



KIM HAN SOL REPORTEDLY IN KUALA LUMPUR

The son of Kim Jong Nam was reportedly traveling from Macau to Malaysia yesterday evening

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NEW TRAVEL ALERT SYSTEM

The region's new travel alert system was published yesterday and will take effect from March 7

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES Fourteen people, mostly college students on a camping trip, were killed yesterday when the brakes on their chartered bus apparently failed on a steep downhill road in Rizal province east of Manila and it smashed into an electric post and a tree. About 45 others were injured, many seriously. The dead included the driver and a professor.

PHILIPPINES Gunmen attacked a Vietnamese cargo ship off the Philippines' southern tip, killing a Vietnamese crewman and abducting six others including the vessel's captain, the ship's owner said.

AP PHOTO



HONG KONG Former chief executive Donald Tsang became HK's first leader to spend a night in custody, as he was remanded ahead of sentencing today. Tsang faces jail for misconduct in office. Donald Tsang, 72, "swapped his suit and trademark bow tie for a prison jumpsuit last night after a judge sent him to the maximum-security Lai Chi Kok Reception Centre," scmp.com reported. At around 9:25pm, he was taken to Queen Elizabeth Hospital's custodial ward, in chains, after complaining of feeling unwell.

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CASINO WARS

Asia competition could worsen VIP slump

P2-3 MDT REPORT

A SIGNBOARD FOR A CASINO RESORT IS SET AT ITS PLANNED SITE IN INCHEON, SOUTH KOREA



Trump marks his first month as US president with tweets, turmoil

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Philippines

Population: 102.6m
Annual visitors: 4.8m
Gaming market: \$1.22bn

The Philippines has a relatively developed gaming industry which has still managed to maintain double-digit growth rates in recent years. The country's capital, Manila, is home to around 20 casinos, including City of Dreams Manila, the sister of Macau's resort of the same name. Gaming analysts last year predicted that the market could grow at a compound annual growth rate of nearly 10 percent during the period of 2016 to 2020. However, President Rodrigo Duterte has signaled that he intends to stop online gambling in the country and revoke licenses granted to casino operators. Currently, the state-owned gaming company, PAGCOR, is the third-largest contributor to government revenue, reporting a net income of almost USD90 million last year.



Cambodia

Population: 15.9m
Annual visitors: 4.5m
Gaming market: approx. \$2bn

Cambodia's casino industry thrives on cross-border visitors from Vietnam and Thailand, a consequence of the under-developed gaming industries in these countries. Hanoi's gaming liberalization overtures therefore present a unique threat to Cambodian casinos and might see them develop a deeper dependency on Chinese tourists, as is the case in Macau. NagaCorp, which operates the NagaWorld integrated resort in Cambodia, currently holds a monopoly license for the Phnom Penh area until 2035. The company announced last year that it is planning the third phase of its resort expansion, which will focus on non-gaming attractions. Meanwhile, legislators are currently discussing a new bill for the gaming industry in a bid to draw more casino operators to the country.



Thailand

Population: 68.2m
Annual visitors: 24.8m
Gaming market: N/A

Gambling in Thailand is strictly prohibited by law, including activities that could be mistakenly misconstrued as gambling, which can incur financial penalties. Nevertheless, the activity remains very popular in the mostly conservative and Buddhist country, and illegal gambling is widespread in both urban and rural areas. One of Asia's biggest tourist hotspots, especially for intercontinental visitors, Thailand is regarded as one of the brightest potential gaming markets in the region. Union Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen has suggested that Thailand's new monarch could back legislation opening the country up to gaming investment. This idea was supported by a Thai academic who predicted that the legalization of casinos could boost tourism numbers by up to 50 percent.



GAMING | THREAT FROM THE EAST

Asian gaming rivals could

Daniel Beitler

MACAUI still stands unchallenged as the world's gaming leviathan. Even after a 26-month-long recession in the city's dominant industry that only ended in the second half of last year, no other single jurisdiction was capable of casting a shadow on Macau gaming. In 2016, the city of around 650,000 persons accounted, by some estimates, for about 19 percent of the world's land-based casino industry and more than 45 percent of that in the Asia-Pacific region.

But that may be set to change. Across East and Southeast Asia, a number of jurisdictions stand on the sidelines of gaming liberalization, and by 2025, Asia's gambling landscape could look very different.

Analysts are divided over how seriously Macau operators and the local government should take these threats. Up for grabs is Macau's billion-dollar VIP market and a share of the mass-market visitors to the city.

The consensus is that the frontrunners worth watching are Japan, Vietnam and the Philippines, though Australia, South Korea, Cambodia, Singapore and even Thailand may present added competition.

As Ben Lee, managing partner at IGamiX Management & Consulting, pointed out to the Times, although no single jurisdiction can yet compete with Macau, each can "chip away" at the MSAR market through their own specialization.

"Right now, there is nothing that rivals Macau in terms of capacity and the quality of our 'hardware' [infrastructure]," said Lee. "But other jurisdictions can create comparative advantage. By speciali-



zing, other places nearby can chip away at the Macau market... Vietnam in the south, Korea or Japan in the north."

Right now, there is nothing that rivals Macau in terms of capacity and the quality of our 'hardware'.

BEN LEE
IGAMIX MANAGING PARTNER

For Lee, Vietnam and Japan - both on the precipice of game-changing revisions to their gambling laws - are poised to become the biggest short- and long-term threats to Macau gaming respectively.

"Japan is the most dangerous [threat to Macau] if the gaming proposal goes through [...] partly due to its high quality of service.

It is the only country that could attract both premium mass and VIP [customers] away from Macau," Lee told the Times.

Meanwhile, Vietnam has a different proposition, he said. "It won't attract the upper echelons of VIP society [...as it] is a more down-to-earth experience, representing value for money. Vietnam might not draw [gamblers] from Guangdong, but it will from the other southern [Chinese] provinces, like Kunming."

Praveen Choudhary, managing director of Asia Gaming Research at Morgan Stanley, weighed in on the debate last month. Speaking in Macau, the analyst expressed the opinion that the MSAR's proximity and close relations with mainland China would shield its mass market visitors from competition abroad.

The view was ultimately shared by Union Gaming Group analyst Grant Govertsen who, speaking to the Times last night, said that no jurisdiction can hope to siphon off Macau's mass market in the near term. Although the VIP segment is another matter, being more vulnerable to

Vietnam

Population: 95.2m
Annual visitors: 7.9m
Gaming market: \$141m



Vietnam appears to be on the verge of a major revision to its tightly controlled gambling laws. Recent legislation has legalized sports betting for locals and later this year, Vietnamese residents will be able to bet in domestic casinos. The revisions follow concerns that Hanoi is missing out on as much as USD800 million per year in lost tax revenues due to Vietnamese gamblers crossing the border into Cambodia. At the MGS Entertainment Summit held in Macau last year, analyst Ben Lee said that Vietnam's proximity to China might give the country an edge over other competitors in the region. Another analyst estimated that Vietnam's market could soon be worth between USD3 and 6 billion.

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mean Macau VIP shakedown



overseas competition, it will be the MSAR government to feel the brunt more so than the casino operators.

“The biggest risk to Macau gaming lies within the VIP segment [...] because mass market visitors in Macau are unlikely to fly elsewhere for the sole purpose of gambling,” said Govertsen. “Currently, only about 10 percent of [operators’] profit comes from the VIP segment, but roughly half of the government’s revenue comes from VIP. In a way, the [MSAR] government has a lot more exposure” than the Macau concessionaires.

It remains to be seen whether places like Vietnam and Japan will target VIP, mass or multiple segments, and whether they will permit locals to enter casinos. Lee believes that no casino operators will want to limit the breadth of their appeal and so the decision will fall to national governments.

Even so, some analysts hold the opinion that casino operators tempted to enter Vietnam will not have the authorization nor the willingness to transform the country into a leading gaming jurisdiction.

On the other hand, Japan which boasts a potential untapped market worth USD40 billion, will be a big prize for international investors, marred only by the slow pace of Tokyo’s gaming reform and the anticipated small number of licenses to be awarded.

Las Vegas Sands could be poised to venture into both markets. The company’s Chairman and CEO, Sheldon

Adelson, has expressed on multiple occasions an interest in opening casinos in Vietnam and Japan, adding to its multi-billion-dollar portfolio in Macau, Singapore and the U.S.

Aside from Japan whose entrance has already justified considerable alarm and curiosity in the Asian gaming community, analysts Govertsen and Lee are divided on whether Vietnam or the Philippines presents a bigger threat to Macau in the near-term.

The biggest risk to Macau gaming lies within the VIP segment.

GRANT GOVERTSEN
UNION GAMING MANAGING DIRECTOR

Govertsen argues that incumbent operators in the Philippines have the ability to draw large numbers of Chinese visitors to the archipelago nation. Other reports suggest that double-digit growth in the Filipino gaming market may justify an investment in marketing programs and an expansion of existing infrastructure, complementing Govertsen’s evaluation.

The Macau-based analyst also says that the rapprochement between China and the Philippines, led by the personal overtures of Philippine Pre-

sident Rodrigo Duterte, may contribute to an increase in the number of Chinese visitors.

However, Lee is in disagreement. He says that “there is no attraction in China for Filipino culture,” pointing to three big concerns of Chinese visitors that will dictate their traveling preferences: the food, the language and the security.

Other gaming destinations, some of which once looked very promising, have the potential to once again swing into the spotlight or equally fade into obscurity.

South Korea was recently poised to become a major player in Asian gaming until some operators opted for more favorable conditions elsewhere. Singapore, whose two casino concessionaires opened to a stunning debut, now faces dwindling revenues as Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption campaign severs its stream of VIP visitors. Cambodia too, which hosts a significant gaming market relative to the size of the country’s economy, may now be jeopardized by Vietnam’s ascendance.

Meanwhile, further west and little-discussed, lies another potential long-term threat to Macau. In Thailand, gambling is strictly prohibited by law, however analysts are speculating that the country’s new monarch could change that in a bid to boost tourism; an industry that currently constitutes more than one-sixth of Thailand’s economy.

“Thailand could be the biggest competitor, in theory,” said Lee. “It is [one of] the hottest tourist destinations in Asia, with many Chinese tourists. This will not happen in the near future but cannot be completely ruled out.”

While the extent of the rivalry introduced by other Asian jurisdictions remains to be seen, it is probable that the gaming landscape in the east is set to look markedly different in the near future.

Sources: Casino gaming markets as of 2015, according to PWC report, “Global Gaming Outlook 2015”, where available. Other estimates used for Cambodia. Tourist arrivals (2014) according to data from the World Bank. Population statistics from the CIA’s World Factbook

Australia

Population: 22.9m
Annual visitors: 6.8m
Market value: \$3.7bn

According to some reports, over 80 percent of Australian adults engage in some form



of gambling, making it the highest proportion in the world. Casino operators publicly state that they target high-rollers, though the majority of their income continues to be derived from the local market. James Packer’s partial withdrawal from Macau last year in order to focus on a USD2 billion Sydney-based casino, may have been a sign of the billionaire’s eagerness to find a more stable footing. Australia’s relative stability and rule of law might also be an incentive for Chinese high-rollers looking further afield. While an ample local market with a propensity to gamble will suffice, the long-term ambition of Australian casinos will be to draw Chinese gamblers from the growing middle class.

Singapore

Population: 5.7m
Annual visitors: 11.9m
Gaming market: \$7.17bn

Singapore’s casinos have been just as hard-hit as Macau’s following Xi Jinping’s anti-corruption crackdown, with VIP



revenues falling as much as two-thirds between 2014 and 2016. The drop in incoming VIP traffic has led to the development of accommodation options for budget travelers and the rise of non-gaming entertainment at Singapore’s once-superstar integrated resorts. Despite their woes, the two casino operators were estimated to account for between 1.5 and 2 percent of Singapore’s economy last year. Given the initial public resistance to the city-state’s casinos – over fears that it would invite crime and gaming addiction – it is unlikely that new casino investments are on the horizon for the duopoly gaming sector.

South Korea

Population: 50.9m
Annual visitors: 14.2m
Market value: \$2.62bn

The South Korean gaming market may well be at a turning point. Though it has performed well in the past few years, with leading



operator Kangwon Land Inc. beating out resorts in Macau, Singapore and the Philippines, the strict rules which limit local gamblers act as a disincentive to investors. All but one casino in S. Korea are by law for foreigners only. Seoul’s earlier interest in developing an integrated resort paradise on Jeju island – with visa-free access for Chinese visitors – did not go unnoticed by international investors. However, restrictions over the participation of locals have led several resort operators, including Genting Singapore and Bloomberry Resorts, to abandon the site. Some of these operators are now betting on a more lucrative Japanese market.

