



MALAYSIA CLAIMS FAMILY CONSENT

The family of Kim Jong Nam has reportedly given its consent to Malaysia to decide what to do with his body

P3



PLAN TO DEVELOP LANGUAGE SKILLS

A new subsidy program to support the improvement of local graduates' language skills was launched

P5



DUTCH ELECTIONS: NOT A POPULIST REVOLT

P14

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WORLD BRIEFS



FRANCE A letter exploded yesterday at the French office of the International Monetary Fund, lightly injuring one person, amid heightened security around Europe after a string of deadly attacks. The incident came as a Greek anarchist group claimed responsibility for a failed letter bomb sent to the German Finance Ministry on Wednesday.

TAIWAN is planning to upgrade its F-16 fighter jets and will seek cutting-edge stealth aircraft from the United States in the face of a growing military threat from rival China, the Defense Ministry says. More on p10



CHINA Chinese director Jia Zhangke, known for films exploring China's wrenching social changes, will host his own festival to showcase the work of young directors and movies from developing countries. The Pingyao International Film Festival will be held Oct. 19-26 in the ancient city in the northern province of Shanxi, from where Jia hails.

More on backpage

Exec predicts huge growth in Hengqin

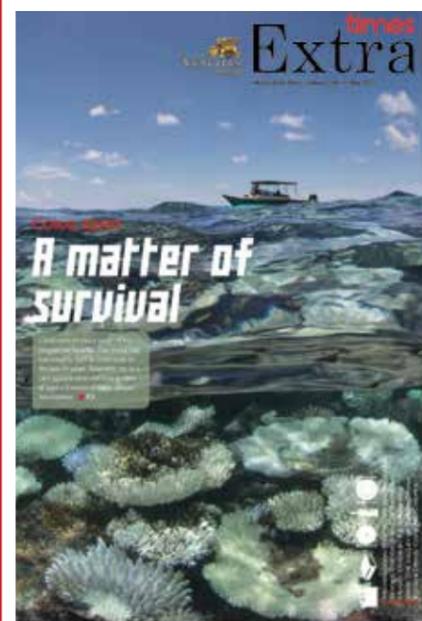
P3



WRITER BRIAN CASTRO TO MDT

'Macau is still an enclave in the past'

P2 INTERVIEW



Extra
times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

Q&A BRIAN CASTRO
AUSTRALIAN WRITER

'Macau is still an enclave in the past'

Daniel Beitler

BRIAN Castro is an author and academic in Australia who has published 11 novels and a volume of essays, some of which have connections to Macau. He was invited to speak this week at the "Macau Literary Festival – The Script Road."

Born in Hong Kong of Portuguese, Chinese and English parentage, Castro did not explicitly refer to himself as "Macanese" during the session, though acknowledged that he has connections to Macau. He added that identity is somewhat of a "confusing" issue for him, but he regards his "troublesome identity" as an advantage.

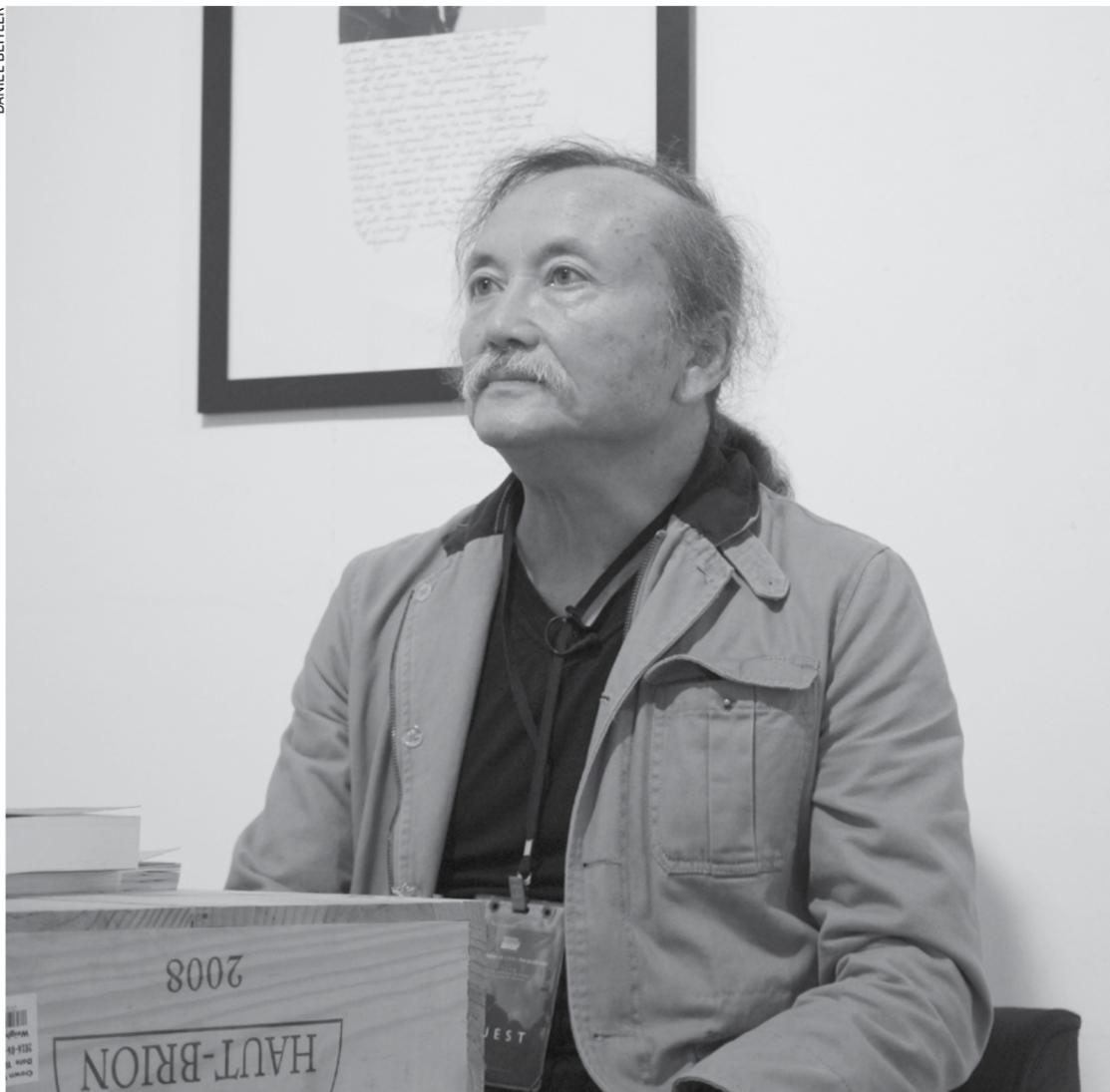
Castro has previously claimed that he was born on a boat traveling between Hong Kong and Macau, however when pressed for details during the discussion this week, Castro was elusive, stressing that he is a fiction writer and noting that "authenticity has a very foggy [unclear] meaning."

The Times sat down with Castro to understand his perspective of Macau and his thoughts on the city's development since he last visited about 10 years ago.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Can you tell us a little about your history and how you came to be a writer?

Brian Castro (BC) - I was born in Hong Kong and sent to boarding school in Australia when I was 11 years old. My father was Portuguese and my mother was Eurasian [Chinese and European] and that made me interested my whole life in what it means to be so mixed. Other people consider it a disadvantage, but I consider it an advantage as a writer to [be able to] cross all of these boundaries of nationalities and language. I first started writing in 1981 and had no interest from publishers except for a competition that I entered. [... After winning the competition] I started as a full-time writer and I was always half a writer and half an academic – working in the

DANIEL BEITLER



university and teaching students creative writing... not that you can really teach someone that, but you can mentor them.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – Having lived in Australia for most of your life, do you regard your connection to Macau as a little romantic?

BC - I think so. Macau [retains] a place in my memory. My father spent some time here and he used to tell me things [...] and I became thrilled with revisiting his past. [...] So, it is about the past, and I am concerned that China will just swap everything here in the future – and I hope that doesn't happen. The preservation of culture is very important. I think that the really old Macau has great stories to tell; great stories that can turn into novels.

MDT – What do you make of the city's development in the past decade since you last visited?

BC - It was a surprise to me. It's fine as long as the casino world doesn't consume and destroy what is of value – and this question of value is ineffable and cannot be measured in money. [The old Macau] needs to be preserved and not developed over, even though I know a lot of people won't be pleased with [the reminder of] Macau's colonial history. I think that it is essential that we value what we have and don't dismiss it for the sake of the next skyscraper.

This [land] reclamation came as a shock to me because this used to be water, it used to be a harbor. And now it has been filled in. It used to be this grand 'sea wall' and now that's five street

back. I haven't been here for 10 years and I am quite surprised. I see this kind of unrestrained development as a real danger.

MDT - How is Macau portrayed in the rest of the world in art, literature and film?

BC - Macau is still an enclave in the past – that's how people see it. Not so much has changed in that respect. My take on it is to preserve the food, the music and the family photographs [in terms of culture]. These are memories. I don't know much about art, but I think that visual artists tend not to recall memory so much. They are recording the present and the future and I would like to see more art and texts that use the idea of [historical] Macau.

In literature, I actually

don't see a lot of themes [when it comes to] Macau. I think that there is only now an identity starting to be formed. After the handover in Hong Kong [in 1997], there was an eruption of Hong Kong culture. Now that's faded away quite dramatically and has become political. One would hope to see that happen in Macau... this efflorescence of Macau culture, that doesn't fade away once China takes the whole [territory] back.

I am concerned that China will just swap everything here in the future – and I hope that doesn't happen.

MDT – You said in the discussion that the Chinese influence on Portuguese culture is often neglected. Why do you think this is?

BC - There is a lot of talk about the Portuguese influencing the Chinese [in Macau], but not so much about the other way around – the Chinese influencing Portuguese culture; the great imperial trading power in this part of the world.

I think because literature is language-based, not like painting or visual arts. I guess in terms of the European [conception] of great literature, there are not many Chinese writers and poets [that meet these standards]. The Chinese were, after Confucius at least, quite embedded in certain classics. In order to become a civil servant [mandarin] you needed to pass all of these exams on these particular authors and so on. So it was very restricted in terms of experimentation.

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ANALYSIS

Hengqin likely to be as developed as Shenzhen

Lynzy Valles

SHENZHEN has rapidly developed into a city with an economic status and output to rival that of Shanghai, China's very own global financial hub.

Barry Wilson, chairman of the British Chamber of Commerce in Shenzhen, predicted yesterday that Hengqin, which is currently undergoing development, will develop in a similar manner to Shenzhen.

"They're going to produce exactly what they say they're going to produce. [...] it's a great opportunity for Macau to integrate with Hengqin," he said.

Wilson, who is the director of a construction consultancy firm and also a scholar, argued that Shenzhen has outperformed Guangzhou in several areas as the leading city in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) region, particularly in technology and design-related industries.

He attributed the city's economic growth to its ability to attract talent, due to the jobs offered by internet and finance companies headquartered in the area, as well as local property prices.



