

**12 YEARS A-CHANGIN'**  
 Double Down!  
 ADVERTISING HERE  
 +853 287 160 81

www.rcr-macau.com  
**RCR** electronics

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Geldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

N.º 3444 **MONDAY** T. 18º/22º Air Quality Good  
 30 Dec 2019

"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

MOP 8.00  
 HKD 10.00 2305 4271

**A NEW RECYCLING PROGRAM FOR HOME APPLIANCES WILL LAUNCH ON WEDNESDAY, WITH SECOND-HAND UNITS IN GOOD CONDITION GOING TO CHARITY** P2

**RESEARCH CENTER FOR MACHINE TRANSLATION OPENS AT IPM** P4

**HONG KONG'S ECONOMY IS SET TO CONTRACT IN THE FOURTH QUARTER AS THE CITY REELS FROM SIX MONTHS OF VIOLENT SOCIAL UNREST** P6



**Taiwan** President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday that the self-governing island's democracy remains under direct threat from rival China, underscoring her calls for closer ties with the U.S. and other allies. Tsai said she would preserve Taiwan's freedoms and way of life, but would make no changes to the constitution or the island's official name, the Republic of China.

More on p11



**South Korea** The Constitutional Court yesterday rejected a petition seeking the repeal of a 2015 deal with Japan settling a bitter dispute over Korean women enslaved for sex by the Japanese military during World War II. A decision to spike the largely stalled deal could have complicated efforts by the two countries to resolve separate thorny trade and history disputes, which recently plunged their ties to the lowest point in decades.



**Yemen** A ballistic missile attack ripped through a military parade for a Yemeni southern separatist group that's backed by the United Arab Emirates, killing at least six troops and three children, a spokesman said yesterday.

More on backpage

# DEFLATED TOURISM FINDS CHRISTMAS BOUNCE

THE NUMBER OF TOURISTS IN THE SEVEN-DAY CHRISTMAS PERIOD NARROWLY MISSED THE 1 MILLION MARK P3



XINHUA



XINHUA

**MOST INDIAN TOURISTS SAY THEY WANT TO REVISIT MACAU** P3



BLOOMBERG

**AROUND THE WORLD, LUXURY REAL ESTATE POISED TO STRENGTHEN** P9

# NEW ELECTRONICS RECYCLING PLAN TO TACKLE LARGE APPLIANCES

JULIE ZHU

**S**TARTING from January 1, the local government will implement a new recycling program for more types of electronics and electrical devices, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) revealed on Friday.

The new program will allow more types of domestic appliances to be recycled, including refrigerators, air conditioners, washing machines, television sets, and computers.

The local government will provide free door-to-door recycling collection services. Local individuals, schools, nonprofit organizations and government departments can call the DSPA between 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. from Monday to Saturday to make an appointment for recycling collecting services.

This program is an expansion of the DSPA's previous Computer and Telecommunication Devices Recycling Program. Once the program starts being implemented, residents can visit the DSPA, the government service center under the management of the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM), and other locations.

The DSPA will also dispatch two recycling cars to run regularly through 16 recycling spots across Macau and Taipa.



JULIE ZHU

Refrigerators, washing machines, air conditioners, televisions and computer screens may only be dropped into recycling cars or discarded at the solid waste recycling system on Avenida de Maio.

Similar to other recycling plans, if the recycled home appliances are in good condition and meet specific criteria, they will be donated to charities after a technical assessment and

selection process. The rest will be disassembled and processed by the bureau's contractor. The recyclable component materials will be transported to other countries, such as South Korea and Japan, for subsequent processing.

Simultaneously, from January 1, the DSPA will launch another recycling program to set up recycling bins inside selected buildings. These buildings must

apply to the DSPA if they wish to have the recycling bins.

Building owners may choose from two available sizes of recycling bins. They can apply for bigger bins, which come with slots for paper, glass, metal and plastic materials. Smaller bins contain slots for metal, plastic and paper materials.

In order to encourage Macau's building owners to participate in recycling activities, the

DSPA will specially organize recycling competitions in the near future.

In October 2017, the DSPA launched a recycling program for computer and telecommunication devices. As of November this year, the DSPA had already recycled 73,000 electronic devices through the program. Of these, approximately 200 items qualified for donation, with 140 already transferred to the Caritas for donation.

## 'POPULAR' MACHINE TAKES 3,700 BOTTLES IN 2 MONTHS

Also announced on Friday, the new recycling machine for single-use plastic water bottles has collected just 3,700 bottles after more than two months of operation. Nevertheless, DSPA representatives said that residents were "proactively" engaging with the water bottle recycling machine.

Approximately two months ago, the DSPA set up three single-use plastic water bottle recycling machines in town. The machine scans each bottle and refuses to accept it if the bottle is not properly cleaned.

A DSPA representative claims that some members of the public regard the machine as a "popular" and "trendy" item. However, the three machines combined have only received 3,700 bottles in their two months of operation. This equates to about 20 bottles per machine per day.

The DSPA says it will provide seven additional machines in the IAM's service buildings.

## GROSS NATIONAL INCOME REACHES 406 BILLION PATACAS

**G**ROSS national income at current prices amounted to 406.02 billion (about \$50.63 billion) in 2018, according to the latest data released by the Statistics and Census Service, MOP38.64 billion less than gross domestic product at current prices.

At the same time per capita gross national income was MOP614,950, compared to per capita gross domestic product of MOP673,481.

Gross national income refers to the total income

earned by residents (including individuals and institutions) of an economy from engaging in various economic activities within or outside the economy. It corresponds to gross domestic product plus income earned by residents from abroad, minus income earned by non-residents from investment in Macau.

In 2018, the total outflow of external factor income went up by 23.1% year-on-year to MOP94.91 billion, mainly due to a 19% increase in

direct investment income earned by some non-resident enterprises and investors from investment in Macau.

After discounting the effect of price changes, gross national income rose by 6.8% year-on-year in real terms in 2018, as against a 5.4% increase in gross domestic product.

Meanwhile, per capita gross national income went up by 5% year-on-year in real terms, as compared to a 3.6% growth in per capita gross domestic product. DB

## EXHIBITION SHOWCASES CITY'S URBAN TRANSFORMATION

**T**HE exhibition "A Pearl of the Sea - Exhibition of Macao's Urban Evolution" is showcasing a total of 101 exhibits on the integration of different cultures over the past centuries that have resulted in the city's current architectural styles.

Showcased at The Macao Museum, the exhibition is divided into four sections, including "Geographical Change," "Past View and New Image," "Infrastructure Constructions" and "A New

Chapter." The exhibition is aimed at both residents and tourists and seeks to foster a better understanding of Macao's history over the last 20 years since the handover.

Macao has been increasing its land resources through reclamation since the mid-19th century, which has subsequently had an impact on its overall urban development.

As cited in a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the integration of different cul-

tures over the centuries has resulted in the combination of Chinese and Western styles in the city's architecture and the emergence of new urban landscapes.

Meanwhile, to complement the exhibition, an educational area and multimedia installations have been made available inside the venue to give visitors a more accessible perspective of the city's urban development.

The exhibition is open to the general public until April 19, 2020. LV

www.macaudailytimes.com.mo

**+ 4 Million page views PER MONTH**

**Thank You!**

+13,000 like us on facebook.com/mdtimes

MacauDaily 澳門每日時報

**Times**

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS 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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

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  
Advertisement advertising@macaudailytimes.com  
For subscription and general issues: general@macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd

# Almost 1 million Christmas visitors in just seven days

LYNZY VALLES

**T**OURIST arrivals to Macau numbered 984,995 in the seven days from December 20 to 26, indicating an end-month improvement from what had been an otherwise slow month influenced by President Xi Jinping's visit.

The data provided by the Public Security Police Force showed that the number of arrivals was about 10% higher than in the equivalent period last year. On Christmas Day alone, there were nearly 324,000 visitor arrivals.

The number of visitors during the Christmas period was almost exactly the same as that recorded during the 2019 Golden Week in October, traditionally one of the busiest periods of the year.

Meanwhile, visitor arrivals in November totaled 2.9 million, down by 10.9% year-on-year, and bringing the total number since the beginning of the year to over 36 million. The total number of visitors in the first 11 months represents a 12.7% growth in year-on-year terms.

Last month, same-day visitors (1.5 million) and overnight visitors (1.4 million) dropped by 10.5% and 11.4% respectively year-on-year.



The decrease was mainly due to the plunge in visitors coming from mainland China (2 million), Korea (43,000) and Hong Kong (571,000), which dropped 11.1%, 36.5%, and 3.4% respectively.

Visitors from China travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme fell by 14.9% to 898,000. Vi-

sitors from the nine Pearl River Delta cities in the Greater Bay Area increased by 23.7% year-on-year to 943,000, while those from Zhuhai (292,000) and Guangzhou (184,000) surged by 37.4% and 26.2% respectively.

Analyzed by mode of transport, visitor arrivals by land decreased by 5.9% year-on-year to 2.1 million

in November, with those arriving through the Border Gate (1.6 million) and via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (350,000) decreasing by 3.3% and 19.8% respectively. Visitor arrivals by sea declined by 39% year-on-year to 413,000, while those by air rose by 16.7% to 318,000.

The findings of a study relea-

sed earlier this month by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) showed that the opening of the mega bridge in October 2018 has led to changes in the arrivals of visitors in Macau.

One of the study conclusions was that six out of every 10 visitors from Hong Kong said they were dropping ferry travel to Macau in favor of the land route made possible by the delta-spanning bridge. However, it was also noted that the primary appeal of the bridge was its novelty factor, otherwise referred to as visitors' "curiosity".

The November data shows that since January, same-day visitors (19.1 million) and overnight visitors (17.1 million) have increased by 23.8% and 2.4% respectively.

MGTO had previously predicted that the SAR's number of visitor arrivals this year would reach close to 40 million, citing the popularity of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. That year-end figure is not expected to be breached in 2019.

The tourism authority previously noted that various factors may prevent visitor growth in 2020 from breaching the 40-million mark. The China-U.S. trade war and social unrest in Hong Kong were among the cited factors.

MGTO director Helena de Sena Fernandes previously told the press that the trend of year-on-year growth in arrivals for the last two months of the year would likely be sustained. However, the tourism chief noted that the increases may not be as high as last year.

Last December, visitor arrivals totaled nearly 3.6 million, registering a 16.9% increase year-on-year.

# Most Indian tourists say they want to return to Macau

JULIE ZHU

**M**ORE than 70% of visitors from India are willing to visit Macau again, according to a Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) survey.

In pursuit of a wider diversity of visitor source markets, MGTO has carried out a range of studies on visitors from various international markets and differing nationalities.

This year, MGTO completed the "Study on Indian Visitors in Macau" to gain a deeper understanding of the common attributes and travel behaviors of Indian visitors in Macau. The findings will serve as a basis for MGTO to implement its destination marketing strategies and initiatives for a broader publicity effect on the Indian market.

The most striking finding of the survey was that 71% of interviewees expressed an interest in visiting Macau

again in the future, while 96% stated that they would recommend that others visit Macau.

The tourism authority said it is working to diversify international visitor source markets to reduce the reliance on Macau's primary source market, mainland China. It considers India a strategic visitor source market and has worked in recent years to draw more tourists from the country of 1.37 billion.

However, despite these efforts, reliance on Macau's primary tourist source market has continued to grow in recent years. The proportion of visitors from mainland China edged up to 70.55% in 2018, compared to 68.06% in 2017 and about 66% in the previous two years.

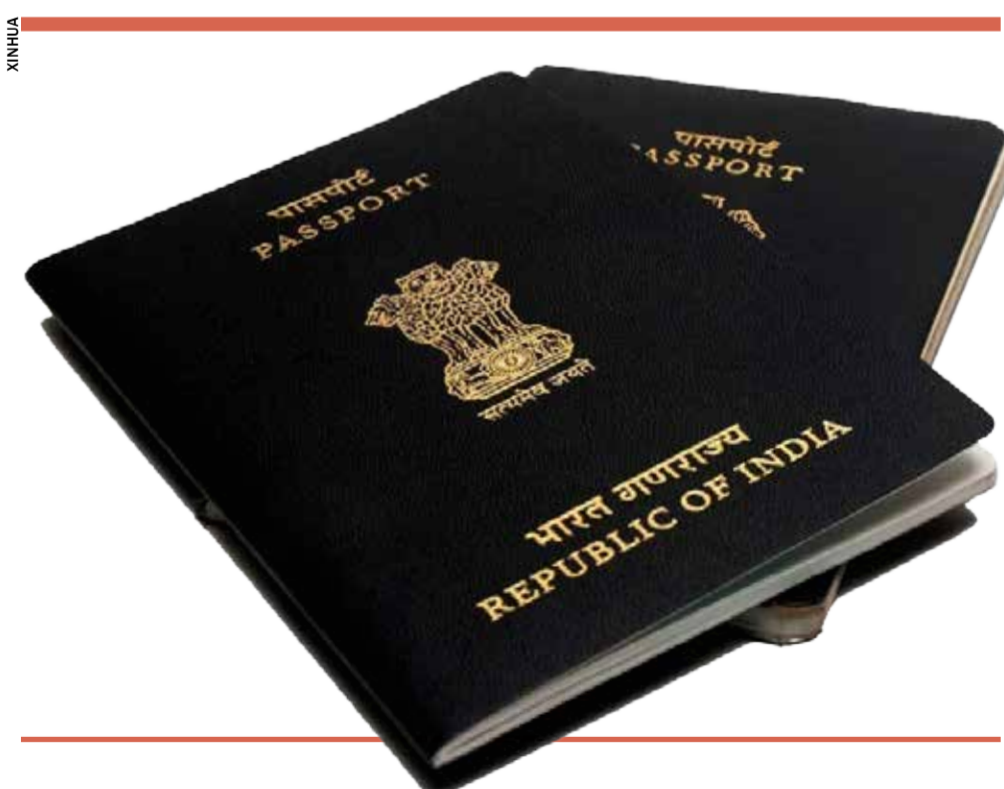
The tourism authority is also working to lengthen the stay of visitors in Macau. In 2018, the average length of stay held steady in year-on-year terms at 1.2 days. For

the first 11 months of this year, growth in same-day visitors (23.8%) far outstripped growth in overnight visitors (2.4%).