Japan

Population: 126.7m
Annual visitors: 13.4m
Gaming market: \$784m



With casino legislation on Tokyo’s doorstep, international investors are eyeing an opportunity which is considered one of the most lucrative the world over. Although some forms of gambling do exist in Japan, notably arcade game Pachinko, on which the Japanese wagered more than USD200 billion in 2015, the country’s gaming market is still considered immature. A 2015 PWC report estimated the current market value at around USD784 million but analysts say that a gaming liberalization bill in Japan could see this swell to as much as USD40 billion. Some observers have predicted that Japan is unlikely to have its first integrated resort up and running in time for the Tokyo 2020 Olympic Games, but possibly as early as 2021. Las Vegas Sands and Melco Crown Entertainment have already signaled a willingness to invest billions of U.S. dollars into the opportunity.



Winter Games kick off

The 8th Asian Winter Games (AWG) officially kicked off on Sunday in Sapporo, Japan. Led by the president of the Sports Bureau, Pun Weng Kun, Team Macau comprises 29 participants. Today, local athletes will participate in the ice hockey competition. The 8th AWG is taking place from February 19 until 26. The games consist of a total of five big programs, representing 11 winter sports, including alpine skiing, ski jumping and curling. Prior to the tournament, Macau's ice hockey team beat Iran 7 - 1 in a friendly match.

Macau Forum with unusual attendance

On Sunday, TDM's debate show, Macau Forum saw a surge in its audience numbers, including a large number of gaming employees working in VIP rooms or members of the public relations staff, according to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou. The 50 seats were all occupied, with frequent visitors of the Macau Forum standing by the side this time. One VIP room employee said "health is very important, but a stable job [...] is more important."

EDUCATION

School of the Nations organizes 'Art of House' event

Lynzy Valles

THE School of the Nations (SON) held its annual arts event "The Art of House" last week, showcasing a variety of artwork and performances, along with art exhibitions of two local universities.

The event featured a range of artwork, music, dance and drama from students and community members.

Performances included a Chinese folk dance from the Association of Chinese National Culture and Arts, a Capoeira demonstration and Naxi Tribal Dances from Lijiang's Jinhong Middle School.

Artworks from University of Macau and University of Saint Joseph students were also showcased in the school's library.

SON Arts Administrator Mark Campbell told the Times that the school, with the aim of promoting the arts among the local community, also showcased eight paintings by their staff members and made them available for auction.

"The works of art from staff members of the school [were] do-



Student Linda Chen poses besides her creation

nated for the auction [and it will contribute] to the development of the arts within the school," said Campbell.

Campbell added that while the school has a strong academic focus, it emphasizes the need for its students to be aware of and appreciate art.

SON Director Vivek Nair echoed Campbell's sentiments, and remarked on the significance of "including arts in humanities."

"One of the things we see that is central in education is to move

away the focus from simply science and mathematics and very traditional field of learning to include arts in the humanities," he said.

While the school held "The Art of House" internally in previous years, Nair remarked this year that "there is a great value in exploring the expression in art from the wider community."

Linda Chen, an eleventh grade International Baccalaureate (IB) student whose artwork was exhibited, commended the school for giving her peers the opportunity to showcase their artworks, which she believed had helped increase their exposure.

"It showcases different art pieces with their [students'] own art styles," she said.

"One of my pieces [...] shows that art doesn't just come from imagination, it also comes from the inspiration of the things around you."

Along with the masterpiece she created, which she named "bi-faces," she also performed a piano recital.

"I always seek for new and di-

fferent experiences, especially others' artworks, to inspire ourselves to create new piece," Chen said.

Aaliyah Riofrio, a student who participated in a drama piece that tackles racism and sexism, said that the play aimed to portray how such issues are prevalent in Macau, particularly with Filipino groups in the region.

"I think Filipinos are treated differently, they're treated like the lower class just because [there is a large group] of house-helpers here," he said.

Chi Lo, a fellow drama student acting in the same play, added, "We want people to know the effect of injustice, racism and sexism. We want them to take action against them because we're all equal and we should act that way."

Meanwhile, Communication and Media students from the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) presented their short films and photography.

José Simões, coordinator for the Department of Communication and Media at USJ, believed that it is fundamental for high school students to be aware of art produced by university students.

He also said that art events would further enhance the skills and imagination of the students.

"Learning by doing is very important for them, because just theory doesn't work anymore," he said.

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Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

NORTH Korea's top envoy in Kuala Lumpur yesterday denounced Malaysia's investigation into the apparent killing of the exiled half brother of North Korea's ruler, calling it politically motivated and demanding a joint probe into the death.

The comments from Ambassador Kang Chol came amid rising tensions between North Korea and Malaysia over the death, with Malaysia recalling its ambassador to Pyongyang over what it called "baseless" allegations.

Kim Jong Nam, the estranged half brother of North Korean ruler Kim Jong Un, died last week after apparently being poisoned in a Kuala Lumpur airport. Security camera footage obtained by Japanese television appeared to show a careful and deliberate attack in which a woman comes up from behind him and holds something over his mouth.

Pyongyang demanded custody of Kim's body and strongly objected to an autopsy. The Malaysians still went ahead; an official with knowledge of the investigation said they conducted a second autopsy because the first was inconclusive, though police denied that. The official spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to the media.

Malaysian authorities say they were simply following procedures, but Kang questioned their motives.

"The investigation by the Malaysian police is not for the clarification of the cause of the death and search for the suspect, but it is out of the political aim," Ambassador Kang Chol told reporters yesterday. He referred to the dead man as "Kim Chol," the name on the passport found with Kim Jong Nam.

Police had "pinned the suspicion on us," Kang said, calling on Malaysia to work with North Korea on a joint investigation.

Malaysia Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters later Monday that he has "absolute confidence" that police and doctors have been "very objective" in their work.

Najib said Malaysia had no reason to "paint the North Koreans in a bad light" but added, "We expect them to understand that we apply the rule of law in Malaysia."

Kang previously said Malaysia may be "trying to conceal something." Yesterday, the Malaysian foreign ministry said it had recalled its ambassador to Pyongyang "for consultations" and had summoned Kang to a meeting, "to seek an explanation on the accusations he made."

The statement called Kang's



In this image made from Feb. 13, airport closed circuit television video, Kim Jong Nam gestures towards his face while talking to airport security

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

Pyongyang envoy blasts Malaysians, calls for joint probe

comments "baseless" and said it "takes very seriously any unfounded attempt to tarnish its reputation."

Police investigating the killing have so far arrested four people carrying identity documents from North Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia and Vietnam. Those arrested in-

We haven't met the next of kin. We are trying very hard to get the next of kin to come and to assist us in the investigation.

NOOR RASHID
DEPUTY NATIONAL POLICE CHIEF

clude two women who were allegedly seen approaching Kim on Feb. 13 as he stood at a ticketing kiosk at the budget terminal of the Kuala Lumpur airport.

Kim, in his mid-40s, died shortly

after the attack, en route to a hospital after suffering a seizure, Malaysian officials say.

Malaysia's deputy national police chief, Noor Rashid Ibrahim, said Sunday that Kim had told airport customer service workers that "two unidentified women had swabbed or had wiped his face with a liquid and that he felt dizzy."

Investigators are still looking for four North Korean men who arrived in Malaysia on different days beginning Jan. 31 and flew out the same day as the attack.

"I am not going to disclose where they are," Noor Rashid told a room packed with journalists. He said Interpol was helping with the investigation.

The four suspects, who range in age from their early 30s to late 50s, were traveling on regular — not diplomatic — passports, he said.

Indonesian officials said three of those men transited through Jakarta's Soekarno-Hatta International Airport after the apparent assassination, leaving on a 10:20 p.m. flight to Dubai. That was about 12 hours after the attack on Kim Jong Nam.

Dubai police and the Dubai government media office did not immediately respond to requests for comment. State-owned airline Emirates declined to comment, citing policies on passenger confidentiality.

Police also want to question three other people. Noor Rashid said one was North Korean, but that police had not yet identified the other two. It was not clear if they were suspects or simply wanted

for questioning.

Autopsy results on Kim Jong Nam could be released as early as tomorrow, said Health Minister S. Subramaniam.

Investigators want to speak to Kim Jong Nam's next of kin to formally identify the body. He is believed to have two sons and a daughter with two women living in Beijing and Macau.

"We haven't met the next of kin," Noor Rashid said. "We are trying very hard to get the next of kin to come and to assist us in the investigation."

Noor Rashid said charges against the four suspects in custody would be determined by prosecutors.

According to police, the Indonesian woman is a spa masseuse and the Malaysian man, a caterer, is believed to be her boyfriend. The Vietnamese woman works at an entertainment outlet and the North Korean man works in the information technology department of a Malaysian company.

The Indonesian woman has told

investigators that she was duped into thinking she was part of a comedy show prank.

The Malaysian foreign ministry said the government has kept the North Korean Embassy informed, telling them that because "the death occurred in Malaysian soil under mysterious circumstances, it is the responsibility of the Malaysian Government to conduct an investigation to identify the cause of death."

South Korea has been quick to blame North Korea for the death of Kim Jong Nam, who as the eldest son of the late dictator Kim Jong Il was once widely seen as the ruler-in-waiting of the isolated nation. However, he fell out of favor more than a decade ago, and has spent most of his time since then living in China or Southeast Asia.

The attack "showed the reckless and brutal nature of the North Korean government," Prime Minister Hwang Kyo-ahn said yesterday during a National Security Council meeting. **AP**

VIDEO FOOTAGE SHOWS ATTACK ON KIM

SECURITY CAMERA footage obtained by Japanese television appears to show a careful and deliberate attack last week on the exiled half brother of North Korea's ruler. The footage, obtained by Fuji TV and often grainy and blurred, seems to show two women approaching Kim Jong Nam from different directions as he stands at a ticketing kiosk at the budget terminal of the Kuala

Lumpur airport. One comes up behind him and appears to hold something over his mouth for a few seconds. Then the women turn and calmly walk away in different directions. More footage shows Kim walking up to airport workers and security officials, gesturing at his eyes and seemingly asking for help. He then walks alongside them as they lead him to the airport clinic.

KIM HAN SOL REPORTEDLY IN KUALA LUMPUR

THE SON of Kim Jong Nam was reportedly traveling to Malaysia yesterday evening. Many journalists were waiting for his arrival at Kuala Lumpur International Airport 2 (KLIA2), precisely the place where

his father was murdered. Daily newspaper The Star reported that Kim Han Sol was flying from Macau on an AirAsia flight. Later on in the evening, it mentioned that there was no sign of him at the airport.



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THE region's new travel alert system was published yesterday in the Official Gazette and will take effect from March 7. The alert system will be managed by the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT).

The office issued a statement stressing that, given the possibility of events such as threats of a new type of terrorism, technological accidents, and natural catastrophes, the tourism industry needs to adapt and be prepared to face at any moment and without prior notice, a crisis situation. Thus the need for a new travel alert system "which allows for an easy and timely dissemination of information about crisis situations, emergencies or catastrophes affecting different parts of the world," GGCT states.

The alert system covers 77 countries or travel destinations which are considered the preferred travel destinations of Macau residents. Taiwan, mainland China and Hong Kong are not covered given the fact that they "are part of the People's Republic of

TOURISM

MSAR implements new travel alert system



China," the statement continues.

The warnings are categorized in three different levels, where level 1 represents an imminent threat to personal safety, level 2 represents that the threat to personal safety is elevated and level 3 represents the presence of an extreme threat to personal safety.

Factors which will be taken into consideration when issuing, cancelling, raising or lowering the levels of the travel alerts include the danger levels of the social-economic fabric, the political frame of the destinations that can constitute simple or complex scenarios (with multiple dan-

gers), the concrete situation and the degree of threat to personal safety.

The travel alert system does not have a prohibitive nature and it is up to each individual to decide or adjust their travel plan according to the information provided.

With the implementation of the travel alert system, the GGCT advises Macau residents to purchase comprehensive travel insurance before traveling with a coverage option for the MSAR Travel Alert System.

