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A large crowd of people shop during a Black Friday sales event at Macy's flagship store in New York City



Inside C2

# Southern DAILY

Make Today Different

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## Top U.S. and Mexican diplomats to meet on border issues next week



A migrant family, part of a caravan of thousands traveling from Central America to the United States, run away from tear gas in front of the border wall between the U.S. and Mexico in Tijuana, Mexico, November 25, 2018. REUTERS/Kim Kyung-Hoon



Migrants, part of a caravan of thousands from Central America trying to reach the United States, run towards the U.S. border in Tijuana

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo will meet with the incoming foreign minister of Mexico, Marcelo Ebrard, on Sunday as the two nations work toward a deal to keep asylum seekers in Mexico while their claims are considered, top White House officials said on Tuesday.

"They will have a full conversation about all the issues in connection with the border," White House national security adviser John Bolton told reporters at the White House about the planned meeting between Pompeo and Ebrard.

That conversation will be followed up with talks on Monday between Ebrard and other Trump administration officials, including the U.S. homeland security chief, aimed at finalizing an agreement, White House spokeswoman Sarah Sanders said.

"Those conversations continue," she said when asked how far

talks between the two nations had advanced. "We won't have a final decision until the new government actually takes over."



Mexican president-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador takes office on Saturday.

"We expect the new foreign minister from Mexico to meet and sit down with White House administration officials, and the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen, and continue and try to finalize those conversations," Sanders said.

Reporting by Roberta Rampton; Writing by Tim Ahmann, Editing by Rosalba O'Brien and Phil Berlowitz

A view shows the scene of a vehicle accident in the Manhattan borough of New York City, New York, U.S., November 26, 2018. REUTERS/Jeenah Moon (Reuters) - A car running in reverse struck seven pedestrians in New York City on Monday and one person died in the apparent accident, officials said.

The 70-year-old driver may have mistaken the gas pedal for the brake as he was attempting to reverse into a parking spot, said New York Police Department Fifth Precinct Executive Officer Michael Gulinello.

Gulinello cautioned that details about the cause of the incident were still preliminary.

The driver struck several people on a sidewalk around a

food stand, he said.

One person died and six others were injured, including two who were hospitalized in critical condition and two who were in severe condition, officials said.

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Opening on Thanksgiving hurts retailers more than it helps

NEW YORK (Reuters) - As store sales fall and purchases shift online over the Thanksgiving weekend, most U.S. retailers have boosted their web offerings but many still overlook the sales impact from opening their doors on Thursday evening.

The National Retail Federation, which counts large retailers like Walmart Inc and Target Corp among its members, said fewer Americans shopped during the five-day period this year and the average spending also declined during the same period.

The number fell to 165 million shoppers from 174 million and the average shopper spent \$313.29 on gifts and other holiday items, compared to \$335.47 last year.

shopping but it still expects the season to end strong as more Americans start shopping in coming weeks. Part of the challenge for retailers is figuring out whether Thanksgiving generates more overall sales, or just takes shoppers, and therefore sales, away from Friday and rest of the weekend.

That is part of a broader multi-year scramble to figure out how to compete in an increasingly complicated holiday shopping season, which starts earlier every year, and not Bob Phibbs, chief executive of New York City based consultancy Retail Doctor, said many retailers have realized that it may not be worth it.

According to data gathered by retail website BestBlackFriday.com, at least 77 retailers kept their doors shut on Thanksgiving this year, up from 75 last year. The ones that waited until Black Friday still did record business without overstocking, running utilities and paying workers' overtime, consultants said.



Inc. The companies gave different reasons for their decision and most appeared socially responsible by saying employees should be able to spend time with family.

GM cutting 14,000 North American jobs Burt Flickinger, managing director of Strategic Resource Group said most of the others who were open on Thursday incurred higher costs and didn't sell any more merchandise than they would from Black Friday to Sunday, he said.

