



NEW CREDIT CARD SCAM

The police revealed that a Malaysian gang has been attempting fraudulent purchases in Macau

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GAMECO TARGETS LOCAL CASINOS

A form of gaming blending traditional video gaming with betting might be poised to enter Macau's casinos

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HK ACTMSTS SAY POLICE PLAN ARRESTS



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH CHINA SEA China may or may not be planning to build an environmental monitoring station on the disputed Scarborough Shoal. While the top official in the administrative region covering the island says preparatory work for the station is a priority, the foreign ministry says there is no such plan.

CHINA Fourteen people are being held in police custody for their roles in a power plant construction site accident in southern China's Guangzhou city that killed nine workers and injured two others Saturday.

EU-PHILIPPINES The European Union has denied allegations by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte that it proposed solving the country's drug problem by creating treatment clinics where illegal drugs such as methamphetamine or cocaine would be dispensed.

SOUTH KOREA Prosecutors said yesterday that they want to arrest former President Park Geun-hye over the corruption allegations that triggered a huge political scandal and toppled her from power. The move comes after prosecutors grilled Park for 14 hours last week over suspicions that she colluded with a jailed confidante to extort from companies and committed other wrongdoing when she was in office. [More on p12](#)

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MOP20 MILLION INVESTMENT

Malo to open two clinics in Macau with local partner

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Reports: Kim Jong Nam remains to be repatriated to Macau today

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EXCLUSIVE INTERVIEW | PAULO MALO

Health can be 'bigger than shopping'

Paulo Coutinho

CHINA contributed 20 percent to the gross revenue of the entire Malo Clinic Group in 2016, second only to Portugal (57 percent).

The founder and president of the group, Paulo Malo, is adamant about Macau's role in developing his greater China and Asian empire: "To be honest, I would never ever in my wildest dreams think that such a clinic in Macau would bring me so much credibility and so much influence in the Asia Pacific region."

It was literally word of mouth.

"A guy from China came here to have his teeth treated. 'Hey, this is good. Wow, what is this here?' 'This is how we do it.' 'Can you do this in China?' 'Yes, find me the right partners.'"

Fifteen clinics have been opened in China in the past two years and the group has footholds in Japan, Singapore, Thailand and Australia. Currently, it is negotiating deals in South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, and Hong Kong. The strategy is focused on finding local partners in the industry because "we want the medical network, not only the money."

That is what happened this year with the clinic at The Venetian. "Now we have a new shareholder, which is a pharmaceutical company from Tianjin." There, at the giant Cotai casino, Malo also plans to reopen the medical spa facility – the largest of its kind in the world – and bring it back to full operation.

The Macau expansion is forging ahead through other types of collaboration. Just this month, Malo Clinic signed a partnership agreement with Data Pacific Medical Group that will result in the opening of two dental clinics in the short- to medium-term. The first one will open this year in downtown Macau, at Centro Médico Pedder, and a larger one will open next year in the islands. The investment will amount to over two million patacas for the operation at Pedder and MOP17.5 million for the large clinic in Taipa.

A famous dental surgeon and health guru, Paulo Malo, at 54, continues to dream big. Besides expanding the core business, his interests are vast and diversified – from wine, breeding pigs, and frozen food to his most recent passion, aquaculture.

"I recently bought a property in Algarve to breed 'free-range' fish, where it feels like Africa," he says, reminiscing about his childhood in Angola.

There was much to talk about, his new ventures and dreams, but the interview focused on Macau and the need to recover from the initial inertia of the plan to transform the city into a medical tourist destination – that is, "if the government really wants it." He wishes to engage all stakeholders in the city to devise a roadmap to reinvent Macau as a health destination.

"Gambling will definitely always be the biggest. There's no way you're going to take the 'pole position' from gambling, but health can be as big, or bigger, than shopping."

In the interview with the Times, Dr Paulo Malo started by recalling that "diversification" from gambling was what initially brought him to Macau in 2009.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - The Macau clinic opened in Macau with high expectations. Did it meet your expectations?

Paulo Malo (PM) - We built a clinic in Macau, not to serve Macau, but to serve this region of the world. That is why we invested so much money, over USD15 million, and we constructed the biggest medical spa in the world. This clinic was made to be focused on medical tourism. Macau is one of the places in the world, if not 'the' place in the world that receives the most tourists per square meter. It's bigger than Las Vegas. It is a huge concentration of tourists in this area and these tourists are not backpacking tourists, these tourists come with money for the casinos, shows, and shopping. So this is the perfect place in the world to have a high quality clinic in selected [medical] specialties: full health-checks, dental, ophthalmology, can-

cer, hair transplant check-up, anti-aging therapies, plastic surgery, and IVF. Those are some of the most important specialties for medical tourism because people come for the shopping, for the casinos, this and that and they [can] have a medical check-up. Everybody above 50 years old has dental problems, everybody above 50 years old has hearing problems, everybody above 50 years old has sight problems. Everybody is losing hair, everybody wants to look younger. Now, what happened was that as you know, politics in Macau are not geared towards bringing medical tourism to Macau. Macau concentrates on marketing casinos. This is a casino town.

MDT - Yet politicians are saying – again and again – they want to diversify...

PM - Yes, that's what brought me here. What brought me to the city was that the politicians were saying that Macau cannot be casinos-only. There was even some pressure from the Central Government that they would not like to have just casinos, so they would like to develop the shopping experience and they would like to develop medical tourism because, you see, the clients are already here. We don't need to bring them, we just need to add on [services]. That's what brought me here; but as you know that is not true. There

is absolutely nothing done in terms of the government promoting medical tourism, and of course, medical care in Macau is not really to international standards.

“ We built a clinic [at The Venetian], not to serve Macau, but to serve this region of the world.

MDT - Do you still hope that we can get there?

PM - Yes, because this cannot go on and sooner or later the government will understand that Macau needs more than just casinos. I understand that medical tourism will never be as strong as the casinos in terms of revenue. But you know, this town cannot just survive on casinos. It needs to have a little bit more and that's why we came to Macau. And where did we start our activity? We started inside a casino exactly because first, we were invited by the casino, the biggest casino, and they helped us to build this clinic and the reason we were inside the casino was exactly to

benefit from this particular situation, which is [that] the tourists were already there...

Coming back to your question about how do I judge the experience? This experience [in the region] was very important for us because of Macau. Because of Macau, we are now the biggest dental service providers in all of Asia. Because of Macau, we have nine clinics in Thailand, six clinics in Singapore, five clinics in Australia, and two in Japan.