Barry Wilson

Last year, Shenzhen surpassed Beijing and Shanghai as the mainland's most expensive housing market, Wilson pointed out.

Speaking on the sidelines of the British Business Association of Macau's (BBAM) monthly breakfast talk, Wilson acknowledged that the significant and rapid growth of the modern metropolis was due to the visionary government.

"The government has been given a mandate for this to happen and they've done it. The environment they've created has absolutely been pro-business; there's been all sorts of incentives for companies," he ex-

plained. That is why, he argued, Shenzhen is slated to be China's second most prominent city, outstripping Shanghai.

Questioned by the Times as to how and why Hong Kong and Macau have lagged behind Shenzhen in their development of industries such as technology and design, Wilson noted that the two SARs were unable to strategically plan for the long term.

"They have had the central government quite happy to give them freedom to carry on in their own way, but at the same time the government here has not felt totally in control to make

their own vision," he said.

"Hong Kong has not really moved forward in 20 years; it hasn't been able to adapt. It's trying to protect a lot of the cornerstones and benchmarks of its economies in a very changing landscape, and I think you need to be flexible in today's world in business and strategic [planning]."

In an article he had written, Wilson proposed that nothing much has changed since the SAR's handover to China from the British. He cited his belief that Hong Kong is experiencing a long period of economic stagnation, saying "it's 'can do' moniker [is] being replaced by a 'won't do' determination."

Shenzhen – a former fishing community turned industrial and financial megacity, with a current population of over 10 million – is embracing its reputation as Asia's emerging Silicon Valley. Its 2016 GDP rose 9 percent to RMB1.95 trillion.

The chairman also proposed that Hong Kong, Macau and Shenzhen start to strategically plan and collaborate in different areas in order to provide much-needed services in the PRD.

"Macau has to think of where it is in the Pearl River Delta, what's our function and how we play with everybody else [...] rather than to compete," Wilson added. "We've got to stop thinking about Macau, Shenzhen and Hong Kong and start thinking in the Pearl River Delta [region]."



'Macau Cultural Heritage' goes to Goa

The International Institute of Macau (IIM) represented Macau in the "Lusophone Festival - Goa 2017" with a photo exhibition titled "Macau Cultural Heritage". The exhibition features more than 50 photographs of Macau's historic and cultural legacy. It was also featured in a previous edition of the competition last year, as part of a joint initiative by IIM, Macau Digital Photography Association and Macau Club Leo, with the support of the Macao Foundation. The opening ceremony took place on March 7 at the Art Gallery of the Central State Library in Panaji, Goa, an organization run by the Lusophone Society of Goa. IIM is also screening a promotional video at the event to showcase its most recent works. The exhibition is supported by the Macao Foundation and the Macau Government Tourism Office.

Base rate up 0.25pct

The Monetary Authority of Macau (AMCM) yesterday raised the base interest rate by 25 basis points (0.25 percent), following adjustments by the U.S. Federal Reserve and the Hong Kong Monetary Authority. The base rate, which now stands at 1.25 percent, is equal to the new rates in both Hong Kong and the U.S. "The movements of policy rates in Hong Kong and Macau should be basically consistent in order to maintain the effective operation of the linked exchange rate system," said the AMCM in a statement. The MOP currency is pegged to the Hong Kong dollar, which in turn is pegged to the US dollar. The AMCM also warned that "the likelihood of higher loan and deposit rates [in Macau] would be increased over the year if the USA continues to raise its interest rates as expected." The chair of the U.S. Federal Reserve, Janet Yellen, has indicated that there may be two further hikes later this year.

KIM JONG NAM MURDER

Malaysia says it has family consent to decide on Kim's body

MALAYSIAN officials said yesterday that the family of Kim Jong Nam, who was killed last month, has given its consent to Malaysia to decide what to do with his body.

Deputy Prime Minister Ahmad Zahid Hamidi said police confirmed Kim's identity using DNA from his son which was obtained overseas and brought to Malaysia, local media reported. Kim was holding a diplomatic passport bearing the name Kim Chol when he was attacked Feb. 13 at Kuala Lumpur's airport by two women who smeared the banned VX nerve agent on his face, officials say. He died within 20 minutes.

Deputy national police Chief Noor Rashid Ibrahim said Kim's family will let the government decide what to do with his body. "I was made to understand that they are leaving it to our

government to deal with it [body]... yes, they have given their consent," Noor Rashid said.

He said any decision will be subject to negotiations between the two countries amid a diplomatic standoff over the killing. Kim was the estranged half brother of North Korea's leader, Kim Jong Un, and relations between Malaysia and North Korea have deteriorated sharply since Kim's death, with each expelling the other's ambassador.

North Korea blocked Malaysians from leaving the country until a "fair settlement" of the case is reached. Malaysia then barred North Koreans from exiting its soil. The two countries have also scrapped visa-free travel for each other's citizens.

Noor Rashid declined to comment on whether the two women had been given different components that would form a binary version of

VX, but described it as a "professional job."

National police chief Khalid Abu Bakar separately told reporters that four North Korean suspects who left Malaysia on the same day as the killing have been put on Interpol's red notice list, which is a request to locate and hold a person pending extradition.

Police say three other North Korean suspects, including a North Korean diplomat and an employee of Air Koryo, North Korea's state airline, are believed to be in the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.



A staff member of the North Korean Embassy picks up a newspaper from the gate of the embassy in Kuala Lumpur

There are currently nine Malaysians in North Korea – three embassy staff members and their family members. About 315 North Koreans are in Malaysia.

Although Malaysia has never directly accused North Korea of being behind the attack, many speculate that it must have orchestrated it. Experts say the VX nerve agent used to kill Kim was almost certainly produced in a sophisticated state weapons laboratory, and North Ko-

rea is widely believed to possess large quantities of chemical weapons.

In Beijing, a North Korean diplomat said yesterday that the killing was a political conspiracy engineered by Washington and Seoul.

Pak Myong Ho, a minister at the North Korean Embassy in Beijing, said the death was a "despicable and extremely dangerous" plot by the U.S. and South Korea aimed at smearing North Korea's image and subverting its regime. **AP**

N. KOREA: MALAYSIA KILLING WAS US, S. KOREA CONSPIRACY

A **N**ORTH Korean diplomat said yesterday the killing of a man confirmed by Malaysian police to be the estranged half-brother of North Korea's leader was a political conspiracy engineered by Washington and Seoul. Pak Myong Ho, a minister at North Korea's embassy in Beijing, said the Feb. 13 murder of Kim Jong Nam in Malaysia was a "des-

picable and extremely dangerous" plot by the U.S. and South Korea aimed at smearing North Korea's image and subverting its regime. Pak said "indiscriminate claims of behind-the-scenes manipulation" would fail, referring to allegations by South Korea's spy agency that North Korea masterminded the assassination.

'Trees and Large Shrubs' launches tomorrow

Landscape architect and agronomist António Saraiva will launch his new book, "Trees and Large Shrubs in Macau", tomorrow at Albergue. According to Babel – Cultural Organization, the



book is "an important survey of the city tree patrimony, presenting 236 different [species of] trees and shrubs." The book is a collection of the author's extensive efforts to preserve the memory of Macau and its greenery. It will also feature numerous photographs and drawings by two artists, Catarina França and Mafalda Paiva. Born in Lisbon in 1944, Saraiva has devoted his life to the study of plants, gardens and landscapes. In 1985, he moved to Macau, where he worked in Leal Senado as the head of the Garden Department and Green Zones Department, as well as the Forest Department of the Islands Municipality. Saraiva's other works include "Jardins e Parques de Macau" [Gardens and Parks of Macau], co-authored with António Estácio, "Principles of Landscape Architecture and Biophysical Planning" and "Plants of Algarve" (2008). The book is available in Portuguese, English and Chinese.

Library calls for recommendations of newspapers

The Macau Public Library, under the Cultural Affairs Bureau, has put out a call for recommendations regarding which newspapers/periodicals its community would like it to acquire. Library users are welcome to recommend subscriptions of their favorite newspapers or periodicals from today until April 6. The library will analyze the collected recommendations and will then include the newspapers and periodicals which are in line with the policy for the development of the library's collection. These materials will be inscribed on the "2018 Possible Acquisitions List."

'Packing the Nature' exhibited at Macau Art Garden

"Packing the Nature – Works by Ng Man Wai" opened in the Macau Art Garden on March 10. Western drawing techniques and Eastern line drawing techniques are employed at times in the 'Packing the Nature' series. Ng uses plastic bags as her medium and depicts on the plastic bags the creatures and vegetation she came across in the woods - little animals, birds, fish, fruit, and plants, among many others – as if to bring the whole lively natural habitat to the exhibition venue. The exhibition is open from Tuesdays to Sundays (11:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) and is closed on Mondays and public holidays.

Dialogues with millennials significant to company's growth

Lynzy Valles

SENIOR executives are currently facing multi-generational workforce challenges in managing the needs and expectations of millennial team members.

Mark Cosgrove, director of Training at Dale Carnegie Training Hong Kong and Macau explained to the Times this week that millennial and ageing employees in workplaces present a diverse style of working attitudes.

Speaking on the sidelines of his seminar titled "Become an Inspirational Leader," which was hosted by the France Macau Business Association (FMBA), Cosgrove remarked that current corporate leaders are required to be flexible in their leadership style.

"I think that's a huge challenge that people are facing: what they've been doing all along no longer works because the world has changed," he stressed.

"People have changed and I think that's especially true of



Mark Cosgrove

millennials in Hong Kong and Macau."

Chinese millennials born between 1984 and 1996 number around 250 million, representing more than 18 percent of the population for the world's second largest economy.

Cosgrove, a human resources expert, went on to stress the importance of executives being the type of individuals that people want to work with and work for.

Tech-savvy, civic-oriented, practical and adventurous are just a few of the many characteristics attributed to the millennial generation currently entering the labor market.

Thus, without flexibility of senior executives, Cosgrove noted, the demands of the various generations who work for them will not be met.

He suggested that senior executives should interact with their younger team members, explaining to employees how and why particular tasks assist the goals of the firm.

"[Millennials] want to know why they're doing the work and how it's related to the overall mission of the company [...] and that's a challenge for older managers," he explained.

"In the old days it was just do your work and go home. Now they have to be in a conversa-

tion about the work and that's different," Cosgrove continued.

He then remarked on the importance of creating a dialogue that involves listening to their ideas and suggestions with these employees.

"I think previous generations in Asia, in Hong Kong and Macau, they were quite happy to do what they're told and move on. It was a little more one-directional than it is today," the expert argued.

Meanwhile, during the session, the expert also discussed the tripartite of success: skill, attitude and knowledge.

Cosgrove stressed that some managers – who are knowledgeable and skilled about the job – do not acquire leadership skills.

"There's a skill of actually leading and being a manager, which are not necessarily the same as the skills of whatever your company [needs]. The critical piece for companies to get is that leadership skills are different from job skills," Cosgrove proposed.

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COURTS

TUI: Divorce sufficient grounds for cancellation of residency

THE Court of Final Appeal (TUI) has ruled on the case of a woman whose right to Macau residency was canceled due to her divorce.