Despite these setbacks, the tourism authority believes that India is among Macau's international visitor markets that hold the greatest growth potential. From January to November 2019, over 119,000 Indian visitors came to Macau, with 75% of them staying overnight in the city.

The recent study on Indian tourism employed face-to-face surveys with visitors and in-depth interviews with industry operators followed by data analysis.

Other findings revealed that among the interviewed Indian visitors, over 80% opted for travel to Macau and Hong Kong in one trip, 85% were visiting Macau for the first time, 55% stayed in Macau for three days and two nights, and 47.5% visi-



ted Macau for sightseeing, followed by 37% for leisure/vacation.

In recent years, MGTO has conducted a range of visitor studies targeting di-

fferent international visitor markets including India, Indonesia, Singapore and Malaysia. Looking forward, MGTO will continue to carry out studies on visitors

from different countries and regions in accordance with the direction of tourism policies and destination marketing strategies laid out by the Macau.

### LRT SUSPENDED YESTERDAY AFTER POWER PROBLEM ARISES

The Light Rapid Transit (LRT) was suspended yesterday at about 1 p.m., reportedly due to a power outage at a site between Cotai East Station and Lotus Checkpoint Station, according to a statement posted by the operator, Sociedade do Metro Ligeiro de Macau. These two stations are separated by the East Asian Games Station, which was not mentioned in the statement. The train service between Ocean Station and Lotus Checkpoint Station was temporarily suspended until 2:35 p.m. During this period, the Operation and Control Center directed passengers safely out of the carriage to the adjacent station platform, according to the statement, and the Fire Services also assisted. The cause of the accident has yet to be confirmed. The operator of the service has apologized for the inconvenience caused to passengers.

### MAN CLAIMS MEMORY LOSS AFTER ALLEGED SEXUAL HARASSMENT

A mainland man claimed to have suffered from "memory loss" after he was accused of sexually harassing a female hotel employee last week. The incident took place in a hotel in Taipa. The man is accused of having forcibly tucked one 100-yuan banknote into the hand of a Philippine female casino employee before sexually harassing her. The victim's colleagues stopped the man and reported the case to the police authority. Upon the police's questioning, the man claimed he had already forgotten what happened. The man is a 40-year-old mainlander who said he is a company manager. The victim is a woman in her 20s working at the hotel lobby.

### BETTER WANZAI PORT FACILITIES WANTED BY NEARBY COMMUNITIES

Communities near the Wanzai port want better immigration checkpoint facilities at the soon-to-be opened Wanzai port. The Wanzai port is expected to open before the Chinese New Year at the end of January. Deputy President of Associação de Mútuo Auxílio dos Moradores da Marginal, surnamed Lai, hopes that the port's opening hours will be between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m., an extension to the previous opening hours of 8 a.m. to 11:20 a.m. and 1 p.m. to 4:30 p.m. In Lai's opinion, the previous opening hours are no longer able to cater to current demands of the nearby populations, especially when considering the fast development of the Wanzai area in Zhuhai. By extending the opening hours, it will be more convenient for Zhuhai's workers and students who cross the border to Macau on a daily basis.



## RESEARCH CENTER FOR MACHINE TRANSLATION, AI ESTABLISHED AT IPM

A research center for machine translation and artificial intelligence opened at the Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM, from the Portuguese acronym) last week, becoming the first mainland China "Ministry of Education Engineering Research Center" in Macau.

Officially called the "Engineering Research Center of Applied Technology on Machine Translation and Artificial Intelligence, Ministry of Education", the center will be managed at a macro level by the Chinese Ministry of Education.

Secretary for Social Affairs

and Culture, Ao Ieong U, who was present at last week's opening ceremony, declared that the establishment of the center would help to fill the gap in Sino-Portuguese machine translation in the academic field.

Ao Ieong looks forward to the center's research development and output of higher-level application products in the future, providing technical support and language services for the country's construction of the Belt and Road Initiative and the realization of language interoperability.

The Secretary said that the establishment of the center shows

the Ministry of Education's endorsement of IPM and also the great support of the country to Macau. Ao Ieong also said it was favorable to the city's participation in building the Greater Bay Area into an international scientific center for innovation.

This center is the first of its kind in Macau. The mission of these centers is guided by the national medium and long-term educational and technological development plan, based on the basic research advantages of colleges and universities, to provide scientific and technological support for

national strategic needs.

In principle, the center should be composed of fixed and mobile personnel, and have at least 50 permanent staff.

The director of the center should be publicly selected and appointed by IPM, which should report to the competent department and the Ministry of Education.

The technical committee should have no less than 11 members. Each technical committee's term lasts five years and, in principle, the committee should not serve more than two terms. JZ

## Higher Education Bureau calls on Portuguese language applicants

THE Higher Education Bureau (DSES) will continue to organize courses in the Portuguese language next year, in order to support the government policy to train more bilingual staff proficient in Portuguese and Chinese.

All course applicants must hold a valid Macau Resident Identity Card and be registered in full-time undergraduate courses in the 2019/2020 academic year in either Macau higher education institutions or abroad.

If these requirements are met, the courses will accept students from two background sets: those with no previous knowledge of the Portuguese language (except the finalists of this academic year); and those who have a basic level ("A1" level or who have attended a Portuguese language course for two semesters or more) or higher levels of Portuguese language. The latter category excludes those who use Portuguese as their mother tongue, who have completed primary

and secondary education in Portuguese, or who attend higher education courses with Portuguese as a vehicular language.

Students who do not have a Portuguese language background may, according to their study plans, participate in the "Basic Portuguese Language Course" in February or June 2020, conducted by the Portuguese Institute of the Orient. There are 250 places for this course.

Meanwhile, participants with a level A1 or

higher level of Portuguese must pass the "Portuguese Language Knowledge Exam" for a spot in a more advanced class with 50 places.

The DSES will select 85 students who have the highest marks in the overall assessment - 60 students selected from the "Portuguese Language Basic Course" and 25 selected from the "Portuguese Language Knowledge Exam" - to participate in the second phase of the activity, which will include a trip to Portugal.

The 85 students finally selected will be divided into two groups to participate in this one-month Summer Course in Portugal, in July and August 2020, respectively. The participating institutions in Portugal will undertake, according to students' ability, intensive training in Portuguese so that students can increase their proficiency in the language.

According to the DSES, the Portuguese language courses aim to bring "new impetus to the training of qualified bilingual staff in Chinese and Portuguese."

Registration and participation of all Macau higher education students who meet the requirements are welcome. DB

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



## HIGHER EDUCATION

# IPM to host Open Day with series of activities

**T**HE Macao Polytechnic Institute (IPM, from the Portuguese acronym) will hold its annual Open Day this Saturday at its main campus in a bid to attract students to enroll in more than 20 undergraduate degree programs that it offers. As part of the Open Day, the institute will host a series of ac-

tivities for the general public to further understand IPM's educational philosophy, teaching and research capabilities, and scientific and creative development. It will also showcase its academic programs via various formats including lectures, demonstrations, talent show performances and booth games,

according to a statement issued by IPM. The Open Day will feature guided campus tours, undergraduate and postgraduate course presentations, entrance consultation services, scientific and creative experiences, physical fitness testing, art workshops, nursing operations, experimental demonstrations, skill perfor-

mances and interaction, as well as library and exhibition visits.

In the 2020-2021 academic year, IPM is enrolling students in more than 20 undergraduate degree programs in seven major areas until January 17.

In addition, applications for nine postgraduate programs of the institute are also open for courses in computer applied technology, Portuguese studies, public policy, Chinese-Portuguese translation and interpreting, big data and the Internet of Things, business administration in gaming management, interdisciplinary arts, sports and physical education, and nursing.

Applications are open until February 28, 2020.

The graphic and installation design of the Open Day has been created by Au Chon Hin, an alumnus of IPM's design program who has won the 17th Young Guns International Youth Design Award.

With the theme "The Gateway to the World opens with IPM", the Open Day showcases the "vitality, enterprise and innovative features" of the alma mater. The 17th Young Guns International Youth Design Grand Prix attracted hundreds of participants from 45 countries. Au Chon Hin and former IPM graduate Si Nga Ian are the only entrants from Macau to have won the competition. LV

## UM APPOINTS NEW VICE RECTOR

**T**HE University of Macau (UM) has appointed a marketing scholar and the former pro-vice-chancellor and vice president at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), Michael Hui, as its vice rector for academic affairs.

Hui has previously served as the chairman of the Hong Kong Deposit Protection Board, and a member of the Consumer Council in Hong Kong. He was awarded the Medal of Honor by the government of Hong Kong back in 2017, as cited in a statement issued by the university.

UM rector Yonghua Song remarked, "I am delighted to welcome Professor Hui to UM. He has distinguished himself with outstanding academic achievements and leadership experience. We are confident that Professor Hui will energize our university to advance its academic standing and global impact."

Born and raised in Hong Kong, Hui received his bachelor's degree in business administration from CUHK in 1980. Before joining the Department of Marketing of CUHK in 1996, Hui had held academic appointments in the U.K. and Canada.

Commenting on his new post, Hui said, "It is my honor that the University of Macau has entrusted me with its confidence. [...] With my experience in teaching, research, and management, I very much look forward to bringing UM to new heights of academic excellence." LV

虛擬現實體驗館  
**VR ZONE**  
MACAU  
© Project i Can

日本人氣VR刺激體驗  
驚喜登陸澳門漁人碼頭!

FROM FANTASY TO REALITY. EXPERIENCE THE JAPANESE VR  
EXCITEMENT IN MACAU FISHERMAN'S WHARF TODAY!

QR Code | **VR ZONE MACAU**  
Tel - (853) 8299 3388

vrzonemacau.fishermanswharf.com.mo

**THE ROADHOUSE**  
MACAU

**BLUES, BIKES, ROCK AND BOOZE**

**BEST LIVE MUSIC IN MACAU!**

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU | 2875 2945 | BROADWAY, GALAXY MACAU | 12PM - 4AM (SAT & SUN) | 4PM - 4AM (MON-FRI) | HAPPY HOUR: 5PM-8PM



# HK economy expected to shrink in fourth quarter

SHIRLEY ZHAO

**H**ONG Kong's economy is set to contract in the fourth quarter as the city reels from six months of violent social unrest, the financial chief said yesterday.

"Based on the situation of these few months, it is inevitable that

negative growth will continue," Financial Secretary Paul Chan said in a blog post. "This means the government will be less flexible in using financial resources under an economic recession."

The increasingly violent pro-democracy protests that started in June have undermined Hong Kong's economy, discouraging

tourists from visiting and slashing retail sales. Mainland Chinese visitors, who comprise the biggest group of tourists in the city, has plunged by almost half, while retail revenue has dropped by about a quarter during the demonstrations.

Chan said his budget speech to be delivered in February will

focus on supporting business, safeguarding employment, reviving the economy and relieving social distress as the city also faces international turbulence such as protectionism and geopolitics. The "core competitiveness" of Hong Kong's financial market including the banking and securities system, the dollar peg and free flow of capital remain robust and orderly, Chan said.

Visitor arrivals from China fell a record 46% in October to slightly more than 2.5 million, less than half of the record set in January. The most recent data for retail sales in Hong Kong, once a mecca for shoppers, showed a 24.3%

plunge, the biggest ever.

In a separate statement, Hong Kong's Chief Secretary Matthew Cheung said the city's institutional strengths such as the rule of law, clean government and a level playing field for businesses have remained strong and intact. The government will broaden its channels of communications with the public, listening and responding more to people's views and concerns in the coming year, he said.

The city is establishing an independent review committee comprising experts and community leaders to look into causes and full circumstances of the social unrest, looking into deep-seated issues including unaffordable housing and the wealth gap, Cheung said.

The government has launched four rounds of relief measures since August, which will not solve the economic problems but could help businesses and Hong Kong people "stay afloat while we strive to heal our divided community and battered economy," Cheung said.

"The year 2019 has been a year of unremitting shocks and turbulence to our community and our economy," Cheung said. "The past six months have been tough for us, but we will soldier on."

The government forecasts an annual economic contraction of 1.3% for 2019. The unemployment rate rose to 3.2% in November, the highest level since July 2017. During the protests, more than 2,600 people have been injured, including more than 500 police officers, Cheung said. **BLOOMBERG**

HONG KONG

# Protesters demand mainland Chinese traders leave

**P**OLICE fought with protesters who marched through a Hong Kong shopping mall Saturday demanding mainland Chinese traders leave the territory in a fresh weekend of anti-government tension.

The protest in Sheung Shui, near Hong Kong's boundary with the mainland, was part of efforts to pressure the government by disrupting economic activity.