There were a few notable outliers. Macy's and JC Penney surprisingly benefited from staying open on Thanksgiving this year. The reason is the demise of rival Sears Holdings Corp, which filed for bankruptcy this year, analysts and consultants said.

"Normally it'd be an expense, but this year for Macy's and Penney, it was an investment that profitably increased sales and profitably increased market share," Flickinger said. Their costs of opening overnight was about 20 percent of sales for those hours that they were open.

Advertisement for the 2018 Houston Travel Shopping Guide. It features a collage of images including a travel guide cover, a map, and various Houston landmarks. The text includes '2018 休斯頓旅遊購物指南 HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE VOLUME 5' and '免費取閱 Take One Free'. It also lists several Houston locations where the guide is available, such as Katy, Kirby, Montrose, Pearland, and River Oaks. A large red banner at the bottom says '已經' (Already).

2018 休斯頓旅遊購物指南

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HOUSTON TRAVEL SHOPPING GUIDE

# Editor's Choice



FILE PHOTO: The GM logo is seen at the General Motors Warren Transmission Operations Plant in Warren, Michigan



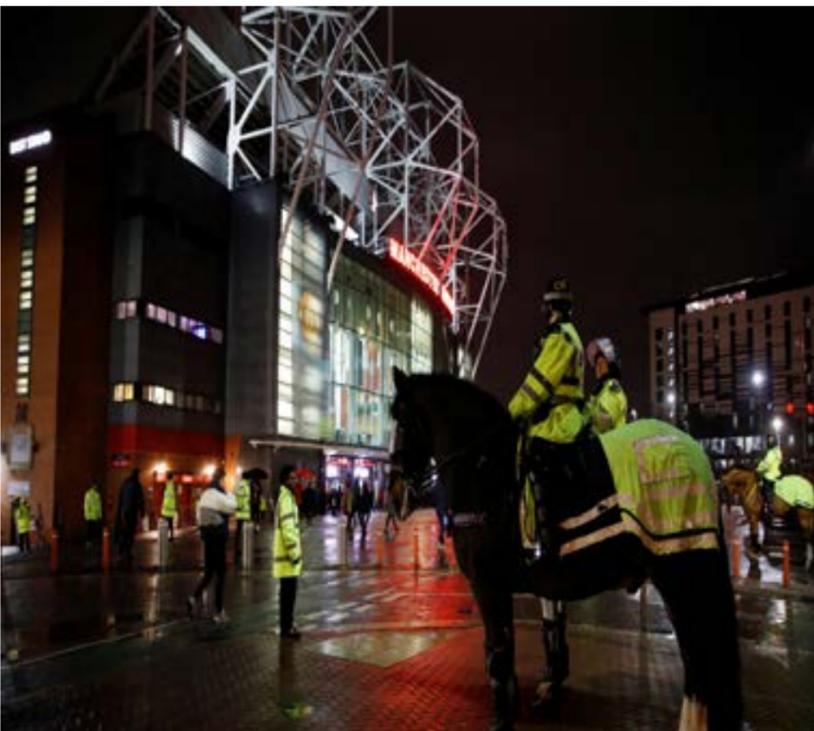
FILE PHOTO: A SpongeBob SquarePants balloon is carried down 6th Avenue during the 92nd Macy's Thanksgiving Day Parade in New York City



Sarah Sanders holds a press briefing at the White House in Washington



Director Susanne Bier and cast member Sandra Bullock arrive for the European premiere of the movie "Bird Box" at Zoo Palast cinema in Berlin, Germany, November 27, 2018. REUTERS/Fabrizio Bensch



Champions League - Group Stage - Group H - Manchester United v BSC Young Boys



FILE PHOTO: Stephen Hillenburg, creator of the popular animated series Spongebob Squarepants is interviewed by Reuters in Singapore



Champions League - Group Stage - Group E - AEK Athens v Ajax Amsterdam



First lady Melania Trump fills care packages for service members at the American Red Cross headquarters in Washington

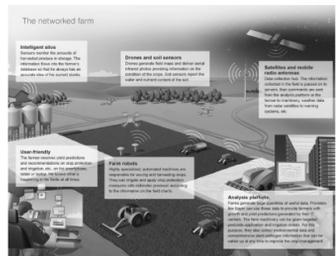
LAPU-LAPU CITY, Cebu — Dr. Gay Jane Perez was a postdoctoral fellow at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) in the United States when she realized how much data can be culled from satellite images.