In a statement, TUI confirmed the judgment of the Court of Second Instance (TSI), validating the decision of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong. On July 2015, Leong had issued an order canceling the resident's temporary residency permit on the grounds that its authorization had expired.

The case dates back to October 2009, when the woman was granted an extension of her husband's temporary residency permit by the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM), due to his investments in the territory.

The couple divorced in September 2014, and the woman's residency permit was revoked based on the change in her marital status.

The woman subsequently appealed to the TSI, which ruled



led against her. She then resorted to the TUI, claiming that she was an investor alongside her husband, since their matrimonial regime was a partnership of acquests. As such, the woman justified her residency based on her contributions to their joint investments.

She added that after the divorce, she had made an investment similar to the one she had made in order to secure their initial permit. She claimed the

second investment fulfilled the conditions in Article 18 of Administrative Regulation No. 3/2005.

The Collective Court explained in its ruling that permit of temporary residency had been granted to her ex-husband, and her permit was merely an extension of his as a member of the household. Such a request, the Court said, is not subject to any marital regime or assets.

Regarding the second claim,

the same court noted that according to the Article 18 (1) of Administrative Regulation No 3/2005, "The interested person must keep, throughout the period that the temporary residence is authorized, the legal basis that grant such authorization [of the marriage]."

The second paragraph of the same article states that "temporary residence permits must be canceled if the grounds referred to in the previous paragraph are terminated or changed, except when the person concerned becomes a new legal situation within the period fixed by the IPIM or the amendment is accepted by the competent body." The article noted that such a task could only be completed by the person to which was granted the permit whom, in this case, is the woman's husband.

As the woman's residency was justified solely by her membership of a household of which she is no longer a part, her permit has been revoked. **RM**

New cash transportation rules to take effect Nov 1

The new rules for transporting cash across Macau borders will take effect starting November 1 this year, said lawmaker Kwan Tsui Hang yesterday, after a Legislative Assembly (AL) committee met to discuss the bill. The bill aims to establish new rules to prevent money laundering and terrorism-financing activities. Lawmakers are keen to enforce the new bill as soon as possible. However, the government has requested a six-month preparatory period before the law is fully enforced in Macau, to which the lawmakers have agreed. The bill will follow directives from the Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering (APG). According to those guidelines, sums of money above MOP120,000 are subject to declaration.

GIT organizes public talk on LRT law

The Transportation Infrastructure Office (GIT), in conjunction with the Transport Bureau (DSAT), will be holding a public talk on the "Light Rail Transit (LRT) System Law" on March 25. The public talk, which is a part of the public consultation phase that is running for a period of two months, aims to gather different views and opinions from citizens in relation to the laws that will guide the operations of the LRT when it enters in operation, which is projected to be in 2019. As the organizers informed, in discussion will be the content of the bill that covers the management of the LRT, the responsibilities and duties of the operator, the responsibilities and duties of passengers and the public, the tariff regime and security, as well as the investigation of accidents and incidents that might occur during the operation of the system. The meeting will be held at the DSAT headquarters at 3 p.m.

EDUCATION

GAES launches plan to improve locals' language skills



GAES announced the plan at a press conference yesterday

THE Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) will launch a new subsidy program to support the improvement of local graduates' language skills.

GAES announced at a press conference yesterday that the plan will enable residents who completed their university degree to attend language courses in Mandarin, Portuguese and English.

According to GAES,

the plan aims to "[train] qualified executives to have knowledge of several languages, enhancing the global competitiveness of Macau."

Applicants must be permanent residents no older than 45 years of age. They must also be university graduates who have studied in Macau for at least three years.

The courses must be taken only in approved countries and regions (excluding Taiwan) and

must be attended in person. Students who graduated from local institutions must complete their studies elsewhere.

GAES has set up a cooperation scheme with local banks to offer loans of up to MOP360,000 to enrolled students. GAES will support 70 percent of the loan interest rate during the course. The remaining 30 percent will be granted after the successful completion of the course.

AD

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SPORTS

Third Mini Rugby Festival set for next weekend

MACAU Bats Rugby will present the 2017 Mini Rugby Festival next weekend at The International School of Macau's (TIS) School Playing Field.

This year's Mini Rugby Festival, now in its third year, will welcome eight Hong Kong clubs for this year's tournament.

A total of 39 teams from nine rugby clubs, with more than 400 young players, will participate in the four-hour tournament on March 25.

Teams will compete according to age groups, ranging from under-6s to under-11s.

There will be two matches in the afternoon for older participants: an under-14s match between the Macau Bats and the Flying Kukris, and another for adults, pit-

ting the Macau team against Kowloon.

"This event would not be possible without the support of The International School of Macau (TIS), whose support of rugby has been outstanding. The local government has effectively prohibited rugby from its pitches, so TIS's support is vital to the continuation of our sport here," said Macau Bats Rugby chairman, Simon Carrington, in a statement.

Macau Daily Times is a sponsor of the festival. The Venetian Macao and City of Dreams resorts will provide shuttle buses to the TIS for the occasion, while Cotai Waterjet is offering discounted ferry tickets to visitors from Hong Kong. **DB**

GAMING | HUMAN RESOURCES

SJM to offer 10,000 jobs for new projects

Renato Marques

THE Sociedade de Jogos de Macau, S.A. (SJM) will offer 10,000 job vacancies during 2017 and the first half of 2018, said Angela Leong, managing director and chief administrative officer of SJM, during yesterday's inauguration ceremony for the company's new recruitment center.

Leong told the media and officiating guests that the job openings are due to manpower requirements for two of the company's upcoming projects: the upcoming Hotel Jai Alai and Cotai's Grand Lisboa Palace. The latter property will open in the first half of 2018.

"To fully support the large number of recruitment and receive thousands of local job seekers in the future, the SJM Recruitment Center opens today," said Leong in her opening speech, adding that the company is also launching its own job portal for interested appli-



cants.

The company also plans to open recruitment via Facebook and WeChat platforms, which are currently undergoing testing.

SJM said a range of front- and back-office positions from both gaming and non-gaming departments will be available. At this stage, applications are only open to local residents.

Located in the NAPE area, the 5,000 square-foot center is equipped with multiple interview rooms, as well as other

open spaces for job fairs and training activities.

A library and training room for current gaming staff will also be included in the facilities.

Leong concluded the ceremony with a slogan for the newly inaugurated center: "Intelligence, Passion and Innovation." She described these as the company's core values and vowed to "embrace future challenges with positivity and innovation in an ever-changing society."

ALBERGUE SCM

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Book Launching

Trees and Large Shrubs in Macau

Trees and Large Shrubs in Macau

António Paula Saraiva
Agonomist - Landscape architect
Illustrations by
Catarina Fraga and
Miguelita Peiro

Next Saturday, 18 March, at 6 p. m. The book **Trees & Large Shrubs in Macau** by **António Manuel de Paula Saraiva** will be launched in the Albergue SCM. Everybody is welcome.

Light refreshment will be served

ALBERGUE SCM
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Assistant / Associate / Full Professor of Portuguese in Translation Studies

The University of Macau (UMacau) is the flagship public university in Macao, which gives it a unique advantage when pursuing the goal of becoming a world-class university with regional characteristics. English is its working language. In recent years, the university has made great progress in various areas, gaining increasing international recognition for its teaching, research, and community service. To better support higher education development in Macao and to meet society's ever-increasing demand for high-quality professionals, the university relocated in August 2014 to a new campus of approximately 1.09 square kilometres. With a state-of-the-art campus, the implementation of Asia's largest residential college system, the establishment of new faculties and well-equipped laboratories, the increasing numbers of students and faculty members recruited from around the world, UMacau possesses great potential and provides exciting new possibilities for professional development.

The Department of Portuguese of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities invites applications for the position of Assistant, Associate or Full Professor of Portuguese in the following discipline:

Portuguese Studies : Translation Studies

The Department of Portuguese is an established and lively scholarly community that includes speakers of European, Brazilian and other varieties of Portuguese. The department offers an undergraduate degree in Portuguese Studies concentrating on Portuguese as a Foreign Language with selected courses in interpretation and translation, foreign language pedagogy, literary studies and history. At the undergraduate level the Department also teaches Portuguese language within the Faculty of Law and offers elective courses in Portuguese as a foreign language to students from all faculties of the University. At the postgraduate level the Department offers three MA programmes (an MA in Portuguese Language and Culture, an MA in Translation Studies (Portuguese-Chinese) and MA in Second Language Acquisition) and two PhD areas in (i) Applied Linguistics (Portuguese) and (ii) Literary and Intercultural Studies (Portuguese).

Qualifications
 Applicants must hold a PhD in Translation Studies or in a related area OF PORTUGUESE STUDIES. Applicants should have an excellent record of internationally recognized research and publication and a demonstrated potential for outstanding research. Applicants should also have native or near-native fluency in Portuguese along with experience teaching Portuguese as a second/foreign language. Applications in all areas of Translation Studies will be considered, but those in the areas of translation theories or with the translation interpretation skills will be particularly welcome. A good command of English is also preferred. The position's rank is open at Assistant, Associate or Full Professor, although a senior appointment is preferred.

The selected candidate is expected to assume duty in as early as August 2017.

Position and Remuneration
 Remuneration and appointment rank offered will be competitive and commensurate with the successful applicants' academic qualification, current position and professional experience. The current local maximum income tax rate is 12% but is effectively around 5% - 7% after various discretionary exemptions.

Application Procedure
 Applicants should visit <http://www.umac.mo/vacancy> for more details, and apply **ONLINE** at **Jobs@UM** (<https://isw.umac.mo/recruitment>) (Ref. No.: FAH/FAP/DPORT/03/2017). When applying, please upload a cover letter, a current CV (with English translations wherever relevant) and a writing sample (i.e. 'Research Work/Publication'). Review of applications will commence on **31 March 2017** and continue until the position is filled. Applicants may consider their applications not successful if they were not invited for an interview within 3 months of application.

Human Resources Section, Office of Administration
 University of Macau, Av. da Universidade, Taipa, Macau, China
 Website: <https://isw.umac.mo/recruitment>; Email: vacancy@umac.mo
 Tel: +853 8822 8553; Fax: +853 8822 2412

The effective position and salary index are subject to the Personnel Statute of the University of Macau in force. The University of Macau reserves the right not to appoint a candidate. Applicants with less qualification and experience can be offered lower positions under special circumstances.

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 ** Under the equal condition of qualifications and experience, priority will be given to Macao permanent residents**

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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Real Estate Scams & How To Avoid Them - Part 2

Juliet Risdon is a Director of JML Property and a property investor.

Having been established in 1994, JML Property offers investment property & homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

www.JMLProperty.com info@JMLProperty.com



JULIET RISDON

We are looking at real estate scams and how to avoid them. Although such scams are rare in Macau, they do happen and the money involved can be significant.

Scam: Fake listings

Fake listings exist for a number of reasons, and you'll find them all over the place.

One type is the "bait and switch": An agency will list a seemingly great apartment at a great price, but won't have it available when you call.

Now property in Macau moves very quickly, so it's difficult to determine whether an apartment has really just been rented or sold. Some agents will hold open houses, collect non-refundable application fees, and vanish.