According to the GGCT, the travel alert system is the result of an extended period of analysis and research by various public and private entities.

Taxi drivers call for fare hike

Yesterday, the Macau Taxi Driver Mutual Association visited the Transport Bureau (DSAT) proposing to increase taxi fares, including an increase to the starting fare from MOP17 to MOP20. In addition, the proposal suggests maintaining the MOP2 increase each time the meter changes, as well as shortening the distance each time the meter changes from 260 meters to 200 meters. Every charge's waiting period is also proposed to become 55 seconds instead of the current 60 seconds. During the first three days of the Chinese New year holiday, the group suggested charging MOP10 as an additional fee. The association hopes to get the government's approval on these changes before the summer.

DSAT requires taxis working schedule notes

The Transport Bureau (DSAT) has released a statement calling on the region's taxi drivers to take notes regarding their working schedule. The bureau said that every single driver must write down the time they start working and the time they get off work on the notebooks officially approved by the local government. The department issued this notification after "considering that there were taxi drivers who didn't keep records according to regulation, which made it difficult for the authority to process taxi infractions." DSAT noted that it will, along with the Public Security Police Force, increase actions in relation to the checking of drivers' notes.

CRIME

Local youngsters involved in violent robbery

Renato Marques

A man was the victim of a violent robbery committed by three other men on Saturday evening, the police revealed yesterday during a press conference. One of the robbers, and so far the only one detained by the authorities, is a 20-year-old permanent resident who was acting in the company of a friend.

The victim and his wife, who, are owners of a small shop in the area of San Kio in the proximities of Kiang Wu Hospital, had just closed their shop and were preparing to head home around 10 p.m. on Saturday. The victim's wife waited at the cross section of Rua da Entena and Rua de Coelho do Amaral while the victim went to get their car which was parked nearby. In the following minutes, the wife heard her husband's call for help. The man, who was bleeding from the head, said he had been beaten by three men who also stole his backpack.

The man told the police that two of the robbers were wearing

facemasks. The police searched the area around 11 p.m. and approached two men seated at a staircase at Largo de Santo Antonio reviewing the contents of a backpack. The suspects tried to escape with one of them being caught and detained by the PSP.

Upon searching the bag, the police found an identification card, credit cards and a mobile phone. The victim's wife reported that an iPhone 6 and the sum of HKD30,000 were missing.

Questioned by the police, the detainee said he had been invited by a friend to participate in the robbery from which he would receive a share. The detainee mentioned that he only found out about the third person at the location where the crime was carried out and does not know his identity as they had only met then.

An expandable baton which was used to beat the victim, was found in the possession of the detainee.

The police are still investigating the case and searching for the two other men involved.

COURTS

Session stoped due to Ho's health condition



YESTERDAY'S trial of the city's former top prosecutor, Ho Chio Meng, was stoped after only approximately 20 minutes.

As usual, the session started at 9.30 a.m., but soon after its commencement, Ho told the judges about his physical condition, stating he was feeling tired and dizzy.

Ho then requested he be excused from the hearing "under the condition that it will not affect the trial."

The collegial panel then retired for 15 minutes to confer. Upon their return, presiding judge Sam Hou Fai announced the cancellation of the trial.

Ho's lawyer, Leong Weng Pun, stated that his client's absence

would not affect the trial and it need not be cancelled.

However, Sam turned down the appeal on the basis that the court needed to consider Ho's overall condition.

As the court emptied, Ho was escorted by the Correctional Services Bureau's officers to the Centro Hospitalar Conde de São Januário (CHCSJ) for a health checkup.

The Hospital was required to inform the court before 4 p.m. yesterday if Ho could be present at the trial today. If yesterday had gone according to schedule, there would have been one witness called in the morning to provide testimony.

While Ho's trial was adjourned, at the

Court of First Instance, defendant Wong Kuok Wai, who is accused of opening shelf companies along with Ho and other defendants, answered questions regarding Ho's case.

Five other defendants, who were absent from the first session, were still absent from yesterday's proceedings.

Wong said that he is a friend of Mak Im Tai (one of the defendants). The prosecutors expressed doubt over how their companies could be awarded service contracts by the Prosecution Office, since the companies had no experience in related services.

Wong suggested that it might have been because the MP was confident in their skills as a consequence of the previous projects their companies had completed.

According to a report by TDM, Wong, at the court, said that he maintains a casual friendship with Ho Chio Shun (Ho's brother), who is also accused of having participated in the establishment of said shelf companies. **JZ**

HZMB underwater tunnel progresses

The Hong Kong - Zhuhai - Macau Bridge (HZMB) had a 171.2-meter-long element (E29) connected to its submarine tunnel bridge last weekend, according to a notice published by China Communication Construction Co. Ltd. Following E29's connection, there is still a 183-meter-long section left to be finished in the submarine tunnel. The HZMB immersed tunnel consists of a design with 33 elements including 28 straight-elements and five curved-elements, spanning a total length of 5664 meters. As of July 2016, constructors had finished the installation of all the straight-elements. According to the company, the only elements left to install are the curved-tubes.

Singapore budget 2017: Winners and losers

Melissa Cheok

IN a bid to boost growth and productivity amid global economic and geopolitical uncertainties, Singapore Finance Minister Heng Swee Keat announced measures to support infrastructure projects and industries like marine and processes.

The 2017 budget comes less than two weeks after a government-appointed panel, led by Heng, outlined initiatives to propel the economy into its next phase of growth. The range of measures aim to help spur growth to 2 percent to 3 percent a year over the next decade. Here are some of the biggest winners and losers of the Singapore budget.

WINNERS

Jobs - Skills training support will be provided to aid in improving workforce productivity. More



than SGD600 million will be paid out to help companies cope with rising wages. The Ministry of Manpower will extend employment age to 67 from 65. Enhanced corporate tax rebate cap would be raised to SGD25,000 at 50 percent of tax payable. The tax rebate would be extended by another year, capped at SGD10,000, 20 percent of tax payable. National Research Fund will be topped

up by SGD500 million and National Productivity Fund will be increased by SGD1 billion. Small & Medium Enterprises (SMEs) - Programs to support digitalization and innovation will be rolled out to aid SMEs.

Public Infrastructure Investment - The government will bring forward SGD700 million in infrastructure projects to support the construction sector. A total of

SGD150 million will be spent to procure innovative construction solutions for public sector projects.

Marine & Processes - Foreign worker levy increases will be deferred for one more year to aid employers in these sectors. Sembcorp Industries Ltd. gained as much as 1.6 percent after the measures were announced. Sembcorp's businesses include utilities as well as water and land development.

Healthcare - Including existing initiatives, the government will spend SGD400 million per year to provide support to persons with disabilities and their caregivers in areas of early intervention and education, employment, care services, "assistive" technologies and improving healthcare accessibility. Additional SGD160 million to be spent on supporting those with mental health conditions over the

next five years.

Cyber security - Government will spend more than SGD80 million on programs to strengthen capabilities in data and cyber-security.

Singapore-based firms - SGD600 million in government capital will be allocated for a new International Partnership Fund to help Singapore-based firms in scaling up and internationalization.

LOSERS

Power Stations, Utilities - Government plans to implement a carbon tax between SGD10-SGD20/ton of greenhouse gas emission from 2019 on power stations, large direct emitters instead of electricity consumers.

Consumers - Water prices will increase by 30 percent in two phases, starting July 1. Prices haven't been raised in 20 years and costs need to be reflected. **Bloomberg**

One-third of restaurants report growth in December survey



THE results of the latest "Business Climate Survey on Restaurants and Similar Establishments" were released yesterday in a statement published by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), showing that more than one-third of interviewed establishments reported a year-on-year growth in revenue in December 2016.

The 34 percent who repor-

ted the growth represents an increase of 4 percentage points over the previous month. The rise was attributed by DSEC to an increase in visitors in the city.

Meanwhile, the proportion interviewed that reported a year-on-year decline in revenue dropped by 6 percentage points over the previous month to 44 percent.

Interviewed restaurateurs had mixed opinions over their business prospects in January, with 30 percent anticipating a year-on-year rise (+10 percentage points compared with December) and 37 percent predicting a decline (-4 percentage points).

The "Business Climate Survey" also interviews re-

tail traders to assess their performance and expectations for the month ahead. In the December survey, 42 percent of interviewed retailers reported year-on-year growth in sales, up by 3 percentage points from November.

On the other hand, about half of the retailers recorded a year-on-year decrease in sales, down by about 5 percentage points from November.

The proportion of interviewed retailers anticipating a year-on-year increase in sales in January rose by 2 percentage points to 25 percent, while 38 percent expected a decrease, down by 3 percentage points.

Game site said to seek funds at USD1.2b valuation

DOUYU, the live-streaming service backed by Tencent Holdings Ltd. that's been compared to Amazon's Twitch, is in talks to raise a billion yuan (USD145 million) in funds at a valuation of about \$1.2 billion, according to a person familiar with the matter.

The three-year-old company, whose name means "fighting fish," needs capital to expand beyond games-streaming and fend off rivals, the person said, asking not to be named discussing a private deal. The potential valuation is only 20 percent higher than in its previous round, but the fundraising plans are initial and could change depending on negotiations, the person said.

Douyu built a business by allowing gamers to live-stream their online death-matches and hosting discussions about strategies. It now allows people to broadcast anything from sports to singing and cooking, competing with more than 200 other Chinese startups including Panda

TV, which is backed by Wang Sicong, the son of China's second-richest man.

Formally known as Wuhan Douyu Network Technology Co., the company also counts Sequoia Capital as a backer. Xu Juanjuan, a spokeswoman for the company, didn't respond to phone calls and multiple text messages requesting comment.

Douyu built a business by allowing gamers to live-stream their online death-matches and hosting discussions about strategies

Live-broadcasting has taken off around the world on platforms as varied as Facebook and Twitter, but it's

become a particularly lucrative and popular exercise in China. It's mushroomed into \$2.5 billion industry in that country alone, as enthralled viewers wire money to their favorite social-celebrities cooking lunch or seductively eating bananas.

The live-streaming boom is a relatively new phenomenon fueled by bigger data plans and the shift from computers to mobile. But in China, it emerged as a low-cost pastime for millennials who lack the budget for pricier entertainment. Operators earn revenue by taking a cut when viewers bequeath virtual roses and digital diamonds.

It's unclear how many users Douyu has or how large the service has grown since its 2014 inception. If it achieves its targeted valuation, that would make it about half the size of Nasdaq-listed YY Inc., among the largest of the publicly traded Chinese live-streaming outfits with 53.4 million mobile monthly active users as of the end of the third quarter. **Bloomberg**

Notice

It is to inform that Administrative Regulation No. 5/2017 "Compulsory Professional Liability Insurance for Healthcare Providers" shall become effective on 26 February 2017. All healthcare providers as defined in accordance with the provisions of Article 4 of the "Legal Regime on Medical Error", natural or legal persons rendering services for the purpose of preventing, diagnosing, treating or rehabilitating, are required to buy the insurance.

For enquiries, please contact the Monetary Authority of Macao during office hours at telephone hotlines 83952265/83952221/83952236, or during holidays at 66518453 (9:00 - 13:00 and 14:30 - 17:45). For more information about the "Compulsory Professional Liability Insurance for Healthcare Providers", please browse through our Internet website at www.amcm.gov.mo.

21 February, 2017, at Macao.

Board of Directors of the Monetary Authority of Macao

Increased opportunities available in Macau-PSC cooperation

THE two- or three-way relationship between China and the Portuguese-Speaking Countries (PSC) will be in focus today, at an international conference due to be held in Lisbon where Macau's role as a contact platform will be a central theme.

The conference called, "Macau, a bridge in the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries economic relationship," for which the Macauhub is media partner, will enhance the role of Forum Macau, which is considered by a number of players in relations between China, Portugal and Portuguese-speaking countries as an opportunity for businesses, particularly to fund projects.

The event also has a partnership with Portugal's Investment and Foreign Trade Agency (AICEP), whose most recent edition of Portugal Global magazine focuses on Macau, with an interview with General Garcia Leandro, current president of the Jorge Álvares Foundation and former governor of the region,



The event will be attended by the Portuguese President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa

who says that "Macau can have a privileged role for companies that do not directly enter the Chinese market."

This, he says, thanks to "all the initiatives that Forum Macau has developed, allowing meetings between Chinese entrepreneurs and those from Portuguese-speaking countries" which "have opened up possibilities for two- or three-way relations between companies from various countries that on their own would have no chance of success."

