

CRIME REPORT: HIKE IN **CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE**

Child sexual abuse crimes grew by 50pct to reach a total of 27 cases in 2018, reports the Secretariat for Security



AN EDUCATION **IN BRUNE**

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei offers Macau, ASEAN students scholarships for the upcoming academic semester P3 MDT REPORT



GREATER BAY 'INEVITABLE INTEGRATION



WORLD BRIEFS

HUAWEI The U.S. gov't fight to ban Chinese tech giant Huawei from next-generation internet networks appears to be flagging. The two sides faced off yesterday at the world's biggest mobile technology trade fair, in Barcelona. More on p11



HANOI SUMMIT For his second summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un, which starts today, opted to go retro riding the rails like his grandfather decades before. More on p12



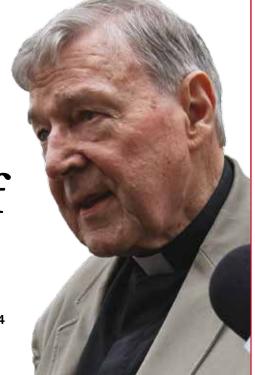
AFGHANISTAN The Taliban and Washington's peace envoy are close to reaching an agreement on U.S. troop withdrawal from Afghanistan, a spokesman for the Islamic insurgents said amid a new round of talks. Suhail Shaheen (pictured) said the deal will also include guarantees that Afghanistan will not be used again as a staging arena for anti-American attacks.

IMF REPORT

Gaming tax revenue to be 'less buoyant'.



AUSTRALIA



WATER GATE



KASHMIR A pre-dawn airstrike inside Pakistan that India said targeted a terrorist training camp and killed a "very large number" of militants ratcheted up tensions between the two nucleararmed rivals at odds over the disputed territory of Kashmir. More on p13

Cardinal George Pell convicted of molesting choirboys P14

Heavy traffic delays asbestos pipes' removal

More on backpage

P5 MACAU





No confirmation yet on Singapore treatment

The domestic violence victim at the center of an ongoing medical spat is said to have not yet signaled a willingness to receive treatment in Singapore, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM) earlier this week. In the statement, the SSM revealed that both the victim and her family have not made a decision. The bureau claims that once the victim confirms her stance in relation to receiving treatment in Singapore, the SSM will then contact and coordinate with the concerned hospital in order to make sure the victim receives suitable treatment.

Ho Chio Meng affiliate given two years

Lam I Na, former head of the Judicial Affairs Department of the Public Prosecutions Office, was found guilty of charges relating to her involvement in the case of former prosecutor general Ho Chio Meng. Lam was accused of collecting a customs' seizure worth MOP107,000 at the request of Ho. According to a report by Macao Daily News, Lam denied the allegation during the trial at the Court of First Instance. However, the court ruled that Lam had indeed committed the act. She was sentenced to two years of imprisonment, with three years probation, and ordered to compensate all losses incurred by the government.

First phase of border relocation expected 2019

The first phase of the relocation of the Cotai border gate to Hengqin is expected to complete by the end of this year, according to Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak. In order to

Authorities concerned with rapid rise in some offenses



Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak

Renato Marques

DESPITE a general stabilization in the growth of crime in Macau, reporting a mere 0.5 percent increase in 2018, both the authorities and society at large are concerned about a rapid rise in reports of specific offenses, revealed the Secretariat for Security at a presentation yesterday.

The crime of child sexual abuse grew by 50 percent year-onyear to reach a total of 27 cases in 2018, juvenile delinquency saw year-on- year growth of 35.6 percent (61 cases), usury crimes hiked 26.8 percent and scams increased 31.3 percent to a total of 1,195 cases.

With particular regard to the increase in cases of child sex abuse and juvenile delinquency, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said, "these situations deserve consideration and attention from all of society." These problems need coordinated "urgent action in terms of interdepartmental cooperation, schools and parents and guardians in order to ascertain motives and reinforce information, communication and awareness [...] in cooperation with prevention and resolution efforts.²

illegal currency exchanges that have been making headlines and contributing to a significant portion of the 2018 scams growth, the Secretary noted that the authorities have been paying significant attention to the topic and have organized police operations to target this type of crime by disrupting syndicates.

"According to the statistics [for 2018] we conducted 913 operations that intercepted a total of 3,050 people. All of them were deported according to the law and 2,269 of them were forbidden from entering Macau for a period of one year," Wong said.

In January alone this year, "we intercepted a total of 545 scammers, of which 411 were punished with a reentry ban in the region." The Secretary affirmed that anti-scam activities would continue to be one of the main priorities of the Public Security Police Force in trafficking and providing assistance to illegal immigration, which dropped by 32 percent, 4.9 percent and 8.7 percent respectively.

Nonetheless, Wong affirmed that the authorities intend to continue addressing these crimes as priorities. "We need to consider that these are crimes that result in high profit, so the offenders are certainly going to risk it and produce serious problems to society," he said.

ON THE POLICE RADAR

Crime	Rise (%)
Child sex abuse	50.0
Juvenile delinquency	35.6
Usury	26.8
Scams	31.3

Questioned about the huge difference between the number of cases opened by the police and categorized as domestic violence (105 cases) and the final number of cases reaching the courts (two cases), the Secretary noted that not all cases with signs of domestic violence turn out to involve it. Wong noted that "the legal provisions are quite restrictive on the classification of crimes as 'domestic violence'," adding that many of the cases were "suspected domestic violence or early stage situations that could develop into domestic violence."

The chief security official added that in cases with serious consequences, such as those resulting in severe injuries or death, the police always opt to categorize the case under the most serious offense framework.

Judiciary Police (PJ) director Sit Chong Meng added that most of the cases of suspected domestic violence that were later dropped were classified as situations involving threats or bodily harm. Sit supplemented Wong's statement by explaining that, "in general the crime is classified as domestic violence so we can activate the mechanism of victim protection of the Social Welfare Bureau."

"If the crime meets the conditions stated by the legal provisions, of course we would forward it [to the Public Prosecutions Office] as domestic violence."

handle matters concerning the relocation, the Macau government has established four groups responsible for matters including immigration, laws, and construction associated with the relocation. According to the plan for the new border, the immigration method used will be similar to that at the Macau-Zhuhai crossing of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Questioned on the topic of scams, especially those involving

2019.

On the other hand, the Secretary for Security emphasized a drop in violent crime which, according to statistics, fell 21.1 percent last year, primarily due to declines of 36.1 percent and 33.3 percent registered in cases of homicide and theft respectively.

Among the other offenses that registered declines in 2018 were cases of drug consumption, drug The PJ director also noted that the definition of this crime is quite restrictive. For example, a family relationship must exist between the victim and suspect and the maltreatment must involve physical, psychological or sexual harm since the legal interest concerns the "physical integrity" of the victim.



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ECONOMY

IMF warns casino-funded coffers won't keep up with social welfare costs

Daniel Beitler

HE International Monetary Fund has released its concluding statements from an earlier visit to the SAR to assess the health of Macau's economy. Despite a generally positive evaluation, the international organization says that city faces several medium-term risks, including the diminishing spending power of mainland tourists and the possibility that gaming revenue tax, which provides the bulk of government income, will be unable to keep up with mounting social welfare costs incurred by an ageing population.

The IMF's concluding statements outline three top policy priorities for the government: an increase in targeted public spending; the retention of the exchange rate peg of the pataca; and the formation of a mediumand long-term fiscal framework to manage the "efficient use of gamingdependent fiscal resources."

The assessment found that risks

percent seen in the previous year. The IMF predicts that economic growth will slow to about 5.3 percent in 2019 and then hold at about 5 percent in the medium-term.

The main driver of medium-term economic growth will continue to be the tourism industry, fueled by consistent mass gaming and non-gaming activities, but offset by a more subdued VIP sector in line with the diversification efforts of authorities.

"Over the medium term, the economy will likely expand moderately. [...] While the [growth] outlook is more subdued than historical averages, it is also less volatile," the IMF noted.

The concern, according to the international institution, is that more moderate growth in gaming will deliver "less buoyant tax revenue" just as social spending will grow on the back of ageing and social pressures. Even as the Macau government holds one of the world's healthiest fiscal and foreign currency reserves

holds one of the world's healthiest fiscal and foreign currency reserves per capita, the IMF recommends that authorities produce a longterm fiscal sustainability report, citing Australia and New Zealand's as a model. Macau might face further trouble should there be a sharp tightening of global financial conditions with unexpected interest rate hikes from the U.S. Federal Reserve. "Given the indirect exchange rate peg to the U.S. dollar, the pataca would appreciate relative to the renminbi possibly reducing [the] Macau SAR's competitiveness and weakening gaming spending per visitor."

gence of rival gaming jurisdictions in East and Southeast Asia that threaten to divert mainland tourists from Macau.

Long on the city's radar, the threat is considered minimal in the shortand medium-term on account of Macau's gaming infrastructure and its proximity to mainland China.

The IMF expects Macau's economy to continue to perform adequately in other areas. Credit should remain readily available and the city will continue to see a low unemployment rate. Investment in the years ahead is expected to remain weak, although improve in the medium-term in part due to the upcoming expiration of gaming licenses.

Meanwhile, property prices recovered with the economic rebound and, although flat in the second half of 2018, are now subject to new measures that will ultimately reduce market risks.

EDUCATION

Brunei calls on scholarship applicants

THE Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Brunei is calling on applicants for its Scholarship Award Scheme for the upcoming academic session – including students from the Macau SAR.

According to an announcement made by the administration, the scholarship program is applicable to students who wish to undertake a diploma, undergraduate degree or postgraduate master's degree at its four universities, Universiti Brunei Darussalam, Universiti Islam Sultan Sharif Ali, Universiti Teknologi Brunei and Politeknik Brunei.

Applications are open to citizens of ASEAN, Commonwealth and Organization of Islamic Cooperation member states.