MDT - It was because of the Macau clinic that your brand expanded into Asia?

PM - Yes, of course. People came here and they started to see things. 18 clinics opened in China. Another 42 are opening in Japan during this year.

MDT - So the government did you a favor actually.

PM - [Smiles] Well the government did nothing. What happened actually was that people from Asia came to the clinic here. A guy from China came here to have his teeth treated. "Hey, this is good. Wow, what is this here?" "This is how we do it." "Can you do this in China?" "Yes, find me the right partners." [This also happened] with a guy from Japan. This is how we grew in Asia.

Macau was the seed. It is amazing what Macau did to



Clinic in Beijing

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us. Even people from Las Vegas came to Macau and after seeing, they wanted to do it in Las Vegas... If you look at the particular economics of the Macau clinic, it was not a huge success. It was okay. But, if you look at the region as a whole, Macau was a huge success. Without Macau, we would never ever have been able to do what we did.

MDT - So moving forward, what is your responsibility as a shareholder, as a manager and as a practitioner?

PM - Now we have a partner, which is a pharmaceutical company from Tianjin [Tianjing Chase Pharmaceutical Sun Co Ltd]. They just came in this year. Finally we have a good partner because we were not happy with the partners we had. Malo Clinic was made for the region and we always looked for a partner that was not the person with the money, but the person with the network. I did not want [just]

Just this month Malo Clinic signed a partnership... that will result in the opening of two new dental clinics in the MSAR

anybody to come only with the money, I wanted somebody to come with the medical network. For instance, I always looked for partnerships with some top Thai hospitals and some top South Korean hospitals and even some top Hong Kong hospitals. If we had this partnership [I believed] that this would just [explode], but we never made it. So today, we have a clinic that is taking its first steps on the medical side due to this pharmaceutical company [shareholder] and we are now engaging in finding collaborations with top medical destination hospitals in the region because that's the way to go.

MDT - You do the check-ups...

PM - We focus on full health checks. Anti-aging. Malo Clinic is pretty good in anti-aging. We are also strong in fertility [treatment]. We are one of the biggest clinics in the world for IVF and this is something we want here, but fertilization, no, we can't [pursue it here], because the Macau government does not promote that law. We are stuck, so if you want [fertilization treatment] you have to go out of Macau, you have to go to the country next-door.

Yet, I believe we are starting to reach out, after all these years, we're starting to understand the network in Macau, the people. So I believe that this year we will promote a meeting amongst top medical service providers, so that

we could approach the government and ask for help. We cannot do anything without the help of the government. First of all, [we need] to get some hurdles out of the way, things like labor [import restrictions]. You can import a doctor, but if you cannot import a nurse you're stuck. We do not have [sufficiently] specialized people in Macau in medical services.

I don't believe that Macau will carry on being just a casino city. We have to evolve, we have to look for other things that bring advantages. It will always be a casino city, there's no way around it. Las Vegas has been like this for a long time, but Las Vegas is also an entertainment city and also a medical city and also a pensio-

ners' residential city.

MDT - You signed a partnership with a local medical service provider this month. What are we going to see in the near future?

PM - In the very near future, meaning within months, you will see a dental clinic in Macau because we have this inside The Venetian. You will see a small dental clinic on the peninsula and in the mid-term, you will see a big dental clinic integrated in a larger medical facility.

MDT - Will this partnership help you grow in China? Is that on the table?

PM - The partnership will not influence China. The partnership will definitely influence medical tourism in Macau and it might influence Hong Kong because the partner has some partnerships in Hong Kong that we can benefit from, but definitely, the idea is to move forward into a dental tourism group. Serious dental tourism like we have in Europe here in Macau, for the [Asia Pacific] region because dental [health service] in the region is very poor and I'll give you some numbers. At the Malo Clinic in Bangkok, 60 percent of the patients come from Australia [where they have good dental care but it is expensive].

MDT - Much like the idea behind the casinos' expansion, Macau has 350 million people within a five-hour flight radius...

PM - Yes, it is amazing. And the lack of understanding of that we can piggy back on what already exists in Macau is shocking. We have millions of people coming to Macau [every month], millions.

MDT - We are not taking advantage of that?

PM - We are not taking advantage of that. Who are these people? If you look at these people, these are people coming to Macau specifically for two things. Shopping and

gambling, which means that these are not poor people. You don't come to Macau if you're poor because when you come to Macau you have to stay in a hotel. Hotels are not cheap in Macau.

MDT - We don't see a lot of backpackers around...

PM - Of course not. If you go to Europe, if you go to Barcelona for instance, you see a lot of people sleeping on the beach and in small hotels of 20 euro per night, but not here. So these people come here for that [gambling and shopping]. Now, what is the age range of these people? Most of them are above 45, 50 years old, because those are the guys who have the money. These people have bad teeth, they have bad eye sight. They have no hair, some of them are fat; some of them have other health problems from lack of exercise.

MDT - So the next thing after gambling and shopping can be health, buying health?

PM - Gambling will definitely always be the biggest. There's no way you're going to take the 'pole position' from gambling, but health can be as big or bigger than shopping because in Thailand that's how it is. So health can surely be number two here. Macau can be a health destination. South Korea has all these problems now with the threat of North Korea. Thailand is a mess. So all of a sudden we have China and we have Macau, and Macau is right next to Hong Kong. I don't see any big thing going on in Hong Kong - there's no space and it's too expensive. Macau is next to China. You literally walk into Macau from China. Then we'll have a bridge linking to Hong Kong. We have an airport that when you land in Macau, in less than ten minutes you are in the clinic or in a hospital. To me, this is obviously [a great asset] as a businessman and specialist in the health business.



The clinic in Lisbon has over 700 staff

CRIME

PJ pursues ringleader in credit cards scam



A further enquiry and an investigation into the suspect revealed that he had been hired for the job and he would get a reward equivalent to MOP4,000.

In another case, it was found that another Malaysian had bought bags, wallets and sneakers and paid for hotel rooms with some of the fake credit cards.

In his possession were 21 of

these cards and it was found that three of them had been used successfully to purchase products to the value of MOP37,000 in different shops across Macau.

In a third case, a 31-year-old male had been detained, said to be a taxi driver in Malaysia.

The hotel alerted the police after discovering that the man had paid his hotel bill with one of the

fake cards.

The PJ were called to the hotel by hotel management where they found the man around 5 p.m. on March 24. In the man's possession were 17 forged credit cards as well as leather bags and accessories he allegedly bought using the cards.

