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THE GOV'T IS NOT ABLE TO PROVIDE A TIMETABLE FOR THE COMPLETION OF PUBLIC HOUSING PROJECTS PLANNED FOR NEW URBAN ZONE A P3

SEEING WEAKNESS IN WASHINGTON, CHINA HOLDS LEVERAGE IN TRADE DEAL P10

A TRAVEL WARNING IS IN PLACE FOR LUZON ISLAND IN THE PHILIPPINES AFTER A VOLCANO THERE BEGAN SPEWING LAVA YESTERDAY P2,12



Afghanistan-Pakistan

Severe winter weather has struck parts of Afghanistan and Pakistan, with heavy snowfall, rains and flash floods that left at least 54 people dead, officials said yesterday as authorities struggled to clear and reopen highways and evacuate people to safer places.



Thailand An Austrian BASE jumper was rescued in southern Thailand yesterday after being stuck for hours almost 200 meters above the ground when his parachute became snagged on the rocky side of a cliff.

China said yesterday it barred the head of the internationally renowned organization Human Rights Watch from entering Hong Kong due to the group's support for the territory's ongoing protest movement. More on p8

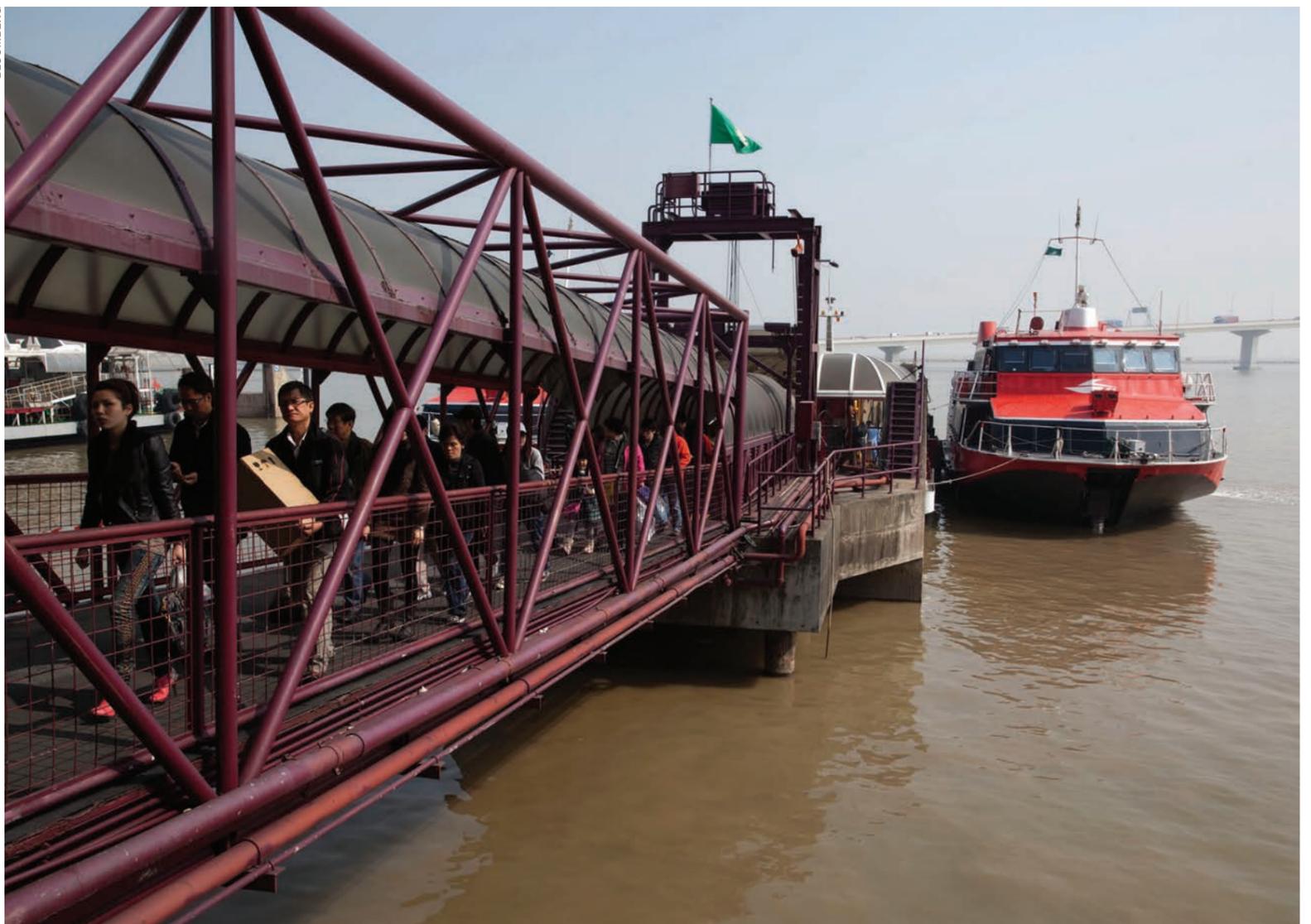


China The government says its diplomats and government officials will fully exploit foreign social media platforms such as Facebook and Twitter that are blocked off to its own citizens. Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang yesterday likened the government to "diplomatic agencies and diplomats of other countries" in embracing such platforms to provide "better communication with the people outside and to better introduce China's situation and policies."

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TURBOJET EMPLOYEES SAY WAGES CUT UP TO 12% P5

THE MOVE COMES AMID STIFF COMPETITION FROM THE HONG KONG-ZHUHAI-MACAU BRIDGE



LOTUS BRIDGE TO SOON FALL UNDER MACAU LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY P2



WUHAN CORONAVIRUS ARRIVES IN BANGKOK P7,11

MACAU TO HAVE LEGAL JURISDICTION OVER LOTUS BRIDGE SOON

ANTHONY LAM

THE Lotus Bridge will soon be under the legal jurisdiction of Macau, according to Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong, who confirmed the news yesterday in his capacity as spokesperson for the Executive Council (ExCo), the advisory board of the Chief Executive.

Cheong also said that the change will come into effect once the new Hengqin Border Control Building and local legislation regarding the Macau border control facilities within the building get approved.

Cheong was appointed as the ExCo spokesperson not long before yesterday's press conference. The press conference was held to release news about local legislation for the Macau border control section at the nearly finished Hengqin Border Checkpoint Building.

According to a national directive, border control measures of the SAR and mainland China will be conducted within one building at the Hengqin border.

This is similar to the border control post of the mainland at the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

The main difference is that Macau will be responsible for conducting border control on the mainland side too. As such, local legislation is required to facilitate the arrangement.

"I don't see this as complicated legislation," said Cheong. "We have actually

enacted a similar piece of legislation before, which is the 3/2013 legislation." The law from 2013 provided legal grounds to relocate the University of Macau to Hengqin.

The national directive has also stipulated that, apart from the Macau border control area within the border building, that there will be three "extensions" to the SAR's legal jurisdiction.

The Lotus Bridge will be the first extension to be covered by Macau laws. The others will be a bridge connecting the University of Macau on Hengqin with the other parts of Hengqin, and the future Light Rail Transit extension to Hengqin.

"In the future, civil and criminal matters that take place on the Lotus Bridge will be within Macau's jurisdiction," explained the ExCo spokesperson. "On the other hand, the bridge [connecting the University] has only been planned."

An exception is that the piers of the bridges will be managed under mainland laws.

The Secretary hopes the legislation will be enacted by March. He stressed that the legislation is essential to the opening of the border control building, as without the legislation, Macau authorities cannot work within the building.

Cheong started the press conference by thanking the Chief Executive for the appointment, while expressing his hopes to build good relationship with the media.

ANTHONY LAM



Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong

Air Macau launches daily flight to Beijing's new airport

AIR Macau is set to launch a new daily flight connecting Macau to the new Beijing Daxing International Airport, which began operations in late September of last year.

An opening ceremony was held yesterday at the Macau International Airport.

The Macau airline currently operates four daily return flights to the Beijing Capital International Airport, and will now add a fifth daily flight to Beijing Daxing.

With the new route to Daxing, Air Macau

claims to be "the first airline among other airlines based in Hong Kong and Taiwan to settle in Beijing Daxing International Airport and Beijing Capital International Airport."

Air Macau's five daily flights to Beijing will be evenly distributed throughout the day. "This provides more convenience for travelers taking flights between Beijing and Macau," the airline said in a statement.

The new flight will be numbered NX20. According to the airline, its name is intended to com-

memorate 20th anniversary of Macau SAR.

NX20 will depart from Macau daily at 9:35 a.m. and arrive in Beijing at 12:30 p.m. At 1:45 p.m., its return flight, NX19, will travel to Macau and is scheduled to arrive at 5:10 p.m.

The new airport is located in Daxing District of the Chinese capital. Its location enables its easy access from Beijing, Tianjin City and the Province of Hebei. The new airport is about 90 minutes' drive from Beijing Capital International Airport.

Beijing Daxing International Airport boasts the introduction of cutting-edge technology throughout the departure process, including full self-service, paperless boarding passes, and facial recognition technology.

Beijing authorities estimate it will handle 72 million users annually by 2025.

The new airport's terminal building was designed by the late Dame Zaha Hadid, who also designed the City of Dream's Morpheus Hotel in Macau. AL

GGCT ISSUES LOW-LEVEL TRAVEL ALERT TO LUZON

THE Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has issued a "Level 1 Travel Alert" for Luzon Island in the Philippines, including the country's capital Manila, following the eruption of the Taal volcano.

The Philippine government raised its alert level to Level 4, indicating "an imminent hazardous eruption," necessitating a total evacuation of nearly half a million people near the country's capital.

In a statement, the bureau warned local residents who intend to travel to or are already in Luzon to be on alert and closely follow the development of the situation, which might affect their personal safety.

Although the GGCT has not received any request for infor-

mation or assistance, it said it will to continue monitoring the latest developments.

The bureau also advises Macau residents to purchase comprehensive travel insurance before travelling, ensuring that they have coverage options for the Macau Travel Alert System and international emergency medical evacuation coverage.

A total of five flights to and from Manila and Macau were cancelled on Sunday, according to the Macau International Airport Co. Ltd, as all flights to and from Manila airport were temporarily put on hold.

Yesterday, the airport resumed partial operations, allowing travelers bound for Macau to depart. LV

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JULIE ZHU

LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

No timetable for New Urban Zone A public housing

THE government could not provide a timetable for the completion of the New Urban Zone A public housing projects despite the public tender running on schedule, Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário announced during yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

Lawmakers were mostly concerned about economic housing projects and the construction progress of public housing, as well as the Macau SAR government's policy that prioritizes public housing over economic housing.

The same concerns were raised for the Wai Long public housing project, as were the hopes that in 2020, the overall design work of Zone A public housing can be finished.

At present, the Housing Bureau plans to use eight land plots on New Urban Zone A to build public houses or related facilities, including seven public housing projects and one community facility.

Talking about young people's desire to purchase houses, Rosário posed, "is there any government that guarantees people will have houses the moment they are born?"

Regarding delayed public housing projects, Rosário responded by saying that the slow development of public housing is not related to the government's administration, but lawmakers expect construction to finish faster than the government, which means that in the eyes of lawmakers, the projects are delayed when in fact they are not.

URBAN MASTER PLAN

In 2019, a revised first draft of the first phase of Macau's urban master plan was submitted to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT). The master plan will be revealed in an administrative draft and will define each district's position in addition to suggesting what kind of houses should be built on the district. In the coming weeks, multiple governmental departments will discuss the draft and will communicate with the relevant contractor.

The draft is expected to be submitted for public consultation within the year. Rosário believes that a master plan is the most important topic in the land, transport and public works areas.

In addition, Rosário reported that in the short term, DSSOPT will have a new director. Rosário is confident that DSSOPT's image will be changed with a new director. "Within this year, I hope we all can see some



Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo Arrais do Rosário (center) at yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting

changes," he said.

Currently, less than 1% of public engineering projects recorded "excessive overtime" and less than 3% recorded "excessive overcost". He believes that the government's performance was "not bad" in terms of handling public engineering projects.

LIGHT RAPID TRANSIT

The government has plans for the public tenders for both the LRT Barra section and Seac Pai Van (SPV) section to be held this year. The SPV line will stop at the islands' medical complex. Another section has been planned to connect Pac On to the Border Gate (Eastern Line), with this line also crossing through Zone A.

Last year, the SPV line was ready for its design to go to public tender. The Eastern line is still undergoing a feasibility study, but the government will try to prepare a consultation draft for this section within the first half of this year. At SPV, the government has designated space for commercial operations.

Zone A will have a depot serving SPV, Barra and Hengqin. Rosário could not provide an answer regarding the timetable for the Eastern line's planning or construction. However, he is sure that its construction will start within this government

term. For this line, the government may consider using extra LRT cars, which will be put in Zone A's depot.

The Eastern line will be approximately 8 kilometers long and, at Cotai, it will connect to Hengqin. On the Macau side, it will connect to the Border Gate. It will also pass Pac On, cross the sea to Zone A, have another 3-4 stops, and finally connect to Areia Preta all the way to the Border Gate.

Rosário wants the lawmakers

and the public not to exaggerate the LRT's incidents.