The scholarship recipient will be exempted from tuition fees and other related fees for the duration of the program, in addition to receiving an air-ticket to Brunei from the recipient's country of origin.

The scholarship also includes a monthly personal allowance, meal allowance and an annual book allowance of around MOP3,000, MOP900 and MOP3,500 respectively.

The administration reminds applicants that upon completion of the program, the scholarship recipient will be required to leave the country with immediate effect.

Interested applicants can submit application documents to the Brunei consulate in Hong Kong by 4 p.m. tomorrow.

The Higher Education Bureau (DSES), which changed its name from the 'Higher Education Office' after the Chinese New Year period denoting the bureau as an autonomous administration body, said it forwarded the notice to students who have been receiving scholarships from the bureau.

As cited in the Official Gazette, the bureau has increased its responsibilities in implementing the requirements of the city's higher education system.

The DSES will be comprised of the Student Affairs Office, the Department for Higher Education Cooperation and Science and Technology and the Office of General Affairs.

Sou Chi Fai, the current director of DSES, along with his deputy director, will continue their contract until they are completed.

As previously announced at an Executive Council press conference, the bureau's budget has been increased by MOP4 million. **LV**

to the Macau economy are "tilted to the downside" and "mainly emanating from mainland China."

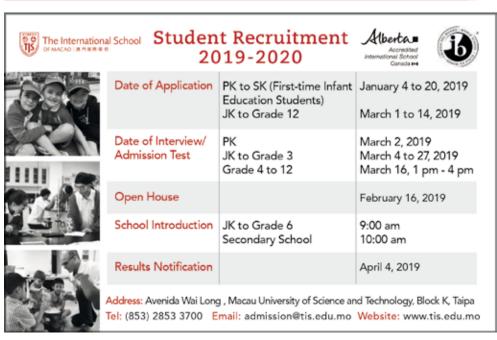
"[The] Macau SAR's small and open economy is highly vulnerable to economic, financial and policy developments on the mainland," said the IMF. "With most tourists coming from the mainland, any policy that undermines their spending power abroad would negatively affect growth."

Following a strong rebound from the 2014 gaming slump, economic growth in Macau moderated in the second half of 2018 on the back of weaker foreign investment and reduced VIP revenues from mainland Chinese clientele.

Gross domestic product growth in 2018 amounted to about 5.6 percent, dropping significantly from the 9.7

Nevertheless, "the peg to the Hong Kong dollar continues to serve [the] Macau SAR well," providing "a credible nominal anchor."

A final note of concern in the concluding statements was the emer-





Kitesurfer cross delta trip postponed

Yesterday's anticipated kitesurfer crossing of the Pearl River Delta, starting at Hong Kong's Cheung Chau Beach and arriving at Ha Sac Beach in Coloane, was postponed by organizers due to bureaucratic problems. According to what the Times could ascertain from kitesurfer Hillian Siu, the problem was not related to the kitesurfing part of the adventure but, instead, with the clearance needed for the supporting boat. Siu told the Times that the group could not obtain clearance "early enough for me to catch the early wind," an unfortunate event that organizers aim to correct soon. The sea-crossing adventure aims to raise awareness over the accumulation of plastic and garbage in the oceans and raise funds for an ocean-cleaning project.

Election affairs briefing in March

A briefing session regarding the 2019 Chief Executive election campaign will be held at the Macao Science Center on March 22, the Electoral Commission for the Chief Executive Election said yesterday. The session will be held between 6:30 p.m. and 8:30 p.m. and the briefing will be related to the election of the members of the Election Committee. The commission also met with the representatives from the Office for Personal Data Protection and representatives from the Public Security Police Force to discuss matters concerning data protection for the election.

Secretary for Security denies claims of poor investigation

Renato Marques

SECRETARY for Se-Curity Wong Sio Chak has adamantly refuted accusations from parents and lawmakers that the Judiciary Police (PJ) poorly investigated the case of child sexual abuse at the D. José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten.

On the topic, Wong said, "this case has been archived already and honestly, there are different voices in society about [it]." The Secretary added that he was aware of criticism from both parents and Macau lawmakers suggesting a lack of professional capacity to investigate the case.

However, Wong maintained that police authorities took all possible precautions when dealing with the case, including ensuring that the location for questioning the children had a "home feeling."

In response to one specific allegation, Wong explained that a guardian was asked to leave the room during the



questioning of his child because he was instructing the child on what she should say to the police, "leaving no option to PJ investigators but to ask him to leave."

The Secretary reaffirmed that "all PJ investigators are trained, but of course we need to continuously train [these professionals] especially concerning techniques for communication with children."

Questioned on whether the force possesses adequate resources for the investigation, namely a psychologist to address this type of case, Wong answered that there is a mechanism for authorities to call on expertise from specialists appointed by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau.

Asked whether it was strange that the specialist used by the PJ in a previous case of child abuse was, in fact, the same psychologist who worked at the Costa Nunes Kindergarten and was suspended by the institution for having failed in her duties, the Secretary could not provide an answer.

Although the Public Prosecutions Office decided to drop the case due to lack of evidence, the final report on the investigation into the classroom teacher and director of the kindergarten concluded with the teacher having her contract terminated starting next week and with the director being given a written warning.

The psychologist also saw her duties suspended during the investigation, in addition to the early termination of the staff member who was accused of abusing the children.



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WATER SUPPLY

Replacement of asbestos pipes may be delayed



Lynzy Valles

 $M^{ACAO}_{\rm pecting \ a \ delay \ in}$ the replacement of the remaining pipes containing asbestos due to traffic matters.

Last year, the city's sole water supplier announced that the asbestos plumbing – a material known to cause serious health problems - would be replaced as it is fragile and could be damaged by temperature changes.

However, Nacky Kuan, executive director of Macao Water, said that the completion of the project would be delayed due to traffic arrangements.

"The [project] should be finished by the end of this year but due to traffic problems and arrangements, we will push it a little bit more," Kuan told the press on the sidelines of its annual Spring luncheon.

"Due to the traffic arrangements, most of the preparations are not yet finished [as it is] located in a very busy area so we have to liaise with the Transport Bureau to com-

plete the pipes," she explained, referencing the Nam Van and Kiang Wu districts. The project - which is a five-year program

– will conclude once it has replaced the asbestos plumbing in the two districts.

Meanwhile, Kuan announced that the water company recorded an income of over MOP80 million last year.

The annual water consumption hit 100 million cubic meters, a 3 percent increase year-on-year which was within expectations.

The firm predicted that the city's water consumption for 2019 would increase by 3 percent, similar to its prediction last year, noting that consumption is greater in the Cotai district.

Kuan said that the company is capable of handling the increase in the region's visitors expected in the coming years.

"We still have a capacity for the water demand; there is around 30 to 40 percent capacity remaining.



So, we are capable of meeting the demands of tourists," she said. "Domestic use is not a large part of the water consumption."

Nacky Kuan

Macao Water is also expecting that the construction of a fourth raw water pipe to Macau will be completed in the second quarter of this year, and raw water will be transported to the SAR from Hengqin progressively starting from the second half of the year.

The firm also said that it is speeding up the construction of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant with the aim of starting operations by the end of 2020.

Further, Macao Water announced that it will coorganize a seminar with Shenzhen, Hong Kong and Zhuhai, aiming to further promote exchanges and collaboration within the industry, as well as to provide water security and safety.

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Non-resident worker total



holding above 188,000

THE number of non-re- number of non-resident sident workers in Macau rose by 4.3 percent yearon-year to reach 188,321 at the end of January, the Labour Affairs Bureau announced, citing data provided by immigration authorities. Despite the year-on-year increase, the total is slightly lower than the number recorded in the previous month, December.

According to the data, foreign workers from mainland China accounted for 62 percent of the total number of imported labor. The workers from the Philippines stood at 31,924, the second-largest country of origin.

Other major segments came from Vietnam (15,267), Indonesia (5,466), Hong Kong (4,578), Nepal (4,274), and Myanmar (2,540).

In December, the number of non-resident workers reached its highest point on record at 188,480 people, following several years of stagnation and marginal decline. In the last quarter of 2018, Macau's labor force stood just shy of 395,000. The hospitality sector, comprising hotels, restaurants and other similar establishments, continues to employ the largest share of the non-resident workforce, followed by the construction sector and then domestic workers.

At the end of last month, the number of domestic helpers amounted to 29,217, including 15,769 from the Philippines, 7,507 from Vietnam, and 3,852 from Indonesia. DB

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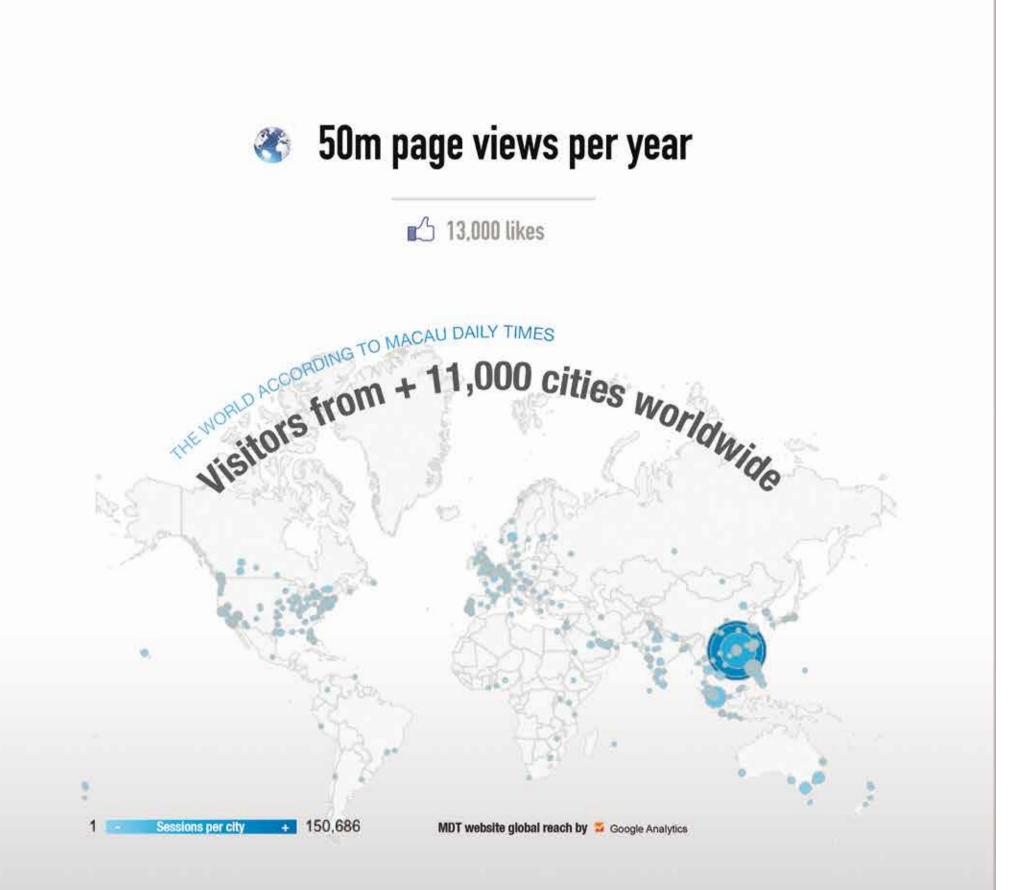
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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

