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**CHIEF EXECUTIVE HO IAT SENG PRAISES THE WORK OF MEDIA AS MEDIATORS BETWEEN THE GOV'T AND MACAU'S COMMUNITIES**

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**MGM'S GRANT BOWIE: CITY SHOULD SEEK GRADUAL GROWTH OVER RAPID RISE**

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**THE FIRE SERVICES STRESSES SAFETY AND SENSIBILITY IN BURNING PAPER OFFERINGS, A TRADITIONAL ACTIVITY AROUND THE LUNAR NEW YEAR**

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AP PHOTO

**China** Huawei Technologies Co. Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou squares up to begin extradition hearings in a Vancouver court today, 13 months after she was arrested on a U.S. handover request. [More on p12](#)

**China** Facebook Inc. apologized for mistranslating Chinese President Xi Jinping's name from Burmese to a vulgar word in English in some posts, the New York Times reported. The mistranslation should not have occurred and "we are taking steps to ensure it doesn't happen again," the newspaper cited the social media company as saying.

**Philippines** Officials said yesterday the government will no longer allow villagers to return to a crater-studded island where an erupting volcano lies, warning that living there would be "like having a gun pointed at you." Officials in Batangas province, where the volcano is located, have been asked to look for a safer housing area, at least three hectares in size, for about 6,000 families that used to live in four villages.



AP PHOTO

**Japan** Prime Minister Shinzo Abe pledged yesterday to bolster his country's role under its security pact with the U.S. in "outer space and cyberspace," as the allies marked the 60th anniversary of a treaty that has been the basis for their postwar defense alliance.

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# BLOOD DONORS TO BE SCREENED FOR TRAVEL HISTORY

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AP PHOTO



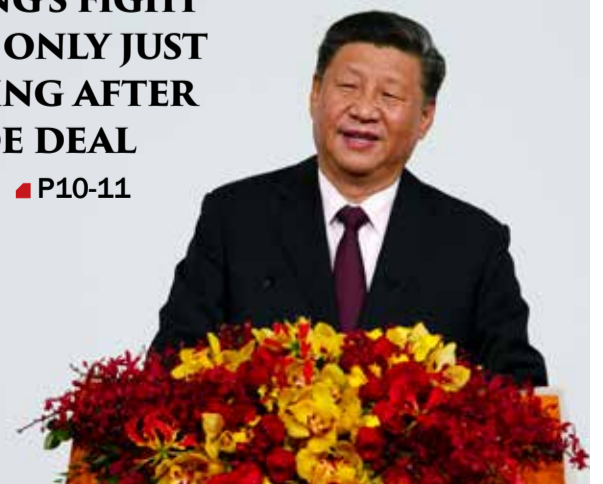
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# ROLE OF NEW PUBLIC SUPERVISION OFFICE NOT TO OVERLAP WITH COMMISSION OF AUDIT

JULIE ZHU

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng said that the functions of the newly-created Public Assets Supervision Planning Office do not overlap with the functions of the Commission of Audit.

Earlier this month, the local government announced the establishment of the new office to monitor publicly funded projects, to be headed by former Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan Hoi Fan. In Macau, the Commission of Audit is the body that currently monitors government spending on public projects.

On Friday, Ho was asked about the functions of the two entities during a Spring Festival reception hosted by the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau. Ho said that the new office will be in charge of monitoring funds prior to a project being approved, whereas the government auditor will take responsibility once the projects start being implemented.

The CE was also asked by local media about the legislation progress of the new immigration facility in Hengqin.

The local government completed drafting of the bill and submitted it to the Legislative Assembly (AL) late last week. The AL will then study the bill using general procedure instead of urgent procedure and may there-



Chief Executive Ho Iat Seng

fore take some time to complete the legislative process, Ho indicated.

In addition, last week the Zhuhai Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee revealed that both the Macau and the Hengqin municipal authorities will form a joint organization to develop Hengqin.

Ho did not provide further information about the organization last Friday. Currently, the two governments are still discussing the details of the proposals. The organization will not man-

age the current Macau Street project in Hengqin.

Ho will be at the AL with his first policy address in April. The budget for 2020 will be revealed in due time.

Ho pledged that big increases in budget would only occur for large-scale infrastructure projects. In 2020, the local government will increase the budget for the development of the New Urban Zone A. In general, the cost of government works this year will remain similar to that of 2019.

Once again, Ho indicated that

maintaining adequate fiscal reserves does not mean the government is reluctant to increase expenditure.

In the speech he gave at Friday's reception, Ho said that the Macau community had remained united in not wanting to pursue the "chaos" and "turbulence" seen in Macau's neighboring regions. He highlighted Macau's fundamental values of loving the country and Macau once again, and said that the MSAR has made unprecedented achievements in the last 20 years.

Last week, Hong Kong's leader Carrie Lam said that the "one country, two systems" framework, under which the city enjoys freedoms not known to mainland China, could continue after a 2047 deadline if loyalty to Beijing is upheld.

On the sidelines of the reception, Ho remarked that the 50-year policy in place in both SARs is China's basic national strategy. Ho refused to comment on Lam's statement about Hong Kong and said he could not make any predictions about what will happen after Macau's 50th anniversary of the handover in 2049.

## XUE XIAOFENG LEAVES LIAISON OFFICE

**XUE** Xiaofeng will step down as the deputy director of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in the Macau Special Administrative Region, according to an announcement from China's State Council on Friday. Xue will leave his post to become a vice

chairman of the 12th Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Xue served as deputy director of the Liaison Office since September 2016, after serving as Secretary of the CPC Zhongshan Municipal Committee.

# CE pledges gov't will uphold press freedom

**C**HIEF Executive Ho Iat Seng has acknowledged that Portuguese- and English-language media in the Macau SAR have played a significant role as mediators between the government and the Portuguese- and English-speaking communities in the region.

"This role is indispensable as they help the government preserve its communication channels with the people of Macau by reflect-

ing their social conditions and the popular sentiment to the government," the CE said at a Chinese New Year luncheon for representatives of local Portuguese- and English-language news organizations.

Portuguese, along with Chinese, is an official language of the Macau SAR. English is not an official language but is widely spoken by minority ethnic groups, the business community and as an interme-

diary language.

According to Ho, the media has also contributed to the city by monitoring the government and promoting the SAR across the globe.

"It is through the powerful function of the media that the world perceives Macau's determination, will and aspiration to participate in the Belt and Road Initiative and its role as a trade and collaboration service platform between

China and Portuguese-speaking countries," he said.

The newly-inaugurated CE pledged that the government would continue to uphold freedom of press in accordance with the Basic Law, adding that it would also value its communications and interactions with the media.

Ho also vowed that the government would assist and cooperate with the media to safeguard their

right to cover, report and receive news and information so that the free flow of news and information will be protected within the system.

Last year, the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association expressed its concern over the SAR's Civil Protection Law, which could lead to interpretations that limit freedom of expression.

The association had previously expressed con-

cerns that there were still risks pertaining to press freedoms and freedom of expression in the current version of the bill.

Lawmaker Sulu Sou had also reminded the public to keep an eye on the proposed Civil Protection Bill in general, and on controversial Article 25 – more commonly known as the "rumor offence" – in particular.

His argument aligns with the concerns of other critics of the bill, who disagree with the vagueness of some of the articles and argue that they might be misused by the authorities. **LV**

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AP PHOTO



### AIRPORT TO ADD 102 FLIGHTS OVER LUNAR NEW YEAR

The Macau International Airport will add a total of 102 flights over the Chinese Lunar New Year period to help cope with an anticipated surge in passenger numbers. The new flights will connect Macau to cities in the mainland, Taipei and Kaohsiung in Taiwan, and popular Southeast Asian cities such as Bangkok and Da Nang. According to a statement published on the airport's website, the decision to add the flights stemmed from an "operation meeting" held to coordinate arrangements with airlines and airport entities. The extra flights will be operated in the period from January 18 to February 6. The Macau International Airport predicts that the aviation base will serve 716,000 arriving and departing passengers during this period, representing an increase of 5.9% year-on-year.

### UM TEAM DEVELOPS NEW SCREENING METHOD FOR CANCER DRUGS

An interdisciplinary research team from the University of Macau (UM) has developed a new screening method for cancer drugs. Using a digital microfluidic system, the research team can run single cell drug screening tests with a limited amount of biopsy samples. As an efficient and precise method, the screening process for a cancer patient can be completed within 24 hours, which can help provide timely guidance for doctors on medication prescription. The interdisciplinary research project was led by UM's Institute of Microelectronics, and jointly conducted by UM's Faculty of Health Sciences and Sun Yat-sen University. According to UM, the research results have been published by the authoritative international journal *Nature Publishing Group*. UM researcher Zhai Jiao is the paper's first author and Jia Yanwei, an assistant professor in UM's State Key Laboratory of Analog and Mixed-Signal VLSI, is the corresponding author.

### DSI LAUNCHES ONLINE SYSTEM FOR ASSOCIATION MANAGEMENT

The Identification Services Bureau (DSI) has officially launched an online system for the management of the city's associations and foundations, through which persons in charge of associations and foundations can register, check and update the information about members of the leadership structure at any time. If the association or foundation has never elected the members of the leadership structure, the founder who has been approved to use the name of the association or foundation may use this system to register the first member list of the leadership structure. The online management system has been running on a trial basis since December 26 last year. It also enables citizens to lodge applications without the need of in-person visits to the department. In addition, the issuing time of the certificate was shortened from 12 working days to three working days, making it possible to go through all formalities "in one visit."

## WUHAN CORONAVIRUS

# Blood Transfusion Service to screen donors' travel history

JULIE ZHU & ANTHONY LAM

**T**HE Health Bureau's Blood Transfusion Service, which also handles the city's blood donations, is now asking donors about their travel history as part of its donation evaluation.

People who have recently travelled to the Chinese city of Wuhan, where a new coronavirus appears to have originated, will not be allowed to donate blood in Macau for 14 days after the day of their departure from Wuhan.

The measure is in place to ensure the safety of donated blood amid the Wuhan pneumonia outbreak, which is prompting concern abroad as more cities reporting confirmed cases.

The Blood Transfusion Service encourages donors to consult a doctor and notify the service if they develop respiratory symptoms within 21 days of donating blood.

On Friday, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Ao Ieong U revealed that no cases of Wuhan pneumonia have been identified in Macau. This includes the Wuhan resident who was recently reported to be in isolation for testing for the pneumonia virus.

That same day, the secretary also visited the Conde S. Januário Hospital, where she was informed of preparations against the new coronavirus. She also met with about 70 medical personnel.

All of the patients in Macau who were previously reported as having suspected infections have

been discharged.

Ao Ieong's secretariat held another cross-departmental meeting to discuss relevant prevention topics on January 15.

Non-local students and workers travelling to mainland China during the Lunar New Year period have been issued notifications by the local government about preventing Wuhan pneumonia.

Currently, there are approximately 500 Macau students studying in Wuhan. As of Friday, the Health Bureau had managed to contact approximately 100 Macau students who had returned from Wuhan within the last 14 days, inquiring about their health. So far, none of the students have reported feeling unwell or having influenza symptoms.

Ao Ieong has reminded Macau local residents returning to the mainland to visit their families or to travel to remain cautious regarding hygiene. She urged anyone feeling unwell to wear a mask, affirming that Macau has an adequate supply of these products.

A further 17 people in central China were diagnosed with the new form of viral pneumonia. This has placed other countries on alert, as millions of Chinese travel for the Lunar New Year holidays.

In total, 62 cases of the novel coronavirus have been identified in the city of Wuhan. The Wuhan Municipal Health Commission reported the new cases in a statement yesterday.

A second person died of pneu-

monia caused by the new coronavirus on the mainland last Wednesday, health authorities said, bringing the death toll to two.

The 69-year-old man, surnamed Xiong, fell ill with the respiratory condition on December 31, according to a statement last week. Xiong had abnormal renal function, severe impairment of multiple organs, inflammation of the heart muscle and several other pressing conditions when he was admitted to hospital. It was not clear whether these were pre-existing or consequences of the viral pneumonia.

Nineteen of the 62 individuals have been discharged from hospital, while eight are in critical condition.