“I was always looking at the Philippines through satellite images [and] saw that there really is a relationship between temperature and vegetation,” the 37-year-old scientist recalled. “I was at NASA in 2010, while we were having El Niño in the country.”

Such realization helped Perez bag this year’s Asean-US Science Prize for Women, the first Filipino to win it. Perez bested seven other female scientists from Southeast Asia and received a \$20,000 cash prize from the US government and its private partner, Underwriters Laboratories, a global safety science company.

Early-career boost

The competition supports promising early-career scientists across the region and encourages collaboration between member states and the United States in creating sustainable solutions to address development changes.



This year, the competition focused on precision agriculture and sought to award those working at the intersection of agriculture, digital tools, technology and data in support of small farmers and regional agriculture.

As Southeast Asia’s population continues to grow, so does the pressure on the region’s food system. Experts believe that by 2050, about 40 percent more food will be needed to feed the region. Other challenges like resource scarcity and extreme weather phenomena add to

Research Shows How Data Gathered By Satellite Can Help Farmers
Award-Winning Pinay Scientist Gives Farmers Crucial Tool: Satellite Data

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



Dr. Gay Jane Perez (right) talks about her research, which won this year’s Asean-US Science Prize for Women. Her impressive work, says Ryan Washburn (left), helps farmers by predicting drought and identifying the best areas for planting, thanks to data gathered by satellite.

Such data helps forecast drought so that farmers could be warned about it.

Dr. Perez, an associate professor from the Institute of Environmental Science and Meteorology at the University of the Philippines (UP) in Diliman, Quezon City, started her research in 2013 and has finished its first phase.

The results have been turned over to the state weather bureau, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (Pagasa), as well as the Bureau of Soils and Water Management (BSWM) of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

Dubbed as Drought and Crop Assessment and Forecasting (DCAF), the project initially showed a 73-percent accuracy in identifying drought occurrences in pilot areas, Perez said.

Once approved by Pagasa and the DA-BSWM, the technology can be integrated in these agencies’ advisory systems to help farmers across the country, she added.

Crop-specific

The project’s second phase, now ongoing, will be a collaboration with crop scientists and agriculture engineers aimed at developing a more crop-specific approach in coming up with advisories that can be disseminated to farmers.

From 60 entries, eight scientists from the Philippines, Malaysia, Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Burma, Singapore and Vietnam were shortlisted, according to Ryan Washburn, head of the US delegation to the Asean Committee on Science and Technology.

en to pursue scientific research,” Dr. Perez said in her three-minute video introduction.



Dr. Gay Jane Perez (center), winner of the 2018 Asean-US Science Prize for Women takes center stage at the winner’s ceremony. Her work details how satellite images can help forecast droughts in farms.

NASA Fellow

After her years at UP, Perez became a postdoctoral fellow at NASA’s Goddard Space Flight Center Hydrospheric and Biospheric Sciences Laboratory in the United States where she learned more about the immense data gathered by satellite images.

When she got back to the Philippines, Perez started working on drought forecasting through the DCAF project, which involves viewing different farm areas all over the country through satellite images enhanced by our very own Diwata 1 and 2 satellites.

The technology can help scientists view areas up to the barangay level, but Perez said they hoped to improve their data’s resolution to reach farm levels, thanks to the prize money she received.