GREATER BAY AREA

Forum speaker expects inevitable integration



Julie Zhu

speaker during the Macao Polytechnic Institute's (IPM) forum on youth policy in the Greater Bay Area said that the initiative is poised to encourage young people in Macau to relocate to Guangdong province.

The speaker was Loi Hoi Ngan, associate professor at the Social, Economic and Public Policy Research Center of IPM.

"The Macau youth born and raised in Macau might think that there is no need for them to go out [to Guangdong]. But, even if you don't go out, the future will affect you because the Greater Bay will become one market," said Loi at yesterday's forum, which was attended by more than 150 of the institution's students.

"Capital, technology and labor will flow increasingly smoothly in it."

"Even if you don't go to [Guangdong], there will be many other specialists [from the mainland] coming to Macau to seek out opportunities," added Loi.

Only one forum attendee signaled an interest in relocating to Guangdong

Despite Loi's enthusiasm and high expectations for the Greater Bay Area, only one forum attendee raised his hand when the audience was asked if they were interested in relocating.

Moreover, none of the IPM students who were at vesterday's forum had read the Outline Development Plan for the Greater Bay Area, when Loi asked the question.

In Loi's opinion, Macau has already taken a large number of protective measures for local residents' employment. However, he hopes that the city can increase the competencies of Macau locals to better prepare them for future competition.

Besides Loi, another speaker, the vice-president of IPM, Lei Ngan Lin, also told the media that the university will launch other relevant measures and strategies to push forward the development of and cooperation in the Greater Bay.

According to Lei, IPM has already signed cooperation agreements with several universities in the region, including the Sun Yat-sen University and Beijing Normal University Zhuhai campus. These cooperation agreements concern degrees of mutual recognition as well as the exchange of students.

Recently, the school signed a knowledge exchange agreement in conjunction with several universities in the Greater Bay Area.

The institute also plans to launch a Chinese-Portuguese translation machine next month.

"Next month, periodical research results will be announced. We hope that the research can solve Chinese-Portuguese translation problems which we have encountered in the Greater Bay Area," said Lei.

HKZMB

Ferry terminal business down 20 percent

CECRETARY for Transport and **D**Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário said that, to his understanding, the passenger flow at the Taipa Ferry Terminal and the Macau Ferry Terminal have declined collectively by about 20 percent.

According to a report by Cheng Pou, Raimundo disclosed the information earlier this week when asked about the changes in passenger flow at the ferry terminals after the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Raimundo explained that the decrease is due to the addition of another method of transportation to Hong Kong brought about by the Bridge, but he has deemed the decrease to be normal.

Since the launch of the HKZMB project, engineering problems have been regularly reported.

When Raimundo was questioned about whether his departments had received any report concerning HKZMB engineering problems, the Secretary said "according to my knowledge, there have been no [big problems].'

However, the Secretary admitted that small problems have regularly occurred on the bridge, remarking that a project of such scale cannot be perfect.

As of Monday, the HKZMB shuttle bus operator HZM Bus had provided services to more than six million passengers since its opening on October 24. In total, more than 170,000 shuttle buses were run.

On the third day of the Chinese Lunar New Year, the highest peak in passenger volume was recorded at 118,000, while the minimum number of passengers recorded was 30,000. JZ

travel options. At the same time, CAM will operate a check-in service at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau

Airport discusses response to outline plan

D ESPONDING to the

TAG Macau. MIA now

NOutline Development Plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, the Macau International Airport (MIA) says it will fully implement the South Expansion Project of the Terminal Building.

On February 22, the Macau International Airport Company (CAM) held a seminar on the outline plan to discuss its response.

According to the outline plan, Beijing will support the expansion of Macau International Airport (MIA) and the development of regional business aircraft services in order to build a modern transportation system and strengthen the unique roles of MIA and Zhuhai Airport by pursuing the differential development

of airports in the Greater Bay Area.

Accordingly, MIA intends to increase the overall capacity of the terminal and the number of

boarding bridges, increase the number of parking stands, and optimize the existing parking stands to become multi-functional. With the addition of

has two business jet fixed base operators providing comprehensive services to Macau. The Macau airport expects to have more room for business jet activity, and the airport expects this function to become more prominent. In line with the outline plan, MIA will improve the transportation facilities between the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, the airport terminals, Light Rail Transit and land borders, to provide connectivity between transportation hubs and to build a cohesive traffic network to provide passengers with convenient Service Center to enhance the competitiveness of MIA.

Bridge

CAM will also introduce an Airport Collaborative Decision Making (A-CDM) system, making use of airspace information interconnectivity to improve the overall operational efficiency and effectiveness of the airport. Additionally, CAM has entered into a subconcession contract with Miniso Department Store Co. Ltd, providing retail services at the arrival hall of the passenger terminal building of MIA. The retailer commences operations at the airport this week. JZ





HONG KONG

Budget surplus shrinks as list of headwinds grows

Eric Lam

HONG Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan will have a much smaller pile of cash to distribute than last year when he presents the annual budget today, and a longer list of problems to address.

The economy has slowed as the trading hub found itself wedged between the U.S.-China standoff and the property market has come off its record highs. Both of those factors have shrunk the fiscal surplus available to Chan to a figure likely below HKD60 billion (USD7.6 billion), down from HKD149 billion last year.

Economic growth, which spiked to a seven-year high of 4.6 percent from a year earlier in the first quarter, has since slipped to 2.9 percent in the third. The world's most expensive property values have trailed off as borrowing costs rose in the wake of the Federal Reserve's hikes. A promising rally in retail spending through the first half of the year has almost entirely evaporated.

Even the stock market failed to cooperate last year, as the benchmark Hang Seng Index stumbled to its worst annual loss since 2011.

Chan will present his budget on Feb. 27. Fourth-quarter gross domestic product is also scheduled to be announced the same day, with a median estimate of 2.3 percent growth according to a Bloomberg survey of economists.

Chan warned in a Feb. 17



Hong Kong's Financial Secretary Paul Chan

blog post that fourth-quarter GDP growth will slow even further, to less than 1.5 percent - the worst performance since the first quarter of 2016.

The financial secretary previously indicated that there will not be handouts in the same fashion as last year

That will also drag the 2018 expansion to the low end of the 3 to 4 percent growth forecast by the government. Chan disclosed the city's budget surplus for the first nine months stood at HKD59 billion at the end of December. The final figure will be released today.

"The situation is not optimistic," Chan said in the post, highlighting the government's first-quarter business tendency survey that shows 21 percent of responding companies expect their business situation to be worse in the first quarter of 2019, compared with only 9 percent expecting it to be better.

Jeremy Choi, Hong Kong tax partner with accounting firm PwC, said his firm now projects a full-year surplus of HKD50 billion to HKD60 billion, or roughly a third of the surplus from a year ago, blamed to a large degree on lower revenue from property transactions and stamp duties.

Choi noted that the financial secretary has previously indicated that there will not be handouts in the same fashion as last year.

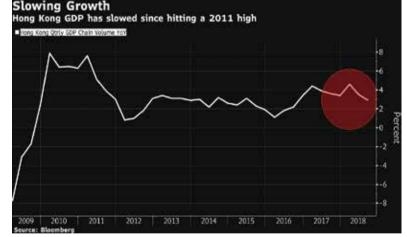
In 2018 the government cut

taxes and increased investment in high-tech industries as well as a scheme to distribute additional handouts of as much as HK\$4,000 to eligible citizens. This year, items trailed in advance of the budget include Chan's plan to spend HKD5 billion on a face-lift for the city's harbor area, and another HKD500 million to upgrade Hong Kong's public toilets, the South China Morning Post reported.

With less to go around, Choi suggests the government focus on investments in longterm growth, such as a more comprehensive tax incentive framework to attract high-tech companies from overseas and the mainland, in a highly competitive environment.

Hong Kong does still have the security blanket of a significant fiscal reserve in place, projected to come in at about HKD1.15 trillion as of March 31, Choi said. That's roughly in line with the government's projection of HKD1.14 trillion, according to a December budget consultation document.

"We still have a decent reserve after this year, but we have to use our reserve wisely and appropriately," Choi said. "The surplus may decrease further in the next few years if you continue to face a challenging economy." **Bloomberg**



SANDS CHINA BANS SHARK FIN AT ITS F&B OPERATIONS



Sands China Ltd. has banned shark fin from its restaurants, as part of the company's ongoing commitment to protecting the environment, the gaming operator announced in a statement. The ban went into effect January 1, 2019, and covers the entirety of Sands China's internal and external food and beverage operations, including all restaurants owned by the company.

