



AN 8% INCREASE IN THE 9-BILLION-PATAACA BUDGET OF THE HEALTH BUREAU WILL GO TOWARD THE HIRING OF 500 MORE STAFF NEXT YEAR P7

THE NPC WARNS MACAU TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST EXTERNAL DANGERS P2

HONG KONG'S LEADER CARRIE LAM HAS PROMISED A NEW ROUND OF RELIEF MEASURES TO PROP UP THE CITY'S FLAGGING ECONOMY P8



China Some of the country's wealthiest tycoons steered billions of dollars into electric-car companies in order to fuel the country's dreams of becoming a leader in the field. Now a reckoning may be looming as car sales slow and the government reduces subsidies for the nascent industry.
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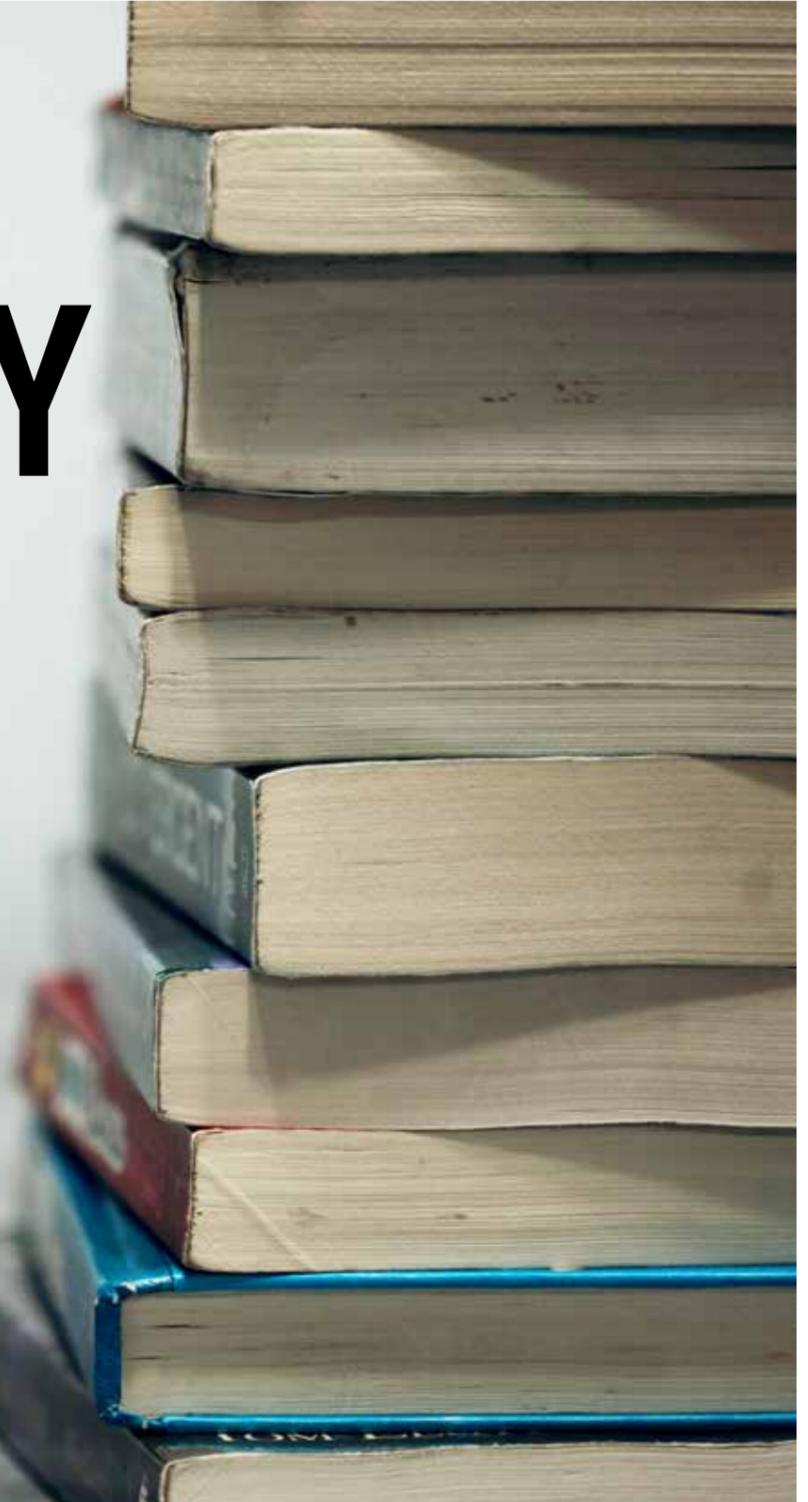
Malaysia Najib Razak sought to show he was the victim of a cunning fugitive financier as he opened his defense yesterday in his first corruption trial linked to the multibillion-dollar looting of the 1MDB state investment fund. Najib is defending himself against seven charges of abuse of power, breach of trust and money laundering.



Indonesia Police said a smoke grenade exploded near the presidential palace in Jakarta, wounding two soldiers. Jakarta Police Chief Gatot Eddy Pramono said the two soldiers were exercising in Jakarta's National Monument Park when they spotted the non-lethal grenade on the ground. He said it exploded when they tried to pick it up.
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MACAU LITERACY BLOOM

MACAU IS SOARING IN THE PISA TABLES, RISING TO THIRD WORLDWIDE IN THE LATEST ASSESSMENT P4



SHARON MCCUTCHEON

COURTESY NEW MACAU



NEW MACAU CAN'T FIND THE LEGAL GROUND FOR FACIAL RECOGNITION P3



A diverse collection of shorts giving nine young local directors the chance to share their ideas about their changing city, Years Of Macao is an unmissable contribution to the commemoration of the 20th anniversary of the handover.

NATIONAL PEOPLE'S CONGRESS WANTS MACAU TO SAFEGUARD AGAINST EXTERNAL DANGERS

THE National People's Congress of China (NPC) wants Macau to safeguard against "all sorts of dangers", according to Li Zhanshu, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the NPC.

The comments were made yesterday in the Chinese capital at a symposium held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing to mark the 20th anniversary of the implementation of the Macau SAR Basic Law. During the symposium, Li listed several state security-related missions for the Macau SAR, in apparent reference to the political unrest troubling nearby Hong Kong.

Earlier this year, Macau established the national security protection law. Li wants the Macau SAR to "fully and effectively" protect the institution and system of national security.

Macau's most pressing objectives, according to Li, are to improve its detection of potential dangers, to be highly cautious towards potential risks from all sectors, to be resolute in standing up to all types of damaging activities, and to maintain the harmony and stability of Macau.

The second of Li's instructions was related to Article 23 of the Basic Law. Article 23 stipulates



The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On (center), speaks at a seminar on Macau's Basic Law held at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

that Macau "shall enact laws, on its own, to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the Region, and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the Region from establishing ties with foreign political organi-

zations or bodies." Li wants Macau to focus on the prohibition and punishment of any acts or activities that constitute a danger to the Central Government.

Chief Executive Chui Sai On also attended the symposium in Beijing and offered his insights on the territory's Basic Law.

In echo of Li Zhanshu, Macau's top official said in order to

ensure the full implementation of the Basic Law, Macau was obliged to play its part in safeguarding national security.

According to a statement from the local government, the Chief Executive went on to brief seminar attendees on Macau's efforts over the last two decades to defend the full authority of the Central Government in the territory, while ensuring Macau's

enjoyment of a high degree of autonomy. Such efforts included the Legislative Assembly of Macau passing the National Security Law, and the establishment by the Macau authorities of the Safeguarding State Security Committee.

The second point made by Chui was that Macau should make the most of the institutional advantages set out by the Basic Law, in order to advance in a timely manner the promotion of the 'one country, two systems' principle.

Promoting the principle was not only a matter related with history, it also served Macau's needs for effective assurance and advancement of social progress.

Meanwhile, Zhang Xiaoming, Director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office praised Macau for its "firm grasp" of the 'one country, two systems' policy.

According to Zhang, Macau has a "clear-cut adherence to an administrative-led system," and Macau's executive, legislative and judicial organs "consciously respect" the Central Government's full power to govern the SAR, and "properly" handle important issues of national security. JZ

MEMORY LANE

Oswald Lübek

MDT/Renato Marques



The stairway leading to the Ruins of St. Paul's is seen here in 1911 and then more than a century later. The Ruins refer to the façade of the Church of Mater Dei, built from 1602 to 1640 by the Jesuits to become one of the largest



Catholic churches in Asia during that time. It was in 2005 when the Ruins of St. Paul's was listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site as part of the Historic Centre of Macau. It has become Macau's most iconic landmark and thousands of

tourists flock to the site daily. The black and white picture shows a view of Macau from the Ruins in 1911, when the Sé Cathedral of Macau could still be seen from the top of the stairway. LV

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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SURVEILLANCE

New Macau sees no legal grounds for facial recognition

ANTHONY LAM

PRO-DEMOCRACY group New Macau Association (ANM) has urged the security branch of the government to either shelve facial recognition technology in surveillance cameras or review the law to better supervise the practice. The group articulated their stance yesterday at a press conference.

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, had earlier announced that facial recognition would be tested on existing surveillance cameras early next year. Following several "exchanges of comments," Wong has recently said that his team "only consulted the Personal Data Protection Office out of respect," stressing that the facial recognition function did not require consultation with the data protection authority.

Furthermore, Wong maintains that the function of facial recognition is not governed by the existing surveillance camera law.

However, the ANM has found Wong's explanation worrying, stating that "the government's statement not only [failed to alleviate] their doubts, but it also created more grounds for opposition."

The current surveillance camera law has special provisions for the collection and processing of a video feed. The democrat group stressed that there is no legal grounds for the security branch to process video footage at its own unrestricted liberty.

To clarify the point, New Macau pointed out that the police are expres-

sly authorized to use the license plate recognition system, but there are no provisions authorizing the police to use facial recognition to process the collected videos.

It also recalled that the legislature had made notes on the scope of coverage of the law. Subsequently, the use of facial recognition is not allowed, argued the ANM.

The ANM elaborated that, currently, the handling of video footage by a police investigator must be in accordance with the law. It sees the necessity for similar regulations if such footage is handled by a computer system.

There has also been speculation that a database of facial characteristics may be needed to facilitate the function. The ANM finds this equally concerning because even if the footage gets deleted in accordance with the law, it is not clear whether the security branch will retain certain data in their possession.

The fashion in which the security branch releases information related to facial recognition function is also of concern to New Macau. Its gradual release of a small amount of information each time poses a bad example, so says the organization.

All in all, although the group is very much against the use of facial recognition function on public surveillance cameras, it is urging the security branch to either amend the current surveillance camera law or make new laws to clearly stipulate the scope of the function. This they perceive as a way to protect the interests of the general public.

Justice Azedo to replace Lima at Court of Final Appeal

JUSTICE José Maria Dias Azedo, judge of the Court of Second Instance, has been appointed as a judge of the Court of Final Appeal, effective from December 17, the government has announced in the Official Gazette.

The move was necessitated by the impending retirement of the incumbent judge at the top court, Justice Viriato Manuel Pinheiro de Lima. The judge is reaching the retirement age this month.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou commented on the

appointment, saying that by selecting a Macanese judge to succeed one of Portuguese nationality the government may be trying to preserve Macau's unique history. "The government may be showing signs that it respects the special history of Macau," said the lawmaker.

The democrat shows confidence in the expertise knowledge of all judges, and their professionalism to safeguard the rule of law and human rights. "We shouldn't be assigning judges to dif-

ferent camps," said the lawmaker.

The Court of Final Appeal has three permanent judges. Besides Justice Lima, there is Justice Song Man Lei and Justice Sam Hou Fai, who is also the head of the top Court.

To fill Justice Azedo's place at the middle Court, Justice Chao Im Peng, a presiding judge of the Court of First Instance, will be promoted to the middle Court. Furthermore, Justice Cheong Weng Tong will fill Justice Chao's position. **AL**

PAIR OF CAR CRASHES ON AV. COL. MESQUITA



TWO accidents occurred around the same time and on the same corner on Avenida do Colonel Mesquita yesterday afternoon.

Videos went viral on social media platforms, showing a film-like car crash at the corner of Pak Vai Shopping Center. In the crash, a black seven-seater "climbed" onto a white sedan.

The Public Security Police Force received the report at 2:33 p.m. yesterday.

At press time, the police did not have information as to how the crash occurred.

The two drivers, both male, passed alcohol tests and were not injured.

The same video shows another crash, which involved a taxi and a bus, happened just behind the first crash.

The police force was asked about the taxi accident, but replied that it did not have information about it.

The "public transport" crash took place precisely at the intersection of the Avenida do Colonel Mesquita and the Avenida da Ferreira Almeida. The taxi was covering the two lanes on the right of the three-lane Avenida do Colonel Mesquita, with the bus covering all three, as they turned at the T-junction.