How To Avoid The "Fake Listing" scam

So how to tell if a listing is fake? Research is the first line of defense. Look at the property listing's time on market. If the listing looks like it's a good find, but has been sitting on the market for more than a month, something is not

quite right.

It's also possible there could be some issues with the property, and a simple internet search will help to shed some light on that.

If you stumble upon an amazing deal for a property, it's a sign to proceed with caution. Of course, some good deals are just that... good deals.

However, beware the once in a lifetime deals, it's likely that it is either listed incorrectly or may be illegal in some way. The property may be used as a dwelling but is actually designated as an industrial space, or it may have been a two bedroom apartment that has been turned into a three or four bedroom.

You can 'cross-examine' the agent if you are suspicious with some straight forward questions, for example;

"How many others have you shown the property to?"

"Can I see the original floor plan?"

"Why is this property still on the market?"

Agents may also try to misrepresent their involvement with a property and an owner by listing

properties that they do not have permission to list.

As Macau is so small, there is a lot of cooperation between agents, some of whom are representing an owner, and others who represent a buyer or a tenant. There's nothing wrong with this provided the agent is up-front about the relationship. You can always ask; "Is this property listed with your company?" and "Can I see a copy of the listing agreement?"

Once you are satisfied that the property is legitimate and you want to proceed with a deal, don't forget to ask the real estate agent for their Real Estate License and ID copy. All agents should carry their license with them, and it should not be an issue to be able to supply this quickly and easily.

Lastly you will want to see the Busca or official property document (this can be obtained from any Public Notary Office, all you need is the property address) with all details including the registered owner. The name on any contract should match that on the official document.

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HK losing sheen makes Cathay business model obsolete

BEING known as Hong Kong's flagship carrier may best represent what's wrong with Cathay Pacific Airways Ltd. The city of about 7.3 million people may no longer be capable of supporting a premium-service airline, especially when the 48 passenger-service operators based across the border in mainland China routinely launch price wars.

Cathay reported its first annual loss since 2008, skipped a second-half dividend and warned that the year ahead may not be any better as travelers continually hunt for cheaper fares. The troubles are yet another economic blow for a city grappling with fewer Chinese tourists, declining retail sales and falling rankings in quality-of-life surveys.

"Cathay and Hong Kong have been dwarfed, completely overwhelmed, by China's growth," said Shukor Yusof, founder of aviation consulting firm Endau Analytics in Malaysia. "China doesn't need Hong Kong as a gateway. Its position has become a lot less important than 10 years ago."

Cathay's net loss totaled HKD575



Ivan Chu, Cathay Pacific CEO

million (USD74 million) in 2016, while sales dropped 9.4 percent to HKD92.8 billion, the airline said Wednesday. Passenger yields, the money earned from flying a traveler for one kilometer, dropped 9.2 percent to 54.1 Hong Kong cents last year.

Losses from fuel hedging totaled HKD8.46 billion last year, compared with HKD8.47 billion in 2015. Cathay said it expects more hedging losses this year, though they should be lower. The company's American Depository Receipts fell 3.7 percent on Wednesday, after the Hong Kong-listed stock dropped 1.4 percent.

In response, Asia's largest international airline announced a three-year "corporate transformation" plan to reduce costs by as much as 3 percent. Chief Executive Officer Ivan Chu wants to increase passenger capacity by as much as 5 percent a year through measures including nonstop flights to new markets.

"Our commitment to Hong Kong and its people remains unwavering," Chairman John Slosar said. "We've got to become better, lower cost, more agile in terms of how we approach the market."

That approach needs to consider the booming aviation market next door. Breakneck economic growth and rising incomes are creating more first-time fliers who want to see the world, and the Communist Party leadership is adding more capacity to get them there.

China plans to build more than 50 airports by 2020 to accommodate the crowds, raising the nation's total of civil transport facilities to 260. The government wants to build six airport clusters nationwide and elevate airports in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou

to international hubs. Construction of a second airport serving Beijing already is underway.

The combined number of Chinese passenger and cargo airlines increased 28 percent to 55 in just five years. The number of planes in the air more than tripled in a decade to 2,650, according to the Civil Aviation Industry Statistics Report.

"Chinese carriers are giving better prices," said Mohshin Aziz, an analyst at Maybank Investment Bank Bhd. in Kuala Lumpur. "China's No. 1 priority is to get as many international flights for the next five or so years. Because of this, Hong Kong is becoming less attractive as a hub."

That's shown by an economy that grew by just 1.9 percent last year, compared with China's 6.7 percent. Retail sales by value fell for 21 straight months as fewer Chinese tourists visited Hong Kong for shopping, eating and taking trips to Macau.

Not helping matters is the perception that Hong Kong isn't holding up well in comparison to its Asian neighbors when it comes to

quality of life. The city ranked 71st in the index released this month by consulting firm, Mercer, a unit of Marsh & McLennan Cos. That trailed Singapore and Tokyo, though was still ahead of Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou.

Tourism Board Chairman Peter Lam has predicted that the number of visitors to Hong Kong will decline 2.2 percent this year after falling 4.5 percent last year. To try to keep pace, Hong Kong is pushing ahead with its plan to build a third runway at the international airport. The new budget waives HKD137 million in license fees for travel agents, hotels and restaurants, and the government said it will introduce a bill offering tax concessions to attract aircraft leasing companies.

Su Baoliang, a Beijing-based analyst at Sinolink Securities Co., said that may not be enough. "Hong Kong used to be the gateway to Asia, but now you have three hubs rising from the Chinese mainland," Su said. "For Cathay, there's very little leeway for adjustment. They're in a dead end." **Bloomberg**

Chow Tai Fook adds Australia power firm to property, jewelry

CHOW Tai Fook Enterprises Ltd., the Hong Kong conglomerate known for its chain of jewelry shops across China, agreed to acquire Alinta Energy Holdings Ltd. in a multi-billion dollar deal that marks the family-owned group's foray into Australian utilities.

The companies announced the transaction in separate statements yesterday, without disclosing financial details. Chow Tai Fook agreed to

pay investors including buyout firm TPG Capital more than AUD4 billion (USD3.1 billion), people with knowledge of the matter said, asking not to be identified because the details are private. Alinta's assets span nationwide energy retailing through power generation for industrial customers.

The transaction is Chow Tai Fook's most ambitious overseas expansion in recent years and comes at a pivotal moment for

the conglomerate as it undergoes a leadership transition. The Cheng family heads a group that includes four listed units with a combined market of more than \$25 billion. Among those are New World Development Co., one of Hong Kong's largest property developers, and Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., whose chain of luxury stores generates more revenue than Tiffany & Co.

Chow Tai Fook follows

in the footsteps of another Hong Kong group, property tycoon Li Ka-shing's Cheung Kong Property Holdings Ltd., in scouring Australia for assets. This week, Hong Kong's richest man won shareholder approval to pursue the

AUD7.4 billion takeover of power provider Duet Group to add an energy network that covers an area three times the size of the Chinese city.

Australian utilities the likes of Alinta and Duet have attracted foreign interest because of their steady cash flows from gas and electricity assets - the country's power companies are overseen by national and state regulators, which decide how much network operators can charge. The utilities offer relatively high yields for Asian investors often crimped by price caps elsewhere.

Last year, Chow Tai Fook acquired a luxury

Bahamas resort that's slated to open this year with a casino, hotel and golf course. "Alinta Energy would be Chow Tai Fook Enterprises' first significant investment in Australia outside of real estate and integrated resorts," the Hong Kong company said in its statement.

The takeover would test the Cheng family's ability to manage large-scale utilities assets. While the family has made a number of obscure energy investments in the last decade, including ones for coking coal in Mongolia and oil and gas projects in Argentina, most of those deals have been small. **Bloomberg**

The transaction is Chow Tai Fook's most ambitious overseas expansion in recent years

corporate bits

VILLAGE PEOPLE AND BJÖRN AGAIN TO PERFORM AT THE VENETIAN MACAO

Renowned 1970s American disco group Village People will perform at The Venetian Theatre on May 12 and 13 as part of its 40th anniversary tour.

Nicknamed the "Kings of Disco" with more than 100 million international records sold - as well as a star on the coveted Hollywood Walk of Fame - Village People is well known for their members' stage costumes, which depict American cultural stereotypes such as Native American, GI, Cop, Biker, Cowboy and Construction Worker.

Founding members Felipe Rose and Alexander Briley will perform.

Abba tribute band "Björn Again - The Ultimate ABBA Experience" will join Village People for a double dose of 1970s musical magic.



Regarded as the most successful and authentic tribute act of all time, Björn Again has performed in more than 100 countries around the world, often in famous venues such as the Sydney Opera House and London's Wembley Stadium.

MACAO WATER APPOINTS NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR

Macao Water has announced that François Février has been appointed managing director of SUEZ NWS Limited, which was known as Sino-French Holdings prior to its restructuring.

Février has been working with the SUEZ group of companies since 1989, and assumed the post of managing director on January 10.

Macao Water said in a statement that Février brings the company a wealth of experience and expertise with which to meet new challenges, as well as a proven record of operational leadership and business development.

"We believe the appointment of François will allow him to lead Macao Water to continued success and meeting the challenges," the statement concluded.

CTM PROMOTES 'MSCHOOL' COMMUNICATION PLATFORM

Telecommunications company CTM is promoting e-learning by integrating its cutting-edge information technology into local school curricula.

Utilizing "education cloud" technology, CTM has developed a platform called "mSchool", which is designed to help parents understand their children's educational needs, as well as facilitate communication between schools and parents.

CTM has also entered into an agreement with the Macau Residents Associations Federation (UGAMM) to install mSchool in three UGAMM-operated nurseries in the next school year.

The service has been extended to eight institutions across Macau, serving more than 4,500 students.

CTM recently held a briefing to introduce the mSchool app to parents from two



UGAMM nurseries.

CTM said it is committed to working with Macau's local education sector to provide a one-stop e-learning platform through its "Education Cloud" initiative.

Taiwan plans military spending surge to counter rising China



People's Liberation Army (PLA) officers near the Great Hall of the People in Beijing

Adela Lin and Ting Shi

TAIWAN plans to raise military spending by about 50 percent next year as President Tsai Ing-wen attempts to offset China's growing might and support the local defense industry.

Military expenditures are targeted to rise to 3 percent of gross domestic product next year, up from about 2 percent this year, Minister of National Defense Feng Shih-kuan said yesterday while presenting a report outlining Tsai's first major security review since becoming president. Taiwan plans to develop indige-

nous ships, airplanes, weapons and unmanned aerial vehicles, he told lawmakers in Taipei.

The report cited China's capacity to blockade Taiwan or invade its outer islands as a main reason to increase this year's NTD356 billion (USD11.6 billion) budget. Tensions between the long-time rivals have been simmering since Taiwanese voters swept Tsai's pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party into power last year, raising concern locally about China's recent military-modernization drive.

While China saw improved relations under Tsai's predecessor, it

still considers Taiwan a province to be united with the mainland, by force if necessary, and points some 1,200 missiles at the island. Authorities in Beijing have expressed increasing frustration with Tsai's refusal to endorse their "One China" negotiating framework, under which both sides agree they belong to the same country even if they differ on what that means.