Sands China began making steps toward a complete ban in 2017, when it removed shark fin from all its menus. "This shark fin ban reflects our company's firm commitment to continue reducing the environmental impact of our operations," said Mark McWhinnie, senior vice president of resort operations and development for Sands China Ltd.

Meanwhile, Sudhanshu Sarronwala, executive director of marketing and communications for WWF International, said: "As sustainable options do not exist for sharks, halting consumer demand is the only solution today. Sands China's commitment takes us a significant step closer to closing shark product demand for good."

SOFITEL LAUNCHES NEW MENU FOR MARCH



Sofitel Macau announced its March food offerings, introducing Parisian-style bistro dining at Privé and a showcase of Singaporean dishes. Privé's bistro menu will offer guests a selection of French favorites to choose from — classic Niçoise Salad to Duck Confit — along with a range of wines that reflect the diversity of the country's cuisine and viticulture, the hotel noted in a statement.

Privé's signature dishes, including: La Bouillabaisse, the Provençal fish stew made with prawn and scallop; the must-try Le Croque Nunu, a contemporary spin on the featuring croque-madame extra old mimolette cheese from Lille, amongst others, will be offered to its guests. Meanwhile, the Mistral Restaurant is launching a dinner buffet menu that serves over 30 Singaporean delicacies in rotation beginning March 1 to April 30.

There will be a selection of Singapore Prawn Mee, Singapore Laksa Noodle Soup, and Bak Chor Mee, amongst all time Singaporean favorites. MacauDaily (#P941819 # •

SÃO TOMÉ AND PRÍNCIPE

ANGOLA

Portuguese company plans chicken production unit

PORTUGUESE company Biaut – Automação Industrial is negotiating with the São Tomé and Príncipe authorities to set up a chicken production unit with an annual capacity of 30 tonnes of meat, said the director of the subsidiary.

Pedro Garcia, director of Sistema Técnico do Comércio (STC), a company set up in São Tomé and Príncipe by Biaut – Automação Industrial, spent the weekend in the archipelago's capital where he met with the Secretary of State for Commerce, Eugénio Graça, and with the Prime Minister, Jorge Bom Jesus.

At the end of the audience granted by the prime minister, the director of STC said that the project aims both to satisfy local consumption as well as export, with production in unit terms estimated at 1.6 million chickens per year.

Garcia also said that the initial planned investment of 18 million euros "is cost-effective," according to an economic feasibility study, Portuguese news agency Lusa reported. **MDT/Macauhub**

Gov't approves 30 percent increase in minimum wage

THE national minimum wage for the private sector in Angola has been increased by 30 percent, pending publication of the respective presidential decree in the country's official gazette, Diário da República, which is expected to be signed between March and April, an official said.

The Minister of Public Administration, Labour and Social Security, Jesus Maiato, said at the end of the meeting of the Economic Commission of the Council of Ministers last week that the lowest minimum wage will cover agricultural workers, whose wage will increase from 16,503 to 21,454 kwanzas (USD68).

Trade and manufacturing workers will receive 26,817 kwanzas and those in the extractive industry will see their wages rise to 32,181 kwanzas (USD102).

The minister stressed that the measure is the result of a study carried out and an in-

num crease was proposed to allow ector the recovery of household purased chasing power and to maintain ubli- stability and balance.

Regarding the pension adjustment project in terms of Mandatory Social Protection, also approved at the same session, Maiato said that the minimum old-age pension was increased by 57 percent to 33,598 kwanzas (USD106).

Salaries in the civil service were revised last January, with the minimum wage rising 57 percent to 33,000 kwanzas (USD105).

The Angolan parliament has approved in a final global vote the introduction of the Value Added Tax Code (VAT/IVA) in the country, which is expected to boost tax collection from consumption, the local press reported.

The document was approved with 166 votes in favor, none against and one abstention, during the 4th Ordinary Plenary Meeting, chaired by the



中葡論壇

parliamentary president, Fernando da Piedade Dias dos Santos.

The approval of the document changes the existing model in consumer tax and extends the tax base, which will allow the State to collect more tax.

The Minister of Finance, Archer Mangueira, on presenting the government proposal said the introduction of VAT (known as IVA in Portuguese) in Angola aims to increase justice and neutrality in the taxation of consumption, in order to adapt the taxation of expenditure to the new economic and social reality of the country, as well as to promote the collection of public revenues, to replace Consumer Tax and adjust Stamp Duty. **MDT/Macauhub**



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VILLA TIRTA KENCANA • VILLA FRANGIPAN)





U.S. and Chinese delegations meet at the White House complex during continuing meetings on the bilateral trade relationship

Paul Wiseman & Darlene Superville, Washington

RELIEF swept across world financial markets Monday after President Donald Trump pushed back a March 2 deadline in a trade dispute with China.

But the respite might not last. The world's two biggest economies have squared off over Beijing's aggressive campaign to turn Chinese companies into world leaders in advanced industries such as robotics and electric vehicles. Both sides have said they've made progress but haven't provided much detail.

"Popping the champagne today would be premature," Gregory Daco, chief U.S. economist at Oxford Economics, wrote in a research note. Daco added that vast differences between the two countries "will prevent a significant de-escalation of trade tensions between the two giants." In the United States, business groups and lawmakers fear that Trump will settle for a deal that doesn't require China to change its sharp-elbowed business practices. A look at the dispute:

logical dominance. These, the U.S. says, include: outright theft of trade secrets, forcing foreign companies to hand over technology as the price of access to the Chinese market, and unfairly subsidizing Chinese tech companies and using regulations to hobble their foreign competitors.

The accusations elevate the standoff from a typical trade dispute to a battle over whether the United States or China dominates the industries of the future, the outcome of which has implications for national security.

Trump is also obsessed with America's massive trade deficit with China, USD336 billion in 2017 and likely higher last year. WHAT'S HAPPENED SO FAR?

In July, the Trump administration gradually began slapping import taxes on Chinese goods to pressure Beijing into changing its policies. It now has imposed 10 percent tariffs on \$200 billion in Chinese imports and 25 percent tariffs on another \$50 billion.

Twice, Trump has pushed back plans to raise the tariffs on the \$200 billion to 25 percent. He extended a Jan. 1 deadline by three months after meeting Chinese President Xi Jinping in Buenos Aires Dec. 1. And on Sunday, following meetings last week between U.S. and Chinese negotiators, he delayed indefinitely the tariff hike that was scheduled to kick in at 12:01 EST March 2. The U.S. is also restricting Chinese investment in hightech American industries and U.S. exports of sensitive technology to China. Meanwhile, the Chinese have punched back by slapping import taxes on \$110 billion in U.S. goods, focusing on soybeans and agricultural products in a direct shot at Trump supporters in the American farm belt. Forecasters at the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development have all downgraded their forecasts for the global economy, citing the heightened trade tensions.

ARE U.S. AND CHINESE NEGOTIATORS MAKING HEADWAY?

They say they are but haven't provided many particulars. Trump tweeted Sunday that negotiators had made "substantial progress" on issues including protection of intellectual property, coerced tech transfer, currency manipulation and U.S. access to the Chinese farm and services markets among "many other issues." China's official Xinhua news agency echoed that assessment.

Trump has said he would likely have to meet one-on-one with Xi — probably late next month at Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida — to resolve the thorniest issues. tails of substantial Chinese concessions, then that's not a huge concern," said Scott Kennedy, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. "But if the U.S. has come away with very little in terms of binding commitments [after dropping the tariff deadline], then the chance of getting more in the coming weeks could be quite low."

Daly at the Wilson Center faulted the administration for not imposing a new deadline. "They are expert at the use of time and delay until conditions have changed and leverage has been lost, to get a better outcome," he said.

Trump has also alarmed Canada and critics by suggesting the U.S. might drop criminal charges against Chinese telecommunications giant Huawei and its chief financial officer, Meng Wanzhou, in a quest to cut a deal. The U.S. has charged Huawei with lying about violating sanctions against Iran and with stealing trade secrets. Canada arrested Meng Dec. 1 at America's request and is weighing whether to extradite her to the United States. China arrested two Canadians in apparent retaliation. Former Canadian Ambassador to China David Mulroney tweeted Monday that "it's now the US that has to hang tough, and not sell out its integrity in Huawei case for a trade deal with China." AP

WHAT ARE THE U.S. AND CHINA FIGHTING ABOUT?

The United States accuses China of deploying predatory tactics in a headlong push to challenge American technoCritics complain that the administration has been inconsistent about what it wants — sometimes demanding sweeping changes in Chinese economic policy, sometimes seeming willing to settle for China just buying more American stuff to narrow the trade deficit.

Robert Daly, director of the Kissinger Institute on China and the United States at the Wilson Center think tank, said he would be disappointed if the Trump administration settles only for more exports to China and vague promises to make structural reforms. "The Trump administration could have had that in week one," Daly said.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

Trump sees the stock market as a measure of the success of his economic policies. Investors' view is clear: When U.S.-China negotiations go well, American stocks rise. When talks falter, they drop.

So the question is whether Trump, having taken U.S.-China economic relations to the brink, has the patience to hold out in the face of likely stockmarket volatility for an enforceable deal that requires China to change its behavior. Or whether he'll agree to more exports and promises of change. "If the U.S. has already achieved quite a bit, and we are just clarifying the de-





American companies worry ties with the Chinese will worsen

Joe McDonald, Beijing

MERICAN companies want President Donald Trump's negotiations with Beijing to win them real improvements in their access to Chinese markets, not just a smaller overall U.S. trade deficit, a business group said yesterday.

Companies that responded to a questionnaire last week want an end to Chinese pressure to hand over technology, unequal enforcement of laws and other chronic problems, said Tim Stratford, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China. If not, he said, their losses in a tariff war "will be a tremendous waste." The comments appear to reflect support for U.S. officials including Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer who want changes in industrial policy that Beijing's trading partners say violate its free-trade obligations. Others Trump might accept less in return for China narrowing its politically volatile trade surplus with the United States through higher purchases of soybeans and other exports.