It was unclear whether anyone was injured in the taxi crash. **AL**

AD

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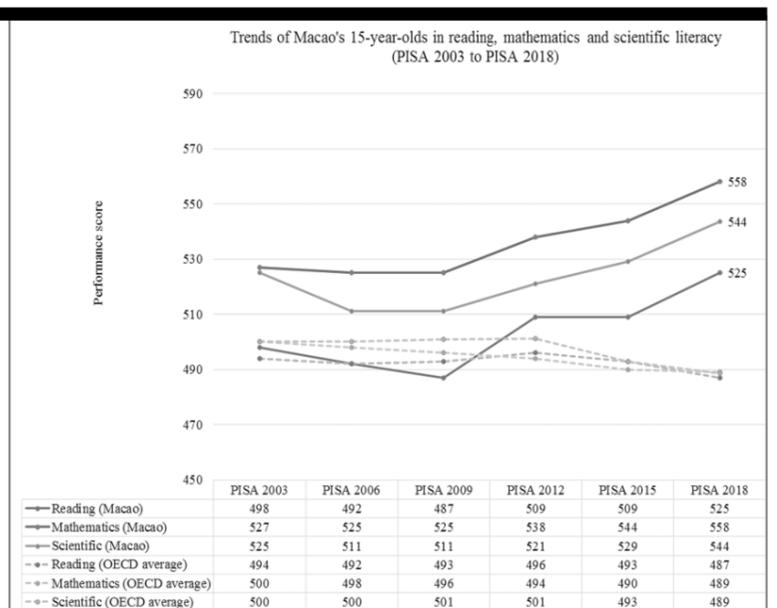
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Rank	Countries/economies	Reading	Countries/economies	Mathematics	Countries/economies	Scientific
1	China (B-S-J-Z)	555	China (B-S-J-Z)	591	China (B-S-J-Z)	590
2	Singapore	549	Singapore	569	Singapore	551
3	Macao (China)	525	Macao (China)	558	Macao (China)	544
4	HK (China)	524	HK (China)	551	Estonia	530
5	Estonia	523	Taiwan (China)	531	Japan	529
6	Canada	520	Japan	527	Finland	522
7	Finland	520	Korea	526	Korea	519
8	Ireland	518	Estonia	523	Canada	518
9	Korea	514	Netherlands	519	HK (China)	517
10	Poland	512	Poland	516	Taiwan (China)	516
11	Sweden	506	Switzerland	515	Poland	511
12	New Zealand	506	Canada	512	New Zealand	508
13	US	505	Denmark	509	Slovenia	507
14	UK	504	Slovenia	509	UK	505
15	Japan	504	Belgium	508	Netherlands	503
	Portugal	492	Portugal	492	Portugal	492
	OECD average	487	OECD average	489	OECD average	489



EDUCATION

After rapid improvement in PISA literacies, Macau climbs to third spot

JULIE ZHU

FOR the first time, Macau has ranked third in all three literacy measures of the Programme for International Student Assessment 2018 (PISA), the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) announced during yesterday's press conference on the latest PISA results.

Among 79 participating countries and economies, Macau students scored 525 in reading, 544 in science and 558 in mathematics, preceded only by mainland China (sampled in Beijing, Shanghai, Jiangsu, Zhejiang) and Singapore.

Moreover, in terms of the percentage of 15-year-olds reaching the baseline level in all three core literacies, Macau ranks second in the world, according to the latest assessment.

The assessment, organized by the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), has been conducted every three years since 2000. The latest results show considerable improvement over the previous assessment in 2015.

In the 2015 assessment, Macau ranked sixth, twelfth and third, respectively, for scientific literacy, reading literacy and mathematical literacy.

In 2009, Macau had a reading literacy score of 487 in PISA, below the OECD average. The reading literacy score increased to 525 for PISA 2018.

In PISA 2018, the percentage of students with a high level of mathematical literacy is 27.5%, which is 5.5 percentage points higher than the 22% in PISA 2015. Students who scored highly in one of the three categories accounted for 33% in PISA 2018, an improvement over the 24% in PISA 2015.

A statement issued yesterday by the DSEJ drew particular attention to gender differences in the results. The bureau highlighted that Macau females outperformed males in reading literacy, at a male-to-female ratio of 514-to-536.

From PISA 2009 to 2018 gender difference favoring females has been drastically narrowed from 34 to 22 score points, the bureau added. Recent improvement in this area means that, in 2018, Macau males have reverted the inferior trend and are now at par or even beginning to out-perform females in mathematics and science literacies.

Comparing the assessment results with PISA 2015, the progress in mathematics literacy for males is 2.5 times of that of females.

Among the 45 local schools participating in PISA 2018, two-

thirds reported an improvement. Among these schools, 14 of them made "significant progress" in reading, science and mathematics at the same time, increasing their scores by 15 points or more.

According to Lou Pak Sang, Director of the DSEJ, the improvement is due to the efforts made by local schools in the past three years.

The DSEJ head proudly announced that "the OECD states that Macau is the only country or economy whose quality of education is advancing continuously and rapidly, and among the countries or economies participating in the PISA study, Macau continues to maintain its top place for high levels of performance and equity in education outcomes."

After the PISA tests were completed by Macau's students, not only did the DSEJ Direc-

tor downplay the role the students had in the improvement, Macau PISA program manager, Cheung Kwok Cheung also didn't mention the students' efforts, rather he only said, "Macau's brilliant achievement would not be possible if not for the unfailing support of the nation, Macau SAR, as well as the schools." Cheung Kwok Cheung is also the Director of the Educational Testing and Assessment Research Center Faculty of Education of the University of Macau.

Earlier in April, the General Association of Chinese Students of Macau conducted a survey on study pressure faced by Macau's middle school students.

Among 974 respondents, 11% of students spent more than three hours doing homework on a daily basis, and 36.4% of students spent less than one hour each day on homework.

Sound & Image Challenge to celebrate works of former winners

THE 10th Sound & Image Challenge International Festival 2019 will feature a total of 194 short films and videos at the Dom Pedro V Theater and Cinema Capitol.

The annual festival – which kicked off last night – has a selection of 112 films and eight musical videos that will be placed according to public choice as well as the scrutiny of the Jury and Grand Jury panels.

This year, the festival received a total of 3,897

submissions for short films and music videos. "Last year, we received over 4,000, but we decided to just accept one film per director so the number has been reduced, but still, we received nearly 4,000 and it's still [a lot]," said Lúcia Lemos, the festival director.

Lemos further added that the number of showcased films this year is larger, as it will also present the works of the winners of the past years of the festival.

The official selection of "SHORTS 2019" has 112 films consisting of 63 works of fiction, 26 animations and 23 documentaries, Lemos announced in a press conference yesterday.

These shorts are candidates for the festival's awards in the submitted categories. The awards are designated as follows: Best Film of the Festival, Best Fiction, Best Animation, Best Documentary, Macau Cultural Identity, Best Local Entry and Audience Award.

Among the official selection in Fiction, 14 films were nominated for the following Prestigious Awards: Best Cinematography, Best Director, Best Music, Best Sound Design, Best Editing and Best Visual Effects.

"It has been an interesting process. I think the quality level is really high. Some of the films really stood out from the rest and that was interesting to see," said one of the members of the grand jury, Måns Berthas from Sweden.

"It's interesting to see so many films from different countries [featuring] different cultures," he added.

Echoing the same sentiments, another juror Cristiano Pereira remarked, "I could see an evolution [...] and I was surprised by the quality of the films from all over the world."

Meanwhile, the official selection of VO-LUME 2019 consists of eight music videos that are nominated for the

awards including Best Music Video, Best Song and Best Visual Effects. The festival's program includes Expanded Cinema, inviting 15 films from directors from Guinea-Bissau, Sweden, Denmark, Lithuania, Sri Lanka, Ukraine and Macau.

Masterclasses in Fiction and Animation will also be held, and will be conducted by directors Lanka Bandaranayake (Sri Lanka), Måns Berthas (Sweden) and Julien Dykmans (France). LV

THIS year marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China and the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Macau SAR. Throughout 2019, Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG) has been celebrating this significant year with the Macau community by supporting and organizing a wide variety of activities. As the series of celebrations in the community reaches its peak, GEG has launched the "GEG Celebrates MSAR 20th Anniversary with You" campaign to give Macau residents an array of exclusive offers as an expression of its sincere gratitude for the community's ongoing support.

The campaign allows Macau residents to enjoy a variety of fabulous offers at Galaxy Macau, Broadway Macau and StarWorld Hotel through December 20 – from dining and hotel accommodations to movie tickets, spa treatments and lucky draws – by inviting residents to indulge in GEG's world-class non-gaming facilities and experience its unique Asian Heart service. In addition, Galaxy Macau's popular F&B brands Gosto and Cha Bei have respectively launched a special dining menu and a special afternoon tea set in celebration of the occasion. By combining elements of history, culture and art, the two brands aim to showcase Macau's unique charms as a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure and a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy.



GEG Celebrates MSAR 20th Anniversary with Macau Residents



Chef Andre Lai, Gosto

IN HOMAGE TO SINO-LUSO GASTRONOMY

Known as a paragon of Macanese and Portuguese cuisine culture, Gosto is paying homage to Macau's unique Sino-Luso gastronomic heritage through its special dining menu. Two of the main courses on the menu – Steamed Fresh Cod and Tiger Prawn, and Roasted Breast of Chicken with Chestnut and Wild Mushroom Stuffing – were drawn from the menu for the official handover banquet in 1999, a reminiscence on the city's most historic moment.

"We aim to showcase Macau's historic role as an exchange platform between Chinese and Portuguese cultures," said Andre Lai, Gosto's Chef de Cuisine. Himself a Macanese, Chef Lai said it is personally meaningful to have the opportunity to present this special menu. "Macanese and Portuguese cuisines are some of the most important

elements of the city's gastronomic culture. We feel honored to be able to present to Macau's residents and visitors dishes that were served at the 1999 handover banquet."

SHOWCASING MACAU'S CULINARY LEGACY

CHA BEI, one of Galaxy Macau's most popular dining spots, is presenting a tea set comprised of some of the city's most significant specialties – from pork-chop buns and shrimp-roe noodles to Portuguese egg tarts and Serradura pudding – to let residents and visitors experience the essence of the city's gastronomy in one tea set. The special set also embraces contemporary



art by featuring the work of local artist Sanchia Lau on the specially designed paper placemat. The mat encourages diners to explore Macau, through an illustrated map

inspired by the city's signature cobblestone streets and landmarks.

"By recreating Macau's must-try delicacies, we aim to pay tribute to Macau's culinary legacy," said Boon Neo, CHA BEI's Chef de Cuisine. "Macau

has a wide range of gastronomic offers. We put a lot of thought into designing

the tea set as we wanted to showcase the best tastes of Macau."

In addition to the city's famous specialties, the tea set also includes a chocolate statue of the Ruins of St. Paul's and specially designed macarons with a 20th anniversary theme, among other desserts. During the campaign period, guests ordering the tea set will receive a limited edition gift from CHA BEI while stocks last.



Chef Boon Neo, CHA BEI

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- 2-hour free self-parking at selected properties
- Extra offers for holders of Macau permanent or non-permanent ID card whose card number includes number "20"
- For more details on these exclusive offers, please scan QR code or visit www.galaxymacau.com



MACAU EXPECTED TO BE THIRD-MOST VISITED CITY IN THE WORLD FOR OVERNIGHT STAYS

MACAU is expected to be the third-most visited city in the world in 2019, welcoming some 20.6 million overnight visitors, according to the Top 100 City Destinations report released by global market research company Euromonitor International.

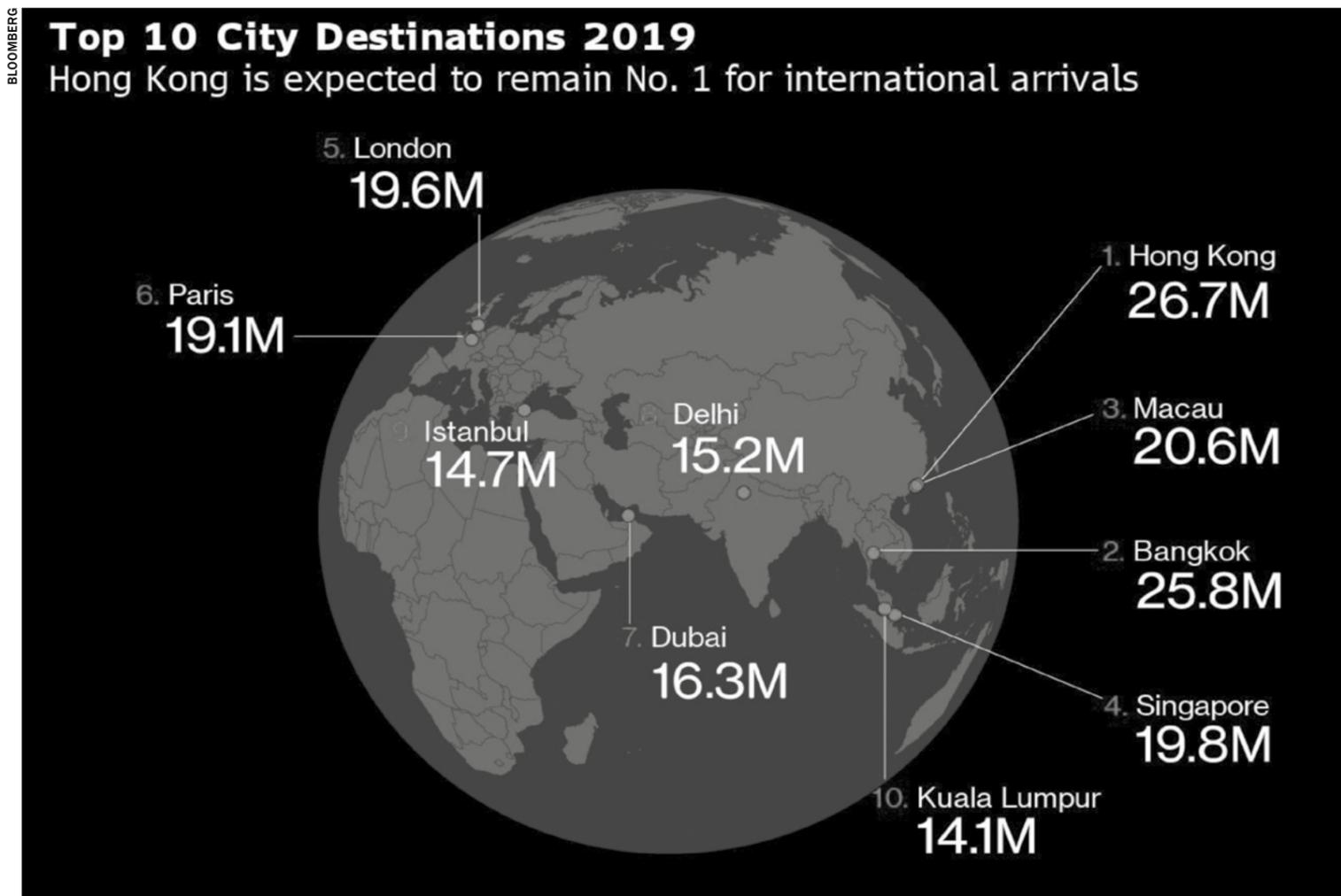
The report also shows that Hong Kong is likely to hold on to its status as the world's most popular city with international visitors in 2019, despite months of political unrest leading to a sharp drop in tourist numbers. The Thai capital of Bangkok takes second place, while Singapore is fourth, cementing Asia's lead this year.

