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**A LABOR LAW AMENDMENT SUGGESTS EMPLOYERS MAY CHOOSE COMPENSATION HOLIDAYS FOR THEIR WORKERS IN SOME SITUATIONS**

P3

**ONE MORE DEATH IN CHINA CAUSED BY WUHAN CORONAVIRUS**

P5

**A COMPLICATED MARRIAGE SCAM DESIGNED TO OBTAIN MACAU RESIDENCY PERMITS FOR THE WHOLE FAMILY WAS DISRUPTED BY THE POLICE**

P7

AP PHOTO



**Iran's** top diplomat has cancelled his trip and will not be attending the Davos Forum, the Iranian Foreign Ministry said yesterday amid a crisis with Washington and disputes with Europe over Iran's nuclear steps. The summit in the Swiss resort also comes after Iran earlier this month shot down a Ukrainian passenger plane, killing all 176 people on board.

AP PHOTO



**Nepal** Special Nepalese army and government rescue personnel continued searching yesterday for four South Korean trekkers and their three Nepali guides missing since an avalanche swept across popular mountain trekking route. The avalanche hit part of the Mount Annapurna trekking route on Friday after heavy snowfall earlier in the week.

AP PHOTO



**Australia** Dust storms, hail and flash floods have battered beleaguered Australian cities in recent days, extreme weather that has diminished the threat from scores of wildfires that continue to blaze across the country's southeast. A hail storm in the national capital Canberra yesterday damaged public buildings, businesses, homes and cars, cut power to some suburbs, brought down trees, caused flash flooding and injured two people.

RENATO MARQUES (L.), DANIEL BEITLER (R)

# SECRET POLICE SPAT

P2

Lawmaker Sulu Sou is at the center of another heated exchange in the Legislative Assembly after trading verbal blows with Secretary Wong Sio Chak on the topic of undercover police. The spat comes after weeks of frustrated exchange on controversial surveillance cameras



**SUICIDE PREVENTION HOTLINE EXPECTING MORE CALLS THIS YEAR**

More on backpage

P3



LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY

# SECRETARY WONG TRADES BLOWS WITH SULU SOU OVER 'SECRET POLICE' BILL

JULIE ZHU

**S**ECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak and democrat lawmaker Sulu Sou traded verbal blows during yesterday's Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting after the latter compared Macau's undercover police officers with the Gestapo of Nazi Germany. The connotation appeared to irritate Secretary Wong, who condemned Sou's description and remarked that the actions of the police authorities under his purview are carried out in strict accordance with the law.

Yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL), the Secretary appeared irritated by lawmaker Sulu Sou's questioning over the amendment bill of Law No. 5/2006, a foundational law for the Judiciary Police (PJ).

The bill proposed to carry out an expansion of approximately 25% in staff over the next seven years as well as formally including crimes related to information, internet or national security matters under the authority of the PJ. As a result, the PJ would have four additional departments to handle national security matters.

The bill proposes that certain types of PJ employees' appointments and information should not be revealed publicly. It would waive the requirement to announce certain police appointments, instead allowing them to remain "secret".

The matter stirred passionate



responses yesterday from both Sulu Sou and Secretary Wong.

The argument broke out when Sou, referring to the suggested non-announcement of certain police figures, attempted to draw a similarity with the Gestapo, the official secret police of Nazi Germany, as well as the KGB, the equivalent service in the former Soviet Union. The lawmaker expressed his concern that the aforementioned PJ policemen will become Macau's "secret police". After a round of questioning from other lawmakers, Wong prioritized addressing Sou's remarks.

The Secretary compared Ma-

cau and Hong Kong to two cities with different ways of handling the employment of police officers. He stated that Hong Kong does not make announcements nor does it release information about police officers' employment. Macau publishes notices in the government official gazette announcing most police officers' appointments with some of their background information.

"Hong Kong does not reveal police officers' identity; the U.K. and the U.S. do not reveal police officers' identity; but we reveal the identity of most of our police officers," said Wong. "If we don't reveal the identity of some of the

police officers, are they secret police? This is absolutely unreasonable."

Wong claimed that "even more unreasonable" was Sou's comparison of the PJ to the Nazi Gestapo, reaffirming that the PJ operates in accordance with the law.

"You compare the rules of protecting our colleague policemen to the secret police. This is unreasonable," said Wong.

For Sou's part, the lawmaker questioned Wong's claim that national security matters are at stake in Macau and that a law must be established to handle relevant issues.

Sou clarified that he had no in-

tention of belittling the work of the PJ and queried why the Secretary had put words in his mouth. He said that the legislation proposed by the security authorities was out of touch with public sentiment.

"The public feels that Macau is really safe, but you are making us feel that Macau will be at war at any moment. How come there is such a big difference between the actual feelings of the public and your understanding of Macau?" Sou asked.

Sou also referred to the oft-cited Article 23 of the Basic Law in his questioning. Article 23 states that Macau "shall enact laws, on its own, to prohibit any act of treason, secession, sedition, subversion against the Central People's Government, or theft of state secrets, to prohibit foreign political organizations or bodies from conducting political activities in the Region, and to prohibit political organizations or bodies of the Region from establishing ties with foreign political organizations or bodies."

Secretary Wong shrugged off the matter, asking why Sou consistently returns to this particular article of the Basic Law on a wide range of topics. "I really think article 23 is your demon," said Wong.

Wong claimed that national security risks should be prevented before any issue happens. The secretary first noted that Macau has been doing "good work" to prevent national security crimes, which is exactly the reason why Macau should do even more in terms of prevention.

The bill was approved in general terms yesterday with only Sulu Sou and fellow democrats Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong in opposition. Lawmaker Pereira Coutinho abstained.

## New bridge planned to connect UM to Hengqin border checkpoint

JULIE ZHU

**T**HE Macau SAR government has already started on plans to build a bridge to connect the University of Macau (UM) campus to the new Hengqin port, Secretary for Administration and Justice André Cheong Weng Chon

revealed yesterday.

Yesterday, Cheong presented the regulations regarding Macau's jurisdiction at the new Hengqin port. Under Macau law, the current tunnel connecting the UM campus to Cotai is the only legal access point to the school's premises.

Cheong revealed that due to the relocation of the new border between Macau and Zhuhai, the local government has decided to build a new bridge connecting the UM campus to the new Hengqin port.

Currently, the local government is only making

plans for the bridge, which means construction has not yet started.

The administration and justice head stated that the bridge will be built in different stages and that once it is completed, it will be put into operation in different stages.

The bill presented by

Cheong at the AL yesterday also included legislation concerning this bridge. As he explained, in order to preempt future legislative troubles for the bridge, the government will make provisions for it in the bill.

The Hengqin port is the second-largest land-based boundary between the Macau SAR and the mainland, and links Macau's Lotus Flower Bridge Checkpoint to mainland territory.

Due to the relocation,

the Macau government will obtain the right to use the Hengqin port and an adjacent area until December 19 of 2049.

The same expiration date is valid for the future UM-Hengqin bridge as well.

The local government has also considered other facilities to connect the city's Light Rapid Transit to Hengqin, including early consideration about making "good use" of the current Cotai Frontier checkpoint.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Daniel Beitler daniel@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Leanda Lee, Severo Portela, Sheyla Zandonai

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

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

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

OFFICE MANAGER Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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

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# Suicide prevention hotline expecting more calls this year

LYNZY VALLES

**T**HE suicide prevention and emotional aid hotline is expecting to see an increase in calls related to suicide cases this year, according to the secretary-general of Caritas Macau Paul Pun.

According to data provided by Life Hope Caritas, the assistance hotline arm of the charitable organization, more than 10 calls relating to suicide were registered in the first 20 days of January. According to Pun, January is usually a quieter month for suicide-related calls, possibly because of its proximity to Chinese and Christian festivals, and public holidays.

Last year, there were a total of 203 suicide calls to the hotline, or an average of about 17 per month. There was a total of 197 suicide calls in 2018.

"To date, we have already received over ten calls related to suicidal cases that we need to care for," he told the Times yesterday. "It seems that there has been an increase [in the number of calls] so far this year. Many more people have asked for help in January this time than last year."

Just last Monday, two separate cases of suspected suicide involving local residents were reported within 24 hours of one another. Last month, the Judiciary Police also reported a suspected suicide case involving a schoolgirl and a teacher who were both found dead in a guestroom of a guesthouse in San Kio district.

PRISCILLA DU PREEZ



According to Pun, although support and awareness for mental health in Macau is improving, it is up to the person suffering from depression to consult and seek for professional help.

Pun called on the public to be more sensitive to people suffering from depression and other mental health conditions that can lead to suicide.

"People commit suicide due to their emotional problems. Some [do so] because of family issues as well as critical changes in their life," said Pun. "It is not just because Macau is the center

for gambling activities. It could be other issues."

The charity organization head was referring to the social problems that stem from gambling addiction, which may include substance abuse or suicidal thoughts.

## January is usually a quieter month for suicide-related calls, possibly because of its proximity to festivals and public holidays

"Many citizens may have no knowledge about depression and they don't intend to spare some time to chat with their colleagues suffering from mental illness. In this case, the patients tend to commit suicide or harm themselves," he added.

Currently, the helpline of Life Hope Caritas has ten counselors who are able to assist Cantonese and Mandarin-speaking residents. The helpline received 25 calls from English-speaking residents in 2018, and 29 in 2019.

According to Pun, many local residents talk to counselors in person as they find face-to-face contact more reliable.

"Every day, we receive at least 20 calls but not all of them are related to suicide attempts," said Pun.

These residents seeking help and emotional support are usually aged 40 to 50 years old; an estimate based on the discussions had with the counselors.

A former helpline volunteer who caters to the English and Portuguese-speaking community said that many of the callers are merely seeking people who will listen to their problems.

"Sometimes they just want to speak to someone who will listen to them about their problems. We can just be on the phone without saying anything and at the end of the call, they really appreciate us for listening to them," said the former volunteer, who asked not to be identified.

The suicide cases in Macau in the first half of last year totaled 29, according to figures by the Health Bureau. In 2018, Macau recorded 81 suicides, of which 20 were tourists.

The Times contacted the bureau yesterday to inquire whether it had tallied the total cases last year, but no reply was received by press time.

Most suicide cases involve a combination of mental illness, other psychological factors and socioeconomic factors.

Former Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, previously said that according to World Health Organization standards, the city's suicide rate is not high.

# Proposal may give employers power to choose compensation day

RENATO MARQUES



JULIE ZHU

**T**HE latest text for the holiday compensation bill submitted by the government to the Legislative Council will allow employers to select the particular compensation rest day if one has not been pre-arranged.

Revealed by the Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) on Friday, the text suggests that when employers and employees fail to decide on the day to be compensated before the employee works on a rest day or a compulsory holiday, the employer will choose which day is to be

compensated afterwards. The employee must be notified three days in advance.

In another change outlined by the proposal, male employees are entitled to take their paternity leave at any point from the start of the second trimester of their wife's pregnancy until thirty days after the baby's birth. However, a doctor's certificate is required and at least one day must be taken after the baby's birth.

Currently, the Labor Relations Law states that new fathers are entitled to two days of paternity leave. The bill being discussed will extend this period to a total of

five days. It will also extend paid maternity leave for new mothers from the current 56 days to 70.

The AL committee held a closed-door meeting on Friday to analyze the proposed law amendment.

Lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, the chairman of the committee, told the media after the meeting that the government has submitted the third working text, which the committee has discussed thoroughly. The committee is currently waiting for the government to submit the final text so that they can sign a submission and submit it to the plenary for

consideration.