"This capacity of Macau should be taken to the maximum. China itself, as seen last October at the Ministerial Conference [of Forum Macau], clearly showed the purpose of giving Macau a greater role in this area by proposing 18 concrete measures that will build the capacity of the Forum, even as a financial cooperation platform focused on Macau," added Garcia Leandro.

"Some PALOP [Portuguese-speaking African countries] and Timor-Leste [East Timor] have felt greater need to get the most out of Forum Macau's resources, for the opportunities created there, and through the training sessions offered at its training centre and higher education institutions," he said.

The President of AICEP, Miguel Frاسquilho, also challenges Portuguese entrepreneurs to "look with interest at the possibilities that Forum Macau opens up in terms of three-way cooperation, that is, to support investment and development projects between Portuguese-speaking

companies and countries."

Also in an interview with Portugal Global magazine, Whu Zhiwei, chief executive of Companhia de Desenvolvimento

Macau can have a privileged role for companies that do not directly enter the Chinese market.

GENERAL GARCIA LEANDRO
FORMER GOVERNOR

Cidade Moderna (Modern City Development - Macau) and of Tin MIn Jade says, "the internationalization of Portuguese companies is very important for China, for Macau and for Por-

tugal," and that "many Chinese companies have come to realize the potential of the Portuguese-speaking country markets. Portugal is decidedly a new potential and privileged partner for the Chinese government and companies."

"This internationalization is necessary to get interaction and cooperation between different countries. The increasing existence of internationalized companies between China and Portugal will extend the scope, scale and success of cooperation," said Zhiwei.

The "Macau, a bridge in the China-Portuguese-speaking Countries economic relationship," conference will take place at the Institute of Social and Political Sciences (ISCSIP) in Lisbon, and will be attended by the Portuguese President, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa and the Chinese ambassador to Portugal, Cai Run.

The event will also be attended by managers of Portuguese companies with Chinese investors, such as António Mexia, CEO of the Energias de Portugal (EDP) group and João Faria Conceição, executive director of the national grid Redes Energéticas Nacionais (REN), and businesses with developing relations with China such as Duarte Lynce de Faria, the director of the port of Sines.

MDT/Macauhub

AD



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China wins big with stakes in USD22 billion Abu Dhabi oil venture

Anthony DiPaola
and Mahmoud Habboush

CHINESE companies are big winners in the competition among foreign bidders for stakes in Abu Dhabi's largest oil concession, snatching a combined 12 percent of the venture as the Middle Eastern emirate looks increasingly to Asia, its biggest market, for investment.

Abu Dhabi National Oil Co. awarded a 4 percent stake in the onshore venture - the last share of the project that was still up for grabs - to Shanghai-based CEFC China Energy Co., Adnoc said yesterday in an e-mailed statement. CEFC is paying an USD888 million signing bonus, Adnoc said. The announcement came one day after China National Petroleum Corp. agreed to buy 8 percent of the same concession for \$1.8 billion.

The dual awards mark China's debut as a major shareholder in the biggest oilfield operator in the United Arab Emirates, OPEC's fourth-largest member. Together, the stakes held by state-run CNPC and energy investor CEFC exceed the 10 percent shares that both BP Plc and Total SA own. BP signed on to the project in December, and Total in January 2015.

Asia will show the fastest growth in energy demand over the next two decades, according to the International Energy Agency. Abu

Dhabi is among Persian Gulf oil producers including Saudi Arabia and Iraq that are tapping Asia for energy investments. While European and U.S. companies have pumped oil in the Middle East for more than a century, their Asian counterparts are relative newcomers. Japanese and Korean companies are also investors with Adnoc in the deposits.

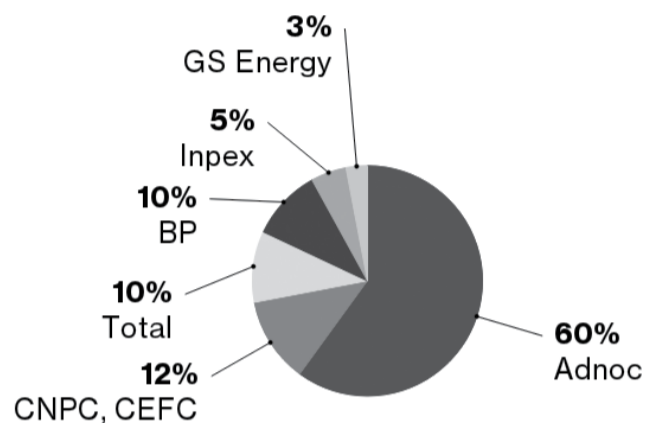
"If you're Abu Dhabi and looking for demand growth, China is the future and its demand is going to continue to grow," Chris Gunson, a Dubai-based lawyer at Amereller Legal Consultants, said Sunday. "For the big buyers in Asia, the logical source of that future supply is the Gulf."

CNPC and CEFC are joining the Abu Dhabi Company for Onshore Petroleum Operations, or ADCO. Japan's Inpex Corp. owns 5 percent of the venture, while GS Energy Corp. of South Korea holds 3 percent. No companies from Asia were involved in the previous concession for the onshore fields. Abu Dhabi plans to retain a 60 percent stake in ADCO.

Japanese companies are partners in at least four other oil-production ventures in Abu Dhabi, the largest sheikhdom in the United Arab Emirates. Korean and Chinese companies are exploring at smaller concessions in the emirate. CNPC's engineering arm also helped build an export pipeline in Abu Dhabi.

Pivot to Asia

Abu Dhabi taps Asian partners for investment in main oil concession



Source: Abu Dhabi National Oil Co.

Elsewhere in the region, CNPC is developing Iraq's biggest oil field, together with BP. China Petroleum and Chemical Corp. is a partner in a refinery in Saudi Arabia, and Chinese firms are developing crude deposits in Iran.

With the two deals announced this week, Chinese buyers secure more supplies of Abu Dhabi's main Murban crude grade. CNPC agreed in 2011 to increase purchases of crude from the emirate under long-term contracts. ADCO's international partners are responsible for funding their shares of investment in the deposits as well as paying signing

bonuses.

Abu Dhabi, with 6 percent of global crude reserves, is seeking to boost production capacity to 3.5 million barrels a day by 2018. ADCO pumps about half of Abu Dhabi's roughly 3 million barrels of daily crude output.

The emirate is expanding capacity amid a global oil glut that cut prices to an average of about \$50 a barrel over the last two years. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries agreed in November to cut production to trim crude stockpiles and boost prices. Benchmark Brent crude has gained about 11 percent since

the day OPEC announced that agreement and was up 0.6 percent at \$56.13 a barrel at 12:33 p.m. in London.

The 40-year ADCO concession replaces an earlier agreement under which Western oil majors pumped the emirate's crude. Exxon Mobil Corp. and Royal Dutch Shell Plc took part in the previous venture, also called ADCO, along with BP, Total and Portugal's Partex Oil & Gas Group. That deal expired in January 2014. Adnoc ran the concession on its own for a year, then backdated the new deal to Jan. 1, 2015. **Bloomberg**

HONG KONG

Disneyland posts 2016 loss on tourism softness



HONG Kong Disneyland posted a wider annual loss yesterday as attendance by mainland Chinese tourists dropped amid a softer tourism market.

The park said it lost 171 million Hong Kong dollars (USD22 million) on revenue of HKD4.8 billion for its most recent financial year, which ended Oct. 3.

Some 6.1 million people visited the park last year. That's

down from the previous year, when it drew 6.8 million people and lost HKD148 million.

Visitors from mainland China, a key market for the resort, accounted for 36 percent of total attendance in 2016, down from 41 percent the year before.

Resort owners The Walt Disney Co. and the Hong Kong government, which has a 53 percent stake, last year announced a \$1.4 billion expansion

for the park, which has been criticized for being too small and having too few big-ticket rides.

The expansion project, scheduled to begin next year, will add new themed areas based on the movie "Frozen" and Marvel superhero characters and an attraction based on the film "Moana" as well as renovations to the park's castle. However, Disney's board and Hong Kong lawmakers need to approve its funding.

Hong Kong is also working to improve its competitiveness as an Asian tourism destination following last year's launch of Shanghai Disneyland, which raised concerns that it would siphon off mainland visitors.

Taipei protests Spain's deporting of 200 Taiwanese to China

TAIWAN'S foreign ministry has protested Spain's decision to deport more than 200 Taiwanese telecom fraud suspects to China, in the latest instance of a government moving to deport citizens of the self-governing island to its rival.

Scores of Taiwanese have been arrested around the world in the past year in connection with vast telecoms fraud scams targeting Chinese nationals. Countries including Malaysia, Cambodia and Kenya have deported Taiwanese suspects to China, in deference to Beijing which views Taiwan as its own territory without sovereign legal status and has long tried to diploma-

tically isolate it.

The Taiwanese ministry said in a statement that it "deeply regrets" a decision by the Spanish government to agree to a request by Beijing to extradite 269 Taiwanese and Chinese nationals arrested in December in Spain.

Taiwan's Mainland Affairs Office said in a separate statement that it had lodged a protest with Beijing over its request that more than 200 Taiwanese nationals be deported to the mainland.

Chinese authorities say they are authorized to try the cases because their citizens are the primary victims and have been swindled out of millions of dollars.

THE U.S. Navy is planning a fresh freedom of navigation operation around China's man-made islands, the first under President Donald Trump, the Navy Times reported yesterday, citing defense officials.

The operation would most likely be carried out by the San Diego-based USS Carl Vinson carrier strike group, which began patrolling the South China Sea on the weekend. It would involve sailing within 12-mile territorial waters of the island features China claims as its own, the report said.

According to newspaper, the plans are awaiting Trump's approval.

China's Foreign Affairs spokesman Geng Shuang said he was aware of the reports. He said that while China respects freedom of navigation under international law, "we have firm objections to any country that impairs China's sovereignty and security interests in the name of freedom of navigation and overflight."

"We urge the U.S. side not to take any actions that challenge China's sovereignty and security, and respect the effort made by regional countries in safeguarding peace and stability in the South China Sea," he told reporters.

Navy warships have deliberately sailed close to Chinese-occupied features four times since October 2015, ignoring Beijing's sovereignty claims. The first three missions challenged China's requirement for ships to obtain permission prior to transit, while the last one challenged China's sovereignty over waters encompassing the Paracels.

Some criticized the Obama administration for curtailing freedom of navigation operations

SOUTH CHINA SEA

US reportedly planning fresh freedom of navigation mission



and allowing China to build military installations on seven artificial islands in the disputed waters. Trump's Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said recently that such operations will continue while also ruling out any military escalation.

"Any miscalculation from either side may escalate tensions, which could spin out of control," Zhiqun Zhu, who heads The China Institute at Bucknell University in Pennsylvania, told the Navy Times. "China is unlikely to cave in no matter what the U.S. military does in the South China Sea. Cooler heads are needed from both sides, not moves to unnecessarily provoke the other side."

Just as the USS Carl Vinson aircraft carrier strike group begins its deployment in the South China Sea and the Western Pacific, China dispatched its own fleet for scheduled drills.

The missile destroyers Changsha and Haikou and the supply ship Luomahu wrapped up weeklong exercises on Friday. The fleet includes three helicopters and marines on board.

According to the official Xinhua News Agency, the drills involved naval aviation forces and military garrisons from both the Spratlys and the Paracels, as well as elements of the Beihai and Donghai fleets. They practiced air defense, escorting, anti-terrorism, anti-piracy and defensive

operations under real combat conditions, Xinhua said.

China is considering revisions in its 1984 maritime law that could bar foreign ships from passing through what it considers Chinese waters and require submarines to travel on the surface, display national flags and report to Chinese authorities.

According to a draft that was published to solicit public opinion, foreign ships that violate Chinese laws would be expelled, state-run media reported. The proposed changes are in line with international maritime law, Beijing media said, but they could also set China up for conflict with Washington, which in-

sists on freedom of navigation.

The draft doesn't mention the South China Sea specifically, but China claims the area almost in its entirety. Late last year, China seized an underwater glider that was launched by the USS Bowditch in international waters off the Philippines and returned it after the U.S. protested.

"Beijing is seeking to improve its management of maritime security by adding new operational details into law, especially details related to growing threats from foreign close-in surveillance," Lin Yongxin, a senior researcher from the government-affiliated National Institute on South China Sea Studies, told the South China Morning Post.