"It may make sense from Taipei's perspective to invest more in defense at this juncture," said Ja Ian Chong, an assistant professor with the National University of Singapore, who specializes in

Asia-Pacific relations. "Beijing is currently already dissatisfied with Taiwan. Unless Beijing wishes to escalate matters, relations between the two sides are unlikely to get worse, just as they are unlikely to get better."

President Donald Trump's election in the U.S., which sells weapons to Taiwan and is obligated to defend the island under a 1979 law, has also increased uncertainty. Tensions escalated after Trump publicized a protocol-breaking phone conversation with Tsai in December. He later reaffirmed U.S. support for the One-China policy in a call with Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping.

It may make sense from Taipei's perspective to invest more in defense at this juncture.

JA IAN CHONG
SCHOLAR, NUS

Premier Li Keqiang earlier this week reiterated China's opposition for Taiwanese independence and support for peaceful reunification. "We are one family," Li said.

Taiwan's defense-spending boost may also help Tsai support

hi-tech industries and stimulate an economy expected to grow 1.9 percent this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Local companies such as Aerospace Industrial Development Corp., which is planning to develop jets for the air force, and CSBC Corp., Taiwan, which is designing submarines, are among those that could benefit.

Local defense expenditures have declined since the 1980s, when Taiwan spent more than 5 percent of GDP on its military, according to data compiled by the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute. Taiwan hasn't spent 3 percent of GDP on the military since 1999, according to Sipri.

The increase would help fulfill a campaign pledge by Tsai. Defense Ministry spokesman Chen Chung-chi said defense expenditures last exceeded 3 percent in 2008. "We hope for an increase to 3 percent next year, but the government also needs to consider revenue and balance it among other ministries," Chen said.

China earlier this month announced plans to increase defense spending by 7 percent to 1.044 trillion yuan (\$151 billion) this year, although independent estimates put actual expenditures much higher. Either way, China now spends more than any other country apart from the U.S.

Liu Fu-kuo, executive director of National Chengchi University's Taiwan Center for Security Studies, said the security review shows Tsai's administration realizes its disadvantage and is focused on asymmetrical defense strategies.

"It would be difficult for Taiwan to compete with China's world-class military power," Liu said. "The wisest choice for Taiwan would be refraining from provocative measures and refraining from giving any excuses for China to take military actions." **Bloomberg**

AUSTRALIA urged Southeast Asia's regional bloc and China to conclude a legally-binding code of conduct in the South China Sea, voicing opposition yesterday to the scale of reclamation and construction by China in the disputed territory.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, speaking in Manila, urged the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China to exceed the ongoing discussions to craft a framework of the code of conduct and to instead conclude an enforceable code of conduct as soon as possible.

"We believe that ASEAN should drive for an enforceable code of conduct," Bishop told the forum of the ADR

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Australia calls for binding conduct code in disputed waters

Institute for Strategic and International Studies. "I would urge ASEAN under the Philippines' leadership to go further and conclude a code of conduct as soon as possible."

She said the Hague-based arbitration tribunal's recommendations on a case filed by the Philippines against China can form the basis of that code of conduct.

The tribunal last year invalidated China's sweeping territorial claims in the South China Sea and ruled that



China violated the rights of Filipinos to fish at Scarborough Shoal, which lies off the northwestern Philippines. Beijing had seized Scarborough in 2012 after a dangerous standoff with

Philippine vessels.

China has since allowed Filipino fishermen to return to the shoal, but it does not recognize the tribunal's ruling as valid and insists it has historical claims to almost the entire South China Sea.

"Australia opposes the scale of reclamation and reconstruction that has occurred and certainly we do not support militarization by any party of the islands and the other features in the South China Sea because

it would raise tensions, it would raise the prospect of conflict," Bishop added.

She said a rules-based international order is fundamental to prosperity and stability of countries in the region and "we should all advocate for its preservation and be prepared to defend it, even fight for it, should that be necessary."

Australia supports U.S. leadership to preserve that order and safeguard international peace but is also committed to a strong Australian defense force to defend its own security interests, she said. Australia will spend USD195 billion over the next decade on improving its military and intelligence capability, Bishop added. **AP**

Saudi king's visit highlights Beijing's Middle East engagement

Gerry Shih &
Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

SAUDI Arabia's King Salman began a visit to Beijing yesterday that highlights growing ties underpinned by China's thirst for Saudi oil and the kingdom's status as a key link in Beijing's bid to connect China to Europe through infrastructure development.

Salman went immediately into talks with President Xi Jinping following a formal welcoming ceremony at the Great Hall of the People, the seat of China's legislature. The 81-year-old monarch's visit is part of a monthlong swing through Asia in a push to develop a less oil-dependent growth strategy.

Beijing for its part is rolling out a trade and investment initiative across Central Asia and the Middle East called "One Belt, One Road," and sees the desert kingdom as a regional linchpin.

In opening remarks at their meeting, Xi said he looked forward to discussing projects under development, and said results so far "have surpassed our expectations."

Security ties between the two have also grown significantly, with the Saudi air force deploying Chinese unmanned attack drones and the two militaries holding joint counter-terrorism exercises in western China. Chinese navy vessels have also visited the Saudi port of Jeddah as part of increasingly active maneuvers in the Gulf of Aden.

Chinese officials say their overriding security interest in the Middle East is to prevent ethnic Uighur fighters who have left western China and joined militant groups in Syria and Iraq from returning to strike at China.

China's Uighur ethnic minority is a key if sometimes under-appreciated factor in Beijing's Middle East strategy," said Andrew Scobell, a political scientist at the RAND Corporation.

Xi has signaled his desire to play a bigger role in the region as part of China's quest for resources, markets and increased global influence on a par with its economic heft. In a major speech before the Arab League in Cairo last year, Xi indirectly alluded to how the U.S. presence had waned and how China hoped to present an alternative.

"Instead of looking for a proxy in the Middle East, we promote peace talks," Xi said. "Instead of attempting to fill the vacuum, we build a cooperative partnership network for win-win outcomes."

A relative newcomer to the Middle East's complicated politics, China has tried to maintain friendly ties with all sides, despite sometimes conflicting geopolitical interests.

Beijing has backed President Bashar al-Assad in the Syrian conflict, while Saudi Arabia has insisted on Assad's ouster and has supported the Syrian opposition, including Islamic militant groups unfriendly to China over Beijing's sometimes harsh treatment of its Muslim minority.

China has also maintained close ties to Saudi Arabia's bitter enemy Iran. Salman, who is traveling with a 1,500-strong company of businessmen, princes and support staff in close to a dozen aircraft, is next due to visit the Indian Ocean island nation of the Maldives. Along with Japan, he earlier visited Indonesia, Malaysia and Brunei. **AP**

China raised the rate for its six-month and one-year medium-term lending facility and open-market repurchase operations by 0.1 percent. The benchmark one-year commercial lending rate was unchanged. Beijing faces a dilemma as it tries to defend the exchange rate of its yuan without depressing economic growth, which has been shored up by repeated infusions of credit. Economists have warned the yuan would face further downward pressure if higher U.S. interest rates caused money to flow out of China in search of higher returns. Beijing has spent tens of billions of dollars to prop up the currency, also known as the renminbi, after investors began moving money out of China due to expectations its value would sink. The People's Bank cited the U.S. Federal Reserve's Wednesday increase and "some signs of recovery" in China's own economy. The mention of the U.S. rate hike "suggests that the PBOC may have been partly motivated by a desire to follow the Fed in order to avoid additional downward pressure on the renminbi," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. **AP**



King Salman (center) and President Xi Jinping (left), arrive for a signing ceremony at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing.

Saudis study USD65b in China investments

SAUDI Arabian Oil Co. may deepen investment in China's oil industry as part of USD65 billion worth of potential deals signed between the two countries in everything from energy to manufacturing and a theme park.

Amin Nasser, chief executive officer of the Saudi state crude producer, signed a memorandum of understanding with China North Industries Group Corp. yesterday to explore downstream oil opportunities. Saudi Aramco, as the company is known, is already a partner in refineries and petrochemical plants in the country. The Chinese company, known as Norinco, manufactures weapons and machinery and also has a refining unit.

Companies from both countries signed 22 agreements to study joint investment opportunities at a ceremony in Beijing. Chinese firms will look at a \$2 billion petrochemical plant in Jazan, in the southwest of Saudi Arabia, supplying solar energy material, building e-commerce businesses and investing in a cultural theme park in the Middle East.

King Salman bin Abdulaziz is in the midst of an Asia-wide trip that's already seen Saudi Arabia pledge investments including \$13 billion in Malaysian and Indonesian energy projects. The Middle East nation is also courting foreign investors as it seeks to diversify its economy and gears up for what may be the

largest-ever initial public offering. The country plans to float a 5 percent stake in Aramco, which Deputy Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman has said is worth \$2 trillion.

"The visit is part of Saudi's 'Look East' policy that intends to broaden trade with Asia and particularly China," said Yao Kuangyi, China's former ambassador to Turkey. "Saudi Arabia also needs new markets and economic partners to help the country with its economic transformation from its dependence on oil, and China is a perfect target as a major economy with huge demands."

Officials from the two countries have discussed the possibility of China Investment Corp., the country's sovereign wealth fund, investing in the Aramco initial public offering, according to people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified because the talks are private. China National Petroleum Corp. may also be involved, they said Thursday. No formal agreement has been reached, according to the people.

Hong Kong, Tokyo and Singapore are among Asian locations that have been identified as possible venues for the listing of Aramco's shares. The company's primary listing will be on Saudi Arabia's domestic exchange and it's also evaluating other markets including as New York or London. **Bloomberg**

PBOC raises short-term interest rate follow US increase

CHINA'S central bank raised short-term interest rates yesterday following the U.S. rate increase as Beijing tries to shore up the value of its currency and stanch an outflow of money.

The People's Bank of

China raised the rate for its six-month and one-year medium-term lending facility and open-market repurchase operations by 0.1 percent. The benchmark one-year commercial lending rate was unchanged.

Beijing faces a dilemma

as it tries to defend the exchange rate of its yuan without depressing economic growth, which has been shored up by repeated infusions of credit.

Economists have warned the yuan would face further downward pres-

sure if higher U.S. interest rates caused money to flow out of China in search of higher returns. Beijing has spent tens of billions of dollars to prop up the currency, also known as the renminbi, after investors began moving money

out of China due to expectations its value would sink.

The People's Bank cited the U.S. Federal Reserve's Wednesday increase and "some signs of recovery" in China's own economy.

The mention of the U.S.

rate hike "suggests that the PBOC may have been partly motivated by a desire to follow the Fed in order to avoid additional downward pressure on the renminbi," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report. **AP**

JAPAN

Tillerson says North Korea 'need not fear' United States

Matthew Pennington, Tokyo

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson called on North Korea yesterday to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, saying the isolated nation "need not fear" the United States.

Tillerson made that declaration after meeting Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo, where they discussed possible new approaches in dealing with Pyongyang.