The existing bill's text suggests that the new law will not take effect until the day after its publication in the Macau government's Official Gazette following its approval in the legislature.

The committee recalled that in reference to the provisions of the Civil Code, if a baby is born in the brief period following the adoption of the bill but before its publication in the Official Gazette then workers should be protected by the new law anyway. However, the government is still deciding whether this will be made clearer in the final text.



# COMPLAINTS ABOUT PERSONAL CARE PRODUCTS ON THE RISE

**T**HE largest number of complaints the Consumer Council received in 2019 was related to personal care products and services, which increased to 236 cases, amounting to nearly 60% of all complaints.

One hundred of those cases involved beauty treatments, and half of the complaints lodged in this area were in relation to cold calling by beauty centers and other business practices. Twenty-seven of these cases were about the center's aggressive selling practice, which doubled in number year-on-year.

The council pledged that it would publish consumer alerts when it was deemed necessary to safeguard consumer rights.

According to the council, the department received a total of 2,529 complaint cases and 1,956 inquiries in 2019. Among the total 4,485 cases received, 1,035 cases were lodged by tourists.

The second highest number of complaints on the list related to clothing and appa-



rel, with a total of 204 complaints, half of which involved product quality. About 70% of the complaints were lodged by tourists.

The council received 151 complaints on jewelry and related services. Since the number of complaints about this industry over the past two years amounted to a significant number of the total complaints received, the council heightened its consumer alerts in the mainland to remind consumers about the

standards of gold products in the SAR.

In terms of the city's public transportation, the council received 148 complaints, which decreased by over 10% from the previous year.

Seventy-nine of these cases involved overcharging by taxi drivers and poor service. Air transportation complaints recorded a year-on-year increase of over 70% with a total number of 53 cases, mainly regarding refund procedures and flight cancellations.

The council also received 11 complaint cases involving Macau citizens purchasing property overseas, according to a statement issued by the council.

The council said that it had strengthened its cooperation with consumer organizations in Guangdong Province and sent out several reminders to remind local citizens to pay attention to the relevant laws when purchasing property overseas to avoid their infringement of their rights. **LV**

# FOOD AND BEVERAGE INDUSTRY REPORTS CHALLENGING BUSINESS CONDITIONS

**T**HE food and beverage industry faced challenging business conditions that remained mostly unchanged in the final months of 2019. According to data released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), about 47% of surveyed restaurants reported a year-on-year decline in sales in November 2019, four percentage points more than in the previous survey in October.

At the same time, some 30% of sector respondents reported a rise in sales in November, amounting to two percentage points more than in October.

Asked about their business expectations for December, the majority of restaurants and similar establishments said they expected their sales to remain steady.

Among the most pessimistic were the owners of Japanese and Korean restaurants, which reported a 17% fall in the proportion of those expecting to report a steady or slight increase in the performance of their business.

In total, 48% of all sectors expected lower performance for the last month of 2019.

The retail sector is included in the same monthly survey. In November, 53% of interviewed retailers said that their business had improved year-on-year, while 31% of retailers reported a year-on-year sales decrease. **DB**

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HEALTH

# ONE MORE DEATH CAUSED BY WUHAN CORONAVIRUS IN CHINA

RENATO MARQUES

**T**HERE were no new suspected cases of the new strain of coronavirus that originated in the Chinese city of Wuhan in Macau over the weekend, the locally-based Inter-departmental Taskforce on Pneumonia of Unknown Cause has said in a statement.

In the statement, the group responsible for reporting locally on the disease outbreak stated that no new suspected cases had been reported recently.

A total of 13 suspected cases have been reported since January 1. Notably, none of these reported cases have been confirmed to be the coronavirus; all cases have been ruled out as common influenza infections.

In the meantime, the mainland authorities have reported a third death from the mysterious virus, with nearly 140 new cases of infection recorded as the disease spreads from Wuhan to other parts of the country, including the capital city of Beijing, raising concerns about an even



AP PHOTO

higher outbreak of the virus as millions begin traveling across China for the Lunar New Year.

Medical experts are still struggling to understand the characteristics of this new strain of coronavirus, but its similarity to the virus responsible for causing severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS) is causing alarm.

SARS originated in Guangdong province in the early 2000s, spreading to Hong Kong and elsewhere in the world, infecting over 8,000 people and causing a death toll of almost 800.

Although no cases of infection have yet been reported in Hong Kong or Macau, reports of the new coronavirus reaching the outskirts of the Special Administrative Regions have begun, with the first reported case being a 66-year-old man from Shenzhen who was taken into quarantine on January 11, showing symptoms of the disease after visiting

relatives in Wuhan, the provincial health commission said in a statement.

Over 200 people have been diagnosed so far with the virus in China, including two in Beijing's Daxing district. In Wuhan, 170 people are still being treated in hospital, including nine cases of patients who are considered to be in a critical condition, the city's health commission reported.

Chinese President Xi Jinping said yesterday that it's "extremely crucial" to take every possible measure to combat the new coronavirus. His remarks come as the country enters its busiest travel period, when millions board trains and planes for the Lunar New Year holidays.

Five individuals in Beijing and 14 in southern China's Guangdong province have also been diagnosed with the new coronavirus, state broadcaster CCTV reported yesterday evening. A total of seven suspected cases have been found in other parts of the country, including in Sichuan and Yunnan provinces in the southwest and in Shanghai.

Coronaviruses usually cause mild to moderate upper-respiratory tract illnesses, such as the common cold, but can also affect the lower respiratory tract, causing severe forms of pneumonia or bronchitis.

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WILHELM GUNKEL

### ONE KILLED, TWO INJURED IN MURDER CASE

A young woman was killed in an incident in the Pat Tat San Chun building in Areia Preta. Two others, including one child, were injured. On Sunday night, a mainland woman in her 30s went to the building located on Avenida de Venceslau de Moraes, armed with a knife, looking for the husband of the late victim. The perpetrator entered the house after the mother of the victim's husband told her that he was not at home. The perpetrator then attacked the three victims, including the mother of the victim's husband and his son. A little girl, the man's daughter, safely escaped the crime scene and reported the case to the building's security, who then reported it to the police authority. The wife died on her way to the hospital.

### MANY PARENTS ARGUE WITH CHILDREN OVER MOBILE PHONE USE

A survey conducted by the Macau Sheng Kung Hui Social Services Coordination Office shows that about 28% of local parents have quarreled with their children over mobile phone usage. Thirty-eight percent of the interviewed parents attempted to confiscate their children's smartphones. About 37% of the young people surveyed said that they focused even more on their mobiles after the argument, rather than talking to their parents. Approximately 30% of the interviewed teenagers reported feeling that their parents spent more time using their mobile phones than they spent with their children. Over half of teenagers reported using their mobiles occasionally or frequently while dining with their parents.

### DSAT LAUNCHES PASSENGER COUNT SYSTEM ON LOCAL BUSES

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has installed a system that allows people to check the number of passengers on 357 buses across the city. The system will be rolled out in three phases, the first of which will commence today. Passengers using the DSAT bus tracking mobile application will be able to check the volume of passengers on the buses, in addition to existing functionality that reports on the location and timing of the buses. In a statement, the bureau expressed hopes that these measures would better equip passengers to make better choices and plan their travel itinerary for a more convenient and pleasant commuting experience. The system has been in testing for quite some time. It will be applied to a total of 20 bus routes in the first phase. The selected buses were chosen because they account for about 40% of all passenger movements. The DSAT hopes to have the system completely integrated by the end of March, with the second phase planned for the end of February.

## CRIME

# Complicated marriage scam swindles Macau IDs for the family

ANTHONY LAM

**A** 73-year-old male Macau ID holder legally divorced his wife in order to wed two of his daughters-in-law, in the process claiming himself father of his own two granddaughters. Except for the man's original wife, all of the women in this confusing familial case were from the mainland, and these marriages were conducted with the purposes of obtaining local identification permits and thereby residency for them.

The case, disclosed during a police press conference yesterday, was referred to the Public Security Police by the Identification Bureau (DSI).

The family is surnamed Leong, with the senior Leong now 73 years old and working as a security guard. His first ex-wife, surnamed Lam, is 69 years old, and is reported to be unemployed.

Leong has two sons with Lam, the younger of which is involved

in this case. The son is now 38 years old and is also a security guard but does not have Macau residency as he originally lived in the mainland. This junior Leong has a partner in a de-facto marriage with a woman surnamed Huang, who is also from the mainland.

De-facto marriage is a type of legal relationship in Macau which does not require registration and is confirmed naturally under certain conditions. It is less formal than a civil union.

The senior Leong and Lam were married in the mainland in 1972. During their marriage, they gave birth to their two sons and a daughter in the mainland. During the 1980s, Leong snuck into Macau and obtained a Macau ID. He sought to reunite with Lam, who also received Macau residency afterwards while their children remained in the mainland.

In 1994, their first son was married in the mainland. His wife, surnamed Zeng, gave birth to a daughter in Macau in a condition of visa overstay. Zeng

registered the girl with an unknown father on the birth certificate.

In 2003, the senior Leong submitted a fraudulent paternity certificate to the DSI, which claimed the girl to be his own daughter. The granddaughter was subsequently granted Macau residency.

Zeng even divorced her husband and married her father-in-law in 2007, which brought her a legal Macau residency. With the goal of residency achieved, the pair divorced in 2008.

In 2013, Leong senior married the then-girlfriend, surnamed Huang, of his younger son. The son and Huang had a baby girl in 2015. Leong senior once again claimed to be the father of his granddaughter which meant that both mother and baby received local residency.

The police made a breakthrough in the case only when the younger son confessed. The suspects are now being investigated by the Public Prosecutions Office.

The police have also learned of a similar case that involves an entirely different family.

In the second, unrelated case, three main people are involved – a man at his 40s surnamed Lam, a 45-year-old local casino manager surnamed Luo, and a 63-year-old local security guard surnamed Ou-yang.

Luo and Ou-yang were originally mainland residents and were married in 2000. Luo later gave birth to a girl in Macau while overstaying in the territory. An uncle of the girl, a Macau ID holder, claimed himself to be the father and use this status to obtain local residency for the girl.

Luo gave birth to a boy in the mainland in 2002 before she divorced Ou-yang in 2013. Just months later, she married her sister's boyfriend, a Macau resident, and applied for Macau residency for herself and her son.

Both Lam and Luo confessed to the police about their fake marriage. They are both under investigation by the Public Prosecutions Office.

## TWO MAINLANDERS CAUGHT FOR MULTIPLE PHONE THEFTS

**M**EMBERS of the public should always take care of their own belongings, advised the police during the daily press conference yesterday. In the latest theft case to be reported, two middle-aged mainland men surnamed Gao and Yang were caught by the police for stealing.

On January 17, police

officers were conducting a regular anti-crime operation at a Cotai shopping mall when they spotted the duo trying to steal things from people in front of them using a coat with long sleeves as camouflage.

The police officers followed them, although they did not successfully steal anything for the rest

of the day until 8 p.m. when Yang was caught removing a pack of stolen goods from the roadside bushes and transferring them to Gao.

While the police were trying to intercept them, the two suspects started running. Later, the police caught them and found that the package contained three cellphones, in

addition to one in the backpack of one of the suspects.

The suspects could not provide a credible explanation about the origin of the cellphones, which were turned off and contained no SIM cards. The suspects also refused to confess to anything.