At least half a dozen countries in Asia and three U.S. airports have started screening incoming airline passengers from central China. The three U.S. airports now screening are New York City's John F. Kennedy, Los Angeles International Airport and San Francisco International Airport.

Thailand and Japan are among the countries screening for the virus and have collectively reported three cases among people arriving from Wuhan.

A man returning from Wuhan is the latest case in Japan. The man is currently in Kanagawa prefecture, west of Tokyo. He was previously being looked after by family and medical staff, who are currently uninfected.

The man developed a fever and cough on January 3 while in Wuhan. He returned to Japan on

January 6 and was hospitalized four days later as the symptoms persisted. His x-ray showed signs of pneumonia, Japan's Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare said.

Thermal imaging equipment to detect abnormal body temperatures has been installed airports and seaports, the Indonesian health ministry said. Authorities will interview travelers, especially those from China and Hong Kong, with temperatures higher than 38 degrees Celsius, followed by a health check. Indonesia has not reported any cases of the new virus.

Meanwhile, German researchers have said that they have developed the first diagnostic test for the virus. Dr. Christian Drosten, the director of the Institute for Virology at Berlin's Charité University Hospital, said the test developed by his team will allow labs to reliably diagnose the coronavirus "in a very short period of time."

The test protocol is being made available through the World Health Organization, and laboratories can order a molecule from the German team to compare patient samples with a positive control, he said.

"We have just started receiving orders and are now starting to post the molecule," said Drosten, who is a co-discoverer of severe acute respiratory syndrome, or SARS. He has concerns about the difficulty of transporting the molecule to certain places however, the requisite level of literacy of lab staff and the amount of people to be tested.

# ZHUHAI GOVERNMENT EXPEDITES BORDER GATE REVAMP

**T**HE refurbishment of the covered corridor of the Border Gate connecting Macau and Zhuhai's Gongbei district is being expedited, the Commerce Bureau of Zhuhai told local Chinese-language newspaper Macao Daily News.

Gongbei district is home to the busiest checkpoint between the two neighboring cities, which is known as the Portas do Cerco or Border Gate. In 2018, three-quarters of the 194 million border crossings in and out of Macau were recorded at the Border Gate.

As the busy Chinese Lunar New Year is approaching, Zhuhai immigration authorities are making the relevant preparations amid the revamp efforts. Nevertheless, the refurbishment will not be completed in time for the Lunar New Year, which starts this Saturday.

Authorities in Zhuhai recommend that travelers use other border checkpoints, such as the Hong



Pedestrians cross street in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai

Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge or the Lotus Bridge checkpoint, to avoid possible congestion.

Originally, travelers crossing the Border Gate checkpoint needed to walk through a covered corridor to reach the immigration building on the other side. Duty-free shops also operated along the corridor.

During the refurbishment, people will be requi-

red to take a minor detour up one level when passing through the corridor. The Zhuhai government has erected provisional overpasses equipped with escalators. The duty-free shops at the immigration checkpoint were also relocated to the temporary overpasses.

The local Chinese-language newspaper interviewed some travelers in

the Gongbei area. Travelers found the detour acceptable and said that there was no notable difference between taking the original and temporary replacement corridors.

When asked about the clarity of the signage, one interviewee said that usually visitors follow the signs in front of them as there are a large number of travelers at the checkpoint daily. **AL**

# CB INSTRUCTS PUBLIC TO CONDUCT RELIGIOUS ACTIVITIES SAFELY

**T**HE Fire Services (CB) has asked the public to ensure that the traditional practice of burning paper offerings is being done in a safe manner. In response to an enquiry by the Times, the CB said unsafe incidents can be reported via the CB's phone and online channels.

Last week, the Times reported about a complaint made by a social media user about a neighbor burning paper offerings, or joss paper, in a staircase without any ventilation. The staircase filled with smoke and caused the social media user difficulty breathing.

In the reply, the CB suggested members of the public file a complaint against such acts through its website, its direct complaints hotline, or personally at the bureau's headquarters by Sai Van Lake. Local emergency hotlines can also be called if an emergency arises.

The CB noted that it has no authority to punish wrongdoers. It can only suggest the managerial body of the building improve conditions, and request that the relevant departments follow up.

However, according to official data, in 2019, the CB conducted nearly 1,300 spot checks at residential buildings and received 479 complaints of unsafe fire conditions, such as fire doors left open and people burning paper offerings in unsafe locations.

The CB admits that joss paper burning, being a religious activity, cannot be forbidden, but reminds the public to conduct the activity with sense of responsibility and safety.

The activities should not obstruct crucial evacuation paths and should take place in well-ventilated areas. Most importantly, the fire should be completely extinguished after the activity. **AL**

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# GRANT BOWIE RECOMMENDS CITY SEEK GRADUAL GROWTH

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE CEO and executive director of MGM China, Grant Bowie, has recommended that Macau seek gradual economic growth instead of the rapid development that has marked the last 20 years.

On Friday, Bowie told local media that the past year had been challenging. In the third quarter of 2019, Macau recorded a 4.5% contraction in GDP, which Bowie saw as a "very unlucky situation for Macau."

The MGM leader foresees growth returning to Macau, but of a more gradual kind.

"I'm positive that the future is going to be very bright," said Bowie. However, Macau is a more mature market now. "I think that what we need to do is to look for a slow and steady increase rather than a rapid increase. We are looking for some consistency in the future."



DANIEL BEITLER

Grant Bowie (front, center), CEO and executive director of MGM China

Last week, the head of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) predicted that Macau would suffer a 3% decrease in tourist arrivals in 2020. According to Bowie, any minor downturn in visitors will not accurately reflect on the health of the tourism sector because the city has already become a quality tourism destination.

"We need to focus on the quality of our customers,

the length of their stay, the repeat visitation," Bowie answered when asked about the prediction. "Those are the challenges for us in the future."

Last year, MGTO conducted a feasibility study on a tourist tax.

Macau is a city of 650,000 people and received about 39.4 million visitors last year, just short of the key 40-million milestone once suggested

to be its maximum.

The MGM CEO expressed his understanding of the proposal, which is being considered to try to regulate traffic and reduce some of the inconvenience caused to local residents by the large number of visitors.

"Philosophically, we should be making sure that we have a proposition here in the quality of our customers," Bowie commented.

# LAWMAKER WANTS DATA TO SUPPORT 'RADIATION TABLE' SAFETY CLAIM

**A** Macau lawmaker has insisted that data be presented to prove the claim that so-called "radiation tables" in casinos are safe for croupiers and customers.

Lawmaker Ella Lei, who is also an executive at the Federation of Trade Unions, said, "if the government or casino operators have data assuring the safety of new technologies, I believe it should be disclosed to ease laborers' worries."

Some casino operators have reportedly introduced what some croupiers have termed "radiation tables."

This type of casino table is equipped with transmitting devices, the health implications of which are debatable, according to Cloee Chao, head of Macau Gaming Staff Rights Association.

Chao led a demonstration at the start of the month calling for more pay, better labor conditions and for this particular techno-

logy to be withdrawn. Chao told the Times that some casinos in Las Vegas had introduced this type of table before later withdrawing them.

The Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau has reassured workers of the safety of the technology, citing reports compiled by entities in mainland China, Hong Kong and Singapore, which approved the use of the technology.

Lei said her federation has not yet received any complaints about the technology, but stressed that it had helped croupiers on other technology-related issues.

"Some previous complaints we received were about the heat emitted from certain devices under the table," Lei disclosed. "Operators were contacted to see whether the situation can be improved or if use of the devices could be suspended." AL

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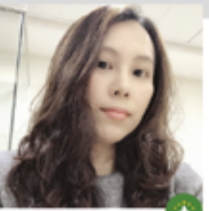
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### Property of the Week



#### Beautiful Apartment, Coloane

**HK\$7,200,000** 1,665 ft<sup>2</sup> 3 2 1



The apartment was renovated to a very high standard by the owner, and most fixtures and fittings can remain if required. This property has 3 generous bedrooms and 2 bathrooms, a new kitchen, a huge wardrobe in the master bedroom and high quality finishes throughout as well as it's own car parking space.

Outside is easy access to Hac Sa Beach, the walking trails in the hills of Coloane and a sort distance from the ever busy Cotai Strip.

### Property Hotlist



**Large 3/4 Bedroom Apartment, Coloane**

**\$12,980,000**  
 2,530 ft<sup>2</sup>  
 3 2 2



**Hoi Wan, Taipa**

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



**Renovated Luxury Unit, Central Macau**

**\$20,000/mth**  
 2 2



**Vai Fung Triplex, Macau**

**\$15,800/mth**  
 2 2



### More Listings

#### For Sale

- [Macau] One Central 2 2 1,349 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$14,839,000** (ref: 19096004)
- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 1,344 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,000,000** (ref: 19126001)
- [Taipa] 2 connected unit 4 2 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$8,680,000** (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Nova City 3 2 1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,750,000** (ref: 19106001)
- [Taipa] Jade Garden 4 3 3,180 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$18,000,000** (ref: 19126002)

#### For Rent

- [Macau] La Marina 1 n/a **\$11,200/mth** (ref: 19091001)
- [Cotai] One Grantai 3 3 2,122 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$23,000/mth** (ref: 19030001RT)
- [Taipa] Nova Grand 2 1 935 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$17,800/mth** (ref: 19091005)
- [Taipa] Nam Long 2 1 645 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$11,800/mth** (ref: 19111001)
- [Taipa] Manhattan high floor 4 2 2,305 ft<sup>2</sup> **\$26,800/mth** (ref: 19091003)

### Recent Movements

**Sold** Hellene Garden, Coloane  
 3 beds, 2 bath

**Sold** Lakeview, Macau  
 3 beds, 3 bath

**Rented** Taipa village apartment  
 1 bath



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LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE 20th annual Sinulog Festival was celebrated by the Filipino community at Sintra Square yesterday, and this time it was celebrated with a cause.

This year's celebration was more meaningful, as the community gathered to raise funds for the victims of the Taal Volcano eruption that occurred on the island of Luzon at the start of last week.

Organized by the Santo Niño de Cebu in Macau Association, the annual religious procession will donate 55% of the proceeds from its raffle ticket sales to the cause. A donation box was also passed around during the event.

Six contingents wearing vibrant costumes and performing a series of the festival's traditional dances marched through Sai Van Lake bearing the image of St. Niño to honor the Infant Jesus.

Yesterday's event gathered around 1,000 spectators. According to the association president, Violeta Duran, the increase in audience numbers was due to people wishing to show solidarity and remember victims of the Taal Volcano, and the increasing number of devotees.

"The spectators used to attend only for the sake of recreation and to remember our culture and traditions back in the Philippines," said Duran.

"But lately, there has been an increase in the devotees of St. Niño. [We are also here] to help other people in need and show solidarity. We really have the heart to become followers of Jesus," she added, emphasizing how the Catholic community in the SAR was continuing to grow.

There were supposed to be seven contingents joining the Sinulog dance competition, however Duran said that a group from Hong Kong had withdrawn as "the situation in Hong Kong [had] affected them."

# Sinulog Festival raises funds for Taal Volcano victims



Meanwhile, Macau-based priest the Rev. Fr. Ryan Jun Real said that the annual religious activity in the SAR seeks to honor St. Niño as it was the first image that was given to Filipinos.

"This speaks [to] the faith of the Filipinos and its history. Every time we celebrate Sinulog, we also ce-

lebrate the faith that we received many years ago," said the Filipino priest.

"This is our thanksgiving for the gift of faith that we received, and we express it through dancing and through the parade."

The Sinulog Festival continuously strengthens the Catholic com-

munity's faith and is also a time for the devotees to reevaluate their faith.

The celebration, which originated in Cebu, begins nine days before the grand parade. The parade itself can last up to 12 hours and involves a traditional Sinulog dance in which participants take

two steps forward and one step back, swaying to the rhythm of the drums.

The festival customarily takes place on the third Sunday in January, where participants shout petitions and thanksgivings to the St. Niño, such as "Viva Pit Señor! Señor Santo Niño!"