Meanwhile, some 1,000 military and civilian residents of the Chinese-controlled Paracels used to get their tomatoes and spinach delivered by ship. State-run media reported they've now started growing their own vegetables in a greenhouse, ending reliance on the mainland.

People's Daily reported a greenhouse covering 567 square meters was built on Drummond Island, known in Chinese as Jinqing Dao. The goal for a weekly yield: 200 kilograms.

Recent satellite images of the islands suggest China has upgraded its military facilities in the Paracels, which are also claimed by Vietnam and Taiwan. **MDT/AP**

TAIWAN

Formosa seeks US permit for USD9.4 billion investment

FORMOSA Plastics Group is seeking permission from the U.S. state of Louisiana to invest USD9.4 billion to build petrochemical plants.

The Taiwanese chemicals producer is waiting for the U.S. state's authorization for construction of the facilities in St. James, according to Lin Keh-Yen, executive vice president of Formosa Petrochemical Corp. The group also plans another \$5 billion investment to expand production lines in Texas, Formosa Plastics Corp. Chairman Jason Lin said by phone.

Formosa joins other Asian companies in

boosting investments in the U.S. amid President Donald Trump's pledges to create American jobs. U.S. shale gas offers a cheaper alternative source of raw materials for petrochemicals production, making such U.S.-based projects potentially more profitable amid rising prices of oil, according to IHS Chemical Insight.

"Seeking a permit solidifies that Formosa wants to do the project," said Tony Potter, a vice president at IHS in Singapore. "Ethane prices will remain relatively low. Because of the lower cost, you have a situation

where the U.S. ethane based production will be able to deliver polymer products into places like China cheaper than they can be made from naphtha in China and the surrounding countries like Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Thailand, Singapore."

The Louisiana project, in which group members Formosa Petrochemical and Formosa Chemicals & Fibre Corp. will invest, includes an ethane cracker with annual capacity of 1.2 million metric tons and a 600,000 ton-per-year propylene plant in phase one, Formosa Petrochemical's Lin said. In the second phase, it will

build another ethylene plant with capacity of 1.2 million tons a year, he said.

Formosa Plastics Group, which began to invest in the U.S. in 1978, has production facilities there including a polyester plant in South Carolina and an ethylene glycol plant in Texas, according to its website.

The expansion in Texas is already underway, which will be completed by 2018, Formosa Plastics Corp.'s Lin said. "Materials are cheaper in the U.S. and it's easier to get air permits in U.S. than in Taiwan," he said. **Bloomberg**



Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

NORTH KOREA

PLUG your noses and ready your "Juche fertilizer." It's time to prep the frozen fields in North Korea.

North Korea relies on its farmers to squeeze absolutely all they can out of every harvest. It's a tall order in a country with 25 million mouths to feed that is mostly mountains, hamstrung by international trade sanctions and, beyond a handful of showcase cooperatives, hard-pressed to modernize its agricultural sector.

Without doubt, life as a farmer in North Korea is harsh. But there are some signs of change in how North Korea is treating its fields and its farmers.

In typically propagandist fashion, the North's state media are already reporting that workers inspired by leader Kim Jong Un's New Year's address are heroically churning out "117 percent" of their production quotas of what they call "Juche fertilizer."

A grain of salt is certainly in order. What exactly the patriotic-sounding Juche fertilizer is isn't all that clear, though it's likely a mix of largely organic components augmented with some chemicals. Because of the general lack of livestock, human feces are a key ingredient. Juche refers to the North's longstanding but mostly aspirational policy of self-reliance.

The battle in the fields, however, has certainly begun.

With the ground still frozen as the North waits out its notoriously cold winters, farmers, joined by workers and students mobilized from the cities, are in the process of transporting truckloads of pungent fertilizer to fields across the country for the planting season ahead.

Kim Song Ryong, head technician at the Migok Cooperative Farm in Sariwon, south of Pyongyang, said it takes about 20 to 25 days to distribute the compost. In March, it will be spread over the fields in an even layer and then ploughed in below the surface.

"Our respected supreme leader comrade Kim Jong Un instructed us

On frozen fields, farmers prep for battle ahead

AP PHOTO



that agriculture is the main approach to building a strong economy and country," he said in an interview with AP Television News.

Life as a farmer is harsh. But there are some signs of change in how North Korea is treating its fields and its farmers

"To get the best harvest with scientific farming, all our farmers and workers are out in the fields to improve the quality of the soil."

In the past, the country's over-reliance on scientific magic bullets

has had tragic results.

Overuse of chemical fertilizers that began in the 1950s devastated the natural microbiotic soil environment and fueled a cycle in which its fields grew increasingly dependent on ever-more-artificial fertilization. In the 1990s, the fall of the Soviet Union and Pyongyang's other communist benefactors disrupted the supply of that fertilizer — which, coupled with other factors, led to widespread famine.

But Pyongyang appears to have learned some lessons since.

According to Randall Ireson, a private consultant and former non-governmental program director in the North, farmers have shifted their emphasis since about 2000 to adding compost and organic fertilizers to rebuild the organic content in the soil and revivify microorganisms.

"What I've seen and

heard of is the use of effective rapid aerobic composting of plant residue and, where available, animal and human manure, with the composted material further augmented with some chemical fertilizer," he said. "The addition of chemical fertilizer to the mix makes it "non-

organic" by a strict definition, but the other aspects are generally sound and sustainable, if managed correctly."

Ireson noted that the depressed economy, lack of foreign exchange and weak industrial sector combine to make the acquisition of foreign chemical fertili-

zer difficult. But he said the push in the North for composting, while poorly designed at first, has gradually improved so that farms have started to produce fertilizer using local, low-energy methods.

"Buying more would be the easy, if not environmentally or economically sustainable, way to boost farm production," Ireson said. "Lacking that resource, the push has been to find local resources, which I think is quite appropriate."

More importantly, policy revisions under Kim Jong Un have since 2012 given farmers more incentive to produce above the state quota and to take more of a personal stake in field outcomes. Though details are scant, farmers can sell excess produce for a profit and smaller, essentially family-sized, work units have been established to make the rewards more direct.

Outside experts generally agree the changes are a step in the right direction — China and Vietnam had success with similar agricultural reforms.

But they also quickly warn it remains unclear how widely and fully implemented the revisions have been.

"It's always hard to know what the ag situation really is," said Ireson. "There's a tendency to concentrate on technical aspects of farming [in the North], but the farmers are pretty clever and know how to do things. The main constraint is limited resources and, at least until recently, little personal incentive to produce beyond the quota." AP

AD



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| Date of application | | March 1 to 10, 2017 | |
| Date of Admission test | PK | March 4 and 18 | |
| | JK to Grade 3 | March 13 to 27 | |
| | Grade 4 to 12 | 18 March 1pm-4pm | |
| Open House | 18 February, 2017 | | |
| School introduction | JK | 9:00 am | |
| | Elementary school | 9:00 am | |
| | Secondary school | 10 am | |
| | Boarding house tour | 10:45 am to 11:30 am | |
| Results Notification | April 16, 2017 onwards | | |

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PHILIPPINES

Ex-cop says Duterte paid him, others to kill crime suspects

Jim Gomez, Manila

A retired Philippine police officer said yesterday that President Rodrigo Duterte, when he was a mayor, ordered and paid him and other members of a so-called liquidation squad to kill criminals and opponents, including a kidnapping suspect, his family and a critical radio commentator.

Human rights lawyers who presented Arthur Lascanas at a news conference said the allegations could be grounds for impeaching Duterte, adding that his alleged role in the killings may not be covered by his presidential immunity.

Sen. Antonio Trillanes IV, who helped the lawyers from the private Free Legal Assistance Group present Lascanas in a news conference at the Senate, said he would ask his colleagues to immediately investigate the explosive allegations.

Duterte's communications secretary, Martin Andanar, dismissed the claims as a "demolition job" by unspecified people affected by Duterte's reforms and aimed at forcing Duterte from power. He did not respond to Lascanas's detailed claims.

"The press conference of self-



An emotional retired police officer Arthur Lascanas addresses a news conference at the Philippine Senate in Manila yesterday

confessed hitman SPO3 Arthur Lascanas is part of a protracted political drama aimed to destroy the president and to topple his administration," Andanar said, without elaborating or offering any evidence.

Duterte has denied his administration backs unlawful killings of suspects in his crackdown on illegal drugs that is feared to have killed more than 7,000 mostly poor drug users and petty drug pushers

since he took office last June.

The killings under the crackdown, an expansion of his anti-drug campaign when he was the longtime mayor of southern Davao city, have alarmed the United States, other Western governments and U.N. human rights officials.

In many public speeches, Duterte has ordered policemen to defend themselves if drug suspects fight back and has openly threatened drug lords and dealers with death.

Lascanas's comments came after he denied to a Senate hearing last year that he had been involved in any extrajudicial killings in Davao, Duterte's hometown. He testified at the inquiry last October after he was implicated by another witness, Edgar Matobato, a former militiaman who said Duterte ordered him and others to kill criminals in gangland-style assaults that left hundreds of people dead.

Breaking into tears at one point, Lascanas said he was speaking up now because he was bothered by his conscience, including his role in the deaths of his two brothers, whom he ordered killed because they were drug users.

"I had my own two brothers killed. Even if I end up dead, I'm content because I've fulfilled my promise to the Lord to make a public confession," he said.

Lascanas described several killings and attacks that he said Duterte had ordered, permitted or financed as mayor of Davao, including the 1993 bombing of mosques as retaliation after Muslim rebels were blamed for bombing a Roman Catholic cathedral.

One of their first victims, a suspected drug lord, was gunned down and left with a message that warned others:

"Don't emulate." Lascanas said he and other killers identified their group in the message as "Davao Death Squad," which spread and sparked fear in the sprawling city.

Lascanas said he and his group shot dead a kidnapping suspect along with the man's pregnant wife, young son, father-in-law and two others in another attack with Duterte's approval.

After his group informed Duterte about the capture of the suspected mastermind of a kidnapping in Davao, Lascanas quoted the mayor as saying, "All right, make it clean."

Another target was radio commentator Jun Pala, who had angered Duterte with critical commentaries. He was killed in 2003 by gunmen, who Lascanas said included him. They twice failed to kill him but succeeded in the third attempt, Lascanas said, adding that he personally received a financial reward from the then mayor.

"I'm one of those who killed Jun Pala," Lascanas said.

Another criminal suspect, an ex-soldier, was captured and presented to the mayor, who ordered his men to "kill him," Lascanas said.

Killing the suspect was problematic, he said, because policemen from another town knew he was alive when he was arrested. Lascanas said he and his companions convinced a police official to sign a logbook stating that the suspect was arrested but later escaped.

Lascanas said he and his companions later killed the suspect and dumped his body in a nearby province. AP

CAMBODIA

Lawmakers approve law threatening opposition party

CAMBODIA'S legislature amended a law governing political parties yesterday to allow the government to apply to the courts to have a party dissolved, an act aimed at the sole opposition group in parliament.

The opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party boycotted yesterday's 90-minute debate on the legislation and subsequent vote, in which all 66 lawmakers from the ruling Cambodian People's Party who were present voted in favor. The amendments now need approval from the ruling party-controlled Senate, a simple formality.

Long-serving Prime Minister Hun Sen suggested the amendments earlier

this month, in what is seen as an attempt to shore up his party's strength ahead of local elections this year and a general election in 2018. The opposition staged an unexpectedly strong challenge in 2013's general election.

The new provisions allow the Supreme Court to dissolve parties whose leaders have criminal convictions, and bar the leaders from political activities for five years. Critics charge that Cambodia's courts are under the political influence of the ruling party.

In addition, the Interior Ministry will be allowed to suspend parties whose activities incite national disintegration, a catch-all clause similar to those in other laws that are used

against the government's critics.

"The passage of these amendments marks the final consolidation of absolute power in the hands of Prime Minister Hun Sen and the ruling Cambodian People's Party," said Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director of New York-based Human Rights Watch.

"Hun Sen's election strategy is clear: bulldoze what's left of Cambodia's democratic institutions by using laws like this one, while simultaneously intimidating civil society into silence with arbitrary arrests of human rights defenders and threats to de-register troublesome NGOs," Robertson said.

The Cambodia National Rescue Party, in a state-

ment issued before the debate, said the changes violate the principles of liberal and multiparty democracy.