Referencing its records, the police managed

to find an entry related to one of the phones. The phone owner was contacted and ownership of the phone was confirmed. The victim told the police that the phone went missing at about 2:30 p.m. that day.

Both suspects were sent to the Public Prosecutions Office last Saturday. **AL**



## CROSS-BORDER RMB SETTLEMENT HITS NEW HIGH

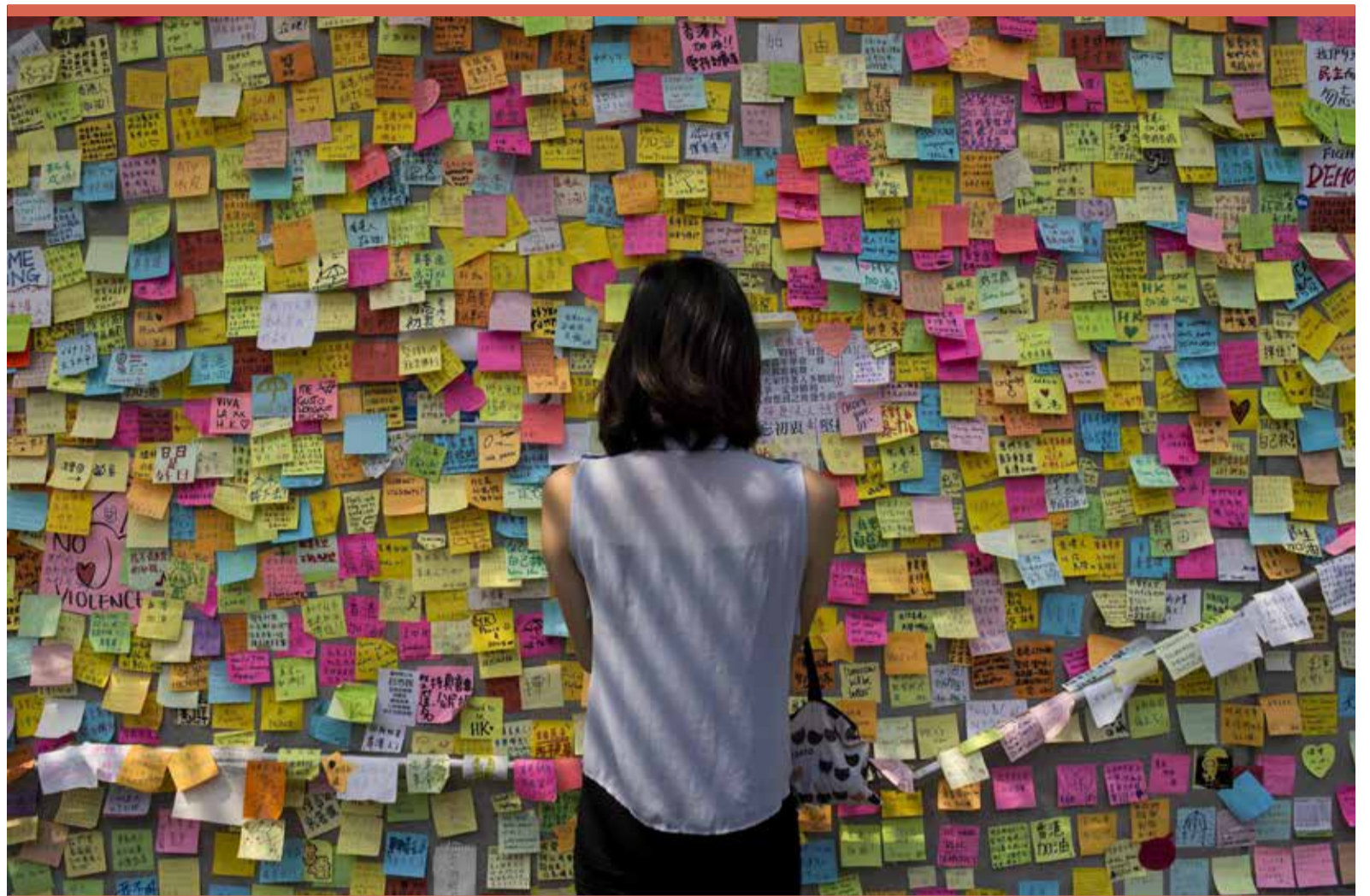
Cross-border settlement in Chinese currency in south China's Guangdong Province hit a new high in 2019, said a local branch of the People's Bank of China (PBOC), the central bank. Cross-border renminbi (RMB) settlement in the trade hub grew to 3.26 trillion yuan (about \$464 billion) in 2019, thanks in part to the construction of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area, according to the PBOC Guangzhou branch. In 2019, cross-border RMB settlement occurred in the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area reached 2.32 trillion yuan, up 17.3% from 2018. In July 2009, China approved a pilot program for cross-border trade settlement in RMB, embarking on the internationalization process of the Chinese currency.

## GUANGZHOU SEIZES 820KG OF DRUGS IN 2019

Police in China's southern city of Guangzhou seized 2,983 drug dealers and cracked down 2,750 drug cases in 2019, local office of narcotics control commission said on Sunday, reporting the annual crime figures. Altogether 820 kilograms of drugs were seized, with more than 2 tonnes of drug-making materials confiscated, the office said. A total of 13,425 drug users were found, and 6,748 were sent to mandatory rehab, according to the office. Throughout the year, customs authorities across Guangdong province reported several major drug busts. Cross-border teams involving authorities from Macau, Hong Kong and the mainland disrupted syndicate activities also trading in illegal narcotics.

## HELICOPTERS, DRONES HELP EASE CHINA'S TRAVEL PRESSURE

Helicopters and drones are lending a helping hand in easing transportation pressure during China's annual travel rush. To help guarantee smooth journeys, transportation authorities have begun using drones and helicopters to patrol expressways in the cities of Guangzhou, Zhaoqing and Shaoguan in southern China's Guangdong Province, reported state media Xinhua. The vehicles can track traffic accidents quickly and help assist rescue workers to avoid traffic jams, according to transportation police in Guangdong. Authorities estimated that about 3 billion trips will be made during this year's 40-day "chunyun," or Spring Festival travel rush from January 10 to February 18, according to the National Development and Reform Commission.



## ANALYSIS

# 'LENNON WALLS' HERALD STICKY-NOTE REVOLUTION

JEFF HOU, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

**M**ONTHS of anti-government protests in Hong Kong have physically reshaped the city. As a scholar of urban landscapes, I have been interested in how the citizens and activists made use of the urban environment during the movement, including walls of Post-it sticky notes and other creative displays.

These spaces, which locals call "Lennon Walls," have sprung up on buildings, walkways, sky bridges, underpasses and storefronts and carry messages like "Hong Kongers love freedom," "garbage government" and "We demand real universal suffrage."

The original Lennon Wall was in central Prague, west of the Vltava River and south of the iconic Charles Bridge. Since the 1960s, the wall had been a location for romantic poems and anti-government messages. After Beatles legend John Lennon's murder in 1980, someone painted a portrait of Lennon and some of his song lyrics on the wall. In time, messages evoking Lennon's common themes of peace, love and democracy covered the space. It became a location for community-generated protest art that endures – yet is ever-changing – today.

In Hong Kong, the first Len-

non Wall appeared during the 2014 Umbrella Movement protests – named for their participants' use of umbrellas to shield themselves from police pepper spray. This wall of an outdoor staircase in the city's Admiralty district, near the Central Government Complex, was covered by handwritten sticky notes supporting the protest. The colorful mosaic became one of the most memorable sights of the movement.

### FREEING EXPRESSION

In 2019, as anti-government protests spread throughout Hong Kong, more than 100 Lennon Walls, covered in sticky notes and other creative displays, appeared around the city. Like the rivers of protesters flowing through Hong Kong's urban canyons, these sticky notes have covered all sorts of surfaces, including storefronts and freeway pillars.

The Lennon Walls in Hong Kong have transformed nondescript walkways, sky bridges and tunnels into spaces of gathering and exchange where ordinary people would pause, read, write, and engage others in conversations. The simple and highly adaptable technique has allowed multitudes of citizens, visitors and tourists to participate in the movement and the political debate.

The messages on the walls

are not exclusively in support of the protest movement – one note read "Hong Kong belongs to China," a view decidedly opposed to many of the protesters. But the community has apparently developed a tacit agreement that people won't take down or cover over messages they disagree with. The walls themselves have become an exercise in democracy.

Hong Kong's authorities have removed some of these walls over objections from protesters. However, new notes, posters and other displays reappear in a matter of hours. It's another way the movement is expressing its motto, "Be water," signifying that the protesters' actions should be adaptable, tactical, fast and spontaneous – the way water flows through cracks in a structure.

### AROUND THE WORLD

As Hong Kong took inspiration from Prague, other cities have followed Hong Kong's lead.

In November 2016, after Donald Trump's surprise presidential win, New York City residents used sticky notes to transform a pedestrian tunnel beneath 14th Street into a space of therapy and mourning. Passersby would stop, read, take pictures, add to the collection and come away with a sense of shared emotion.

This spontaneous and collective form of public communica-

tion has brought new life to the historical idea of public space as a place for expression, dialogue and assembly, a concept dating back to the Greek agora. Recent examples included New York City's Zuccotti Park during the Occupy Wall Street protest, and the Puerta del Sol square in Madrid during the 15M Movement where tens of thousands of people gathered to protest against the government's austerity policy.

Around the world, Lennon Walls have sprung up to show solidarity with the Hong Kong protesters. In New York City, supporters set up temporary, portable Lennon Walls in public parks; there were similar efforts in Seattle and San Francisco.

In Taipei, supporters created spontaneous Lennon Walls in the tourist-frequented Ximending area, and inside a pedestrian underpass near National Taiwan University. In Tokyo, supporters at the busy Shibuya crossing intersection became human Lennon Walls, inviting passersby to post messages of support on protesters' clothes.

By occupying public walls, or at least publicly accessible ones, these Lennon Walls show how ordinary people are reclaiming urban spaces and voices in a political process. Even if sticky notes can't themselves fuel a revolution, they serve as reminders that people have the collective ability to reinvigorate democracy, wherever they are.

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

HONG KONG

# Jobless rate rises for third consecutive month

ERIC LAM

**H**ONG Kong's jobless rate rose for a third month in December, as the city's consumption and tourism-related industries remained weak amid the city's protest-driven recession.

The unemployment rate rose to 3.3% for the October to December period, the highest since March 2017. The run of three straight months is the worst spate of increases for the measure since it rose for nine months between 2008 and 2009.

The construction industry, particularly decoration, repair and maintenance for buildings, also "deteriorated visibly" according to a government release. The labor force also shrank during the period, the report said.

"The labor market slackened further as economic conditions stayed weak," Secretary for Labour and Welfare Law Chi-kwong said



BLOOMBERG

in the statement. Business in the consumption and tourism sectors - retail, accommodation and food services - "remained in the doldrums."

The unemployment rate in the consumption and tourism industry remained at a three-year high of 5.2%, hinting at stabilization after previous increases. However, the underemployment rate "rose

visibly" compared with the prior period, especially for those in the food and beverage industries, Law said.

The labor market will be subject to even more pressure if the economy remains weak, Law said. The latest government projections are for an annual contraction, with the coming budget likely to be in deficit. **BLOOMBERG**



HONG KONG

## HOMES REMAIN WORLD'S LEAST AFFORDABLE FOR 10TH YEAR

SHAWNA KWAN

**H**ONG Kong has racked up a 10th year as the world's least-affordable housing market, highlighting the inequality that has helped fuel months of protests.