## Fugitive billionaire Joseph Lau selling \$26 million artwork

**WANTED** Hong Kong billionaire Joseph Lau will be the seller of one of the most expensive artworks at the year's first major auction, according to a person familiar with the matter.

David Hockney's "The Splash" will be offered anonymously at Sotheby's contemporary art sale in London on Feb. 11. The 1966 canvas is estimated at 20 million pounds (\$26.1 million) to 30 million pounds. The work last came to the market in 2006, when it

fetched 2.9 million pounds at Sotheby's. The current owner acquired the work at that sale, according to the provenance listed by Sotheby's.

A spokeswoman for the auction house declined to comment, while Lau didn't respond to requests for comment.

Lau, 68, is the controlling shareholder of Chinese Estates Holdings, a Hong Kong property developer that builds offices, shopping malls and housing projects. He has an \$8.4 billion

fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index, a ranking of the world's 500 richest people.

In 2014, Lau was convicted of bribery and money-laundering in Macau in a case connected to the city's former Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Ao Man Long. Lau has avoided a five-year jail term by not traveling to the Macau Special Administrative Region.

Last year, Lau filed - and later retracted - a

lawsuit challenging the government's proposal for extraditions to China, Macau and Taiwan, which has since ignited months of protests and crippled Hong Kong's economy.

Known for his investments in art, wine and jewelry, Lau spent \$17.4 million on Andy Warhol's "Mao" in 2006 and \$39.2 million on Paul Gauguin's "Te Poipoi" in 2007. He bought five diamonds for \$128 million from 2009 through 2015.

**BLOOMBERG**

## 0.4 MEGATONS OF FOOD IMPORTED FROM MAINLAND LAST YEAR

**M**ACAU imported a total of 400,000 tons of food produce from the mainland in 2019, which included meat, seafood and poultry, and fruits and vegetables, according to a statement from the Secretariat for Economy and Finance.

The Secretariat released the statement on the occasion of a work visit between January 15 and 17 by the assistant minister of commerce of the People's Republic of China.

The assistant minister, Ren Hongbin, met with Macau's Secretary for Economy

and Finance, the Municipal Affairs Bureau, besides conducting visits to a wholesale market and the Patane Municipal Market.

Ren was informed about the condition of food quality and supply, as well as local price fluctuations.

It was also unveiled in the statement that work is in progress to safeguard the supply of food produce to Macau during the Chinese Lunar New Year period. Quality processing facilities were also set up in the mainland in accordance with central directives. **AL**

## HONG KONG

# GOV'T REBUFFS KEY PROTEST DEMAND AS VIOLENCE PERSISTS

ERIC LAM  
& AARON Mc NICHOLAS

**H**ONG Kong leader Carrie Lam's government again pushed back on a key demand of protesters as a downtown rally turned violent, showing the unrest that began last June still has no end in sight.

In a lengthy statement yesterday, a government spokesman recapped failed attempts to implement a promise of universal suffrage since China took control of the former British colony in 1997. It said the Hong Kong's residents need a "clear understanding" that any chief executive elected by all citizens shall also be accountable to Beijing.

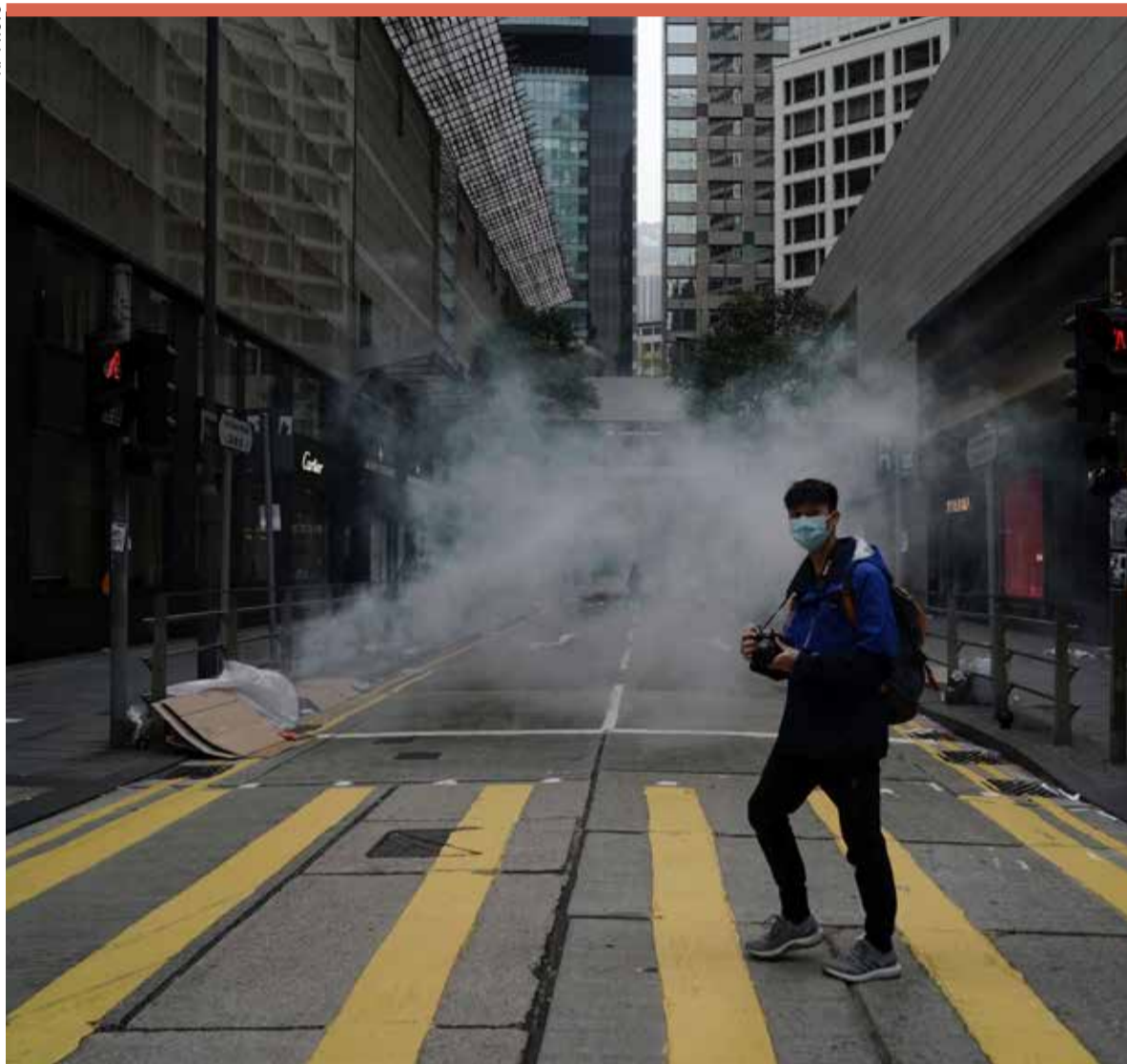
"This is the constitutional order under the 'one country, two systems' principle which should not be ignored," the spokesman said. "The community needs to attain a consensus on these principles, and premised on the legal basis, to narrow differences through dialogues under a peaceful atmosphere with mutual trust."

"Any constructive discussion on the issue of constitutional development would be difficult to commence if the aforesaid cannot be achieved," it added.

The statement, which mimics the same stance Beijing has held on universal suffrage since 2014, shows that Lam's government still isn't budging on the core demand still driving the protests. The unrest has plunged Hong Kong into its first recession since the global financial crisis, with the retail and tourism sectors particularly hard hit.

Traffic through Hong Kong International Airport declined across the board last year as

AP PHOTO



A man walks past as police use tear gas on protesters calling for electoral reforms in Hong Kong yesterday

protesters conducted sit-ins and disrupted transport routes. The airport handled 71.5 million passengers in 2019, down 4.2% from a year earlier, the Airport Authority Hong Kong said Sunday. Flight movements fell 1.9%, while total cargo throughput declined 6.1% from a year ago to 4.8 million tonnes.

The demonstration on Sunday started peacefully in Charter Garden in the Central business district, with speeches and

music drawing in thousands of people. But police ordered the rally to end early, citing violent behavior by protesters who fanned out from the approved meeting area.

Police scuffled with demonstrators and handcuffed a number of people who blocked roads and set fire to barricades. Two officers from the Police Community Liaison Office suffered head wounds after being attacked with wooden sticks and other weapons near the

rally, according to the police.

One of the organizers of yesterday's rally, Ventus Lau of the Hong Kong Civil Assembly team, said his goal was to get the world to focus on the city again after global headlines turned to Taiwan's election and the crisis involving Iran. He also insisted protesters would keep fighting for meaningful elections.

"If the government refuses to give us universal suffrage, this is a clear sign that they are still

suppressing our human rights, our freedom and our democracy," Lau said.

Beijing has stuck to a proposal for universal suffrage that it outlined in August 2014, triggering the Occupy protests. The plan would've required nominees to be screened by a committee stacked with Beijing loyalists Hong Kong before being put to a public vote, with a requirement that the person "loves the country and loves Hong Kong."

The Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office reaffirmed that proposal in September, saying that Beijing would never allow Hong Kong's opposition to pick a leader who wasn't accountable to the central government. "Today, anyone who harbors such an idea will get nowhere," Yang Guang, a spokesman for the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, told reporters at the time.

The protests were ignited by a bill to allow extraditions to mainland China that the government subsequently withdrew. The demonstrators' demands have broadened to include an independent inquiry into police conduct and universal suffrage for both the Legislative Council and chief executive.

Lisa Lau, a former member of the Independent Police Complaints Council, the group the government has tasked with finding accountability, said the body is hobbled by a lack of investigative powers, Ming Pao reported Sunday. She added the group has not yet met with the police commander in charge of the July incident in Yuen Long when subway riders were violently attacked, it said.

"Foreign governments, legislatures or organizations have absolutely no role in matters relating to the constitutional development of Hong Kong, and should not express any opinion or take any action in an attempt to influence or interfere in the discussions of related matters in Hong Kong," the government statement added. **BLOOMBERG**

AD



## WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU

The Greater Bay project is coming and it will bring both opportunities and challenges to our little-big town. Macau Daily Times wants to hear your voice. We invite our readers to write in with Letters to the Editor on the topic of the Greater Bay Area.

Please email your letters to [gba@macaudailytimes.com](mailto:gba@macaudailytimes.com)



AP PHOTO



WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM

# Carrie Lam to remind world leaders of HK's strengths

**H**ONG Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam will lead a top-level delegation to the World Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos this week with the aim to remind global political, business and media leaders that Hong Kong's enduring strengths and advantages continue to serve it well.

The delegation, named TeamHK and comprising senior officials of the Hong Kong SAR government and major businesses, will be the largest and most high-powered Hong Kong delegation to attend the WEF in more than 20 years, it said.

Lam, who is scheduled to arrive in Davos tomorrow, said she understood the global interest in Hong Kong and would take the opportunity to engage as many

Davos attendees as possible to impress upon them Hong Kong's strengths and advantages.

"Much has happened in Hong Kong over the past year, and challenges remain. But our fundamentals remain strong and our future remains bright," she said.

"We are a free and open society and a highly competitive international business and financial hub. This is the message I and TeamHK will take to Davos," she added.

Lam said she would stress the resilience and flexibility of Hong Kong and its people.

"This is not the first time we have faced a crisis. We always bounce back - that is the enduring power of Hong Kong," she said, adding that the enhanced presence at the WEF serves to update, reassure and remind peo-

ple that Hong Kong is very much "ON" and will remain a globally significant place.

The Chief Executive also said that whether addressing the current social unrest or paving the way for future development, Hong Kong would strictly adhere to the 'one country, two systems' principle, which provides Hong Kong with a unique set of advantages in China and globally.

"Hong Kong continues to play an important role in China's further opening-up and reform," she said. "There are significant, long-term opportunities for Hong Kong in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area and under the Belt and Road Initiative."

Lam said she would inform WEF audiences that the local government was dealing with deep-seated issues and would not ac-

cept violence in any way, shape or form to resolve them.

"Hong Kong is not alone in facing social problems related to topics such as upward mobility, youth discontent, income disparity and housing affordability," she said. "We know we need to deal with these issues, and we will."