"The proposal of the amendments was done too quickly and with the aim of intimidating and destroying the rival party," it said.

There were political consequences even before the amendment was passed, with longtime opposition leader Sam Rainsy, who has been in self-imposed exile since late 2015, resigning from the Cambodia National Rescue Party because he was convicted in a defamation case and has several other cases pending.

Hun Sen's government in the past year has put increasing legal pressure

on its critics and political opponents, keeping them tied up in court, sending them fleeing into exile, or sometimes jailing them.

National Assembly spokesman Leng Peng Long said the purpose of the amendment was to ensure fairness for all parties.

The U.S. Embassy said it was "deeply concerned" that the amendments passed with little consultation or public debate.

"Any government action to ban or restrict parties under the new amendments would constitute a significant setback for Cambodia's political development and would seriously call into question the legitimacy of the upcoming elections," it said.

It called on the govern-



Prime Minister Hun Sen (right) waits in the hall of National Assembly before a meeting, in Phnom Penh yesterday

ment to ensure that the polls this year and next "are free, open, and transparent, that all political parties have the opportunity to compete on an equal basis." AP

USA

Trump marks his first month with tweets, turmoil



President Donald Trump speaks at the Boeing South Carolina facility in North Charleston (S.C.)

Nancy Benac, Washington

ONE month after the inauguration, the stretch of Pennsylvania Avenue in front of Donald Trump's White House still is a hard-hat zone. Skeletal remains of the inaugural reviewing stands poke skyward. Random piles of plywood and cables are heaped on the ground inside crooked lines of metal fencing.

The disarray outside the president's front door, though not his fault, serves as a metaphor for the tumult still unfolding inside.

Four weeks in, the man who says he inherited "a mess" at home and abroad is presiding over a White House that is widely described as itself being a mess.

At a stunning pace, Trump has riled world leaders and frustrated allies. He was dealt a bruising legal blow on one of his signature policies. He lost his national security adviser and his pick for labor secretary to scandal. He's seen forces within his government push back against his policies and leak confidential information. All of this has played out amid a steady drip of revelations about an FBI investigation into his campaign's contacts with Russian intelligence officials.

Trump says his administration is running like a "fine-tuned machine." He points to the rising stock market and the devotion of his still-loyal supporters as evidence that all is well, although his

job approval rating is much lower than that for prior presidents in their first weeks in office.

Stung by the unrelenting criticism coming his way, Trump dismisses much of it as "fake news" delivered by "the enemy of the people" — aka the press. Daily denunciations of the media are just one of the new White House fixtures Americans are adjusting to.

Most days start (and end) with presidential tweets riffing off of whatever's on TV talk shows or teasing coming events or hurling insults at the media.

At some point in the day, count on Trump to cast back to the marvels of his upset of Democrat Hillary Clinton in the November election and quite possibly overstate his margins of support. Expect more denunciations of the "dishonest" press and its "fake news."

From there, things can veer in unexpected directions as Trump offers up policy pronouncements or offhand remarks that leave even White House aides struggling to interpret them.

The long-standing U.S. policy of seeking a two-state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict? Trump this past week offered this cryptic pronouncement: "I'm looking at two-state and one-state, and I like the one that both parties like. I can live with either one." His U.N. ambassador, Nikki Haley, the next day insisted, "We absolutely support a two-state solution."

Trump's days are busy. Outside groups troop in for "listening sessions." Foreign leaders call or come to visit. (Or, in the case of Mexico's president, cancel out in pique over Trump's talk about the planned border wall.)

After the president signed two dozen executive actions, the White House was awaiting a rush order of more of the gold-plated Cross pens that Trump prefers to the chrome-plated ones used by his predecessor.

Trump hands them out as souvenirs at the signing ceremonies that he points to as evidence of his ambitious pace.

"This last month has represented an unprecedented degree of action on behalf of the great citizens of our country," Trump said at a Thursday news conference. "Again, I say it. There has never been a presidency that's done so much in such a short period of time."

That's all music to the ears of his followers, who sent him to Washington to upend the established order and play the role of disrupter.

"I can't believe there's actually a politician doing what he says he would do," says an approving Scott Hiltgen, a 66-year-old office furniture sales broker from River Falls, Wisconsin. "That never happens."

Disrupt Trump has.

But there may be more sound and fury than substance to many of his early actions.

Trump did select Judge Neil Gorsuch to replace the late Antonin Scalia on the Supreme Court, a nomination that has drawn strong reviews from conservatives.

But the president is regrouping on immigration after federal judges blocked his order to suspend the United States' refugee program and ban visitors from seven Muslim-majority countries, which had caused chaos for travelers around the globe. Some other orders on issues such as the U.S.-Mexico border wall and former President Barack Obama's health care law are of limited effect.

Trump says his early actions show he means to deliver on the promises he made during the campaign.

"A lot of people say, 'Oh, oh, Trump was only kidding with the wall,'" the president told a group of police chiefs recently. "I wasn't kidding. I don't kid."

But the Republican-led Congress is still waiting to see specifics on how Trump wants to proceed legislatively on top initiatives such as replacing the health care law, enacting tax cuts and revising trade deals.

The messy rollout of the travel ban and tumult over the ouster of national security adviser Michael Flynn for misrepresenting his contacts with Russia are part of a broader state of disarray as different figures in Trump's White House jockey for power and leaks reveal internal discord in the ma-

chinations of the presidency.

"I thought by now you'd at least hear the outlines of domestic legislation like tax cuts," says Princeton historian Julian Zelizer. "But a lot of that has slowed. Trump shouldn't mistake the fact that some of his supporters like his style with the fact that a lot of Republicans just want the policies he promised them. He has to deliver that."

Put Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., in the camp of those more interested in substance than style.

"I'm not a great fan of daily tweets," McConnell said last week, referring to the "extra discussion" that Trump likes to engage in.

But McConnell was quick to add: "What I am a fan of is what

■ Most days start (and end) with presidential tweets riffing off of whatever's on TV talk shows or teasing coming events or hurling insults at the media

he's been actually doing."

He credits Trump with assembling a conservative Cabinet and taking steps to reduce government regulation, and promised: "We like his positions and we're going to pursue them as vigorously as we can."

The challenge may be to tease out exactly what Trump wants in the way of a health care plan, tax changes and trade policy.

At his long and defiant news conference on Thursday, Trump tried to dispel the impression of a White House in crisis, squarely blaming the press for keeping him from moving forward more decisively on his agenda.

Pointing to his chief of staff, Reince Priebus, Trump said, "You take a look at Reince, he's working so hard just putting out fires that are fake fires. I mean, they're fake. They're not true. And isn't that a shame because he'd rather be working on health care, he'd rather be working on tax reform."

For all the frustrations of his early days as president, Trump still seems tickled by the trappings of his office.

When New Jersey Gov. Chris Christie visited the White House last week to discuss the national opioid epidemic over lunch, the governor said Trump informed him: "Chris, you and I are going to have the meatloaf."

Trump added: "I'm telling you, the meatloaf is fabulous." AP

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what's ON

TRANSCIENCE: DAREDEVILS AND TOWERING WEBS

TIME: 12pm-8pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2017

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space, 10 Rua dos Clerigos, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

TIME: 10am-1pm and 2pm-5pm daily (Except Mondays, closed on the following day instead if a public holiday falls on Monday and no admission after 4:45 pm; six viewings per day)

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (853) 2833 7676

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

TIME: 10:30am-7pm daily (Closed on the first Monday of every month)

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

WHAT HAPPENED LAST NIGHT? - WORKS BY TIFFANY TANG

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

ADMISSION: Free

'LUI CHUN KWONG THE DISTANT LINE'

EXHIBITION

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery / Av. Conselheiro

Ferreira de Almeida, No. 95, Macao

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

ENTER PLEASE - WORKS BY CATHLEEN LAU

TIME: 12pm-7pm (closed on Tuesdays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 26, 2017

VENUE: Ox Warehouse, intersection of Av. Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

ADMISSION: Free

Offbeat

MISSPELLED NOTE ON PICKUP APOLOGIZES FOR 'ANGER ISUSESH'

Police in western Colorado say a man battered somebody else's pickup with a baseball bat and then left a note acknowledging he had anger issues.

Police say the note read, "Sorryy anger isusesesh." [sic] The Glenwood Springs Post Independent reports (bit.ly/2laQ9t7) the attack occurred in January near Carbondale.

The pickup's owner found the damage and the note when he returned from snowmobiling. Two witnesses told police another snowmobiler apparently thought the pickup had parked too close to his vehicle.

The witnesses say they heard whacking sounds, and one saw the other snowmobiler swinging a bat. They told police they insisted he leave a note. They say he was then able to leave his parking spot with no problem.

Police say they arrested a 53-year-old man on a criminal mischief charge.

TV canal macau

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 14:50 | RTPi Live |
| 15:30 | Nos League: Braga - Benfica (Repeated) |
| 17:10 | Criminal Minds S.8 |
| 17:50 | Next in Line (Repeated) |
| 18:40 | TDM Sport (Repeated) |
| 19:40 | Soap Opera |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | TDM Interview |
| 21:40 | Once Upon A Time S2 |
| 22:20 | Next in Line - End |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:05 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:40 | RTPi Live |

cinema

CINETEATRO

16 FEB - 22 FEB

LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Liu Guonan

Starring: Sammi Cheng, Joseph Chang

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 98min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1

7:45pm

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose

Language: English

Duration: 103min

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

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

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Gore Verbinski

Starring: Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 146min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chris McKay

Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

16 FEB - 22 FEB

KUNG-FU YOGA

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

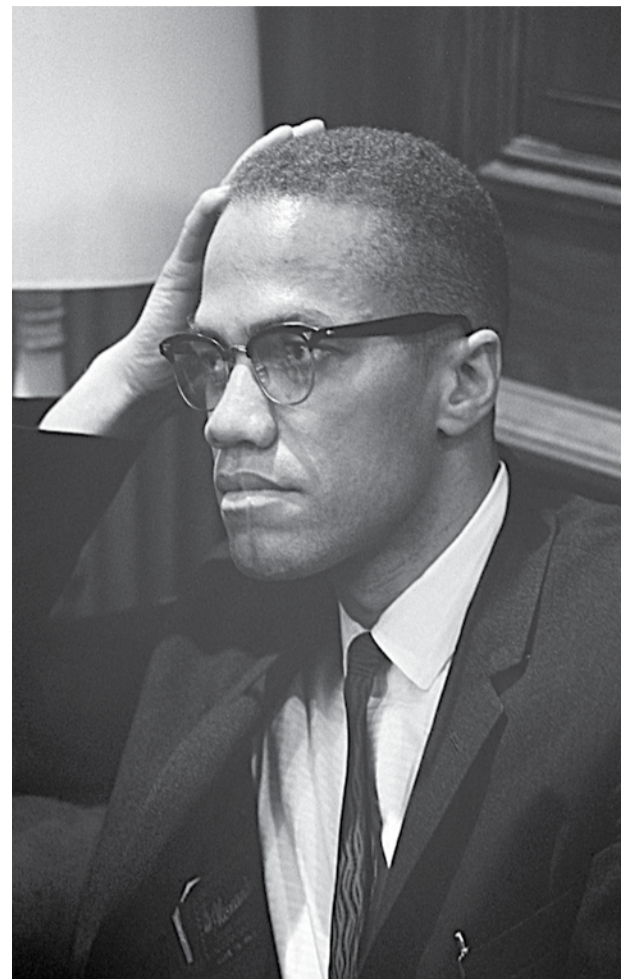
Director: Stanley Tong

Starring: Jackie Chan, Disha Patani, Amyra Dastur

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

this day in history



1965 BLACK NATIONALIST LEADER SHOT DEAD

Controversial black leader Malcolm X, who once called for a "blacks-only" state in the US, has been assassinated.

He was shot several times as he began a speech to 400 of his followers at the Audubon Ballroom just outside the district of Harlem in New York.

Malcolm X, who was 39, was taken to a nearby hospital but was pronounced dead shortly afterwards.

Two men believed to have carried out the shooting were cornered outside the ballroom by a crowd and badly beaten. It took 10 police officers several minutes to rescue them.

One of the arrested men, Thomas Hagan, 22, had a bullet wound to his leg and was taken to hospital.

It is believed the men are members of the black Muslim group, the Nation of Islam (NoI).