The city topped Vancouver and Sydney as the most unaffordable housing market in 2019, according to a report yesterday by urban planning policy consultancy Demographia. Hong Kong's median property price declined slightly to 20.8 times median household income last year, compared to 20.9 times the year before.

The median multiple dropped in all of the 10 cities except Toronto, meaning hou-

sing has become somewhat more accessible for most people. Melbourne remained the fourth-most unaffordable housing market, while Toronto and Auckland climbed to sixth place.

Hong Kong's sky-high property prices have long been a source of contention in the city, where about one-in-five residents live below the poverty line. Some have resorted to living illegally in steel boxes or industrial estates because they can't afford a home.

The Demographia study covered 309 metropolitan markets across eight countries, including Australia, Canada, the U.K. and the U.S., as of the third quarter of last year. **BLOOMBERG**

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**TECHNOLOGY**

# SAMSUNG ENGINEERING MAVEN TO LEAD WORLD'S TOP PHONE BUSINESS

SOHEE KIM

**S**AMSUNG Electronics Co. has appointed Taemoon Roh the head of its smartphone division, tasking a veteran executive with oversight of the world's largest mobile devices business.

Roh, who was formerly the unit's No. 2 executive, will take over the top job from Koh Dong-Jin from Monday. Koh remains head of the Korean conglomerate's IT and mobile communications division but hands the reins of smartphones over to a lieutenant credited with building up the marquee Galaxy line of smartphones and tablets. Roh, a two-decade veteran of Korea's largest corporation, is regarded internally as an engineering maven who's meticulous about phone features.

Samsung's shares climbed as much as 2.5% in Seoul. The largest maker of mobile phones, displays and memory chips shakes up its executive ranks each year, with the extent of the changes often correlated to how its businesses are doing. This month, the company reported preliminary earnings that showed operating income declining by about a third from a year earlier.

Korea's largest company is racing to secure an early lead in fifth-generation wireless smartphones as well as foldables, both of which will take centerstage during its annual Unpacked event in San Francisco in February. While it still sells more devices than any other brand, Samsung in recent years has come under assault from both long-time adversary



Samsung Galaxy Note 10 displayed during a preview event

Apple Inc. as well as new rivals from Huawei Technologies Co. to fellow Chinese names Oppo and Vivo.

"Roh is known to be a person who expanded Samsung's original design manufacturing policy for low- to mid-range smartphones," said CIMB analyst Lee Dohoon. "Samsung may now gradually follow Apple in focusing on design and developments. Though it's expanded outsourcing for production, Samsung will keep a tighter rein on quality control to protect its brands."

The Korean tech giant

will try to keep expanding its market share in Asia and Europe this year while closest rival Huawei is struggling to protect its market share in the wake of Trump administration sanctions, Lee added.

Samsung said Roh is taking the division's helm at 52, using the Korean method of calculating age, although he was born in Sept. 1968 and would be 51 by a Western count.

Regardless, that means he'll be orchestrating things when Samsung unveils on Feb. 11 what's expected to be a second foldable device that folds into a

square. The company's mainstream flagship device - whose name is rumored to be the Galaxy S20, a change in naming scheme - is also likely to be unveiled at that event.

Its devices accounted for 54% of the global 5G smartphone market as of November 2019, after it shipped more than 6.7 million Galaxy 5G smartphones last year, the company has said. Separately, Huawei said last week that it shipped more than 6.9 million 5G phones in 2019.

Roh will also assume responsibility for repairing the mobile division's reputation. Under Koh's leadership, Samsung suffered from major quality issues at least twice: In 2016, Samsung killed off the Note 7 for good after models tended to burst into flames. Last year, Samsung also had to delay the Galaxy Fold by several months after review models exhibited issues with displays that were easily peeled off. Those debacles were widely seen as a result of the company's rushing phones to market to try and steal a march on Apple and Huawei.

Away from smartphones, the chiefs of three key Samsung divisions - semiconductors, consumer appliances and electronics and IT services - remained the same. That ensures stability given vice chairman and heir apparent Jay Y. Lee is defending himself in court over graft allegations, raising the possibility of a potential leadership vacuum.

Samsung also promoted several presidents in its latest restructuring including Kyungwhoon Cheun, who now heads networking. **BLOOMBERG**

## AMAZON'S SNOOPING ON ALEXA CHATS SPURS EU PRIVACY RESPONSE

**E**UROPEAN Union privacy watchdogs are gearing up to police digital assistants after revelations that Amazon.com Inc. workers listened in on people's conversations with their Alexa digital assistants.

Bloomberg first reported in April that Amazon had a team of thousands of workers around the world listening to Alexa audio requests with the goal of improving the software.

Similar issues have been raised over Google and Apple Inc.'s digital assistants, triggering privacy fears across the world, as intimate conversations in some users' homes were laid bare to technicians fine-tuning the technology.

EU regulators are now working on a common approach on how to police the technology, said Tine Larsen, head of the data protection authority in Luxembourg, where the U.S. retail giant has its European base and employs a staff of more than 2,000.

"Because it's a question of principle, the members of the EDPB should work out a common position in line with the consistency mechanism to apply data protection rules in a harmonized way for this type of treatment," she said, referring to a panel of regulators from across the 28-nation EU.

The revelations of the snooping into people's homes came after regulators across Europe were handed beefed-up powers with its General Data Protection Regulation in May 2018, including the right to levy fines of as much as 4% of a company's global annual sales for the most serious violations. But the move toward common guidelines for digital assistants means companies should avoid fines - for now. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## CORPORATE BITS

### Imitate animals to get discounts at Studio City this CNY



Studio City is celebrating the Lunar New Year with a series of promotions and new offerings. Both children and adults are targeted with an array of animal-themed culinary treats, from animal-shaped

dim sum, cookies, chocolates and cakes, to animal-art coffee and panda shaped sushi.

Michelin 1-star Pearl Dragon is offering steamed lobster dumpling in lobster broth,

deep-fried roasted goose puffs, steamed Iberico barbecued pork buns, among other delicacies shaped as animals.

Chef Rodolfo Serritelli of Rossi Trattoria will offer a master class on the secrets of perfecting authentic Italian cuisine.

Guests can also receive a 20% discount at the resort's thrilling attractions which include the Golden Reel, Batman Dark Flight, Flip Out and Warner Bros. Fun Zone by wearing animal-related clothing such as animal prints, garments featuring animals, or costumes, and will be eligible to enjoy a free movie at the 4D Theater at Legend Heroes Park.

### Sands China, Dianping train chefs in Macau



Sands China Ltd. hosted the Black Pearl Chef Club Event on January 8 at the Adelson Advanced Education Centre at The Venetian Macao.

The Black Pearl Chef Club Event is a cross-regional exchange of culinary experiences and developments.

Organized by dianping.com, the Black Pearl Restaurant Guide Chef Club provides an opportunity for a comprehensive interactive exchange of culinary concepts, ideas and skills between Black Pearl restaurant chefs.

The 100 global participants attended one of two concurrently held events: a 'Chef Development Camp', and a 'Skills Exchange Camp'. The former offered a lesson and Q&A session on the topic of food and "appetizing colors," according to a press release issued by Sands China. The latter focused on the use of premium dry foods in Chinese gastronomy.



AP PHOTO



# Huawei exec's extradition hearing begins in Canada

JIM MORRIS  
& ROB GILLIES, VANCOUVER

**T**HE first stage of an extradition hearing for a senior executive of Chinese telecom giant Huawei began yesterday in a Vancouver courtroom, a case that has infuriated Beijing, caused a diplomatic uproar and added to tensions between China and the United States.

Canada's arrest of chief financial officer Meng Wanzhou, the daughter of Huawei's legendary founder, in late 2018 at America's request shocked Beijing.

Huawei represents China's progress in becoming a technological power and has been a subject of U.S. security concerns for years. Beijing views Meng's case as an attempt to contain China's rise.

"This is one of the top priorities for the Chinese government. They've been very mad. They will be watching this very closely," said Wenran Jiang, a senior fellow at the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia.

China's foreign ministry complained yesterday the United States and Canada were violating Meng's rights and called

for her release.

"It is completely a serious political incident," said a ministry spokesman, Geng Shuang. He urged Canada to "correct mistakes with concrete actions, release Ms. Meng Wanzhou and let her return safely as soon as possible."

Washington accuses Huawei of using a Hong Kong shell company to sell equipment to Iran in violation of U.S. sanctions. It says Meng, 47, committed fraud by misleading the HSBC bank about the company's business dealings in Iran.

Meng, who is free on bail and living in one of the two Vancouver mansions she owns, denies the allegations. Her defense team says comments by President Donald Trump suggest the case against her is politically motivated.

Meng was detained in December 2018 in Vancouver as she was changing flights — on the same day that Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping met for trade talks.

Prosecutors have stressed that Meng's case is separate from the wider China-U.S. trade dispute,

but Trump undercut that message weeks after her arrest when he said he would consider intervening in the case if it would help forge a trade deal with Beijing.

China and the U.S. reached a "Phase 1" trade agreement last week, but most analysts say any meaningful resolution of the main U.S. allegation — that Beijing uses predatory tactics in its drive to supplant America's technological supremacy — could require years of contentious talks. Trump had raised the possibility of using Huawei's fate as a bargaining chip in the trade talks, but the deal announced Wednesday didn't mention the company.

## China's foreign ministry complained yesterday the United States and Canada were violating Meng's rights and called for her release

Huawei is the biggest global supplier of network gear for cell-phone and internet companies. Washington is pressuring other countries to limit use of its technology, warning they could be opening themselves up to sur-

veillance and theft.

"I think this is the beginning of a technological war along ideological fronts," said Lynette Ong, an associate professor at the University of Toronto. "You are going to see the world divided into two parts. One side would use Chinese companies and the other side would not use Chinese companies because they are weary of the political implications of using Chinese platforms."

James Lewis at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said the U.S. wanted to send a message with Meng's arrest. There is good evidence that Huawei willfully violated sanctions, he said.

"The message that you are no longer invulnerable has been sent to Chinese executives," Lewis said. "No one has held China accountable. They steal technology, they violate their WTO commitments and the old line is, 'Oh, they are a developing economy, who cares.' When you are the second-largest economy in the world you can't do that anymore."

The initial stage of Meng's extradition hearing will focus on whether Meng's alleged crimes are crimes both in the United States and Canada. Her lawyers filed a motion Friday arguing that Meng's case is really about

U.S. sanctions against Iran, not a fraud case. Canada does not have similar sanctions on Iran.

The second phase, scheduled for June, will consider defense allegations that Canada Border Services, the Royal Canadian Mounted Police and the FBI violated her rights while collecting evidence before she was actually arrested.

The extradition case could take years to resolve if there are appeals. Virtually all extradition requests from Canada to the U.S. are approved by Canadian judges.

In apparent retaliation for Meng's arrest, China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor. The two men have been denied access to lawyers and family and are being held in prison cells where the lights are kept on 24-hours-a-day. "That's mafia-style pressure," Lewis said.

China has also placed restrictions on various Canadian exports to China, including canola oil seed and meat. Last January, China also handed a death sentence to a convicted Canadian drug smuggler in a sudden retrial.

