.

Seattle-based Amazon.com Inc. declined to comment on Bezos. The company's stock did not take a big hit, slipping 1.6 percent at Friday's close.

Meanwhile, the Enquirer's publisher, American Media Inc., is disputing Bezos' claims that it used "extortion and blackmail" in reporting its story, saying that it "acted lawfully."

In his blog post Thursday, Bezos defended his ability to lead Amazon: "I founded Amazon in my garage 24 years ago, and drove all the packages to the post office myself. Today, Amazon employs more than 600,000 people, just finished its most profitable year ever, even while investing heavily in new initiatives, and it's usually somewhere between the #1 and #5 most valuable company in the world. I will let those results speak for themselves."

He also said he wants to focus on work, noting that

the person he hired to handle the investigation into how his texts were leaked to the Enquirer will also be tasked with "protecting" his time. "I have other things I prefer to work on," Bezos wrote.

Bezos' indiscretions are seen more as a personal matter rather than one to do with the company, unlike Tesla's CEO Elon Musk, for example, whose behavior has caused the electric automaker's stock to rise and fall. Musk was recently stripped of his chairman title and forced to pay a \$20 million penalty to the Securities and Exchange Commission for allegedly duping investors with tweets about a plan to take the company private.

"This is very much a matter of Jeff Bezos," says Neil Saunders, the managing director at GlobalData Retail, of Bezos' affair. "It's not really anything to do with running with the company."

David Larcker, a professor at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, says it's up to shareholders and the board of directors to decide just how engaged a CEO is in their work, and whether they should go. Bezos is both chairman of the board and the largest shareholder, owning a 16 percent stake in the company.

Amazon's shoppers, meanwhile, are not likely to take notice.

"I think as long as people can get their Nespresso pods within 48 hours, they don't care," says Scott Galloway, a marketing professor at NYU Stern School of Business. AP



FRANCE On a day of mourning for Emiliano Sala, Nantes players walked onto the field dressed all in black with Sala's name on their backs as the crowd chanted for him over and over again. More on p19



ETHIOPIA (A statue of Ethiopia's Emperor Haileselassie has been unveiled at the headquarters of the African Union yesterday.



SAUDI ARABIA's King Salman has approved a plan to ease levies businesses pay on foreign workers to help revive economic growth. Authorities will exempt some companies from paying the 2018 fees or reimburse those that have already paid, according to the official-Saudi Press Agency.

ALGERIA The country's octogenarian president, Abdelaziz Bouteflika, announced that he would seek a fifth term and vowed sweeping reforms, dispelling weeks of uncertainty about his plans.



HAITI Protesters have stoned the president's home and clashed with police, leaving at least one demonstrator dead in the third straight day of demonstrations against economic mismanagement and corruption.