The man claimed to be acting alone but also informed the police that he would get a 10 percent reward based on the value of the items he managed to buy.

In four successful transactions in different shops he spent a total of MOP102,108.

Renato Marques

Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said yesterday that the force is currently looking for the ringleader of a criminal organization based in Malaysia which has reportedly been targeting Macau with scams involving fake credit cards.

During a press conference yesterday, the spokesperson revealed that more cases related to the use of fake credit cards by Malaysian nationals have been found over the last couple of days.

Two individuals hired by the

criminal organization to buy goods using the fake credit cards were detained on Friday. The PJ said it received complaints of three different cases involving four Malaysians who were found with a total of 59 forged credit cards in their possession.

One of the detainees, a 19-year-old, was caught in possession of 10 cards, and another 11 cards were found in his hotel room.

The PJ said that he was operating with a partner, still at large, and that together between March 6 and 8 they managed to buy products amounting to approximately MOP180,000.

Fake diamond ring used as bait for swindle

THE Judiciary Police detained a man from mainland China who had been allegedly involved in at least four different cases of swindling. According to the PJ report the man was caught after his last scam which was conducted on March 20.

The police received a complaint from a victim who said that a man approached him in the NAPE area claiming to have lost all his money gambling. He asked for some money to purchase food and to return back home.

The man then told him another story claiming that he needed more money to buy a mobile phone for his boss back in the mainland. In exchange, he gave as a deposit a diamond ring allegedly valued at HKD120,000.

After obtaining money from the victim, the man said that he would seek return of the ring upon

payment of the loan the following day.

The victim handed over a total of MOP23,400 to the man who vanished, without trace. The victim took the ring to a pawnshop only to learn it was worthless.

The PJ noted the similarities in the story to another three last year which occurred between May and July in the peninsula central area and believed all to have been performed by the same person. Upon further investigation, the PJ found and arrested the man on the evening of March 22 in the NAPE area.

Upon being questioned he admitted the four crimes, saying that the rings had been bought in Zhuhai for around RMB2,300 each. In total the swindler took from the four victims a sum of around MOP84,000 which he said he lost at the gaming tables.

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Daniel Beittler

Millennial-style video gaming could be next casino offering

A new form of gaming might be poised to enter Macau's casinos in the near future, blending traditional video gaming with betting opportunities.

Video game gambling machines (VGM), spearheaded in the U.S. by New York-based firm GameCo, might serve as a calling card to younger, gambling-averse audiences by raising the impact of the gamer's skill on their probability of hitting the jackpot and diminishing that of luck.

GameCo introduced the first VGMs in casinos in Atlantic City last November, starting with a game called "Danger Arena" that was trialled in Caesars Palace and Tropicana. It has since developed the company's second game, "Pharaoh's Secret Temple," and launched it in the same two casinos earlier this year. Now the company is eyeing Macau in its expansion plans.

The company's video games aim to cover traditional themes in the industry, such as action, combat and racing.

The general strategy behind the company is to take video games to casino floors where they hope to attract new demographic segments, such as Millennials, through "next generation" gaming machines.

Millennials and the younger population strata in general display less enthusiasm for traditional gambling machines, opting more for other entertainment services in integrated resorts, like bars and clubs.

The company's co-founder and chief executive officer, Blaine Graboyes, told the Las Vegas Review Journal that VGMs will be instrumental in attracting the Millennial segment to casino floors. He said that according to the company's market research, more than 60 percent of those playing VGMs in Atlantic City are younger than 40.

"Gamers also have a propensity for gambling and they don't have any place to get together and socialize," said Graboyes, according to the Las Vegas Review Journal. "The opportunity was to create a destination at a



This screenshot of a YouTube video shows a woman playing the Danger Arena game

casino that makes gamers feel like the cool kids."

Frederico Santos Rosário, the chairman of local eSports organization Grow uP eSports, told the Times he is aware of GameCo's foray into the Macau market and that he believes there may be an opportunity for cooperation between the two organizations.

"I guess they [GameCo] are already talking to most casinos and most have shown interest in GameCo," he told the Times yesterday.

"We are eSports, casinos are slots (boring). Between slots and eSports, perhaps video game slots will fill the gap," added Rosário. "Look, if there were machines that allow much more skill input than slot machines, perhaps my friends and

I would go to have a drink and play in the casinos as an alternative to arcades. Or even better, there could be a mix of video game slots plus eSports - little weekend gatherings - just like in other sports clubs."

Grow uP eSports has been lobbying for official recognition as a sport from Macau's Sports Bureau, which they believe will open the door to government sponsorship for local eGaming groups.

"If Blaine [Graboyes] decides to work with us, then we can promote diversity together and show the government that the current and next generation wants something more challenging and entertaining [in Macau]," said Rosário on whether the market entry of GameCo might inadvertently

aid their objective.

GameCo, the first U.S. company making VGMs, is aiming to raise USD30 million in its third round of funding as it prepares to launch into new gaming markets.

"We are just starting on our next round now with the target

of raising \$20 million to \$30 million depending on market conditions," the company CEO added. The company gathered almost \$10 million in two prior rounds of fundraising.

The latest fundraising round pre-empts the company's plan to open an office in Macau. According to the Las Vegas Review Journal, Graboyes will be in Macau this week to prepare the office opening and to meet with casino owners and regulators.

Graboyes is expected to be in Macau this week to prepare the office opening

Expansion into Macau - and also Las Vegas - represents the second stage in the company's growth plan, which began in Atlantic City. Ultimately, Graboyes said he believes there is a market for independent VGM centers outside of casinos.

"It is only a matter of time before there is a video-game casino," he said. "We are driving ideas for it and we would hope to be a key partner of the first one."

HOW 'DANGER ARENA' WORKS

"DANGER ARENA" is the first game developed by GameCo that was introduced to casinos in Atlantic City. A combination of video gaming and gambling, "Danger Arena" offers players a 45-second window to shoot as many characters as possible in a "first-person shooter" scenario. Players can bet at five price points from USD0.5 to \$20

each round. Defeating six out of 10 characters earns players half of their money back, while a seven breaks even. Defeating more than seven enemies earns players between 2.5 times and 25 times the bet, with the maximum return being \$500 for one round. Outside of this, occasional bonus prizes of up to \$5,000 are randomly offered to players.

'Library Week' explores link between images and reading

A series of activities promoting reading will be held as part of "Macau Library Week" in order to celebrate the "World Book Day" on April 23.