He said 20 years of U.S. diplomatic and other efforts to get North Korea to denuclearize have failed, but gave no specifics about how the Trump administration, which is currently doing a policy review, would tackle the issue. Tillerson described the weapons programs as "dangerous and unlawful."

The former Exxon Mobil CEO is making his first trip to Asia as the top U.S. diplomat. Tensions are running high on the divided Korean Peninsula, and North Korea last week launched four missiles into seas off Japan and where the U.S. is currently conducting annual military drills with South Korea. Pyongyang views this as a rehearsal for invasion.

"North Korea and its people need not fear the United States or their neighbors in the region



U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (left) and Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe

who seek only to live in peace with North Korea," the secretary of state told a news conference in Tokyo. "With this in mind, the United States calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs and refrain from any further provocation."

He later met separately with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

In Beijing, a North Korean diplomat said yesterday that

Pyongyang must act in self-defense against the U.S.-South Korea military drills, which he said have brought the region to the brink of nuclear war. He said the drills were aimed at using atomic weapons for a pre-emptive strike against North Korea. Washington says the maneuvers are routine and defensive.

"The United States holds a joint military exercise every year to push the situation on the Ko-

rean Peninsula to a serious situation, and that is the source of the super tough measures we must take," Pak Myong Ho told reporters in a rare briefing at the North Korean Embassy in the Chinese capital. He spoke through a translator.

North Korea has accelerated its weapons development in violation of multiple U.N. Security Council resolutions and despite tough sanctions levied against it. Last year, the North conducted

two nuclear test explosions and 24 ballistic missile tests. Experts say it could have a nuclear-tipped missile that could reach the United States within a few years.

Citing the continued North Korean missile launches this year, Tillerson said that "in the face of this ever-escalating threat it is clear that a different approach is required." He said his trip was intended to get input from other governments. Tillerson, who is traveling without the usual contingent of journalists who normally cover the secretary of state, will be in South Korea today and then China on tomorrow.

Both Tillerson and Kishida urged China to use its economic leverage with North Korea to push it to change course.

During last year's election campaign, presidential candidate Donald Trump called into question U.S. security alliances and called for Tokyo and Seoul to contribute more for their defense. Tillerson, however, stressed that cooperation with Japan and South Korea was "critical."

Kishida said the U.S. and Japan had an "unwavering bond." In a sign of that, Tillerson reiterated that a U.S.-Japan mutual defense treaty covers Japanese-administered islands in the East China Sea also claimed by China.

Japan and South Korea both host tens of thousands of U.S. troops. Washington has been urging its two allies to step up security cooperation despite their historically strained relations. This week, the three nations' navies have conducted missile defense information-sharing drills in the region. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

Lawmaker seeks to impeach Duterte over drug fight

A Philippine lawmaker filed an impeachment complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte yesterday because of the thousands of deaths in his anti-drug crackdown and alleged corruption, although the bid faces an uphill battle with Duterte's allies holding an overwhelming majority in Congress.

Rep. Gary Alejano's complaint filed at the House of Representatives alleged Duterte violated the constitution, committed bribery and corruption and betrayed the public trust with his actions, including the crackdown that has sparked extrajudicial killings and his failure to declare huge bank deposits as required by law.

"We are of the firm belief that President Duterte is unfit to hold the highest office of the land and that impeachment is the legal and constitutional remedy to this situation," said Alejano.

Although opposition lawmakers lack the numbers to impeach Duterte, Alejano said there was a need to stop his "excesses and crimes." A vote of a third of the House's more than 290 members is needed to send the complaint to the Senate for trial. More than 260 of House members belong to a pro-Duterte bloc.

"We understand that in terms of numbers we face an uphill battle," he said. "But precisely, the battle for

We are of the firm belief that President Duterte is unfit to hold the highest office.

REP. GARY ALEJANO

impeachment must be fought both inside and outside the halls of Congress," adding public pressure should sway lawmakers to vote rightfully.

"Our role [...] is merely to be the gate-openers for those who want to be a part of this historic and moral crusade," Alejano said.

Alejano cited the more than 8,000 deaths of drug suspects under the crackdown in underscoring the urgency of the first impeachment attempt in Duterte's presidency. Other opposition politicians have backed calls for such a move.

House Speaker Pantaleon Alvarez, a Duterte ally, called the impeachment bid "stupid," saying it was based on fabricated allegations. "They are not even in the league of Don Quixote so this impeachment won't fly. It will crash like a rudderless plane flown by witless pilots," government Solicitor-General Jose Calida said.

Presidential spokesman Ernesto Abella suggested the impeachment bid and opposition criticism were possible efforts to destabilize the Duterte administration.

Alejano, a former mari-



Agents of the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency escort alleged drug suspects in Quezon City, Manila

ne officer who was accused of involvement in a failed coup attempt several years ago, denied his complaint was part of an extraconstitutional attempt to unseat Duterte.

In his complaint, Alejano echoed rights activists' label of Duterte as a "cheerleader" for encouraging the "summary executions" of drug suspects in violation of their rights to life and due process.

He cited the president's repeated threats to kill drug lords and order to law enforcers and civilians to

shoot drug suspects if they fight back, as well as the Senate testimony of a retired police officer and a former militiaman who said they were members of a death squad under Duterte when he was a southern mayor. The two separately testified they were involved in hundreds of killings of drug suspects and political opponents of Duterte in Davao city.

Duterte has denied he condoned extrajudicial killings. He has not responded in detail to the two men's allegations. **AP**



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Mike Corder & Raf Casert,
The Hague

THE NETHERLANDS

PM Rutte claims win over 'wrong kind of populism'

DUTCH Prime Minister Mark Rutte yesterday [Macau time] claimed a dominating parliamentary election victory over anti-Islam lawmaker Geert Wilders, who failed the year's first litmus test for populism in Europe.

Provisional results with over half the votes counted suggested Rutte's party won 32 seats in the 150-member legislature, 13 more than Wilders' party, which took only third place with 19 seats. The surging CDA Christian Democrats claimed 20.

Following Britain's vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump's election as U.S. president, "the Netherlands said, 'Whoa!' to the wrong kind of populism," said Rutte, who is now poised for a third term as prime minister.

"We want to stick to the course we have — safe and stable and prosperous," Rutte added.

Wilders, who campaigned on radical pledges to close borders to migrants from Muslim nations, close mosques, ban the Quran and take the Netherlands out of the EU, had insisted that whatever the result of the election, the kind of populist politics he and others in Europe represent aren't going away.

"Rutte has not seen the back of me," Wilders said after the results had sunk in.

His Party for Freedom clinched 24 seats in 2010 before sinking to 15 in 2012, and yesterday's total left him with about 12 percent of the electorate, far less than populists in Britain and the United States have scored.

"Those are not the 30 seats we hoped for," Wilders told reporters, adding that he'd "rather have been the biggest party."

Both France and Germany have elections this year in which far-right candidates and parties are hoping to make an impact.

French President Francois



Prime Minister Mark Rutte of the free-market VVD party celebrates after exit poll results of the parliamentary elections were announced in The Hague

We want to stick to the course we have - safe and stable and prosperous.

MARK RUTTE

Hollande congratulated Rutte on his election success and his "clear victory against extremism."

In Germany, Socialist leader Martin Schulz tweeted. "I am relieved, but we need to continue to fi-

ght for an open and Free Europe."

Rutte, who for much of the campaign appeared to be racing to keep pace with Wilders, may have profited from the hard line he drew in a diplomatic standoff with Turkey over the past week.

The fight erupted over the Netherlands' refusal to let two Turkish government ministers address rallies in Rotterdam about a referendum that could give Turkey's President Recep Tayyip Erdogan more powers. It gave Rutte an opportunity to show his statesmanship by refusing to bow to foreign pressure, a stance with widespread backing in the nation.

"I mean this is your electoral campaign dream, right? You can't script this if it was a movie," Am-

sterdam Free University political scientist Andre Krouwel said. "It's really helped Mark Rutte to take the lead and a big lead over Geert Wilders."

Under brilliant skies, the Dutch went to vote in huge numbers, with turnout estimated to have reached at 82 percent.

In a subplot of the elections, the Green Left party registered a historic victory, turning it into the largest party on the left wing of Dutch politics, together with the Socialist Party.

The provisional results showed the Greens leaping from four seats to 14 in parliament after a strong campaign by charismatic leader Jesse Klaver, who invites comparisons to Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau.

It remains to be seen if the 30-year-old Klaver will take his party into the next ruling coalition, which looks likely to be dominated by Rutte's VVD and other right-leaning parties.

The Labor Party of Eurogroup President Jeroen Dijsselbloem appeared to have been punished by voters in the election, plunging from 38 seats at the last election to just nine, according to the Ipsos exit poll.

Because of the result, it looked unlikely Dijsselbloem would be able to hang on to his post of leading the 19-nation Eurogroup, which manages the currency of the European Union nations that use the euro.

Rutte had framed the election as a choice between continuity and chaos, portraying himself as a safe custodian of the nation's

economic recovery and casting Wilders as a far-right radical who was unprepared to make tough decisions.

Although he drove through unpopular austerity measures over the last four years, the Dutch economic recovery has gathered pace and unemployment has fallen fast under the prime minister.

Wilders, meanwhile, attempted to tap into discontent among voters who said they were not benefiting from the economic recovery.

Even if his party had placed first in the election, Wilders stood a remote chance of becoming prime minister in the Netherlands, where a proportional representation system all but guarantees coalition governments.

Rutte has not seen the back of me.

GEERT WILDERS

The main political parties, including Rutte's, had ruled out forming a coalition government with the Party for Freedom.

The left-leaning Dutch Labor Party appeared to be hammered by its supporters for its role over the last four years in pushing through a tough austerity package as junior member in a two-party Cabinet with Rutte's VVD.

The coalition Rutte's VVD party had with Labor can no longer be replicated and the prime minister is likely to look to the right for new coalition partners.

Rutte has been resolute about not wanting to share power with Wilders, so that tightens the market in which he can acquire the necessary 75-seat threshold.

Weeks, if not months of coalition-building talks may be required before a new government is installed.

AP

CHILE

Tompkins Conservation donates huge national parks

TOMPKINS Conservation signed an agreement with Chile's government yesterday to donate 1 million acres for new national parks in the largest private donation of its kind for the South American nation.

Chilean President Michelle Bachelet signed the deal with Kristine McDivitt Tompkins, the widow of American conservationist Doug Tompkins, who built a legacy protecting threatened ecosystems in Argentina and Chile.

"This is a key step to treasuring this giant source of biodiversity and safe

keep it in the public interest," Bachelet said at a ceremony in southern Chile.

The agreement will provide land to create three new national parks, expand three existing national parks and unite some national forests into two national parks. Bachelet is expected to sign the decrees to create the parks before she ends her presidential term in March 2018.

The proposal will eventually help create the "Route of Parks," a network of 17 parks spanning more than 1,500 miles from Puerto Montt

to Cape Horn. In all, the plan ultimately seeks to increase Chile's national parkland by more than 10 million acres. Tompkins Conservation said the area that will be protected is three times the size of the United States' Yosemite and Yellowstone national parks combined.