"If we don't address the underlying structural issues, we will have continued trade frictions," Stratford said in an interview.

Trump's dramatic decision in July to hike duties on Chinese imports split the U.S. business world. Some companies support the move to force Beijing into negotiations while others complain the tariffs are too costly and disruptive.

Among 150 companies that responded to a questionnaire last week, 43 percent want to keep Trump's punitive tariffs of 10 percent on USD200 billion of Chinese goods in place while negotiations go ahead, Stratford said. He said nearly 10 percent want Trump to go ahead with a planned March 1 increase to 25 percent.

Trump announced Sunday he would postpone the March 1 increase after weekend talks made "significant progress." He set no new date.

Both governments said they

made progress on technology transfer, protection of intellectual property rights and non-tariff barriers to market access but gave no details.

Companies that responded to last week's questionnaire said they want guarantees Chinese anti-monopoly and other laws will be enforced equally against them and local competitors, according to Stratford.

"We want a deal that really addresses the persistent problems," said Stratford, a lawyer and former deputy U.S. trade representative. "There are mixed feelings about the tariffs. The majority are in favor."

Trump raised duties in response to complaints China steals or pressures companies to hand over technology. Washington wants Beijing to roll back plans including "Made in China 2025," which calls for government-led creation of global competitors in robotics and other technology.

Europe, Japan and other trading partners object to Trump's tactics but echo U.S. complaints China is violating its marketopening obligations.

American companies worry U.S.-Chinese relations will deteriorate and are "hedging their bets" by delaying investments or moving operations, according to a separate survey released yesterday by the American chamber.

Companies ranked "bilateral tensions" as a top challenge alongside chronic frustrations with rising costs and vague laws and enforcement.

Some 37 percent of 314 companies that responded to a survey in November and December expect relations to deteriorate, more than double 2017's level of 16 percent, the chamber said. Another 37 percent expect relations to stay at their current fraught level.

"A growing number of companies are hedging their bets," the report said. Nearly one-quarter of those surveyed were postponing investments or moving supply their supply chains to avoid the impact of possible tariff increases.

UBS reported in January that 37 percent of 200 manufacturers surveyed by the bank have shifted out of China over the past 12 months. The threat of U.S. tariff hikes was the "dominating factor" for nearly half, while others moved because of higher costs or tighter environmental regulation.

The American chamber's European counterpart has reported similar unease among its members and reluctance to invest.

Three-quarters of companies in technology and other research-based industries said market restrictions hamper their operations, it said. It said almost half of companies surveyed believe Chinese policies are enforced differently against them and local rivals. **AP**

Huawei exec pokes fun at US spying, Snowden at tech show

A top executive at Chinese tech supplier Huawei poked fun at U.S. intelligence yesterday as he sought to reassure people attending the world's biggest mobile industry fair that the company's technology is secure.

Guo Ping, Huawei's rotating chairman, used his keynote speech at MWC Barcelona to fight back against U.S. allegations that the company's technology poses a national security risk to next-generation mobile networks.

"PRISM, PRISM, on the wall, who is the most trustworthy of them all?" Guo said, in a reference to a U.S. data gathering program.

"If you don't understand that, you can go ask Edward Snowden," he said, referring to the former National Security Agency contractor who exposed the program in 2013.

Under the PRISM program, the NSA, pursuant to secret court orders, collects intelligence about foreign threats through U.S. Internet companies. The geopolitical dispute between the U.S. and China's Huawei, the world's biggest maker of networking equipment used by phone and internet companies, is casting a pall over the four-day conference.

Huawei is taking its case directly to the 100,000 visitors expected to attend the show.

The United States government has also dispatched a delegation to lobby its case that Huawei gear should not be used. U.S. officials fear the Chinese government could use Huawei equipment to electronically eavesdrop on global internet traffic. "We can't use prisms, crystal balls, or politics to manage cybersecurity. It is a challenge we all share," said Guo, one of three Huawei executives who take turns as chairman. "To build a system that we all can trust, we need aligned responsibilities, unified standards and clear regulations."

Huawei has consistently rejected the U.S. allegations and Guo repeated that position.

"We don't do bad things. Here, let me say this as clear as possible. Huawei has not and we will never plant backdoors and we will never allow anyone to do so in our equipment." **AP**

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HANOI SUMMIT

Kim readies for Trump after marathon journey, warm welcome

Foster Klug, Hanoi

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un spent the eve of his summit with Donald Trump traveling around Hanoi in his armored limousine yesterday, his squad of encircling bodyguards in tow as he visited the North Korean Embassy, with hundreds of visiting journalists and thousands of local citizens following in his wake.

Trump and Kim will meet today in their second summit aimed at addressing perhaps the world's biggest security challenge: Kim's pursuit of a nuclear program that stands on the verge of viably threatening targets around the planet.

But before the summit began, Kim took some time to venture out of his locked-down hotel and check out parts of Hanoi, including his nation's embassy, where a loud cheer went up as he entered the compound.

Soldiers, police and international journalists thronged the streets outside Hanoi's Melia Hotel where Kim is staying, and hundreds of eager citizens stood behind barricades hoping to see the North Korean leader. As Vietnamese, North Korean and U.S. flags fluttered in a cold drizzle, dozens of cameras flashed and some citizens screamed and used their mobile phones to capture Kim's rockstar-like arrival.

"I like him," local resident Van Dang Luu, who works at a nearby bank, said of Kim. "He is very young and he is very interesting. And he is very powerful," she said. "Trump is not young, but I think he is very powerful."

Vietnam's authoritarian leaders set up a huge security apparatus to welcome Kim, shutting long stretches of hi-



Kim Jong Un waves upon arrival by train at Dong Dang, a Vietnamese border town, yesterday

ghway and locking down swaths of the bustling capital city. Earlier in the morning, Kim, grinning broadly and waving, stepped off his armored train at the end of a long ride that started in Pyongyang and wound through China to the Vietnamese border. He shook hands with officials as Vietnamese troops in crisp, white uniforms and black boots stood at attention on a red carpet at the Dong Dang railway station on the China-Vietnam border.

Hours ahead of his border crossing, footage from Japanese TV network TBS showed Kim taking a pre-dawn smoke break at a train station in China, a woman who appeared to be his

sister, Kim Yo Jong, holding a crystal ashtray at the ready.

Vietnamese officials have shared few details about the specifics of a summit that the world

will be watching closely. Trump was flying to Hanoi from Washington and was to arrive later Tuesday.

Although many experts are skeptical Kim will give up the nuclear weapons he likely sees as his best guarantee of continued rule, there was a palpable, carnival-like excitement among many in Hanoi as the final preparations were made for the meeting. There were also huge traffic jams in the already congested streets.

Officials in Hanoi said they

only had about 10 days to prepare for the summit – much less than the nearly two months Singapore had before the first Trump-Kim meeting last year but still vowed to provide airtight security for the two leaders.

Vietnam is eager to show off its huge economic and development improvements since the destruction of the Vietnam War, but the country also tolerates no dissent and is able to provide the kind of firm hand not allowed by more democratic potential hosts.

"I really hope to catch a glimpse of Kim Jong Un. He is an interesting man. And he rarely travels anywhere so it would be great to see him here," said

Nguyen Trong Toan, a retired teacher who was waiting by the side of the street on Kim's expected travel route.

There are high expectations for the Hanoi summit after a vague declaration at the first meeting in June in Singapore that disappointed many.

Trump, via Twitter, has worked to temper those expectations, predicting before leaving for Hanoi a "continuation of the progress" made in Singapore but adding a tantalizing nod to "Denuclearization?" He also said that Kim knows that "without nuclear weapons, his country could fast become one of the great economic powers anywhere in the World." AP

Summit inspires entrepreneurs

TOR North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, this week's summit in Hanoi is a chance to advance the cause of world peace. For canny entrepreneurs, it's an opportunity to make a buck, or a dong, in Vietnamese currency.

A U.S presidential visit is a big deal anywhere, and when it's significant enough to draw wall to wall media coverage - as last year's first summit in Singapore did – an enterprising businessman or businesswoman takes note. Drinks will be poured, burgers will be broiled and T-shirts will be silkscreened.

When Robert Gibb, an American who has been living in Hanoi for 10 years and is co-owner of a bar near Hanoi's old quarter, heard the summit would take place in Hanoi, he sprang into action.

Of course he was keen to mark a historic occasion, but beyond that, his Unicorn Pub is noted for the elaborate libations it concocts, such as its 'Pho' cocktail, mimicking the taste of the famous Vietnamese noodle soup.

The summit celebratory drink, boasts the pub's website, "is a diplomatic blend of So Ju (Korean) and Bourbon (USA) with a flare of Fireball whiskey to match the personalities of Kim & Trump. Orange in color, it is a bit sharp & bitter, but finishes sweet, peaceful and gives you the desire to continue in a positive direction." A restaurant also in the city's old quarter has added to its summit menu burgers called the 'Durty Donald' and the 'Kim Jong Yum.'

Irishman Colin Kelly acknowledged the summit is an unusual opportunity to drum up publicity for his Durty Bird fried chicken and burger restaurant.

Conceiving the special dishes was something of a must-do because his establishment already has a lot of dishes with funny names and puns, said Kelly, who founded the place with two old friends. AP



Durty Bird's Trump-Kim summit special burgers

MacauDaily MPHEIN #

BORDER TENSIONS

India strikes inside Pakistan after deadly Kashmir attack

Riaz Khan & Aijaz Hussain, Peshawar

PAKISTAN says India launched an airstrike on its territory yesterday that caused no casualties, while India said it targeted a terrorist training camp in a pre-emptive strike that killed a "very large number" of militants.