Lam said she would reinforce the message that Hong Kong remains safe and welcoming for business and investment. She also emphasized Hong Kong's advantages such as strong institutional strengths, a legal system underpinned by independent judiciary, smoothly-operating stock market, money market and banking systems, as well as substantial fiscal reserves.

"These are very solid foundations which continue to serve us well," she said. **XINHUA**

# Hong Kong must not give up on youth, says finance secretary

KARI LINDBERG

**H**ONG Kong must not give up on its youth and should invest in future generations, Finance Secretary Paul Chan said at a forum Saturday, Radio Television Hong Kong reported.

The city faces declining income and a growing deficit as it tries to deal with ongoing social issues, Chan said. Hong Kong has endured seven months of violent protests, driven mainly

by the youth, that have taken their toll on the retail sector and tourism, and dragged the economy into its first recession in a decade.

The government has pumped more than HKD35 billion (\$4.5 billion), about 1.2% of 2018 gross domestic product, into the economy since the protests started, Chan said. Hong Kong needs to increase the supply of subsidized housing to provide affordable homes to more

people, one of the city's most pressing issues, RTHK cited Chan as saying.

Chief Executive Carrie Lam has announced a welfare package of HKD10 billion, focusing on the city's more vulnerable people, but Chan suggested on Saturday that the government might have to cut back on other relief measures such as tax rebates because of the general increase in spending.

While the ongoing so-

cial unrest has hit Hong Kong's economy, demonstrators' demands are centered more on calls for greater democracy and less interference from China. The protests have divided the city's society and often end in violent clashes between police and activists.

In past weeks there has been a lull in protest activity but a major rally is scheduled for Sunday. Police have withheld approval for a planned march on concerns it

could turn violent.

Police last week defused a pipe bomb and arrested four men for allegedly manufacturing explosives. On Friday, a Hong Kong policeman was arrested along with eight others for posting political fliers, reported TVB. That was the first officer to be arrested for protest-related events.

Economists forecast an annual contraction of 1.3% for 2019 mainly due to the protests. The unemployment rate rose to 3.2% in November, with joblessness in the retail and tourism-related sectors rising the most in three years to 5.2% from the September-to-November period.

**BLOOMBERG**

## CRUISE LINER TOURS PROVE POPULAR IN SHENZHEN

Cruise liner tours have become quite popular in southern China as the traditional Spring Festival holiday approaches. In the metropolis of Shenzhen, tickets have sold out for the Costa Venezia, the first ship designed by Costa Cruises, the Italian brand of Carnival Corporation built especially for Chinese guests. With a gross tonnage of 135,500 tonnes, the 323-meter-long Costa Venezia offers 2,116 cabins for a total of 5,260 passengers. The vessel will depart from the Shekou cruise liner homeport in Shenzhen. Since opening in 2016, the port has welcomed 17 cruise liners from around the world and received about 1.35 million tourists.

## DONGGUAN REPORTS TRADE GROWTH WITH B&R COUNTRIES

The city of Dongguan saw robust growth in its foreign trade with countries and regions participating in the Belt and Road Initiative last year, local authorities said. The trade volume rose by 16.5% year on year to over 278 billion yuan (over \$40 billion), according to Huangpu Customs in Guangdong Province. The city's total trade volume reached 1.24 trillion yuan in the first 11 months of 2019, an annual increase of 0.8%, accounting for 4.4 percent of China's total foreign trade, and 19.4% of Guangdong's total during the same period. Dongguan further optimized its trade structure, with mechanical and electrical products as its main exports last year.

## HK'S CATHAY PACIFIC SLIDE IN TRAFFIC BEGINS TO EASE

Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd., one of the most high-profile corporate casualties of pro-democracy protests in Hong Kong, said it expects business to remain tough this year. "We continue to see a significant shortfall for the period after Chinese New Year, especially from inbound traffic," Cathay's Chief Customer and Commercial Officer Ronald Lam said in a statement, referring to the national holidays that are at the end of January this year. "2020 will continue to present us with a highly challenging operating environment," he said. The airline and its unit Cathay Dragon carried 2.99 million passengers in December, a drop of 3.6% from a year earlier, according to the statement. The decline in November was more severe at 9%. Inbound traffic plunged 46% last month, the same as November. Cathay again warned that its second-half profit would be "significantly" lower than the first as it was badly hit by months of protests. In addition to suffering a slowdown in business, the airline faced a clampdown from Chinese regulators after some of its employees took part in demonstrations.



## Trump's China deal is his hedge against impeachment damage

**H**OURS before the seven House Democrats managers marched articles of impeachment across the Capitol last week, President Donald Trump secured what he's relying on to counter any political damage - a cease-fire in the trade war with China.

With little chance the Republican-controlled Senate will convict him on two articles of impeachment, the greatest danger to Trump is that the proceedings present an unfavorable portrait of the president durable enough to sway Americans against his re-election 10 months later.

His hedge is the phase-one trade deal with China he signed last week. By calling a truce in a trade war that has dampened economic growth - historically one of the most powerful engines of support for incumbent presidents - Trump won what he's counting on as a key element of his case for re-election.

The signing ceremony coincided with the House vote to formally submit two articles of impeachment to the Senate for a trial, and he pointed out the juxtaposition to some of the GOP lawmakers at the event.

"This is a big celebration. And, by the way, some of the congressmen may have a vote, and I don't - it's on the impeachment hoax. So, if you want, you go out and vote," Trump said to laughter as a delegation from China stood behind him.

It was a bit of stage management to show him at work on the economy just as the impeachment proceedings were about to commence, and he'll have an opportunity for a repeat performance as the Senate trial is underway when he signs legislation implementing the U.S.-Mexico-Canada trade agreement.

The trade conflict with China

has been slowing down the economy just as the stimulus from Trump's 2017 tax cuts and government spending increases fades, with election-year growth forecast to drop to 1.8% from 2.3% in 2019. Moreover, the tariff dispute has hit manufacturing especially hard, a critical contributor to the economies of Rust-Belt battleground states and even more important in counties that backed Trump in 2016.

Workers' wages also have started slowing. After inflation, average hourly earnings in December were up only 0.6% from a year earlier. Crucially for Trump, it is the trajectory of the economy that typically matters most for a president's re-election, so a slowing economy works against him, though, of course, that is better than slipping into recession.

Trump's standing in the polls has departed from historic norms in tracking the economy, with his job approval rating never topping 46% in the Real Clear Politics average of polls despite a growing economy throughout his presidency.

With unemployment low, Democrats have concentrated their fire on economic inequities, including dislocations caused by the trade war. As Trump celebrated the deal, some of the Democratic presidential candidates assailed him for achieving little despite a costly struggle.

"True to form, Trump is getting precious little in return for the significant pain and uncertainty he has imposed on our economy, farmers, and workers," former Vice President Joe Biden said. The deal "won't actually resolve the real issues at the heart of the dispute."

The China accord doesn't eliminate the negative impact of the trade dispute because Trump is con-

tinuing his existing tariffs covering \$360 billion a year worth of Chinese goods. Those levies reduce economic growth and have particularly hurt manufacturing companies, with U.S. industrial production down 1% over the past year.

But the trade deal ends the threat of tit-for-tat tariff escalation and lifts some of the uncertainty businesses have faced. It also promises an immediate stimulus for Trump's rural supporters through China's commitment to increase agricultural imports from the U.S., even if many analysts doubt the Asian nation will reach \$40 to \$50 billion in annual purchases the president has promised.

The sense of a return to order is underscored by congressional passage of the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement legislation, which Trump plans to sign this week. Though the changes from Nafta are modest, enactment of the accord offers businesses an assurance of continued access to markets and supply chains in Mexico and Canada, the two largest U.S. trading partners.

Tim Keeler, who served as a senior trade official in the administration of President George W. Bush and is now a partner at the law firm Mayer Brown, said the "phase one" deal Trump signed provided Trump something he could use to counter criticism that economic pain of the trade war hadn't achieved anything while heading off a potential catastrophe risk going into the election.

"It had clearly reached a point where the markets reacted and couldn't tolerate it any more," Keeler said. "Not that markets are the most important factor politically, but they are a leading indicator and it posed risks for the president and the economy more broadly." **MDT/AP**

## Xi Jinping's wider fi

**I**N a letter read out during last week's trade deal signing at the White House, Chinese leader Xi Jinping asked U.S. President Donald Trump to take steps to "enhance mutual trust and cooperation between us."

That won't be easy: Apart from the trade agreement, the U.S. and China are butting heads on everything from technology to human rights to territorial disputes. Just this week, Secretary of State Michael Pompeo told executives in Silicon Valley the U.S. is "facing a challenge from China that demands every fiber of your innovative skill and your innovative spirit."

A return to acrimony could have major consequences for China, and for Xi. In the short term, renewed tensions with the U.S. risk weakening an already fragile economic situation, while investment restrictions could hamper plans to secure technologies essential to driving growth. For Xi, a perceived failure to manage U.S. ties could also dent support for a third term in office at a key Communist Party meeting in 2022.

"This is China's most important bilateral relationship by a country mile, and Xi Jinping has made it clear that he's in charge from the beginning," said Trey McArver, co-founder of Beijing-based research firm Trivium China. "He's under pressure to do a good job because if he doesn't it opens him up to criticism that he's not a good statesman and not a good steward of the nation."

Early on, Xi himself defined the terms of a successful relationship. Even before taking the top job in 2012, he called for a "new type of great power relations" that would see the two powers respect each other's "core interests" and abandon a "zero-sum" mentality.

Just days before Trump took office in 2017 after campaigning on an "America First" platform, Xi sought to claim the mantle as a defender of free trade by preaching "openness" and "economic liberalization" at the World Economic Forum in Switzerland. Later that year, he declared that China was "approaching the center of the world stage" as he outlined a road map for turning the country into a leading global power by 2050.

### 'THEY'RE WAY BEHIND'

Trump, however, sought to thwart those plans. His move to raise tariffs has disrupted China's export-led economic model, accelerating a shift in global supply chains as lower-cost manufacturers look for cheaper places to set up shop. It also opened the door for his administration to blacklist Huawei Technologies Co. and other burgeoning Chinese tech companies that still rely on U.S. firms for vital components.

AP PHOTO

"If you go back five, six, seven years, in 2019 they say China was going to catch us as the world's largest economy," Trump told supporters at a rally last month. "Guess what? They're way behind. They're way behind."

For Xi, the phase-one deal reached Wednesday helps stop the bleeding on the trade war. And while he's struck an optimistic tone along with other Chinese officials, the text of the deal itself speaks to the wide gap between the world's biggest economies. Its limited scope, highlighted by whopping agricultural and energy purchases, defers tougher issues like Beijing's controversial state subsidies, industrial policies and state-owned enterprises.

Compromise on state-owned enterprises will prove difficult because they are an "organic component of China's political and economic governance," said Wang Peng, associate research fellow at Renmin University's Chongyang Institute for Financial Studies.

In other words, they are a crucial lever for keeping Xi and the Communist Party in power. Ope-

# ight with US is only just beginning after trade deal



ning certain parts of the economy to foreign competition could spark instability as the government seeks to maintain economic growth and employment. And more than leaders before him, Xi has sought total control over any potential threats to power, from corrupt officials to ethnic Uighurs to even a free-market think tank.

## 'ORWELLIAN SURVEILLANCE STATE'

In San Francisco, Pompeo urged technology companies to "confront tough questions about the national security consequences of doing business in a country controlled by the Chinese Communist Party."

"We need to make sure that our companies don't do deals that strengthen a competitor's military or tighten the regime's grip of repression in parts of that country," Pompeo said last week. "We need to make sure American technology doesn't power a truly Orwellian surveillance state."

Even with the trade deal, Trump is moving to further curtail Huawei's ability to operate as it

continues a campaign to dissuade other countries from using its 5G technology. This week, Reuters reported that the Commerce Department has drafted a rule that would allow it to block U.S. exports to Huawei if U.S. components make up more than 10% of product value.

Lawmakers from both parties are also taking action. Congress voted overwhelmingly last month to pressure China over Hong Kong, and they are pushing for measures to punish Beijing for its detention of an estimated one million ethnic Uighur Muslims in "re-education" camps.