"Sometimes, I believe our requirements are too high and we are too strict," said Rosário. "The LRT is a new thing and it is not perfect. Approximately 80% of LRT workers are Macau local residents. Some problems were caused by the machines, some were caused by people who are Macau people. Don't turn small problems into big ones."

The Secretary thinks that making a fuss out of small pro-

blems "is unnecessary."

He said that these Macau local residents were hired in March 2018 and have been receiving training since then. "They are Macau local residents. Why are we this strict? I hope that we all, regardless of the scale of the incidents, don't turn them all into big incidents. I am trying to have mostly Macau residents doing this work," said Rosário.

The Transport Bureau is still waiting for detailed reports on the LRT incidents.

SECURITY AUTHORITY WILL PROCEED WITH FACIAL RECOGNITION FUNCTIONS

[FACIAL recognition technology] is absolutely in accordance with the law. We have not considered suspending it. It can improve the police authority's efficiency in cracking down crimes," answered Mui San Meng, assistant commissioner-general of the Unitary Police Service (SPU), when questioned if the security services were reconsidering facial recognition in response to concerns aired by members of the public.

"Nobody knows you were recorded unless a crime took place at that moment," said SPU representatives during yesterday's Legislative Assembly plenary meeting.

Mui argued that CCTV surveillance cameras were set up in accordance with the law and that all cameras were labeled with notices informing the public about the existence of the cameras and other relevant functions.

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai proposed that the lo-

cal government build strong facial recognition features for Macau's CCTV surveillance systems with the purpose of smart development, sharing the data from these systems with multiple departments.

The security authority's response endorsed Lam's proposal, although it claimed that statistics stemming from the technology should not be needlessly shared with other public or private parties, as was suggested.

Mui said that the Transport Bureau, the civil protection center, and the Fire Services Bureau will all use these functions to monitor road conditions.

Zheng Anting, Cheung Lap Kwan, Leong Sun Iok and Mak Soi Kun endorsed the plan, arguing that such technology provides protection for the public. The security authority's representative once again claimed that the function does not violate people's privacy. **JZ**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

STEVE VICKERS: NEW GOV'T SIGNALS SHIFTS IN GAMING POLICIES

LYNZY VALLES

STEVE Vickers & Associates, a Hong Kong-based specialist political and corporate risk consultancy, has said in its latest annual security report that the changes to the local government may signal a significant shift in the city's policies on the casino sector.

The report observes that the review into gaming regulations presents a risk for American investors. "Much attention has focused on whether the government will put pressure on the U.S.-owned concessionaires, such as Las Vegas Sands and Wynn Resorts, to scale back their presence in favor of Chinese companies," the firm noted in its 2020 Asia Risk Assessment.

A report last year by Moody's Investors Services predicted that American firms would likely receive new concessions in Macau irrespective of the trade tensions between the U.S. and China.

Steve Vickers & Associates predicts that the local government will outline plans for the renewal of the six gaming concessions and sub-concessions.

According to the report, Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng may "emphasize diversification from a reliance on gaming, through the expansion of the financial sector and integration in the Greater Bay Area initiative" in his first policy address this April.

Another concern is the city's slowing economy. The firm suggests that Ho may



focus on the development of Hengqin Island and the establishment of a local stock market and trade initiatives with Portuguese-speaking countries, in order to shore up the economy.

It also added that local casinos remain a target for Islamic extremists in light of the events in Xinjiang.

"However, the largest risk is the problem of triad society penetration of the Macau junket sector, which poses the perennial risks of money laundering and related criminality," the report added, echoing the sentiments of previous years.

In view of the social unrest and political instability in Hong Kong, the firm notes that Macau should be on guard. The firm surmised that neither the Hong Kong government nor the central government

will accede to the demands of protesters. As long as Chief Executive Carrie Lam remains in the post, protests are expected to continue.

"The political [stalemate] seems likely to continue well into 2020, with implications for the rule of law, the economy and the security environment."

Meanwhile, the firm suggested that the police force manage protests liable to degenerate into fighting, as the failure to prevent such protests from escalating has normalized violence in the region.

Prior to founding Steve Vickers & Associates, Steve Vickers spent 18 years in the Royal Hong Kong Police Force and commanded the Force's Criminal Intelligence Bureau, according to his bio on the company website.

MGM TO GIVE CNY BONUS IN TWO INSTALLMENTS

CASINO operator MGM will pay a discretionary bonus to eligible non-management employees in two installments. About 90% of its workforce will be eligible for the bonus.

The discretionary bonus is equal to one month's salary and will be paid in mid-January and early-February 2020, the gaming operator announced in a statement.

Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China Holdings Limited, said, "the bonus is our appreciation for and recognition of the hard work of our team members in the past year. We will continue to reinvest in our team members' development and make MGM the ideal place for locals to grow and develop their careers."

"2020 is a new beginning; we will welcome the new challenges and opportunities of Macau with an innovative mindset," he added.

MGM is the fourth casino operator to announce a bonus equivalent to one-month salary this month, following the latest announcement of Wynn Macau's distribution of a "winter bonus," which was distributed to 97% of its workforce.

Usually, gaming operators announce their discretionary bonuses to team members before the Chinese New Year. LV

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RENATO MARQUES

TurboJet to reportedly cut staff salaries up to 12%

TURBOJET, the oldest ferry company operating maritime transportation in the Pearl River Delta, is preparing to reduce the salary of the majority of its employees, reported Hong Kong news outlet Oriental Daily News.

The Oriental Daily News report cited sources from company staff and documents disclosed by the employees, revealing that, under the management of Shun Tak-China Travel Ship Management Limited, the company informed staff from both the Hong Kong and Macau branches of the imminent wage reduction in a briefing session.

The scheme introduces wage cuts of 12% for those earning above HKD70,000 per month. Those earning monthly salaries between HKD30,000 and HKD70,000 will see a 10% cut to their wages, while those earning between HKD10,000 and HKD30,000 will have their wages cut by 8%. Only company staff earning salaries below the HKD10,000 ceiling will not be affected by the change.

According to the documents accessed by the Hong Kong media, the salary reduction scheme will be effective as of February 1.

Employees of the company further revealed that they would have until January 16 to sign an acceptance agreement relating to

BLOOMBERG



Basic Salary Revision Scheme (Effective Date: 1 February 2020)
基本薪金調整 (生效日期: 二零二零年二月一日)

Basic Salary Range (基本薪金)	Reduced % (減幅)
≤\$10,000	0%
\$10,001 - \$30,000	8%
\$30,001 - \$70,000	10%
> \$70,000	12%

* Monthly basic salary of \$10,000 or below will remain unchanged
每月基本薪金一萬元或以下，其薪酬將維持不變

* Monthly basic salary of more than \$10,000 to \$30,000 will be reduced by 8%
每月基本薪金一萬元以上至三萬元將減薪百分之八

* Monthly basic salary more than \$30,000 to \$70,000 will be reduced by 10%
每月基本薪金三萬元以上至七萬元將減薪百分之十

* Monthly basic salary more than \$70,000 will be reduced by 12%
每月基本薪金七萬元以上將減薪百分之十二

人力資源部
二零二零年一月十日

the measure, or would otherwise face dismissal.

Macau Daily Times attempted to reach Shun Tak-China Travel Ship Management for comment, but no reply was received by press time.

The Hong Kong media outlet said that several posters have been found in various locations,

especially at the Hong Kong Macau Ferry Terminal in Sheung Wan, which express workers' displeasure with the announcement.

According to a Hong Kong Federation of Trade Unions Legislative Council member who spoke with Oriental News Daily, the measure had not been negotiated with staff.

The measure will affect around 1,000 staff members since, according to information from the HK Federation of Trade Unions (HKFTU), almost all the employees of TurboJet earn a salary above HKD10,000.

The same source added that since the last quarter of 2019, the company has been taking mea-

sures aimed at "[getting] rid of workers," adding that they forced staff to take at least three days of unpaid leave per month.

The same representative of the HKFTU added that the significant cut on the higher payroll earners is a "dismissal in disguise" for vessel captains, the only ones earning such wages.

The measures come as ferry operators have struggled to adapt to a new reality in the Pearl River Delta, brought about by the operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge – an alternative to ferry services – and the political unrest in nearby Hong Kong which has deterred visitors from traveling to the neighboring SAR.

TurboJet reported HKD70 million in losses in the first half of 2019, down from the HKD186 million profit in the same period a year earlier. It attributed the loss to a 32% year-on-year drop in the number of passengers on account of "changing travel patterns resulting from the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge."

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CRIME

MAN CAUGHT FOR SEXUALLY HARASSING UNDERAGE GIRL

THE police have arrested a man on suspicion of sexually harassing the underage daughter of his tenant on two separate occasions. The Public Security Police Force (PSP) disclosed that the case was reported on January 10 by the victim's mother, who is the tenant of a condominium in Toi San District. The condo is also reported to be the scene of the crimes.

On January 8, the condo owner entered the property using his emergency key to find the underage girl alone at home. He told the girl that he was there to collect the rent owed to him.

According to the police report, he started to discuss "adult-themed" topics with the minor, even asking her to access a pornographic website. The girl expressly refused his request. Later, the owner reportedly touched the girl's buttocks, which enraged the girl and she asked the man to leave the condo.

Upon reporting the incident to her mother, the girl said that a similar incident had taken place in September last year. At that time, the owner also opened the condo door with the back-up key. He claimed he was there to install some furniture. He touched the girl's arm and leg



at that time.

Last year's incident was not reported to the police. After the recent incident, the mother decided to report both cases.

Using the information in their tenancy contract, the police managed to find the suspect. The suspect is surnamed Man, aged about 50, who reportedly works as a casino croupier.

The suspect confessed that on both

dates he entered the condo with the back-up key. He denied touching the girl in September last year, but confessed to "accidentally" touching the girl's buttocks in the most recent incident. He also confessed to having requested the girl access a pornographic website.

He was passed to the Public Prosecutions Office on charges of sexual harassment and violation of a domicile. **AL**

CRIME

THREE YOUTHS CAUGHT FOR THEFT AT BASKETBALL COURT

SPORTS players should be mindful of their belongings, advised the police yesterday.

Three underage students were caught after reportedly stealing items at the basketball courts adjacent to the Macau Tower in January.

One of the five cases took place in the early morning on January 1, in which one victim reported losing a cell phone worth 6,700 patacas. On the same day, another victim lost a cell phone worth 8,000 patacas. A third lost a school bag, which contained shoes and a small amount of cash.

On January 3 and January 4, two victims respectively lost a school bag containing their property, reportedly worth about 8,000 patacas each, according to the police.

The case was solved with the help of technological footprints. One of the victims realized a card transaction was conducted at a shop on Travessa dos Anjos. The police hence managed to trace the suspects using the surveillance camera footage from the shop.

Three local males were caught, all under the age of 16, surnamed Tam, Chan and Wong respectively. The three suspects are friends, the police do not suspect that there is a cartel link. **AL**

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Three health officials attend two-day Wuhan briefing

THE local government has dispatched a team of three officials to Wuhan, Hubei Province, in order for them to learn more about the latest developments regarding a pneumonia outbreak in the mainland city. They are expected to end their two-day trip today.

The team will consist of Lam Chong, director of the Disease Control Center of the Health Bureau (SSM), and two officials from the public hospital, the government reported on Sunday.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Government Information Bureau, the team will be informed by national health officials about the appropriate treatment for infected patients, as well as measures to prevent or if necessary control the spread of the identified coronavirus.

The SSM's Public Health Laboratory already has diagnostic tests that can detect if a patient has been infected with the pathogen identified in the Wuhan outbreak.

As of Sunday, all patients suspected of having symptoms of pneumonia – and whose preliminary test results exclude the pos-



sibility of regular influenza – were subjected to these diagnostic tests.

The government additionally received on Sunday a notice from the mainland's National Health Commission stating that the genome sequence of the novel coronavirus associated with the viral pneumonia outbreak in Wuhan, had been released through the Global Initiative on Sharing All Influenza Data.

Since 1 January, local medical institutions have informed the health authority and other relevant government departments about a total of 10 cases, each involving a patient with fever and respiratory problems, and that had been in Wuhan in the previous 14 days. Tests have ruled out the possibility of the Wuhan coronavirus in eight of the patients, while two remain in isolation for further testing.

The government is paying close attention to the latest developments regarding the viral pneumonia cases that have occurred in Wuhan and has taken several measures to minimize the risk of such cases having any impact on Macau.

The city continues to advance local preparedness regarding response to a potential viral outbreak, including a uniform level of training in relation to the control of infectious disease and procedures of handling suspicious cases for medical professionals. The SSM has also worked to ensure that there is sufficient reserve supply of medication, medical consumables and other equipment.

The government stressed again yesterday that there is no cause for alarm regarding the outbreak in Wuhan. Nonetheless, a heightened level of awareness should be displayed by members of the public and greater attention given to the maintenance of personal and environmental hygiene.