Malcolm X had long been tipped to take over from the NoI's ageing leader, Elijah Muhammad.

He gave up his "slave" family name of Little when he joined the black Muslim group while serving a jail term.

But he broke away from the NoI acrimoniously two years ago to set up his own organisation which he said was for "Negro intellectuals who favoured racial separation but could not accept the Muslim religion".

However, after a recent trip to Mecca he appeared to be taking a more conciliatory approach to white people.

Sanford Garelick, assistant chief of New York police said Malcolm X's death could most probably be put down to rivalry between the two groups.

"This is the result, it would seem, of a long-standing feud," he said.

Only last week Malcolm X and his family survived the fire-bombing of their home in the Queen's district of New York.

Malcolm X's lawyer, Percy Sutton, said he was aware his life was in danger.

"Malcolm knew he would be killed," Mr Sutton said.

Police said they were investigating reports that some of Malcolm X's followers were planning a revenge attack.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In March 1966 three men, two of whom admitted being members of the Nation of Islam, were found guilty of Malcolm X's murder. They were sentenced to life imprisonment.

In May 2000 Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan appeared on television with one of Malcolm X's daughters.

He had long been blamed by Malcolm X's family and supporters for inciting his murder.

Mr Farrakhan expressed regret that "any word that I have said caused the loss of life of a human being".

However, he denied he had had any role in the actual killing.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Just when you thought things absolutely couldn't get any more intense - well, here it is. One more situation you have no choice but to become totally and completely emotionally involved in.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
You're ordinarily quite respectful of family members - especially your elders - and of friends, too. But, if you see them trying to interfere with your relationship, you just won't stand for it.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
You weren't on your game last week, mostly because you were concentrating on a certain someone and quite unable to think about much else. Well, a whole new workweek is nearly upon you.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
This will definitely not be a boring day - or a boring evening, Startling, maybe. Surprising, for sure. But not boring. There's also a fair bit of romance coming along - and not a moment too soon.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
All that hibernating gave you a chance to do some thinking, and you've arrived at a decision with regard to a certain someone who's been feeling more and more like a weight around your neck.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your friends have some rather shell-shocked looks on their faces. It's kind of fun seeing them this way, isn't it? Still, you should try to resist the urge to shock them any further. They can only take so much.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Still wondering about how you can turn what you love to do as a hobby into what you love to do for a living? Well, maybe it's time to ask someone who knows the ropes for some advice.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You're feeling wonderful. Exhilarated, excited and anxious for all new things to happen. Well, here's a news flash: Just thinking about change the way you are means it's already started.

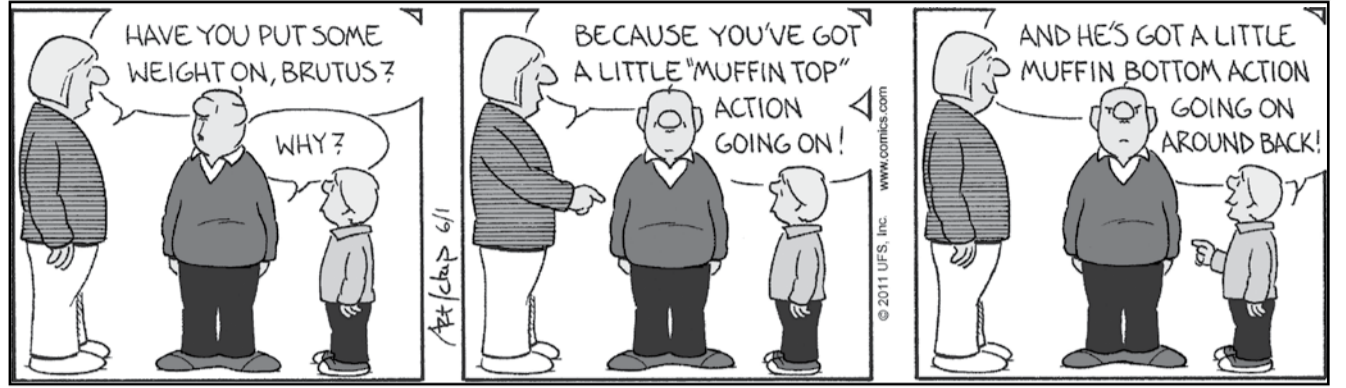
Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Keeping quiet has never been your specialty. Particularly after weeks of trying and getting no help from all other parties concerned. Fortunately, there's someone else who's actually as irritated about all this as you are.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Not to worry. Your closest and truest friends won't be going anywhere - not even after you tell them that you need new stimulation when it comes to conversation and social interactions.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
If you manage to resist marching up to your superior and demanding that they give in to you on all counts - well, it might mean that you didn't make it into work today.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
Every now and then, you need to get emotionally intense, experience a tender exchange of sentiments or just sit down and have a heart-to-heart with someone. This is definitely one of those times.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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| 1 | | | 7 | 2 | | | | |
| 2 | 5 | | 4 | 3 | | | | |
| | 3 | 5 | | | 9 | | | |
| 6 | | 9 | | 2 | | | | |
| 2 | | | 1 | | | | 8 | |
| | 8 | | 4 | | | | 5 | |
| 8 | | | 2 | 7 | | | | |
| | 2 | 6 | | 1 | 4 | | | |
| 3 | 7 | | | | 6 | | | |

Medium

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| | | | | 8 | | 7 | | |
| | | | 3 | 8 | 1 | | | |
| 9 | 4 | | 6 | | | 3 | | |
| | 5 | 6 | | 1 | | | | |
| 2 | | | 6 | 3 | | | 9 | |
| | | | 2 | | 6 | 8 | | |
| 6 | | | 1 | | | 4 | 8 | |
| | | 5 | 8 | 4 | | | | |
| 4 | 7 | | | | | | | |

Hard

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | | 4 | | | 1 | | |
| 7 | | | | 6 | | | | |
| 2 | | | | 5 | | | | |
| | 5 | 2 | | | 7 | | | |
| | 4 | 3 | | | | | | |
| 1 | | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 8 | 2 | |
| | | | 1 | 6 | | | | |
| | | | | | | | | 5 |

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
|--------------|-----|-----|------------------------|
| CHINA | | | |
| Beijing | -2 | 1 | overcast/flurry |
| Harbin | -21 | -5 | clear/cloudy |
| Tianjin | -3 | 2 | cloudy/moderate snow |
| Urumqi | -13 | -4 | clear |
| Xi'an | -1 | 2 | drizzle/sleet |
| Lhasa | 1 | 14 | clear/cloudy |
| Chengdu | 8 | 11 | drizzle |
| Chongqing | 8 | 14 | drizzle |
| Kunming | 8 | 20 | cloudy |
| Nanjing | 2 | 9 | overcast/drizzle |
| Shanghai | 5 | 9 | drizzle/overcast |
| Wuhan | 3 | 9 | overcast/moderate rain |
| Hangzhou | 5 | 11 | overcast/cloudy |
| Taipei | 17 | 23 | Moderate rain/drizzle |
| Guangzhou | 18 | 24 | overcast/drizzle |
| Hong Kong | 17 | 20 | cloudy/shower |
| WORLD | | | |
| Moscow | 2 | 4 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 6 | 9 | drizzle |
| Paris | 7 | 9 | drizzle |
| London | 7 | 13 | drizzle |
| New York | 0 | 11 | clear |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Big birds; 5- Leading; 10- "South Park" kid; 14- Waterproof cover; 15- Quit; 16- Marsh growth; 17- Naive; 20- Senseless; 21- Carnival site; 22- Japanese dog; 23- Sun. delivery; 25- Wipe out; 27- Noble woman; 31- Muscle; 35- Decorative pitcher; 36- Pound steadily; 38- Man-mouse link; 39- ___-relief; 40- Hung. neighbor; 41- 007 creator Fleming; 42- Law enforcement agency; 43- Lode load; 44- Fuel oil; 46- Profit; 47- Gasoline; 49- That which a person owns; 51- Provide; 53- Boy king; 54- Michelangelo masterpiece; 57- Biol. or chem.; 59- Hub-to-rim lines; 63- Direct; 66- Yours, in Tours; 67- Aired again; 68- Sunburn soother; 69- Kit item; 70- Make a speech; 71- Hankerings;

DOWN: 1- Needle case; 2- Jazz flutist Herbie; 3- Bear in the sky; 4- Underwriter; 5- Rhine whine; 6- One who has something coming?; 7- Least difficult; 8- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 9- Agnus ___; 10- Mythical sea monster; 11- Abominable Snowman; 12- Internet writing system that popularized "pwn3d" and "n00b"; 13- Icelandic epic; 18- Hammer end; 19- Barracks; 24- Reconstruct; 26- Pigged out; 27- Jazz genre; 28- Alert, knowing; 29- Bowling alley button; 30- Manuscript enc.; 32- To this point; 33- Planet's path; 34- Coming down; 37- Wedding cake feature; 40- Title of reverence for God; 45- More than one continuum; 46- Escape; 48- Sell directly to the consumer; 50- Run smoothly; 52- Doorkeeper; 54- H.S. junior's exam; 55- Sock ___ me!; 56- Switch ending; 58- ___ first you don't...; 60- Roy's "singin' partner"; 61- Golf club which can be numbered 1 to 9; 62- Mid-month times; 64- Miracle-___ (plant food); 65- Washington bill;

Yesterday's solution

| | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| G | A | T | E | V | A | T | I | C | G | A | E | A |
| A | C | H | E | A | B | A | C | O | A | R | C | H |
| T | N | O | R | N | O | T | I | N | S | O | R | A |
| T | E | R | I | G | U | A | N | G | Z | H | O | U |
| R | E | T | R | E | A | T | S | U | N | C | L | E |
| E | N | A | A | R | E | A | S | Y | E | A | R | N |
| M | O | C | S | D | E | S | K | S | L | I | N | E |
| S | L | I | E | R | S | H | I | E | R | R | I | O |
| A | T | S | E | A | A | N | D | E | R | S | E | N |
| B | Y | P | R | O | D | U | C | T | S | A | T | E |
| A | A | A | S | L | E | R | O | I | O | S | A | Y |
| T | L | L | S | P | L | A | T | O | R | I | L | E |
| D | I | E | T | H | E | L | E | N | T | R | K | S |

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
- Fire department 28 572 222
- PJ (Open line) 993
- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 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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| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| <p>Nova Taipa Tower 29 Car Park, Taipa 0 sq ft / HKD 0 sq ft. HKD 1.3M No M260. Close to Lift Ref: 16105502</p> | <p>Taipa Warehouse, Pac On Taipa 1,652 sq ft / HKD 4,231 sq ft HKD 6.99M Storage Space & Cargo Lifts Ref: 16095501</p> | <p>Nova City Penthouse Taipa 1,984 sq ft / HKD 7,832sq ft HKD 15.54M European Style Ref: 16105508</p> | <p>Nam Long (J Unit) Old Taipa 750 sq ft / HKD 5,733sq ft HKD 4.3M Stylishly Furnished Throughout Ref: 16095499</p> |
| <p>Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau 1 Bedroom Apartment Well equipped kitchen HKD 9,500 / 627 sq ft Ref: 16090610</p> | <p>Edf. Coloane Coloane Village 2 Bedroom Apartment Open Views HKD 9,000 / 747 sq ft Ref: 17010633</p> | <p>Manhattan - B unit Taipa 3 Bedroom Apartment Spacious and Furnished HKD 22,000 / 1,680 sq ft Ref: 16120630</p> | <p>Hellene Gardens, Lot 4, D Unit Tulip Court, Coloane 3 Bedroom Apartment Car Park Included HKD 12,800 / 1,663 sq ft Ref: 16100623</p> |

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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報
Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL | ASIAN CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

South China derby: Female coach ready to take on Scolari

AP PHOTO



Scolari (Guangzhou Evergrande)



Chan Yuen-ting (Eastern FC, HK)

John Duerden

THE first test of Chan Yuen-ting's assignment as the first female coach in the Asian Champions League couldn't be much more difficult, considering she's taking her Hong Kong club to big-spending Guangzhou Evergrande to play tomorrow [12pm] a team guided by World Cup-winning coach Luiz Felipe Scolari.

The 28-year-old Chan led Eastern FC to the Hong Kong Premier League title in 2016 and her reward is a first game in Asia against one of most famous coaches in the world and most powerful clubs on the continent.

"We will not be taking the game lightly," Scolari said. "We are ex-

pecting a tough game and know that it is important to get off to a good start in this competition."