Tompkins, co-founder of the North Face and Esprit clothing companies, used much of his fortune to buy large tracts of land in Patagonia, a sparsely populated region of untamed rivers and other natural beauty straddling southern Chile and Ar-

gentina.

At first, his purchases of land to preserve swaths of wilderness stirred suspicion and opposition by local politicians, loggers, power companies and nationalists who stirred rumors that he was trying to steal water resources. But he shrugged off the protests, insisting he would eventually return the land to both governments to be preserved as nature reserves or parks.

Since her husband's death in a kayaking accident last year, McDivitt Tompkins had been working non-stop to permanently



Chile's President Michelle Bachelet (right) walks with Kristine McDivitt Tompkins widow of late American conservationist Doug Tompkins in a natural reserve in Chaiten

protect from development the millions of acres the couple acquired over a quarter century.

"I wish my husband, Doug, whose vision inspired today's historic pledge, were here on this memorable day. Our team and I feel his ab-

sence deeply," she said. "But I know that if Doug were here today, he would speak of national parks being one of the greatest expressions of democracy that a country can realize, preserving the masterpieces of a nation for all of its citizenry." AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:50	Criminal Minds S.9
17:30	Castle S6 (Repeated)
18:10	Fifties Club (Repeated)
19:00	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:30	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Fifties Club
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europa League Highlights
23:50	Portuguese Movie
01:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:30	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:40	Comedy
11:15	Blaze Riders
11:25	Documentary Serie
12:25	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Variety
16:20	Soap Opera
18:40	Documentary Series
19:40	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:10	Drama
22:00	Revenge S.4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Young Adult
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Zig Zag
16:40	Documentary Serie
17:15	Miscellaneous
18:35	Documentary Serie
19:10	Miscellaneous
19:35	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Comedy
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
22:00	Boat People
22:40	News
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
23:50	Documentary Series
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeat)
00:55	RTPi Live

Offbeat

GERMAN DOG-WALKER HAS CLOSE CALL WITH COCONUT CANNON

A dog walker in Berlin can be thankful he turned out to be a fruitless target after his close call with a coconut cannon. The man was walking in an industrial area on March 1 when he heard a bang and a ball-shaped projectile flew past him, hitting a nearby lamppost. Berlin police say officers called to the scene were surprised to find a large homemade cannon capable of shooting coconuts at high speeds with compressed air. A 23-year-old man told officers he had helped to build the cannon for an art project in the Antarctic and wanted to test it before it was shipped. Police said they impounded the cannon and prosecutors are investigating whether it breaches arms control laws.

cinema

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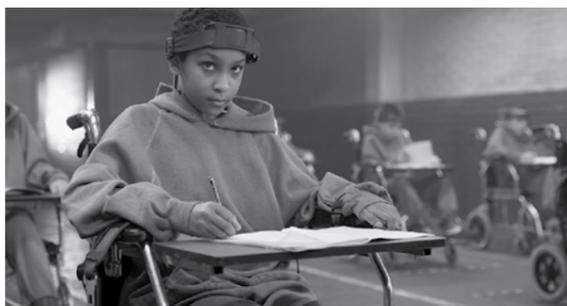
16 MAR - 21 MAR



KONG: SKULL ISLAND
 ROOM 1
 (2D): 2:30, 4:45, 9:30pm
 (3D): 7:15pm
 Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts
 Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 118min



SILENCE
 ROOM 2
 2:30, 5:30, 9:30pm
 Director: Martin Scorsese
 Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 118min



THE GIRL WITH ALL THE GIFTS
 ROOM 3
 2:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm
 Director: Colm McCarthy
 Starring: Gemma Arterton, Glenn Close, Sennia Nanua
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 111min

LA LA LAND
 ROOM 3
 7:15pm
 Director: Damien Chazelle
 Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone
 Language: English
 Duration: 128min

MACAU TOWER

15 MAR - 29 MAR



BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm
 Director: Bill Condon
 Starring: Emma Watson, Dan Stevens, Luke Evans
 Language: English (Chinese)
 Duration: 129min

this day in history



English actress Vanessa Redgrave at a rally against the Vietnam War in Trafalgar Square

1968 ANTI-VIETNAM DEMO TURNS VIOLENT

More than 200 people have been arrested after thousands of demonstrators clashed in an anti-Vietnam war protest outside the United States embassy in London. The St John Ambulance Brigade said it treated 86 people for injuries. Fifty were taken to hospital including up to 25 police officers. The trouble followed a big rally in Trafalgar square, when an estimated 10,000 demonstrated against American action in Vietnam and British support for the United States. The mood at the rally was described as good humoured. The violence broke out when the protesters marched to the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. The embassy was surrounded by hundreds of police. They stood shoulder to shoulder to cordon off the part of the square closest to the embassy. Tensions rose as the crowd refused to back off and mounted officers rode at the demonstrators. The protesters broke through the police ranks onto the lawn of the embassy, tearing up the plastic fence and uprooting parts of a hedge. During a protracted battle, stones, earth, firecrackers and smoke bombs were thrown. One officer was treated for a reported serious spinal injury, another for a neck injury. One officer had his hat knocked off and was struck continuously on the back of the head with a stick from a banner as he clung, head down, to his horse's neck. Earlier the actress Vanessa Redgrave was allowed to enter the embassy with three supporters to deliver a protest. She had been one of the speakers at the rally in Trafalgar Square. Labour MP Peter Jackson, has said he will be tabling a private question for answer by the Home Secretary about what he called "police violence". He told The Times newspaper: "I was particularly outraged by the violent use of police horses, who charged into the crowd even after they had cleared the street in front of the embassy."

Courtesy of BBC

IN CONTEXT

There was another big anti-Vietnam war demonstration on 27 October 1968. An estimated 25,000 took part in the march and once again trouble flared outside the US embassy in Grosvenor Square. But security was very tight. There were 1,000 police outside the embassy and officers lined the streets of the march to prevent a repeat of the trouble in March. The last American troops left Vietnam on 29 March 1973. The following year there were frequent violations of the peace treaty. In 1975, fullscale warfare resumed between North and South Vietnam -without American intervention. In 1976 the first elections were held to a National Assembly, finally reuniting North and South.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Your subconscious will be quite entertaining today...

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've been hitting it hard for a while now, doing your job and someone else's too...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If an email correspondence between you and a coworker has gotten a bit tense or catty...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's time to get social - at least as much as your schedule allows today!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It's a good idea to review your budget, because you've been paying an expense you should not be paying any longer...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 There are many small details you'll need to pay attention to today if you want to keep things on a positive track...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 When you're working on tasks for other people today, you can't be too meticulous!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 It's all about putting out the right kind of energy today - so be generous and kind...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your confidence will help you cover all the details without worrying that you're boring them...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Today's events will create too many details for most people to handle, but for you it's a great day for making plans!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone in your group needs a refresher course on what exactly is going on - they've been out of the loop for a while now...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You'll find out the ugly truth about someone when you happen to catch an unedited comment...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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6x6 Sudoku grid for Easy level.

Easy+

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6x6 Sudoku grid for Medium level.

Hard

6x6 Sudoku grid for Hard level.

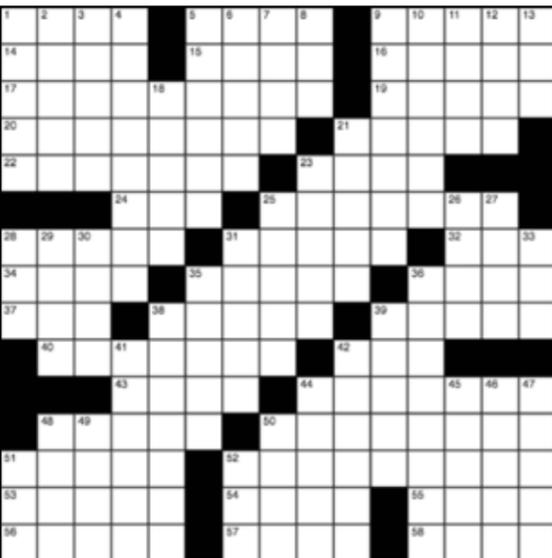
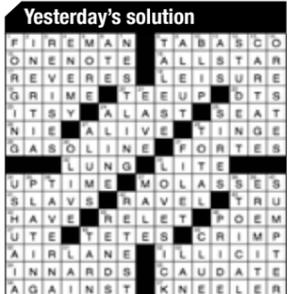
WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Franklin D.'s mother; 5- Decorative pitcher; 9- Summer camp transport; 14- Waste allowance; 15- Tabula ...

DOWN: 1- Stable compartment; 2- Army leader?; 3- Right-hand page; 4- Like the Acropolis?; 5- Wandering; 6- Ralph of "The Waltons"; 7- Town near Padua; 8- ... Dawn Chong; 9- Censure; 10- Showy shrub; 11- Director Ephron; 12- That's ... haven't heard; 13- Some MIT grads; 18- Rubber gasket; 21- Crazy as ...



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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

FOOTBALL

Monaco is a team to fear in Champions League quarterfinals

Jerome Pugmire, Monaco

MONACO is the team to fear when the Champions League draw is made today.

That's the view of coach Leonardo Jardim, the architect of a staggering attack that has scored 126 goals this season. Monaco topped up its goal tally yesterday, beating Manchester City 3-1 to reach the last eight on the away goals rule after losing 5-3 in the first leg of their Round of 16 match.

Barcelona, Real Madrid, Bayern Munich, Borussia Dortmund, Juventus, Atletico Madrid and Leicester are the other teams in the draw.

Asked if Monaco should be fearing sides or they should be fearing Monaco, he was clear.

"It's more a case of the latter," Jardim said.

Monaco advanced despite missing its 24-goal top scorer Radamel Falcao through injury and its best defender Kamil Glik through suspension.

"Falcao out, Glik out. Not many people thought we had a chance to qualify," Jardim said. "I always defend Ligue 1. France has good teams, good players, good managers."

The Portuguese coach has instilled huge belief into this side, which is on course for a domestic treble.

"I thought if we scored three we would go through and the players had that in mind," he

said. "English teams have suited us well in the last couple of years. We knocked out Arsenal [in the Round of 16 in 2015] and we beat Tottenham twice this season [in the group stage]."

Midfielder Tiemoue Bakayoko's thumping 77th-minute header sent Monaco through.

City fought back from 2-0 down and was momentarily in control after midfielder Leroy Sane's 71st-minute goal. But Bakayoko rose imperiously to meet Thomas Lemar's curling free kick as the contest finished 6-6 on aggregate.

"Monaco deserved to go through," Jardim said. "Even in the first leg, City had a bit of luck."

City coach Pep Guardiola lamented the fact that his side had failed to compete in the first half.

"At this level, you have to play more than 45 minutes," Guardiola said. "The gap between the first and the second halves is there."

Confirming his reputation as a rising star of European football, Monaco's 18-year-old forward Kylian Mbappe scored from close range in the eighth minute for his 11th goal in 11 games.

Brazilian midfielder Fabinho made it 2-0 in the 29th with a crisp shot from near the penalty spot after excellent work by left back Benjamin Mendy.