About 100 protesters marched through the mall shouting, "Liberate Hong Kong!" and "Return to the mainland!"

Police in civilian clothes with clubs tackled and handcuffed some protesters. One officer fired pepper spray at protesters and reporters. Government broadcaster RTHK reported 14 people were detained.



Some shoppers argued with police in olive fatigues and helmets who blocked walkways in the mall.

Protests that began in June over a proposed extradition law have spread to include demands for more

democracy and other grievances. The proposed law was withdrawn but protesters want the resignation of the territory's leader, Carrie Lam, and other changes.

Protesters complain Beijing and Lam's government

are eroding the autonomy and Western-style civil liberties promised to Hong Kong when the former British colony returned to China in 1997.

On Saturday, some merchants in the Sheung Shui mall wrapped orange tape around kiosks or partially closed security doors in shops but most business went ahead normally.

Hong Kong, which has no sales tax and a reputation for genuine products, is popular with Chinese traders who buy merchandise to resell on the mainland.

Sheung Shui was the site of clashes between police and demonstrators in June.

Earlier this week, protesters smashed windows in shopping areas over the Christmas holiday. Some fought with police.

A total of 336 people

were arrested from Monday to Thursday, according to police. Chief police spokesman Kwok Ka-chuen told reporters that those detained included 92 women and minors as young as 12.

The arrests bring the number of people detained over the course of the protests to nearly 7,000, with a large proportion of student age.

Protesters, some donning Santa Claus hats, battled police over the holiday as the more than 6-month-long demonstrations look set to continue into the new year.

Kwok condemned what he called attacks on ordinary citizens at shopping centers and restaurants and vandalism of public infrastructure including subway stations, banks and the electrical grid.

"Their scheme is to silence those who hold dissenting views and to terrorize the public. Whoever disagrees with their violence will be met with violence," Kwok told reporters.

Black-clad protesters smashed shop windows in shopping areas, while police responded with tear gas and arrests.

The protests demanding greater democratic rights show no sign of dissipating following an overwhelming victory by anti-establishment candidates in elections for district representatives earlier this month.

The Christmas disruptions also raise concerns for the New Year holidays to follow and the longer Lunar New Year vacation in late January, a time that has led to violence and unrest in Hong Kong in the past. **MDT/AP**

ADVERTORIAL



## Zhuhai industrial park helps promote traditional Chinese medicine

**A**N industrial park for traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) jointly built by Guangdong Province and Macau is exploring ways to promote traditional Chinese medicine in Portuguese-speaking countries, building on its recent success in Mozambique.

Located in the city of Zhuhai, the TCM Science and Technology Industrial Park of Cooperation between Guangdong and Macau is piloting treatment in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Since 2016, the park has held nine Chinese medicine training sessions in Mozambique, training a total of 241 practitioners in local public hospitals. These medical professionals have treated more than 16,000 Mozambican patients with traditional Chinese medicine.

The park said it has also suc-

cessfully helped several pharmaceutical companies from the Chinese mainland and Macau have their products registered in Mozambique.

Based on the Mozambique model, the park has expanded cooperation to countries like Cape Verde, Angola and Guinea-Bissau this year to help train hospital specialists and therapists.

It has also organized seminars on traditional Chinese medicine and exchanges among health officials and medical practitioners in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Macau is planning to develop the traditional Chinese medicine sector amid efforts to diversify its economy, as well as connect China with Lusophone countries under a directive issued by Beijing. **DB/XINHUA**

## GUANGZHOU SEES GROWTH IN FOREIGN TRADE

**T**HE foreign trade container throughput in Guangzhou Port, the provincial capital of Guangdong increased by 10.77% year-on-year in the first 11 months of 2019, according to the port authority.

The port handled about 21.18 million TEU (twenty-foot equivalent unit), up 5.83% year-on-year, which included 7.98 million TEU for foreign trade, between January and November.

This year's total container throughput is expected to exceed 23 million TEU, according to the Guangzhou Port

Authority.

The port now opens 217 routes, including 92 routes to the countries and regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative. It is also an important hub linking the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area with Africa, the Mediterranean and other regions in Asia.

The Greater Bay Area consists of Hong Kong, Macau and nine cities in Guangdong - Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen and Zhaoqing. **XINHUA**

## SANDS CHINA NEWS

### Sands China Team Members Return to Congjiang County to Visit Students and Families

Part of Sands China's poverty relief efforts in Guizhou province

A group of around 60 Sands Cares Ambassadors and winners of the company's Because We Care Team Member Awards recently went on a three-day trip funded by Sands China to visit families in Guizhou's Congjiang County, as part of Sands China's ongoing poverty relief efforts in the county in response to the Macao SAR government's call for targeted poverty alleviation in mainland China.

Besides visiting with students and families and sharing gifts with them, including schoolbags and stationery packs, the trip also included a visit to some local cultural spots and a chance to experience some of Congjiang's native folk performances and local customs.

"Sands China is very pleased to support this visit, so that we could provide our team members with a platform to personally take part in the company's poverty relief programme in Congjiang," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "These team members all chose to use their personal time to participate in this volunteer initiative and we are very proud of their commitment, their spirit of service, and enthusiasm in spreading love and goodwill. We hope this visit will help them to gain a better understanding of the situation in Congjiang County and would inspire many others to engage in volunteer work."



The group of Sands China team members was the second to visit Congjiang, after a group of about 30 Sands Cares Ambassadors visited in June to share gift packs with local families. Including this trip, around 100 Sands China team members have visited Congjiang to offer volunteer service. Sands China plans to organise additional Congjiang tours in the future, with the aim of contributing to the development of Congjiang's tourism industry.



Sands China's poverty relief efforts with Congjiang are ongoing, and the company is the first integrated resort operator in Macao to purchase goods from the impoverished county, having received four batches of products to date, including items such as chili sauce, mineral water, local oranges, and rice.

Sands China's community service initiatives are part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.





**+853 2835 2699**  
hello@jmlproperty.com  
www.jmlproperty.com

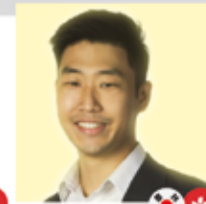
Avenida da Praia Grande No.599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 andar C, Macau  
澳門南灣大馬路599號羅德禮商業大廈12樓C座



**Juliet Risdon**  
+853 6680 9804  
juliet@jmlproperty.com



**Elda Lemos**  
+853 6226 8566  
elda@jmlproperty.com



**Sam Lee**  
+853 6611 0975  
sam@jmlproperty.com



**Kitty Lou**  
+853 6630 0730  
kitty@jmlproperty.com

## Property of the Week



### One Central- Nam Van Lake View

**HK\$13,950,000** 1,269 ft<sup>2</sup> 2 2

Two Bedroom apartment in One Central, Tower 7 overlooking Nam Van Lakes. Fully fitted out to a high standard, en-suite bathroom, amazing clubhouse facilities, swimming Pool, Gym and convenient access to Macau's best known hotspots

## Property Hotlist



### Hellene Gardens, Coloane

**\$8,400,000**  
1,663 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 3 1



### Hoi Wan Garden, Taipa

**\$5,100,000**  
900 ft<sup>2</sup>  
2 1



### Manhattan High Floor, Taipa

**\$26,800/mth**  
2,305 ft<sup>2</sup>  
4 2



### Manhattan, Taipa

**\$23,800/mth**  
1,720 ft<sup>2</sup>  
3 2



## More Listings

### For Sale

- [Taipa] Taipa village 2 1 787 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$4,950,000** (ref: 19096008)
- [Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4 2 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)
- [Coloane] Large 3/4 room 2 3 2 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$13,800,000** (ref: 19096000)
- [Taipa] Manhattan Luxury 3 2 1,720 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$12,980,000** (ref: 19096006)

### For Rent

- [Taipa] New Studio 1 470 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$9,500/mth** (ref: 19101002)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 935 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800/mth** (ref: 19091005)
- [Macau] La Marina studio 1 **\$11,200/mth** (ref: 19091001)
- [Taipa] Ocean Garden 4 4 3,700 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$35,000/mth** (ref: 18040674)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$23,000/mth** (ref: 19030001RT)

## Recent Movements

**Sold** Hellene Garden, Coloane  
1,660 ft<sup>2</sup>, 3 beds, 2 bath, 1 car park

**Sold** Nam Long, Taipa  
550 ft<sup>2</sup>, 1 bed, 1 bath

**Rented** New studio, Taipa,  
400 ft<sup>2</sup>, 1 bathroom

**SOLD**



## JML in the Community



Cradle of Hope



Caritas Macau



Macau Bats Junior Rugby Team



Macau Golf Masters

## LET'S CONNECT



jmlmacau



jmlproperty

hello@jmlproperty.com  
www.jmlproperty.com

**+853 2835 2699**





Left: Passengers overlook the Hong Kong skyline as they ride a tram toward Victoria Peak. Right: The Manhattan skyline in New York City as viewed from Central park at dusk

# Around the world, luxury real estate poised to (mostly) strengthen

**R**ICH homebuyers laid low in 2019 as economic uncertainties turned global cities into risky propositions.

But don't be surprised next year to spot the world's wealthiest people beginning to spend money again as home prices in relatively stable economic areas continue to sink into bargain territory.

In a few cities, prices are even set to rise, according to global property consultancy Knight Frank. Paris leads the agency's 2020 forecast, with a 7% luxury price increase, followed by Miami and Berlin, where luxury units are also relatively affordable and in short supply.

Political and economic question marks still abound, from trade wars to next November's U.S. presidential election. And taxes on the rich instituted by cities such as Vancouver, London, and New York will continue to weigh on sales, says Kate Everett-Allen, a Knight Frank partner in London.

"Most markets will still see prime prices increase but by smaller margins than previously," she says.

## NEW YORK'S STILL A BUYER'S MARKET

New York City prices will fall 3% next year, a continuation of this

year's trend. (In the third quarter of 2019, prices were down 4.4% from the same period the previous year, according to Knight Frank.) To sell all the newly built condos in Manhattan at the current sales pace, it would take nine years. And the uncertainty of the presidential election will likely keep buyers on the sidelines, according to Jonathan Miller, president of appraiser Miller Samuel Inc.

Demand has also slipped because real estate investors have fled the market, spooked by a legislative environment that's targeted them via more onerous rent regulations and an increased mansion tax, which leaves buyers of luxury property with higher closing costs.

"The luxury market on the sales side is the weakest segment of the housing market," Miller says.

## WITHOUT FOREIGNERS, VANCOUVER'S STUCK, TOO

Sellers of pricey properties in Vancouver next year will likely still be feeling the hangover from the drawback of Chinese buyers and foreign buyer tax measures that were introduced in 2016 to cool runaway prices. Luxury values in the city will fall 5% next year, according to Knight Frank's forecast.

On the positive side, there's a new opportunity for domestic

buyers, says Kevin Skipworth, partner and managing broker with Dexter Realty in Vancouver.

"The government has put properties on sale for those who otherwise couldn't afford it," he says, meaning that the tax has effectively made high-end properties cheaper for locals.

## HONG KONG WILL DEFLATE

The political unrest in Hong Kong has hurt the luxury market, but it's still unlikely to crash in 2020, according to Knight Frank, which projects a 2% drop for luxury prices next year.

Philip White, president and chief executive officer of Sotheby's International Realty, says buyers are putting purchases on hold while they watch to see what happens with the pro-democracy protests. In the meantime, they're starting to look for opportunities elsewhere in cities such as in Vancouver, Los Angeles, San Francisco, and London.

"Real estate buyers look for a stable political system, and they're not finding that right now in Hong Kong," he says.

## MIAMI WILL HAVE A COMEBACK

Miami's high-end condo market, on the other hand, is poised for something of a come-

back in 2020, helped by President Trump's tax overhaul, which capped federal deductions on state and local taxes, according to Knight Frank.

While South Americans pulled away in recent years as the strengthening dollar added to the cost of buying in the U.S., domestic buyers are making up for it: Florida, which has no income tax, is drawing wealthy buyers from high-tax states like New York and New Jersey. Those buyers will push up Miami high-end prices by 5% in 2020, Knight Frank says.

## LOS ANGELES'S BRIGHT SPOT

Los Angeles's market, from Beverly Hills to Bel Air, will show moderate price increases in 2020—amounting to about 2%. It might have been higher but for a pullback of foreign buyers, particularly Chinese who face restrictions on moving money abroad. That's tended to weaken the highest end of the market.

California's wildfires, including one in 2018 that tore through Malibu, have also hurt by pushing up the cost of insurance, according to Sotheby's White. Demand has been particularly weak for properties above \$10 million. Homes priced below \$10 million have a more bullish

outlook, according to Knight Frank.