As well as Scolari's success with Guangzhou in the 2015 Asian Champions League, the club from southern China won the 2013 title under Marcello Lippi.

"I am happy to meet Scolari," Chan told The Associated Press. "The Asian Champions League is a valuable opportunity for us to learn from opponents like Guangzhou and improve ourselves."

"We will try very hard to show our quality," Chan said. "From the beginning, we expected this. Every game will be very tough for us. We just need to improve and prepare for the games as well as we can."

Guangzhou has won the last six

Chinese Super League titles and despite a quiet transfer window, the club has asked its stars, who include Brazilians Paulinho and Ricardo Goulart, to win every competition it enters this season.

Evergrande Group chairman Hui Ka-yan announced that he expected his team to win all four trophies available this year.

"Guangzhou Evergrande needs to be ambitious in the 2017 season, setting its sights on four titles," he said. "The Chinese Super League, Asian Champions League, CFA Cup and the Super Cup."

With defending champion Jeonbuk Motors of South Korea barred from the tournament after a club scout was found guilty of bribing referees in the K-League

in 2006, Guangzhou is the favorite to take the trophy for a third time. But there will be challenges.

The team remains the only Chinese winner of the competition, but both Shanghai SIPG and Jiangsu Suning have ambitions.

Former Chelsea and Tottenham Hotspur coach Andres Villas Boas is now in charge of Shanghai and in January the club paid around USD60 million to English Premier League giant Chelsea for Brazilian midfielder Oscar.

He links up with Hulk, the striker signed for a similar amount in June and another prolific Brazilian Elkeson, who scored in both the 2013 and 2015 finals for Guangzhou.

At the club's season launch on Feb 13, Villas-Boas, who replaced

Sven Goran-Eriksson as coach at the end of last season, was bullish.

"I've promised the president that at the end of the season he would sleep with one trophy," he said.

"I hope that me and the players can give this special night to him at the end of the season. It's really important for us to try to shorten the distance to the top, to be first, to be there winning trophies."

Shanghai's city rival Shanghai Shenhua had been expected to be preparing for the group stage, especially after making Argentine star Carlos Tevez reportedly the highest-paid player of the year in January. Shenhua was disappointed, however, to lose at home in February's play-off to Brisbane Roar.

Australian teams are improving in this competition. In 2016, both Sydney FC and Melbourne Victory reached the knockout stage for the first time. This year, 2014 tournament winner Western Sydney Wanderers returns to the continental stage, alongside Adelaide United and Brisbane.

South Korean teams have won the continental championship, in its various formats, 11 times, more than double their closest rival. FC Seoul, finalist in 2013 and semifinalist in 2014 and 2016 is expected to do well.

Japan has failed to provide a finalist since 2008 when Gamba Osaka became champion. Osaka is one of the country's four representatives this time along with Urawa Reds, winner in 2007, and Kashima Antlers, a 2016 FIFA Club World Cup finalist.

With the 32 teams split into two geographic zones until the final, West Asia is guaranteed a chance at the trophy but since 2005, only once has the title left the eastern zone.

United Arab Emirates teams Al Ahli of Dubai and Al Ain have come close in recent years as has Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal, and all three will be hoping to go all the way in 2017. **AP**

ASIAN WINTER GAMES

South Korea wins two golds in short track speed skating

SOUTH Korea won two gold medals in short track speed skating at the Asian Winter Games yesterday, an early indication the hosts of the 2018 Winter Olympics could be regaining their dominance of the sport.

Choi Min-jeong won the women's 1,500 meters and Park Se-yeong took top honors in the men's 1,500.

Choi clocked a winning time of 2 minutes, 21.46 seconds to edge compatriot Shim Suk-hee by .153 seconds. Guo Yihan of China was third in 2:30.017.

"I wasn't that focused on us coming first and second

and more concerned about the skaters from the other countries," said seven-time world champion Choi. "But it was great that we could get this result together."

Park won the men's event with a time of 2:34.056 while China's Wu Dajing was second in 2:34.256. Lee Jung-su, also of South Korea, was third in 2:34.356.

South Korea has been dominant in short track speed skating since it was introduced at the Albertville Olympics in 1992 but managed only two gold medals at the Sochi Games in 2014.

South Korea also won a

gold medal in speed skating.

Lee Seung-hoon won the men's 5,000 meters with a time of 6:24.32, 5.35 seconds ahead of Ryosuke Tsuchiya of Japan. Seitaro Ichinohe of Japan was third in 6:31.84.

Nao Kodaira won gold in women's 1,000 meters.

The Japanese skater, who has won all six World Cup events this season in the 500, recorded a new Asian record of 1 minute, 15.19 seconds, 0.12 seconds ahead of compatriot Miho Takagi. China's Zhang Hong won the bronze in 1:15.75.

Kodaira won the silver

medal in the women's 1,000 meters the world single distances speed skating championships last week, adding to her first world gold medal in the 500.

Gao Tingyu of China won the men's 500, clocking a time of 34.69, 0.10 seconds ahead of Tsubasa Hasegawa of Japan. Cha Min Kyu of South Korea was third in 34.94.

Zang Ruxing of China won gold in the snowboarding women's slalom while Lee Sang-ho kicked off South Korea's gold medal rush on the opening day of competition by winning the men's slalom. **AP**



Park Se-yeong (right) of South Korea leads during the men's 1500 meters final of short track speed skating competition at the Asian Winter Games at Makomanai Indoor Skating Rink in Sapporo, Japan

opinion

Our Desk

Julie Zhu



ONE PATAKA PER PLASTIC BAG

Environmental protection is a never ending topic among people's conversations when they discuss the development of Macau. This notwithstanding, recycling has also been a headache for the heavily populated territory which is in fact one of the world's most densely populated regions.

Thoughts on how to help the city improve its recycling system accumulate almost daily. One of them, which has been talked about hundreds of times, is to start charging for plastic shopping bags at the supermarket.

At the end of January, the Director of the Environment Protection Bureau (DSPE), Raymond Tam Vai Man, informed that the government was considering the implementation of a new policy whereby every plastic shopping bag would cost one pataca, paid for by the customers, adding that the price had been widely accepted by the general public during a consultation period.

Furthermore, Tam informed that the final charge would only be settled when a law is passed, which means that it is still unknown whether Macau will charge one pataca for a plastic shopping bag.

Regardless, it sounds like a good start for the city moving towards a better social status.

In a tier 4 Chinese city situated in a province lagging behind economically when compared to Macau, a chain supermarket charges RMB0.2 for their smallest plastic shopping bag, and RMB0.5 for the biggest.

In that city, a female cleaning worker earns approximately RMB1,500 per month. A comparable salary is given to a cashier who works for an international chain supermarket.

In turn, in the neighboring region Hong Kong, the law requires shops to charge at least HKD0.5 per bag.

If Macau ultimately starts charging one pataca per bag, the city will stand out in terms of efforts directed to restricting plastic bag usage.

Nevertheless, one should still worry about the plastic bag situation in street markets.

For example, just across the border at the Gongbei food market, which is similar to the Red Market in Macau, plastic shopping bags are free of charge and given away by every single vendor. In other words, the situation remains the same as before China launched its plastic restrictions.

The only places where an effective plastic bag reduction has been conducted are indeed big chain stores, especially supermarkets.

How Macau will try to enforce this policy in street markets after it starts charging fees in supermarkets remains an unsolved mystery to me.

Moreover, another concern of mine is that charging for plastic bags, like any other environmental friendly project, can only raise awareness within people who have already thought a bit about strategies to protect the environment.

In addition, Macau is a tourism city. It welcomes hundreds of thousands of tourists nearly every single day. What about these tourists? Will they bring their own bags to do groceries? Or will they simply ignore the negligible price to pay?

How many people will consider reusing bags? Is one pataca enough to change behaviour? Keep in mind that Macau fines a minimum of MOP300 for unruly behaviours such as spitting or throwing trash on the ground, but many people still do such things.

My last concern is how to make sure the younger generations will do some good instead of inheriting bad environmental habits. If the latter hypothesis prevails, problems will never be solved or reduced; young generations will grow older and continue making the same mistakes as their elders.

THE SWEDISH THINK TANK: ARMS TRADE IS FLOURISHING

A Swedish think tank says that the global arms trade has steadily increased in volume the past five years, propelled by an almost doubling of arms imports in the Middle East and strong growth in demand in Asia.

Five countries — United States, Russia, China, France, Germany — accounted for 74 percent of the total arms exports.

The Stockholm International Peace Research

Institute said that Asia and Oceania accounted for 43 percent of global arms imports in 2012-16, with India being the largest importer accounting for 43 percent of all imports. It was followed by Saudi Arabia with an increase of 212 percent compared to the previous five years.

The largest exporter, USA, increased arms exports by 21 percent, with almost half going to the Middle East.

Singaporean PM, hosting Netanyahu, endorses 'two-state' plan



Israeli PM Benjamin Netanyahu (left) shakes hands with his Singapore counterpart, Lee Hsien Loong, during a joint press conference at the Presidential Palace, in Singapore, yesterday

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

SINGAPOREAN Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, hosting a visit by his Israeli counterpart, Benjamin Netanyahu, said his country believes in a "two-state solution" to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Lee explained his stand at a joint news briefing with Netanyahu, who does not endorse the two-nation approach. Lee said he realizes a two-state solution is difficult to achieve, but said it is the only way to achieve peace.

Netanyahu's official visit is the first to Singapore by an Israeli head of government. Last year Lee became the first Singaporean prime minister to visit Israel.

Netanyahu referred to Singapore and Israel at the news

conference as being "kindred spirits." Both nations are small, with significant defense and high-tech industries. The two countries established diplomatic relations in 1969, but have ties dating back to 1965, when Israeli military advisers covertly assisted Singapore after its declaration of independence.

Acknowledging the "very complex situation" between Palestinians and Israel, Lee called for direct negotiations that will ensure "progress toward a just and durable solution to this long-standing and often, unfortunately violent conflict."

"We have consistently believed that a two-state solution between Israel and Palestine, however hard to achieve, is the only way to bring peace and security to both peoples,"

Lee said.

Netanyahu did not mention tensions in the Middle East in his remarks yesterday, after which questions were not allowed.

The two-state approach, in which negotiations aim to lead to an independent Palestinian nation, has wide international support. It would likely require Israel to give up occupied territory that is strategically and religiously significant.

A two-state solution has anchored American diplomacy in the Middle East for two decades. When U.S. President Donald Trump hosted Netanyahu last week, the American leader signaled a policy shift, saying both a two-state and a single-state solution should be considered.

Netanyahu departs for Australia today.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Yui Mok / PA via AP



Wall for Trump. People gather in Parliament Square as part of a national day of action in support of migrants in the UK, in London with the Houses of Parliament back right, yesterday. British lawmakers are set to hold a debate to consider a call for U.S. President Donald Trump to be denied an official state visit to the U.K.

| Station | Air quality | |
|-------------------------------|----------------|--|
| Roadside | 35-55 Good | |
| High Density Residential Area | 40-60 Moderate | |
| Ambient | 40-60 Moderate | |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

NORTH KOREA relies on its farmers to squeeze absolutely all they can out of every harvest. It's a tall order in a country with 25 million mouths to feed that is mostly mountains, hamstrung by international trade sanctions and, beyond a handful of showcase cooperatives, hard-pressed to modernize its agricultural sector.

More on p12



PAKISTAN An avalanche has killed seven people in northern Pakistan. Officials with the provincial disaster management department, say another eight people were injured. Those people have been retrieved from a building buried by the avalanche Sunday near Lowari Tunnel in Upper District. Officials say there could be additional victims under the debris.



GERMANY's foreign ministry says the case of a newspaper correspondent detained in Turkey is of "greatest importance" for Berlin. The ministry is in contact with the Welt daily and its correspondent Deniz Yucel (pictured). Yucel, who has both Turkish and German citizenship, was taken into custody last week after presenting himself at a police station in Istanbul for questioning in connection with his reporting on a hacking case.



UK Uber's chief executive ordered an urgent investigation into a sexual harassment claim made by a female engineer who alleged her prospects at the company evaporated after she complained about advances from her boss. Travis Kalanick responded on Twitter to an open statement by Susan Fowler Rigetti about her year at the ride-hailing app. "What's described here is abhorrent & against everything we believe in," Kalanick tweeted yesterday.