"Canada is fulfilling the terms of its extradition treaty but is paying an enormous price," said Roland Paris, a former foreign policy adviser to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. "This is the kind of world we're living in now, where countries like Canada are at risk of getting squeezed in major power contests." AP





## JAPAN

SHINZO ABE RESUMES CONSTITUTION  
QUEST TO BURNISH LEGACYISABEL REYNOLDS  
& EMI NOBUHIRO

**P**RIME Minister Shinzo Abe faces almost insurmountable obstacles to completing his career-long quest to amend Japan's pacifist constitution. That won't stop him from trying.

The premier opened a new session of parliament on Monday with a fresh call to revise the country's U.S.-imposed postwar constitution. Abe has raised the issue at almost every public speaking opportunity since the new year, saying he wants to make full use of what he expects will be his final 20 months in office.

"The constitution shows what form the country will take," Abe said. "It's our responsibility as lawmakers to put forward a proposal for what kind of country we

should aim to be in the future," he added in comments that drew hearty applause from lawmakers of his ruling Liberal Democratic Party.

Success would help burnish Abe's legacy after becoming the country's longest-serving prime minister in November. Rewriting the constitution was one of the founding principles of the LDP, which argues the move is needed to give Japan's "self-defense" forces greater legitimacy and secure Tokyo's interests around the globe.

While many in the right-leaning LDP view the constitution imposed in 1947 as a symbol of Japan's humiliation after World War II, the document has broad political support. Previous talk of amendments, or changing laws to allow Japanese troops to fight

abroad, has led to street protests - something Abe may want to avoid as Tokyo prepares to host the Summer Olympics.

Abe's challenge wasn't made any easier by his failure in July to win a two-thirds majority in parliament's upper house, something that would've helped him push through any change. He must also overcome a pushback from within his ruling coalition.

"In terms of political priorities, I don't think public interest is necessarily strong," Natsuo Yamaguchi, who leads Abe's Buddhist-backed coalition party, Komeito, told NHK on Jan. 12. "We have to look at this calmly and realistically as we move ahead."

Although a change would please Japan's sole military ally, the U.S., which has been prodding Tokyo to take a more assertive

security role, it could complicate Abe's other diplomatic efforts. The government is preparing for a state visit this spring by President Xi Jinping of China, where suspicion of Japan's military ambitions still runs deep.

South Korea, which has been feuding with Japan over a host of war-related grievances in recent months, has urged its neighbor to "remain within the mold of the pacifist constitution." Meanwhile, North Korean state media denounced Abe's efforts to amend the document in a commentary Wednesday as "a revelation of wicked design to turn Japan into a military giant."

Abe has already outlined his proposed changes - including adding wording to the war-renouncing Article 9 that would make explicit the constitutionality of Japan's Self-Defense Forces. The country maintains almost 250,000 troops, hundreds of fighter jets and dozens of warships, although their activities are constrained by law.

Japan has also sent troops overseas on several occasions

- and plans to send a naval destroyer and two surveillance planes to the Middle East next month on an information-gathering exercise in a region that provides the country with the bulk of its oil.

Japan spends about 5 trillion yen (\$45 billion) annually on defense. It has ramped up its financing each year that Abe has been in office, in an effort to counter the growing capabilities of nuclear-armed neighbors such as China, Russia and North Korea, which has fired missiles over Japan.

"I am unwavering in my desire to be the one who achieves a revision of the constitution," Abe told public broadcaster NHK in an interview broadcast Jan. 12.

Even if Abe were to cobble together the two-thirds majority needed in both houses of parliament to pass a change, he would still need to pass a national referendum. Some surveys have shown a growing voter willingness to debate the issue, but there's no clear public consensus for a revision.

A poll by the Sankei newspaper and Fuji News Network this month found that 53.5% of respondents were against changing the constitution. A little more than half said they didn't approve of a revision under the Abe administration.

Abe enters the year hobbled by scandals that have led to the arrest of a sitting LDP lawmaker accused of taking bribes from a Chinese company seeking to be involved in the local casino industry. He also faces lingering questions over whether he improperly rewarded constituency supporters with invitations to a publicly funded cherry blossom-viewing party.

While some in Japan's splintered opposition want to avoid debating the constitution, Shiori Yamao, a lawmaker with the Constitutional Democratic Party and a former prosecutor, said she wanted to start discussions as soon as possible. In a Jan. 16 interview, she expressed concern that a referendum could be held without the public fully understanding the implications.

"Prime Minister Abe has a concrete proposal that would write the SDF into the constitution," she said. "We are against that. If you just write in that they exist without setting rules for their activities, there will be no constitutional restraints." **BLOOMBERG**

IMF RAISES FORECAST FOR  
JAPAN'S ECONOMY THIS YEAR

**T**HE International Monetary Fund sees Japan's economy growing faster than previously expected this year, citing a boost from the stimulus package unveiled last month by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

The IMF now forecasts Japan's economy will expand 0.7% in 2020, up from a 0.5% forecast in October.

Although the IMF forecasts slower growth of 0.5% in 2021 once the fiscal stimulus-boost fades, the fund's more optimistic near-term projections are likely to relieve even more pressure

from the Bank of Japan ahead of a rate decision today.

All 42 economists surveyed by Bloomberg forecast the bank will stand pat on policy this week and raise its growth forecasts for Japan in a quarterly outlook report due the same day.

In its last report, in October, the BOJ predicted Japan's economy would grow 0.6% in the year through March 2020. It also projected 0.7% growth for the next fiscal year, which is half the rate estimated by the government after releasing its stimulus plan. **MDT/BLOOMBERG**

## ARTICLE 9 OF THE CONSTITUTION

1. Aspiring sincerely to an international peace based on justice and order, the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes.

2. In order to accomplish the aim of the preceding paragraph, land, sea, and air forces, as well as other war potential, will never be maintained. The right of belligerency of the state will not be recognized.



# Myanmar probe: Security forces likely committed war crimes

**A**N independent commission established by Myanmar's government has concluded there are reasons to believe that security forces committed war crimes in counterinsurgency operations that led more than 700,000 members of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority to flee to neighboring Bangladesh.

However, the commission, headed by a Philippine diplomat, said in a report given yesterday to President Win Myint that there is no evidence supporting charges that genocide was planned or carried out against the Rohingya.

The Independent Commission of Enquiry announced its findings in a press release posted on its Facebook page. It came just ahead of a decision by the United Nations' top court, scheduled for Thursday, on a request that Myanmar be ordered to halt what has been cast as a genocidal campaign against the Rohingya.

The African nation of Gam-

AP PHOTO



Myanmar leader Aung San Suu Kyi (right)

bia brought legal action last year to the International Court of Justice in the Netherlands, alleging on behalf of the 57-country Organization of Islamic Cooperation that genocide occurred and continues.

State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi, Myanmar's top leader, strongly denied wrongdoing by government forces at the initial hearing on the case in December.

Yesterday's report issued by

the commission said it found no evidence of genocide. But it went further than any public statements issued by Myanmar's government in suggesting government forces were guilty of major abuses.

"Although these serious crimes and violations were committed by multiple actors, there are reasonable grounds to believe that members of Myanmar's security forces were involved" in war crimes, serious human rights violations, and violations of domestic law in 2017, it said.

"The killing of innocent villagers and destruction of their homes were committed by some members of the Myanmar's security forces through disproportionate use of force during the internal armed conflict," it said.

But the report points out that the security forces acted in response to deadly attacks organized by Rohingya guerrillas belonging to the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army — ARSA.

The commission's announcement said it would hand over its 461-page report to be used for investigations and possible prosecutions by Myanmar civil and military authorities.

A U.N. team also conducted a major investigation and found grounds for bringing charges of genocide.

Its members were not allowed to enter Myanmar. They did much of their work interviewing Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh. The Independent Commission of Enquiry said its investigators were dispatched to Rakhine State, where the violence occurred, Yangon and the Myanmar capital Naypyitaw "for evidence collection." But it makes no mention of visiting refugee camps in Bangladesh.

The commission is led by senior Philippine diplomat Rosario Manalo, and included retired Japanese diplomat Kenzo Oshima, Myanmar presidential adviser Aung Tun Thet and legal expert Mya Theinn,

The inclusion of the Myanmar members close to the government raised doubts about its ability to deliver a credible report, especially because separate earlier investigations by the government and military did not yield much trustworthy information. AP

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## THAILAND

## OPPOSITION PARTY ACCUSED OF ILLUMINATI LINKS FACES BREAK UP

SIRAPHOB  
THANTHONG-KNIGHT

**T**HAILAND'S second-biggest opposition party faces possible dissolution today in a court case that could spur more pro-democracy protests against a military-backed government.

The Constitutional Court will rule on a petition that the Future Forward party and its leaders want to overthrow the monarchy, which sits at the summit of power in Thailand. One of the claims is that the party logo evokes the secret Illuminati sect "believed to be behind the unseating of monarchies in Europe."

The term "Illuminati" traces back hundreds of years and has become a watchword for discredited conspiracy theories about secretive groups trying to control world affairs. Future Forward has denied the allegations, saying they are part of a crackdown on dissent by the royalist establishment after a disputed March election that ended five years of direct military rule.

Coup leader Prayuth Chan-Ocha returned as premier after the poll but is a polarizing figure. Thai royalists have disbanded multiple pro-democracy political parties over the past two decades, spurring a cycle of destabilization that has contributed to slower economic growth compared with neighbors such as Indonesia and Vietnam.

## POLITICAL RISK

"A dissolution ruling based on the Illuminati case will be difficult for the Thai people



to live with," said Paul Chambers, a politics expert at Naresuan University's College of Asean Community Studies in northern Thailand. "This could widen the anti-government movement."

While political tension remains lower than during past episodes of bloody street unrest, thousands of people rallied last month in Bangkok against the prospect of Future Forward's looming break up.

The party finished third in the election on a platform that includes rewriting the military-backed charter, curbing the army's influence and breaking up oligopolies.

## RULING COALITION

Future Forward's disbandment could strengthen the ruling coalition -- which has a slim majority -- by removing a fierce critic and opening up the possibility of poaching some of its lawmakers.

Party leader Thanathorn Juangroongruangkit, a former tycoon already banned from parliament over media shareholding breaches that he denies, said in December the party and some of its officials face a slew of other cases.

"One way or another the party will likely get dissolved," said Panchada Sirivunnabood, an associate professor in politics at Mahidol University near Bangkok. "The government may become stronger

in parliament, but a dissolution will also create a stronger people's movement against it. The country will be even more divided."

## KING'S AUTHORITY

Among other allegations facing Future Forward is that Thanathorn owned publications attacked the monarchy. The petition -- made available by the party -- accuses co-founder Piyabutr Saengkanokkul of saying the monarchy should adapt to democracy.

Another Constitutional Court ruling on party funding violations is pending and would also lead to dissolution if Future Forward is found guilty.

King Maha Vajiralongkorn is head of state in Thailand's constitutional monarchy and has repeatedly displayed his authority since taking the throne in 2016. The country has strict lese-majeste laws that criminalize insults against top members of the royal family.

In October, parliament passed an emergency decree transferring some army units to Vajiralongkorn's command. But 70 lawmakers from Future Forward voted against the motion, stunning a nation that treats top royals as semi-divine and edicts related to them as sacrosanct.

Earlier this month, thousands of people joined a rally to protest against the military-backed government and call for more political freedom.

A rival crowd demonstrated in favor of Prayuth, the former army chief who led the 2014 coup. He was the prime ministerial candidate for Palang Pracharath, a party carved out of the junta, which got the most votes in last year's election.

## JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Narumon Pinyosinwat, a spokeswoman for the government, said the Future Forward case is in the hands of the justice system, adding the administration plays no role in it because it's only in charge of the executive arm.