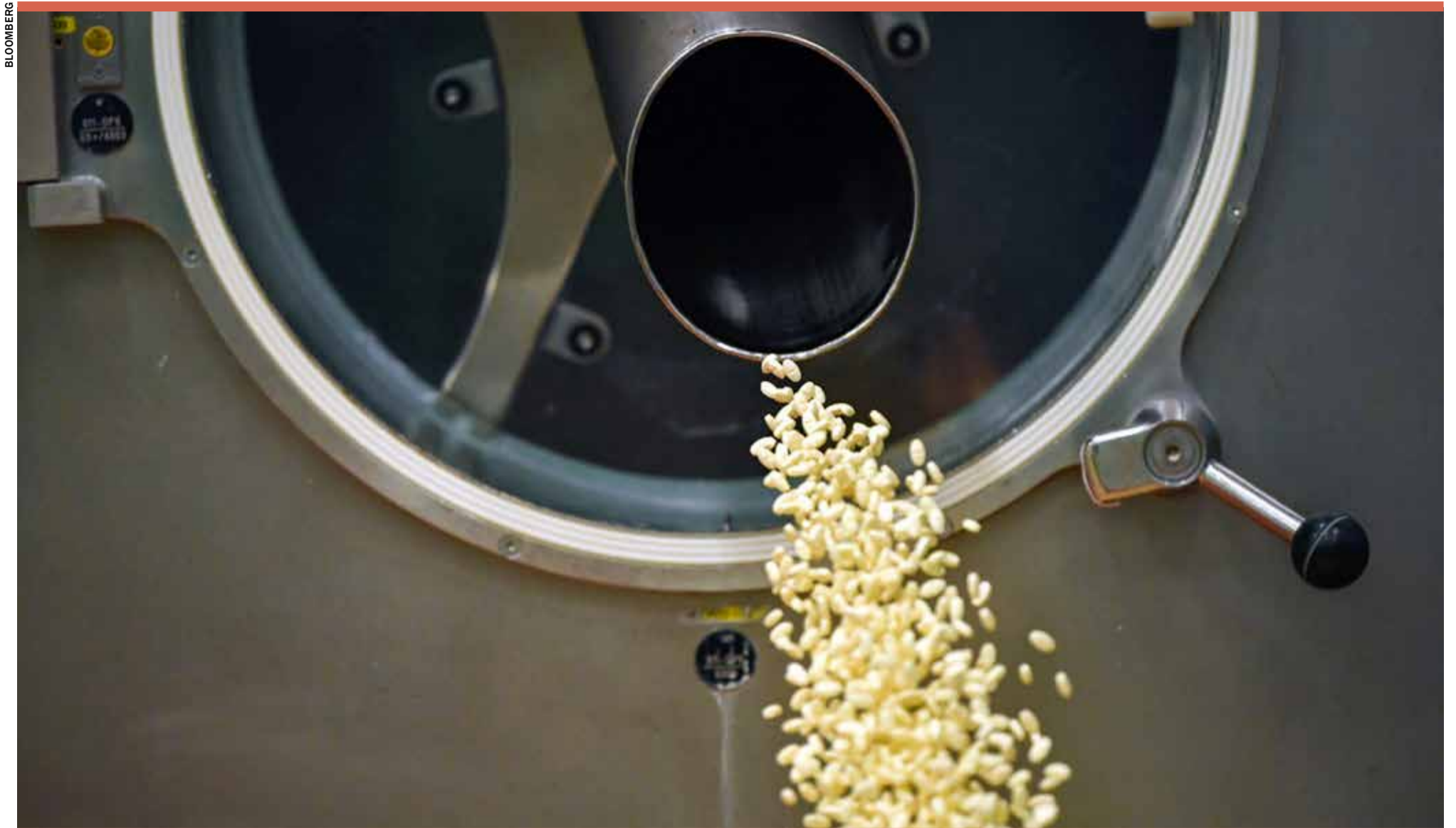
"L.A., at present, is more of a domestic market," White says.

## LONDON TO HAVE MODEST SUCCESS ACROSS THE BOARD

Central London, where prices fell 3% in the 12 months through November, will stabilize slightly next year as the fate of Brexit becomes clearer, says Tom Bill, Knight Frank's head of London residential research. Prices are likely to rise by about 1% next year, according to Knight Frank research, now that Conservatives have won in a landslide.

"Once the Brexit deal is completed, we forecast rising momentum across all markets, with price growth reflecting this from 2021 onwards," the company's 2020 forecast report says.

The ratio of shoppers to available listings reached a decade high in September, a sign of rising demand. The decline in the British pound combined with years of decreases in property prices are attracting foreign buyers again, Bill says. "Next year we could see the disorderly Brexit risk recede," he says. "If that is the case, there's an awful lot of pent-up capital ready to buy in London, and that will translate into higher levels of activity." **BLOOMBERG**



## CHINESE ALZHEIMER'S DRUG TO LAUNCH GLOBAL TRIALS AMID SKEPTICISM

A newly approved Chinese drug for Alzheimer's will start clinical trials in the U.S. and Europe next year as the country's first novel therapy for the incurable disease seeks global legitimacy.

Shanghai Green Valley Pharmaceutical Co. plans to recruit around 2,046 patients with mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's for trials at 200 sites across North America, Europe and Asia Pacific for 18 months, the company's Vice President Li Jinhe said on Sunday.

The drug, called Oligomannate, was granted conditional approval in China last month. It comes in a 150mg capsule and went on sale in the country yesterday. Patients will need take three capsules twice a day, according to the drug's package insert. A week's treatment costs 895 yuan (\$128).

Green Valley announced these plans in a press conference in Beijing on Sunday, nearly two months after making global headlines for saying it got approval from China's regulator for the first new Alzheimer's drug in 17 years. The neuro-degenerative disease has baffled global drug makers, who have invested billions of dollars into more than 190 experimental drugs with little to show for it.

The Shanghai-based firm, unknown outside of China, is fa-

cing skepticism that it could have so quickly achieved something that's eluded western pharmaceutical giants for decades.

"It's totally understandable for our drug to be questioned," said Green Valley Chairman Lyu Songtao. "We are confident because we see clear benefits from patients in the clinical trials."

The conditional approval requires the drugmaker to conduct further studies on how the drug works and its long-term safety and efficacy. The company also said it plans to invest \$3 billion in the next 10 years for such investigations -- including on global trials -- to understand its working mechanism and expand its use in treating diseases such as Parkinson's and vascular dementia.

### RAPID APPROVAL

In its mission to get its vast patient pool access to top-quality health care, China's drug regulator has been granting rapid approval to novel, experimental treatments, sometimes faster than its counterparts in the U.S. and Europe. Beijing is also nurturing its biotech sector in China's quest to become a global leader in medical and scientific research.

Alzheimer's affects 10 million

people in China and 5.8 million in the U.S. Researchers estimate there are 50 million people worldwide living with dementia, with Alzheimer's the cause in as many as 70% of cases -- implying a big addressable market for Green Valley if it manages to take the drug global. Drugs that halt the debilitating disease could be a market worth as much as \$30 billion in the U.S. alone, according to an estimate by analysts at Sanford C. Bernstein & Co.

Global pharmaceutical giants including AstraZeneca Plc, Eli Lilly & Co. and Roche Hol-

**Patients will need take three capsules twice a day, according to the drug's package insert. A week's treatment costs 895 yuan**

ding AG have invested billions of dollars over the years but failed to develop therapies for this disease. In October, Biogen Inc. said it plans to resume abandoned studies of its experimental therapy after new analysis of data showed promising results.

Green Valley plans to file an application for clinical trials with the U.S. Food and Drug Adminis-

tration in February 2020. It also wants to secure the Fast Track designation, said Green Valley's Li. This tag helps expedite regulatory review of drugs that treat serious conditions or fill an unmet medical need. The company is also exploring partnerships with global drugmakers to speed up clinical trials and help launch the product outside China, Li said.

### BROWN SEAWEED

The Green Valley therapy works differently from the approach taken on Alzheimer's by western drug developers. Its Oligomannate drug -- the name refers to a type of sugar extracted from brown seaweed -- is unusual in that it does not target beta amyloid, a protein that forms clumps of plaque in the brain, clogging it in patients with Alzheimer's.

After years of failure, a backlash has grown over drugmakers' fixation on beta amyloid as the key to a cure, but major pharmaceutical companies have yet to seriously explore an alternative. Oligomannate instead seeks to readjust microbiome in the gut, which ultimately leads to reduced neuron inflammation in the brain and slows the progression of the disease, according to the company.

In Chinese trials, the drug had statistically improved cognitive function in patients suffering from mild-to-moderate Alzheimer's as early as week four, Green Valley said in a November statement. Its success, however, has been met with skepticism from Alzheimer's researchers, who say that details are scant on its clinical trials in China.

In a story carried by Science magazine shortly after the drug was approved in China, Mark Oremus, an epidemiologist at the University of Waterloo in Canada, called the 36-week phase III trial by Green Valley as "far too short to evaluate the medium- to long-term effects." Also, it didn't compare the drug with other existing medications, Oremus said.

Local media reported that some industry researchers are calling for more evidence to prove that altering microbiome in the stomach can help slow cognitive impairment.

"Doubts always accompany scientific discovery," says Geng Meiyu, a researcher with Shanghai Institute of Materia Medica who led the discovery and research of the drug, adding that Green Valley will continue to look into the drug's working mechanism among humans through further studies and scientific collaboration. "This is just the first step of a long march," said Geng. **BLOOMBERG**

# Taiwan president: Island's democracy under threat from China

**T**AIWANESE President Tsai Ing-wen said yesterday that the self-governing island's democracy remains under direct threat from rival China, underscoring her calls for closer ties with the U.S. and other allies.

Tsai was speaking at a televised debate against Han Kuo-yu of the main opposition Nationalist Party and veteran politician James Soong of the People's First Party. Elections for president and the legislature are set for Jan. 11. Most polls show Tsai leading in her quest for a second four-year term.

Tsai said she would preserve Taiwan's freedoms and way of life, but would make no changes to the constitution or the island's official name, the Republic of China, which moved its seat of government to Taipei, the island's capital, following the Communist Party's seizure of power on mainland China in 1949.

"Taiwan's most pressing challenge arises from China's expanding ambitions," Tsai said. "The situation in our region is ever-more complex and Taiwan's sovereignty — its free, democratic way of life — is under threat of being stripped away and undermined."

"We need to deepen and strengthen our international relations, and at present we are doing so in terms of economics and across



the board with many countries," she said.

Tsai's governing Democratic Progressive Party currently holds a majority in the assembly, allowing her to pursue an agenda of economic reforms, partly intended to attract reinvestment from Taiwanese business groups based in China and elsewhere.

During the debate, Han furthered his claims of facing opposition from the mainstream media and accused Tsai's backers of corruption. He described China's threat to use military force to bring Taiwan under its control as an abstraction and defended his previous dealings with Chinese authorities as necessary to ensure

Taiwan's economic future.

"Don't smear people. You love Taiwan? I love Taiwan also," Han said.

Soong, who commands a portion of the pro-China electorate, cast himself as a moderate who could bring political experience to the office.

Tsai has taken a lead in polls in

recent months, partly in response to the crackdown on pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong. China governs the semi-autonomous city under a "one country, two systems" framework that it has also proposed for Taiwan, but which has been overwhelmingly rejected by the island's nearly 24 million people. AP

# Indonesian Muslims protest China's treatment of Uighurs

NINIEK KARMINI,  
JAKARTA

**M**ORE than a thousand Muslims marched to the heavily guarded Chinese Embassy in Indonesia's capital on Friday to protest China's treatment of its Uighur Muslims.

The protesters, many wearing blue headbands reading "Save Uighurs," chanted "Get out, China!" and unfurled Indonesian and Uighur flags as they marched to the embassy in downtown Jakarta.

In a speech, Yusuf Martak, a protest organizer, condemned the "oppression, torture and cruelty by the Chinese Communist government against brother Uighur Muslims."

Martak, a leader of a conservative Muslim alliance that held mass protests



against Jakarta's ethnic Chinese governor, a minority Christian, in 2016, demanded an end to mass deten-

tions of Uighur Muslims in China's Xinjiang region.

"We Muslims oppose all forms of colonialism and

oppression of Uighurs," said another speaker, Slamet Ma'arif, standing on the top of a truck. The crowd chan-

ted "Get out, Communists!" as some waved banners saying "We stand with Uighurs."

He called on the Indonesian government to take action to help the Uighurs.

The protesters performed afternoon prayers outside the embassy before dispersing.

Human rights organizations say up to 1 million ethnic Muslims in Xinjiang have been detained in camps where they are subjected to political indoctrination and pressured to give up their religion.

The Associated Press reported last year that some are forced to work in factories, and tracked clothing made in one camp to an American sportswear company.

China describes the sites as vocational training

centers necessary to fight radicalism in the restive province, and says the trainees work voluntarily.

Indonesian security minister Mohammad Mahfud MD on Thursday said the government summoned Chinese Ambassador Xiao Qian to explain the alleged abuses in Xinjiang.

He said Xiao asserted that China is committed to the protection of human rights and freedom of religion.

Indonesia, the world's most populous Muslim nation, is reluctant to publicly criticize Beijing, fearing it could jeopardize Chinese investment or invite retaliatory Chinese support for separatists in Indonesia's predominantly Christian Papua region where a pro-independence insurgency has simmered since the 1960s. AP

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Singapore goes on global offensive to defend

PHILIP J. HEIJMANS  
& YOOLIM LEE

**S**INGAPOREAN diplomats are taking the lead in defending a two-month-old fake news law, challenging international media outlets it says are publishing misleading claims on the contentious legislation.

Since the law was enacted in October, authorities in the Southeast Asian city-state have invoked it four times against critics and once against Facebook Inc., which was required to attach a government-issued "correction" to content deemed to contain falsehoods. Government officials have also countered critical media coverage of the law, known as the Protection from Online Falsehoods and Manipulation Act.

Foo Chi Hsia, Singapore's High Commissioner to the U.K., stated the Economist had misrepresented the law, writing in a Dec. 21 letter to the editor that it "should be looked at in the same context as our belief in the right of reply, which in our view enhances rather than reduces

the quality of public discourse." "Readers can see both and decide for themselves which is the truth," she wrote. "How does twinning factual replies to falsehoods limit free speech?"