This year's "Library Week 2017" aims to explore the relationship between images and reading. Starting this month, a series of activities

will be held to kick off the event, including talks on family members reading together by the Macau Public Library.

Local and foreign speakers will talk about how to choose books for children. Creative crafts and reading workshops, a German comic book exhibition and library science talks by MLIMA

will also constitute parts of the event.

In addition, there will be a number of activities from April 22-25 at the Old Court Building, including an archived periodicals charity sale, a book exchange, reading accessories workshops, readings to families and reading game booths. Some activities are al-

ready open for registration.

Considered by the Cultural Affairs Bureau as the "most prominent annual event of Macau's libraries," the event is co-organized by the Macau Public Library and the Wu Yee Sun Library (which belongs to the University of Macau) in April and May.



Poly Macau to hold auction with Poly HK



Sabrina Ho (center) pictured yesterday

Lynzy Valles

POLY Auction Macau is set to hold its first co-auction with Poly Auction Hong Kong in celebration of the Hong Kong firm's fifth anniversary.

Scheduled to present 20th century Chinese masterpieces, the co-auction will feature several works of contemporary artists, including Zeng Fanzhi and his "Mask Series 1996 No. 6." Other featured artists include Xu Beihong, Li Keran, Wu Guanzhong, Chu Teh-chun and Zao Wou-ki.

The co-auction titled "Fusion – Special Feature of Chinese Art jointly presented by Hong Kong and Macau," will include a series of selected Chinese masterpieces from six different artists.

Speaking on the sidelines of a press conference held yesterday at the Regency Art Hotel, director of Poly Auction Macau, Sabrina Ho, described the upcoming auction as special, due to the particularly rare pieces selected to be auctioned.

"They [Hong Kong] have a lot of pieces themselves but we only picked the most important pieces and especially that piece [by

Zeng Fanzhi] that we most focus on [...] because it's basically a museum piece and it's very rare," she said.

Ho also expressed her gratitude at the newly established auction firm being selected to host the auction for Zeng Fanzhi's artwork.

According to her, "Mask Series

■ Zeng Fanzhi's 'The Last Supper' was auctioned for USD23.3m back in 2013

1996 No. 6," is one of the top three pieces he has painted.

"We're only new. Maybe it's luck, or maybe the culture of our company has been relating to youth culture, a lot of young hotel art fair and young student graduate shows," Ho, daughter of Stanley Ho, said.

"So I think they admire the culture of the company and out of all the auction houses, they have picked us to auction this really

rare museum piece," she continued.

Meanwhile, the director has noted that they have high hopes for Zeng's "Mask Series 1996 No. 6," anticipating a sum as great as his painting "The Last Supper" – which was auctioned for USD23.3 million back in 2013.

"The Last Supper" set a new record price for a work by an Asian contemporary artist.

"Our hope is that it could be as great as The Last Supper to break another record but even so, it has broken the record for Macau," she said, adding that this art piece is probably one of the most expensive, rare and well-known pieces that has been involved with a locally set up company.

Zeng's "Mask Series 1996 No. 6" is currently being displayed at the Gallery of Regency Art Hotel until April 5.

No initial price for Zeng's piece has been indicated in the firm's statement, however other artworks were estimated to be auctioned from HKD2 million to HKD18 million.

Viewing and the auction will take place at Grand Hyatt Hong Kong from April 1 to April 4.

More calls to Fire Services in 2016

Renato Marques

THE Fire Services (CB) was called to a total of 45,778 cases in 2016, 557 higher than the previous year and an increase of 1.23 per cent year-on-year.

During a press conference yesterday, CB Commander Leong Iok Sam said that all operational areas had reported an increase in the number of cases.

The report indicates a higher increase in cases related to the CB "special services," which includes incidents resulting from falling objects and trees, gas leaks and misuse of dangerous products.

Leong noted that the increase in cases involving falling objects and trees was largely due to the effects of typhoons.

Rescue operation services were involved in a total of 1,461 cases in 2016, an 88 case increase, which accounts for a growth of 6.41 per cent year-on-year. Most of those cases were related to sea res-

cues, although there were rescue events in other areas, such as the May 4 event involving a man from the mainland. He engaged in a stand-off that lasted around 18 hours while threatening to commit suicide by jumping from a building.

Leong Iok Sam also mentioned several major incidents in 2016, including the February 11 fire that destroyed one of the pavilions of A-Ma Temple in Barra, the tourist bus crash at Rua da Entena that left 32 injured and caused severe damage to one building, a December 20 accident involving two tourist buses in the surrounding area of the Broadway Hotel that left 57 injured people and also the December 27 blaze that destroyed 89 motorcycles on Avenida Norte do Hipodromo.

According to the CB Commander, local residents were cooperative regarding fire prevention.

False calls to emer-

gency services was less significant, Leong said: "The CB had reinforced awareness and information campaigns about the appropriate use of ambulances from last year, in order to achieve a decrease in the number of calls, [...] which registered a significant reduction when compared to the results of the past 10 years."

As for the major tasks of the CB over the past year, Leong highlighted the successful creation of the "special rescue team," officially established on September 2016 and aiming to provide a fast response to "big, serious and complicated disasters or accidents" in order to "increase efficiency in rescue and minimize the losses through the use of advanced equipment, professional techniques and effective strategies."

The CB chief said that the primary task for this year will be the creation of the new regime of communitarian

fire safety, as stated by the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak. Although details on when and what will be covered by the regime are yet to be announced, Leong said "we have already delivered our opinions to the government," hinting that there is a possibility of the establishment of penalties for those that do not comply with the rules.

RENATO MARQUES



The CB Commander, Leong Iok Sam

Coloane, Ilha Verde and HKZM bridge are future challenges

REMARKING on the upcoming challenges for the Fire Services (CB), Leong Iok Sam specified all the areas of Coloane, Ilha Verde and the new operation of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) for which the CB has already commenced planning the infrastructure to meet those needs.

There are planned and ongoing works for the new Fire Station in Coloane, aiming to provide a fast response to the areas of Cotai, Seac Pai Van as well as increase the support to the operations in Hengqin, the airport and Fuel Park.

Also, Ilha Verde is expected to begin operations in a temporary operations

center to support the works for the new border crossing at Guangdong-Macau (Qingmao Border checkpoint) and to bolster the current development of Ilha Verde in terms of several major infrastructure projects.