Official data provided by the Macau government shows that more than 33.4 million tourists visited Macau in the first 10 months of 2019, with forecasts showing Macau will possibly break the 40-million-mark before the year-end.

Euromonitor's 20.6-million tally differs because its research covers overseas visitors, or "arrivals," who stay longer than 24 hours but less than one year in over 400 cities around the world. Arrivals include people travelling for business, leisure and to visit family or friends, but excludes those in employment or education abroad as well as military personnel, transportation crew, cruise passengers and people displaced by war or natural disasters.

In Macau, where brief trips across the border are possible for the residents of neighboring Guangdong, same-day visitors accounted for about 52% of all visits between January and October 2019. According to Macau's Statistics and Census Service, same-day visitors spent just 0.2 days in the city on average, equivalent to about two and a half hours.

Euromonitor also notes that the 2019 rankings were calculated using estimates based on part-year arrivals data, meaning Hong Kong's place as the global travelers' capital could still change. The city's tourist industry has been badly hit



by protests that have raged almost every week since June.

However, Euromonitor senior analyst Simon Haven said strong arrivals numbers in the first half of the year would lessen the impact of the protests on total annual visitor numbers. "Over the period January to June of 2019, inbound arrivals grew by 14% versus the same period last year. In July, arrivals started to drop, with the most notable drop being in August, when the city experienced a 40% drop versus August 2018," he wrote in an email.

"Based on the latest data available from the Hong Kong Tourism Board, as well as Euromonitor forecasts, total inbound arrivals into Hong Kong are expected to drop by 5% to 10% in 2019," Haven wrote. This degree of decline would keep the Asian financial hub in pole po-

sition in 2019, given its lead over Bangkok and strong performance in 2018.

Globally, inbound arrivals are expected to rise 4.2% in 2019, to 1.5 billion trips.

More broadly, the Euromonitor list shows that Asian tourism is booming. The region accounts for significantly more locations than any other, and the number has risen steadily since the first edition was published in 2013. Travelers within Asia are responsible for much of the growth, according to the report, as income levels rise and the numbers of Chinese visitors to other countries – as well as millennial travelers from around the region – increase.

London is predicted to round out the top five, although it's dropped two places amid an uncer-

tain future as Brexit potentially leads to tighter visa restrictions for EU nationals.

New York City, the most popular American destination with international travelers, is expected to sink from eighth spot to number 11, while Miami (29), Los Angeles (33) and Las Vegas (38) were the next highest U.S. cities on the list. Competition from Asia and Europe has seen most American cities slip in recent years, despite positive growth in arrivals for most.

Growing trade tension with China is "one of the main concerns for the travel industry," according to the report's author, Rabia Yasmeen, who added that many U.S. cities are actively attempting to tap the lucrative Chinese tourist market.

The biggest leap up the rankin-

gs in 2019 is expected to come from Hurghada in Egypt, which is forecast to take 63rd position after joining the top 100 in 82nd place last year. Thanks in part to a tourism reform program and improving security, Egypt remains North Africa's leading destination, with Cairo also enjoying strong growth. Other notable climbers among the top 100 include Indian cities such as Agra and Bangalore, and Cebu in the Philippines.

In Europe, more traditional travel hotspots like Barcelona, Milan and Vienna have slid down the rankings, while cities in "off the beaten path destinations such as Croatia, Slovenia and Sweden have moved up," the report said. For the most part, however, such locations are yet to break the top 100. **DB/BLOOMBERG**

Ninety-one restaurants commended for excellence

A total of 91 food and beverage establishments and 12 travel agencies have recently been accredited by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) for their excellent performance in promoting quality tourism services.

They were commended by the tourism regulator

as part of the Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme, which is further diversified to applaud businesses in the food and beverage, travel agency and retail sectors.

This year saw the first time the retail industry has taken part in this scheme which was co-conducted with the Con-

sumer Council.

Among the 91 establishments accredited with the Star Merchant Award, four were simultaneously recognized for their service quality with the Service Star Award.

The four double-winners are SW Steakhouse at Wynn Palace, Portofino at the Venetian, Restaurant

Litoral in Taipa and the Edo Japanese Restaurant at Hotel Lisboa.

As for the travel agency sector, the Star Merchant Award went to a total of 12 travel agencies, two of which also earned the "Service Star Award – Inbound Service" and "Service Star Award – Outbound Service". The

winners for each are the Kong Pak Macau Tourism Development Company and HN Group Limited, respectively.

As explained by the MGTO, the scheme, which started in 2014, tries to evaluate service quality in all aspects. There are two parts in the evaluation process, the mystery cus-

tomers aspect and the service management system audit part. The regulator stressed that service quality of frontline and management staff members are evaluated separately.

Some 281 restaurants and 40 travel agencies have so far been recognized with the accreditation since 2014. **AL**

Health Bureau to have 500 more staff by the end of 2020

THE Health Bureau (SSM) will hire an additional 500 people by the end of 2020, the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) reported yesterday after the discussion on the budget bill for 2020.

Five government representatives were present at yesterday's committee discussion.

Lawmakers inquired about the budget increase for the Health Bureau, which will reportedly grow by 8% next year to a total of 9 billion patacas. The increase is equivalent to about 670 million patacas.

Regarding the SSM's budget increase, government representatives explained that, from now until December 31, 2020, the SSM plans to hire 90 doctors, 75 specialist intern doctors, five translators in addition to other staff.

The bureau's budget increase is also due to the promotion of its staff members,



Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam

increase in salaries, staff benefits, and new health centers.

Lawmakers also asked the government representatives about the 3% salary increase for civil servants, the 2.4% budget increase at the Land,

Public Works and Transport Bureau, and the budget increase of 100 million patacas at the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

According to the explanation given by the government representatives, the 3% sa-

lary increase for civil servants is based on the increase in salaries in the private market.

Meanwhile, the IC's budget increase is prompted by the Macau Cultural Center's renovation and by salary compensations to civil servants' overtime work due to the organization of large-scale activities.

Starting from last year, the IC has also been responsible for paying for two of Macau's established music groups: the Macao Chinese Orchestra and the Macao Orchestra.

"The bill must be passed this month," said Chan Chak Mo, chairman of the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly, stressing its urgency.

Macau's public health services fall under the remit of the Secretariat for Social Affairs and Culture, currently headed by Alexis Tam. The director of the Identification Services Bureau, Ao Ieong U, will succeed Tam in the next government. **JZ**

LAWMAKER URGES LOCAL RETIREMENT POLICIES FIRST

Lawmaker Leong Sun lok hopes that Macau can improve its retirement policies. In his interpellation to the local government, Leong said that Macau should keep improving its policies on care for the elderly. He also wants the authorities to prioritize retirement policies for those in Macau, rather than retirement in other places. That being said Leong thinks that Hengqin will soon have the conditions to carry out cross-border elderly care services. The lawmaker suggests that the local government learn from other regions' experience in setting up apartments for the elderly, and to arrange for different accommodation options in view of the different needs of the public.

NO TIMETABLE FOR TRAFFIC ACCIDENT DATABASE

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) does not have a timetable for setting up a database of traffic accidents. According to a report by public broadcaster TDM, the Transport Bureau, together with the Public Security Police Force (PSP), is collating and analyzing data regarding the establishment of a traffic accident database. Due to the large amount of data involved, the processing takes time, the DSAT said. No further information or timetable could be provided by the bureau at this stage. The DSAT said that it will join with the PSP in establishing the database, which will be announced in due course.

AD



INHERITANCE TAX & SUCCESSION PLANNING

Presented by: **THE FRY GROUP HK**
Sam Hegarty, Chartered Financial Planner
Stephanie Chan, Tax Manager

britcham @ Wynn Palace - Wednesday 11 December 2019

Inquiries and RSVP info@britchammao.org Tel +853 8798 9697	Jasmine Room Wynn Palace, Cotai
Britcham members – Complimentary	17:45 : Registration
Non-members – MOP/HKD 400	18:00 : Presentation
	19:00 : Drinks & Nibbles
	20:00 : Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

Inheritance Tax and Succession Planning

There are countless reasons why it can be tempting not to think about inheritance tax and to consider it a problem for another day. Living far from the UK and hopefully being in good health, can mean that we are more focused on growing our wealth, rather than planning to protect it on death. Find out how you can plan ahead at this seminar. This session will cover a number of key considerations including:

- Implications of your Domicile if you decide to retire overseas.
- Implications of your Domicile if you decide to return to the UK.
- An overview of the UK Inheritance Tax regime.
- Inheritance Tax reliefs and possible planning solutions.
- Use of Trusts for succession planning.

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Grand Lapa @ Naam Garden
12 December 2019

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6:30pm - 8:30pm

Any Chamber Members Mop 250

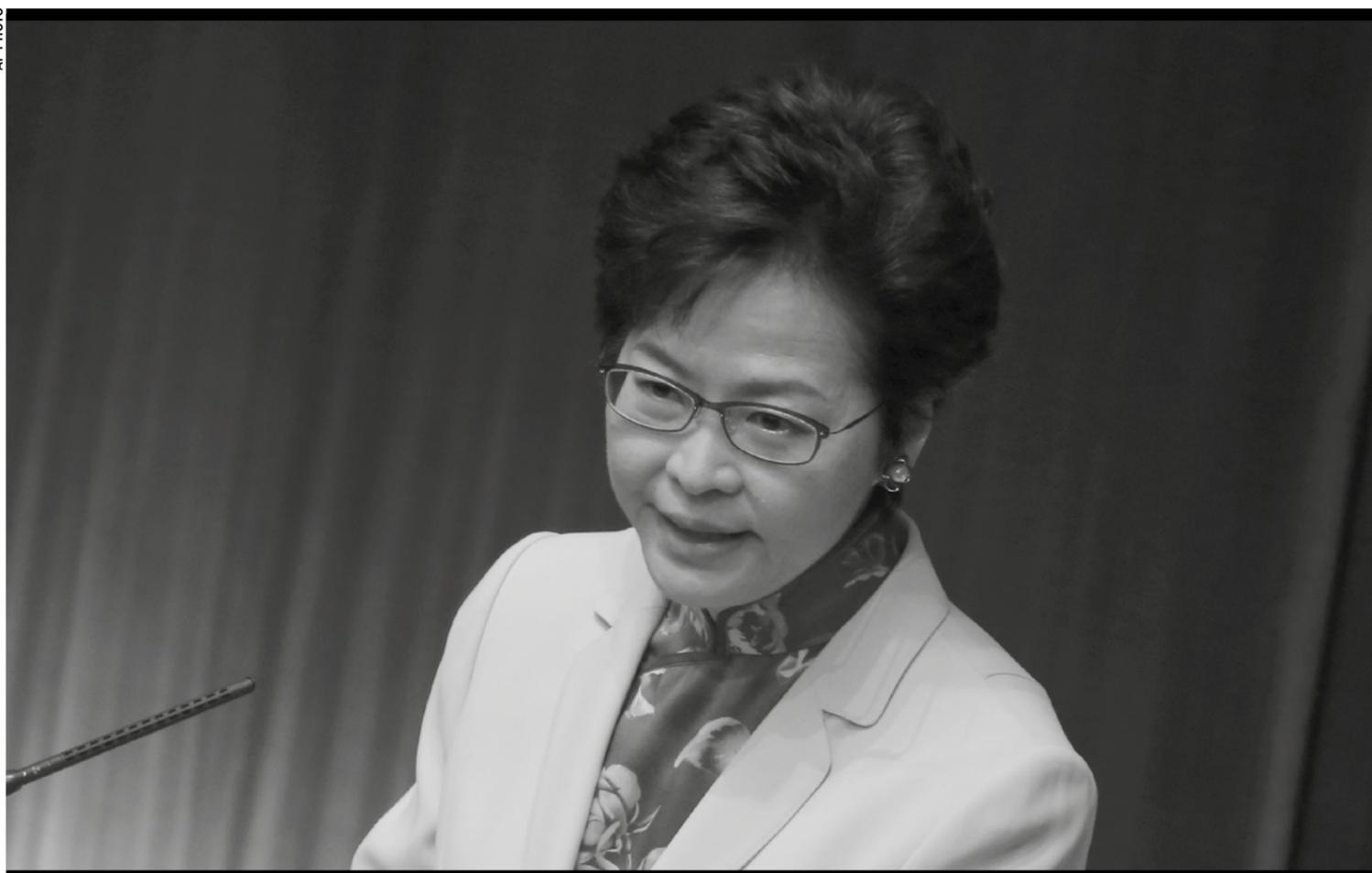
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AP PHOTO



HONG KONG

CARRIE LAM PROMISES NEW ROUND OF ECONOMIC RELIEF MEASURES

IAIN MARLOW
& NATALIE LUNG

HONG Kong's leader pledged more relief measures in the wake of data showing that the city's unrest drove a record decline in retail sales.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam told reporters yesterday that the government would soon announce new moves to prop up the city's flagging economy after almost six months of protests and political strife. She didn't elaborate on what the

measures would entail, saying only that they would be "targeted."