Earlier in December, Singapore's ambassador to the U.S., Ashok Kumar Mirpuri, disputed a Washington Post story that cited critics saying the law could have a "chilling effect on online free expression." In the letter, obtained by Bloomberg, he also criticized Phil Robertson, deputy director of Human Rights Watch's Asia division, who was quoted as an expert in the story. Days later, Bernard Toh, director of the Ministry of Communications and Information's information policy division, accused Fred Ryan, the newspaper's publisher, of "perpetuating false allegations," local media reported.

### FREE SPEECH

The battle for public opinion comes as social-media companies weigh the impact of the

law on their businesses. Opposition Singaporean politicians are also worried the law will suppress dissent ahead of elections that must be held by April 2021. They expect the ruling People's Action Party, which has governed Singapore since independence in 1965, to win despite a slowing economy.

Singapore's government has said the new law is not aimed at stifling free speech and is enfor-

mations, noting that content impacted by the law remains intact alongside the ordered correction, which links to a full justification. "They can read both and decide for themselves on the truth. This encourages greater transparency," the ministry said.

Singapore is the latest Asian country seeking to counteract the flood of fake news in an era when messages delivered to smartphones over platforms like Facebook and WhatsApp have become as trusted as articles from traditional media sources. In elections earlier this year, both India and Indonesia sought to monitor the spread of fake news and counter the dissemination of rumors.

Some provisions in the law are unique to Singapore, which has increased risks for global tech companies. In addition to requiring companies to post "corrections" to user posts, the law may also require them to ensure the correction is seen by every user in Singapore who has read the offending post. Penalties for

failing to comply can be as high as SGD1 million (\$738,500) per post and a further SGD100,000 per day for non-compliance following a conviction.

### 'CORRECTION DIRECTION'

In one case last month, Minister of Home Affairs K Shanmugam instructed a "correction direction" to be issued to Sydney-based Alex Tan Zhi Xiang for posting alleged falsehoods against the ruling party to the Facebook page of his political blog "States Times Review." In a Facebook post on Nov. 27, Tan said he hadn't received a request from Australian authorities to take down any article, and said both he and the publication "will not comply with any order from a foreign government like North Korea or Singapore."

Tan said later by phone that he never received such a notice from Singapore, and updated his post within 24 hours in an effort to be compliant with the law after learning of the offense from a friend.

One day after the government statement was issued, the minister for home affairs said Tan

## Singapore's government has said the new law is not aimed at stifling free speech and is enforced independently of the election cycle

ced independently of the election cycle. "This is equally true with laws regulating the exercise of the rights of free speech and assembly, and with any other law," the Ministry of Law wrote in an emailed response to ques-

AD

**除夕狂歡迎2020**  
MACAU FISHERMAN'S WHARF NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTY  
澳門漁人碼頭

Dear Jane

澳門漁人碼頭勵駿廣場  
Rossio Square at Macau Fisherman's Wharf

2019.12.31 21:30-00:15

**仁德** CENTRO MEDICO PEDDER  
◆ 仁德醫療中心 ◆

We bring high quality of medical service to Macau

**General Surgery** : Dr. Fok Manson, Dr. Lai Cheuck Seen Edward, Dr. Lau Wing Kee Peter, Dr. Kwong Man, Dr. Nie Fu Zhong, Dr. U Chong San, Dr. Lei Chin Chong

**Breast Surgery** : Dr. Leong Iat Lun

**Urology** : Dr. Lo Kwong Yin Richard, Dr. Zhao Yun Qiao

**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

Avenida da Praia Grande No 599, Edifício Comercial Rodrigues 14 e 15 Andar, em Macau  
T. 2832 2298 / 2832 2229 Website: www.peddermacau.com  
Opening Hours: Mon - Fri 10:00 - 19:00 Sat 10:00 - 14:00 Sun & PH closed

# 'fake news' law

didn't comply with the order and commenced investigation proceedings against him. It said that a correction direction "requires the recipient to publish a correction notice, providing access to the correct facts." The order also instructed Facebook to post a correction, and the company complied.

"As it is early days of the law coming into effect, we hope the Singapore government's assurances that it will not impact free expression will lead to a measured and transparent approach to implementation," a Facebook spokesperson said by email.

Critics say the recent cases are just the latest in a string of attacks on dissent. Singapore's crackdown on critical voices has "intensified" in the past year, according to a report published last month by U.S.-based Freedom House, which cited government moves to temporarily block two local outlets and the prosecution of activists and journalists.

"These examples underscore how the government is weaponizing what is the genuine issue of disinformation in order to su-

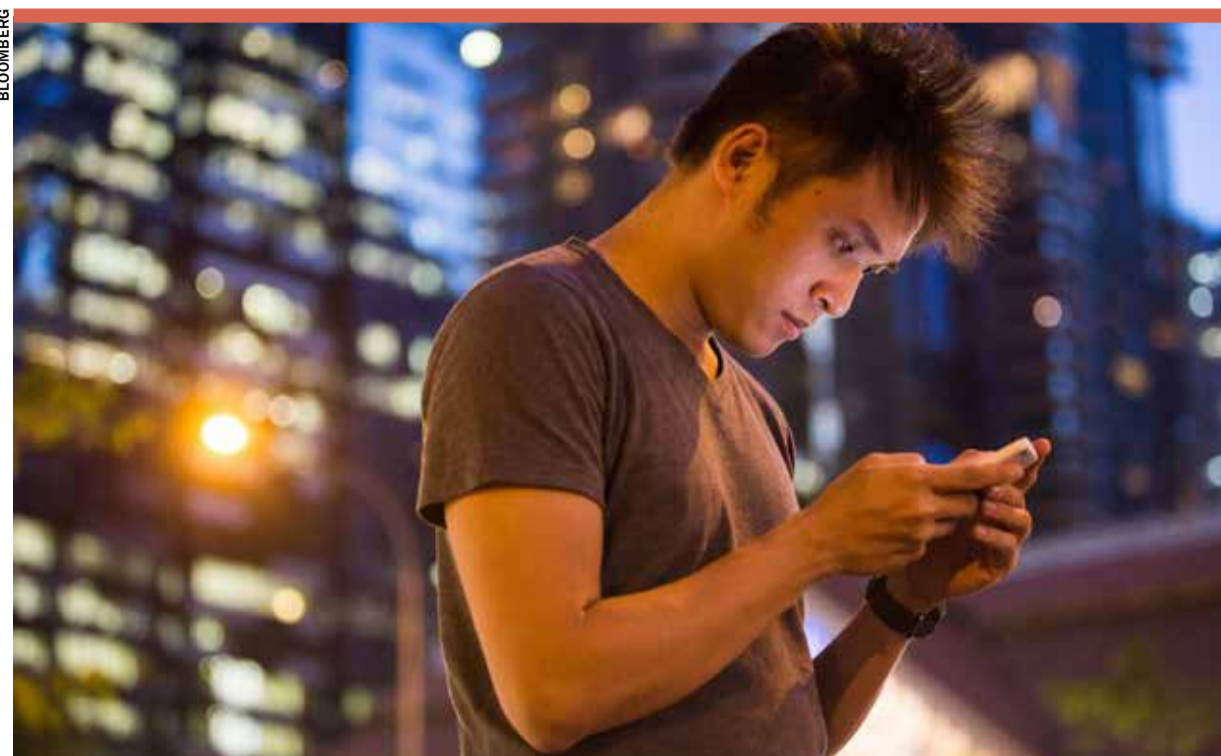
ppress information online and the rights to free expression and access to information," said Allie Funk, a research analyst for the group's "Freedom on the Net" program.

## OPPOSITION FEARS

Singapore's political parties have also expressed concern. In a letter leaked by the opposition Singapore Democratic Party on Dec. 3, Google informed party chairman Paul Tambyah the company would not be accepting political advertising regulated by the new law, citing similar decisions made in Canada and Taiwan.

"This was not an easy decision to make as Google is committed to delivering useful and relevant election-related information to users around the world," Ted Osius, Google's vice president for government affairs and public policy in Asia Pacific, wrote in the letter, which was verified by Bloomberg.

Tambyah questioned the decision in an emailed reply, calling the ban on political ads a threat to democracy and saying "evil is often perpetrated by peo-



ple and organizations who, wittingly or otherwise, ban freedom of speech."

Twitter Inc. has indicated it is ready to comply with the law and has set up a dedicated team to review government requests.

"We remain concerned about the potential impacts of this regulation on our service, and the people and institutions that use Twitter," a Twitter spokesman wrote in an email, urging the government to enforce the law judiciously.

Facebook said in September it has taken steps to reduce the spread of misinformation, adding that it would start enforcing a global policy in Singapore introducing tighter regulations for political advertisements that require identity and location disclosures. The statement didn't specifically mention Singapore's new law.

Singapore's government is also considering a separate bill targeting foreign interference that would give authorities

"powers to make targeted, surgical interventions" to investigate hostile information campaigns from abroad, Law Minister K Shanmugam said during a speech in September.

"There are always 'reasons' to take more and more power and this is just another," said Brad Bowyer, a member of the opposition party Progress Singapore, who himself was the target of the law's first correction direction. "It is a dark and dangerous path they are on." **BLOOMBERG**

**JOIN OUR SOCIAL MEDIA & ENJOY YOUR DISCOUNT!**  
FREE BEER OR 10% OFF FOR JOINING OUR WECHAT, FACEBOOK & INSTAGRAM

**D2 CLUB** **D2CLUBMACAU** **D2CLUBMACAU**

**D2 CLUB**  
www.d2club-macau.com

Macau Fisherman's Wharf, Edif. New Orleans 111  
澳門漁人碼頭新奧利良閣 111  
Tel: (853) 2872 3777

公司保留服務解釋權 Company reserves the right of final explanations

**WELCOME TO Playmate's club**  
**花心公子俱樂部**

**WILD NIGHT OUT**

*Come and buy a Standard drink Mop45 only  
You can see a European Striptease Show*

**Business Hours: 8:00pm-4:00am**

**Address: Basement, Hotel Guia, Macau Tel: 28532081 www.macauplaymatesclub.com**

Attention  
No admission under 18

AP PHOTO



Daniel Munoz reaches for his injured back during an interview.

## US MASS KILLINGS HIT NEW HIGH IN 2019, MOST WERE SHOOTINGS

LISA MARIE PANE

**T**HE first one occurred 19 days into the new year when a man used an ax to kill four family members including his infant daughter. Five months later, 12 people were killed in a workplace shooting in Virginia. Twenty-two more died at a Walmart in El Paso in August.

A database compiled by The Associated Press, USA Today and Northeastern University shows that there were more mass killings in 2019 than any year dating back to at least the 1970s, punctuated by a chilling succession of deadly rampages during the summer.

In all, there were 41 mass killings, defined as when four or more people are killed excluding the perpetrator. Of those, 33 were mass shootings. More than 210 people were killed.

Most of the mass killings barely became national news, failing to resonate among the general public because they didn't spill into public places like massacres in El Paso and Odessa, Texas; Dayton, Ohio; Virginia Beach, Virginia; and Jersey City, New Jersey.

The majority of the killings involved people who knew each other — family disputes, drug or

gang violence or people with beefs that directed their anger at co-workers or relatives.

In many cases, what set off the perpetrator remains a mystery.

That's the case with the very first mass killing of 2019, when a 42-year-old man took an ax and stabbed to death his mother, stepfather, girlfriend and 9-month-old daughter in Clackamas County, Oregon. Two others, a roommate and an 8-year-old girl managed to escape; the rampage ended when responding police fatally shot the killer.

The perpetrator had had occasional run-ins with police over the years, but what drove him to attack his family remains unknown. He had just gotten a job training mechanics at an auto dealership, and despite occasional arguments with his relatives, most said there was nothing out of the ordinary that raised significant red flags.

The incident in Oregon was one of 18 mass killings where family members were slain, and one of six that didn't involve a gun. Among other trends in 2019:

— The 41 mass killings were the most in a single year since the AP/USA Today and Northeastern

database began tracking such events back to 2006, but other research going back to the 1970s shows no other year with as many mass slayings. The second-most killings in a year prior to 2019 was 38 in 2006.

— The 211 people killed in this year's cases is still eclipsed by the 224 victims in 2017, when the

**In all, there were 41 mass killings, defined as when four or more people are killed excluding the perpetrator**

deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history took place in Las Vegas.

— California, with some of the most strict gun laws in the country, had the most, with eight such mass slayings. But nearly half of U.S. states experienced a mass slaying, from big cities like New York, to tiny towns like Elkmont, Alabama, with a population of just under 475 people.

— Firearms were the weapon

in all but eight of the mass killings. Other weapons included knives, axes and at least twice when the perpetrator set a mobile home on fire, killing those inside.

— Nine mass shootings occurred in a public place. Other mass killings occurred in homes, in the workplace or at a bar.

James Densley, a criminologist and professor at Metropolitan State University in Minnesota, said the AP/USA Today/Northeastern database confirms and mirrors what his own research into exclusively mass shootings has shown.

"What makes this even more exceptional is that mass killings are going up at a time when general homicides, overall homicides, are going down," Densley said. "As a percentage of homicides, these mass killings are also accounting for more deaths."

He believes it's partially a byproduct of an "angry and frustrated time" that we are living in. Densley also said crime tends to go in waves with the 1970s and 1980s seeing a number of serial killers, the 1990s marked by school shootings and child abductions and the early 2000s dominated by

concerns over terrorism.