Prayuth's opponents question the fairness of the general election under the current constitution and describe the treatment of dissenters as judicial oppression.

"The prospect of increased public support for political opponents is widely believed to have motivated the government's many attempts to persecute Future Forward party members or to dissolve the party altogether," Amnesty International said in a statement. **BLOOMBERG**

## Sri Lanka to treat war-missing as dead, issue certificates

KRISHAN FRANCIS,  
COLOMBO

**S**RI Lanka's president has decided that tens of thousands of people still missing from the country's quarter-century civil war will be formally declared dead and death certificates will be issued, his office said yesterday.

President Gotabaya Rajapaksa made his decision known last week during a meeting with the United Nations' resident coordinator in Colombo, his office said in a statement.

"Most of them had been

taken by the LTTE (Tamil Tiger rebels) or forcefully conscripted. The families of the missing attest to it," the statement said. "However they do not know what has become of them and so claim them to be missing."

Relatives have been protesting for years demanding to know the whereabouts of mostly ethnic Tamils who went missing during Sri Lanka's 26-year civil war, which ended in 2009 with the government's defeat of the Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebels were fighting for an independent state for the country's ethnic minority Tamils.

Scores of fighters went missing in action while others were abducted by security forces and government paramilitaries as well as the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Relatives say they handed over hundreds of their family members after government forces asked those with the remotest link to the rebels to surrender as they faced defeat in 2009. They say they are not heard from after being taken away by the military in buses.

An Office on Missing Persons set up in 2015 has been investigating 23,586 cases, including those of

5,000 security forces.

A law enacted in 2016 mandated that an interim report be given to the relatives if there is sufficient evidence that the relevant person is missing. At the end of an investigation a final report will be given to enable the relatives to obtain a Certificate of Absence or a Death Certificate as per the outcome.

It was unclear how Rajapaksa's government came to the conclusion that all the missing persons were dead.

Rajapaksa was a top defense official during the war. **AP**





MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## EU WON'T RECOMMEND BANNING HUAWEI IN UPCOMING 5G RISK RULES

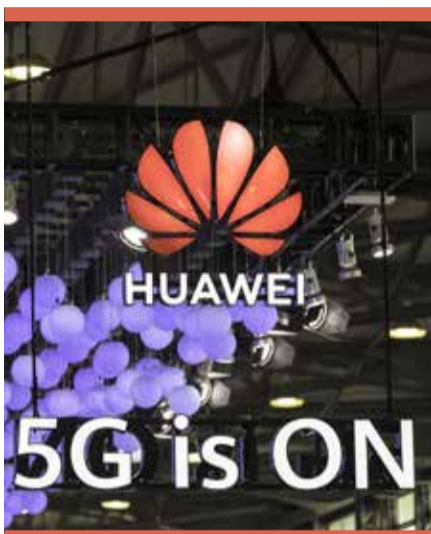
HELENE FOUQUET & NATALIA DROZDIK

**T**HE European Union won't explicitly ban Huawei Technologies Co. or other 5G equipment vendors when the bloc unveils guidelines for member states to mitigate security risks.

The EU will unveil a set of recommended measures that are "naturally strict and vigilant" at the end of January, European Digital Commissioner Thierry Breton said at a news conference in Paris on yesterday. No companies will be explicitly excluded in the EU's recommendations, he said.

U.S. officials have criss-crossed Europe over the past year, urging the EU and its members to exclude the Chinese company from their networks. Washington argues Huawei poses a national security risk while Huawei and Chinese officials deny the accusations.

The bloc has sought to coordinate the member states' approach on 5G, in an effort to avoid potential U.S. or Chinese retaliation targeting any individual European country.



Last month, EU countries agreed to use only trustworthy parties for infrastructure that's critical to national security, and pledged to consider the laws of a supplier's home country before buying their products.

The EU is limited in what it can tell its member states to do, however. Any decisions to ban companies for national security reasons rest with member states, and many operators in various European countries have already struck deals with Huawei on 5G.

Europe has been caught between two major world powers, China and the U.S., over the question of whether to include Huawei in its 5G roll-out. Many European countries are loath to incense Beijing, a significant trading partner, while the U.S., an important security ally, has repeatedly said it may reassess intelligence sharing with countries that use Huawei in their 5G networks.

Chinese ambassador Wu Ken in December warned that a Huawei ban in the German market would result in "consequences" and cited German auto sales in the Asian giant's market.

The comments came as German Chancellor Angela Merkel started facing intense pressure from hardliners inside her governing coalition, who have criticized her opposition of a ban on Huawei.

The U.K. government is also weighing Huawei's role in developing the country's networks. Culture Secretary Nicky Morgan in January said the U.K. would keep Huawei out of critical national infrastructure. **BLOOMBERG**

## EU SETS UP \$998 MILLION BUDGET FOR HUMANITARIAN AID

**T**HE European Union has set up a 900 million euro (\$998 million) budget to help countries hit by humanitarian crises, with Africa getting the largest share of the money.

The EU Commission, the bloc's executive arm, said yesterday that people in more than 80 countries will benefit from the money in 2020. Some 400 million euros (\$444 million) will go to programs developed in Africa, while 345 million euros (\$383 million) have been awarded to address crises in the Middle East.

A further 111 million euros (\$123 million) will be dedicated to programs in Asia and Latin America.

"Even though conflict remains the main cause of hunger and displacement, its impact has become seriously worse-

ned by climate change. Europe has a responsibility to show solidarity and support for those in need. Our assistance depends on full humanitarian access so aid organizations can do their lifesaving job," said Janez Lenar, the EU commissioner for crisis management.

The EU said the bulk of the 2020 EU aid will support people suffering from the long-term conflict in Congo and malnutrition in the Sahel region, as well as those displaced by violence in South Sudan, Central African Republic and the Lake Chad basin.

In the Middle East, the EU said the funding will "address the crisis in Syria and its refugees in neighboring countries, as well as the extremely critical situation in Yemen." **AP**

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## what's ON



### DIVINE BEASTS – PAPER ARTS BY BENSON LAM

**TIME:** 10am-7pm (Closed on Sundays and public holidays)

**UNTIL:** February 1, 2020

**VENUE:** Rui Cunha Gallery

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2892 3288

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

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

**UNTIL:** April 13, 2020

**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 87919814

### MOVE! INTO THE WILDLIFE

**TIME:** 12pm-8pm

**UNTIL:** February 9, 2020

**VENUE:** 2/F, Broadway Macau

**ADMISSION:** MOP120

**KONG SENG TICKETING SERVICE:** 2855 5555

### A PANORAMA OF RIVERS AND MOUNTAINS 3.0

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

**UNTIL:** March 15, 2020

**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ORGANIZERS:** Cultural Affairs Bureau; Macau Museum of Art; Palace Museum

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

### THE WORLD AT THEIR FINGERTIPS – EXHIBITION OF WEAVING, DYEING AND EMBROIDERY SKILL ART OF JIANGSU PROVINCE AND GUANGXI ZHUANG AUTONOMOUS REGION

**TIME:** 9am-7pm (Open on public holidays)

**UNTIL:** February 16, 2020

**VENUE:** Chun Chou Tong Pavilion, Lou Lim Ioc Garden

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8988 4000

### CULTURAL AND CREATIVE PRODUCTS FROM THE PALACE MUSEUM AND EDUCATION AREA

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

**UNTIL:** April 13, 2020

**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art

**ADMISSION:** Free

**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

## Offbeat

### NOT EASY BEING GREEN: NORTH CAROLINA DOG BIRTHS UNIQUE PUPPY

The Avengers may have gained a canine sidekick after a North Carolina family's dog gave birth to a bright green puppy named "Hulk."

Gypsy, a white shepherd owned by Haywood County resident Shana Stamey, delivered eight puppies Friday morning. Gypsy's three-hour labor was going smoothly until the fourth puppy came out as a small, but mighty tuft of lime green fur, Stamey said.

"I started freaking out," Stamey told news outlets. "But everybody was healthy."

Experts said there's a normal explanation for the puppy's coloration — and no, he wasn't exposed to any gamma rays. Liquid from inside Gypsy's stomach likely stained the white dog's fur during pregnancy. Suzanne Cianciulli, the manager of Junaluska Animal Hospital in Waynesville, told news outlets.

Regular baths and daily licks from Gypsy are expected to fade Hulk's green hue in a few weeks, Stamey said. However the puppy's newfound superpower, which the family has deemed an "aggressive appetite," will likely remain.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:30	BING
15:45	Os Ursos Boonie na Neve
16:00	As Novas Viagens Filosoficas
16:30	Portugueses Pelo Mundo Sr.1
17:30	Império (Repetição)
18:20	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:25	Ouro Verde Sr.1
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	Índia Majestosa com Samira
22:20	Império
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Motel Bates Sr.4 - Fim
00:40	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:25	RTPi Directo

## cinema



### CINETEATRO

18 - 22 Jan



#### BAD BOYS FOR LIFE

ROOM 1

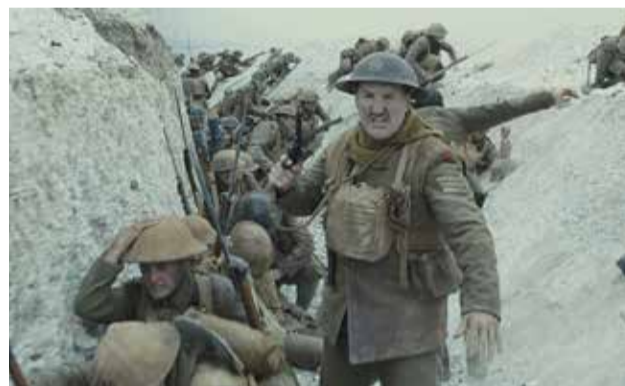
2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

**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

#### UNDERWATER

ROOM 3

9:30pm

**Director:** William Eubank

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

**Language:** English (Chinese)

**Duration:** 95min

## this day in history



### 1992 UN THREATENS LIBYA WITH SANCTIONS

The United Nations has ordered Libya to surrender intelligence agents accused of the Lockerbie and French airliner bombings.

The 15-nation Security Council unanimously adopted a resolution urging Libya "immediately to provide a full and effective response" to the British and American demand that the two men - Lamen Khalifa Fhimah and Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi - be surrendered to stand trial.

The resolution also ordered Libya to co-operate with France's investigation into the bombing of a French-owned UTA airliner over Nigeria in 1989, in which 171 people lost their lives.

Western diplomats said that they would seek selective UN sanctions against Libya "in a matter of weeks" if the two Lockerbie suspects are not handed over.

The pair are accused of conspiring to place a bomb concealed in a radio cassette recorder in a suitcase on board an Air Malta flight that connected to Pan Am 103 in Frankfurt.

The bomb exploded over Lockerbie on 21 December, 1988, killing all 259 people on board and 11 on the ground.

Police in Scotland and the US originally suspected the Syrian-based Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine - General Command (PFLP-GC) of having a role in the bombing.

But further evidence led the authorities to conclude that Libya ordered and carried out the attack in retaliation for the downing of an Iranian airliner by a US missile in 1988.

The resolution marks the first occasion the Security Council has told a country to extradite any of its citizens.

It is also the first time the UN has implicitly accused a fellow member state of being involved in state terrorism.

Despite the move, families of the victims of the Lockerbie bombing criticised the United Nations resolution for being weak and inadequate.

"There is ample evidence that both Syria and Iran were involved," said Daniel Cohen whose 20-year-old daughter, Theodora, died in the crash.