Macau residents either working, studying or living in Wuhan should remain additionally vigilant, it said. **DB**

MAN ON-DUTY SUSTAINED SECOND DEGREE BURNS

Yesterday, one electricity repair man sustained second degree burns while he was working. The local man, aged 38, was working with another individual at Nova City in Taipa at approximately 10 a.m. to repair the building's electricity meters. During the work, the meter caught fire and burned a small section of the man's face, leaving him with second degree burns. He was delivered to the public hospital by the Fire Services Bureau. The incident was forwarded to the Labour Affairs Bureau and public electricity company CEM also sent staff to discover the reason behind the accident.

POSSIBLE HUMAN REMAINS FOUND IN COLOANE

On Sunday, a group of local residents found possible human remains in Coloane. According to the Judiciary Police (PJ), the remains were found on the walking trail at Estrada do Altinho de Ká Hó, in Coloane. The person who discovered the remains found them inside a ceramic container on a stone bench on the street. The container is similar to those specifically made for human remains. However, the police authority could not confirm whether these were human remains, and have forwarded them for a forensic examination.

GOV'T TO AMEND JUDICIAL AGREEMENT WITH MAINLAND

The government is preparing to amend an agreement on mutual requests for judicial procedures, notifications and the presentation of evidence in both civil and commercial matters between the courts of the mainland and Macau. According to an executive order published in the Official Gazette, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong has been empowered to sign the agreement with the Supreme People's Court of the People's Republic of China on behalf of the SAR government. The agreement was signed back in 2001 between Macau and the mainland. It is not currently clear what amendments will be made to the agreement and to what extent changes in the system will be enforced. According to the laws of the SAR, the fulfillment of such a request has exceptions, such as in the cases where the matter occurs outside the jurisdiction of the court or when the fulfillment of such agreement would breach the fundamental principles of Macau's rule of law and order.

HEALTH

SURGICAL TEAM AT PUBLIC HOSPITAL WIN AWARD

THE surgical team of the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ) has been awarded the Medical Excellence Award from the Dr Stanley Ho Medical Development Foundation. The prize is for the breakthrough in the use of the laparoscopic single-site surgery (LESS) surgical technique, the Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement.

The award ceremony was held in the presence of representatives from the medical team and service.

During this opportunity, the SSM expressed its commitment to continuing to promote the development of specialized medical technology in Macau, introducing advanced clinical technologies and equipment to further improve the quality of medical services and the health and wellbeing of residents.

LESS is a revolutionary technology in the field of laparoscopy that aims to reduce the trauma to patients caused by surgery as well as accelerating the recovery time and alleviating pain caused by surgical treatment, the benefits of which have been highly recog-

nized by the medical community. The public hospital introduced this technique back in 2003 for laparoscopic biopsy surgery and from then on has applied it to different areas, including oncology, gastroenterology, gynecology, and pediatrics.

In recent years, the team has used the LESS in a wide range of surgeries, particularly those related to cancer treatments and gastric surgeries.

According to the SSM records, the technique was used in the pediatric field on patients as young as three months old with success.

Currently, over 70% of general surgery at CHCSJ is performed laparoscopically and over 500 surgeries have been performed using LESS. Patients who have undergone LESS have recovered well after their operations, and these results have been recognized by patients, their families, and the health sector.

The SSM also said that presently, over 70% of surgeons in the General Surgery Service of CHCSJ possess knowledge and experience with the LESS technique, including 12 surgeons who can independently operate using this technology. **RM**

CTM SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH ANGOLA CABLES FOR 'DIGITAL OPPORTUNITIES'

LOCAL telecom operator CTM and Angola Cables signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) in December, to enhance digital opportunities for business between Macau, mainland China, African Portuguese-speaking countries and Brazil.

According to a statement issued by the local telecommunications firm, the partnership primarily aims to establish the terms of agreement and promote strategies and opportunities to link the Greater Bay Area to Africa and the Americas, in particular, the Portuguese-speaking countries.

CTM Chief Executive Officer Vandy Poon said that the telecom operator believes that with the increasing degree of integration in the Greater Bay Area, Macau will play a significant role in promoting business cooperation between companies from China and Portuguese-speaking countries in Africa

and the Americas to jointly explore new investment and business opportunities.

CTM added that Macau and the neighboring regions have the conditions and opportunities to be the "landing point for international cable systems and the ideal location for hosting datacenters, in order to promote the digital ecosystem of the region."

Meanwhile, commenting on the partnership, Angola Cables CEO, António Nunes remarked, "Expanding connectivity across the southern hemisphere has the potential to unlock the many advantages and benefits brought about by secure, digital access – from the promotion of foreign trade to robust economic development."

Angola Cables has a submarine cable network linking the continents in the Atlantic region with high availability and good quality. It owns datacenters, in Angola and Brazil and is promoting the southern Atlantic digital hub. **LV**

Human Rights Watch boss says he was barred from Hong Kong

WILLIAM SHAW &
IAIN MARLOW

THE executive director of campaign group Human Rights Watch said that he was prevented from entering Hong Kong, where he intended to release a report critical of the Chinese government.

Kenneth Roth said in a video posted on Twitter that he had planned to hold a news conference Wednesday to release the rights group's annual world report.

"I had hoped to spotlight Beijing's deepening assault on international efforts to uphold human rights," Roth said in a statement. "The refusal to let me enter Hong Kong vividly illustrates the problem."

Roth added that Hong Kong officials told him repeatedly that they were barring him for immigration reasons. The Hong Kong Immigration Department said Monday that it doesn't comment on individual cases, but considers "all relevant factors and circumstances of the case before deciding whether the entry should be



Human Rights Watch executive director Kenneth Roth

allowed or not."

Last month, the Chinese Ministry of Foreign Affairs said the country would impose unspecified "sanctions" against Human Rights Watch and several other U.S.-based pro-democracy organizations. Geng Shuang, a spokesman for the foreign ministry, said

on Monday that "allowing or not allowing the entry of certain people is China's sovereign right."

"A lot of facts and evidence has proven that this NGO has supported the anti-China radicals in Hong Kong through various means," Geng told reporters. "They have a major responsibility

for the chaos in Hong Kong. This NGO should be punished and should pay the price."

The city's government has occasionally denied entry to public figures in recent years, mostly to human rights campaigners, journalists or politicians who have criticized China.

Last year, Hong Kong denied entry to Dan Garrett, an author who had earlier testified on Hong Kong before the U.S. Congressional-Executive Commission on China, as well as former Philippine Foreign minister Albert del Rosario, who has been critical of Beijing's claims in the South China Sea.

In 2018, Hong Kong also turned back Financial Times journalist Victor Mallet, who had been denied a visa renewal over an event he hosted at the city's Foreign Correspondents' Club, and a year earlier denied entry to British human rights campaigner Benedict Rogers.

Groups like Human Rights Watch have increased scrutiny of Hong Kong during seven months of pro-democracy protests that have led to regular violent clashes between demonstrators and police. The protests continued Sunday, as thousands of people gathered in a square in Hong Kong's city center for a peaceful afternoon rally under the gaze of riot police who kept their distance from the event while patrolling the area.

China has bristled at accusations that authorities have used excessive force in containing the protests and has rejected international criticism, accusing foreign governments like the U.S. of meddling in its domestic affairs. **BLOOMBERG**

HK police watchdog finds 'many shortcomings,' report says

IAIN MARLOW
& NATALIE LUNG

AN investigation by Hong Kong's police watchdog into the conduct of the city's officers throughout recent unrest has revealed "many shortcomings," the Hong Kong Economic Journal reported.

The 300-page report from the Independent Police Complaints Council found a failure to separate peaceful demonstrators from violent protesters, the newspaper reported Monday, citing unidentified people. The probe also determined there was a lack of communication among front-line police commanders during protests and insufficient "cease-fire" guidelines when using tear gas, the paper said.

The report, which hasn't yet been officially released, is scheduled to be discussed at a meeting of the IPCC this week. If approved, it would be submitted to

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam for possible release in the coming weeks.

The city government and the Hong Kong Police Force didn't immediately respond to requests for comment yesterday. The police have consistently defended their actions as a response to recurring violence from protesters, some hurling petrol bombs and attacking officers.

Lam's administration has declined to meet protester demands for an independent commission of inquiry into police conduct during the protests and has insisted that the IPCC is the agency that should deal with the matter. However, the IPCC, which is mandated to look into public complaints against police officers, has come under criticism throughout Hong Kong's seven months of violent unrest for not being fully independent.

That critique was echoed by a government-appointed

panel of overseas experts meant to advise the IPCC. "We ultimately concluded that a crucial shortfall was evident in the powers, capacity and independent investigative capability of IPCC," the group said, when it announced it would withdraw from the process.

The IPCC report detailed examinations of several major protests, the Economic Journal said. Those include a million-strong rally followed by clashes on June 9, demonstrations on June 12 and the events of July 1, when protesters broke into and ransacked the Legislative Council building.

The report, however, won't feature extended sections on two prominent incidents that spurred outrage against the police: the July 21 attacks on protesters and subway passengers by mobs of men wearing white T-shirts in Yuen Long and the riot police's Aug. 31 storming of a subway station in Prince Edward. **BLOOMBERG**

XINHUA PERSPECTIVE

PRO-POLICE ACTOR REMAINS FIRM AFTER TARGETED BY RIOTERS

FOR TVB actor Mat Yeung, handshakes and photo-taking with fans at his soup restaurant in Wan Chai are common occurrences. But not until recently has Yeung seen a surge in popularity probably unseen in his 20 years of performing.

"I did not anticipate that and it has never happened before," Yeung said.

It was not some new TV series or box news that have put him under the spotlight, but his voice of support for the police in Hong Kong amid seven months of unrest.

Even at the most volatile time, Yeung made no secret of his attitude. He frequently posted group photos with police officers and openly expressed gratitude to their hard work on social media platforms. Along with several other celebri-

ties, Yeung visited police headquarters and cheered police officers on in December.

Rioters trashed his restaurants for revenge. They smashed windows, damaged CCTVs and spray-painted doors with graffiti. Yeung said he personally received threatening phone calls and malicious comments on the internet and was informed of an upsurge of complaints about food security and firefighting devices by authorities.

Over the past months, the total turnover of Yeung's restaurants has dropped by about 30 percent.

"Whether the business is good or not doesn't bother me, but I am very sad that rioters became more and more violent in streets and more common people got hurt," said Yeung.

"At this time, business is not that impor-

tant anymore. Now it's the struggle for humanity that matters, we must return to humanity. I feel that in the past months, humanity is lost in Hong Kong."

Yeung urged more Hong Kong people to disassociate themselves with violence and voice their support for police officers.

"We need more people to stand out bravely and say no to violence," Yeung said. "Now is year 2020, I hope demonstrators can use modern, civilized means to express their opinions and requests instead of primitive ways."

"Only when unrest ends can we rebuild our home and bring back our peaceful lives. And then Hong Kong will recover very fast just like many other hardships we went through before," he said. "I for 100 percent believe that." **MDT/XINHUA**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER



It's only going to get wilder for Hong Kong dollar traders

ONE assessment of the Hong Kong dollar's dramatic turnaround in recent months is that it's a sign of things to come.

The moves reveal structural tightness in the city's liquidity conditions, according to Morgan Stanley. Hong Kong banks have far less idle cash on hand, after the amount of funds on loan soared to the highest since 2002 relative to deposits. Throw in a diminished pool of interbank liquidity and potentially high demand for the currency, and wild moves in local short-term rates are likely to occur more often.

Volatility in the city's interbank

rates has been especially acute since mid-December, stoking a nearly 0.8% gain for the Hong Kong dollar in a month - a big move for a pegged currency. While analysts initially blamed the sudden strength on seasonal demand for cash and an unwind of short positions, the Hong Kong dollar has continued to gain in January. It rose to the strongest level since early 2017 last week, only months after flirting with the weak end of its trading band with the greenback.

"The currency will likely fluctuate around 7.8 per greenback and stay mostly on the strong half of the trading range," said Becky

Liu, head of China macro strategy at Standard Chartered Bank (HK) Ltd. "Interest rates will be volatile. Any large demand for cash will result in significant moves in borrowing costs when the pool of liquidity is so small."

Hong Kong banks' loan-to-deposit ratio surged to highest since 2002 late last year

Liquidity in Hong Kong's financial system was so tight last month that banks had to resort to authorities more often for short-term cash. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority - the city's de-facto central bank - loaned out the most money in more than a year on Dec. 31 through its dis-

count window. Borrowing costs, known as Hibor, have edged lower since then but remained higher than the interest rates on the U.S. dollar.

Jefferies Financial Group Inc. strategists yesterday recommended owning shares that are correlated to Hibor, namely Chinese financials listed in Hong Kong.

Another sign of tighter liquidity is the small aggregate balance - a gauge of interbank cash supply. It's down 70% over the past two years, near the lowest since the aftermath of the global financial crisis. The HKMA spent most of that money defending the currency peg as the Hong Kong dollar

was repeatedly pushed to 7.85 per greenback, the weakest it can technically trade.

Making matters worse is that Hong Kong lenders' loan-to-deposit ratio soared over recent years to 90% in November, close to the highest since March 2002, according to official data. This came as local currency savings posted the smallest increase in more than a decade in 2019, as prolonged anti-government protests threw the economy into recession.

The HKMA has previously said that financial markets remain stable.