October retail sales contracted 24.3% by value year on year, the fourth month of double-digit declines. On Monday, Financial Secretary Paul Chan told lawmakers that he expected the first fiscal year budget deficit since the early 2000s, and said that the turmoil has dragged down economic growth by some 2 percentage points this year.

Protesters and police again clashed in Hong Kong's streets over the weekend, following a lull in violence surrounding local elections in which pro-de-

mocracy candidates secured a landslide win. Demonstrators, who initially turned out to stop legislation that would've allowed extraditions to mainland China,

have since expanded their demands to include greater democracy and an independent inquiry into the police.

"We saw repeated scenes of violence that we didn't wish to see," Lam said, referring to the latest scuffles be-

Lam declined to answer questions about whether she would consider meeting further protester demands

tween protesters and police. "It has poured cold water on our hope that there can be a way to stop such violence, so that our economy can have a chance of revival. I hope very much that violence will stop as soon as possible."

Lam said the new round of economic stimulus measures would be aimed at sectors that have been "particularly challenged" through the unrest. "Overall, the way to do it is still be targeted," she said, adding that all departments would be involved.

The new effort would follow previous stimulus measures, including a HKD19 billion (\$2.4 billion) package in August. In October, Lam added another HKD2 billion in economic support and announced a raft of new policies, including loosened mortgage rules, compulsory land purchases for housing, cash for students and increased subsidies for low-income families.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and other officials in Beijing have repeatedly reaffirmed support for Lam's government despite her historically low poll numbers. On Tuesday, Lam declined to answer questions about whether she would consider meeting further protester demands, such as calls for an independent commission of inquiry into the causes of the unrest and alleged police abuses.

"I have already responded to these demands many times," she said. "I have nothing to add at the moment."

Lam also condemned U.S. legislation supporting Hong Kong's protesters as unnecessary and unwarranted, in her first comments since President Donald Trump signed two bills into law. "It creates an unstable and uncertain environment," she said, adding that Hong Kong would follow Beijing's lead on instituting countermeasures to retaliate against the action. **BLOOMBERG**

CENSORSHIP

HK economist says his views on China cost him his job

A local Hong Kong economist said he was asked to leave his job at a mainland Chinese-owned bank, in the latest example of political tensions erupting in the financial hub after months of protests.

Law Ka Chung left his role as chief economist at Bank of Communications (Hong Kong) in October, with no official announcement. The analyst said he suspects his views are the reason he was asked to leave after more than 14 years.

The former chief economist in an article in August said protests in Hong Kong

would deepen the city's slowdown but argued their impact was limited, contradicting the dire outlook in China's mainland media. He said he was asked to leave the bank shortly after he shared with colleagues a link to an outside article critical of China's firewalls and closed system. He was also asked to refrain from commenting on the Chinese economy, he said.

"China just needs people to stay low profile and be quiet," Law said in an interview yesterday. "They just want to silence all voices, be it researchers, students or

media."

The departure risks stoking speculation that Hong Kong could lose its status as a relatively independent financial center outside of China. Pro-democracy protests have rocked Hong Kong for almost six months, stirring tension across workplaces in the former British colony, with bankers often caught in the midst. Chinese-owned banks and shops have been targeted by angry protesters. Local citizens and those who emigrated from mainland China often clash online and in real life.

BoCom wasn't immediately able to comment. Law's departure was earlier reported by Apple Daily.

Law said he has felt pressure since as early as 2014, when the so-called Umbrella Movement started. Friends and other analysts are now indicating that pressure to keep comments guarded is spreading to local and foreign banks as well, he said.

Law said the bank outlined his compensation stretching into next year just two months before he was asked to resign. He left behind him a team of mainly local Hong

Kongers.

"I have little contact with them after I left," he said. "I wish them good luck."

The turmoil has plunged Hong Kong into a recession, in part as a dearth of mainland visitors has choked off retail sales. Expat bankers and even those born in the city have explored options of leaving the city while residents from mainland China have grown more fearful.

With employees entangled or caught up in the turmoil, banks including HSBC Holdings Plc have called for a peaceful resolution. One Mandarin Chinese speaking

JPMorgan Chase & Co. employee was punched in the face and a Citigroup Inc. banker was briefly detained after a scuffle with police. A BNP Paribas SA executive left his job to focus on his activism for Hong Kong.

But even before protests broke out citywide, the fear of offending China have made some of the Wall Street banks bow. UBS Group AG put its top economist Paul Donovan on temporary leave earlier this year after a reference in his research to "Chinese pigs" caused an avalanche of criticism in China. **BLOOMBERG**

AVIATION

IndiGo stops pushing Airbus engines to limit

ANURAG KOTOKY

INDIGO has told its pilots to stop pushing engines on its new Airbus SE jets to the limit when the planes are climbing, after India's aviation regulator said the practice may have contributed to turbines failing in the air.

All the budget airline's A320neo aircraft now use a lower thrust setting following take off, according to a spokeswoman from IndiGo, which has suffered 13 engine shutdowns during ascents this year. The decision was taken "in order to make every possible effort to minimize exposure of engines," she wrote in an email, adding that manufacturer Pratt & Whitney stated there's no evidence of a connection between climbing procedure and engine incidents.

Ascending at maximum power can help burn less fuel as it takes less time to reach cruising altitude. IndiGo made the switch only after India's Directorate General of Civil Aviation found in a probe - first reported by Bloomberg on Friday - that full-thrust climbs could wear down the engines and probably contributed to the shutdowns, people familiar with the matter said earlier.

IndiGo instructed pilots of the A320neo-family of jets last month to use no more than 93% thrust on the Pratt engines until they reach 25,000 feet (7,622 meters), the people said. They asked not to be identified because the change hadn't been made public.

The airline spokeswoman



said the change had "hardly any difference" in day to day operations, beyond taking two to three minutes longer for aircraft to reach optimum flight level due to lower thrust settings. "Difference in fuel consumption is marginal," she said.

IndiGo is among the world's fastest-growing carriers. Smaller rival Go Airlines India Ltd., which uses the same Pratt engine, typically uses the more gentle alt-climb approach now employed by IndiGo and hasn't faced similar engine failures, people familiar with the matter have said.

Pratt representatives didn't immediately respond to requests for comment, while the DGCA declined to comment on

what it described as an internal issue for IndiGo. Airbus declined to comment on its customers' operations.

Shares of InterGlobe Aviation Ltd., which operates IndiGo, fell as much as 3.3% in Mumbai.

IndiGo's mid-flight dramas have been a headache for the airline. The DGCA has said every time a new plane joins IndiGo's fleet, it must ground one A320neo that hasn't had its engines fixed. That essentially prevents Asia's biggest budget airline by market value from adding new flights until the issue is addressed.

IndiGo is the world's top A320neo customer. It has 730 of the latest model on order and wants to expand its network

beyond cities such as Istanbul to destinations including London.

IndiGo told pilots, engineers and training crew in mid November about the "alternate max climb rating option" on its A320neo-family of jets, the people said. Such a practice is also known as a "derated takeoff."

The airline's new guidelines say the Pratt engines on the A320neo cannot return to full thrust before 31,000 feet, while the bigger A321neo needs to gain a further 2,000 feet before maximum power is applied, they said. That process will reduce wear and tear on the engines, and will be applicable to all new engines as well, one of the people said. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

REAL ESTATE

Singapore developers raise alarm over supply glut

FARIS MOKHTAR

SINGAPORE'S developers have expressed alarm over the high supply of private apartments amid slowing demand, with the glut threatening to suppress property prices.

President of the Real Estate Developers' Association of Singapore, Chia Ngiang Hong, said at a dinner Monday evening that home builders are concerned about the fat pipeline and subdued demand.

"We hope the government will continue to watch the pulse of the market, with the aim of maintaining a stable and sustainable market in line with economic fundamentals," Chia was quoted in local media as saying.

Chia described the property market as challenging and said developers are already more cautious when bidding for land.

Data from the Urban Redevelopment Authority released yesterday showed there are around 39,000 private housing units currently in the pipeline, though this has "declined progressively over the past few quarters."

Around 34,000 of the unsold units come from the government's land sales program and en-bloc sites. The other 5,000 are from sites still pending planning approval.

Property cooling measures that were imposed in July last year eased home values for a period but prices have begun rebounding over the past few quarters. Overall transaction volumes have remained modest.

Just last week, Singapore's central bank issued a warning that an oversupply of apartments threatens to push down dwelling values. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Grand Hyatt announces festive offerings for Christmas period



Grand Hyatt Macau is presenting a variety of offers and programs with the festive season just around the corner.

Its restaurant mezza9 Macau has curated a festive line-up of "Dining from the Kitchen" de-

lights, which will be available on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, New Year's Eve, and as part of an additional lunch buffet on Christmas Day.

According to a press release, the menu will feature roast

turkey with trimming, rib-eye steak, and whole yellowfin tuna, among others.

Meanwhile, guests looking to enjoy a festive, family-friendly afternoon of delights may choose to indulge in the Festive Grand Set at Lobby Lounge. Available from December 13 to 25, the Festive Grand Set includes mont blanc, mince pie with clotted cream and a mini raspberry chocolate yule log, along with festive drinks from a selection of Red Christmas tea by TWG.

Guests are also invited to enjoy a tranquil getaway during the festive season, with Isala Spa offering four personalized facial treatments to help guests unwind and relax.

Wynn holds contest to promote responsible gaming awareness



Wynn has held a "Responsible Gaming Script Contest" to encourage Macau students and citizens to participate in amplifying awareness of the topic of responsible gaming by writing scripts in July this year.

Hosted by Wynn, the 2019 Responsible Gaming Script Contest aims to enhance public understanding of responsible gaming, the gaming operator said in a statement. The contest's award cere-

mony and drama show took place previously at the University of Macau, attracting more than 200 guests that included teachers and students in Macau, participants, and their relatives and friends.

The event was divided into open and student groups, overseen by a panel of judges comprised of the organizers, representatives from the supporting organizations and a drama professional. After a detailed review of over 40 entries, the judging panel selected the four best scripts from each of the two groups. The winning teams were then invited to perform on stage to present their works to the audience.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

BILLIONAIRES INVESTING IN CHINA'S ELECTRIC CARS FACE SHAKEOUT

SOME of China's wealthiest tycoons steered billions of dollars into electric-car companies in order to fuel the country's dreams of becoming a leader in the field. Now a reckoning may be looming as car sales slow and the government reduces subsidies for the nascent industry.

That leaves the flagship companies of Jack Ma, Pony Ma, Hui Ka Yan and Robin Li facing an increasingly steep path to profitability on their bets that electric vehicles can be smartphones-on-wheels connecting passengers to other businesses. Their capital, along with dozens of startups raising \$18 billion, helped inflate an electric bubble that now looks to be in danger of popping.

China's car market is experiencing a prolonged sales slump, prompting EV makers to slash earnings outlooks. With China considering further cuts to the subsidies for consumer purchases in order to force automakers to compete on their own, a shakeout is looming that not even the tycoons' support may be able to prevent, said Rachel Miu, an analyst with DBS Group Holdings Ltd. in Hong Kong. "For the new kids on the block in the EV space, it's a steep uphill climb," she said.

Here's what China's richest people have to show for their companies' EV investments:

ALIBABA: XPENG COUPE

Jack Ma stepped down as chairman of Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. in September after amassing a \$40 billion-plus fortune, but China's richest man retains his board seat - and influence - at the e-commerce emporium he created. Alibaba has participated in several funding rounds for Guangzhou Xiaopeng Motors Technology Co., or Xpeng Motors, including one in 2018 that raised 2.2 billion yuan (\$313 million) for the carmaker co-founded by former Alibaba executive He Xiaopeng.

Xpeng launched its first vehicle, the five-seat G3 SUV, last year and has sold 11,940 vehicles so far this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

The company, founded in 2014, also is teaming up with more-established automakers. A factory built with Haima Automobile Co. can produce 150,000 EVs annually. Another should soon begin assembling the P7 coupe, scheduled to begin deliveries next year.

The journey hasn't been without controversy, though, as some engineers bound for Xpeng stand accused of stealing from their ex-employers in the U.S. In March, Tesla Inc. sued a former

BLOOMBERG



engineer, alleging he uploaded files, directories and copies of source code to his personal cloud storage account before resigning. Also, a former Apple Inc. engineer was indicted last year for allegedly pilfering self-driving car secrets on his way to an Xpeng job. His trial is upcoming.

"We are very adamant that we pursue our own R&D," President Brian Gu said. "Copyright is very important to us."

Hangzhou-based Alibaba, the second-largest shareholder in Xpeng, didn't answer specific questions about the automaker.

Xiaomi Corp., the consumer-electronics company, participated in another \$400 million fundraising round, the automaker said Nov. 13.

TENCENT: NIO LISTS

Pony Ma's Tencent Holdings Ltd., whose WeChat messaging app helped make him China's second-richest person, led a \$1 billion investment round in NIO Inc. in 2017. With more than 26,000 vehicles sold, NIO's one of the few Chinese startups making multiple models, and it beat rivals with an initial public offering in New York last year.