Three weeks ago, City had rallied from 3-2 down with three goals in the last 20 minutes and Pep Guardiola's side needed another



Monaco's head coach Leonardo Jardim led his team to beat Man City 3-1 in Monaco yesterday

comeback on the French Riviera.

City played much better in the second half, with Sane scoring after top scorer Sergio Aguero had missed good chances.

The fleet-footed Sane smashed the ball into the roof of the net after Danijel Subasic's save from Raheem Sterling's low shot fell

right into his path.

But it was not enough, and Monaco's lap of honor was richly deserved.

In the night's other match, Atletico Madrid drew 0-0 at home to Bayer Leverkusen to advance 4-2 on aggregate.

There was a touch of destiny

about Monaco's win.

Monaco has been in an almost identical position before, overturning a 4-2 loss away to Real Madrid in the first leg to reach the semifinals in 2004 — the year it reached the final.

That was one of the best nights in the club's history, and the fans wanted another one.

The compact Stade Louis II, with its capacity of 18,500, is one of the quieter stadiums in France and is rarely full.

But it was this time, as fans decked in red and white chanted "Le stade avec vous" (The stadium's with you) from the offset.

Guardiola had sounded almost like a Monaco season-ticket holder on the eve of the game, speaking with gushing admiration about how he feared Monaco's attack, and saying it was impossible to stop.

He was right.

With seven minutes played, striker Valere Germain won the ball in midfield and released Mbappe, whose touch took him clean through. But in an effort to pick his spot cleanly he telegraphed his shot and goalkeeper Willy Caballero stood up well to make a fine save.

A minute later, Mbappe was celebrating.

Mendy's cross was blocked with a sliding tackle by center half John Stones, the loose ball fell to Silva and his drilled pass found Mbappe. The second seemed inevitable when it came, with the impressive Lemar starting the move.

By this point, Guardiola was already pacing up and down, all gesticulation and pointed fingers. Jardim stood perfectly still, hands behind his back like an army general watching his battle plans unfurl to perfection.

"We had to be fresh, close them down all over the pitch and not let them get on the ball," Jardim said. "That's what we did." AP

RUGBY

Vahaamahina to start for France against Wales in Six Nations



FRANCE coach Guy Noves made just one change yesterday to his starting line-up to face Wales in their final Six Nations match.

Noves largely kept faith with the players that scored four tries to comfortably beat Italy 40-18 in Rome last weekend.

Having recovered from back problems, lock Sebastien Vahaamahina will start at the expense of Julien Le Devedec, who has been named on the bench.

"Starting with Sebastien was quite logical, he worked hard last week to be competitive and was ready last weekend, but we did not want him to fret over his back," Noves said.

France can finish second in the tournament if it beats Wales at the Stade de France tomorrow and England wins in Ireland.

Flanker Fabien Sanconnie, who made his debut against Italy, earned a second consecutive start despite Damien

Chouly's return from injury, while Baptiste Serin and Camille Lopez will once again start together in the half-backs.

Experienced flyhalf Francois Trinh-Duc, whose season has been hampered by a broken arm, remains on the bench after a convincing appearance at center against Italy.

"Camille Lopez fulfil-

led his mission in the previous match and Francois was very good when he came on," Noves said. "Both understand why we keep going with Camille."

France has lost its last two games against Wales at the Stade de France.

"Hopefully my players will be very close, and if possible ahead of Wales," Noves said. AP

FRANCE LINEUP

BRICE DULIN, Noa Nakaitaci, Remi Lamerat, Gael Fickou, Virimi Vakatawa, Camille Lopez, Baptiste Serin, Louis Picamoles, Kevin Gourdon, Fabien Sanconnie, Yoann Maestri, Sebastien Vahaamahina,

Rabah Slimani, Guilhem Guirado, Cyril Baille. Reserves, Camille Chat, Uini Atonio, Eddy Ben Arous, Julien Le Devedec, Damien Chouly, Antoine Dupont, Francois Trinh-Duc, Yoann Huget.

opinion

Bizcuits

Leanda Lee



AWARD INFLATION

Among the peculiarities of Macau is what seems an exaggerated lauding of certain individuals. In public we tend to bestow labels of "expert", "specialist", "media mogul", "pundit" or even "scholar" all too readily. It is as if by putting on a pedestal those we associate with, we improve our own public value.

It is taken for granted that we trust these allotted labels. They refer to the person, rather than their achievements, for we are rarely given evidence of the merit that serves to support the nomenclature. True experts will readily argue their positions and are open to critique. They will question evidence and denounce drivel. Few real experts I know will happily label themselves as such because they know how much they don't know, and are aware that paradoxically such a label distances people and warns not to question "the expert".

By the use of such value-laden labels the status of the entity that bestows them is improved and legitimised whether it be the media, at public talks or awards by government bodies or universities.

Another example is the expansive awarding of honorary degrees at almost every graduation ceremony in Macau. What grates with substantive graduands is the elevated distinction given to honorary awardees, especially when they are celebrities or unconnected with the particular institution, have little history of service to the community, or do not exhibit academic eminence.

The honours are often given to people who already have status in the community, frequently for jobs already remunerated. The forward thinking doers are less accessible, less presentable and far less agreeable, and awarding those real shakers is a much harder and politically riskier task. Successful executives, highly promoted government bureaucrats, well-published academics and internationally awarded celebrities are safe bets and good publicity.

If the awardee is truly deserving and special, they will be worthy of accolades as was Macau's own beloved Father Lancelote in 2010. Otherwise the award demeans the qualifications of those that worked towards them and the award itself becomes a tool in the 'scratch my back and I'll scratch yours' game of serving in-group interests and self-promotion. The trend towards actually using the title of "Dr", in opposition to generally accepted protocol, lends support to this.

Cynicism perceives some honorary degrees by lesser universities to international greats as a coup by the university in leveraging the awardee's name in a case of borrowed legitimacy.

UMAC has a history of awarding honours on significant occasions to Nobel Prize winners: in the late 80s, an honorary Doctor of Law to Nobel Peace Prize recipient, Dr Henry Kissinger, and fifteen years later upon the institution's 20th anniversary in 2002, an honorary Doctor of Social Sciences to the 2001 Nobel Laureate in Economics, Professor Joseph Stiglitz. Upon the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and 30 years of China-U.S. relations, the 41st President of the United States, George H. W. Bush was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Social Sciences. All were festive occasions, opportunely celebrated with big name drawcards.

A similar cynicism looks towards the outgoing rector's litany of honorary doctorates from 12 Portuguese universities as a kind of undisclosed quid pro quo, just prior to his second mandate. What happens when an award generally becomes devalued by ill-conceived agenda? In a world where Kermit the frog is given an honorary doctorate of Amphibious Letters and Kanye West - a man who received widespread acclaim for his album "The College Dropout" - gets one from the publicity-seeking School of the Art Institute of Chicago, we can see why one honorary degree from one Portuguese University is no longer enough. Even three universities jointly awarding a degree is deemed insufficient. Only twelve offer real impact anymore.

THE BUZZ WOMAN BURNED AFTER HEADPHONES EXPLODE ON FLIGHT TO AUSTRALIA

An Australian woman suffered burns to her face after her battery-operated headphones exploded during a flight from Beijing to Melbourne, Australian air safety investigators said.

The woman, whose name was not released, fell asleep on the plane while wearing the headphones and awoke to a loud explosion about two hours into the flight, the

Australian Transport Safety Bureau said in a statement about the Feb. 19 incident. The woman said she then felt a burning sensation on her face.

Flight attendants poured a bucket of water on the headphones. The battery and cover were melted and stuck to the floor of the plane. Passengers were "coughing and choking" for the rest of the flight.

Coming soon, paying your tab without giving your credit card



Ken Sweet, New York

IT'S 1 a.m. You've had a few too many at a crowded bar and walk out without paying the tab. Your credit card and driver's license sit behind the cash register, leaving your personal info widely accessible while you sleep off those vodka tonics.

There's a new option that might lessen the pain. Not the hangover pain — for that, you'll need aspirin. But if you've ever left your credit card at a bar by mistake, or spent several minutes trying to flag down a harried bartender to close you out, there may be a new option.

An upgrade being rolled out this summer to Mastercard's mobile payments service will let people open, manage and close their tabs at participating bars and taverns completely through their phones, without having to hand over a credit card. The Open Tab feature, available

in the U.S. and the U.K., will be an upgrade to Mastercard's existing Qkr mobile payment service.

"We heard from so many bars and pubs who always have a number of credit cards left at the end of the evening, and we thought, 'we know how to address this,'" said Betty DeVita, the business head of Mastercard's Qkr platform. DeVita also cited Mastercard survey data that it takes on average 12 to 15 minutes to close out a bill, time that could be used to serve more tables and customers.

The service will be free to customers and the service will cost the same for bars and restaurants as their normal credit card processing costs.

Popular apps like Venmo, Square Cash and bank-specific versions like Chase QuickPay have already changed the dynamic in how some people are paying for things.

The payment services that let people send each other money for free via their phones mean you can quickly pay a friend back for a drink or divide the dinner check instead of just hoping that someday soon the friend will take a turn.

Those have the benefit of working at any restaurant, but don't have the ability to split bills until after the fact.

The new bar tab option on Qkr is fairly straightforward. Customers can open the Qkr or the bar's app, and set up a tab, entering their credit card information if they hadn't already done so. Once the tab is ready, customers would get a table number, which they'd give to the bartender each time they order a drink.

When they're ready to go, customers can close out their tabs in the app. There are options to add other people to the tab, much like how a person can split a fare on Uber, as well as the ability to pay for individual drinks or pay for rounds of drinks. It also provides the option to automatically leave a tip.

If someone forgets to close out a tab, it's automatically closed at the end of the night. The bartender never needs to hold onto a credit card, and the bar is protected from fraud like fake cards since the Mastercard already preauthorizes the card before a tab is opened. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	50-70 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate	
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson calls on North Korea to abandon its nuclear and ballistic missile programs, saying the isolated nation "need not fear" the United States. Tillerson made the declaration after meeting his Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida in Tokyo. More on p12

PHILIPPINES A lawmaker files an impeachment complaint against President Rodrigo Duterte because of the thousands of deaths in his anti-drug crackdown and alleged corruption, although the bid faces an uphill battle with Duterte's allies holding an overwhelming majority in Congress. More on p12

AUSTRALIA A court fines gambling company Tabcorp a record 45 million Australian dollars (USD35 million) for failing to comply with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing obligations.



SOMALIA Britain's foreign secretary made a surprise visit to Somalia for talks with the country's new president as a worsening drought threatens millions of people in the Horn of Africa nation. "It is all so, such a shame that you are facing the problems that you are facing, though I think that we are moving fast to try to tackle that this time 'round,'" Boris Johnson told President Mohamed Abdullahi Mohamed.

UNITED NATIONS The United States will launch a competition in the coming weeks to find projects that will reduce modern slavery, which by one estimate affects nearly 46 million people around the world, U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley announced. She told a U.N. Security Council meeting focusing on the scourge that the initiative will seek to raise USD1.5 billion to help countries break trafficking rings and support survivors.

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