Then there are military tensions. Since the Pentagon officially labeled China a "strategic competitor" in 2018, the Trump administration has challenged China on multiple fronts. It increased patrols in the South China Sea and approved an \$8 billion sale of F-16 fighter

jets to Taiwan, the first such deal in almost 30 years. Just last week, the U.S. Army announced it would deploy a specialized task force to the Pacific capable of conducting information, electronic, cyber and missile operations against Beijing.

On Thursday, the U.S. sailed a warship through the Taiwan Strait. The U.S. Navy conducted nine transits through the waterway last year, the most since former President Barack Obama's final year in office in 2016.

**The phase-one deal will help to stop the bleeding of the trade war, but the text of the deal itself is limited in scope and speaks to the wide gap between the world's biggest economies**

## LONG MARCH

Xi's goal now is to sure up political support at home while also softening China's image abroad.

A Pew Research Center Survey poll last month found that China's favorability ratings fell dramatically last year in countries from Canada and Australia to Indonesia and the Philippines.

China has sought to allay fears that Xi's Belt and Road infrastructure initiative would saddle poorer countries with debt. He's also prioritizing "neighborhood diplomacy" to assert leadership in Asia, mending ties with Japan and South Korea while also reaching out to places like Vietnam where tensions have risen.

He'll take his first foreign trip this year on Friday to Myanmar.

At home, Xi is also taking steps to bolster China's ability to modernize without the U.S. if necessary. After the last round of talks broke down in May last year, Xi renewed long-standing calls for "self-reliance" in key technologies and even called for a "new Long March."

It also appears that concerns in the party over his push for a more assertive foreign policy, which marks a departure from former leader Deng Xiaoping's call for "hiding brightness and biding time," haven't impacted his official ascent. The Communist Party's elite Politburo last month dubbed Xi the "people's leader" - a term once used to describe Mao Zedong - after previously agreeing to remove presidential term limits and enshrine his name in the constitution.

Either way, while businesses are relieved at the temporary easing of tensions, few are under any illusions that deeper tensions will abate.

"This trade deal is a good thing if it can reduce tension," said James McGregor, China chairman of APCO Worldwide, which advises foreign companies. "But only time will tell if it puts us on a path to finding a way for two incompatible development models to coexist and work together. That is something way beyond the parameters of any trade deal." **BLOOMBERG**

AP PHOTO



Meng Wanzhou, chief financial officer of Huawei Technologies Co., leaves her home in Vancouver

## THE ODDS OF HUAWEI'S CFO AVOIDING EXTRADITION ARE JUST ONE IN 100

NATALIE OBIKO PEARSON  
& GAO YUAN

**H**UAWEI Technologies Co. Chief Financial Officer Meng Wanzhou has joined Carlos Ghosn in the 1% legal club.

Those are the odds that the Chinese executive will win her bid to avoid extradition to the U.S., similar to the chances of acquittal for the auto titan-turned-fugitive in Japan. While Ghosn fled Japan in a big black box for Lebanon, Meng squares up to begin extradition hearings in a Vancouver court today, 13 months after she was arrested on a U.S. handover request.

The hearings offer her first shot - however slim - at release as a Canadian judge considers whether the case meets the crucial test of double criminality: would her alleged crime have also been a crime in Canada? If not, she could be discharged, according to Canada's extradition rules.

"There'd be nothing holding her - bail restrictions, house arrest, all of that would be eliminated," said Michael Klein, a Vancouver lawyer who worked alongside Meng's lawyers in a 2004 extradition case. "Just like if you're acquitted in a criminal case, the Crown may appeal, but that person's a free person."

Meng, the eldest daughter of billionaire Huawei founder Ren Zhengfei, has become the highest profile target of a broader U.S. effort to contain China and its largest technology company, which Washington sees as a national security threat. The U.S. accuses her of fraud, saying she lied to HSBC Holdings Plc to trick it into conducting transactions in breach of U.S. sanc-

tions on Iran. Meng, who turns 48 next month, is charged with bank and wire fraud, which carry a maximum term of 20 years in prison on conviction.

"In most extradition cases, double criminality is an easy piece of analysis," says Brock Martland, a Vancouver-based criminal lawyer.

In Meng's case, it's not, which may help nudge her into the 1% of defendants in Canada who have historically beaten extradition orders to the U.S.

Her defense has argued that the U.S. case is, in reality, a sanctions-violations complaint that it's sought to "dress up" as fraud to make it easier to extradite her. Had Meng's alleged conduct taken place in Canada, the transactions by HSBC wouldn't have violated any Canadian sanctions, they say. Canada's federal prosecutors counter the underlying offense is fraud because she lied to HSBC, causing them to miscalculate Huawei's risk as a creditor and conduct transactions it otherwise wouldn't have.

"In essence, this is a case of U.S. sanction enforcement masquerading as Canadian fraud," Meng's defense said in documents released Friday. If it were only about fraud, the U.S. would have no legitimate reason to go after Meng because "the U.S. is not actively policing the world for foreign nationals who mislead foreign banks to get loans or other financial services."

### HONG KONG TEAHOUSE

Another potential sticking point is that Meng's alleged misconduct didn't take place in the U.S. or Canada - it rests heavily on a 2013 meeting at a Hong Kong teahou-

se between Meng and an HSBC banker.

"Canadian fraud laws do not have an extraterritorial reach," said Ravi Hira, a Vancouver-based lawyer and former special prosecutor. "If you commit a fraud in Hong Kong, I can't just prosecute you in Canada."

While the double-criminality hearings are scheduled for four days, the ruling would likely come much later - possibly in months.

Being trapped in the middle of a trade war has brought the luxury of time. Before her arrest, Meng traveled so frequently for the world's largest telecommunications equipment maker that she'd gone through at least seven passports in a decade. These days, she passes her time oil painting and pursuing an online doctorate. Phone calls with her father have gone from once a year to every few days.

"If a busy life has eaten away at my time, then hardship has in turn drawn it back out," Meng wrote in a poignant letter to her supporters last month on the one-year anniversary of her arrest. "It was never my intention to be stuck here so long."

### GHOSN ESCAPE

Meng would find it harder to pull a Ghosn. She's under 24-hour surveillance by at least two guards at her CAD13 million (\$10 million) mansion. Her whereabouts are recorded continuously by a GPS tracker on her left ankle. While she's allowed to roam a roughly 100-square-mile patch of Vancouver during the day accompanied by security, any violation - including tampering with the device or ven-

turing anywhere near the airport - would automatically alert police. She's posted bail of CAD10 million, of which CAD3 million came from a group of guarantors, some of whom pledged their homes as collateral. Fleeing would cost them all.

If the court finds her case fails the double-criminality test, Canada's attorney general would have the right to appeal within 30 days. In theory, she could be on a plane back to China well before that, says Gary Botting, a Vancouver-based lawyer who's been involved in hundreds of Canadian extradition cases.

Of the 798 U.S. extradition requests received since 2008, Canada has only refused or discharged eight, according to the department of justice. That's a 99% chance of being handed over - similar to the conviction rate in Japan. Another 40 cases were withdrawn by the U.S.

Still, that's fractionally better than the odds of two Canadians detained in China, where the conviction rate currently stands at 99.9%, according to Amnesty International.

That's if Michael Kovrig and Michael Spavor ever make it to trial. The two men were thrown in jail on spying allegations just days after Meng's arrest in December 2018. Last month, the Chinese government confirmed their cases were transferred to prosecutors, raising the possibility they might finally get access to lawyers.

As of last week, that hadn't happened yet for Kovrig, according to the International Crisis Group, his employer. The former diplomat has been allowed one consular visit a month; in between, he's unrea-

chable. Communication with his family is limited to letters exchanged in those visits, according to the group.

Families of the two men aren't speaking publicly for fear of jeopardizing their cases. Some sense of the conditions they're enduring can be gleaned from past history.

Spavor, a businessman who ran tours to North Korea from his base in a border town in northeastern China, has been held since May in Dandong Detention Centre, according to the Globe and Mail.

It's a jail familiar to another Canadian, Kevin Garratt, who was snatched along with his wife Julia by Chinese security agents in 2014, becoming pawns in an earlier high-stakes attempt by Beijing to prevent Canada from extraditing millionaire businessman Su Bin to the U.S.

Garratt spent 19 months in the forbidding compound surrounded by two-story-high cement walls. Crammed into a cell with up to 14 other inmates, he slurped meals from a communal bowl on the floor. If they were lucky, they got 30 minutes of hot water a day and could exercise in a small outdoor cage, he said in a December 2018 interview.

China calls Meng's arrest politically motivated and accuses Canada of "arbitrary detention." It rejects any suggestion that the seizures of Kovrig and Spavor were in retaliation, saying China is also a rule-of-law country.

Before her arrest, Meng wasn't happy working at Huawei and had been considering leaving, Ren has said in media interviews. But hardship has toughened her - when released, she will resume her role, he says.

"Over the past year, I have also learned to face up to and accept my situation," Meng said in her letter. "I'm no longer afraid of the rough road ahead." **BLOOMBERG**

NORTH KOREA

# Gov't picks army man who led Korean talks as top envoy

KANGA KONG

**N**ORTH Korea named a former army officer who led military and high-level talks between the two Koreas as its top diplomat, Yonhap News reported, in a move that could change the course of stalled nuclear negotiations between Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump.

Foreign envoys in Pyongyang were notified late last week that Ri Son Gwon replaced Ri Yong Ho as foreign minister, Yonhap said, citing various sources it didn't identify. Ri Yong Ho had served as the top diplomat since 2016.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said in a text message that the government is trying to confirm whether the foreign minister was replaced and Ri Son Gwon's official title has been changed. The move, which is yet to be announced in North Korea's state media, is likely to be confirmed to resident diplomats at an event scheduled for Jan. 23 in Pyongyang, NK News reported separately.

Ri Son Gwon, former chairman of the Committee for the Peaceful Reunification of the Fatherland,



Ri Yong Ho

became known to South Koreans after he led a delegation to high-level inter-Korean talks in January 2018. He was accused of being rude to a visiting group of South Korean conglomerate chiefs later that year, appearing to rebuke them for not taking enough action to boost business development between the two sides.

The apparent replacement comes days after the isolated nation publicly declared that it won't rely on its leader's personal relationship with Trump as it doesn't intend to trade its nuclear weapons for a halt in sanctions.

Since the failure of working-level denuclearization talks in October in Stockholm, Pyongyang hasn't responded to Washington's continued demands for another talk and instead stepped up tensions verbally and with weapons tests.

Most recently, it said late last year that it successfully conducted a "crucial" test at a long-range projectile launch site and had boosted its nuclear-deterrent capabilities, without elaborating on details.

Kim declared in a speech at the start of the year that a lack of U.S. response in nuclear talks meant he was no longer bound by his pledge to halt major missile tests and would soon debut a "new strategic weapon." Declining to go into detail, Kim also left the outside world guessing what "new path" he will take, and how he will deal with the U.S. in 2020.

Ri Son Gwon served as a senior colonel in 2010 and last appeared in the North's state media when the KCNA reported in April he was elected as a member of the Foreign

Affairs Committee along with Choe Son Hui, first vice-minister of foreign affairs. He previously also led a working-level military dialogue between the two Koreas in 2011.

Ri has no direct experience of dealing with the U.S., nor is an official with the traditional elite-diplomat background, said Cheong Seong-chang, a researcher at the Sejong Institute in South Korea, casting doubts over a possible breakthrough in the U.S.-North Korea talks.

"I think the North will take a harder line against the U.S.," Cheong said. It "will be under greater influence of the military, which has urged to strengthen its position as a nuclear power," he said.

The replacement of foreign minister also coincides with Seoul's sudden turn to improve inter-Korean ties as the Kim-Trump talks for denuclearization remain in deadlock and rising cracks in South Korea's relations with the U.S.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in said he would help on projects such as individual tourism with North Korea if they require approval from the United Nations to exempt them from sanctions. His Unification Ministry later said the government is considering allowing South Korean individuals to travel to North Korea to expand inter-Korean exchanges in the private sector.