The CB also expects to shortly complete an operations center that is being built at the exit point of the HKZMB - on the new landfills near the Border Gate - in order to improve the response to any incidents on the bridge.

It was also said that besides the building of additional infrastructure, such developments present a big challenge to CB in terms of human resources.

KIM JONG NAM

Malaysian reports: Remains to be repatriated to Macau today

THE remains of Kim Jong Nam, the deceased half-brother of North Korean despot Kim Jong Un, was released from the Kuala Lumpur Hospital yesterday, reported Malaysia's The Sun Daily, and will repatriated to his family in Macau today.

The repatriation is thought to have been organized by the Malaysian Foreign Ministry, which is in communication with his immediate family in Macau. It will ultimately invalidate Pyongyang's demands to have the body immediately returned to North Korea.

According to various reports, Kim's remains were transported from the National Forensic Institute at the hospital in the early afternoon and taken to an unknown location for what was understood to be religious rites. The remains will later be brought to the MSAR, according to the reports.

Several Malaysian police officers visited the embassy yesterday morning, according to



Kim Jong Nam

Malaysian media reports, to brief embassy officials, before transporting the body and preparing it for repatriation to Macau.

The successful entry of the authorities comes after more than a month of having police officers stationed outside the embassy.

Jong Nam was assassinated at Kuala Lumpur International Airport on February 13, poisoned with the banned VX nerve agent by two young women – one from Vietnam and the other from Indonesia – who claim to have believed they were participating in a television prank.

North Korean officials say that the man who died at the airport was Kim Chol, as per the name on the passport carried by the man, and that he died of a heart attack. Pyongyang has accused Malaysia of operating under the influence of its bitter rivals, South Korea and the U.S.

Malaysian authorities maintain that they identified Jong Nam's body based on a DNA sample obtained from one of his children.

One of Jong Nam's sons, the 21-year-old Kim Han Sol, is believed to be based in Macau, though some reports have speculated that he may be residing in Beijing since his father's assassination, out of a fear for his safety.

Aside from the two young women, eight North Koreans are suspected of having some involvement in the assassination, including diplomat Hyon Kwang-song and two others who are thought be hiding in the North Korean embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

Employment rate holds steady

The general unemployment rate for the three-month period, December 2016 to February 2017, held at 2 percent, information from the Statistics and Census Service released yesterday indicated. Meanwhile, the unemployment rate of local residents was 2.8 percent and the underemployment rate stood at 0.5 percent. All three indicators held stable as in the previous three-month period between November 2016 and January 2017. The total labor force during the period was 387,000 and the labor force participation rate stood at 70.9 percent. Total employment was 379,100 and the number of employed residents totaled 277,100, down by 2,800 and 800 respectively from the previous period. The number of the unemployed was 7,900, similar to that in the previous period. Fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job accounted for 8.4 percent of the total unemployed, up by 0.8 percentage points.

GCS to launch Facebook page

The Government Information Bureau is to launch a Facebook page today, in order to enhance its engagement with the public and to allow more convenient access to government-issued information. According to a statement issued yesterday, the main topics covered include government events, public policy matters and live streaming of special news topics, as well as videos and photograph collections produced by the bureau. Information shared on the page will be in Chinese.

AD



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Volkswagen

PS : 1) The pictures are for reference only.

2) In the event of any dispute, Volkswagen Hong Kong reserves the right to make the final decision.

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Danica Kirka, London

Rule Britannia: Firms bet on British allure to get by Brexit

TIM Barlow pushes a green stamp onto the edge of an unfinished plate, leaving behind the words "Made in England."

It's still a piece of unglazed gray clay, a far cry from the gleaming decorated disc of Wedgwood Jasperware it will become, but Barlow and his employers are betting those words will be a selling point as Britain begins the process of leaving the European Union.

"It takes on a greater importance now we're coming out of Europe," he says, matter-of-factly. "We're standing on our own now."

It's not just Wedgwood, the 258-year-old firm that has supplied tableware to Britain's royal family, the Kremlin and the White House. Companies ranging from luxury clothes maker Burberry to Bee Good, a small business making products from British bees, are hoping to make virtue out of necessity by promoting British identity as a selling point.

For some, like Wedgwood, it can mean appealing to foreign visions of a stereotypical Britain: the traditional, classy culture of high tea and garden parties. For others it's a bet that consumers around the world recognize the quality of British workmanship and are willing to pay a premium for it.

The question is important for British business if, as expected, Brexit leads to tariffs and other barriers to trade with the EU, the country's biggest export market. Exports of goods and services account for about 27 percent of the British economy, with almost half of exports going to the EU.

The government is trying to bolster overseas trade with a five-year program designed to help 100,000 new exporters sell goods and services abroad. The Exporting is Great website lists potential buyers including online retailers in China looking for U.K. jewelry and housewares, a Japanese company interested in British raincoats and Wellington boots, and a Turkish importer seeking British cosmetics.

Leaning into the uncertainty,

AP PHOTO



The statue of Wedgwood founder Josiah Wedgwood

Wedgwood has embarked on a sweeping revamp of its offerings to broaden its international market. Building on a heritage of making granny's china, Wedgwood is planning to capture the image of crumbling castles, Downton Abbey and Will & Kate as it expands to a younger audience and tries to tap into the zeitgeist of companies like Burberry — except that they are doing it for homeware.

Wedgwood is an "unpolished jewel to undust," said Ulrik Garde Due, president of the Fiskars Corp. unit that owns the company. Helsinki-based Fiskars bought Wedgwood, founded in what is now Stoke-on-Trent, England, in 1759, two years ago.

"I think Britain will sell more than ever" after Brexit, he said. "It's turning into a positive. We are turning it into an opportunity."

There's value for a company in

being associated with Britain. The country is generally perceived as a "quality supplier," which means that customers in new and emerging markets are willing to pay as much as 7 percent more for British products, according to a 2014 study by the Centre for Economics & Business Research for London-based Barclays bank.

"There are bigger premiums to be had when products are marketed as 'Made in Britain,'" the report said.

Like Wedgwood, Burberry turned up the volume on heritage in its latest show last month in London. The company, known for trench coats to fend off the British weather and traditional plaid linings, used the curving sculptures of the late British artist Henry Moore as a backdrop for their show, with fashionistas receiving invitations etched on stones recalling his work.

The question is whether Wed-

gwood and other companies that bank on being British will find their names tarnished by the turmoil of Brexit. In the immediate aftermath of the Brexit vote, there were reports of continental Europeans shunning British goods. Carmaker Jaguar Land Rover, for example, said last summer that some European customers were explicitly avoiding their vehicles after the Brexit vote.