But losses piled up with the overall sales slump and as the company, which has been described as "China's Tesla," plowed money into marketing and real estate. It sponsored a Bruno Mars concert and opened luxury clubs for NIO owners that feature showrooms, coffee bars and performance spaces. By August the company had opened 19 NIO Houses over 22 months, and combined rental expenses were equivalent to 6.3% of revenue during the 12 months ended March, according to Bloomberg Intelligence.

"NIO chooses the direct sales

mode and pays great attention to user experience," the company said. It doesn't plan to close its existing clubs - or open new ones.

NIO lost \$2.8 billion in the 12 months ended June on revenue of \$1.2 billion, and its shares have plunged this year. The Shanghai-based company cut about 20% of its workforce through September, when Tencent injected another \$100 million.

"Our sales have been under pressure since the subsidies went down," NIO Chief Executive Officer William Li said. "It has come to a new era that one can only win customers with quality products and services."

Shenzhen-based Tencent expressed support for EVs but didn't answer specific questions about NIO.

EVERGRANDE: HIGH HOPES

One of the more startling entrants in the EV industry is property developer China Evergrande Group, which declared it wanted to be the world's biggest manufacturer within three to five years. That means surpassing Tesla, which just opened a factory in

Shanghai. Between September 2018 and June 2019, Evergrande invested more than \$3.8 billion in EV-related companies, according to Bloomberg Intelligence, and will start producing its Hengchi brand next year.

Evergrande, which wants to open 10 production bases, plans to spend 45 billion yuan on new-energy vehicles between 2019 and 2021. On Nov. 10, a unit announced it would spend almost \$3 billion to boost its stake in National Electric Vehicle Sweden AB to 82% from 68%.

Billionaire chairman and founder Hui Ka Yan, who's diversifying into businesses such as soccer and health care, acknowledged there isn't much overlap between Evergrande's real-estate business and its EV ambitions.

"We don't have any talent, technology, experience, or production base in manufacturing cars," Hui said. "How can we compete with the century-old automakers in the world?"

His answer: by opening Evergrande's wallet.

"Whatever core technology and company we can buy, we will

buy," he said.

Yet Hui's whatever-it-takes strategy may take a toll on Evergrande because of the cash-burning nature of NEV investments. The company's forecast of spending 45 billion yuan is probably an underestimate, and that may exacerbate its cash crunch, according to BI.

"This could crimp its home-sales margin given an urgency to sustain price cuts to boost cash collection from sales," analyst Kristy Hung said in a Nov. 22 report.

BAIDU: WM FACTORIES

Robin Li, the CEO of China's dominant internet search-engine company, made WM Motor Technology Co. part of Baidu Inc.'s move into autonomous driving. Baidu led a fundraising round this year that generated 3 billion yuan for the Shanghai-based automaker. Baidu owns a 13% stake.

WM rolled out an electric SUV last year and has delivered more than 19,000 vehicles, Chief Strategy Officer Rupert Mitchell said. So far this year, WM sold 14,273 of its battery-powered SUVs, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. That puts WM behind market leader BYD Co. - backed by Warren Buffett - and NIO, but ahead of Xpeng. WM launched a second SUV model on Nov. 22.

WM has an advantage over rivals started by employees from internet companies, Mitchell said. Founder Freeman Shen used to run Volvo Car Group in China.

"We are not moonlighters from the technology industry that are having a crack at mass-market automotive," he said.

Volvo parent Zhejiang Geely Holding Group has sued WM, seeking 2.1 billion yuan compensation for alleged copyright infringement, Chinese state media reported in September. WM has denied wrongdoing.

WM is producing vehicles at fully owned factories, which helps maintain quality control, Mitchell said. The company, which is opening a second factory next year that can make 150,000 vehicles annually, wants to raise another \$1 billion, Mitchell said.

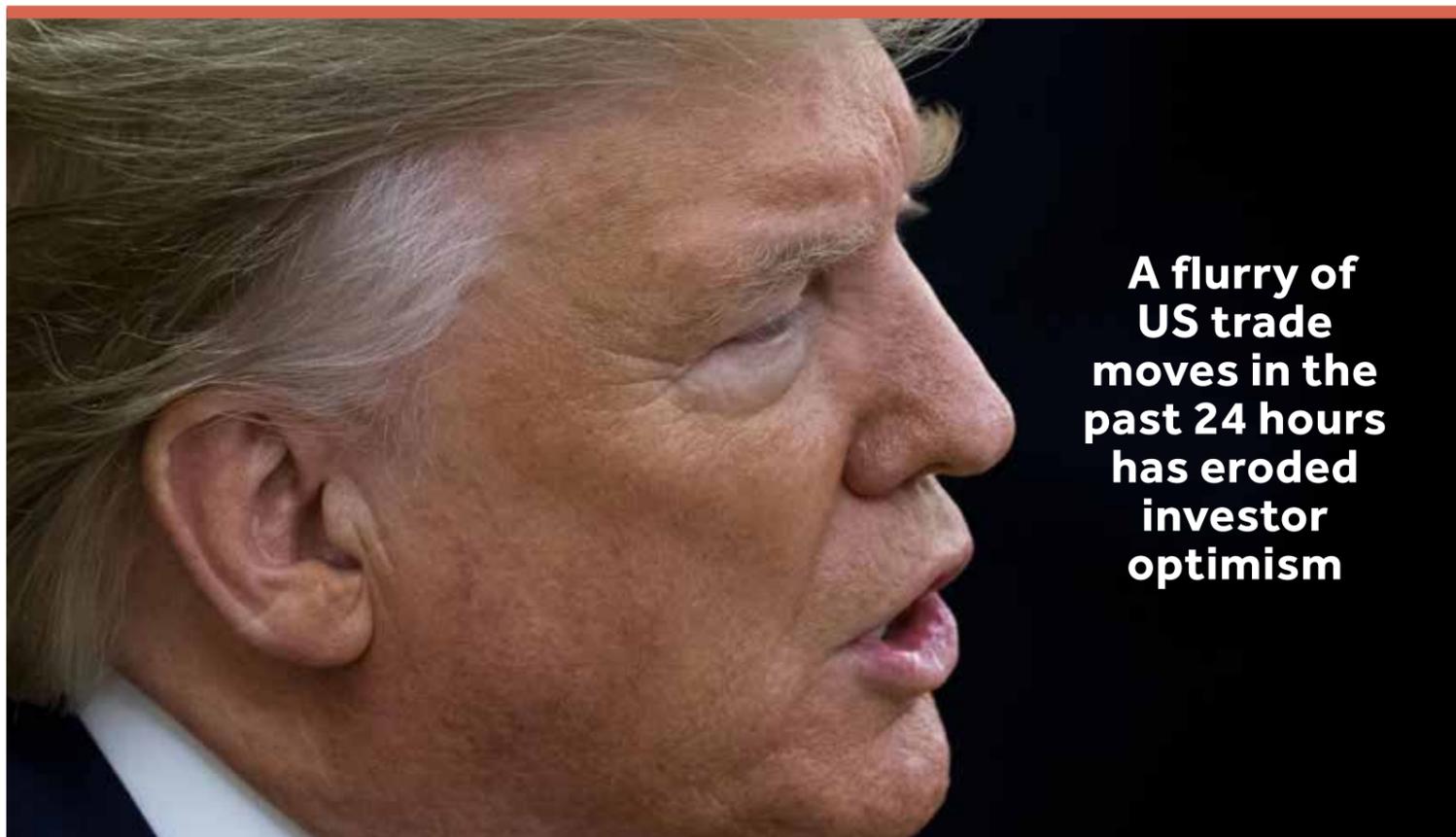
Baidu declined to comment.

BLOOMBERG



From left: Hui Ka Yan, Pony Ma and Jack Ma

AP PHOTO



A flurry of US trade moves in the past 24 hours has eroded investor optimism

TRADE WAR

Trump says China deal could wait until after election

DEREK WALLBANK & JORDAN FABIAN

PRESIDENT Donald Trump signaled he would be willing to wait for another year before striking a trade agreement with China, casting doubt on the likelihood of a phase-one accord within weeks between Washington and Beijing. "I have no deadline," he told reporters yesterday in London when

asked if he wanted an agreement by year end.

Stocks dropped in Europe and U.S. equity futures sold off as Trump's comments indicated no urgency to reach a deal by Dec. 15, which U.S. Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross earlier this week called a "logical deadline." The Trump administration has threatened to impose tariffs on more Chinese imports starting that day. Those levies would hit American consumer

products such as smartphones, toys and children's clothing just before the Christmas holiday.

"If nothing happens between now and then, the president has made quite clear he'll put the tariffs in - the increased tariffs," Ross said on Fox Business Network.

A flurry of U.S. trade moves in the past 24 hours has eroded investor optimism that Trump would ease up on tariffs that have slowed the global economy.

Yesterday, his administration unexpectedly announced plans to reinstate tariffs on steel and aluminum shipments from Brazil and Argentina, and then released plans for \$2.4 billion in levies against French imports. In between those announcements, the U.S. said it was considering increasing the scope of tariffs levied against the European Union over illegal Airbus subsidies.

Rather than ratcheting down

trade tensions, Trump is indicating confidence that his import taxes are good for America.

"U.S. Markets are up as much as 21% since the announcement of Tariffs on 3/1/2018 - and the U.S. is taking in massive amounts of money (and giving some to our farmers, who have been targeted by China)!" Trump tweeted.

Speaking to reporters on a trip to attend a summit for the 70th anniversary of NATO, Trump suggested that in some ways, it might be better to wait until after the U.S. presidential election next November.

"I like the idea of waiting until after the election for the China deal. But they want to make a deal now and we'll see whether not the deal is going to be right. It's got to be right," he said. "The China trade deal is dependent on one thing: Do I want to make it? Because we're doing very well with China right now and we could do even better with the flick of a pen."

The dollar reversed early gains versus the yen, and Treasuries advanced.

The U.S. and China have been trying to conclude phase one of a trade deal that White House economic adviser Larry Kudlow said more than two weeks ago was "coming down to the short strokes." Stocks have jumped to records on optimism for a truce in an 20-month tariff war between the world's two largest economies that has led to tariffs on some \$500 billion in bilateral trade.

Earlier yesterday, Chinese state media said the government would soon publish a list of "unreliable entities" that could lead to sanctions against U.S. companies, signaling trade talks between the two nations are increasingly under threat from disputes over human rights in Hong Kong and Xinjiang.

BLOOMBERG

THE founder of Huawei says the Chinese tech giant is moving its U.S. research center to Canada due to American sanctions on the company.

In an interview with Toronto's Global and Mail newspaper, Ren Zhengfei said the move was necessary because Huawei would be blocked from interacting with U.S. employees.

Huawei Technologies Ltd. is the No. 2 global smartphone brand and the biggest maker of network gear for phone carriers. U.S. authorities say the company is a security risk, which Huawei denies, and announced curbs in May on its access to American components and technology.

The Trump administration announced a 90-day reprieve on some sales to Huawei. The government

Huawei moving US research center to Canada

said that would apply to components and technology needed to support wireless networks in rural areas.

Ren gave no details but Huawei confirmed in June it had cut 600 jobs at its Silicon Valley research center in Santa Clara, California, leaving about 250 employees. A Huawei spokesman said the company had no further comment.

"The research and development center will move from the United States, and Canada will be the center," Ren said in a video excerpt of the interview on the Globe and Mail website. "According to the U.S. ban, we couldn't communicate with, call, email or contact our own employees in the Uni-

ted States."

Huawei, China's first global tech brand, is scrambling to preserve its business in the face of possible loss of access to U.S. components, which threatens to damage its smartphone business.

Huawei, headquartered in the southern city of Shenzhen, also operates research and development centers in Germany, India, Sweden and Turkey.

In November, Huawei started selling a folding smartphone, the Mate X, made without U.S.-supplied processor chips or Google apps. The company also has unveiled its own smartphone operating system it says can replace Google's Android if necessary. **AP**

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES

POWERFUL TYPHOON LEAVES AT LEAST FOUR DEAD

JIM GOMEZ, MANILA

TYPHOON Kammuri barreled across the Philippines with fierce winds and rain yesterday, leaving at least four people dead, forcing hundreds of thousands of villagers to abandon high-risk communities and prompting officials to shut Manila's international airport.

Kammuri toppled trees and electrical posts, ripped off tin roofs and battered a provincial airport as it blew across island provinces in the southern fringes of the main northern Luzon island before blowing into the South China Sea. It weakened but remained dangerous with maximum sustained winds of 130 kilometers per hour and gusts of up to 200 kph as it exited, forecasters said.

At least four people died and several others were reported injured, with officials attributing the low casualty figure to the early evacuation of hundreds of thousands of villagers from villages prone to high waves, flash floods and landslides.

A villager was electrocuted while fixing the battered roof of his house in Libmanan town in Camarines Sur province in the



Police inspect a truck that was damaged as Typhoon Kammuri slammed Legazpi city, Albay province, southeast of Manila

hard-hit Bicol region, regional disaster response officer Claudio Yucot said. In Oriental Mindoro, one of the last provinces to be lashed by the typhoon, a man died after being pinned by a fallen tree and another perished after being hit by a tin roof, Gov. Humerlito Dolor said.

A construction worker on his way home on a motorcycle was hit by a falling tree and died in the port city of Ormoc in Leyte pro-

vince, police said.

"There could have been more if we did not do pre-emptive evacuations," Dolor told reporters.

The Philippines is battered by about 20 typhoons and tropical storms each year and has frequent earthquakes and volcanic eruptions, making the archipelago of more than 100 million people one of the world's most disaster-prone nations.

Evacuating entire villages and

communities and providing supplies to huge numbers of residents camped in schools and government buildings used as emergency shelters is common during typhoons, volcanic eruptions and earthquakes, largely because many mostly poor communities are in disaster-prone areas.