U.S. Ambassador to South Korea Harry Harris said such a push by Seoul should be discussed with the U.S., and his comment was immediately denounced by Moon's office as "very inappropriate."

BLOOMBERG

# China's Xi ends Myanmar visit with flurry of agreements

**C**HINESE President Xi Jinping ended a two-day state visit to Myanmar on Saturday after attending the signing of a raft of agreements buttressing bilateral relations and advancing Beijing's ambitious Belt and Road Initiative, in which his host country is a key player.

The two sides exchanged memoranda of understanding, letters and protocols covering 33 projects in the fields of information, industry, agriculture, security and the resettlement of internally displaced people in Myanmar's war-torn Kachin State, which borders China.

The agreements were signed after a morning meeting between Xi and Myanmar's leader, State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi.

The most significant pact appeared to be a concession and sharehol-



Myanmar's Aung San Suu Kyi (right) and Chinese President Xi Jinping

der's agreement for the Kyaukphyu Special Economic Zone on the Bay of Bengal. With a deep-water port, it is the terminus of the 1,700-kilometer-long China-Myanmar Economic Corridor, a major link in Beijing's Belt and Road Initiative whose other end is in China's Yunnan province.

Other agreements covered separate projects re-

lated to the corridor plan, which includes oil and gas pipelines, and road and rail projects from southern China through various parts of Myanmar to Kyaukphyu.

The Belt and Road Initiative aims to build a network of railroads, highways, ports and other infrastructure connecting China with other points in Asia, Europe and Africa.

The Myanmar corridor provides China with a shortcut to the Indian Ocean, a major goal of Chinese strategic planners. An outlet to the Indian Ocean allows China's sizable oil and gas imports from the Persian Gulf to bypass going through the Strait of Malacca, and could conceivably serve a future military purpose.

Xi's visit nominally marked the 70th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between China and Myanmar. But it also firms up a relationship in which China exercises diplomatic and economic muscle to extend its influence in Southeast Asia.

The relationship follows the pattern established with Myanmar's previous, military-led governments, which were treated as pariahs and sanctioned by many Western nations be-

cause of their suppression of democracy and poor human rights records.

Beijing provided a willing and able alternative as an investor, trading partner and weapons supplier.

Suu Kyi's freely elected government, which came to power in 2016, was originally applauded for the democratic and economic reforms it began to implement. But it now draws widespread condemnation over its human rights record.

It is in a similar position to its military predecessors as it faces possible Western economic sanctions over the brutal counterinsurgency campaign waged by its security forces that drove more than 700,000 members of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority to flee for safety in neighboring Bangladesh.

Last month, a case char-

ging Myanmar with genocide came before the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands.

China has defended Suu Kyi's government in forums such as the United Nations, and Myanmar has returned the favor by following Beijing's positions on issue such as China's claims over territory in the South China Sea.

China's backing goes beyond words, since as a top investor and trade partner with Myanmar it offer a safety net if Western nations do impose sanctions.

But many of Myanmar's citizens have long harbored suspicions over the intentions of its big northern neighbor, and Suu Kyi and her ruling National League for Democracy party could face accusations of selling out the country as they face a general election later this year. AP

AP PHOTO



German Chancellor Angela Merkel waits for the arrival of guests at the chancellery ahead of a conference on Libya

## LIBYA'S UNCERTAIN TRUCE PROSPECTS DOG INTERNATIONAL MEETING

SAMER KHALIL AL-ATRUSH,  
PATRICK DONAHUE  
& ILYA ARKHIPOV

AN international conclave meant to bring together Libya's warring leaders and their foreign supporters is getting under way in Berlin as questions hover over the prospects for a proposed truce that's been signed by only one side.

The meeting yesterday was called with the aim of ending both foreign intervention in Libya's civil war and violations of the United Nations arms embargo that have been exacerbated by the reported entry of Russian mercenaries and Turkey into the conflict. If the commander leading the monthlong assault on the Libyan capital, Tripoli, relents and signs the truce deal, then the next phase would involve Libyan officials meeting to unite the country's divided institutions and hold elections for the first time since 2014.

Ahead of the Berlin conference, the commander, Khalifa Haftar, blocked oil exports at ports under his control, slashing Libya's output by more than half. His rival, the internationally recognized Libyan prime minister, Fayez al-Sarraj, deemed that show of

force a sign Haftar isn't ready for peace.

Haftar walked out of truce talks in Moscow on Wednesday as a provisional cease-fire was shakily holding around Tripoli. Failure to bring him on board in Berlin risks seeing the holder of Africa's largest proven oil reserves spiral into a major conflagration drawing in regional and international powers even deeper, as happened in Syria.

### OIL UNCERTAINTY

Libya has been in turmoil since the 2011 NATO-backed ouster of Muammar Qaddafi, which ushered in years of instability that has left thousands dead, allowed Islamist extremists to dig in, and divided the country between rival administrations in Tripoli and the eastern city of Tobruk.

The North African nation is also a gateway for refugees into Europe, so an end to the chaos there would be a critical achievement for governments on the continent grappling with rising anti-immigrant sentiment. It would also remove a key uncertainty for the oil market.

A viable truce, however,

would be a very tall order after years of failed efforts. Serious questions would hover over the ability to monitor forces and get ragtag fighters to put down guns.

**" [For Putin] this is an opportunity to play the role of an arbiter, a significant player.**

GRIGORIY LUKYANOV  
RUSSIAN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COUNCIL

### BERLIN DOCUMENT

The Berlin meeting will be based on a draft document that covers issues including an arms embargo, distribution of oil exports and eventual elections, according to an official with direct knowledge of the draft. It's possible the document will be very broad in order to get people to sign it, the person said, with the biggest challenge being to get key parties to then implement it.

Russia is prepared to lean on Haftar to work towards a peace process, an official said, although Haftar would need to accept that now is the time to stop fighting

and trade in his gains for a decent deal. Part of the calculus for Moscow is to avoid escalating the rivalry with Turkey in Libya that risks morphing into conflict, the person said.

For Russian President Vladimir Putin, "this is an opportunity to play the role of an arbiter, a significant player," said Grigoriy Lukyanov, a Libya expert at the Kremlin-founded Russian International Affairs Council. "Putin provides his resource of an influential figure in the Middle East for a good price."

Russia and Turkey are jockeying for influence in the Mediterranean, and have been key in the latest push for a Libyan cease-fire. Russian mercenaries back Haftar's forces, officials have told Bloomberg, as do Egypt and the U.A.E., who see him as a bulwark against Islamic extremists. Turkish soldiers are training forces loyal to Sarraj, and Turkish-backed Syrian rebels have also joined the conflict.

Turkey recently signed a maritime border deal with Sarraj's government that would be key to Ankara's aspirations for more

clout in the resource-rich waters of the Mediterranean. Turkish contractors would also like to revive billions of dollars in contracts abandoned in the chaos after Qaddafi's overthrow.

Access to Libyan oil deals is a major incentive for Putin, who may also use his leverage to secure concessions from Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan in both Libya and Syria.

### MORE ENGAGED

The U.S. has been paying more attention to the Libyan conflict since Russia's entry, and is being represented in Berlin by Secretary of State Mike Pompeo. Washington had held Libya at arm's length since the killing of the American ambassador in Benghazi in 2012, and under President Donald Trump, sent mixed messages to Libya's rival administrations. But it became more involved in pushing for an end to the fighting after Russian mercenaries reportedly were deployed in September.

The U.S. has a counter-terrorism mission in Libya, and its operations have been complicated by the fighting, a State Department official said on condition of anonymity. The broadening Libyan conflict is looking increasingly like Syria, which is why the whole international community is getting together in Germany, said the official, who wasn't authorized to speak on the record.

**BLOOMBERG**

MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Lebanon to release protesters detained after night of riots

SARAH EL DEEB, BEIRUT

**L**EBANON'S public prosecutor ordered the release yesterday of 34 people detained the previous evening amid the worst day of violence since protests erupted three months ago, the National State News agency said.

The public prosecutor said those detained during the riots would be released except those with other pending cases. It was not clear how many would remain in detention if any.

The clashes took place amid the backdrop of a rapidly worsening financial crisis and an ongoing impasse over the formation of a new government. The Cabinet headed by Prime Minister Saad Hariri resigned in late October.

Protesters have called for more rallies yesterday.

Riot police fired volleys of tear gas and rubber bullets on Saturday to disperse thousands of protesters rallied outside the parliament and in downtown Beirut. The protesters, who came from



the country's north, east and the capital itself, lobbed flares at security forces, metal bars, stones and tree branches.

The pitched street battles lasted for nearly nine hours and were among the worst scenes of rioting since protests broke out in mid-October.

At least 377 people were injured in the clashes, including according to the Red Cross and the Lebanese Civil Defense. More than 120 of those were treated in hospitals, including a protester who sustained an eye injury, as well as security force members. The clashes also took place in the

courtyard and steps of a mosque downtown. The top Muslim Sunni Fatwa office called it "inappropriate" and said protesters had taken refuge inside the mosque and were taken care of.

Protesters smashed windows and the facade of the headquarters of the country's Banking Association with metal bars. Security forces set fire to a few tents set up by protesters nearby.

Interior Minister Raya El Hassan said Saturday that security forces were ordered to protect peaceful protests. "But for the protests to turn into a blatant attack on the security forces and public and private properties, this is condemned and totally unacceptable," she tweeted.

However, Human Rights Watch described the security force response as "brutal" and called for an urgent end to a "culture of impunity" for police abuse.

"There was no justification for the brutal use of force unleashed by Lebanon's riot police against largely peaceful demonstrators in downtown Beirut," said Mi-

chael Page, deputy Middle East director at HRW. "Riot police showed a blatant disregard for their human rights obligations, instead launching teargas canisters at protesters' heads, firing rubber bullets in their eyes and attacking people at hospitals and a mosque."

The protesters have rallied against the country's political elite who have ruled Lebanon since the end of the 1975-90 civil war. The protesters blame politicians for widespread corruption and mismanagement in a country that has accumulated one of the largest debt ratios in the world.

Panic and anger have gripped the public as their local currency, pegged to the dollar for more than two decades, plummeted. The Lebanese pound lost more than 60% of its value in recent weeks on the black market. The economy has seen no growth and foreign inflows dried up in the already heavily indebted country that relies on imports for most of its basic goods.

Meanwhile, banks have imposed informal capital controls, limiting withdrawal of dollars and foreign transfers.

Prime Minister-designate Hassan Diab had been expected to announce an 18-member Cabinet on Friday, but last minute disputes among political factions scuttled his latest attempt. AP

AD

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上海  
JAN 24th - FEB 8th

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No admission under 18

## what's ON



### RED DECEMBER – EXHIBITION OF CARLOS MARREIROS

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: 13 February 2020

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95,

Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

### MOVE! INTO THE WILDLIFE

TIME: 12pm-8pm

UNTIL: February 9, 2020

VENUE: 2/F, Broadway Macau

ADMISSION: MOP120

KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE: 2855 5555

### MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## Offbeat

### SUV ON GROUNDS OF BEIJING'S FORBIDDEN CITY SPARKS OUTRAGE

AP PHOTO



A Chinese woman sparked social media outrage in her country by posting photos of herself and a friend with a Mercedes-Benz on the grounds of Beijing's Forbidden City. The reaction prompted an apology from the management of China's 600-year-old former imperial palace.

Vehicles have been banned since 2013 to protect the cultural dignity of the vast site and its hundreds of historic buildings, according to the official Xinhua News Agency. The palace was home to the Qing and Ming emperors, who ruled China for nearly five centuries.

"The Palace Museum was deeply distressed and sincerely apologizes to the public," it said in a post Friday night on Weibo, a popular service similar to Twitter. It added that it would prevent a repetition of the incident "through strict management."

The four photos played into public perceptions that people with connections have special privileges in China, though it wasn't clear if the unidentified woman was from an influential family. The shots showed two young women in sunglasses and a black Mercedes SUV in front of the towering Gate of Supreme Harmony on a sunny winter day.

The woman said in another post that she and her friend had enjoyed the palace without the usual crowds on a Monday, when it is closed, the state-owned Global Times newspaper reported. The posts have been deleted, and she did not respond to a message sent to her Weibo account.