The Hong Kong dollar's surge since December is what happens when the city's dwindling pool of cash meets increasing demand for the currency. Mainland investors have to buy the Hong Kong dollar to fund their purchases of the city's stocks - something they've been doing for 41 straight days. And after Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s November share sale in the city, which temporarily locked up funds, more Chinese companies considering following suit.

Some Chinese corporates may also now prefer to hold the city's dollars rather than the greenback for fear that trade tensions could escalate again, Standard Chartered's Liu said. Hong Kong is seeing "structural changes" in liquidity, she added.

Tighter liquidity and wilder swings in the front-end borrowing costs will translate to the Hong Kong dollar moving "in a more volatile and less predictable pattern," said Chun Him Cheung, a strategist at Morgan Stanley.

Demand for the Hong Kong dollar will probably increase ahead of the Lunar New Year holidays later this month, according to Khoon Goh, head of Asia research at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. That could briefly push the currency to the strong end of its band, he added - which would be the first time since 2016. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

CORPORATE BITS

Sands China's F&B outlets announce Valentine's offerings



Sands China is offering a series of Valentine's Day specialties at its properties' eight signature restaurants on February 14.

Brasserie at The Parisian will feature appetisers, in-

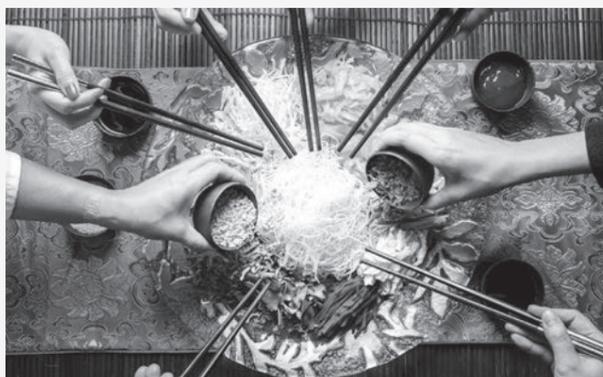
cluding a seafood platter for two, followed by a choice of duck foie gras and eel terrine, pork and truffle pâté or fig carpaccio, among others, according to a statement issued by

the gaming operator.

Sands Cotai Central's Chiado will also offer its Chiado's Valentine's Day set dinner menu that kicks off with crab served with chilled jelly and seaweed, followed by foie gras with ginga liqueur, pear, pistachio and watercress.

Copa Steakhouse at Sands Macao is offering a 'Tender Hearts Romance 2020' special Valentine's Day set dinner, including a welcome drink of Italian sparkling wine, followed by an amuse-bouche of fresh South African abalone with piri piri sauce, and an appetiser of salmon tartare.

MGM offers dishes for prosperous Year of Golden Rat



To usher in a prosperous Year of Golden Rat, MGM is offering special festive delicacies for guests to celebrate with friends and family.

In addition to its homemade festive puddings and gift

hampers, the new Organic Earl Grey Tea Pudding has been added to the lineup this year, together with its classic flavors, Coconut and Ginger Pudding and Turnip Pudding. Meanwhile, Chun at MGM

Cotai and Imperial Court at MGM Macau are both serving a Chinese New Year special set dinner menu available from January 24.

Chun's set menu includes dishes such as double-boiled fish maw with chuanbei, brassa and pork lung, and crispy-fried chicken coated with sesame; while Imperial Court's set menu includes dishes that symbolize good fortunes, such as wok-fried Boston lobster with chanterelle mushroom, X.O. sauces and spring onion.

The two Chinese restaurants also offer celebratory à la carte and dim sum dishes, tailor-made for the Chinese New Year.

TRUMP TRADE DEAL RAISES ISSUE OF TRUSTING CHINA TO DELIVER

AFTER three years of tweets and tariffs, President Donald Trump has arrived at his China moment.

The phase one deal to be signed tomorrow is expected to include China's commitments to respect American intellectual property and not manipulate its currency. U.S. officials also anticipate \$200 billion in new purchases that should help reduce a yawning trade deficit and repair some of the damage suffered by farmers. It hands Trump at least a partial agreement many skeptics doubted was ever possible.

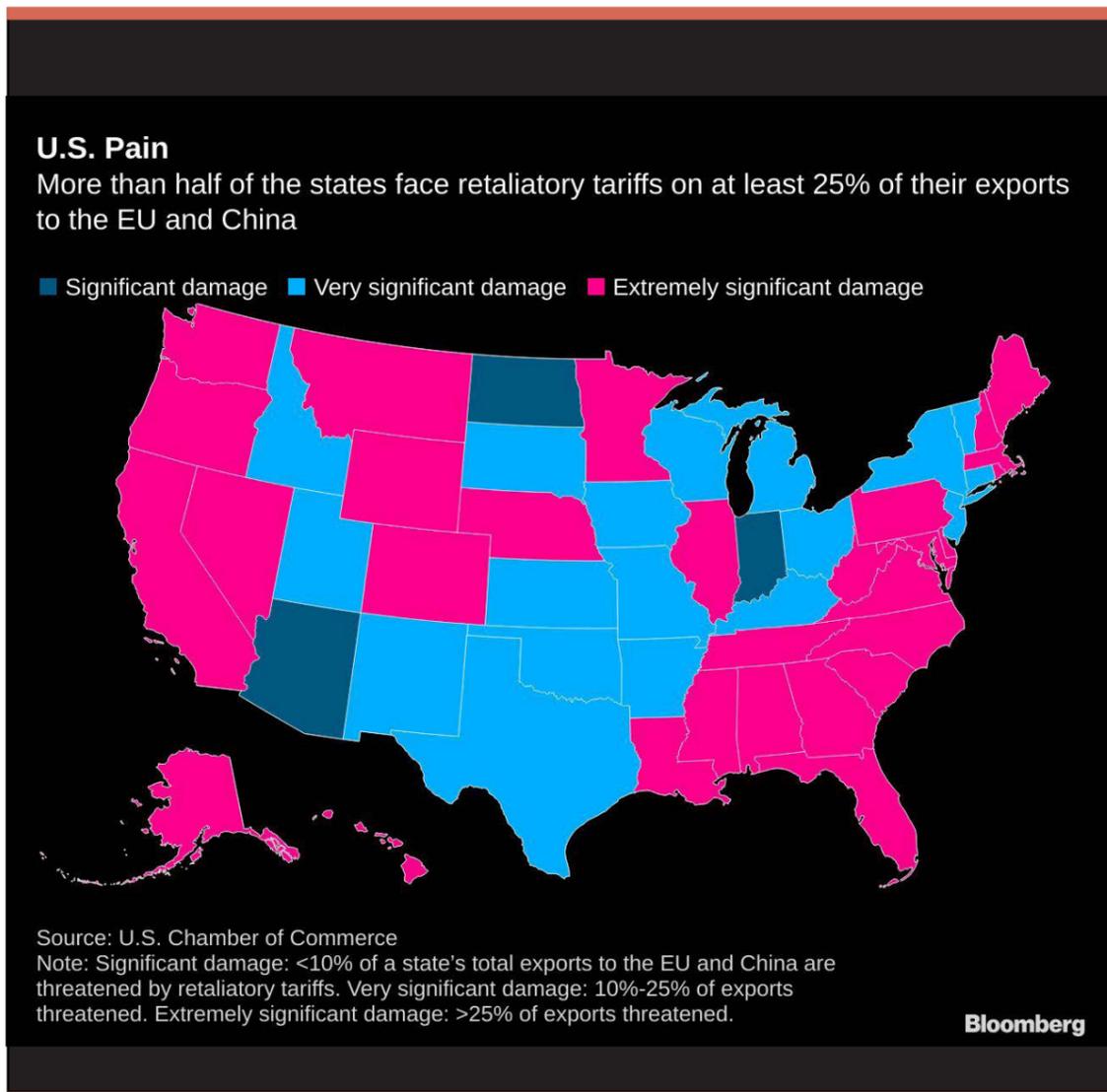
But even that political victory leaves Trump confronting the same China conundrum that has plagued his predecessors. The broad and bipartisan agreement in Washington is that American presidents have for decades been hoodwinked by a China that has often failed to deliver on its promises.

Trump and his lieutenants, of course, insist that this time is different, that experts who see phase one as a rebranding of old guarantees are wrong. Unlike agreements negotiated by prior administrations, this one is enforceable, they say, and there will be real and immediate economic repercussions for China if it comes up short.

"We think it was a good negotiation, we think it will make a real difference," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer told reporters on Dec. 13. "A skeptic would say 'we'll see' and that's probably a wise position to take. But our expectation is that they keep their obligations and in any event, they're enforceable."

Also, it's not the end of the story, the White House says. Coming soon, though even Trump acknowledges probably not before the November U.S. presidential election, is a second deal that will address long-standing American complaints not covered in the initial 86-page document. Among those: the state subsidies - from discounted loans to cheap electricity - that have nurtured a growing club of Chinese multinationals.

Some inside and close to the White House have their own doubts that second installment will ever materialize. Yet the more immediate question is whether China will even live up to the promises in the first phase. And if not, the question becomes whether Trump will have the political courage to take action ahead of the election, even if it risks roiling the



markets on which he is hanging his economic credentials.

"There is a real enforcement provision," U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Sunday on Fox News. "And if they don't comply with the agreement, the president retains the authority to put on tariffs, both existing tariffs and additional tariffs."

In a talking points memo distributed to supporters last month, the administration said it called for each country to establish a special office to monitor the deal's implementation and address any disputes. If conflicts aren't resolved within 90 days, the U.S. could take unspecified "proportionate" action against China and vice versa. Either party could also abandon the deal, of course.

But some analysts say such a framework risks being inherently political.

Wendy Cutler, a veteran trade negotiator now at the Asia Society Policy Institute, says that by not deferring to independent panels or arbitrators, the dispute mechanism leaves the question of viola-

tions - and how to respond - in the eye of the beholder. That means politics and competing economic pressures and interests are likely to intrude, as they have before. It also means that the only arbiter of whether the Chinese are keeping their end of the bargain will

Everything from Trump's impeachment to the looming election is adding to China's perception of weakness rather than strength in Washington

be the Trump administration, which may be loath to admit they are not.

"What does it say for one of his key negotiating accomplishments if the president has to admit the agreement isn't working as intended?" Cutler says.

Steve Bannon, Trump's former White House chief strategist, says there won't be enough time before November for the president to take action if China doesn't abide by the deal's terms. "I don't think we'll be able to ascertain whether they lived up to the commitments until after the 2020 election," he said.

Bannon, who since leaving the administration in 2017 has made hawkishness on China a central part of his brand, says hardliners like him who see communist China as an existential threat to America remain disappointed by a phase one deal they see as easing the

pressure on Beijing. A second phase will only be possible if China is put under "extreme duress" by an economic assault on multiple fronts, including restrictions on access to U.S. capital markets, he told Bloomberg News.

More moderate observers have their doubts as well. Jude Blanchette, a China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, says there are signs already that China and particularly its own economic nationalists have been emboldened by the phase one deal and are shrugging off the commitments it includes.

"There's a darn good chance we just see a repeat of this show which has been going on certainly since WTO accession in 2001 of China doing what it can

to get its tiptoes right up to the letter of the law but in fundamental ways ignoring the spirit of it," Blanchette says.

That is in part because everything from Trump's impeachment to the looming election and even the president's handling of Iran is adding to China's perception of weakness rather than strength in Washington.

"They smell blood for Trump," Blanchette says. "There has always been, especially since impeachment, a narrative in China that we've got him where we want him, we've got a lot more leverage over him than we had."

Rod Hunter, who agonized over China policy while on President George W. Bush's National Security Council and is now a partner at law firm Baker McKenzie, argues that no single agreement can bridge the huge "asymmetry of interests" between the U.S. and China over key issues like the heavy role of the state in the Chinese economy.

"We see that as a problem. But the Chinese government sees that as a feature, a virtue of their system," Hunter says.

For its part, Beijing is pointing to progress.

A foreign investment law that took effect Jan. 1 bans administrative agencies from forcing technology transfers. The government also brought forward plans to allow full foreign ownership of life insurers, futures, securities and mutual fund companies by 2020, after cracking the door open in 2018. And while the U.S. labeled China as a "currency manipulator" in August at the height of trade war, the People's Bank of China has long relinquished direct intervention.

"China has made steady strides in reform and opening-up over the past year," Cui Tiankai, China's ambassador to the U.S., said last week at a gala in New York for Chinese companies that invest in the U.S.

Bridging the differences requires a careful balance of diplomacy and leverage. One solution being pushed by Mnuchin is to revive a forum for bilateral discussion that the Trump administration disbanded in 2017, but it's unclear yet whether the president will go for that idea.

Hunter and others acknowledge that even if China does not comply with the terms of the phase one deal, Trump has still managed to reset the relationship in ways other than the notable redirection of global supply chains and a reduction in Chinese imports, which is why there is so much talk in policy circles of a decoupling or a new Cold War. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

JASON GALE & SIRAPHOB
THANTHONG-KNIGHT

A traveler from China who arrived in Bangkok was infected with the newly identified virus believed to have triggered a pneumonia outbreak in central China, Thai officials said.