Perez and other scientists are also working with state universities in Ilocos Norte, Nueva Ecija, Isabela, Bicol, Cebu, Iloilo and Bukidnon to help them improve their data and validate their research results in the field. (Courtesy https://newsinfo.inquirer.net)

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Advertisement for General Chennault Flying Tiger Academy. Promotes aviation career opportunities with text: '航空業前景看好為最具潛力的黃金職業之一'. Includes contact information for Lone Star College and the academy.

OVERVIEW

2017 had the highest levels of carbon emitted globally. Current projections would lead to 3.2 degrees C of warming. Countries goals are not ambitious enough to limit warming to 2 degrees C.

New Climate Report Warns Of Increasing Severe Risks To U.S.

Compiled And Edited By John T. Robbins, Southern Daily Editor



An American flag hangs at a burned out mobile home park in Paradise, California on Nov. 18. (Photo:AFP/Getty Images)

The Trump administration released a major new climate science report on Black Friday, warning of "hundreds of billions of dollars" in annual losses to some economic sectors without scaled up actions to adapt to current changes and slash emissions to avoid future warming.

Why it matters: The report by scientists from 13 federal agencies constitutes the second volume of the Fourth National Climate Assessment, which is a congressionally mandated report. Its conclusion: Lives and property are already at risk in the U.S. due to climate change.

The release date, on the Friday after Thanksgiving, which is traditionally the busiest shopping day of the year, is likely to bury the news coverage of its findings.

On a call with reporters this afternoon, David Reidmiller, the director of the assessment, said the timing was determined in order to have the report come out in advance of the next round of U.N. climate talks beginning in Poland on Dec. 2 as well as a large scientific meeting in Washington in mid-December.

"We wanted to get this out sufficiently in advance of those meetings so that folks have a chance to review it," Reidmiller said.

Monica Allen, a spokesperson for NOAA, said the decision to release the report on Black Friday was "made in the last week or so."

The details: The contents of the new report, which consists of 29 chapters that were extensively peer reviewed, are bleak. The report points out that the era of climate consequences for the U.S. is well underway, and only actions taken in the next few years can be effective in addressing the scope and severity of the problem.

The authors warn that neither climate adaptation or the pace of emissions cuts are keeping up with the severity and swiftness of the challenge.

The report release comes as the death toll from historic California wildfires continue to rise, and it finds that climate change is expected to bring more frequent wildfires and poor air quality.

The report finds that under a worst-case climate change scenario, in which emissions

continue to climb at current rates, extreme heat would cause labor-related losses of an estimated \$155 billion per year by 2090. At the same time, coastal property damage in the U.S. from sea level rise and storm surge flooding could reach nearly \$120 billion per year.



The backstory: The new report builds off of findings from the first volume of the National Climate Assessment, which was released by the Trump administration in November 2017.

The second volume contains more information specific to vital U.S. economic sectors, regions and national interests. It includes a region-by-region breakdown of how global warming is altering life and economic productivity, as well as what opportunities there are to adapt to it.

The first report was a sweeping overview of climate science findings, which decisively concluded that there is no credible explanation for modern-day global warming other than the burning of fossil fuels for energy.

The report was written and published un-

der the auspices of the U.S. Global Change Research Program, which brings together the 13 federal agencies that work on climate change issues, from the Energy Department to NOAA.

"This report dives into details concerning the US in a way that has not been done before," Michael Wehner, a climate researcher at Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory, told Axios.

Between the lines: The Trump administration has allowed the National Climate Assessment process to move forward without interference, while at the same time expressing doubt about the causes and extent of the threat of human-caused climate change when it comes to forming its energy policies. In an interview with in November with "Axios on HBO," President Trump was presented with the first volume of the assessment, and he dismissed it. (Courtesy https://www.axios.com/)



Related

If there is one consistent message about climate change that has been made abundantly clear in a flurry of recent major assessments on the topic, it is that our planet's climate is already changing, and now is the time to act to avoid devastating impacts.