Kammuri's pounding rain and wind damaged the airport in Legazpi city in Albay province, collapsing a portion of its ceiling,

scattering chairs in the arrival and departure areas and shattering glass panes. A truck turned on its side after being buffeted by strong winds in the city, near Mount Mayon, one of the country's most active volcanos.

Albay is one of several provinces in the Bicol region which lost post power due to toppled posts and downed transmission lines. Nearly 2 million people were affected by the power outages, officials said.

In Manila, officials shut the international airport for seven hours starting before noon Tuesday as the typhoon roared through provinces south of the capital. More than 400 domestic and international flights were canceled due to the airport closure, airport manager Ed Monreal said.

Authorities moved thousands of Boy Scouts attending a jamboree in the mountainous town of Botolan in the northwestern province of Zambales.

The Philippines postponed several competitions in the Southeast Asian Games, which it is hosting, because of the stormy weather, including wind surfing, polo and tennis matches in Manila and outlying provinces. AP

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Paediatric Surgery : Dr. Yeung Chung Kwong

Paediatrics : Dr. Zhang Zhiqin

Obstetrics & Gynaecology : Dr. Fong Kuan Io

Plastic & Aesthetic Surgery : Dr. Lam U Lin

Orthopaedic Surgery & Sports Medicine : Dr. Lam Kun Kuan

ENT : Dr. Cheng Zheng Ang

Cardiology : Dr. Wong Kwok Yiu Chris, Dr. Jin Chun, Dr. Leong Man Kin

Gastroentero-Hepatology : Dr. Zhan De Juan

General Medicine : Dr. Ng Kam Hong, Dr. Lam Weng Chio

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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RAHIM FAIEZ, KABUL

SURVEY

Afghans' fear for personal safety has increased

AFGHANS are increasingly fearful for their personal safety, but slightly more believe their war-weary country is moving in the right direction, compared to previous years, according to a new survey released yesterday.

The Asia Foundation poll found that 74.5% of respondents say they always, often or sometimes fear for their personal safety, an increase of over 3 percentage points from 2018.

"Increased optimism around the peace talks along with persistent fears about insecurity and the economy continue to influence Afghan views," Abdullah Ahmadzai, The Asia Foundation's country representative in Afghanistan was quoted as saying in the survey.

A total of 17,812 respondents aged 18 years and up were surveyed face-to-face across all 34 provinces from July 11, 2019 to Aug. 7, 2019, the San Francisco-based foundation said.

Optimism about the nation's direction was at its highest in 2013 before declining to an all-time low in 2016 over concerns about the economy, difficult elections and the effects of radical reductions in foreign troops.

This year, 36.1% of respondents said the country is going in the right direction, up from 32.8% in 2017 and 2018, while 58.2% said the country is going in the wrong direction, down slightly from 61.3% in 2018.

One of the main drivers of the uptick in optimism is the number of respondents who cite "peace and end of war," an increase from 16.4% in 2018 to 26.3% this year.

President Donald Trump, in

AP PHOTO



Afghan policemen in riot gear sit in front of a mural during a protest demonstration by supporters of Afghanistan's leading presidential candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, in Kabul, last month

his surprise Thanksgiving holiday visit to U.S. troops in Afghanistan last week, announced that the U.S. and Taliban have been engaged in peace talks and insisted the Taliban want to make a deal after heavy U.S. fire in recent months.

The trip came after Trump abruptly broke off peace talks with the Taliban in September, canceling a secret meeting with Taliban and Afghan leaders at the

Camp David presidential retreat after a particularly deadly spate of violence, capped by a bombing in Kabul that killed 12 people, including an American soldier.

That ended a nearly yearlong effort by the U.S. to reach a political settlement with the Taliban.

It was not immediately clear how long or substantive the U.S. re-engagement with the Taliban has been.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said the Taliban's stance is unchanged. He said the United States broke off talks and when it wants to resume them, the Taliban are ready.

Following the collapse of peace talks and election delays, which took place after this year's survey field work, prospects for a sustainable political settlement are unclear, Ahmadzai said.

"More than ever, empirical data is a crucial resource for the future and development of Afghanistan," Ahmadzai added.

According to the foundation, peace talks and the long-delayed presidential election have been at the forefront of public discourse in Afghanistan this year.

Afghans' stated belief that reconciliation with the Taliban might be possible has grown significantly more common since last year, with 64% of respondents saying it is possible, up from 53.5% in 2018 and 52.3% in 2017, when the question was first asked.

Yet, belief in reconciliation does not necessarily go hand in hand with optimism about the trajectory of the country.

Just last week, a leading Afghan presidential candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, organized protests over a recount in the September election that has been mired in accusations of fraud. Thousands of Abdullah's supporters rallied Friday in the capital, Kabul, against what they said is the presence of fake ballots during a recount that seems set to favor the incumbent, President Ashraf Ghani.

Results of the Sept. 28 presidential polls have been repeatedly delayed amid accusations of misconduct and technical problems with counting ballots.

If no candidate obtains over 50% in the results, a second round of voting will be held.

Ghani and Abdullah head a fragile national unity government that was put together under U.S. pressure after both leaders claimed victory in Afghanistan's last elections in 2014.

The study had a margin of error of plus or minus 1.16 percentage points. AP

North Korea says it's up to US to choose 'Christmas gift'

NORTH Korea yesterday repeated its assertions that the Trump administration is running out of time to salvage nuclear negotiations, saying it's entirely up to the United States to choose what "Christmas gift" it gets from the North.

The statement, attributed to a senior diplomat, came as North Korea continues to dial up pressure on Washington and Seoul ahead of leader Kim Jong Un's end-of-year deadline for the U.S. to offer mutually acceptable terms for a deal.

Negotiations have faltered since a February summit between Kim and President Donald Trump broke down after the U.S. rejected North Korean demands for broad sanctions relief in

AP PHOTO



exchange for a partial surrender of its nuclear capabilities.

Working-level talks held in Sweden in October broke down over what the North Koreans described as the

Americans' "old stance and attitude."

Ri Thae Song, a vice foreign minister handling U.S. affairs, accused Washington of repeating talk offers aimed at buying

time without offering real solutions. In comments reported by state media, Ri reiterated earlier North Korean statements that the country has no intention to continue the nuclear diplo-

macy unless it gets something substantial in return.

"The dialogue touted by the U.S. is, in essence, nothing but a foolish trick hatched to keep the DPRK bound to dialogue and use it in favor of the political situation and election in the U.S.," Ri said, referring to North Korea by its formal name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

"What is left to be done now is the U.S. option and it is entirely up to the U.S. what Christmas gift it will select to get," Ri said.

Kim has said he would seek a "new path" if the United States persists with sanctions and pressure. The North has tested a series of new solid-fuel missile systems in recent months, which experts

say potentially expands its ability to strike targets in South Korea and Japan. It has also threatened to lift a self-imposed moratorium on nuclear and long-range missile tests and resume launches over Japan.

Kim and Trump exchanged crude insults and war threats amid a provocative run in North Korean nuclear and missile tests in 2017, but both leaders have described their personal relationship as good since they began their high-stakes nuclear summitry in 2018.

After the North tested its first intercontinental ballistic missile in July 2017, Kim called the missile a "package of gifts" to the Americans for their Fourth of July holiday. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

UN SECURITY COUNCIL TO HEAD TO WASHINGTON, AND KENTUCKY

JENNIFER PELTZ,
UNITED NATIONS

THE United Nations Security Council is set to meet President Donald Trump over lunch tomorrow, then travel later this month to part of the U.S. that's off the beaten path for world diplomats: Kentucky.

It's the home state of Ambassador Kelly Craft, who announced the plans in brief remarks to reporters yesterday [Macau time] as the U.S. began a stint in the council's rotating presidency. She said the U.S. tenure would focus on how the council could gain "more credibility."

"We're speaking to the world, and I think it's really important, that we owe it as a moral obligation, not only to speak about topics that are relevant but also to have an outcome," Kraft said, calling for reflection on the council's work this year and how it might improve.

Tasked with maintaining international peace and security, the council generally sets out for hotspots when it leaves headquarters.



United States U.N. Ambassador Kelly Craft, current President of the U.N. Security Council

Visits this year have included Iraq and neighboring Kuwait, a council member; Mali, the site of the deadliest U.N. peacekeeping mission, and other countries

dealing with or trying to emerge from war, violence, political crises and other strife. The U.S. and South Africa co-led an October trip to South Sudan, where there's

a U.N. peacekeeping force, and to a meeting with African Union leaders in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

The council also has traveled at times to the White House and

to informal retreats or visits to members' countries.

China invited the council to visit during its November 2018 presidency, for example, in what was billed as a "side event" for members to learn more about China's participation in peacekeeping operations and get a firsthand look at its development.

Former U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley talked about bringing council members to her home state of South Carolina in September 2018. The Carolinas were hit by a hurricane that month, and the trip ultimately didn't happen.

The U.S. mission to the U.N. didn't immediately say what the theme would be for the Dec. 13-15 trip to Frankfort and Lexington, Kentucky.

Kraft said members will have a day of "sofa talks" and informal meetings, to be held at the headquarters of animal feed and beverage conglomerate Alltech Inc.

Also on the agenda: dining at the governor's mansion, watching the No. 8-ranked University of Kentucky men's basketball team play unranked Georgia Tech, and bottling some of the Bluegrass State's famed bourbon.

Kraft, a Kentucky native, became Washington's envoy to the U.N. in September, after serving as ambassador to Canada. AP

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LORNE COOK, LONDON

U.S. President Donald Trump yesterday took aim at President Emmanuel Macron over the French leader's criticism of NATO, and criticized the other members of the military alliance for being too slow to beef up their defense budgets.

As prime ministers and presidents of the 29-member alliance converged on London for a summit marking NATO's 70th birthday, Trump told reporters Macron's comments were "very nasty" when he lamented the "brain death" of the organization due in large part to a lack of U.S. leadership.

"Sometimes he'll say things that he shouldn't say," Trump said. "Sometimes I think he does things that are counterproductive for his own country."

During campaigning for the last election, Trump described NATO as "obsolete." He has since tempered his criticism somewhat.

Relations between the U.S. and France are particularly strained this week after The U.S. Trade Representative proposed introducing tariffs on \$2.4 billion in goods in retaliation for a French tax on global tech giants including Google, Amazon and Facebook. Trump and Macron are due to meet on the sidelines of the summit.

Discussing military funding, Trump noted that "a lot of countries haven't paid."

After Russia annexed the Crimean Peninsula in 2014, NATO countries halted their post-Cold War spending cuts and began increasing spending. They pledged to "move toward" spending 2% of GDP on their national defense budgets by 2024.

"You could make the case that they've been delinquent for 25-30 years," Trump said, after talks with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg. He added that the figure of 2% "is a very low number, it really should be 4."

Stoltenberg, given the unenviable task of trying to hold NATO together as its leaders take pot shots at each other, said that "we're doing more together, North America and Europe, than we have done in many decades."

European allies and Canada are forecast by the end of this year to have increased defense spending by \$130 billion since 2016. NATO predicts they will be spending \$400 billion more by 2024.

The summit in London comes amid a series of spats between leaders that threatens to expose a lack of unity that could well undermine the military organization's credibility.

Macron insisted ahead of the meeting that the endless spending debate should be set aside so that NATO can focus on important strategic questions like

Trump attacks Macron over NATO comments



High security outside of Central Hall Westminster in London for the event 'NATO Engages'

who its enemies really are, how to improve ties with Russia and what to do with an unpredictable ally like Turkey.

In turn, Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan has lashed out at Macron, and the very public arguments bode ill for a

summit hosted by British Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who is deep into an electoral campaign and desperately wants to smooth

things over.

Ankara raised the ire of its allies by invading northern Syria, and for buying Russian air defense systems with powerful computers aboard that suck up data and would compromise the military equipment of allies if they were stationed nearby.

Before heading to London, Erdogan suggested that Turkey might not back Poland and NATO's Baltic allies — Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania — should they require defending unless the allies support Turkish concerns about Syrian Kurdish fighters, which Ankara sees as terrorists.

That threat raises new questions about NATO's commitment to its collective defense clause — Article 5 — under which all allies vow to come to the aid of a member under attack. The clause has only ever been activated once, after the 9/11 attacks in the United States.

The two-day summit kicks off with receptions at Buckingham Palace and Downing Street. One short working session will be held at a golf resort in outer London on Wednesday. The aim is to issue a joint declaration — if the summit can survive the friendly fire.

Trump is due to hold separate talks with Macron, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, Danish Prime Minister Mette Frederiksen and Italian Premier Giuseppe Conte on the sidelines of the summit. Johnson is also set to host talks on Syria with Macron, Merkel and Erdogan today. AP

FRANCE THREATENS RETALIATION IF US DOUBLES CHAMPAGNE PRICE

FRANCE is threatening a "strong European riposte" if the Trump administration follows through on a proposal to hit French cheese, Champagne, handbags and other products with tariffs - of up to 100%.

The U.S. Trade Representative proposed the tariffs on \$2.4 billion in goods in retaliation for a French tax on global tech giants including Google, Amazon and Facebook.

"I'm not in love with those (tech) companies, but they're our companies," Trump said yesterday ahead of a sure-to-be-tense meeting with French President Emmanuel Macron in London.

The move is likely to increase trade tensions between the U.S. and Europe. Trump said the European Union should "shape up, otherwise things are going to get very tough."

French Finance Minister Bruno Le Maire said the U.S. tariff threat is "simply unacceptable. ... It's not the behavior we expect from the United States toward one of its main allies."

Le Maire said the French tech tax is aimed at "establishing tax justice." France wants digital companies to pay their fair share of taxes in countries where they make money instead of using tax havens, and is pushing for an international agreement on the issue.