A man identified as the owner of the vehicle told the Beijing News that the woman is a friend who had been invited to an event at the palace, and that some guests had been allowed to drive into the grounds. The newspaper included audio clips of the interview in an online video post.

The issue went viral on Friday. One Weibo user said that the rich and powerful can do whatever they want in China. Some questioned why the woman had privileges not accorded to visiting heads of state, who must get out of their vehicles and walk into the palace, the Global Times said.

## 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

16:15 As Novas Viagens Filosóficas

16:45 Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1

17:30 LiteratAqui

18:00 Império (Repetição)

18:55 Semana Internacional (Repetição)

19:30 Ouro Verde Sr.1

20:30 Telejornal

21:15 TDM Talk Show

21:50 Livros com João Guedes

21:55 Viagens Gastronómicas

22:20 Império

23:15 TDM News

23:50 5 Para a Meia Noite

01:40 Telejornal (Repetição)

02:25 RTPi Directo

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

16 - 22 Jan



BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

ROOM 1

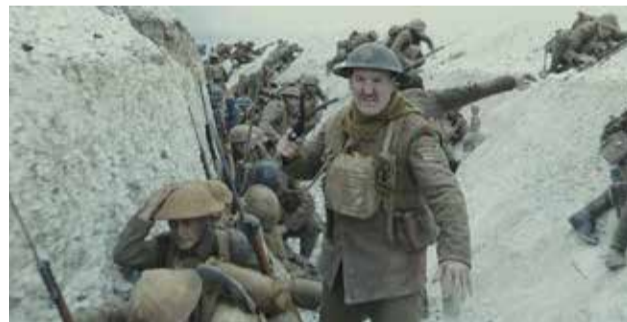
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Adil El Arbi, Bilall Fallah

Starring: Will Smith, Alexander Ludwig, Vanessa Hudgens

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 123min



1917

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Sam Mendes

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119min



JUDY

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Rupert Goold

Starring: Renée Zellweger, Jessie Buckley, Finn Wittrock

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

## this day in history



### 1958 EXPLORERS MEET AT SOUTH POLE

Members of the team attempting the first surface crossing of the Antarctic have joined up at the South Pole.

New Zealander Sir Edmund Hillary - who has already conquered Mount Everest - arrived with his team 17 days ago.

Early this afternoon Sir Edmund welcomed the British team led by Dr Vivian "Bunny" Fuchs to the South Pole.

The British and New Zealand teams are members of a joint Commonwealth Trans-Antarctic expedition but set off from opposite ends of the continent last November.

The New Zealanders started out from the newly-created Scott camp near the Ross Sea while the British began their journey at Shackleton camp near the Weddell Sea.

Both teams used motorised vehicles for the trip to the South Pole.

En route, Sir Edmund and his team were responsible for setting up food and fuel depots for the British team.

They will now attempt to reach Scott Base and complete the 2158-mile (3473-kilometre) Antarctic crossing.

However, the British team's departure from Shackleton camp was delayed and they are now running almost three weeks behind schedule.

They must now decide when to start the second leg of the journey given the worsening weather conditions.

Dr Fuchs said the team would definitely go on.

"We hope and expect to get out before the winter, if not - bad luck," he said.

Asked whether he had considered breaking his journey and continuing in the spring Dr Fuchs replied: "Are the people who suggested that prepared to pay for it?"

He thought it likely the team would reach Scott camp in the first week of March, Dr Fuchs added.

Expedition members are also carrying out scientific experiments including seismic soundings and gravimetric readings during their epic journey.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Vivian Fuchs and his team, accompanied by Sir Edmund Hillary, went on to complete the first surface crossing of the Antarctic.

They reached Scott camp on 2 March 1958 after a journey of 99 days and more than 2,000 miles across the Antarctic.

Dr Fuchs' achievement was rewarded by an immediate knighthood and he returned home to Britain as Sir Vivian.

Sir Vivian and Sir Edmund wrote a book about the trip, *The Crossing of Antarctica*.

Sir Vivian was director of the British Antarctic Survey until his retirement in 1973.

He died in November 1999 aged 91.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

### YOUR STARS

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 To add some sizzle to your day today, all you have to do is mix up your routine! It's a lot easier than you think, too. Try a new route to work, or try something new for lunch.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 The people you're with today will be very susceptible to your suggestions, so use this power to keep everyone motivated and happy! You'll be able to show everyone how much fun hard work can be.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Unexpected emotions are going to create some misunderstandings between you and a family member, but they're nothing that can't be overcome. Let go of your expectations.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Sometimes connecting with others can be more of a chore than a pleasure, but you need to suck it up and put on a cheerful smile today. Too many people are counting on you.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 Did you know that there's a direct relationship between your confidence and your creativity? They feed each other, and right now it's your confidence that should be pushing you.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 This is a great day for you to be the leader of a group, so step up and raise your hand when volunteers are asked for. You have a wonderful ability to create a great group dynamic.

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 You should never hold a grudge long enough to become accustomed to its weight. It's time you realized that your feelings of anger are hurting you much more than they're hurting their object.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 Very few secrets stay secrets forever. Today you might realize that the time has come to share a secret you've been keeping for a while. It may be a bit of especially juicy gossip.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 When you think you deserve more compensation for your hard work, you should ask for it, and this doesn't apply only to your boss and your career. Today is the day to step up and tell people what you need.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 They say that little things mean a lot, and that is definitely true for you right now. You need to make sure that you have all the details of your life taken care of. Tidy things up, and make sure that there are no loose ends.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 Your high-flying hopes and grand ideas are great at motivating people and keeping you feeling positive, but they might be a bit too unrealistic, and that could ultimately lead to major disappointment.

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 Your life will be like an action movie today, minus the explosive car chases, of course! But hour after hour will present you with situations that require quick, decisive responses.

### The Born Loser by Chip Sansom



### SUDOKU

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

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

### WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-7	3	cloudy
Harbin	-27	-12	clear
Tianjin	-4	3	cloudy
Urumqi	-12	-7	flurry
Xi'an	-2	6	cloudy
Lhasa	-3	12	clear
Chengdu	5	9	cloudy
Chongqing	8	12	overcast
Kunming	4	20	clear
Nanjing	2	4	drizzle
Shanghai	6	7	drizzle
Wuhan	0	5	overcast
Hangzhou	4	7	drizzle
Taipei	17	19	overcast
Guangzhou	16	24	drizzle
Hong Kong	18	23	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	2	6	drizzle
Frankfurt	3	7	drizzle
Paris	3	9	clear
London	5	7	clear
New York	-5	3	drizzle

### CROSSWORDS

**ACROSS:** 1-Dog-powered snow vehicle; 5- Mends a shoe; 10- Not new; 14- Like the White Rabbit; 15- Turn aside; 16- "A Doll's House" heroine; 17- Model married to David Bowie; 18- "Lovergirl" singer \_\_\_\_ Marie; 19- Actor Kristofferson; 20- Communications satellite; 22- Strain; 24- Electrically charged atom; 25- Cartesian conclusion; 26- Republic in central Europe; 30- Garnish; 34- Inwardly; 35- Headgear of a monarch; 37- Dixie Chicks, e.g.; 38- Nipper's co.; 39- Month after avril; 40- \_\_\_\_ the land of the free...; 41- Puts away; 43- False; 45- Suffix with exist; 46- Apparition; 48- Braided; 50- Louis XIV, e.g.; 51- Summer Games org.; 52- Go along with; 56- Punishment; 60- Feline line; 61- Driver's invitation; 63- Prepare to be shot; 64- Famous last words; 65- Perform or portray; 66- Airline to Tel Aviv; 67- Coarse file, angry tone of voice; 68- Prepares for billiards; 69- 1994 Costner role;

**DOWN:** 1- Split; 2- Gammy; 3- Bibliography abbr.; 4- Compactness; 5- Diabolical; 6- In excess of; 7- Shelter; 8- Sea eagles; 9- Stopping place; 10- Disheveled; 11- Rifle (through); 12- Actor Stoltz; 13- Morse element; 21- Rocky peak; 23- Dr. Dre's genre; 26- Buenos \_\_\_\_; 27- Remove a covering; 28- Roofing stone; 29- Defense covering; 30- Intertwine; 31- Golf clubs; 32- One who cries "uncle"; 33- Pierced with horns; 36- Bran source; 42- Foul-up; 43- Nor's partner; 44- Sets straight; 45- One on the run; 47- Water tester; 49- Great length of time; 52- From the U.S.; 53- "\_\_\_\_ grip!"; 54- Goes bad; 55- The last Mrs. Chaplin; 56- Select; 57- "Damn Yankees" role; 58- Boris Godunov, for one; 59- Quick sharp bark; 62- Lobbying org.;

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## EMINEM DROPS SURPRISE ALBUM, ADVOCATES CHANGES TO GUN LAWS

**R**APPER Eminem once again dropped a surprise album, releasing "Music to Be Murdered By" on Friday — along with a video that calls for changes to gun laws.

The follow-up to 2018's "Kamikaze" — also released without warning — was announced on Twitter just after midnight.

The Detroit rapper's new music video for "Darkness," one of the album's 20 tracks, depicts a shooting at a concert. The lyrics and storyline of the video specifically allude to the 2017 mass shooting at a music festival in Las Vegas that left 58 people dead, making it the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history. It closes with audio and video footage of news broadcasts from other recent mass shooting around the U.S. and an appeal to register to vote.

"When will this end?"



When enough people care," reads the text at the end of the video. "Register to vote at vote.gov. Make your voice heard and help change gun laws in America."

A link to the music video on Eminem's website encourages viewers to contact or visit several gun violence prevention organizations, including Everytown for Gun Sa-

fety and Sandy Hook Promise.

The cover art features blood spatter and a bearded Eminem clad in a suit and fedora and holding a shovel. An alternate cover features the same splatter, with a now hatless Eminem holding both a hatchet and a gun to his head in an homage to Alfred Hitchcock's 1958 album of the same

name: "Inspired by the master, Uncle Alfred!" Eminem tweeted.

"Music to Be Murdered By" is Eminem's 11th studio album, according to his website.

Among many collaborators, the album features Ed Sheeran, Skylar Grey, Anderson .Paak and Juice WRLD, the 21-year-old rapper who died in December.

## DOCUMENTARY 'SURVIVING JEFFREY EPSTEIN' TO AIR ON LIFETIME



**A**n investigative documentary about Jeffrey Epstein and how the millionaire sex offender avoided scrutiny is coming to Lifetime.

The four-hour film, "Surviving Jeffrey Epstein," will air this summer, the cable channel said Saturday.

Epstein, 66, killed himself in his New York City prison cell in August after he was arrested on sex trafficking charges. The financier had pleaded not guilty to sexually abusing girls as young as 14 and young women in New York and Florida in the early 2000s. In lawsuits, women say the abuse spanned decades.

In announcing the documentary at a TV critics

meeting, Lifetime said it was building on the success of influential projects including "Surviving R. Kelly."

The R&B superstar, who had been followed by allegations of sexual abuse against minors for years, drew new attention from authorities after Lifetime's six-part series aired in January 2019. It included testimonials by alleged victims.

Kelly is facing charges on a variety of crimes in three states, and has pleaded not guilty to federal charges in Chicago and New York of a racketeering scheme to sexually abuse girls, and not guilty to a Minnesota charge of offering a teenager money to take off her clothes and dance.

AD

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# Conor McGregor blasts Cerrone in 40 seconds in UFC return

GREG BEACHAM, LAS VEGAS

**C**ONOR McGregor's opening punch bloodied Donald Cerrone's nose. He then floored Cerrone only 20 seconds into the bout with a perfectly placed kick to the head, and he mercilessly finished on the ground.

When he paraded around the ring with an Irish flag on his shoulders to celebrate, the mixed martial arts world knew McGregor is back with a big bang.

The Irish former two-division champion came out of a three-year stretch of relative inactivity and outside-the-cage troubles with a welterweight performance in UFC 246 on Saturday night that echoed his greatest fights during his unparalleled rise.

"I feel really good, and I came out of here unscathed," McGregor said. "I'm in shape. We've got work to do to get back to where I was."