The patient, who was hospitalized on Jan. 8 at the Bamrasnartdura Infectious Diseases Institute, tested positive for the novel coronavirus linked to the outbreak in Wuhan, in Hubei province, the Thai Ministry of Public Health said in a statement yesterday. The patient has since recovered and is well enough to be repatriated.

It's the first reported case of someone outside China being infected with the novel virus, which has captured international attention because of similarities with the one that sparked Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, 17 years ago. Unlike SARS, which killed almost 800 people, the new virus doesn't appear to spread easily between people.

"I'd like to ask the public not to be alarmed," Anutin Charnvirakul, Thailand's deputy premier and health minister, said in the statement. "The detection of the patient shows that we have an efficient system of surveillance. We're confident that we can control the situation."

No new related pneumonia cases have been detected in China since Jan. 3, the municipal health commission in the city of Wuhan said Saturday. Genetic studies of virus material collected from patients indicated that 41 people had been infected with the novel coronavirus, instead of the 59 previously counted, it said Sunday.

Among the Chinese cases, seven were in serious condition and six were discharged. A 61-year-old man died, although doctors said

Thailand says 'Wuhan coronavirus' found in traveler from China



he also suffered from an abdominal tumor and chronic liver disease.

SEAFOOD MARKET

The outbreak was linked to a wholesale seafood market in Wuhan that also sold live animals and meat from wildlife. That had prompted concern that an infectious respiratory pathogen from animals had emerged, potentially setting off a deadly contagion reminiscent of SARS. So far, no infections among health-care workers have been reported, and there is no clear evidence of human-to-human transmission, the World Health Organization said Sunday. The outbreak started in

late 2019.

"It is too early to breathe a collective sigh of relief, as tempting as it may be," the International Society for Infectious Diseases' ProMED-mail program, an internet service to identify unusual health events, said in an email Monday.

Scientists still don't know the source of the virus, and it's possible it might lurk in animals sold at other markets in China, ProMED-mail said.

"We still do not know the host or possible intermediary host of this virus," it said. "And with the coming Chinese New Year (Jan. 25), there will be massive population movement in the country

and the region, and wildlife meals are delicacies."

GENE SEQUENCE

Genomic data pertaining to the novel virus was made publicly available by a team of doctors and researchers in Wuhan, Shanghai, Beijing and Sydney, enabling scientists outside China to study its genetic fingerprint for clues about where and how it might have emerged. Researchers from other cities have been invited to Wuhan to exchange information.

Coronaviruses are a large family of respiratory viruses that can cause diseases ranging from the common cold to SARS or the Middle-East Respiratory Syndro-

me, or MERS-cov, the WHO said.

Andrew Rambaut, a professor of molecular evolution at the University of Edinburgh, said the novel coronavirus is 89% similar to a SARS-related bat coronavirus. "But that doesn't mean it comes from bats," he said in a post on Twitter.

PIGVIRUS

Linfa Wang, a professor and director of the emerging infectious diseases program at the Duke-NUS Medical School in Singapore, said he was traveling to Wuhan Tuesday. Two scientists from Taiwan's Centers for Disease Control will also visit the city "within days," Chou Jih-haw, director general of the center, told the South China Morning Post on Sunday.

Wang and colleagues showed in April 2018 that a novel bat coronavirus caused acute diarrhea in pigs, leading to a large-scale outbreak that killed almost 25,000 piglets on four farms in southern China's Guangdong province from 2013 to 2016.

While that particular virus isn't known to infect humans, coronaviruses cause illness in people more frequently than previously thought, said Wang. It's only when they cause large clusters of cases, like in Wuhan, that they are investigated and discovered, he said in a phone interview on Tuesday.

"This whole investigation is almost like SARS No. 2," Wang said. "The only difference is that there were no health-care workers infected. Everything else looked just like SARS." **BLOOMBERG**

Zimbabwe's president meets China's foreign minister Wang Yi

ZIMBABWE'S president Emmerson Mnangagwa praised his country's relations with China yesterday, after meeting the Asian giant's foreign minister Wang Yi, who was visiting as part of an African tour to promote China's economic and political interests on the continent.

Mnangagwa, who suspended his three-week annual leave to meet Wang, told reporters after the meeting that relations between the two countries "are on a solid foundation."

No details of major investment deals were announced, although Vice President Cons-

tantino Chiwenga on Sunday asked Wang to support projects submitted to him by Zimbabwe. The projects were not specified.

Like in much of Africa, China has a strong presence in Zimbabwe, with investments spanning from energy to agriculture, mining and trade in wildlife as well as refurbishment of airports.

Zimbabwe badly needs investment to shore up an economy in downward spiral and skepticism about Mnangagwa's promises of reform by Western investors.

Zimbabwe's longstanding ties with China strengthened

in 2003 when it adopted a 'Look East' policy after western countries imposed sanctions.

Since then, China has become Zimbabwe's biggest source of foreign direct investment and has ties to the powerful military, including the construction of a military university on the outskirts of the capital, Harare.

Wang also visited Egypt, Djibouti, Eritrea and Burundi in his tour. China's foreign minister frequently visits Africa at the beginning of the year to emphasize the importance that China places on the continent. **AP**

PRAGUE INKS PARTNERSHIP WITH TAIPEI TO BEIJING'S IRE

THE Czech capital, Prague, yesterday signed a partnership agreement with the capital of Taiwan, Taipei - three months after canceling a similar deal with Beijing and angering the Chinese government.

The disagreement over Beijing began after the Chinese insisted on having a clause in the deal stating that Prague supports the one-China principle, which does not recognize Taiwan.

In reaction to Prague's decision to ink a deal with Taipei, China canceled the tours of several Prague classical music ensembles and orchestras.

Taiwan split from mainland China amid a civil war in 1949, but Beijing considers the self-ruled island part of its territory.

While Prague authorities have resisted the one-China principle, the Czech government recognizes it.

The deal between Prague and Taipei was signed by the mayors of the two cities, Zdenek Hrib and Ko Wen-je.

Hrib said the cities share "the democratic values, the respect to basic human rights and cultural freedoms" and therefore can inspire each other.

He said the deal focuses on economic, trade and cultural cooperation but not on politics.

The deal is accompanied by agreements for cooperation between the Prague and Taipei zoos as well as in tourism and information technology. **AP**

INDIA'S RULING PARTY LAWMAKER THREATENS TO SHOOT PROTESTERS

The head of Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in the state of West Bengal has threatened to shoot and jail people who protest a new citizenship law that has triggered a month of nationwide demonstrations. Dilip Ghosh, a member of India's Parliament and the president of the BJP in West Bengal, made the comments to party members on Sunday in a district of the state that borders Bangladesh. The citizenship law provides a path to naturalization for people from Bangladesh, Afghanistan and Pakistan, unless they're Muslim. Many Indians worry the law will be used in conjunction with a National Register of Citizens that could require all Indians to produce documents proving their origins, a challenge in a country where many people lack official records including birth certificates.

THAILAND EASES ROYAL MOTORCADE RULES TO UNBLOCK TRAFFIC

Thailand's king has directed police to reduce the closure of roads during royal motorcades. The new rules issued by King Maha Vajiralongkorn to ease traffic congestion have been tested in the capital, Bangkok, since October. Police Maj. Gen. Komsak Sumangkaset said the rules will be applied throughout the country. They will apply only to personal trips by members of the royal family, not to those involving official duties. "It is the initiative of his majesty the king to help alleviate traffic congestion. And we have tested it for months and now we have come up with measures that traffic police nationwide must follow," he said. The new rules follow criticism on social media in recent months of large traffic jams created when roads were closed to allow royal motorcades to pass through.

INDONESIA SENTENCES AMERICAN MAN FOR SELLING DRUGS

An Indonesian court sentenced an American man to 9 1/3 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of selling cocaine and marijuana on the resort island of Bali. Police said Ian Andrew Hernandez of California was arrested last May with 10 small plastic packs containing 6.6 grams of cocaine and a pack with 23.7 grams of marijuana at his rented house on the island. The raid on the house followed a tip from a member of the community. Police also seized electric scales, cigarette papers and a cellphone allegedly used to receive orders for drugs from tourists through text messages. The indictment said Hernandez confessed that the devices and drugs were his. Prosecutors had sought a 14-year sentence, but the judges said they reduced the penalty because Hernandez regretted his acts and promised to reform.

AP PHOTO



A family evacuates to safer grounds in Tagaytay, Cavite province

PHILIPPINES

LAVA GUSHES FROM VOLCANO NEAR MANILA; TENS OF THOUSANDS FLEE

JOEAL CALUPITAN &
JIM GOMEZ

RED-HOT lava gushed out of a volcano near the Philippine capital yesterday, as tens of thousands of people fled the area through heavy ash and frightening tremors. Experts warned that the eruption could get worse and plans were being made to evacuate hundreds of thousands more.

Clouds of ash blew more than 100 kilometers north of the Taal volcano on Sunday, reaching Manila, the bustling capital, and forcing the shutdown of the country's main airport, with more than 500 flights canceled. The airport was partially reopened yesterday after the ashfall eased.

There have been no reports of casualties or major damage so far. A truck, however, skidded out of control and fell on its side on an ash-blanketed road, killing the driver and injuring three companions in southern Laguna province in an accident police said may be linked to the slippery road conditions.

The government's disaster-response agency and other officials reported more than 30,000 villagers have fled their homes in the hard-hit province of Batangas and nearby Cavite province, but officials expect the number to swell with hundreds of thousands more moving out of harm's way.

Some residents could not move out of ash-blanketed villa-

ges immediately due to a lack of transport and poor visibility. Others refused to leave their homes and farms.

"We have a problem — our people are panicking due to the volcano because they want to save their livelihood, their pigs and herds of cows," Mayor Wilson Maralit of Balete town told DZMM radio. "We're trying to stop them from returning and warning that the volcano can explode again anytime and hit them."

Maralit, whose town lies along the shoreline of Taal Lake surrounding the erupting volcano, appealed for troops and more policemen to stop distraught residents from sneaking back to their high-risk villages.

After a cleanup and ash-laden winds shifted away from Manila, officials partially reopened the main airport and allowed stranded planes to take off. Airport manager Ed Monreal told a news conference that incoming flights can be accommodated once parking bays are freed up, but warned that the airport may be closed again if the danger returns.

President Rodrigo Duterte's aircraft was able to land in Manila yesterday from his southern Davao city hometown, his spokesman said, adding he saw the extent of the volcanic devastation from the plane.

Taal had been restive for months until it suddenly rumbled back to life Sunday, blasting steam, ash and pebbles up to 10

to 15 kilometers into the sky, according to the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The ash and steam column reached a height of only 2 kilometers yesterday, with lava fountains spurting less than half of that height before falling into lake waters surrounding the main crater. Lava also spurted from another vent north of the main crater, Renato Solidum, who heads the institute, told reporters.

Frequent tremors and inflation of the 1,020-foot volcano, one of the world's smallest, however, indicate a major and much more dangerous eruption could still happen, he said.

The government volcano-monitoring agency raised the danger level around Taal three notches on Sunday, to level 4, indicating "a hazardous eruption within hours to days was possible." Level 5, the highest, means such an eruption is underway and could affect a larger area with high-risk zones that would need to be cleared of people, Solidum said.

It's difficult to say when Taal's restiveness will ease, Solidum said, adding that the volcano's last disastrous explosion occurred in 1965, when more than 200 people were killed.

Large numbers of displaced villagers worried about the homes, farms and cattle they left behind and the uncertain future they face. Irene de Claro, a mother of four, worried about her father, who stayed in their villa-

ge in Agoncillo town in Batangas while the rest of the family fled in panic.

"My father is missing. We don't know too what happened to our house because the ash was up to our knees, it was very dark and the ground was constantly shaking when we left," de Castro told The Associated Press in a school in Lemery town in Batangas. "Most likely there's nothing for us to return to. We're back to zero."

She later paused as the ground shook again.

A small island where the volcano lies has long been declared a "permanent danger zone," although fishing villages have existed there for years. Those residents have all been evacuated safely, volcanology officials said, adding that there should be a "total evacuation" too of lakeshore communities "at high risk to pyroclastic density currents and volcanic tsunami within a 14-kilometer radius from Taal."

Government work and classes in schools in a wide swath of towns and cities were suspended Monday, including in Manila, to avoid health risks posed by the ashfall. At least four Batangas towns reported power outages.

Taal is regarded as the second-most restive of about two dozen active volcanoes in the Philippines, which lies along the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," a seismically active region that is prone to earthquakes and volcanic eruptions. AP



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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

FUGITIVE CATALAN PUIGDEMONT ARRIVES AT EU PARLIAMENT

RAF CASERT, STRASBOURG

CATALAN leader Carles Puigdemont arrived for his first session as a member of the European Parliament on Monday despite facing an arrest warrant against him in Spain.

The former Catalan president and new EU legislator is bent on using the parliament to continue his political fight for an independent Catalonia breaking away from Spain. His parliamentary position also gives him immunity.

And Puigdemont used his arrival to demand the immediate release from a Spanish jail of another Catalan leader who was elected to the European Parliament, former Catalonia vice president Oriol Junqueras.

"He should be here with us. He has the same rights," Puigdemont said, backed by posters demanding "Free Junqueras."