"This seems to be the age of mass shootings," Densley said.

He and James Alan Fox, a criminologist and professor at Northeastern University, also expressed worries about the "contagion effect," the focus on mass killings fueling other mass killings.

"These are still rare events. Clearly the risk is low but the fear is high," Fox said. "What fuels contagion is fear."

The mass shootings this year include the three in August in Texas and Dayton that stirred fresh urgency, especially among Democratic presidential candidates, to restrict access to firearms.

While the large death tolls attracted much of the attention, the killings inflicted a mental and physical toll on dozens of others. The database does not have a complete count of victims who were wounded, but among the three mass shootings in August alone, more than 65 people were injured.

Daniel Munoz, 28, of Odessa, was caught in the crossfire of the shooting that took place between a 10-mile stretch in West Texas. He was on his way to meet a friend at a bar when he saw a gunman and the barrel of a firearm. Instinctively, he got down just as his car was sprayed with bullets.

Munoz, who moved to Texas about a year ago to work in the oil industry, said he had actually been on edge since the Walmart shooting, which took place just 28 days earlier and about 300 miles away, worried that a shooting could happen anywhere at any time.

He remembers calling his mother after the El Paso shooting to encourage her to have a firearm at home or with her in case she needed to defend herself. He would say the same to friends, telling them before they went to a Walmart to bring a firearm in case they needed to protect themselves or others during an attack.

"You can't just always assume you're safe. In that moment, as soon as the El Paso shooting happened, I was on edge," Munoz said.

Adding to his anxiety is that, as a convicted felon, he's prohibited from possessing a firearm.

A few weeks later, as he sat behind the wheel of his car, he spotted the driver of an approaching car wielding a firearm.

"My worst nightmare became a reality," he said. "I'm the middle of a gunfight and I have no way to defend myself."

In the months since, the self-described social butterfly steers clear of crowds and can only tolerate so much socializing. He still drives the same car, still riddled with bullet holes on the side panels, a bullet hole in the headrest of the passenger seat and the words "evidence" scrawled on the doors. His shoulder remains pocked with bullet fragments. **AP**

# N Korea begins key meeting before year-end deadline for US

HYUNG-JIN KIM, SEOUL

**N**ORTH Korea has opened a high-profile political conference to discuss how to overcome "harsh trials and difficulties," state media reported yesterday, days before a year-end deadline set by Pyongyang for Washington to make concessions in nuclear negotiations.

The ruling Workers' Party meeting is a focus of keen attention as some observers predict North Korea might use the conference to announce it would abandon faltering diplomacy with the U.S. and lift its moratorium on major weapons test.

The Korean Central News Agency reported that leader Kim Jong Un presided over a plenary meeting of the party's Central Committee convened in Pyongyang on Saturday. It called the gathering the "first-day session," suggesting it would continue for at least another day.



The meeting is intended to "overcome the manifold and harsh trials and difficulties and further accelerate the development of the revolution with transparent anti-imperialist independent stand and firm will," KCNA said.

The meeting will also discuss "important matters" in the party and national defense, KCNA said.

KCNA said Kim made a speech on overall state affairs

and the work of the Central Committee, but gave no further details.

In April 2018, at the start of nuclear talks with the U.S., North Korea held the same Workers' Party meeting and announced it would suspend nuclear and intercontinental ballistic missile tests and shift its national focus to developing the economy.

After his second summit with President Donald Trump

in February in Vietnam failed, Kim gave the U.S. until the end of this year to offer new initiatives to salvage the nuclear negotiations. North Korea has recently warned that its resumption of tests of long-range missiles and nuclear devices depends on U.S. action.

Restarting nuclear and ICBM tests would be a blow to Trump, who has boasted that North Korea's moratorium was a major foreign policy win. But that would also likely completely derail diplomacy with the U.S. and further dim the prospect for North Korea to get badly needed sanctions relief to rebuild its troubled economy, some experts said.

North Korea is pushing to win major sanctions relief in return for limited denuclearization steps, but the U.S. maintains sanctions will stay in place until North Korea takes significant steps toward ridding itself of nuclear weapons and technology. AP

## UKRAINE, EASTERN REBELS SWAP PRISONERS IN MOVE TO END WAR

**U**KRAINIAN forces and Russia-backed rebels in eastern Ukraine began exchanging prisoners yesterday in a move aimed at ending their 5-year-long war.

The move was part of an agreement brokered earlier this month at a summit of the leaders of Ukraine, Russia, Germany and France.

A rebel government official and the Ukrainian president's office confirmed that the swap has started.

In total, 142 prisoners were expected to be exchanged at a checkpoint near Horlivka in eastern Ukraine — 55 released by the rebels and 87 by Ukraine.

The last major prisoner swap between separatist rebels and Ukrainian forces took place in December 2017, with 233 rebels exchanged for 73 Ukrainians.

The fighting in eastern Ukraine since 2014 has killed more than 14,000 people. The conflict began about two months after Ukraine's Russia-friendly president fled the country amid massive protests in Kyiv. Russia's annexation of the Crimean Peninsula soon followed.

Hopes for ending the conflict have risen since the spring election of Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskiy, who has been more amenable to negotiations with Russia on ending the war.

But prospects for peace are still troubled by questions over allowing local elections that would ensure the rebel regions more autonomy and about Ukraine regaining control of its border with Russia in the rebel areas. AP

# MAKE-UP

## FOR ALL OCCASIONS

- BRIDAL / WEDDINGS • PHOTO SHOOTS • PARTY •
- GRADUATION • SPECIAL EVENTS •

**MAKE YOUR APPOINTMENT TODAY!**

TEL / WHATSAPP: (853) 6685 3323 | WECHAT: MISSJ\_23  
WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/JULIANAC.MAKEUPARTIST

## New Sunshine Cleaning Services Ltd.

- Septic Tank Pump Outs
- Sewer Transfer
- Grease Trap Pump Outs

**Call: 2883 3008**

Member of General Association of Macao Cleaning Service Industry

## ACCURATE, TIMELY & COMPETITIVE TRANSLATIONS

**Languages:**  
ENGLISH, CHINESE,  
PORTUGUESE, JAPANESE,  
KOREAN, SPANISH,  
FRENCH, ARABIC,  
RUSSIAN

**Services**  
TRANSLATIONS,  
PROOFREADING, COPYWRITING,  
DATA INPUT, NEWS MONITORING

**We translate +10,000 words a day**

Contact: Ms. Amy Yang  
Email: amy@ktranz.com.mo  
Tel: +853 2871 6081/2 Fax: +853 2871 6084

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

## what's ON



### THE LONG JOURNEY: THE FORBIDDEN CITY AND MARITIME SILK ROAD

**TIME:** 10am-9pm (Last entry at 6:30pm; closed on Mondays and public holidays)

**UNTIL:** 13 April 2020

**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 87919814

### RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

**TIME:** 10am-9pm

**UNTIL:** 13 February 2020

**VENUE:** Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

### RETROSPECTIVE EXHIBITION ON THE PAST NATIONAL LOTUS FLOWER EXHIBITIONS

**TIME:** 9am-1pm & 2:30pm-5:30pm (Closed on Mondays)

**UNTIL:** December 31, 2019

**VENUE:** Guia Hill Nature Information Station (next to cable car station)

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** 2888 0087

## Offbeat

### MAN WHO MADE 27,000 CROSSES FOR SHOOTING VICTIMS IS RETIRING

AP PHOTO



An Illinois man who made more than 27,000 crosses to commemorate victims of mass shootings across the country is retiring.

Greg Zanis came to realize, after 23 years, his Crosses for Losses ministry was beginning to take a personal and financial toll on him, according to The Beacon-News.

"I had a breaking point in El Paso," he said, referring to the mass shooting outside of a Walmart in El Paso, Texas. "I hadn't slept for two days, it was 106 degrees and I collapsed from the pressure when I heard there were two more victims of the mass shooting."

Zanis has set up crosses after the school shootings at Columbine, Sandy Hook and Parkland. He also placed crosses after the Las Vegas music festival shooting and the Orlando nightclub shooting.

"I leave a piece of my heart behind each time I go," he said.

In 2016 he made more than 700 crosses that were carried along Michigan Avenue in Chicago to honor each person who had been killed that year.

Earlier this year, Zanis found himself making crosses for his very own hometown of Aurora, Illinois, after a Henry Pratt Co. employee opened fire on his coworkers.

"After Orlando, it never stopped," Zanis said of the mass shootings. "The country had me on the road for a while every week. I have driven 850,000 miles to put up crosses. I slept in my truck and never had the money to cover what I was doing."

With donations from time to time, Zanis mainly relied on his own resources to build the crosses.

"At one point last year I was \$10,000 in debt and somebody covered that for me," he said. "Now I am \$14,000 in debt."

Zanis hopes to pass on his ministry to the nonprofit Lutheran Church Charities of Northbrook.

"I feel it is not the end of the ministry. It is the end of me doing it," he said.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Circo de Natal
17:10	Macau 20 Anos - A Caminho de 2049 (Repetição)
18:10	Contraponto (Repetição)
19:15	Aqui Há História (Repetição)
19:30	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	O Natal Engenhoso de Kirstie
22:05	Volta ao Mundo
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Mistérios de Lisboa
00:45	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:30	RTPi Directo

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

27 - 31 Dec



#### STAR WARS:THE RISE OF SKYWALKER

ROOM 1

2:15, 7:00, 9:45pm

Room 2

4:30

**Director:** J. J. Abrams

**Starring:** Carrie Fisher, Mark Hamill, Adam Driver, Daisy Ridley

**Language:** English

**Duration:** 141min

#### MY TYRANO: TOGETHER FOREVER

ROOM 1

5:00

**Director:** Kobun Shizumo

**Starring:** Kaori Ishihara, Shin'ichirō Miki, Aoi Yūki

**Language:** Cantonese

**Duration:** 108min

#### A SHAUN OF THE SHEEP

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:30pm

**Director:** Richard Phelan, Will Becher

**Language:** Chinese

**Duration:** 108min

#### BOMBSHELL

ROOM 2

9:30 pm

**Director:** Jay Roach

**Starring:** Charlize Theron, Nicole Kidman, Margot Robbie

**Language:** English

**Duration:** 108min

#### CATS

ROOM 3

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

**Director:** Tom Hooper

**Starring:** James Corden, Jason Derulo, Taylor Swift

**Language:** English

**Duration:** 123min

## this day in history



### 1958 CASTRO'S REBELS EDGE CLOSER TO CAPITAL

A vicious house-to-house battle between rebel guerrillas, led by Fidel Castro, and the Cuban army is raging around the town of Santa Clara, the capital of the province of Las Villas.

The capture of Las Villas is a key goal for the rebel force, known as the 26 July Army, before they advance on the capital, Havana.

Despite being heavily outnumbered by the Cuban army, the rebels have enormous popular support and have won a number of significant victories.

Just a few weeks ago, they were confined to their tiny mountain stronghold at the other end of the island. Now they have advanced into a position where they are poised to take the capital itself.

The guerrillas have been fighting to overthrow the military government of Fulgencio Batista for two years.

But in the last 48 hours about 3,000 people have been killed or injured in some of the bloodiest fighting in the history of Cuba.

The army has countered the rebel attack on Santa Clara with fighter and bomber aircraft, as well as guns and tanks.

One of the rebel leaders, Dr Ernesto "Che" Guevara, has appealed to the government commander in Santa Clara for a truce to clear the streets of the casualties.

Broadcasts on rebel radio said his appeal had been rejected.

The president is reported to be preparing to take personal command of his forces to destroy a convoy of guerrilla soldiers currently moving south from Santa Clara.

In a sign of how desperate the situation has become for the government, President Batista today removed the Commodore of the Navy's air force, Joaquin Yarela Canosa, from his post.

He was the second senior figure in the armed forces to be sacked this week. The army commander in Las Villas, General Alberto Rio Chaviano, lost his job a few days ago.

Meanwhile, amid rumours that President Batista is preparing to flee the island, two of his young sons arrived in New York, accompanied by their grandfather, Manuel Perez Benitoa.

Mr Benitoa denied that the two boys were being evacuated ahead of a government surrender, saying, "I bring them every year to see the snow."

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Two days later, on New Year's Day 1959, President Batista fled the country to the Dominican Republic, his government overthrown and his regime at an end.

He was to live the rest of his life in exile in Portugal and Spain and died in Spain in 1973.

Fidel Castro was sworn in as premier on 16 February 1959. Since then, Cuba has been a one-party state in which Fidel Castro exerts control over virtually every aspect of Cuban life.

From an early stage, his leadership put Cuba on a collision course with the United States.

Antagonism between the two nations led to economic sanctions against Cuba from 1960. Two years later, Fidel Castro brought the world to the brink of nuclear war as his alliance with the USSR provoked the Cuban missile crisis. Diplomatic relations have never been restored, and the US continues to enforce trade sanctions against Fidel Castro's regime.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
 Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
 Your vision of the future seems less like a carrot on a stick and more like a tease now. But you don't have to give up on it altogether. You just need to add a serious dose of patience to the mix.

**TAURUS**  
 Apr. 20-May. 20  
 One good thing about lowering financial expectations is that other things just don't matter as much, either. It's a lot harder to get a rise out of you these days. But someone tries to do it anyway. Don't bite.

**GEMINI**  
 May. 21-Jun. 21  
 Now that you've had some time for thought, you can see that most things in your life are not really as foreign as they first seemed. Yep, the shock is starting to wear off. Welcome to the new normal.