"If (the world) wants solid tax revenue in the 21st century, we have to be able to tax the digital economy," he said. "This French taxation is not directed at any country, or against any company."



He also noted that France will reimburse the tax if the U.S. agrees to the international tax plan.

Le Maire said France talked this week with the European Commission about EU-wide retaliatory measures if Washington follows through with the tariffs next month.

EU Commission spokesman Daniel Rosario said the EU will seek "immediate discussions with the U.S. on how to solve this issue amicably."

The U.S. tariffs could double the price American consumers pay for French imports and would come on top of a 25% tax on French wine imposed last month over a separate dispute over subsidies to Airbus and Boeing.

French cheese producers expressed con-

cern that the threatened new tariffs would hit small businesses hardest. It would also further squeeze exporters hit by a Russian embargo on European foods.

The Office of the U.S. Trade Representative charges that France's new digital services tax discriminates against U.S. companies.

Le Maire disputes that, saying it targets European and Chinese businesses, too. The tax imposes a 3% annual levy on French revenues of any digital company with yearly global sales worth more than 750 million euros (\$830 million) and French revenue exceeding 25 million euros.

"What we want is a plan for international tax that is on the table" at the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, Le Maire said. AP

what's ON



2ND MACAU OCEAN CULTURE FESTIVAL - CREATIVE DESIGN COMPETITION EXHIBITION

TIME: Open 24 hours

UNTIL: December 19, 2019

VENUE: Sai Van Lake

ADMISSION: Free

FACEBOOK: porthistorymacau

THE WORLD AS WILL AND IDEA - COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF EMERGING ARTISTS FROM MAINLAND CHINA

TIME: 10am-7pm (No admittance after 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

VENUE: Macau Contemporary Art Centre - Navy Yard No.1, located at Rua de S. Tiago Da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LINGUA FRANCA - 2ND ANNUAL ARTS EXHIBITION BETWEEN CHINA AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Monday)

UNTIL: December 8, 2019

VENUE: No. 55-57, Avenida do Coronel Mesquita, known as Green Townhouses; Former Municipal Cattle Stable

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

FASHION INTERACTION - GUANGZHOU-HONG KONG-MACAU-SHENZHEN CREATIVE FASHION EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2019

VENUE: Macau Fashion Gallery

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 3341

Offbeat

MAN RESCUED AFTER 13 NIGHTS STRANDED IN OUTBACK; ONE MISSING

AP PHOTO



A second person missing in the punishing Australian Outback for almost two weeks was rescued yesterday, while the search continued for their missing friend.

Northern Territory Police said Phu Tran was found by a livestock farmer south of Alice Springs. He was taken to a hospital to be treated for exposure.

Superintendent Pauline Vicary said Phu told the farmer he had survived after finding some water.

The trio set out from Alice Springs for an afternoon drive on Nov. 19 when their car got stuck in a riverbed in the arid region.

Tamra McBeath-Riley was found late Sunday near a waterhole where the trio had been staying. She received treatment in an Alice Springs hospital for dehydration.

The search continued for Claire Hockridge.

McBeath-Riley told officials that Phu and Hockridge began trekking toward a highway on Thursday, carrying water and walking at night to avoid the desert heat, which came close to 40 degrees Celsius in recent days.

McBeath-Riley said she decided to stay at the waterhole with a dog that she did not think would survive a walk to the Stuart Highway, which connects Australia's north and south coasts. They did not know anyone was looking for them.

Vicary said searchers had found one set of footprints.

"It's quite a diverse terrain. There's sandy dunes, there's hard clay, there's areas of dense trees, but there are also rocks and ranges in the area," she said.

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13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	BING
16:00	História a História com Fernando Rosas
16:30	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:00	Império (Repetição)
18:55	TDM Entrevista (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:10	Macau 20 Anos
21:25	Semana Internacional
22:00	Tesouro Pirata nas Caraíbas Sr.1 - Fim
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	O Último Reino Sr.2
00:50	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:35	RTPi Directo

cinema



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28 Nov - 05 Dec



FROZEN II

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:10, 6:00, 7:50pm

Director: Chris Buck, Jennifer Lee

Starring: Kristen Bell, Jonathan Groff, Idina Menzel

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 103min



21 BRIDGES

ROOM 1

9:45pm

Director: Brian Kirk

Starring: Chadwick Boseman, J.K. Simmons, Sienna Miller

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

THE GOOD LIAR

ROOM 2

Director: Bill Condom

Starring: Hellen Mirren, Ian McKellen, Russel Tovey

Language: English

Duration: 99min

KNIVES OUT

ROOM 3

2:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Rian Johnson

Starring: Daniel Craig, Chris Evans, Toni Collette, Jamie Lee Curtis

Language: English

Duration: 152min

GUILTY BY DESIGN

ROOM 3

5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Siu Kwan Lai, Wing Tai Lau

Starring: Nick Cheung, Kent Cheng, Hans Zhang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 93min

this day in history



2003 US PULLS BACK FROM STEEL TRADE WAR

The US President, George W Bush, has withdrawn a punitive tax on imported steel to avoid a damaging trade war between the United States and Europe.

The World Trade Organisation (WTO) last month turned down a US appeal against its July ruling that the duties, imposed in March 2002, are illegal.

Mr Bush justified them by saying foreign steel firms were driving US firms out of business with unfair competition and government subsidies.

The EU was planning sanctions worth \$2.2bn in retaliation against the move, but says they will now be dropped.

White House spokesman Scott McClellan, reading a statement on behalf of Mr Bush, said: "These safeguard measures have now achieved their purpose and, as a result of changed economic circumstances, it is time to lift them."

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick said the tariff decision had been made independently of the EU's threat of retaliation.

At no stage did the US administration admit it had acted illegally in breaching WTO rules.

On hearing the tariffs were being dropped, the EU Trade Minister Pascal Lamy said: "This is good news for us... The important thing is that this sort of thing should not happen again."

It is believed that pressure from the British Prime Minister Tony Blair during Mr Bush's controversial visit to London last month was instrumental in convincing him to lift the tariffs.

The tariffs, which added up to 30% to the cost of a range of imported steel products, were originally imposed to satisfy an election pledge Mr Bush made to steel bosses and workers.

The US blamed cheap imports for the bankruptcy of 31 steel firms since 1997, with 20,000 job losses.

But the EU - which had also suffered 22,200 job losses over four years at the time - said it had not resorted to such measures while it was forced to restructure.

President Bush may now face a backlash from those workers who said he promised to keep the tariffs in place for three years.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Further trade wars threaten over the import of genetically modified food and crops from the US, despite the fact that EU public opinion is strongly opposed to such products. The US has launched a trade complaint at the WTO, while the EU has postponed a decision on whether to allow some GM crops to be imported.

In January 2004, China - the world's top steelmaker and user - imposed tariffs of up to 55% on steel imports from five countries which it said were hurting its domestic producers, to an international outcry.

In August 2004 trade talks in Geneva reached a framework agreement on opening up global trade to allow poorer nations better access to world markets. It was hailed as a major breakthrough after three years of wrangling over the issue.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS



ARIES

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

No matter what kind of conversation you get involved in today, you need to make sure that you come off in a good light. Your reputation is your top concern right now, so it's essential for you to take care of it.



TAURUS

Apr. 20-May. 20

Eavesdrop much? An overheard conversation will likely make your blood boil. A preachy type of person thinks they know all the answers - but you know better.



GEMINI

May. 21-Jun. 21

Keep your agenda hidden today, because there are a couple of people around you who would try to change your mind if they knew what you were really up to!



CANCER

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You'll have the graceful balance of an Olympic gymnast today, able to handle anything that comes your way with aplomb. This is a wonderful time in your life - you are full of more can-do energy than ever before.



LEO

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Spend your time with the shy kids in the corner. Not to pull them out of their shell - but just to learn by example what it's like to observe the world from a distance. Being shy has its distinct advantages.



VIRGO

Aug. 23-Sep. 22

It's tempting to just check out when a drama begins to unfold between your friends or family members, but you need to make sure that throwing up your hands and saying 'forget it' is the right answer.



LIBRA

Sep. 23-Oct. 22

Mistakes happen, and assumptions are made from time to time - there's no harm in that. You made an assumption, and you were not correct. But don't let your honest mistakes get you down in the dumps!



SCORPIO

Oct. 23-Nov. 21

You will definitely have to take the initiative today if you want the day to go smoothly. The folks in charge don't know as much about things as you do, and they could use a little help.



SAGITTARIUS

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Time is of the essence right now, so if there is a decision that needs to be made, don't waste too much time thinking things through. And don't waste too much time getting everyone else's opinions.



CAPRICORN

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Today, your plans for the near future might have to be revised quite a bit - a wrench will get thrown into the works by someone who holds a lot of power over you. There is little you can do other than react.



AQUARIUS

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Without the structure you are used to following, the sheer number of your choices risks becoming overwhelming. Get advice from someone who has been through all of this before.

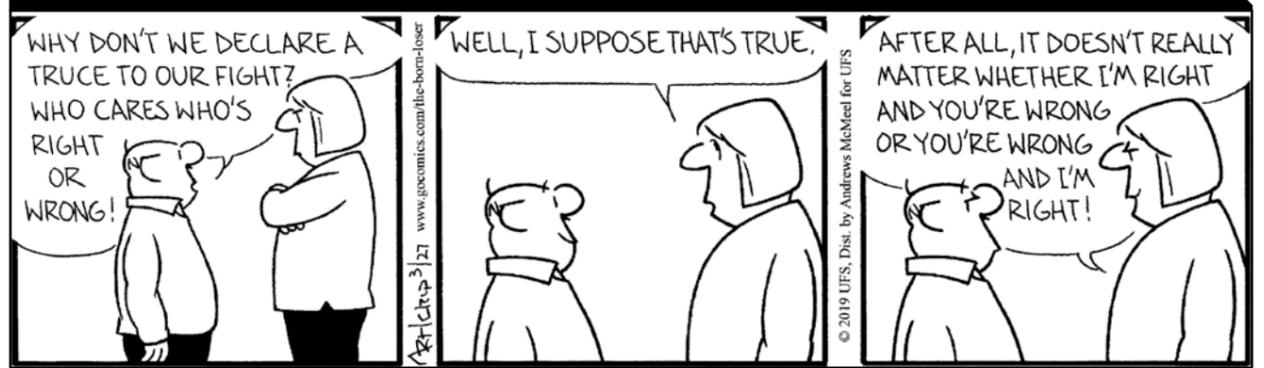


PISCES

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

This will be a surprising day - it will start off smooth and easy, but don't let yourself get too comfortable! As the day moves forward, there will be a lot of noise coming from people who are relatively new to the scene.

The Born Loser by Chip Sanson



SUDOKU

EASY					EASY+					
		4	2	5	9	9				5
8	9				3		5		9	
2		9	3			6	4	3		
8		3	4	2		7	8			1
6	1	5	8	3		8	2	6	4	
	3	6	9		4	3		1	9	
		4	7		1		3	9		2
3				7	4		7		5	
4	5	1	3			9				7

MEDIUM					HARD						
			1	6	7	6	2			5	
7	5								1		
8	9				1					2	
6	1	8	9			4	5	7			
		3								3	1
	5	4	2		3		2				
4				3	9	1	3			6	
			3	6		8		6	4		
9	8	2									

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	7	17	cloudy
Harbin	-3	6	drizzle
Tianjin	8	15	overcast
Urumqi	0	6	clear
Xi'an	4	18	clear
Lhasa	2	17	cloudy
Chengdu	14	19	cloudy
Chongqing	15	18	overcast
Kunming	12	18	shower
Nanjing	10	22	cloudy
Shanghai	12	21	cloudy
Wuhan	12	24	cloudy
Hangzhou	9	23	cloudy
Taipei	16	22	cloudy
Guangzhou	15	28	clear
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	3	6	drizzle
Frankfurt	-1	9	clear
Paris	4	10	drizzle
London	3	7	drizzle
New York	0	4	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- RR stops; 5- Musical drama; 10- Butts; 14- Grease (up); 15- Trimmed; 16- Director Kazan; 17- Stuck in ___; 18- Unaccompanied; 19- Envelope abbr; 20- Firearm; 22- Fragile; 24- Fishhook line; 25- State of the art; 26- Actress McClurg; 28- Attics; 32- Posterior; 35- Plaything; 37- Intense fear; 38- Language suffix; 39- Animal trap; 41- Chicken -- king; 42- Handily; 45- Fannie ___; 46- Former Fords; 47- ___ luck; 48- Prefix with logical; 50- Typewriter tape; 54- Corrodes; 58- Wool-clippers; 61- Baggage porter; 62- Shredded; 63- Be silent, in music; 65- One of the Great Lakes; 66- Like many a thesis defense; 67- Dodge; 68- Dreamcast maker; 69- Italian wine region; 70- Some Parliament members; 71- Shipbuilding wood;

DOWN: 1- High-fives; 2- Italian city; 3- Mistreat; 4- Colonized; 5- Iridescent gem; 6- Bud; 7- Destroy by degrees; 8- Extend a subscription; 9- Fred Astaire's dancing sister; 10- Nuclear-fission apparatus; 11- Neighbor of Sask.; 12- Catcher's glove; 13- Sensible; 21- Advanced in years; 23- Land in water; 25- Noble gas; 27- Teeny; 29- "Animal House" house; 30- Spilled the beans; 31- Ladies of Sp.; 32- Back part of the foot; 33- Golfer Aoki; 34- Robin's digs; 36- Sweet potato; 37- Ticked (off); 40- Drops from the sky; 43- Sharon, e.g.; 44- Hideaway; 46- Noisiest; 49- Prior to, poetically; 51- East Indian pepper plant; 52- "Hooray!"; 53- Movie award; 55- Rocky debris; 56- Coniferous evergreen forest; 57- Talk; 58- Classical colonnade; 59- ___ d'oeuvres; 60- Part of Q.E.D.; 61- Numbered rds.; 64- Byrnes of "77 Sunset Strip";