His ability to have such exposure at the heart of the European Union to decry such issues as imprisonment in Spain is somewhat of a blow to the central authorities in Madrid, who have steadfastly sought to blunt the drive to give the wealthy nor-



theastern region independence. Left-leaning parties have just formed a Spanish minority government which is dependent on the tacit support of a more moderate Catalan party.

Puigdemont arrived at the legislature in the early afternoon, cheered by a few hundred supporters who had over a dozen Catalan flags fluttering in the midday winds outside the legislature in northeastern France. "Puigdemont president," they shouted in unison.

Puigdemont arrived together with fellow EU legislator and former Cata-

lan minister Toni Comín. Spain tried to ban us, he said, "but today we are here, finally."

The two are wanted in Spain for their role in an illegal 2017 secession bid by the Catalan government and separatist lawmakers. They fled in exile to Belgium after the attempt failed and were elected to the European Parliament in May as representatives of Catalan separatist parties from Spain.

The regional Catalan coalition government was also in Strasbourg in support. AP

WIKILEAKS' ASSANGE IN UK COURT FIGHTING EXTRADITION

WIKILEAKS founder Julian Assange made a brief court appearance yesterday in his bid to prevent extradition to the United States to face serious espionage charges.

He and his lawyers complained they weren't being given enough time to meet to plan their battle against U.S. prosecutors seeking to put him on trial for WikiLeaks' publication of hundreds of thousands of confidential documents.

The 48-year-old was brought to court from Belmarsh Prison on the outskirts of London. He saluted the public gallery, which was packed with ardent supporters including the musician MIA, when he entered the courtroom.

He later raised his right fist in defiance when he was taken to holding ce-

lls to meet with lawyer Gareth Peirce.

Peirce said officials at Belmarsh Prison are making it extremely difficult for her to meet with Assange.

"We have pushed Belmarsh in every way — it is a breach of a defendant's rights," she said.

Assange refrained from making political statements. He confirmed his name and date of birth, and at one point said he didn't understand all of the proceedings against him during the brief hearing at Westminster Magistrates' Court.

He faces 18 charges in the U.S., including conspiring to hack into a Pentagon computer. He has denied wrongdoing, claiming he was acting as a journalist entitled to First Amendment protection. MDT/AP

AD

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JON GAMBRELL, DUBAI

Iran police shoot at those protesting plane shootdown

IRANIAN security forces fired both live ammunition and tear gas to disperse demonstrators protesting against the Islamic Republic's initial denial that it shot down a Ukrainian jetliner, online videos purported to show yesterday.

Videos sent to the New York-based Center for Human Rights in Iran and later verified by The Associated Press show a crowd of demonstrators near Azadi, or Freedom, Square fleeing as a tear gas canister landed among them. People cough and sputter while trying to escape the fumes, with one woman calling out in Farsi: "They fired tear gas at people! Azadi Square. Death to the dictator!"

Another video shows a woman being carried away in the aftermath as a blood trail can be seen on the ground. Those around her cry out that she has been shot by live ammunition in the leg.

"Oh my God, she's bleeding nonstop!" one person shouts. Another shouts: "Bandage it!"

Photos and video after the incident show pools of blood on the sidewalk.

Tehran's police chief, Gen. Hossein Rahimi, later denied his officers opened fire though the semiofficial Fars news agency said police "shot tear gas in some areas."

"Police treated people who had gathered with patience and tolerance," Iranian media quoted Rahimi as saying. "Police did not shoot in the gatherings since broad-mindedness and restraint has been agenda of the police forces of the capital."

However, uniformed police officers were just one arm of Iran's security forces who were out in force for the demonstrations.

Riot police in black uniforms and helmets gathered earlier Sunday in Vali-e Asr Square, at Tehran University and other landmarks. Revolutionary Guard members patrolled the city on motorbikes, and plainclothes security men were also out in force. People looked down as they walked briskly past police, apparently trying not to draw attention to themselves.

The Guard previously has been accused of opening fire on demonstrators during protests over government-set gasoline prices rising in November, violence that reportedly saw over 300 people killed.

Other videos from Fars showed demonstrators chanting: "We are children of war. Fight with us, we will fight back."

Ebrahim Raisi, the head of Iran's judiciary, warned pro-

AP PHOTO



Protesters hold flowers as tear gas fired by police rises at a demonstration in front of Amir Kabir University in Tehran

testers and alleged, without providing evidence, that "the agents of America and agents of foreign countries" wanted to use anger over the plane shootdown to "compromise" Iran's security.

Anti-riot police officers and other security forces could be seen on the streets of Tehran yesterday as well.

The crash of the Ukraine International Airline early on Wednesday killed all 176 people on board, mostly Iranians and Iranian-Canadians. After pointing to a technical failure and insisting for three days that the Iranian armed forces were not to blame, authorities on Saturday admitted accidentally shooting it down in the face of mounting evidence and accu-

sations by Western leaders.

Iran downed the flight as it braced for possible American retaliation after firing ballistic missiles at two bases in Iraq housing U.S. forces earlier on Wednesday. The missile attack, which caused no casualties, was a response to the killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani, Iran's top general, in a U.S. airstrike in Baghdad. But no retaliation came.

Iranians have expressed anger over the downing of the plane and the misleading explanations from senior officials in the wake of the tragedy. They are also mourning the dead, which included many young people who were studying abroad.

At earlier protests Saturday, students in Tehran shouted:

"They are lying that our enemy is America! Our enemy is right here!" Another Fars video showed demonstrators on Sunday night tearing down a poster of Soleimani in Tehran.

Ali Rabiei, a government spokesman, insisted Iran's civilian officials only learned Friday that the Guard shot down the plane.

"The point is that we did not lie," Rabiei said. He went on to blame the U.S. for "spreading the shadow of war over Iran."

Javad Kashi, a professor of politics at Tehran Allameh University, wrote online that people should be allowed to express their anger in public protests. "Buckled under the pressure of humiliation and being ignored, people poured

into the streets with so much anger," he wrote. "Let them cry as much as they want."

There's also been a cultural outpouring of grief and anger from Iran's creative community.

Some Iranian artists, including famed director Masoud Kimiai, withdrew from an upcoming international film festival. Two state TV hosts resigned in protest over the false reporting about the cause of the plane crash.

Taraneh Alidoosti, one of Iran's most-famous actresses, posted a picture of a black square on Instagram with the caption: "We are not citizens. We are hostages. Millions of hostages."

Saeed Maroof, the captain of Iran's national volleyball team, also wrote on Instagram: "I wish I could be hopeful that this was the last scene of the show of deceit and lack of wisdom of these incompetents but I still know it is not."

He said that despite the qualification of Iran's national team for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics after years of efforts, "there is no energy left in our sad and desperate souls to celebrate."

Meanwhile, another video making the rounds showed the national symbol of Iran, four crescents and a sword in the shape of a water lily flying through what appeared to be a 1980s-style video game like "Galaga." Music chimes when it touches oil as it fires on symbols representing people, knowledge and ultimately an airplane.

"To be continued," the caption at the end of the clip reads. AP

US POINTS TO DISSENT IN WAKE OF DEADLY DRONE STRIKE

DEFENSE Secretary Mark Esper and other administration officials joined President Donald Trump in trying to draw attention to dissent in Iran instead of lingering questions about the scale of the threat used to justify a drone strike on Iran's top military leader.

Esper added to the uncertainty over the intelligence behind this month's killing of Gen. Qassem Soleimani when he said Sunday that he had seen no hard evidence that four American embassies had been under possible threat. Trump said last Friday that Soleimani had been planning such an attack.

In appearances on Sunday news shows, both Esper and national security adviser Robert O'Brien said they agreed that Iran might have hit more than just the U.S. Em-

bassy in the Iraqi capital. "It is certainly consistent with the intelligence to assume that they would have hit embassies in at least four countries," O'Brien said.

But Esper, when asked whether there was a specific piece of evidence, replied: "I didn't see one with regard to four embassies." And in response to a question about whether Trump was "embellishing" the threat, Esper said, "I don't believe so."

In a tweet both defiant and dismissive, Trump turned his attention again to supporting Iranian protesters and warning the Iranian government not to attack them or to pursue nuclear weapons. He tweeted: "National Security Adviser suggested today that sanctions & protests have Iran 'choked off', will force them to negotiate. Actually, I couldn't care less if they negotiate. Will be

totally up to them but, no nuclear weapons and 'don't kill your protesters.'

O'Brien had suggested the United States sees this moment as an opportunity to further intensify pressure on Iran's leaders, with whom the U.S. has been at odds for four decades. Iran's leaders already are under enormous strain from economic sanctions that have virtually strangled Iran's main source of income — oil exports. Esper said street protests in Tehran show the Iranian people are hungry for a more accountable government after leaders denied, then admitted shooting down a Ukrainian passenger plane.

"You can see the Iranian people are standing up and asserting their rights, their aspirations for a better government — a different regime," Esper said. MDT/AP

what's ON



ANGEL FUNG'S GALLERY

TIME: 10am-6pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)
2:30pm-5:30pm (Saturdays & Sundays)

UNTIL: January 19, 2020

VENUE: G32 Gallery, G/F

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6663 0008

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: April 13, 2020

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 87919814

RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 13, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

EXHIBITION OF WORKS BY TAM CHECK WUN AND LAO CHON HONG, ARTISTS WINNING THE GRAND PRIZE OF THE JURY AWARD OF THE COLLECTIVE EXHIBITION OF MACAU ARTISTS 2017

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

UNTIL: March 1, 2020

Venue: Exhibitions Gallery and the Nostalgic House of the Taipa Houses

ADMISSION: Free

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 8988 4000

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

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

UNTIL: February 23, 2020

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

FBI IS TRYING TO CATCH A "BAD WIG BANDIT" IN NORTH CAROLINA

AP PHOTO



The FBI is asking the public's help in catching a so-called "bad wig bandit" who's been robbing banks in North Carolina.

The FBI said in a statement on Thursday that the suspect wore a different wig during each heist in the Charlotte area.

One wig was blonde. Another was black. The third was red.

The FBI said he robbed a BB&T in Huntersville on Dec. 13. He then robbed two banks on Jan. 7. The first was a New Horizon Bank in Belmont. The second was a Wells Fargo in Gastonia.

TV canal macau



13:00 TDM News (Repetição)

13:30 Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)

15:00 Água de Mar

15:30 Bing

15:45 Os Ursos Boonie na Neve

16:00 As Novas Viagens Filosoficas

16:35 Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1

17:35 Império (Repetição)

18:25 TDM Desporto (Repetição)

19:30 Ouro Verde Sr.1

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Entrevista

21:50 Índia Majestosa com Samira

22:20 Império

23:10 Teledisco

23:15 TDM News

23:50 Motel Bates Sr.4

00:35 Telejornal (Repetição)

01:20 RTPi Directo

cinema



CINETEATRO

09 - 15 Jan



UNDERWATER

ROOM 1

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

Director: William Eubank

Starring: Kristen Stewart, T.J. Miller, Jessica Henwick

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 95min



1917

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15

Director: Sam Mendes

Starring: Dean-Charles Chapman, George MacKay, Daniel Mays

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119min



ASHFALL

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: Byung-seo Kim, Hae-jun Lee

Language: Korean (English & Chinese)

Duration: 130min



LITTLE WOMEN

ROOM 3

2:44, 4:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Greta Gerwig

Starring: Saoirse Ronan, Emma Watson, Florence Pugh

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min

this day in history



1994 DUCHESS OF KENT JOINS CATHOLIC CHURCH

The Duchess of Kent has become the first member of the Royal Family to convert to Catholicism for more than 300 years.

The duchess was received into the Catholic church in a private service conducted by the Archbishop of Westminster, Cardinal Basil Hume.

An act of parliament in 1701 banned heirs to the throne from being or marrying a Roman Catholic.

The duchess' husband is the queen's cousin and 18th in line to the throne.

The duke's office said the duchess' conversion would have no constitutional implications as she was an Anglican at the time of her marriage.

In recent years both the duchess' brother-in-law, Prince Michael of Kent and her son, George, have married Roman Catholics and renounced their right of succession to the throne.

A spokesman for the duchess stressed that her conversion had nothing to do with current issues facing the Anglican church.

He said: "This is a long-pondered personal decision by the duchess and it has no connection with issues such as the ordination of women priests."

But some priests believe interest among the aristocracy has been spurred by recent Anglican departures from tradition.

Father Charles-Roux of St Ethelreda's in Holborn, central London, said many were not happy with the direction the Anglican church was taking.

"There's been a major change in their tradition and the people who belong to that tradition go back to what they are familiar with. They look for support in Rome," said Father Charles-Roux.

But in a statement Cardinal Basil Hume stressed the duchess' decision was a private matter.

"We must all respect a person's conscience in these matters, and I know that the duchess recognises how much she owes to the Church of England for which she retains a genuine affection," he said.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Church of England's decision in 1992 to allow the ordination of women priests sparked several high profile conversions to Catholicism including Conservative politician Ann Widdecombe. In recent years there have been several calls by MPs and Lords to repeal the 1701 Act of Settlement barring Catholics from the throne but the government has repeatedly insisted such a move would be too complex.