**CANCER**  
 Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
 People are entitled to their own opinions. Except when money is involved, that is. Try not to fly off the handle over someone else's ideas about just how your finances should be handled.

**LEO**  
 Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
 You may not be making headway, but given current conditions, going sideways can be considered making progress. As long as you're not moving backwards, you're ahead of the game.

**VIRGO**  
 Aug. 23-Sep. 22  
 It's a brave new world, so don't count on anything being regular or routine. Experiment with things a bit. You may find that your biggest asset going forward is an open mind.

**LIBRA**  
 Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
 Life is a challenge. Even the state you're in can be fun if you have the right attitude. Getting it can take some creativity but once you conjure it up, hold onto it for the duration.

**SCORPIO**  
 Oct. 23-Nov. 21  
 Problems at home aren't unexpected. If you and family members disagree over the details, remind yourself of the basics. And if all else fails, remember that you're all working hard towards improving the bottom line.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
 Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
 You'll get an unexpected boost in your mood. If it's been a while since you've impressed anyone, it will come as a welcome surprise. Be open to it, even when interacting with strangers.

**CAPRICORN**  
 Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
 The best laid plans of mice and men often go awry. And that doesn't even include the schemes. If you want your future to pan out, you've got to lay an honest foundation. Start today.

**AQUARIUS**  
 Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
 You have one thing going for you, but it's a big one. Your high energy can tide you over as long as you use it on things that are worth it. Once you start squandering it like money, you're lost.

**PISCES**  
 Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
 Daydreaming about the future can either fan the flames of your discontent or help you come up with a realistic map. As long as they don't involve winning the lottery, let yourself indulge in fantasies.

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-4	2	clear
Harbin	-24	-13	clear
Tianjin	-2	4	cloudy
Urumqi	-13	0	clear
Xi'an	-1	12	clear
Lhasa	-5	10	clear
Chengdu	6	13	cloudy
Chongqing	9	13	cloudy
Kunming	2	8	drizzle
Nanjing	1	13	cloudy
Shanghai	6	13	cloudy
Wuhan	2	14	cloudy
Hangzhou	5	14	overcast
Taipei	16	17	moderate rain
Guangzhou	12	17	overcast
Hong Kong	12	17	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	0	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	-3	3	clear
Paris	-2	4	clear
London	2	8	overcast
New York	-1	4	cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Get, as a job; 5- Surprise attack; 9- Bluffer's ploy; 14- Get an effort; 15- Isle of exile; 16- Comparatively peculiar; 17- Fleetwood Mac hit; 18- "Rubaiyat" poet Khayyam; 19- New York city; 20- Planes, trains, and automobiles, e.g.; 23- Singles; 24- Society girl; 25- CPA's suggestion; 28- Turns, e.g.; 31- Alley; 34- Prickly plants; 36- Bring civil action against; 37- Mitch Miller's instrument; 38- Think about; 42- Entre; 43- Family card game; 44- Tire (out); 45- Econ. indicator; 46- River in Poland; 49- Draft letters; 50- Rocker's show; 51- Dork; 53- Itemized requirements; 60- Sports shocker; 61- Part of; 62- Perlman of "Cheers"; 63- Range rope; 64- Pluck; 65- Muscle spasms; 66- Aromatic compound; 67- Missile holder; 68- Symbol of slavery;

**DOWN:** 1- Make it to the end; 2- A ways away; 3- Nick Charles's wife; 4- Pipe cleaner; 5- Start again; 6- Nearly; 7- Support beam; 8- Move suddenly; 9- Firmly implanted; 10- Go off-script; 11- Prefix with logical; 12- Actor Penn; 13- West end?; 21- Slow mover; 22- Farewell; 25- Hockey infraction; 26- Babbled; 27- Misbehave; 29- Broad scarf; 30- Sever; 31- Final notices; 32- Seeps; 33- Jury members; 35- French possessive; 37- Grand Opry; 39- Playwright Pirandello; 40- USN rank; 41- In pieces; 46- Conqueror; 47- Unwind; 48- Simple shed; 50- Gaggle members; 52- Unwashed; 53- Pampering places; 54- Hey, you!; 55- Fruit; 56- Cross inscription; 57- The Buckeye State; 58- Bottle part; 59- Manuscript enc.; 60- Suffix with glob;

**Friday's solution**

P	I	T	A		A	C	L	U		E	A	S	T						
E	S	A	U		S	H	O	R	E		A	D	E						
S	I	L	T		S	A	U	N	A		S	E	L						
O	S	L	O		I	N	D	R	H	I	N	A	L						
					M	O	S	T		A	T	I	E						
					A	S	A	H	I		A	D	H	E	S	S	I	V	E
					A	B	U	T	S		I	D	O	L		T	R	I	P
					A	H	A		S	M	E	R		A	S	I			
					R	O	V	E		D	A	L	E		O	P	T	I	C
					P	R	E	S	T	I	G	E		S	H	E	R	T	
						C	A	F	E		H	I	M	N					
					S	A	L	A	M	I		B	O	S		C	O	A	T
					L	E	A	P		C	H	A	R	T		I	N	C	A
					U	R	G	E		G	R	A	S	E		L	E	E	R
					R	O	S	E			E	L	E	M		S	A	D	E

**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><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p><b>One Central- Nam Van Lake View</b>                  HK\$13,950,000 1,269 ft² 2+1 2+1</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p><b>Manhattan, Taipa</b>                  \$26,800/mth 2,305 ft² 4+1 2+1</p>	<p><b>FOR SALE</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Taipa village 2+1 1+1                  787 ft² \$4,950,000 (ref: 19096008)</p> <p>[Taipa] 2 connected apartment 4+1 2+1                  1,404 ft² \$8,680,000 (ref: 19096006)</p> <p>[Macau] One Central 2+1 2+1                  1,349 ft² \$14,839,000 (ref: 19096004)</p> <p>[Coloane] Large apartment 2+1 3+1 2+1                  2,530 ft² \$13,800,000 (ref: 19096000)</p>	<p><b>FOR RENT</b></p> <p>[Taipa] Studio (new building) 1+1                  470 ft² \$9,500/mth (ref: 19101002)</p> <p>[Taipa] Nova Grand 2+1 1+1                  935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)</p> <p>[Macau] La Marina studio 1+1                  \$11,200/mth (ref: 19091001)</p> <p>[Taipa] Ocean Garden 4+1 4+1                  3,700 ft² \$35,000/mth (ref: 18040674)</p>
---	---	--	--

**jml** 卓雅物業  
 property since 1994  
**(853) 2835 2699**  
 hello@jmlproperty.com  
 www.jmlproperty.com  
 f jmlmacau @ jmlproperty

## NEWSEUM HAILED FREE PRESS, BUT GOT BEATEN BY FREE MUSEUMS

**I**N 2008, the Newseum — a private museum dedicated to exploring modern history as told through the eyes of journalists — opened on prime Washington real estate.

Sitting almost equidistant between the White House and the Capitol on Pennsylvania Avenue, the glass-walled building became instantly recognizable for its multi-story exterior rendition of the First Amendment.

Eleven years later that experiment is coming to an end. After years of financial difficulties, the Newseum will close its doors Tuesday.

“We’re proud of how we did our storytelling,” said Sonya Gavankar, the outgoing director of public relations. “We changed the model of how museums did their work.”

The building was sold for \$372.5 million to Johns Hopkins University, which intends to consolidate its scattered



Washington-based graduate studies programs under one roof.

Gavankar attributed the failure to a “mosaic of factors” but one of them was certainly unfortunate timing. The opening coincided with

the 2008 economic recession, which hit newspapers particularly hard and caused mass layoffs and closures across the industry.

She also acknowledged that the Newseum’s status as a for-pay private

institution was a harder sell in a city full of free museums. A Newseum ticket costs \$25 for adults, and the building is right across the street from the National Gallery of Art and within blocks of multiple Smithsonian

museums.

“Competing with free institutions in Washington was difficult,” Gavankar said.

Another problem, organizers said, is that the Newseum struggled to attract local residents, instead depending on a steady diet of tourists and local school groups. Actual Washington-area residents, who do frequent the Smithsonian and elsewhere, mostly came on school trips and rarely returned as adults.

Claire Myers fits that profile. The D.C. resident recalls coming to the Newseum in high school in a senior-year class trip. She only returned in late December for a final visit because she heard it was closing at the end of the year.

“I do think part of the reason was because it’s a paid museum,” she said. “Why go out of my way to do this when I could just go to any other free museum?”

The \$25 price tag,

Myers said, creates a pressure to set aside the whole day and take in every exhibit, whereas at one of the free Smithsonian museums, she knows she can come back another time to catch whatever she missed. But Myers said she was deeply impressed by the exhibits, particularly the Newseum’s signature gallery of Pulitzer Prize-winning photographs.

“I do wish it wasn’t going away,” she said.

The museum’s focus evolved over the years, showcasing not just journalism and historic events, but all manner of free speech and civil rights issues and some whimsical quirks along the edges. Exhibits during the Newseum’s final days included an exploration of the cultural and political influence of Jon Stewart and “The Daily Show,” a look at the history of the struggle for LGBTQ rights and a display depicting the history of presidential dogs. **MDT/AP**

AD



# MACAUBATS

## RUGBY CLUB 澳門蝙蝠欖球會



**JOIN US**  
**SATURDAYS**  
**@ 10:00 AM**

每週六上午10:00來打  
橄欖球

Taipa Stadium  
(氹仔運動場)

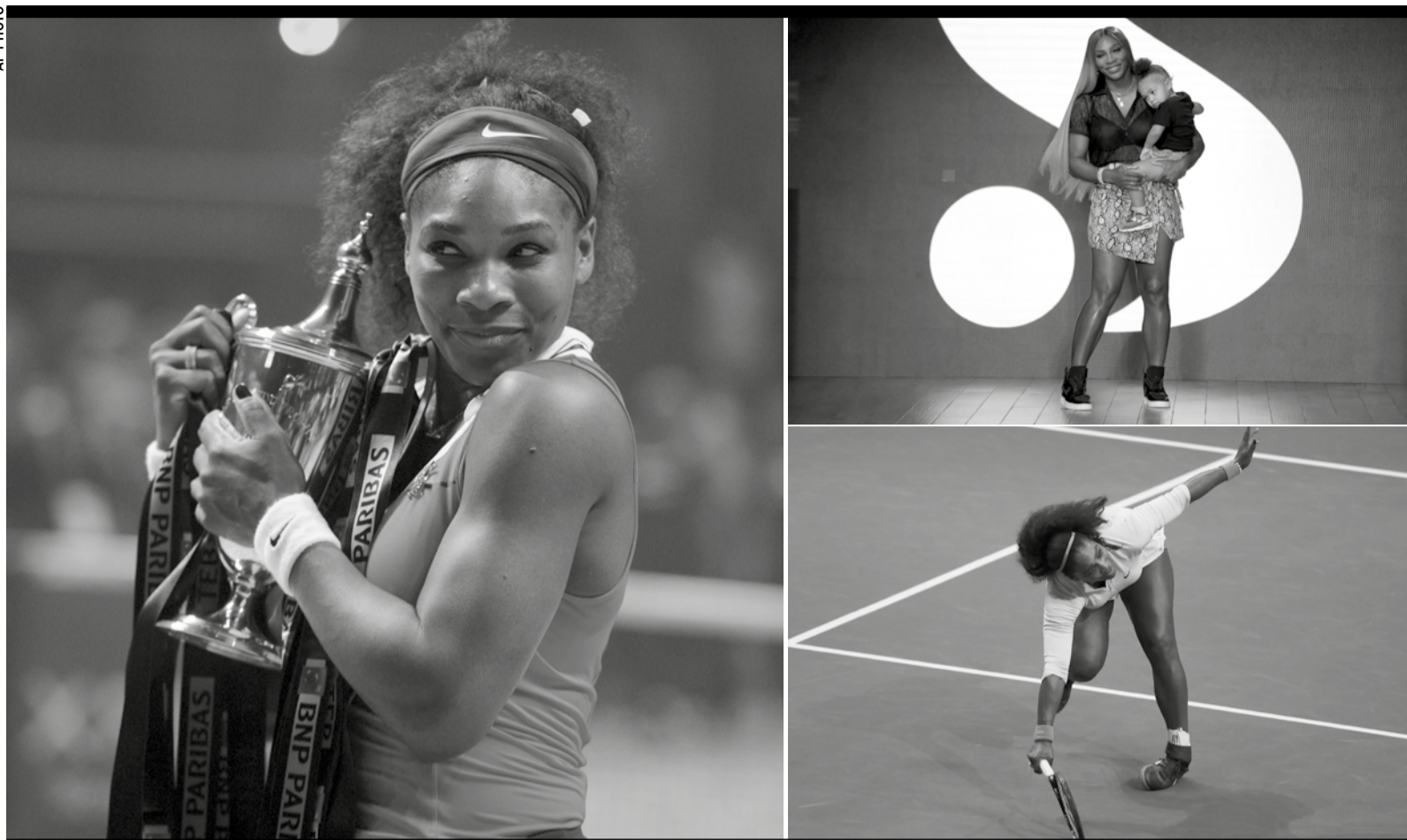


macaubats@gmail.com



Macau Bats Rugby

AP PHOTO



AP FEMALE ATHLETE OF THE DECADE

# Serena Williams aces honors

HOWARD FENDRICH

Serena Williams dominated the decade, on the court and in conversation.