Yesterday's solution

M	E	S	H	A	T	E	D	A	L	E
E	A	T	U	P	T	R	O	D	A	L
S	C	O	N	E	T	E	R	H	O	A
S	H	A	T	T	E	R	S	C	A	P
R	O	M	T	A	M	F	A	N		
R	A	D	I	O	S	D	A	T	E	S
A	T	A	L	L	O	R	I	E	N	T
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S	P	E	A	R	M	I	N	T	R	E
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O	D	E	S	S	A	P	E	R	S	P
R	I	T	E	S	A	I	L	E	A	T
A	C	R	E	I	S	N	T	S	I	T
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USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>Manhattan, High Floor, Taipa \$17,980,000 2,305 ft² 4 1/2 4 1/2</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>Beautiful Studio Duplex in Barra, Macau HK\$7,800/mth 480 ft² 1 1/2</p>	<p>FOR SALE</p> <p>[Taipa] Nova City 3 1/2 2 1/2 1,515 ft² \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)</p> <p>[Macau] Retail space 170 ft² \$3,200,000 (ref: 19096003)</p> <p>[Macau] Keng Ou office 3 1/2 2,352 ft² \$17,500,000 (ref: 19096002)</p> <p>[Taipa] Manhattan 1 1/2 \$1,530,000 (ref: 19045003)</p>	<p>FOR RENT</p> <p>[Taipa] Studio 1 400 ft² \$8,500/mth (ref: 19101001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Apartment 1 1/2 1 1/2 740 ft² \$10,900/mth (ref: 19101006)</p> <p>[Macau] Keng Ou 3 1/2 2,352 ft² \$38,000/mth (ref: 19096002)</p> <p>[Macau] One Grantai car park 1 1/2 \$2,500/mth (ref: 19091005)</p>	<p>jml property 卓雅物業 Since 1994</p> <p>(853) 2835 2699 hello@jmlproperty.com www.jmlproperty.com</p> <p>f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty</p>
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TWO K-POP STARS GET PRISON TERMS FOR SEXUAL CRIMES

A South Korean court on last week found two K-pop stars guilty of illicit sexual relations with a woman who was unable to resist and sentenced them to up to six years in prison.

The Seoul Central District Court said singer-songwriter Jung Joon-young received a six-year prison term and former boy band member Choi Jong-hoon a five-year term.

The court said in a statement that they were convicted of committing "special quasi-raping," which it said means multiple people collaborating to have illicit sexual intercourse with a person who was unconscious or unable to resist.

Jung was additionally convicted of filming sex videos of women against their will and sharing them with friends in a group chat.

The two men were also ordered to undergo 80



hours of sex offender treatment programs.

They have one week to appeal, according to the court.

Their scandals roiled South Korea's entertainment industry earlier this year when the investigation began.

South Korean pop songs, TV dramas and films are hugely popular in Asia and beyond, but the country's entertainment

world has in recent years suffered a series of sexual scandals that revealed its dark side.

Male stars have faced allegations of sexual assault and abuse and reports have been made that female entertainers and trainees have been forced to provide sexual services to men in power.

On Sunday, K-pop musician and actress Goo Hara was found dead at

her home in Seoul. Before her death, she suffered cyberbullying after she was engaged in a public dispute with her former boyfriend, who she said threatened to disclose a sex video of her.

Last month, another K-pop star, Sulli, was discovered dead at her home. She had spoken against the online backlash she received over her lifestyle.

AUTHOR MILAN KUNDERA HAS CZECH CITIZENSHIP RESTORED

MILAN Kundera, the Czech-born author of "The Unbearable Lightness of Being" has been given back the citizenship of his homeland that he lost 40 years ago.

The Czech ambassador to France, Petr Drulak, told Czech public television he handed Kundera his

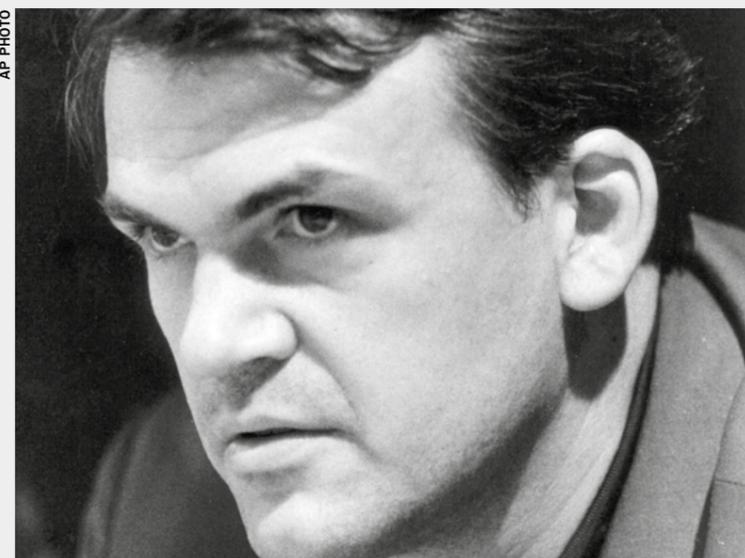
citizenship certificate last week in his Paris apartment.

It's a result of Kundera's meeting with Prime Minister Andrej Babis in Paris last year.

Kundera fled Communist Czechoslovakia and has lived in France since 1975, and it is there that he published his most famous books, including

"The Book of Laughter and Forgetting," "The Art of the Novel" and "Immortality." His later works, written in French, were not translated into Czech.

The 90-year-old lives in virtual seclusion, only travels to his homeland incognito and never speaks to reporters.



AD



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OPINION

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



BEYOND MEAT

In the 1990's I used to regularly visit a Buddhist restaurant in Wan Chai in Hong Kong with local friends where we feasted on dou fu based cha siu and other fake meats along with other vegetarian dishes. The look and flavors were largely indistinguishable from "real" cha siu, and even the textures and mouth feel were close. The vegetarian restaurant at the Buddhist monastery in Taipa is still a favorite of mine.

Unlike one of my sisters who has been a vegetarian for 30+ years (and whose dogs seem to survive quite happily on their vegetarian diets), I am a happy meat-eater but I am beginning to recognize the health and other benefits of having less meat in my diet. My sister is against slaughtering animals and being a medical doctor, she is aware of the significant health benefits of a vegetarian diet.

Vegetable based meat and milk substitutes have been around for many years, but they were never particularly valuable and their health benefits were not widely recognized, unless you were lactose intolerant or had some other specific dietary needs, or ethical qualms. In recent times there has been a resurgence in interest in making "meats" from vegetables in factories instead of growing and slaughtering animals on farms. For example, since Beyond Meat went public in May 2019 its valuation has more than quintupled to over US\$8.4 billion. Beyond Meat, Impossible Foods and other new technology-based food industry players are investing heavily and starting to achieve significant success.

This investment is being spurred by a range of environmental, ethical and health concerns. Raising animals for meat, eggs and milk are very resource intensive types of agriculture. It is estimated that growing/making/serving one kilogram of Beyond Burger generates 3.5kg of CO2, consumes 9.7l of water and occupies 2.7m2 of agricultural land. The corresponding figures for growing/making/serving one kilogram of beef are 99.5kg of CO2, 1,451l of water and 326m2 of agricultural land - clearly the environmental savings are huge! This implies potentially huge long-term cost savings as well.

Anybody who has seen (or smelt) a battery chicken farm, large scale pig farm or cattle feed lot, or who has visited any kind of slaughterhouse can appreciate the ethical concerns with raising and "harvesting" animals in modern agriculture. To call a spade a shovel it is cruel and disgusting.

Everybody is also very familiar with the global obesity, heart disease and diabetes epidemic which can be largely traced to increasing meat consumption and more sedentary lifestyles as populations develop and get richer. There are many other health benefits to be gained from reducing the proportion of meat in your diet and many younger people are starting to recognize this and are changing their eating habits to become "flexitarians" - a silly word, I know, but quite descriptive. For example, demand for meat substitutes has grown by 37% in North America and 30% in Western Europe in the last year. Also, plant based "milk" now accounts for 15% of retail milk sales in America and 8% of sales in Britain. A significant factor in these products gaining mainstream recognition and acceptance is placing them alongside their "real" competitors in the meat and dairy sections of supermarkets. Seeing them in fast food outlets is also important, which is why the new technology producers are so keen to work with Burger King, KFC and the like.

Interestingly, the research and development efforts to create vegetable-based alternatives to meat, milk and eggs that have the same taste and nutritional values has just begun and there is considerable room for improvement and cost reductions. By contrast, modern conventional animal husbandry is quite a mature industry with relatively little scope to improve.

The long-term trend and the considerable benefits are clear. I am sure that Beyond Meat and the like would be very interested in Macau's disproportionately large retail food and beverage industry and huge tourist base and we should be contacting them to set up operations in the region. Alternatively, maybe we could nurture some new local competitors?

Iranian state television yesterday acknowledged security forces shot and killed what it described as "rioters" in multiple cities amid recent protests over the spike in government-set gasoline prices — the first time that authorities have offered any sort of accounting for the violence they used to put down the demonstrations.

Amnesty International believes the unrest and crackdown that followed, beginning in mid-November, killed at least 208 people. An Iranian judiciary official disputed the toll as "sheer lies," without offering any evidence to support his position.

Iran shut down internet access amid the unrest, blocking those inside the country from sharing their videos and information. It also limited the outside world's insight into the scale of the protests and the violence, though online videos have emerged purporting to show security forces shooting protesters.

The recent demonstrations over gasoline prices rapidly turned violent, faster than previous rallies.

GRETA THUNBERG
ARRIVES BY SAIL IN
EUROPE FOR CLIMATE TALKS

AP PHOTO



Greta Thunberg onboard the sailboat La Vagabonde sailing toward Lisbon yesterday

BARRY HATTON &
FRANK JORDANS,
LISBON

CLIMATE activist Greta Thunberg arrived yesterday by catamaran in the port of Lisbon after a three-week voyage across the Atlantic Ocean from the United States.

The Swedish teen sailed to the Portuguese capital before heading to neighboring Spain to attend the U.N. Climate Change Conference taking place in Madrid.

Her arrival coincided with a new scientific report saying there is mounting evidence that the world is getting ever hotter.

Thunberg hitched a renewable-energy ride from the United States, joining an Australian family on their 48-foot yacht.

The white catamaran carrying Thunberg sailed slowly up the River Tagus under blue skies and a stiff breeze. Thunberg's father, Svante, was also on the boat as it approached the Lisbon quayside.

Chile's Environment Minister Carolina Schmidt, saluted Thunberg's role speaking out about the threat of climate change.

"She has been a leader that has been able to move

and open hearts for many young people and many people all over the world," Schmidt said at the summit in Madrid.

"We need that tremendous force in order to increase climate action," she said.

Thunberg was due to be met in Lisbon by local dignitaries and other activists. Her representatives

Thunberg hitched a renewable-energy ride from the United States, joining an Australian family on their 48-foot yacht

said they could not confirm when she would travel onward to the Spanish capital, 600 kilometers to the east.

She wanted a low-carbon form of transport to get to the climate meeting, which was switched at short notice to Spain from Chile due to unrest there.

The yacht, named La Vagabonde, leaves little or no carbon footprint when its sails are up, using solar panels and hydro-generators for electricity.

Meanwhile, a report by the U.N. weather agency released on the sidelines of the climate talks found that the current decade is likely to set a new 10-year temperature record.

Preliminary temperature measurements show the years from 2015 to 2019 and from 2010 to 2019 "are, respectively, almost certain to be the warmest five-year period and decade on record," the World Meteorological Organization said.

"Since the 1980s, each successive decade has been warmer than the last," the agency said.

While full-year figures aren't released until next March, 2019 is also expected to be the second or third warmest year since measurements began, with 2016 still holding the all-time temperature record, it said.

This year was hotter than average in most parts of the world, including the Arctic. "In contrast a large area of North America has been colder than the recent average," the U.N. said.

The World Meteorological Organization's annual report, which brings together data from numerous national weather agencies and research organizations, also highlighted the impacts of climate change including declining sea ice and rising sea levels, which reached their highest level this year since high-precision measurements began in 1993. AP

India NASA said that it has found the debris from India's moon lander, which crashed on the lunar surface in September. The U.S. space agency released a photo showing the site of the lander's impact and the debris field, crediting an Indian engineer for helping locate the site. Engineer Shanmuga said he examined an earlier NASA photo to locate the debris.

AP PHOTO



NATO The U.K. prime minister is set to call for unity at the NATO meeting near London. As host of the two-day meeting, Boris Johnson is expected to reiterate the importance of Nato staying united, calling it "the cornerstone of Euro-Atlantic security" that helps "keep a billion people safe", his spokesman said.

More on p15

AP PHOTO



Trump President Donald Trump criticized Democrats at the opening of a NATO leaders' meeting yesterday, calling the impeachment push by his rivals "unpatriotic" and "a bad thing for our country." Trump, who commented while meeting with NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg, has criticized Democrats for holding an impeachment hearing while he is abroad.

AP PHOTO



US Racial disparities have narrowed across the U.S. criminal justice system over 16 years, though blacks are still significantly more likely to be behind bars than whites, new federal figures show. Racial gaps broadly declined in local jails, state prisons, and among people on probation and parole, according to the study released yesterday by the nonpartisan Council on Criminal Justice.