But there has been a growing public rapprochement between the monarchy and Catholic church.

The Queen greeted the Pope at Buckingham Palace in 1982 and in 1995 became the first monarch since the 17th century to attend a Catholic service.

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

YOUR STARS

ARIES
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
 Look down at your scrambling legs right now, and chances are you'll see you're on a treadmill and running in place. Sure, you're working up a sweat, but you're not getting anywhere.

TAURUS
Apr. 20-May. 20
 Silly questions are going to plague you today, so don't waste time entertaining each and every one of them. You have work to do, and you can't stop and be extra polite to people.

GEMINI
May. 21-Jun. 21
 Right now you have to prove to yourself (and to everyone else who might be watching) that you can finish what you started. Make sure that no one will be able to accuse you of having no follow-through!

CANCER
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
 If you've been doing risqué things or maybe just walking on the wild side a bit too often lately, the time has come for you to settle down! Variety is the spice of life!

LEO
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
 The energy that only comes from teamwork will keep you feeling powerful, smart, and valuable. When you get together with other smart people just like you, you'll start finishing each other's sentences.

VIRGO
Aug. 23-Sep. 22
 There is strong potential for today to be a good or bad day. The outcome (as usual) is completely up to you. The best way to ensure that things go well is to stay positive yourself.

LIBRA
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
 You're moving into a very intuitive phase right now. You can pick up on clues that go right over the heads of most other people, which puts you in an optimal position to take control of a situation.

SCORPIO
Oct. 23-Nov. 21
 Your ability to focus in on small details without losing sight of the big picture is one of your greatest strengths, and you need to rely on it today if you're going to hold on to the resources you've worked so hard to attain.

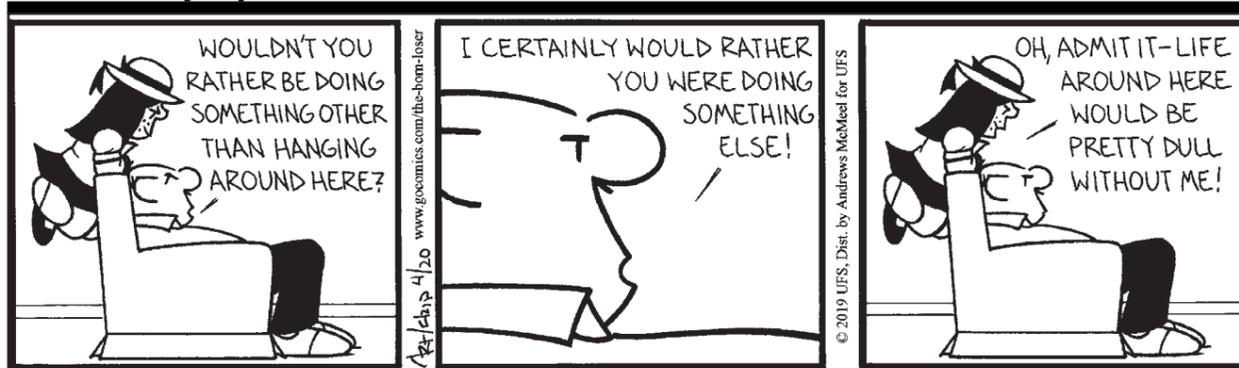
SAGITTARIUS
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
 People have been making some assumptions about you that are simply not correct, and it's up to you to educate them about who you really are today. The only catch is that you can't really tell them.

CAPRICORN
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
 Take only what you need today and discard all the excess junk. It's better if you travel light and avoid baggage of any kind right now. You might be asked to move or travel somewhere.

AQUARIUS
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
 Your creativity will really be luminous today, and your mind will be drawn to light. If you can, get up extra early and watch the sunrise. You'll see the world in a way you've never seen it before.

PISCES
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
 You should watch your words carefully today. Your temper could be running hotter than you realize, and you don't want to burn any bridges. Try to keep things impersonal.

The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

MEDIUM					HARD				
8		5		9	5			4	8
9		4	8			9	1		
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	8		2			7	9	2	
1		8	4		7				
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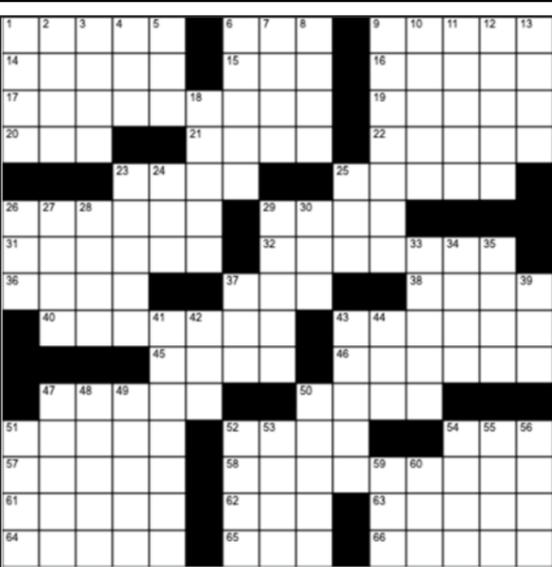
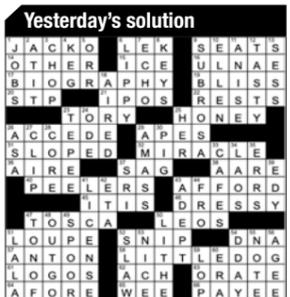
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
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
WORLD			
Moscow	0	4	drizzle
Frankfurt	-3	3	clear
Paris	-2	4	clear
London	2	8	overcast
New York	-1	4	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Cobb, e.g.; 6- Pop the question; 9- Enticed; 14- Stand-in; 15- Campaigned; 16- Do ___ a Waltz?; 17- Suitable; 19- Bonkers; 20- Foot digit; 21- Cast a ballot; 22- Packs tightly; 23- Declare; 25- Cheek cosmetic; 26- One giving a ring; 29- Fleece; 31- Ski lodge; 32- Rare metallic element; 36- Rescue; 37- Used to be; 38- The closest one to us is the sun; 40- Daggerlike weapon; 43- Cream cake; 45- Lepidopterous insect; 46- German composer; 47- Circular water container; 50- Derrick; 51- Draw a bead on; 52- Hurler Hershiser; 54- Frat letter; 57- Issue forth with force; 58- Extremely funny; 61- Therefore; 62- Month after avril; 63- Projecting window; 64- Barely beat; 65- Compass pt.; 66- Compact;

DOWN: 1- Petty quarrel, ejected saliva; 2- Golden Fleece ship; 3- Knowledge; 4- Chopper; 5- Recolor; 6- Shady spot; 7- Cure, in a way; 8- Human leg joint; 9- 16th president of the U.S; 10- Swahili for "freedom"; 11- Put a new price on; 12- Words on a Wonderland cake; 13- Prohibitionists; 18- Turn aside; 23- Narrow street; 24- Flight formation; 25- ___ v. Wade; 26- IV units; 27- Gregory Peck role of 1956; 28- Hot rock; 29- Anger; 30- Cries of surprise; 33- Religion of the Muslims; 34- Beehive State; 35- Disfigure; 37- Rainy; 39- Monopoly quartet; 41- Left out; 42- Tours turndown; 43- Deadly virus; 44- ___-Magnon; 47- Two-footer; 48- Encompassed about; 49- Gravy, for one; 50- Give a false impression of; 51- Tennis great Arthur; 52- Electrical units; 53- Narrow inlets; 54- Quarter, e.g.; 55- Colors; 56- Capri, for one; 59- Curtain holder; 60- Strong feeling of anger;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- 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
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



FOR SALE

Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane
 HK\$13,800,000 2,530 ft² 4 3 1

FOR RENT

Manhattan High Floor, Taipa
 \$26,800/mth 2,305 ft² 4 2 2

FOR SALE

- [Cotai] One Grantai 4 2 2
 2,556 ft² \$25,600,000 (ref: 19096001)
- [Taipa] Jade Garden 4 3 3
 3,180 ft² \$18,000,000 (ref: 19126002)
- [Taipa] Manhattan Luxury 3 2 2
 1,720 ft² \$12,980,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 2
 1,344 ft² \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)

FOR RENT

- [Taipa] Nam Long 2 1 1
 645 ft² \$11,800/mth (ref: 19111001)
- [Macau] Furnished Apartment 2 1 1
 n/a \$12,500/mth (ref: 19101007)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 1
 935 ft² \$17,800/mth (ref: 19091005)
- [Taipa] Manhattan Luxury 3 2 2
 1,720 ft² \$23,800/mth (ref: 19091006)

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AD

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

'BULLITT' MUSTANG SELLS FOR \$3.74 MILLION AT FLORIDA AUCTION

THE Highland Green 1968 Ford Mustang GT featured in the film "Bullitt" was sold last week at a Florida auction house for \$3.74 million.

The sale at Mecum Kissimmee marks the most expensive Mustang ever sold, surpassing a 1967 Shelby GT500 Super Snake that sold last year for \$2.2 million, the Orlando Sentinel reported.

Owner Sean Kiernan, with his sister Kelly Cotton riding shotgun, drove the car across the auction block at Silver Spurs Arena and then addressed a crowd of about 25,000 before the bidding started.

"This car had sold twice in its life, it's been in my family for 45 years. Each time it has sold, it was \$3,500," Kiernan said. "So we're going to start it off at that price and go from there."

The auction house posted an 11-minute video of the auction on YouTube.

Bidding surpassed \$3 million in the first minute. The top bid went back and forth between someone pre-



sent and a bidder on the phone for several minutes before the mystery buyer on the phone won, agreeing to pay \$3.4 million plus a 10 percent buyer's premium.

Kiernan's father, Robert, bought the car after seeing an ad in a 1974 issue of "Road & Track." The New Jersey family used it as a daily commuter until the clutch gave out in 1980. In the late 1970s, Steve McQueen, who played the title character in "Bullitt," tracked down the Kiernans and asked if he could reclaim the muscle car in return for a similar Mustang. His pleas

went unanswered.

Robert and Sean Kiernan began working on the Mustang in 2001. After Robert Kiernan's death in 2014, Sean Kiernan finished the car and revealed it to the world. Following the car's sale, Sean Kiernan said he doesn't think a more expensive Mustang will ever be sold.

"As far as Mustangs go, this is it. With dad being down in the record books forever, that's what matters to me," he said. "I've been at peace with the sale for probably eight months now. We're just having fun with this."

BYE, RICKY GERVAIS: POEHLER, FEY TO HOST 2021 GOLDEN GLOBES

TINA Fey and Amy Poehler will share host duties for the Golden Globes ceremony in 2021.

Poehler herself shared the announcement at a TV critics meeting Saturday, just a week after the ceremony aired with Ricky Gervais as host.

"There are no two funnier people anywhere," said Poehler, who introduced herself with the name of an NBC publicist who was to have opened the network's daylong presentation about its programming.

A tongue-in-cheek Poehler said the network was glad the pair found time in their busy schedules to take on the Globes. They have hosted three times before.

At the ceremony a week ago, Gervais' snarky jokes in his fifth turn as host received mixed reviews and reactions from the celebrity audience. Poehler and Fey earned a warmer reception for their comedic



approach.

Gervais repeatedly said during the ceremony that it was the last time he intended to emcee. A total of 18.3 million viewers tuned in, a small drop over the 18.6 million who watched the 2019 ceremony co-hosted by Sandra Oh and Andy Samberg.

"There's no denying that Tina and Amy's comedic chemistry is infectious," said Lorenzo Soria, president of the Hollywood Foreign Press Association, which bestows the TV and movie awards. "We can't

wait to see the dynamic duo return to the Golden Globes stage."

Poehler joked that she couldn't wait to present the best film award to the video, "Puppy Dog Bouncing in the Box Like This."

NBC is keeping her busy: The network announced Saturday it's renewed the craft show "Making It," hosted and produced by Poehler and Nick Offerman, former "Parks and Recreation" castmates.

The date for next year's Golden Globes will be announced later, NBC said.

AD



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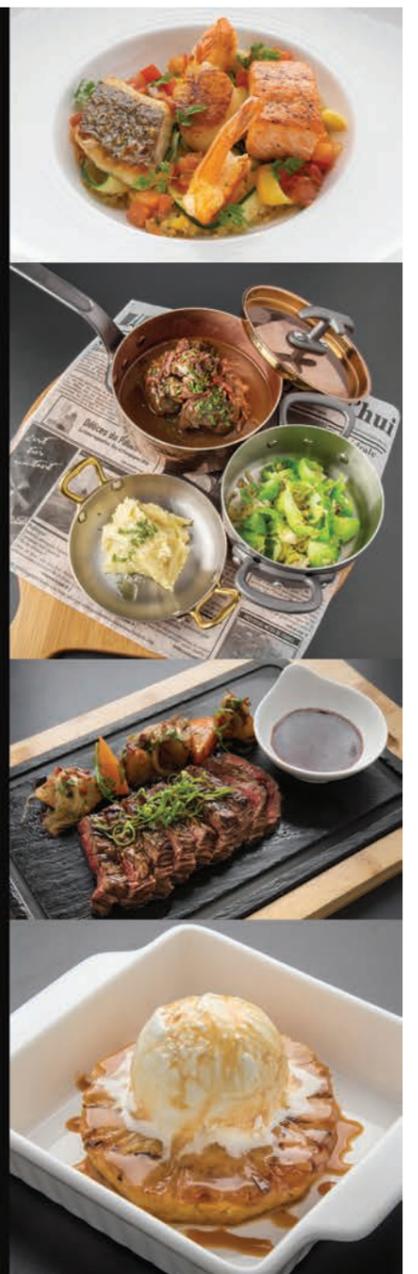
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FOOTBALL

Madrid beats Atlético in shootout, wins Spanish Super Cup

REAL Madrid beat Atlético Madrid in a penalty shootout on Sunday to win the first edition of the new-look Spanish Super Cup that was held in Saudi Arabia despite criticism from human rights groups.