There were, to begin with, the dozen Grand Slam single titles — no other woman had more than three over the past 10 seasons — and the 3 1/2 years in a row at No. 1 in the WTA rankings.

And then there was the celebrity status that transcended tennis, making everything she did and said newsworthy, whether it was the triumphs and trophies and fashion statements or the disputes with tournament officials, the magazine covers or the Super Bowl ad with a message about women's power, the birth of her daughter or the health scare that followed.

Still winning matches and reaching Grand Slam finals into her late 30s, still mattering as much as ever, Williams was selected by The Associated Press as the Female Athlete of the Decade on Saturday

after a vote by AP member sports editors and AP beat writers.

"When the history books are written, it could be that the great Serena Williams is the greatest athlete of all time. [...] I like to call it the 'Serena Superpowers' — that champion's mindset. Irrespective of the adversity and the odds that are facing her, she always believes in herself," said Stacey Allaster, CEO of the WTA from 2009-15 and now chief executive for professional tennis at the U.S. Tennis Association, which runs the U.S. Open.

"Whether it was health issues; coming back; having a child; almost dying from that — she has endured it all and she is still in championship form," Allaster said. "Her records speak for themselves."

Gymnast Simone Biles, the 2019 AP Female Athlete of the Year, finished second to Williams in voting for the decade honor, followed by swimmer Katie Lede-

up," Biles said.

"She's remained humble. She's stayed true to herself and her character and I think that's really neat about an athlete," Biles said. "Once you start winning, some get cocky, but she's stayed true to herself, win or lose."

It's the defeats that seem to drive Williams, helping propel her to heights rarely reached by any athlete in any sport.

"Whenever I lose, I get more determined, and it gives me something more to work toward," Williams said in a 2013 interview with the AP. "I don't get complacent, and I realize I need to work harder and I need to do better and I want to do better — or I wouldn't be playing the game."

With a best-in-the-game serve, powerful groundstrokes and

**"When the history books are written, it could be that the great Serena Williams is the greatest athlete of all time."**

STACEY ALLASTER  
US TENNIS ASSOCIATION

cky. Two ski racers were next, with Lindsey Vonn finishing fourth and Mikaela Shiffrin fifth.

Three of Williams' five AP Female Athlete of the Year awards came during the last decade, in 2013, 2015 and 2018. She also won in 2002 and 2009.

"She's been my idol growing

relentless court coverage, she has won 23 Grand Slam singles titles, more than anyone else in her sport's professional era, which began in 1968.

More than half came from 2010-19: four at Wimbledon, three apiece at the U.S. Open and Australian Open, two at the French Open. That includes a run of four in a row from the U.S. Open in 2014 through Wimbledon in 2015, her second self-styled "Serena Slam."

Williams also was the runner-up another seven times at major tournaments over the past decade, including four of the seven she's entered since returning to the tour after having a baby in 2017.

In all, she made the final at 19 of the 33 majors she entered during the decade, a nearly 58% rate.

The decade began inauspiciously in 2010, when Williams cut her feet on broken glass at a restaurant and was hospitalized with blood clots in her lungs.

Among her many accomplishments, though:

- reaching at least one Slam final every year, a streak that dates to 2007;
- winning gold medals in singles and doubles (with her sister, Venus) at the 2012 Olympics;
- becoming the oldest woman to win a Grand Slam singles trophy in the professional era;
- becoming the oldest No. 1 in WTA history and equaling Steffi Graf's record for most consecutive weeks atop the rankings;
- leading the tour with 37 singles titles, 11 more than anyone else in the decade.

The day she won Wimbledon in 2016, Williams discussed the way she constantly measures herself.

"I definitely feel like when I lose, I don't feel as good about myself," she said.

"But then I have to, like, remind myself that: 'You are Serena Williams!' You know? Like, 'Are you kidding me?'" Williams continued with a laugh. "And it's those moments that I have to just, like, come off and be like, 'Serena, do you know what you've done? Who you are? What you continue to do, not only in tennis [but also] off the court? Like, you're awesome.'" AP

## Ben Stokes, Jill Scott feature in Britain's New Year's Honors List

BEN Stokes and other members of England's Cricket World Cup-winning squad have been recognized in Britain's New Year's Honors List, which also highlighted trailblazers in women's sport.

All-rounder Stokes was awarded an OBE — Officer of the Order of the British Empire — by Queen Eli-

zabeth II after he grabbed the headlines in a dramatic summer of cricket. He scored an unbeaten 84 as England became world champions with victory over New Zealand in July, and followed it up six weeks later with a match-winning 135 not out in the third Ashes test at Headingley.

Manchester City footballer Jill Scott, part of the England squad which reached the semifinals of the Women's World Cup in France earlier this year, receives an MBE — Member of the Order of the British Empire — as do England netball stars Serena Guthrie and Joanne Harten. Sue Campbell, the Foo-

otball Association's director of women's football, was made a dame, the female equivalent of a knighthood, in the list of honors made public late Friday. Double Olympic taekwondo champion Jade Jones got an OBE.

In golf, former major winner Catriona Matthew was awarded an OBE af-

ter captaining Europe to a Solheim Cup win over the U.S.

Apart from the honor for Stokes, Eoin Morgan, who captained England at the World Cup tournament, has been made a CBE, Commander of the Order of the British Empire, while wicketkeeper Jos Buttler and test skipper Joe Root

both got MBEs.

Knighthoods go to West Indies cricket greats Clive Lloyd and Gordon Greenidge, who played key roles in the side that came to dominate the sport in the 1970s and 1980s.

The honors are awarded twice a year, at New Year's and to mark the monarch's official birthday in June. AP

OPINION

World Views

Tyler Cowen, Bloomberg

WOMEN DOMINATED THE DECADE

People react so emotionally to politics, I have decided to assess the decade just past by considering something less partisan but no less illuminating: culture.

Start with the music I have been listening to over the last few weeks. Every December I buy the albums that appear on the various “best of” lists. This year my pile of compact discs is mostly music recorded by women — Billie Eilish, Angel Olsen, Sharon Van Etten, Lana Del Rey, Taylor Swift, Jenny Lewis, FKA Twigs and others. This was much less the case 10 years ago.

That brings me to what I see as the No. 1. trend of the decade: the increasing influence of women.

Consider the 10 best-selling books of the decade. All have female protagonists, and the top seven are authored by women. (“Fifty Shades of Grey” and its sequels take the top three spots, with three others having the word “Girl” in the title.)

On television, last week my wife and I watched a few episodes of HBO’s “The Watchmen” — the talk of many of our friends — and so far the main protagonist is a black woman. The last movie I saw was “The Rise of Skywalker,” and the hero and savior is a woman.

I should point out that I very much like these albums, books and movies. I should also point out that I encountered all this culture without seeking out female protagonists or creators.

“The Rise of Skywalker,” which is still likely to be one of the year’s big movies, reflects some other cultural trends as well. Disney is still with us, stronger than ever, and the film is installment No. 9 in the “Star Wars” saga, which has a new TV spinoff, “The Mandalorian.” The continuing prominence of these shows reflects a certain exhaustion of creativity in Hollywood.

Too many of the top movies these days are tent-pole franchises, pulled from comic books or graphic novels or TV shows. In contrast, “The Godfather” series stopped at three installments, and I can’t imagine Alfred Hitchcock would ever have done a ninth take on “Rear Window.” But today the sequel and the franchise reign, reflecting how hard it is to grab public attention at a time when there never has been so much choice.

Earlier this month I went to a basketball game, the New York Knicks against the Atlanta Hawks in Madison Square Garden. It was fun, but by the end of the first half the Knicks (one of the weakest teams in the league) had scored 77 points, which might have been enough to win 20 years ago. For better or worse, there were plenty of three-point shots, yet few dramatic backdowns or isolation plays.

What about social media, a cultural bellwether if there ever was one? I recently came across this tweet, from October. It has more likes, 1.1 million, than any I’ve seen all year:

*I saw a guy at Starbucks today.  
No iPhone.  
No tablet.  
No laptop.  
He just sat there.  
Drinking coffee.  
Like a Psychopath.*

— Dave Vescio (@DaveVescio) October 18, 2019

Which brings me to the second most important trend of the last decade — namely, how much time we spend staring at screens, most of all on our mobile devices. They simply convey more interesting narratives than most of the other spaces in our lives.

But the two biggest cultural influences of the last 10 years are clear: women and screens. For me, that adds up to a pretty thrilling decade. [Abridged]

A boat suspected of being from North Korea with several bodies was found on a small island in northern Japan, the Japanese Coast Guard said yesterday.

The wrecked boat that had the decomposing bodies was found on Sado Island in Niigata prefecture on Friday, and the bodies were found Saturday, a coast guard official in Sado said on customary condition of anonymity.

Found on the boats were three bodies with heads, two heads without bodies and two bodies without heads. It’s officially counted

as seven bodies because it is unclear whether the bodies and heads came from the same people, the official said. The five bodies for which gender could be confirmed were all male, he said.

Japanese media reports said an investigation had started on whether the boat was from North Korea, as Korean language items were found on the boat.

The area where the boat was found faces North Korea and is the region where such boats, dubbed “ghost ships” by the Japanese media, have been found in recent years, numbering about a hundred each year.



AP PHOTO

SIX BECOME FIRST TO CROSS DRAKE PASSAGE UNASSISTED

As freezing water thrashed their rowboat in some of the most treacherous waters in the world, six men fought for 13 days to make history, becoming the first people to traverse the infamous Drake Passage with nothing other than sheer manpower.

They dodged icebergs, held their breaths as giant whales breached near their small boat and rode building-sized waves while rowing 24 hours a day toward Antarctica.

The team of men from four countries finished crossing the Drake Passage last week in just under two weeks after pushing off from the southern tip of South America.

“This is a really big deal in Antarctic history to hear about this,” said Wayne Ranney, a Flagstaff, Arizona-based geologist who has led expeditions to Antarctica and crossed the Drake Passage in motorized vessels more than 50 times. “One hundred percent of their progress was done with those 12 arms for 600 [nautical] miles. That’s just phenomenal. I can’t even imagine.”

Besides the threat to their lives, the men labored under grueling conditions. Their 29-foot (9-meter) rowboat, named the Ohana, had to be in constant motion to avoid capsizing.

That meant three men would row for 90 minutes while the other three rested, still cold and wet.

“You’re rowing inside an open hold, 40-foot sea waves are splashing in your face, near-freezing water is splashing over the bow,” said 34-year-old Colin O’Brady of Jackson Hole, Wyoming, one of the six men on the boat. “By the end, we all lost a good amount of weight and were delirious from the sleep deprivation.”

The men had to use a bucket to go to the bathroom. To rest, two men needed to lie shoulder to shoulder in a tiny space while a third would lay in a fetal position in an even smaller area.

The toughest part for O’Brady’s fellow rower, Jamie Douglas-Hamilton of Edinburgh, Scotland, was the constant bombardment from the elements.

“We were hit by winds from every single direction [...] and the seas down here are very violent — it’s the roughest ocean in the world,” the 38-year-old said. “We almost capsized many times, and the problem with that is the water is so cold that if you go in, you’ve probably got two to five minutes.”

Physically, Douglas-Hamilton said he fought crippling seasickness and numb hands and feet. At

one point, a strap he had to wear around his ankles while rowing wore through his boots and cut into his skin all the way to the bone. “It was absolute agony,” Douglas-Hamilton said.

The other men on the expedition were: Fiann Paul of Reykjavik, Iceland; Cameron Bellamy of Cape Town, South Africa; Andrew Towne of Grand Forks, North Dakota; and John Petersen of Oakland, California.

Paul, Douglas-Hamilton and Bellamy are record-breaking ocean rowers, Towne is a championship rower and has climbed the tallest mountain on every continent, and Petersen was a championship college rower.

In addition to storms and waves, the men dodged icebergs and whales that could easily have destroyed their small vessel. And then there were the mental challenges, especially during the night shift.

“At night we can’t see the waves as they roll and crash into us and we can’t see the horizon so there is no sense of progress,” O’Brady wrote on Instagram as he documented the journey. “It feels like being inside of a washing machine, blindfolded where time is standing still.” MDT/AP



AP PHOTO

**Guinea-Bissau** Two former prime ministers of Guinea-Bissau are vying for the presidency in a runoff election yesterday after the incumbent failed to reach the second round in the tumultuous West African country once described by the United Nations as a narco-state.

**Turkey’s** defense chief yesterday that his country’s troops won’t evacuate their 12 observation posts in rebel-held northwestern Syria. That’s even as a Syrian government offensive pushed deeper into Idlib province, the last remaining opposition stronghold. Turkey — a strong backer of some of the rebels fighting Syrian President Bashar Assad’s forces — has a dozen observation posts in Idlib province, as part of an agreement reached last year with Russia, a main supporter of Assad.



AP PHOTO

**Germany** Lufthansa’s low-cost carrier Eurowings has canceled more than 170 flights scheduled for today, tomorrow and Wednesday due to a strike by flight attendants at sister company Germanwings. The cancellations mostly affect flights within Germany from airports that include Cologne-Bonn, Hamburg, Munich, Stuttgart and Duesseldorf.



AP PHOTO

**UK** A group of politicians from Britain’s opposition Labour Party have called for “fundamental change” within their party’s leadership. The comments follow a parliamentary election earlier this month that gave Labour its worst election defeat since 1935 and made pro-Brexit Prime Minister Boris Johnson the most electorally successful leader of the Conservative Party since Margaret Thatcher.