"But, because of political reasons the United States and Great Britain have drawn the Pan Am 103 case very narrowly, accusing only two Libyans."

A senior Libyan official said that Tripoli had no intention of extraditing the men.

Jadualah Azuz Talhi, a former foreign minister who led a Libyan delegation, told the security council that the suspects were innocent until proven guilty.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Shortly after the resolution Libya agreed to hand over the two men accused of the Lockerbie bombing providing they were tried in a neutral country.

But Britain rejected their terms and the UN eventually imposed sanctions to try to force Libya to hand over the suspects.

It took another nine years of legal wrangling before Colonel Gaddafi finally handed Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah over on the basis that they would be tried in a neutral court under Scottish law.

Abdel Basset Ali al-Megrahi was jailed for life when the trial went ahead at Camp Zeist in Holland.

But his alleged accomplice was freed after he was found not guilty. Relatives of the 170 victims who died in the French airliner bombing eventually agreed to a \$170m (£88m) pay out offered by Libya in January 2004.

Despite the move, Tripoli has never accepted responsibility for the bombing - even though six Libyan officials were tried and convicted in absentia by a French court in 1999.

Libya refused to extradite the six - who include Colonel Gaddafi's brother-in-law - and has always maintained their innocence.



MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

**YOUR STARS**

**ARIES**  
**Mar. 21-Apr. 19**  
 Don't think of your duties as boring items to cross off your to-do list. Act with confidence and gusto today, and don't speak disparagingly about what's on your plate right now.

**TAURUS**  
**Apr. 20-May. 20**  
 A healthy relationship doesn't need constant attention. In fact, a pause here and there can bring long-lasting depth. Don't fret about not getting enough one-on-one time with someone.

**GEMINI**  
**May. 21-Jun. 21**  
 Following another person's simple advice could lead you down a very interesting path today, so do what someone close to you suggests, even if it sounds silly or even a little bit embarrassing.

**CANCER**  
**Jun. 22-Jul. 22**  
 Talking will take up a big chunk of your day today. But keep in mind that when you're talking, you can't be listening. Take a break every now and then and try to hear what other people are telling you.

**LEO**  
**Jul. 23-Aug. 22**  
 It doesn't take a genius to understand that pennies and nickels add up to dollars, so why are you being so nonchalant about so many little expenses? Review your daily budget.

**VIRGO**  
**Aug. 23-Sep. 22**  
 Don't delay just because someone hasn't gotten back to you with a confirmation or a minor detail. You know enough to keep going, so don't lose momentum!

**LIBRA**  
**Sep. 23-Oct. 22**  
 Some problems in your social life have got you taking a closer look at your relationships, and you can restore your positive energy by treating yourself well. It's okay to say no to that dinner invitation.

**SCORPIO**  
**Oct. 23-Nov. 21**  
 You don't have to do much to let someone know that you care. Friendship is all about give and take. You're in a place where you have a lot to give right now.

**SAGITTARIUS**  
**Nov. 22-Dec. 21**  
 Ask for the authority you need to do what you want to do today, and you will get it, even from people who aren't usually very helpful when it comes to the agendas of others.

**CAPRICORN**  
**Dec. 22-Jan. 19**  
 If you've got your romantic sights set on someone new, this is a great day to do some research into this person's history and character. Mutual acquaintances will be very forthcoming.

**AQUARIUS**  
**Jan. 20-Feb. 18**  
 The universe is placing a new importance on compartmentalizing your life right now, so be sure to keep any school or job issues far away from your personal life today (and vice versa).

**PISCES**  
**Feb. 19-Mar. 20**  
 You usually have a great ability to see people for who they really are, no matter what kind of camouflage they use. But today, someone will confuse you quite a bit. Just who are you really dealing with here?

**The Born Loser by Chip Sansom**



**SUDOKU**

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

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-7	4	clear
Harbin	-24	-7	clear
Tianjin	-3	6	cloudy
Urumqi	-11	-3	clear
Xi'an	-2	8	cloudy
Lhasa	-7	5	clear
Chengdu	5	11	cloudy
Chongqing	9	13	overcast
Kunming	4	20	clear
Nanjing	1	9	drizzle
Shanghai	4	12	drizzle
Wuhan	4	8	drizzle
Hangzhou	3	14	cloudy
Taipei	12	20	cloudy
Guangzhou	14	20	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	21	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	3	5	drizzle
Frankfurt	-3	5	overcast
Paris	-1	5	clear
London	0	4	overcast
New York	-14	-2	clear

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- "Hard \_\_\_!" (sailor's yell); 5- African language group; 10- Diving duck; 14- Rise sharply, as a bird would; 15- Astrologer Sydney; 16- Broad; 17- Cheerful; 18- Actor Quinn; 19- Swenson of "Benson"; 20- Capital of the Netherlands; 22- Many times; 23- Auto pioneer; 24- Hey, over here!; 26- Human limb, section of a journey; 29- Pale; 31- Sinew; 35- Of Nordic stock; 37- Emilia's husband; 39- Architect Saarinen; 40- Clothes; 41- Sleep issue; 42- Window part; 43- Son of Isaac and Rebekah; 44- Silly question...; 45- Horse race venue in England; 46- Condiment; 48- Ladies of Sp.; 50- Hydrocarbon ending; 51- Missing; 53- Habeas corpus, for one; 55- Not hesitant; 58- Practice session; 63- Sewing case; 64- Up; 65- Drug-yielding plant; 66- Emerged; 67- Befuddled; 68- They're charged; 69- Glitch; 70- Backs of feet; 71- Driving aids;

**DOWN:** 1- Nick and Nora's pooch; 2- Rich soil; 3- Breaks bread; 4- Sister of Thalia; 5- Planks; 6- Halfway between the bow and the stern; 7- Zip; 8- Chaplin persona; 9- Samovar; 10- Rapidity; 11- Aromatic herb; 12- Advantage; 13- Disengage from a habit; 21- Dash; 22- Sugar suffix; 25- Portico; 26- Pilsner; 27- Clear the boards; 28- Rotating; 30- Jerks; 32- Thaw before takeoff; 33- Synthetic fiber; 34- Nick of "Cape Fear"; 36- In the process of being built; 38- Part of a car transmission; 41- Contented sighs; 45- Bhutan's continent; 47- Non-dairy milk; 49- Places of contest; 52- Hackneyed; 54- Characteristic; 55- C.S.A. soldiers; 56- Harrow rival; 57- Mystique; 59- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 60- Blackthorn fruit; 61- Super; 62- Not as much; 64- Go, team!



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



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- [Macau] Lakeview Tower 3 2 2  
 1,344 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,000,000 (ref: 19126001)
- [Taipa] 2 connected unit 4 2 2  
 1,404 ft<sup>2</sup> \$8,680,000 (ref: 19096006)
- [Taipa] Nova City 3 2 2  
 1,515 ft<sup>2</sup> \$11,750,000 (ref: 19106001)

**FOR RENT**

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

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

## EXPERTS SAY VINCENT VAN GOGH SELF-PORTRAIT IS GENUINE

**A**FTER years of doubts about its authenticity, experts in Amsterdam have confirmed that a Vincent van Gogh self-portrait was indeed painted by the Dutch master as he recovered in a French asylum from a mental breakdown.

Van Gogh Museum researcher Louisa van Tilborgh dispelled the doubts Monday, saying the oil-on-canvas painting of the anguished-looking painter was completed in the late summer of 1889 while Van Gogh was at the Saint-Remy asylum in southern France.

Questions about the painting rose in the 1970s. The use of a palette knife to flatten brush strokes on Van Gogh's face and what were then considered to be unusual colors in the painting led to speculation about the authenticity of the work, which was bought as a genuine Van Gogh in 1910 by Norway's National Museum.

In an attempt to put those doubts to rest, the museum asked the Van Gogh Museum to analyze the painting in 2014.

"It feels really reassuring to know that it's genuine," said Mai Britt Guleng of the Norwegian museum.

Van Tilborgh said the use of an unprimed canvas and a muddy green color were, in fact, typical of Van Gogh's time in Saint-Remy in 1889.

What sets the work apart is Van Gogh's use of a palette knife.

"So he has painted it and during

the process he suddenly decides that it has to become flat," Van Tilborgh said. "We tend to think that it has to do with the fact that it's made during a period of psychosis."

Van Tilborgh said Van Gogh used painting as both a way of portraying his mental breakdown and of helping him to recover.

"He wanted to say in this picture that he was an ill person and so it's a kind of therapeutic work we tend to think," he said. "He was a Protestant and as a Protestant you have to accept the facts of life — if you suffer, you have to face the suffering."

Norway's most famous artistic son, painter Edvard Munch, whose iconic work, "The Scream," also is a vivid expression of mental anguish, was fascinated by the Van Gogh painting.

"He thought it was one of the best of the collection of the national gallery but he also found it scary, because of the gaze from the self-portrait staring back at him," Guleng said.

The painting will remain on display at the Van Gogh Museum in Amsterdam before returning to Oslo in 2021, when the National Museum, currently closed for renovation, reopens in a new building.

"When we delivered the painting in '14 they warned us and said 'You might not like the results and it might be that we will never find out.'" Guleng said. "So we were very happy when we got the news."

AP PHOTO



AD

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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

# Setién rekindles Barcelona's passing style in first game

JOSEPH WILSON, BARCELONA

**C**OACH Quique Setién only needed one match to leave his mark on Barcelona.

Barcelona set season highs for ball possession and passes in a 1-0 win over Granada on Sunday, Setién's first match since replacing Ernesto Valverde six days earlier.

The defending champion's level of 82% ball possession came close to reaching the all-time Spanish league record of 84% established by Pep Guardiola's Barcelona in 2011, according to the club. The team's 1,005 attempted passes smashed its previous season high of 788 passes against Real Betis.

One thing, however, remained the same after the coaching switch: Barcelona turned to Lionel Messi to find the winning goal. The club's all-time leading scorer scored in the 76th minute after Granada had lost a defender for picking up a second yellow card for fouling Messi.

"You feel much better having Messi because he has been deciding these types of matches for more than a decade," Setién said.

Setién, a former Atlético Madrid player and coach of several Spanish clubs, is a declared admirer of Barcelona's passing style established by late Johan Cruyff.

The 61-year-old Spaniard divided fans at his previous two jobs with Las Palmas and Real Betis. He started well at both with supporters enjoying his insistence on imitating Barcelona's style. But many fans then grew tired of seeing his teams dominate the



Lionel Messi (left) and teammate Ansu Fati

ball while scoring few goals and proving brittle on defense.

Now with Messi and his talented teammates under his command, Setién's has passed the first test at Camp Nou. His new side only conceded one shot on goal that, fortunately for Setién, hit the post minutes before Messi decided the game.

Setién did not touch Barcelona's 4-3-3 formation or make any big changes in his first starting 11 compared to Valverde. Ansu Fati, the teenager who was discovered by Valverde, started for the injured Luis Suárez. Arturo Vidal, a key player for Valverde, took the place of the suspended Frenkie de Jong. Despite his reputation of not being a great passer, Vidal set

up Messi's goal with back-heel pass.

Setién insisted on the importance of his players pressing quickly to recover the ball after losing it. They responded and worked several incredibly long possessions, especially in the first half, that ended in attractive chances in the box.

"The fact that we made so many passes? The only thing I need is to have control," he said. "We we had talked about being brave and going forward to recover the ball in their territory and that helped us to created danger after recovering the ball."