The overnight raid was the latest escalation between the nuclear-armed rivals since a deadly suicide bombing in the disputed Kashmir region earlier this month killed more than 40 Indian soldiers. Pakistan has denied involvement in the attack but has vowed to respond to any Indian military operation against it.

The Pakistan-based militant group Jaish-e-Mohammad claimed responsibility. The bomber, who made a video before the attack, was a resident of Indiancontrolled sector of Kashmir.

Pakistan's military spokesman, Maj. Gen Asif Ghafoor, said the Indian "aircrafts" crossed into the Muzafarabad sector of



Indian paramilitary soldiers carry the remains of colleagues at the site of an explosion that killed at least 40 soldiers in Kashmir on Feb 14

Kashmir, which is split between the two countries but claimed by each in its entirety. He said Pakistan scrambled fighters and the Indian jets "released payload in haste" near Balakot, on the edge of Pakistani-ruled part of Kashmir.

India's foreign secretary, Vijay Gokhale, told reporters in New Delhi that Indian fighter aircraft targeted Jaish-e-Mohammad camps in a pre-emptive strike after intelligence indicated another attack was being planned.

"Acting on intelligence, India early today stuck the biggest training camp of Jaish-e-Mohammad in Balakot," he said. "In this operation a very large number of Jaish-e-Mohammad terrorists, trainers, senior commanders and jihadis being trained were eliminated."

<u>هد</u> ASIA-PACIFIC

Balakot police chief Saghir Hussain Shah told The Associated Press that he had sent teams to the area where the Indian bombs reportedly hit, which he described as a mostly deserted wooded area.

"There are no casualties, there are no damages on the ground because of the dropping of the bombs," he said.

There was no immediate explanation for the differing accounts, but India and Pakistan routinely contradict one another.

The Feb. 14 attack in Indianruled Kashmir was the worst attack on Indian forces since the start of the 1989 insurgency in Kashmir and came as Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi is in the middle of a re-election campaign.

Addressing a rally of former soldier's in the Indian state of Rajasthan yesterday, just hours after the airstrike, Modi said India was in "safe hands."

"I vow that I will not let the country bow down," he said.

China, a close ally of Pakistan, urged both sides to show restraint.

"We hope that both India and Pakistan can [...] take actions that will help stabilize the situation in the region and help to improve mutual relations, instead of the other way around," China's Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters.

Insurgents in the Indiancontrolled Kashmir have been demanding either outright independence or union with Pakistan. India routinely accuses Pakistan of arming and training militants who cross the mountainous Himalayan region. In the last year, its increasingly bloody crackdown has escalated tensions in the troubled region.

Kashmir — divided between India and Pakistan but claimed by both in its entirety — has been the cause of two wars between the uneasy neighbors. They fought a third war in 1979 over East Pakistan, which gained its independence with the help of India and became Bangladesh.

Pakistan's Foreign Minister Shah Mahmood Qureshi condemned yesterday's incursion, saying New Delhi had "endangered" peace in the region for political gains. **AP**





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Cardinal George Pell leaves the County Court in Melbourne

AUSTRALIA

Cardinal Pell convicted of molesting two choirboys

Rod McGuirk, Melbourne

THE most senior Catholic cleric ever charged with child sex abuse has been convicted of molesting two choirboys moments after celebrating Mass,

of the convictions.

Details of the trial had been suppressed because until Tuesday, Pell had faced a second trial in April on charges that he indecently assaulted two boys aged 9 or 10 and 11 or 12 as a young Pell's trial said after the conviction was revealed that he has experienced "shame, loneliness, depression and struggle." In his statement, the man said it had taken him years to understand the impact the assault had on his nounced Francis approved the expulsion from the priesthood of a former high-ranking American cardinal, Theodore McCarrick, for sexual abuse of minors and adults.

The convictions were also confirmed days after Francis concluded his extraordinary summit of Catholic leaders summoned to Rome for a tutorial on preventing clergy sexual abuse and protecting children from predator priests.

Australia's ranking bishop, Mark Coleridge, who delivered the homily at the final Mass of the summit, said Pell's convictions "shocked many across Australia and around the world, including the Catholic Bishops of Australia." sing two boys whom he had caught swigging sacramental wine in a rear room of Melbourne's St. Patrick's Cathedral in late 1996, as hundreds of worshippers were streaming out of Sunday services.

Pell, now 77 but 55 at the time, had just been named the most senior Catholic in Australia's second-largest city, Melbourne.

The boys were both 13 years old. The jury also found Pell guilty of indecently assaulting one of the boys in a corridor more than a month later.

Pell had maintained his innocence throughout, describing the accusations as "vile and disgusting conduct."

Pell's lawyer, Robert Richter, had told the jury that only a "mad man" would take the risk of abusing boys in such a public place. He said it was "laughable" that Pell would have been able to expose his penis and force the victim to take it in his mouth, given the cumbersome robes he was wearing.

Both he and Chief Judge Peter Kidd urged the jury of eight men and four women not to punish Pell for all the failings of the Catholic Church, which in Australia have been staggering.

Along with Ireland and the U.S., Australia has been devastated by the impact of the clerical abuse scandal, with a Royal Commission inquiry finding that 4,444 people reported they had been abused at more than 1,000 Catholic institutions across Australia between 1980 and 2015.

As a result, Pell's trial amounted to something of a reckoning for survivors, with the brash and towering cardinal becoming the poster child for all that went wrong with the way the Catholic Church handled the scandal.

As a result of the scandal, Francis' approval ratings have tanked in the United States, and his standing with conservative Catholics around the world has plunged.

When the jury chairman delivered the first guilty verdict, Pell's hands slipped from the arm rests of the chair where he sat in the dock at the back of the courtroom. His head bowed after the second verdict, but he restored his composure for the final ver-

dealing a new blow to the Catholic hierarchy's credibility after a year of global revelations of abuse and cover-up.

Cardinal George Pell, Pope Francis' top financial adviser and the Vatican's economy minister, bowed his head but then regained his composure as the 12-member jury delivered unanimous verdicts in the Victoria state County Court on Dec. 11 after more than two days of deliberation.

The court had until yesterday forbidden publication of any details about the trial.

Pell faces a potential maximum 50-year prison term after a sentencing hearing that begins on today.

He lodged an appeal last week

priest in the late 1970s in a public pool in his hometown of Ballarat.

Prosecutor Fran Dalziel told the court on Tuesday that the Ballarat charges had been dropped and asked for the suppression order to be lifted. The move came days after a judge ruled out two key prosecution witnesses in the Ballarat case.

Acting Holy See spokesman Alessandro Gisotti read a statement to reporters Tuesday at the Vatican, saying Pope Francis has confirmed "precautionary measures" already taken against Pell, including a ban on his saying Mass in public and "as is the rule, contact in any way or form with minors."

The victim who testified at

life.

Lawyer Lisa Flynn said the father of the second victim, who died of a heroin overdose in 2014 at the age of 31, is planning to sue the church or Pell individually once the appeal is resolved.

Pell was surrounded by a crush of cameras and members of the public as he was ushered from the courthouse to a waiting car. "You're a monster!" one man shouted. "You're going to burn in hell, you freak!"

"Are you sorry?" one woman shouted. Pell did not respond. Another of Pell's lawyers, Paul Galbally, said Pell continued to maintain his innocence.

The revelations came in the same month that the Vatican an-

The lifting of the suppression order was welcomed by SNAP, a U.S. support group for victim of clergy abuse.

"We hope that his conviction will not only bring healing to his victims in Australia but hope to survivors across the world who are yearning for accountability at the top levels of the church," SNAP said in a statement. "We believe [the] conviction will make Australian children safer and parents and parishioners better informed about how to prevent sexual abuse."

The jury convicted Pell of abu-t

dicts.

The now 34-year-old survivor told the court that Pell orally raped him, then crouched and fondled the complainant's genitals while masturbating.

"I was young and I didn't really know what had happened to me. I didn't really know what it was, if it was normal," the complainant told the court.

The other victim died of a heroin overdose in 2014 without ever complaining of the abuse, and even denying to his suspicious mother that he had been molested while he was part of the choir.

Neither boy can now be identified, because it is illegal to name victims of sexual assault in Victoria state. **AP** Times

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what's ON



NO WHERE THERE - WORKS BY TANG JING TIME: 11am-1pm & 2pm-6pm (closed on Sundays) UNTIL: March 16, 2019 VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 6311 1390

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

3rd Macau Printmaking Triennial TIME: 10am-7pm (no admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Monday) VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Center - Navy Yard No.1 Exhibitions Gallery and Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses

UNTIL: March 16, 2019 VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

canal macau 13:00 TDM News (Repetição) 13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido) 15:00 Mistura Fina 16:05 Zig Zag Viver é Fácil 16:25 16:50 Quem Quer Ser Milionário 17:50 Palcos Agora O Douro nos Caminhos da Literatura 18:20 19:00 TDM Entrevista (Repetição) 19:35 Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 20:30 Telejornal 21:15 Montra do Lilau

21:50 O Último Reino Sr.1

- 22:40 LiteraturAqui
- 23:15 **TDM News**
- 23:50 Curso de Cultura Geral Telejornal (Repetição) 00:45
- **RTPi** Directo 01:30



CINETEATRO

21,22, 24 - 27 FEB

MOBILE SUIT GUNDAM NT (NARRATIVE)

коом **1** 2:30, 7:30 pm Director: Toshikazu Yoshizawa Starring: Junya Enoki, Tomo Muranaka Language: Japanese (Chinese & English) Duration: 88min

FATE/STAY NIGHT: HEAVEN'S FEEL II LOST BUTTERFLY

ROOM 1 4:30, 9:30pm Director: Tomonori Sudô Starring: Yu Asakawa, Mai Kadowaki, Hiroshi Kamiya Language: Japanese (Chinese & English) **Duration: 117min**

DUMPLIN³ ROOM 2 2:30, 4:30, 9:30 pm **Director: Anne Fletcher** Starring: Danielle Macdonald, Jennifer Aniston, **Odeya Rush** Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 110min

ALITA: BATTLE ANGEL ROOM 2 9:30pm ROOM 3 4:45pm

this day in history



1999 NIGERIANS VOTE TO BREAK WITH MILITARY

Voters have been thronging to polling booths in Nigeria to elect a civilian president and end 15 years of military rule.