After hurting Cerrone (36-14) with his first punch, McGregor (22-4) dropped him with a sublime kick to the jaw. McGregor pounced and forced referee Herb Dean to save Cerrone, delighting a sellout crowd of 19,040 at T-Mobile Arena.

McGregor's hand hadn't been raised in victory since November

2016, when he stopped lightweight Eddie Alvarez to become the first fighter in UFC history to hold two championship belts simultaneously. With his fame and fortune multiplying, McGregor fought only his boxing match with Floyd Mayweather in 2017, and he lost a one-sided UFC bout to lightweight champion Khabib Nurmagomedov in late 2018.

"I wasn't committed," McGregor said afterward while speaking to reporters with a bottle of his Proper Twelve whiskey on the table before him. "I just felt like I disrespected the people that believed in me and supported me. That's what led me to re-center myself and get back to where I was at."

After a year spent out of competition and in repeated trouble with the law, McGregor got back into training and vowed to return to elite form. This dramatic victory over Cerrone indicated he's well on his way, and McGregor has vowed to fight multiple times in 2020.

Welterweight champion Kamaru Usman and veteran brawler Jorge Masvidal watched UFC 246 from cageside. Either man could be McGregor's next opponent, but UFC President Dana White is pushing for a rematch with Nur-

magomedov, who first fights Tony Ferguson in April.

"Any one of these mouthy fools can get it," McGregor yelled into the microphone. "Every single one of them can get it. It does not matter. I'm back and I'm ready."

McGregor also wants to make up for his loss to Nurmagomedov, but he doesn't want to wait until the champion is ready to fight again in late summer. McGregor wants an earlier fight, and he predicted that the Nurmagomedov-Ferguson fight will be scrapped, as it already has four times during those fighters' careers.

Cerrone is the winningest fighter in UFC history with 23 victories, a mark that reflects both his durability and commitment to an uncommonly busy schedule. Cerrone, who also holds the UFC record with 16 stoppage wins, had fought a whopping 11 times since McGregor's win over Alvarez, and he was in the cage for the 15th time since he lost his only UFC title shot in December 2015.

But Cerrone's last two fights were stopped when he took too much damage, and he couldn't block McGregor's decisive kick or recover from the punishment on the ground.

"I'd never seen anything like that," Cerrone said. "He busted

my nose, it started bleeding, and he stepped back and head-kicked me. Oh, man. This happened this fast?"

Although many observers have scoffed, the 31-year-old McGregor believes he can reclaim the fearsome form he showed during his meteoric rise to unprecedented MMA success. He won 15 consecutive fights during a five-year run from low-profile shows in Dublin to the world's biggest MMA events, stopping five straight elite UFC opponents with punches on the way up.

After his latest victory ended, McGregor peeled away briefly to celebrate, but quickly returned to comfort the disoriented Cerrone. When Cerrone's grandmother, Jerry, entered the cage after the fight to hug her grandson, McGregor also hugged Jerry and got a kiss on the cheek.

Even after his prolonged absence — or maybe because of it — McGregor's return was a huge seller on pay-per-view, according to White. The UFC said it made more than \$11 million in ticket sales at T-Mobile Arena for the fourth-biggest gate total in the promotion's history.

"This guy is such a huge superstar," White said. "I put him up there with (Mike) Tyson, (Sugar Ray)

Leonard, all of them. He's got the biggest pay-per-view in history, and how many of the top 10 does he have? I don't know. Coming up in his career, he's been doubted for his talent, and he proves them wrong every time."

An eager Vegas crowd showed up in person, with celebrities including Matthew McConaughey, Jeremy Renner and Dave Bautista, along with NFL stars Tom Brady, Christian McCaffrey, Baker Mayfield, Myles Garrett and Jon Gruden.

Former bantamweight champion Holly Holm beat Raquel Pennington by unanimous decision in the penultimate bout of UFC 246. The 38-year-old Holm (13-5) had lost five of her seven fights since she memorably knocked out Ronda Rousey in November 2015.

On the undercard, 37-year-old flyweight Roxanne Modafferi pulled off one of the biggest upsets in recent UFC history with a one-sided decision victory over previously unbeaten 21-year-old Maycee Barber, the UFC's top 125-pound prospect.

Barber (8-1) injured her left knee during the bout, but Modafferi (24-16) was already dominating with the superior jiu-jitsu she has been practicing for Barber's entire life. Modafferi was the biggest betting underdog on the UFC 246 card, facing 10-to-1 odds at some sports books.

Aleksei Oleinik, a 42-year-old heavyweight who made his pro debut in 1996, also beat Maurice Greene by submission in the second round. **AP**

**OPINION**

**World Views**

Max Nisen, Bloomberg

**FDA RISKS SACRIFICING ITS STANDARDS FOR SPEED**

Today's Food and Drug Administration moves much faster than it used to. That may not always be a good thing.

A review of drug approvals by the agency from researchers at Harvard Medical School released Tuesday found that the FDA is approving drugs more rapidly with weaker evidence than it did in the past. That can be beneficial when it leads to needed medicines getting to market quickly, and I believe that's the agency's intent. As the study's authors highlight, however, this emphasis on speed and flexibility could be eroding standards. It may be time for a gut check.

The gold standard for demonstrating efficacy — and the surest way of winning drug approval — is to demonstrate success in large, well-controlled studies that result in a hard outcome. But there are faster ways to get to market. In 1992, Congress created the accelerated approval program, which can green light medicines based on "surrogate" endpoints that predict rather than confirm benefit for patients, or those that have shown a shorter-term benefit. It's one of several initiatives that have changed how the agency works. According to the study, 80.6% of approvals between 1995 and 1997 were supported by at least two pivotal trials. That number dropped to 52.8% between 2005 and 2017.

Companies that get accelerated approval have to prove their drug works with a confirmatory trial in order to gain full approval, but there's no hard timetable on when that must be done. Thus, drug-makers often don't hurry to conduct those tests. This is problematic at best, dangerous at worst.

When companies do complete post-approval trials, it sometimes reveals a mistake. Eli Lilly & Co.'s cancer drug Lartruvo got accelerated approval in 2016. Lilly then pulled the medicine from the market last year after a larger trial found no benefit. That's a rare outcome, but there are many expensive drugs on the market that have never moved beyond surrogate endpoints. A study of 93 accelerated cancer drug approvals between 1992 and 2017 found that only 19 had proved to help patients live longer in a followup trial.

There are some good reasons for faster approvals, as former FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb outlined in a Twitter response this week to a critical New York Times editorial penned on Jan. 11. Scientists are better at evaluating the safety of medicines and trial design has improved, for example. And advances have made it easier to create drugs that target small populations and have dramatic effects, Gottlieb wrote.

He makes good points. But the agency arguably hasn't found the right balance between embracing advances and maintaining a high bar. It certainly has a ways to go on post-approval follow up. America is entirely unable to control the price of new medicines; the approval of marginal drugs has financial consequences.

The FDA will soon face one of its most important and controversial decisions yet. Biogen Inc. is seeking approval for the first purportedly disease-modifying Alzheimer's drug — a medicine that could be used by millions of people and cost billions — without good evidence that it works. The agency often uses unmet needs as a justification for shifting standards, and there's no bigger unmet need than Alzheimer's. That doesn't justify an approval based on one failed trial and another that is a questionable success at best.

The agency will have to decide whether to review or approve the medicine in the next year or so. This choice is an opportunity to resist public pressure and move back toward demanding firmer proof of efficacy before drugs hit the market. [Abridged]

One of the world's rarest coins, a gold piece bearing the image of Britain's King Edward VIII before his abdication, has sold for 1 million pounds (\$1.3 million), setting a new record for a British coin.

The historical oddity shows Edward, the uncle of Queen Elizabeth II, before he relinquished the throne in 1936 to marry American divorcee Wallis Simpson.

The buyer was a private collector who wanted his identi-

ty kept secret. He told the BBC it was a "once-in-a-lifetime" opportunity.

Rebecca Morgan, head of collector services at the Royal Mint, said the record price was not surprising.

"The Edward VIII sovereign is one of the rarest and most collectible coins in the world," Morgan said Friday.

The 22-carat gold coins were never released to the public. The Royal Mint says only a handful are known to exist.

AP PHOTO



**CULT 'ANOINTED BY GOD' KILLS 7 IN PANAMA JUNGLE**

**BJUAN ZAMORANO, PANAMA**

**B**IBLES rest on a wooden altar next to percussion instruments — a guiro and a drum — in the room where a religious sect allegedly forced a pregnant woman and five of her children to walk through fire in this remote hamlet.

The makeshift sanctuary littered with muddy boots and scorched clothing belonged to a cult whose indigenous members professed to be "anointed by God" to sacrifice non-believers, even if the heretics were members of their own families, people in El Terron say.

Seven villagers were slain by the cult last week, while 14 more were rescued the next day by police who found them bound and beaten in the temple, authorities have said. Several more villagers escaped with burns.

Nine villagers have been arrested and charged with murder, reportedly including a grandfather and two uncles of the five children who died alongside their pregnant mother and a neighbor.

"Nobody expected this," said a distraught tribal leader, Evangelisto Santo.

El Terron is nestled in the jungle of the indigenous Ngabe Bugle enclave on Panama's Caribbean coast,

and it is largely cut off from the modern world. Residents must walk hours along steep and muddy narrow roads to hail boats that can transport them along a river to other villages that have electricity, telephones, health clinics and a police presence.

Many in the community, which gets by growing yuca and rice, are Roman Catholics. The tiny mountain hamlet is home to about 300 people who live in palm-thatched huts. Many are related to one another.

**Seven villagers were slain by the cult last week, while 14 more were rescued the next day by police**

Residents say they had largely ignored the religious group. The sect arose after a villager returned to the community several months ago following a stint abroad, bringing back unusual religious beliefs with him.

"People were dancing and singing and nobody paid attention because we knew that they were in the presence of God," Santo said.

Nobody paid attention, that is, until one of the cult members announced that he had had a vision: Everyone in the hamlet had to repent their sins, or die.

Last weekend, members

of "The New Light of God" sect began to drag victims to an improvised church, where they beat them into submission with sticks. Cult members stood ready with machetes to take down those who failed to repent to their satisfaction.

Farmer Josué González rescued two of his children — a 5-year-old girl and a 7-year-old boy — from the embers last week, while a 15-year-old son managed to escape on his own.

Outnumbered, González sought help for his pregnant wife and five of their other children. By the time authorities arrived via helicopter, González's wife, the five children and a neighbor had been decapitated and buried.

The cult members charged in the case reportedly include González's own father, and villagers say two of González's brothers had declared themselves prophets of the cult. Authorities have not confirmed that González's father and two brothers have been arrested.

"Within the logic of religious sacrifices in some extremist cults, there's no greater proof of faith than to turn over the life of a loved one or family member," said Andrew Chesnut, a professor of religious studies specializing in Latin America at Virginia Commonwealth University. AP

**Iran** Officials said yesterday that two newly constructed satellites have passed pre-launch tests and will be transported to the nation's space center for eventual launch, without elaborating. Iran says its satellite program, like its nuclear activities, is aimed at scientific research and other civilian applications.

**Cyprus** The government yesterday denounced Turkey as a "pirate state" that flouts international law as Turkey's bid to drill for natural gas in waters where Cyprus has economic rights rekindled tensions over energy reserves in the eastern Mediterranean.

AP PHOTO



**Israel** The military said it began construction of an underground defense system yesterday along its northern frontier with Lebanon to protect against cross-border tunnels. The infrastructure project will identify underground acoustic and seismic activity indicating tunnel digging, accompanied other defensive measures

AP PHOTO



**Ukraine** The bodies of the 11 Ukrainians who died when an Iranian missile shot down a passenger plane have arrived in Ukraine for a farewell ceremony. An honor guard solemnly carried the coffins into the airport terminal, where a farewell observance lasted until evening.

AP PHOTO



**Czech Republic** A fire swept through a Czech asylum for the mentally ill yesterday, killing eight male patients, officials said. In addition to the deaths, 30 others were injured by the blaze and transported to nearby hospitals. One of them was in critical condition.