Madrid won the shootout 4-1 after the final ended 0-0 after extra time. Dani Carvajal, Rodrygo, Luka Modric and Sergio Ramos all converted their spot kicks for Madrid.

Atlético's Saul Ñíguez missed his first penalty and Madrid goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois blocked the second attempt by Thomas Partey. Kieran Trippier converted for Atlético.

"I had studied their penalty-takers before," Courtois said. "I knew where Thomas was going to shoot. It was a good save because he struck it hard."

Madrid played the final five minutes of added time with 10 men after Federico Valverde was shown a direct red for fouling Álvaro Morata when he had only Courtois to beat.

"The most important play was the one by Valverde, who stopped us from having a chance that could have decided the match," Atlético coach Diego Simeone said. "He won the match."

For Atlético it was another loss in a final against a bitter rival. Madrid beat Atlético on penalties in the 2016 Champions League final, and had won in extra time in the 2014 Champions League final. Atlético got some revenge by beating Madrid in the 2018 European Super Cup.



Zinedine Zidane added to his impressive statistic of having led Madrid to victory in all nine finals he has coached. Those include three Champions League finals.

"As a player it was the same, I gave it all on the pitch and I had my rewards. And the same thing is happening as a coach," Zidane said. "Above all I want to congratulate my players. We believed in the win until the very end."

Few Spanish fans traveled to the matches played thousands of miles from home with the crowd at King Abdullah stadium largely supporting Madrid. The final featured more missed passes and

fouls than scoring opportunities until late in added extra time. Regular time saw glaring misses by Valverde and Atlético forward João Félix.

The Spanish soccer federation's deal to play in Saudi Arabia was reportedly worth 120 million euros (\$134 million) with the competition expanded to four teams instead of two and moved from the start of the season to its midpoint. The federation said the agreement will help Spain in its attempt to host the 2030 World Cup in a joint bid with Portugal.

The federation was not deterred by criticism from human rights activists and the recom-

mendation of UEFA President Aleksander Ceferin for European soccer teams not to play in countries "where the basic rights of women are not respected."

Federation president Luis Rubiales has tried to deflect the criticism by highlighting that opening the games to women spectators was part of the deal to play the matches in the energy-rich Middle Eastern kingdom.

Amnesty International organized a small peaceful protest in front of the Saudi embassy in Madrid on Wednesday to call for the release of women activists who have been fighting for their rights in Saudi Arabia.

Moving the competition abroad at first seemed to dim interest in the minor trophy in Spain, but the semifinals produced two exciting contests. Madrid beat Valencia 3-1 while Atlético rallied past Barcelona 3-2.

But the final was much less exciting.

Zidane was without the injured Karim Benzema, Gareth Bale and Eden Hazard. He repeated the successful experiment against Valencia of a line-up loaded with five midfielders behind the little-used striker Luka Jovic.

Atlético made the better start. Its pressure led to a bad pass by Ramos that went directly to Félix alone near the edge of the area, only for the young forward to send his shot wide.

Madrid could only count on a long shot by Casemiro that goalkeeper Jan Oblak had no trouble grabbing in the fifth until it settled down. Both defenses dictated the rest of the first half.

Modric went close to setting up Jovic in the 51st, but his shot missed the upright by inches. Valverde had a horrible miss in the 67th after a deflected cross reached him in the goalmouth, heading the ball off his own leg and out.

Defenders struggled at the end and both goalkeepers had to turn back several shots.

The key moment to the unattractive contest was an ugly tackle from Valverde to cut down Morata as he was charging toward Courtois, triggering a brief tussle between the teams' players.

Valverde said that he was not proud of the foul that helped his teammates reach the shootout where their finishing touches from the spot made all the difference.

"I asked Morata to forgive me," Valverde said. "I know it isn't right what I did, but I had to do it. I am happy for the title, but I don't feel great about it." AP

Motorbike racer Paulo Gonçalves dies during Dakar Rally

PORTUGUESE motorbike rider Paulo Gonçalves died on the Dakar Rally after crashing in the Saudi Arabia desert on Sunday. He was 40.

Gonçalves fell and suffered cardiac arrest about halfway through the 546-kilometer (339-mile) seventh stage, south of the Saudi capital Riyadh. Australian rider Toby Price then Argentina's Kevin Benavides stopped to help, and a medical helicopter arrived on the scene within eight minutes of being alerted, rally organizers

said on their website.

He was flown to nearby Layla hospital, where he was pronounced dead.

"The Dakar mourns Paulo Gonçalves, one of the most experienced and beloved champions of the rally-raid family," organizers said on their website.

The eighth stage yesterday, a loop course around Wadi Al-Dawasir, was canceled for motorbike and quad racers "in order to give the riders time to mourn their friend," organizers said.

They added, "Paulo ... was immensely respected by both veterans and less experienced competitors who admired and were inspired by him."

Gonçalves was competing in his 13th Dakar. He was runner-up in 2015.

He's the first competitor to die on the Dakar Rally, the world's toughest rally, since Polish motorcyclist Michal Herinik in 2015 in Argentina. Two non-competitors were killed in 2016 in crashes with vehicles.

Benavides was deduc-

ted the six minutes-plus he stopped and declared the winner of the stage to Wadi Al Dawasir.

Price, the defending champion, stopped for more than an hour and his time was adjusted so he was within 29 minutes of overall leader Ricky Brabec of the United States.

Cars leader Carlos Sainz won his third stage and extended his lead to 10 minutes over second-placed defending champion Nasser Al-Attiyah.

The rally ends on Friday. AP



OPINION

Our Desk

Anthony Lam



PRIMACY OF THE WET MARKET

I have not had the chance to congratulate my friends and acquaintances in the culinary industry, who have made the food industry of Macau what it currently is today.

At the time of writing, some restaurants in Macau have just been awarded accolades given by an accreditation body in China. The recognition is called the Black Pearl Awards. A month or so ago, part of these restaurants, along with some others, were awarded stars – and the recognition that comes with them – by the French Michelin Guide.

I have special attachment to the culinary circle, although I have been (or am) in no way a critical part of it. I have not rated restaurants for either of the above rating bodies, but I have witnessed and experienced the transformation that has taken place in the city's kitchens.

I think one should agree with the comment – not from my own mouth and I quote my food-critic friend, Myth Chao – that Macau is the place globally to taste the most inexpensive three-star menus.

On the other hand, like them or not, the arrival of all the accreditations in Macau has allowed local people to get to know the depth of culinary culture on their doorstep.

The arrival of these accolades has also brought big names to Macau: Alain Ducasse and Pierre Herme, among others. Gradually, a handful of people start to understand that the value of a macaron is not determined by the privileged ingredients used, but the skillful technique that the chef has to master before they can whip the egg white into meringue.

Also we learned we have the duty to conserve our Macanese recipes.

Allow me to introduce you to a respected chef, Joe Chan, leading the kitchen of a hotel restaurant.

He and his team have been working so hard to retain the essence of Macanese cuisine. Most importantly, they are among the first to bring Macanese cuisine to fine-dining or hotel tables.

Many chefs have said that their favorite place – whichever city they are in – is the local wet market (not even supermarket). Tourists to Tokyo are so obsessed with visiting the Tsukiji Market because they believe they can taste the freshest sashimi there.

Chefs like visiting local markets because they can see and touch the freshest ingredients of the day, besides grabbing an idea of what the local culinary culture is like. They can even chat with hawkers to ask for discounts.

In a globalized world, it is common for chefs to work in foreign places. Visits to wet markets can help them to compile seasonal menus for their restaurants. They can also include local ingredients, if any, into their creations. For example, many chefs include locally caught sole, sometimes called the Macau Sole, in their menus.

I remember I once joined a hotel competition where our instructors, who were cooks from chain hotels in other places, brought us to the Taipa Wet Market to source our ingredients because in just one hour's time, we would be cooking our dishes with the chefs.

We were brought to the market not only because of our sourcing requirements. It was also an excuse for the chefs to take a peek at our food. Those chefs from other places wanted to visit in order to understand more about Macau's everyday culinary culture.

A massive celebration in Rio de Janeiro Sunday marking the start of the 50-day countdown to Brazil's world famous Carnival was marred by tear gas, tossed bottles and clashes between police and revelers in the city's Copacabana district.

As night fell on the party that drew hundreds of thousands of people, police and municipal guards sought to disperse crowds with people fleeing along the beach and waterfront. Guards chased a man, tackling and hitting him before handcuffing him. Some people threw bottles.

It was unclear how the disorder began.

"We were peacefully enjoying the carnival when police came throwing bombs," said Isaque Batista, a 22-year-old barber. "There was no previous tumult. The police arrived throwing (tear gas) bombs when there was no need for it."

Authorities said security forces dispersed crowds after a group of municipal guards was attacked with glass bottles, stones and other objects. There was no report of how many people were detained. A municipal guard suffered minor injuries.



AP PHOTO

QUEEN AGREES TO LET HARRY, MEGHAN MOVE PART-TIME TO CANADA

FRANK AUGSTEIN & DANICA KIRKA, SANDRINGHAM

QUEEN Elizabeth II agreed yesterday to grant Prince Harry and his wife Meghan their wish for a more independent life, allowing them to move part-time to Canada while remaining firmly in the House of Windsor.

The British monarch said in a statement that the summit of senior royals yesterday was "constructive," and that it had been "agreed that there will be a period of transition" in which the Duke and Duchess of Sussex will spend time in Canada and the UK.

The summit at the queen's Sandringham estate in eastern England marked the first face-to-face talks with Harry since he and Meghan unveiled the controversial plan to step back from their royal roles.

"My family and I are entirely supportive of Harry and Meghan's desire to create a new life as a young family," the queen said in a statement. "Although we would have preferred them to remain full-time working members of the Royal Family, we respect and understand their wish to live a

more independent life as a family while remaining a valued part of my family."

The meeting came after days of intense news coverage, in which supporters of the royal family's feuding factions used the British media to paint conflicting pictures of who was to blame for the rift.

Buckingham Palace said "a range of possibilities" would be discussed, but the queen was determined to resolve the situation within "days, not weeks." Buckingham Palace stressed, however, that "any decision will take time to be implemented."

One of the more fraught questions that needs to be worked out is precisely what it means for a royal to be financially independent and what activities can be undertaken to make money. Other royals who have ventured into the world of commerce have found it complicated.

Prince Andrew, for example, has faced heated questions about his relationship with the late convicted sex offender and financier Jeffrey Epstein. Andrew, the queen's second son, has relinquished royal duties and patronages after being

accused by a woman who says she was an Epstein trafficking victim who slept with the prince.

The Duke and Duchess of Sussex also face questions on paying for taxpayer-funded security. Home Secretary Priti Patel refused to comment, but said safety was a priority.

There were signs earlier in the day that the House of Windsor had moved to unite. Princes William and Harry issued a joint statement criticizing a newspaper article on the severe strain in their relationship, calling the story offensive and potentially harmful as they embark on talks regarding the future of the British monarchy.

Though the statement didn't name the newspaper, the Times of London had a front page story about the crisis in which a source alleged that Harry and Meghan had been pushed away by the "bullying attitude from" William. The joint statement insisted that the story was "false."

"For brothers who care so deeply about the issues surrounding mental health, the use of inflammatory language in this way is offensive and potentially harmful," the statement said. AP



AP PHOTO

Iraq US troops cleared rubble and debris from a military base housing American soldiers in western Iraq yesterday, days after it was struck by a barrage of Iranian ballistic missiles in a major escalation between the two longtime foes. The Iranian attack was in retaliation for the U.S. drone strike near Baghdad airport that killed a top Iranian commander, Gen. Qassem Soleimani, prompting angry calls to avenge his slaying.



AP PHOTO

Pakistan A court yesterday overturned the death sentence given to the country's ex-military ruler, Pervez Musharraf [pictured], a former close U.S. ally in the war against terror. The Lahore High Court ruled that the special tribunal formed to try the ex-president was not legal.

Spain Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont took his seat as a member of the European Parliament yesterday despite facing an arrest warrant against him in Spain. More on p14

Russia Talks in Moscow about bringing an end to Libya's long-running civil war have been adjourned for the night after the country's rival governments yesterday considered ceasefire proposals from Russia and Turkey.



AP PHOTO

Nepal's aviation authority yesterday asked everyone in the Himalayan nation's only international airport to cut down on heating this winter to save power so that key equipment can run without disruption.