Setién's second-half substitution of Riqui Puig for Ivan Rakitic definitely bore his seal.

The 20-year-old Puig had earned his debut in 2018 from Valverde, but at the start of this season Valverde sent him back to the reserve team. Setién's first move was to call Puig back up to train with the first squad.

Puig proved key to the victory when he stole the ball near Granada's area. That led to the attack finished by Messi.

"(Puig) was very good," Setién said. "He showed patience and he read the match well."

While Barcelona and Real Madrid won, most of their potential challengers lost ground just past the midpoint of the season.

Fourth-place Sevilla fell 2-1 at Madrid; sixth-place Real So-

ciudad lost 3-0 at Real Betis; Valencia fell into seventh place after being shocked 4-1 at lowly Mallorca this round.

Atlético Madrid, which finished the past two seasons as runners-up to champion Barcelona, had one of its poorest performances of the campaign in a 2-0 loss at Eibar. The defeat came following a loss in the Spanish Super Cup final in a penalty shootout to Madrid. Before the pair of losses, it had won three in a row in the league and had beaten Barcelona in the Super Cup semifinals—Valverde's last match.

The defeat at Eibar left it eight points adrift in third place behind Barcelona and Madrid. Barcelona leads Madrid on goal difference.

Last-place Espanyol's chances of staying in the topflight have been revived by a new coach and a new striker.

Espanyol has taken four points from the two league matches manager with Abelardo Fernández in charge. It drew with Barcelona 2-2 two weeks ago and won 2-1 at Villarreal on Sunday for its first win since Oct. 27.

Shopping for a scorer in the winter transfer market, Espanyol reportedly paid Benfica a club-record 20 million euros (\$22 million) for Raúl de Tomás, who had joined Benfica during the summer.

De Tomás has made an immediate impact, scoring in his debut against a third-tier team in the Copa del Rey before taking the winner at Villarreal.

"We have been working on boosting our morale for the past two weeks, on recovering our self-confidence," Abelardo said. "My players hadn't forgotten how to play, as they showed (Sunday). You have to live the present instead of thinking about what can happen in two or three weeks. You have to play each match like a final." AP

## Super Bowl a tossup at legal sports books

**E**VEN the bookies are having a problem figuring out a favorite in the Super Bowl.

Odds opened at pick 'em Sunday at many Las Vegas sports books, though the Kansas City Chiefs quickly moved to 1-point favorites over the San Francisco 49ers. Early bettors favored the Chiefs in a game that will almost surely set new legal betting records.

The combination of an attractive matchup, close odds and the spread of legalized sports betting means hundreds of millions of dollars will exchange hands

over the next two weeks.

Bettors at the Westgate Las Vegas Superbook got an early start after they were offered the pick 'em odds at halftime of the NFC championship game. Oddsmaker Jay Kornegay said about 80 percent of the early money was on the Chiefs and the line moved to Chiefs minus-1.

The over/under total started at 51 1/2 and was at 53 after a bettor put \$110,000 on the over.

Odds and point spreads can fluctuate up until the kickoff Feb. 2 in Miami, largely because of heavy bets on

one side or the other.

At the new Circa sports books, the game was pick 'em with a 52 total to open. Sports book director Matthew Metcalf tweeted that bettors could bet up to \$100,000 a side on Sunday with limits of \$500,000 a side beginning Tuesday morning.

Most books limit bets early to see if the point spread moves while being tested by so-called sharps.

Legal betting in Nevada's 200 sports books was down last year at \$145.9 million after setting a record the year before with \$158.6 million

in bets. A big percentage of Super Bowl betting is in so-called prop bets, which have become increasingly popular as they multiplied in recent years.

Books will begin releasing hundreds of different prop bets during the week, from who will win the opening coin flip to how many penalties each team will have.

Kornegay said he expects a new record to be set in Nevada on the game, largely driven by a good economy. Bets are now legal in 13 other states, too, though not in the home states of either team or in Florida. AP



San Francisco 49ers running back Raheem Mostert



**OPINION**

**Our Desk**

Julie Zhu



**MUSEUMS**

If I were a Macau resident, thinking about the good for my hometown, Macau, I would have so much to worry about this city's "sustainability" because of the protection it has been offering to its millennial generation.

Today's topic is Macau museums. I want to start with some questions. Are Macau's museums good? Are Macau's museums better than the ones in other developed areas, such as the U.K., France, the U.S., or even Portugal? How much are Macau museums charging to its visitors? How do they categorize different groups of visitors in order for some people to be given priority or better deals when entering a Macau Museum, in particular local and non-local residents, for example, cheaper admission fees?

I would like to do a 550-word short critical essay on the last question by using the examples of the Macao Museum, the MET from the U.S., the British Museum from the U.K., and the Museu Nacional De Arte Antiga from Portugal.

Macau Museum, Macau. Admissions are as follow: adults MOP15; students card holders MOP8; children aged 12 years old or under and seniors aged 65 years old or above are entitled to free admission; free admission for Macau residents, schools and non-profit associations; commercial institutions pay MOP10 per person; travel agencies pay MOP10 per person. Finally, admission is free for everybody on Tuesdays and on the 15th of every month, and for holders of a tourist guide card issued by the Macau government.

The British Museum, U.K. Admission is free and advance booking is only required for groups of 10 or more. It charges for some exhibitions, events and tours.

The Met Museum, U.S. New York State residents and NY, NJ, and CT students pay for the tickets up to whatever amount each person decides. General admission tickets are 25 U.S. dollars for adults, 17 U.S. dollars for seniors, and 12 U.S. dollars for students. Tickets are free for Members, Patrons, and children under 12.

Museu Nacional De Arte Antiga, Portugal. Free entry on Sundays and holidays until 2 p.m. for all Portuguese citizens and foreign residents in Portugal. Free for children aged 12 or under, unemployed visitors residing in the European Union, and disabled visitors with one companion. Free for researchers, conservators, restorers, museum and/or heritage workers on professional service. Free for young people, residents in Portugal, upon presentation of an identity document. Free for journalists on professional duty, with prior notice. Free for teachers and students from any level of education, including universities (in study visits, booked in advance by the school). Free for accredited groups from Portuguese Charity Institutions, Municipal Social Services or other institutions of public interest, with prior authorization by the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage (DGPC). Free for Groups of Friends of museums, monuments, palaces, castles and archaeological sites. Free for workers of DGPC and three companions. Free for volunteers working at the DGPC and 1 companion. Free for tourism workers (RNAAT).

I cannot and will not draw a conclusion on how these museums categorize the admission fees. But I assume it is unquestionably easy to tell which paragraph is longer among the above four.

In the beginning, I indicated that I am not a Macau resident. By now, these abovementioned observations are likely being deciphered as a stroke of jealousy, perhaps hatred, leading to the assumption that the writer is a bitter mainlander who is unhappy for she is not a Macau resident and should therefore return to mainland China if, in her opinion, Macau is so bad.

A Bangladesh court sentenced five former police officials to death yesterday for opening fire on a motorcade of then opposition leader Sheikh Hasina 31 years ago, killing 24 of her supporters during an anti-government rally.

Judge Mohammed Ismail Hossain in southeastern Bangladesh's Chittagong city announced the verdict with four defendants present, said prosecution lawyer Shibu Prakash Biswas. One defendant has fled, he said.

Hasina is now prime minister of the South Asian nation. On Jan. 24, 1988, police started shooting as Hasina's motorcade surrounded by her supporters was approaching the rally against then military

dictator H.M. Ershad. He ruled the country for nearly nine years until 1990, when he was overthrown in an uprising.

The prosecution said the target was to kill Hasina, but her supporters formed "a human shield," surrounding her when the shooting started.

After the killings took place, the bodies were taken to a local crematorium and cremated regardless of religious identities, without giving their families any chance to see them.

Bangladesh has gone through numerous political upheavals since its independence from Pakistan in 1971, involving killings, military coups and counter-coups.

AP PHOTO



Google CEO Sundar Pichai

**GOOGLE CEO CALLS FOR REGULATION OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE**

KELVIN CHAN, LONDON

GOOGLE'S chief executive called yesterday for a balanced approach to regulating artificial intelligence, telling a European audience that the technology brings benefits but also "negative consequences."

Sundar Pichai's comments come as lawmakers and governments seriously consider putting limits on how artificial intelligence is used.

"There is no question in my mind that artificial intelligence needs to be regulated. The question is how best to approach this," Pichai said, according to a transcript of his speech at a Brussels-based think tank.

He noted that there's an important role for governments to play and that as the European Union and the U.S. start drawing up their own approaches to regulation, "international alignment" of any eventual rules will be critical. He did not provide specific proposals.

Pichai spoke on the same day he was scheduled to meet the EU's powerful competition regulator, Margrethe Vestager. She was also due to meet Microsoft President

Brad Smith separately yesterday.

Vestager has in previous years hit the Silicon Valley giant with multibillion-dollar fines for allegedly abusing its market dominance to choke off competition. After being reappointed for a second term last autumn with expanded powers over digital technology policies, Vestager has now set her sights on artificial intelligence, and is drawing up rules on its ethical use.

**"Sensible regulation must also take a proportionate approach, balancing potential harms with social opportunities."**

SUNDAR PICHAJ  
GOOGLE CEO

Pichai's comments suggest the company may be hoping to head off a broad-based crackdown by the EU on the technology. Vestager and the EU have been the among the more aggressive regulators of big tech firms, an approach U.S. authorities have picked up with investigations into the dominance of companies like Google, Facebook and Amazon.

"Sensible regulation must also take a propor-

tionate approach, balancing potential harms with social opportunities," he said, adding that it could incorporate existing standards like Europe's tough General Data Protection Regulation rather than starting from scratch.

While it promises big benefits, he raised concerns about potential downsides of artificial intelligence, citing as one example its role in facial recognition technology, which can be used to find missing people but also for "nefarious reasons" which he didn't specify.

In 2018, Google pledged not to use AI in applications related to weapons, surveillance that violates international norms, or that works in ways that go against human rights.

Pichai was also due on Monday to meet Frans Timmermans, the EU commissioner overseeing the European Green Deal, the bloc's plan to fight climate change by making the continent carbon neutral by 2050, including through technology. He's then scheduled to head to the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, this week. AP

AP PHOTO



Ukraine has asked the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe to expand its monitoring mission in the country. Foreign Minister Vadym Prystaiko [pictured] said yesterday after a meeting with the organization's chairman. The OSCE's special monitoring mission has been present in Ukraine since 2014, when fighting between Ukrainians and Russia-backed separatists broke out in the country's eastern regions after Russia's annexation of Crimea.

Germany A German-Afghan man who worked for years as an interpreter and adviser for the German military went on trial yesterday on charges of spying for Iranian intelligence. The 51-year-old man, who has been identified only as Abdul S. in line with German privacy rules, is charged with "a particularly serious case" of treason and with breaching official secrecy laws in 18 cases.

France President Emmanuel Macron is hosting 180 international business leaders at the Palace of Versailles in a bid to promote France's economic attractiveness despite over six weeks of crippling strikes over his government's planned pension changes. Top executives from Google, Netflix, Coca-Cola, Toyota, Samsung and General Electric were among those attending the annual event yesterday.

AP PHOTO



UK British Prime Minister Boris Johnson and Prince Harry touted the UK as an ideal business partner for Africa yesterday as their country prepares for post-Brexit dealings with the world. But Britain faces tough challenges as it seeks to assert itself on a continent with several of the world's fastest-growing economies and whose youthful 1.2 billion population is set to double by 2050.