But the long term is another matter. Branding expert Richard Cope, of research firm Mintel, says that Brexit can be positive, particularly in trade outside Europe.

Brexit "strengthens the idea that Britain is a bit different," Cope said. "It's not like the rest of Europe. It's another thing that makes it different. I don't think that's a bad thing if you are exporting to Japan or the United States."

In a period of international flux, people will retreat to brands

with status, brands that stand for something, said Simi Nijher, an associate strategist at brand consultant Siegel+Gale. Outside of Britain, people won't question what Britain means, and won't bother with the soul searching under way right now in the U.K. about identity and the future without membership in the single market.

"When you put a stamp of provenance on something, you want that to be very clear, very simple," Nijher said. "That link is very clear. It's about quality, about heritage. It's about attaining something that is desirable and, no, I don't think that will change with Brexit."

I think Britain will sell more than ever.

ULRIK GARDE DUE
FISKARS CORP PRESIDENT

Much is at stake for companies like Wedgwood, and for people like Barlow. A short stroll around the factory floor showed employees with extraordinary levels of service — 20, 30, even 40 years of painting, molding and firing clay.

These are the people who have been through the good times and the tough times, surviving the company's recent bankruptcy, reorganization and purchase.

Barlow picked up a vase in the Jasperware line, a classic design with white Grecian style figures on blue background. He flipped it over.

"I got my initials at the bottom as well," he said proudly. "So in 200 years, on the Antiques Roadshow [TV program], you might be able to say: It was one of mine." **AP**

corporate bits

MGM EXTENDS ART BASEL HK TOURS TO LOCALS



MGM provided an opportunity for the Macau creative community to travel to Art Basel this month through the sponsorship of its parent Company, MGM Resorts International.

From March 23 to 25, MGM has invited Macau community members to join three separate tours to Art Basel Hong Kong.

Participants in the tours included 27 members of the Cultural

Industries Fund and the Committee of Cultural Industries, as well as a group of 18 students and professors from the Visual Arts and Design bachelor's degree programs of the Macau Poly-

technic Institute.

The tours began in the morning with a ride on the MGMRI Sponsored Tram Project, "Twenty-Five Minutes Older" by Hong Kong artist Kingsley Ng, followed by a journey through Wan Chai and its revamp of Lei Tung street through creative initiatives, and concluded with a tour at Art Basel.

The gaming operator added in a statement that the tour groups were given the opportunity to interact with Ng, who is known for creating conceptual art projects that are community-engaging.

CESL ASIA COOPERATES WITH 'SPIN.WORKS'

CESL Asia is set to showcase its association with "Spin.Works" at the upcoming 2017 Macau International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition.

"Spin.Works" is a Portuguese technology company that applies proprietary space technology to unmanned craft equipped with high-tech intelligence, resulting in a wide variety of applications.

According to a statement issued by CESL Asia, the firm is also working to foster Sino-Lu-

so economic and social development with investments and operations in both markets, specifically in terms of advancing the use of sustainable energy and technology solutions.

The local company has so far invested in two Concentration Photovoltaic Power Plants in Southern Portugal.

The company pledged to further its investments into "seed to table" programs and into applying state-of-the-art technologies in energy and agriculture projects.



AP PHOTO
Zhao Yifeng displays photos of his brother Zhao Liping with injuries to his arms during an interview at a hotel in Beijing



Zhao Liping is seen during a family excursion near Hohhot city in Inner Mongolia region (2013)

COURTS

Brother seeks retrial for ex-police chief Zhao facing death

Gillian Wong, Beijing

At first blush, the plight of former Chinese police official Zhao Liping might not win much sympathy.

When a court sentenced Zhao, who'd wielded enormous power over his fellow citizens, to death for murder and corruption, state media hailed the ruling as evidence of equality before the law. Reports called it a milestone in the country's crackdown on misbehaving officials.

Yet Zhao's brother is now questioning the verdict, saying the ex-official was abused in police custody and sentenced in a show trial — raising issues of justice that are rarely aired in politically sensitive, often tightly scripted cases.

"They want to execute my brother based on evidence that is too problematic," Zhao Yifeng, a history professor at a university in the eastern city of Changchun, told The Associated Press.

Zhao, who had enjoyed broad powers as head of public security in the northern Chinese region of Inner Mongolia, was sentenced to death in November for murder, accepting bribes and the possession of firearms. Zhao, who has denied the charges, appealed the sentence. The appeal was rejected by a higher court in Shanxi province in February.

China's highest court, the Supreme People's Court, is now reviewing his death sentence, as it does for all capital punishment cases.

Zhao's brother has written a de-

tailed letter appealing for a fair trial and submitted it to the court through its "letters and petitions" department, the office that is designated to hear citizens' complaints.

"This concerns my brother's life and whether the facts of this case have been made clear," Zhao Yifeng said in a recent interview. Equally important, he added, "It also concerns how the country's current judicial system is actually functioning."

The case has drawn a high level of public interest because Zhao is the first ministerial-level official to be sentenced to death in President Xi Jinping's hallmark crackdown on corruption that started in late 2012.

They want to execute my brother based on evidence that is too problematic.

ZHAO YIFENG

Zhao, now 66, was found guilty of murdering a 27-year-old woman said to have had an "intimate relationship" with him by shooting her on March 20, 2015, in the Inner Mongolian city of Chifeng, about 400 kilometers (250 miles) northeast of Beijing. Chinese media reports said Zhao had burned and bu-

ried the body of his mistress, identified only by her surname, Li, outside the city. They speculated that Zhao feared Li would expose him for some unspecified corruption.

The court also said Zhao, who rose through the ranks of the police in the sparsely populated but resource-rich region over a three-decade career, used his leadership position from 2008 to 2010 to "seek benefits" when promoting people and taking 24 million yuan (USD3.5 million) in bribes. He was also convicted of illegally owning guns, bullets and detonators.

Zhao's brother disputes only the murder charge, saying he does not know enough about the other charges to challenge the prosecution's arguments. He also points to violations of due process in the overall handling of the case.

Zhao Yifeng said his brother was denied access to a lawyer in his first six months of custody despite his and his family's attempts to hire one for him.

Interrogators used torture to extort a confession from Zhao, his brother said, citing a lawyer's record from reviewing the prosecution's case files and an interrogation video. In one session, Zhao was put through 22 hours of questioning with his chest, arms and legs strapped and cuffed to a chair in order to immobilize him, kept awake throughout and denied medication for a heart condition, according to his brother.