According to a United Nations report released on Tuesday, however, projected emis-

sions of carbon dioxide, the primary greenhouse gas, from nations around the world fall woefully short of the 2 degree Celsius goal set in the Paris Climate Agreement in 2015.



In fact, the report states that the current emission targets for all countries would result in an average global temperature rise of 3.2 degrees Celsius (5.8 degrees Fahrenheit) by 2100.

A 3.2 degree warmer world by the end of this century would bring about many of the dire consequences for human health, global economies and sea level rise that are projected from the "higher-emission" scenarios (also known as worst-case scenarios).

The 2018 Emissions Gap Report is the flagship annual report from the UN Environment Program and acts as a report card on how countries are doing on their individual contributions to the Paris Climate Agreement; it also helps determine the gap between those expected contributions and what will be necessary to stay within the range of 1.5 to 2 degrees Celsius over pre-industrial temperatures (before burning fossil fuels for industrial needs led to major increases in greenhouse gasses in the atmosphere).

This year's report shows the largest gap ever, resulting from increasing emissions and slow action to mitigate.

The foreboding message in the report aligns with the recent findings in the "Special Report on 1.5 Degrees" issued last month by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), that the world is failing to act fast enough to avoid the dire future climate and weather and time is quickly running out.

According to Tuesday's report, global emissions of CO2 in 2017 were 53.5 gigatons (a gigaton is 1 billion tons), the most ever released into the atmosphere, representing an increase of more than 1% over 2016 emissions.

Global emissions need to be 25% lower than this figure by 2030 in order to limit warming

to 2 degrees Celsius and 55% lower in order to limit to 1.5 degrees, the report claims.

The increase in 2017 follows relatively stable global emissions from 2014 through 2016, a period that allowed for optimism that global greenhouse gas emissions may be peaking. But Tuesday's report shatters that optimism. "Global peaking of emissions by 2020 is crucial for achieving the temperature targets of the Paris Agreement," the report states, "but the scale and pace of current action remains insufficient."

Global emissions are not expected to peak by 2030, let alone 2020. In fact, only those of 57 countries (representing 60% of global emissions) are projected to peak by 2030.

The authors of the report conclude that nations must be more ambitious in their projected emission cuts, increasing them by three times in order to meet the 2 degrees goal and by five times to meet the 1.5 degrees goal by 2030.

Knowing that level of action is extremely unlikely, the 2018 Emissions Gap Report points to the growing potential of "non-state actors" to help reach global emissions goals.



These include smaller governing bodies such as city, state and regional governments, as well as

private entities such as companies, investors and civil organizations.

In addition to simply reducing their own carbon emissions, these entities "build confidence in governments concerning climate policy and push for more ambitious national goals," according to the report.

Another potential gap-filling tool the report highlights is fiscal policy reform, including fossil fuel taxes and subsidies to low-emission alternatives, which can create strong incentives for low-carbon investments and reduce emissions.

The report will be a key talking point as key environmental figures convene in Poland next week as part of COP24, where the stated goal is to adopt a plan to execute the Paris Agreement, affecting climate and energy policy for the coming years.

The United States is the only country not in the Paris Climate Agreement after President Trump pulled the country out of the pact in 2017, claiming it placed "draconian" financial burdens on the American people. (Courtesy cnn.com)

Advertisement for 雲天燒腊麵食家 (Yun Tian BBQ Noodle House). Features a menu with items like 京都肉排, 葱油鯧魚, and 特價午餐 \$5.75. Includes address: 9380 Bellaire Blvd, Houston, TX 77036.

Advertisement for 中美酒樓 (Chinese American Restaurant). Features a menu with items like 八人份, 十人份, and 四人份. Includes phone number: 281-498-1280 and address: 11317 Bissonnet, Houston, TX 77099.

Advertisement for Adolphus Rice. Features a large image of a rice bag and text: "Adolphus Rice US #1 Quality Select Variety Arroz de Grano Largo LONG GRAIN Enriched RICE". Includes contact info for American Rice, Inc.