Queues formed at polling stations soon after they opened for registration.

On some street corners groups of exuberant young men shared bottles of palm wine, singing and chanting party slogans.

In the cities of Lagos and Abuja, the turnout is reported to be higher than for parliamentary elections last weekend.

Up to 40 million Nigerians are expected to cast ballots in a contest between former military ruler Olusegun Obasanjo, who relinquished power for the last elected president in 1979, and former finance minister Olu Falae. The vote is being closely monitored by foreign observers.

Former US President Jimmy Carter, co-leader of the American monitoring team, said: "The turnout has been very impressive and orderly. The officials are all in their posts and all voting materials in place at the right time." Mr Carter wrote to political parties before the vote to express concern after cheating at last Saturday's natio-

nal assembly poll. The ballot will be counted as soon as polling ends at

1330 GMT.

The electoral commission says first results of the election should be in on Sunday. The new leader is due to take office on 29 May.

Former military leader Olusegun Obasanjo - of the People's Democratic Party, which polled the largest number of votes in the parliamentary elections - has called for political reform to help revive Nigeria's moribund economy. He has pledged to create an anti-corruption agency

with wide-ranging powers to seek, search and recover. "We have to put our politics in order so that we can put

our economy in order," said the former military leader.

Joint APP-AD candidate former Finance Minister Olu Falae has also promised to get the Nigerian economy back on track.

"I can have a debt strategy in place, and get foreign investment flowing again by creating an environment that is investment-friendly," he said in one of his last interviews before the polls.

Offbeat

NIELSEN: 29.6 MILLION VIEWERS FOR OSCARS, UP FROM 2018





The Oscars ended its four-year streak of dwindling viewership, reaching 29.6 million to beat last year's audience by 12 percent, but it still represents the second-smallest audience in the award show's history. The 2018 show had reached only 26.5 million viewers, a figure that set off alarm bells at ABC and the motion picture academy. This year's show featured movies with more box office juice than in the recent past. It provided a water-cooler controversy over the merits of best picture winner "Green Book," and some memorable musical performances by Queen and the duo of Lady Gaga and Bradley Cooper. It also went without a host after Kevin Hart backed off, although the trio of Tina Fey, Amy Poehler and Maya Rudolph offered what was essentially an opening monologue. The Oscars is generally the most-watched entertainment program of the year, often only second to the Super Bowl. Yet its viewership had declined steadily since hitting 43.7 million in 2014, the Nielsen company said. Despite this year's rebound, it still represents only the second time since Nielsen has been measuring that viewership slipped under 30 million people.

The biggest Oscars audience ever recorded came in 1998, when 55.2 million people turned out to see "Titanic" named best picture.

ABC also said Monday that its preview of the drama "Whiskey Cavalier" was seen by 4.2 million people after the Oscars ended.

Robert Rodrigu Starring: Christopher Waltz, Mahershala Ali Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 122min



KURSK ROOM 3 2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm Director: Thomas Vinterberg Starring: Léa Seydoux, Colin Firth, Michael Nyqvist Language: English (Chinese) Duration: 117min

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Olusegun Obasanjo won the presidential elections. He quickly set up an investigation into human rights abuses under military rule and released political prisoners He also began a crackdown on corruption. But critics later accused him of misappropriating funds and at the end of 2002 he was facing impeachment ahead of the next elections in 2003.

He was also accused of failing to halt spiralling violence and religious and ethnic clashes brought on by political liberalisation. Mr Obasanjo has been praised for improving Nigeria's poor infrastructure but criticised over his general handling of the economy. He went on to win a decisive victory in the 2003 election and is said to be considering trying for a third term in 2007.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

INFOTAINMENT

YOUR STARS



Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Taurus

Whether or not construction is in your blood is completely

irrelevant-today is a day when you need to start building something

new. This new formation could be

Cancer

You might not be happy about where

you are in life right now, but you are

on the right track. The good and the

bad parts of life represent balance

that you will always need, so working

for perfection is a waste of your time.

Virgo

It might feel like you are walking

against the wind today. If this

happens, consider simply reversing

your direction. Go with the flow and

use your flexibility to smooth down any bumpy roads on your journey.

Scorpio

Listen to your gut when it comes to

any business or financial dealings

today. Any contracts put in front

word.

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

a relationship...

April 20-May 20

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

A dense fog of people, places, and dates will be something you'll need to clear up today—so think about the details. This task will also require you to take advantage of your excellent communication skills.



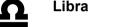
May 21-Jun. 21

Final results should be coming in today-whatever outcome you've been waiting for will arrive by early afternoon. So keep checking your mailbox, email inbox and voice mail as the day continues.



Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Answer questions honestly. In a professional setting, there is nothing wrong with telling a personal story. Become a bigger part of your community—you deserve to join in on the fun and camaraderie.



Sep.23-Oct. 22

A recent change in your life has been causing a few waves in your routine--if you want more peace and less drama, you need to pay more attention to your health and emotional well-being.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

If you have been struggling to find a way to address a sensitive issue with a powerful person, today you will get the kick in the pants you need. Someone you don't know very well could serve as inspiration.



Jan. 20-Feb. 18

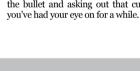
Just keep your head down and keep going. To stop and pull back now might be tempting, but it will interrupt your flow and won't gain you an edge. Now isn't the time to analyze things, so you're better off just letting them be.



ACROSS: 1- Gyro meat; 5- PC key; 10- Whip; 14- Banned apple spray; 15-Sycophant; 16- Sporting blade; 17- Nada; 18- Line to the audience; 19- Black cuckoos; 20- Upper edge of the side of a vessel; 22- Attack first; 24- Put up with; 26- Give a new title to; 27- Tongue; 30- Playing marble; 32- Sign of spring; 33-Ancient Athens's Temple of ___; 34- Like a dungeon; 38- Faucet; 39- Sincere; 42- Here, to Henri; 43- For ___ Jolly Good Fellow; 45- Placed down; 46- Of the kidneys; 48- First American to orbit Earth; 50- Card game also called sevens; 51- Close-fitting dress; 54- Very cold; 56- August birthstone; 58- Mournful; 62-Darade sevine; 67. Event of Low (57. Even of L Parade spoiler; 63- Below; 65- Woody's boy; 66- 5t. crossers; 67- Finnish name of Finland; 68- City near Sparks; 69- Class struggle?; 70- Hawke of "Reality Bites"; 71- Playwright O'Casey;

DOWN: 1- Singer k.d.; 2- Baseball's Moises; 3- Jazz flutist Herbie; 4- Fermented malt liquor; 5- And others, in Latin; 6festerday's solution

Snooped (around); 7- Mai ____; 8- Icelandic epic; 9- Turf grown for forage; 10- Having knowledge; 11- Sleeping disorder; 12-Earthquake; 13- "Siddhartha" author; 21-Mistreat; 23- Receive; 25- Meriting; 27-



already become used to. Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20

Try something that takes some guts today. That could include taking yourself out for a nice solo dinner. getting up in front of a crowd or biting the bullet and asking out that cutie



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VEATHER

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CHINA			
Beijing	-2	12	cloudy/clear
Harbin	-9	5	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	2	12	overcast
Urumqi	-12	-9	foggy
Xi'an	4	11	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	-4	9	cloudy/overcast
Chengdu	7	12	drizzle/cloudy
Chongqing	11	14	drizzle/overcast
Kunming	7	20	shower
Nanjing	5	7	drizzle
Shanghai	7	10	drizzle/moderate rain
Wuhan	6	9	drizzle
Hangzhou	7	9	moderate rain
Taipei	16	22	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	15	23	overcast
Hong Kong	19	23	cloudy
WORLD			
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Frankfurt	-3	2	flurry/drizzle
Paris	2	10	cloudy
London	2	11	cloudy/drizzle drizzle
London New York	-4		
New York	-4	0	cloudy/overcast

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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

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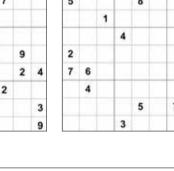


Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Things are definitely throttling down today, so you might have a difficult time staying focusedvour eve will be distracted by items or people that everyone else has



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of you will have some mighty small type—and you need to read every



8

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What to see midweek in Europe's main football competitions

PAIN: With Barcelona boosted by another brilliant performance from Lionel Messi and Real Madrid reeling from two disappointing displays, the teams meet today [Thursday, 3:45am] with a spot in the Copa del Rey final on the line.

The teams drew 1-1 in the first leg at Camp Nou three weeks ago, when Messi played only part of the match because of a right leg injury.

Messi had not been playing well since then, but he scored a hat trick and set up another goal in Barcelona's 4-2 win at Sevilla in the league on Saturday.

Real Madrid, on the other hand, seemed to be hitting its stride until lackluster performances heading into the "clasi- \cos° – a 2-1 home loss against Girona and a 2-1 win at Levante that relied on penalty kicks.

The rival clubs will meet again at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Saturday in the league, when Madrid will try to cut into Barcelona's nine-point lead.

The other Copa del Rey finalist will be decided on Thursday, when Valencia hosts Real Betis after a 2-2 draw in the first leg in Seville.

ENGLAND

After the tumultuous League Cup final loss to Manchester City, Chelsea quickly returns to action with another demanding game.

Chelsea hosts Tottenham (Thursday, 4:00am) in its first Premier League match since being routed 6-o by City on Feb. 10 and dropping to sixth place.

Chelsea did manage to hold



City to a 0-0 draw through 120 minutes in the final on Sunday, only losing on penalty kicks. The problem was what happened before the shootout with goalkeeper Kepa Arrizabalaga refusing to be substituted by manager Maurizio Sarri. Given Chelsea's attempts to diffuse the controversy, Kepa is likely to retain his starting spot against third-place Tottenham.