Even after two years, Zhao has deep scars on his wrists, his brother said. He cites his brother as saying in court that the injuries

were inflicted by interrogators who pressed down hard on his handcuffed wrists. In photos Zhao's brother hopes to submit to China's highest court, the former official is seen in a prison uniform extending his scarred wrists before him.

He also says the courts ignored serious flaws in the prosecution's argument, including that none of the prosecution's three key witnesses identified Zhao as the killer in a police lineup.

Zhao's defense lawyers raised these issues in their arguments. Yet, his brother says, they don't appear to have figured into the verdict, issued just days after the trial.

"This is a terrible thing, because what then is the point of the trial? It's all just a big performance," Zhao Yifeng said.

The Supreme People's Court, the two courts in Shanxi province where the case was tried, and police and prosecutors in Chifeng, where Zhao was interrogated, did not respond to repeated requests for comment sent by fax and phone.

Zhao's appeal comes amid greater scrutiny of complaints of police abuse in China and problems with its judicial system, where courts have a 99 percent conviction rate — one of the highest in the world.

Maya Wang, a researcher with New York-based Human Rights Watch, said it wouldn't be surprising if Zhao had been tortured while in police custody.

"The government doesn't give any statistics on the use of torture, but it is striking that such fate can befall almost anyone in Chi-

na — whether we're talking about powerful former government officials or petty thieves," Wang said.

In recent months, Chinese activists have been drawing attention to the plight of a rights lawyer, Xie Yang, who told his attorneys that he had been subjected to sleep deprivation, punched, kicked and otherwise tortured during interrogations. Xie has been held since July 2015 in a crackdown on legal activism.

Interrogators find it easy to sidestep government requirements aimed at curbing abuse because the police, prosecutors and judiciary are ultimately controlled by the Communist Party. "They are required to work together to send suspects to jail, while the defense lawyer and the suspect have few rights and little power," Wang said.

Yet public pressure to curb abuses has grown following a string of wrongful convictions that recently came to light. China's highest court has pledged to do more to prevent the use of torture to obtain confessions, requiring interrogations to be videotaped, for example.

But while the torture of ordinary people in police custody might trigger an outcry, there is little public sympathy for officials subjected to the same practices, part of a widespread perception that officials enjoy better treatment by police than ordinary suspects.

The Supreme People's Court's verdict on Zhao's sentence is expected within weeks.

In the meantime, Zhao Yifeng has been traveling regularly to Beijing seeking to win his brother a retrial.

Sitting in his hotel room in Beijing, Zhao recalled how he and his older brother had been close as children but drifted apart in their adult years, separated by distance as well as differing views.

"I'm an academic and more of a liberal, which is unlike him," he said. "But if I could live this life again, I would stop my brother from getting into politics." AP

HONG KONG

Activists: Police to arrest democracy protest leaders

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

A day after Hong Kong picked a new pro-Beijing leader, police are planning to arrest student leaders and other prominent figures involved with the huge 2014 "Umbrella Movement" pro-democracy protests, activists said yesterday.

Police have informed nine people that they will be charged with committing a public nuisance, according to the Demosisto political party, which sent a list of those being targeted to the media.

Hong Kong police, who have arrested more than 200 people for their involvement in the protests, did not reply to inquiries. The Department of Justice said police would prosecute nine people based on its legal advice, but did not identify them.

The arrests, which would come more than two years after the end of the massive protests, could reignite political tensions in Hong Kong as the city prepares for its leadership transfer.

Beijing loyalist Carrie Lam promised to mend political divisions after she was named Hong Kong's next leader on Sunday, but the impending arrests have fueled fears of a wider crackdown on pro-democracy supporters amid rising concerns about mainland China's tightening grip on the



Protesters scuffle with police officers during a protest against the chief executive election Sunday

semiautonomous city.

"We expect a large-scale political prosecution," tweeted Joshua Wong, the young activist who helped lead the 2014 protests and co-founded Demosisto, one of a new wave of pro-democracy parties that advocate "self-determination"

or even independence from China. Wong has already been taken to court several times for his part in the protests, but is not among those being targeted this time.

Those targeted for arrest include two university professors, Benny Tai and Chan Kin-man,

and the Rev. Chu Yiu-ming. They founded a civil disobedience campaign that helped spark the 79-day protests demanding free elections for Hong Kong's leader.

Others informed about their impending arrests include former student leaders Eason

Chung and Tommy Cheung; a political activist; and three current and former pro-democracy lawmakers, according to Demosisto.

One of the lawmakers, Tanya Chan, who said she was called by police, said that "after all these years, first of all the timing, it's very strange. It seems to be a well-designed plan of C.Y.," referring to Hong Kong's current leader, Leung Chun-ying, who is highly unpopular because of his hard-line stance against the protesters.

We expect a large-scale political prosecution.

JOSHUA WONG (TWEET)

He will be replaced in July by Lam, who will take over a city split by political divisions and fears that Beijing is undermining the "one country, two systems" framework that promises Hong Kong high autonomy from the mainland.

The arrests appear to have been timed to protect Lam, who was Beijing's preferred candidate, from facing tough questions about the government's crackdown during her leadership campaign, Amnesty International Hong Kong director Mabel Au said.

"The authorities have had plenty of time to make this decision, so it does raise questions," she said.

Lam pledged "to heal the divide and to ease the frustrations and to unite our society to move forward." But Tanya Chan said the arrests would make that more difficult. **AP**

New Zealand and China plan to expand free-trade deal

NEW Zealand and China announced yesterday they would open talks soon to expand a successful free-trade deal in place for nearly a decade.

The announcement came during a visit by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang.

New Zealand Prime Minister Bill English said the 9-year-old deal had been a huge success and resulted in trade between the countries tripling. He said an upgrade to the agreement would expand trade further, and that talks would begin next month.

Li also praised the deal, saying it was the first that China had signed with a developed nation and re-

mained the most advanced. He said the deal helps send a signal to the world.

"It's important to the peace and stability of the region and beyond," he said.

New Zealand hopes that a renegotiated agreement would allow it to sell more dairy products to China, while China also hopes to sell more goods in New Zealand and erase a small trade deficit.

The original deal imposes tariffs on certain New Zealand products sold in China after limits are reached.

"One of the issues from New Zealand's point of view is that the growth in

trade has been so strong that some of the safeguard levels set back in 2008 are quite low levels, and the dairy industry has raised this issue with us," English said.