Liverpool, which moved back to the top of the league on Sunday, hosts Watford on Wednesday while City will be playing West Ham. Fourth-place Arsenal plays Bournemouth and Manchester United is at Crystal Palace.

ITALY

There will be a different Italian Cup champion for the first time in five years.

Lazio and AC Milan, the teams that have lost in the past four finals to Juventus, will face each other on Tuesday in the first match of the two-leg semifinals. The return leg at San Siro is April 24.

Milan lost to Juventus last season and in 2016, while Lazio was defeated by the Bianconeri in the 2015 and 2017 finals.

Milan has the competition's top scorer this season in Krzysztof Piatek, who netted six for Genoa and two for the Rossoneri after his January move. Fiorentina hosts Atalanta in the first leg of the other semifinal.

Lazio and Fiorentina are the two sides left in the competition with the most Italian Cups six each. Milan has five, while Atalanta has only one, which it won in 1963.

FRANCE

It might be a good idea if Paris Saint-Germain coach Thomas Tuchel gives Kylian Mbappe a rest for the visit of struggling Dijon in the French Cup quarterfinals.

Since Neymar and Edinson Cavani have both been out injured, Mbappe has played the full 90 minutes in four straight games – and scored five goals in a remarkable spell of form.

But considering Dijon is in 19th place in the French league, it could be time for Mbappe to sit one out at Parc des Princes. Tuchel could replace him at center forward with Eric-Maxim Choupo-Moting, who needs a goal after scoring only once in 21 games overall since joining last year.

PSG is aiming for a fifth straight French Cup trophy, but has some strong competition. Rennes and Lyon are also in midweek French Cup action. AP

TENNIS Federer wins in Dubai to begin latest bid for 100th title

 $R^{oger}_{\rm test}$ Federer's latent to win his 100th ATP singles title made a shaky start at the Dubai Championships where he overcame Philipp Kohlschreiber 6-4, 3-6, 6-1 yesterday (Macau time).

Federer entered the first -round match with a 13-0 record against the German, and broke in the first game to run through the first set.

But Kohlschreiber forced a third set between them for only the third time. In that set, Federer forced an error to break for 2-0 and

held, and cruised home. "[My thinking was to] just somehow get through. Somehow try not to lose," Federer said. "I'm very pleased I was able to find a way. I actually played a really good third set, I thought." Federer won his 99th tour title in October in Basel, and his bid for the 100th has ended so far in two semifinals, then the fourth round of the Australian Open.

Next up for him is Fernando Verdasco, the 2017 Dubai runner-up to Andy Murray. Verdasco beat Italian qualifier Thomas Fab-

biano 3-6, 6-3, 6-2. The two other seeds in action beside Federer lost. Nikolaz Basilashvili, the highest-ranked Georgian in ATP history at No. 19, upset fourth-seeded Karen Khachanov of Russia 6-4, 6-1, and Jan-Lennard Struff of Germany spoiled seventh-seeded Milos Raonic's Dubai debut 6-4, 5-7, 6-4.

Basilashvili will play for a spot in the quarterfinals against defending champion Roberto Bautista Agut of Spain, who beat Indian wild card Ramkumar Ramanathan 6-4, 6-3. AP



Roger Federer

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報 ®



A TALE OF SEVERAL PIZZAS

When teaching, I am a firm believer in starting with the "big picture" and only then looking into various details. For learning to be meaningful and relevant to students they need to understand the context so they can see why putting the effort into learning the details can be worthwhile.

In a recent Semester I spend significant time explaining to my hospitality management students that in market economies businesses need to continually improve to survive in the long run. There are always competitors offering comparable products/services and as soon as one gets "better" it will take market share from the others and thus ensure its success. Moreover, businesses can only get "better" in one of two ways: (1) improve the quality of their products or services or (2) reduce their operating costs (so they can reduce their prices and still remain profitable). Customers want value – the best product/service they can get at a reasonable price.

As a post-graduate student in the 1980's writing up my PhD thesis I worked 7-day, 100-hr weeks for more months than I like to remember. One saving grace from this period in my life was going to the original La Porchetta Pizzaria in Rathdowne Street Carlton to get my Sunday lunch – a medium Capricciosa pizza. This was in a time "before Pizza Hut" when Italian restaurants had their own individual recipes, and while they may have had the same names, the pizzas from two restaurants were night and day different, and only the best survived!

Then Pizza Hut, and more recently Domino's, came into the market offering an acceptable standardized pizza in a clean standardized restaurant at a good price, with home delivery and they took over and sent many "mom and pop" restaurants out of business. Interestingly, when I visit home now I often go to a nearby La Porchetta franchise restaurant which is, in fact, a remodeled Pizza hut, and the pizzas are almost as good as I remember (at least through my rose colored glasses)!

In recent times, I have seen the rise of "artisanal" pizzas with all manner of quirks in Mebourne salad and all sorts of stuff on pizza bread that celebrates fresh ingredients and the individual chef and his/her interests. Again, only the best survive, and while I am sympathetic to old dinosaurs that cannot adapt to new situations the best you can do is to ensure that they have a reasonable retirement - King Canute and nobody else can hold back the tide I am seeing this same progression unfolding in Macau. I can remember when one of the Toscano restaurants was the only place to get pizza in Macau, and then we got several Pizza Huts that have been acceptable stand-bys for many years. But we are now starting to see some new restaurants offering exceptional pizzas at reasonable prices -I recently had a very good one in the new MGM in Cotai, for example. It will be interesting to see who ends up being the dinosaur. Looking over this article I seem to have used guite a few brand names - nobody paid me anything to name their businesses (but if they would like to give me free pizzas, I will be happy to be, slightly, corrupted). I actually see no problem in naming names - we all know them and it adds "color" to the text and ideas being presented. There is a long history of brand names entering the vernacular - I could hoover up a slice of pizza right now!

HUNGARY STEPPING UP CAMPAIGN

The Hungarian government is stepping up its campaign against the leadership of the European Union, repeating its accusations that it seeks to promote mass immigration into the continent.

Government spokesman Zoltan Kovacs said yesterday that citizens will receive a letter from Prime Minister Viktor Orban explaining what Hungary says are the EU's pro-immigration efforts, which Hungary opposes.

SUBURBIA

EU leaders and European politicians, including German Chancellor Angela Merkel, have rejected Hungary's campaign, launched last week with billboards and television and print ads.

The European Commission's Hungarian office has issued a detailed rebuttal of Orban's claims, denying, for example, that it wants to cut financial assistance for countries opposing migration or that it wants to weaken member states' border protection rights.

Mother and daughter are charged in deaths of five relatives

POLICE found a Pennsylvania woman and her adult daughter in an apartment with the bodies of five relatives they had killed, including three children, authorities said yesterday.

Shana S. Decree, 45, and Dominique Decree, 19, were charged with five counts of homicide and one count each of conspiracy.

Shana Decree told police that "everyone at the apartment [...] wanted to die" and talked about suicide, according to court documents. Decree claimed one of the victims, Jamilla Campbell, 42, killed two other victims before she herself was slain.

The bodies were found Monday in an apartment in suburban Philadelphia after Bucks County child welfare officials showed up unannounced and got no response when they knocked on the door. A maintenance worker opened the door and found Shana Decree and Dominique Decree in a "disoriented" state, according to court documents.

Police arrived and found all five bodies in a bedroom. The apartment was in "disarray," according to Police Chief George McClay, with broken drywall and broken glass, overturned furniture, and other clutter.

DECISIVE MOMENT



Shana Decree was arraigned early Tuesday, while her daughter was expected to make her initial court appearance later in the day.

It wasn't clear whether either woman yet has a lawyer to speak for her.

The victims included Shana Decree's children Naa'Irah Smith, 25, and Damon Decree Jr., 13, both of Morrisville; as well as Shana Decree's sister Jamilla Campbell, of Trenton, New Jersey, and Campbell's 9-year-old twin daughters Imani and Erika Allen. Authorities did not reveal how they died.

Authorities who had been looking for Campbell's 17-year-old son Joshua found him in Willingboro, New Jersey, where he was staying with friends, McClay said.

Bucks County prosecutor Matthew Weintraub earlier stressed the teen is not a suspect, saying authorities just want to "ensure his safety."

"We wanted to come out here at this point and make sure that everybody knew that the people that committed these atrocious acts are now in custody and will be made to pay for their crimes," Weintraub said at the scene late Monday.

The bodies were found about early yesterday [Macau time] after police went to check on the welfare of residents at the unit in the Robert Morris Apartments in Morrisville, on the Delaware River northeast of Philadelphia and across from Trenton, New Jersey.

The three-story, red-brick complex is on a busy road lined with auto repair shops, a safe-and-lock shop and a bail bonds agency nearby. **AP**

MDT/Daniel Beitler

StationAir qualityRoadside40-60
ModerateHigh
Density
Residental
Area35-55
ModerateAmbient35-55
Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

RCE:

IRAN Facing growing political and economic pressure after President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw America from the atomic accord, Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif resigned suddenly Monday night and Rouhani now faces renewed calls from hard-liners to do the same.



USA Democrats are moving quickly to try to roll back President Trump's declaration of a national emergency to siphon billions of dollars from the military to fund construction of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border. Today's vote in the Democraticcontrolled House comes on legislation to revoke Trump's executive order from earlier this month.



BREXIT British Prime Minister Theresa May bowed to intense political pressure yesterday and handed control of Brexit to Parliament, telling lawmakers they will get to choose between leaving the European Union on schedule with or without a divorce deal — and asking



What a waste. Downtown Macau when the dust settles - it ain't pretty.

the EU to postpone departure day.



STEPHEN KING The master of the American horror novel has donated USD1.25 million to the masters of American genealogical research. Stephen King and his wife, Tabitha, made the gift through their foundation to the New England Historic Genealogical Society.