The countries announced several other agreements, including one that allows chilled New Zealand meat to be exported to China under a six-month trial. China already accepts frozen sheep and beef meat.

"This agreement has the potential to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars for our farmers, exporters and the wider economy," said New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay in a statement.

Other agreements include an increase in the maximum number of direct flights allowed between the countries, a joint climate action plan, and strengthened cooperation on China's "One Belt, One Road" program.

The approach from China and New Zealand to free trade stands in contrast to that of the U.S., where President Donald Trump has pulled out of a planned Pacific free-trade agreement and has expressed skepticism about other such agreements.

Li traveled to New Zealand after visiting Australia and is scheduled to stay until tomorrow. **AP**



Premier Li Keqiang (left) receives a hongis, a traditional Maori greeting, from Maori elder Professor Piri Sciascia at Government House in Wellington yesterday

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

SOUTH KOREA

State prosecutors push to arrest ousted president Park

SOUTH Korean prosecutors said yesterday that they want to arrest former President Park Geun-hye over the corruption allegations that triggered a huge political scandal and toppled her from power.

The move comes after prosecutors grilled Park for 14 hours last week over suspicions that she colluded with a jailed confidante to extort from companies and committed other wrongdoing when she was in office.

The Seoul prosecutors' office said in a statement that it asked a local court to issue an arrest warrant for Park. The Seoul Central District Court said it would hold a hearing Thursday to decide on the prosecutors' request.

The court is expected to ask Park to attend the hearing, and its decision on her fate will likely come by Friday, according to court officials.

An arrest is the next step before Park can be formally charged with crimes such as extortion, bribery and abuse of power. A bribery conviction alone is punishable by up to life in prison.

Park has denied any legal wrongdoing.

Even if the court dismisses the request, prosecutors can still indict and charge her. Prosecutors said Park's alleged crimes were "grave," and that she should also be arrested because her alleged accomplice, confidante Choi

Soon-sil, and other suspects in the scandal have been arrested.

Political analysts have said that arresting Park would also boost tensions and create a backlash from her conservative supporters ahead of an election in May to choose her successor.

While in office, Park had presidential immunity from prosecution and had refused to meet with prosecutors.

Prosecutors accuse Park of conspiring with Choi and a top presidential adviser to pressure 16 business groups, including Samsung, to donate 77.4 billion won (USD69 million) to two nonprofits that Choi controlled and allegedly used for personal profit. The companies told investigators that they couldn't refuse because they feared business disadvantages such as government tax investigations.

Prosecutors believe the money Samsung gave Choi could qualify as bribes provided to Park. Prosecutors also accuse Park of conspiring with Choi and top officials to blacklist artists critical of her policies and deny them state financial support.

Park has apologized for putting trust in Choi, but said she only let her edit some of her presidential speeches and provide the president with some "public relations" help.

The opposition-controlled parliament in December impeached Park over the allegations and suspended her presidential powers and responsibilities before the Constitutional Court ruled on March 10 to dismiss her as president.

The allegations plunged the country into political turmoil, with both Park's opponents and supporters staging massive street rallies. Three of her supporters, mostly elderly conservative citizens, died during clashes with the police after the March 10 court ruling.

Park, South Korea's first female president, is a daughter of late dictator Park Chung-hee, one of the most divisive figures in the country's history. Conservative supporters revere him as a hero who lifted a war-torn nation from poverty, while liberal critics remember him as a horrible human rights abuser who tortured and imprisoned his political rivals. **AP**



JAPAN

Avalanche kills 7 students, instructor



Firefighters make rescue operation at a ski resort following an avalanche in Nasu, Tochigi prefecture, yesterday

AN avalanche killed seven Japanese high school students and an instructor yesterday during a mountaineering field trip at a ski resort north of Tokyo, authorities said. Nearly 50 studen-

ts and instructors were caught by the morning avalanche in the town of Nasu in Tochigi prefecture, about 190 kilometers from the Japanese capital.

Police confirmed the death of the eight peo-

ple late yesterday, the prefecture said. Forty other people were injured, including two who were in serious condition, a prefecture report said. Japanese media said the students were on the

last day of a three-day training program for members of mountaineering clubs from seven schools in the area. They had earlier reported that all eight fatalities were students.

Heavy snow had fallen overnight, so a planned climb was canceled and instead students were practicing moving through heavy snow as mountain survival training, public broadcaster NHK said. One unidentified student told NHK by telephone that there was a strong wind and he could see a white mass heading toward him. An instructor said to get down, and then everyone was engulfed, he said.

Tochigi prefecture said 40 students and eight instructors were on the slope. Fourteen others in the group did not go out Monday. The ski season had ended at the resort. **AP**

AUSTRALIA

Residents begin evacuating ahead of cyclone

THOUSANDS of people began evacuating low-lying areas of Australia's tropical northeast yesterday as a powerful cyclone bore down on the coast.

Cyclone Debbie was expected to cross the Queensland state coast along a sparsely populated 100-kilometer stretch between the towns of Ayr and Bowen early today, Australian Bureau of Meteorology forecaster Michael Paech said.

The cyclone was churning over the Pacific Ocean as a Category 3 storm, with wind gusts up to 165 kilometers per hour. It was expected to intensify to a Category 4 storm with wind gusts up to 260 kph per hour when it crosses on to land, Paech said.

Queensland Premier Annastacia Palaszczuk urged people in the most vulnerable areas to evacuate yesterday

before conditions deteriorate.

She said the farming region had never experienced a storm stronger than Category 2, which packs wind gusts of between 125 and 164 kph. Older homes would not withstand a Category 4 storm, Palaszczuk said.

"This window of opportunity to leave is drastically closing," Palaszczuk told reporters. "I am just pleading to everyone, please, listen to authorities. I do, you must as well. This is about your safety, it is about the safety of your family and the safety of your children."

People were being bused out of low-lying areas ahead of a tidal surge that could be as high as 4 meters, Palaszczuk said.

The storm yesterday morning was about 375 kilometers east of Townsville, a coastal city 90 kilometers north of Ayr. **AP**

UK

Attacker used WhatsApp, firm must help police get access

Gregory Katz, London

WESTMINSTER Bridge attacker Khalid Masood sent a WhatsApp message that cannot be accessed because it was encrypted by the popular messaging service, a top British security official said yesterday [Macau time].

British press reports suggest Masood used the messaging service owned by Facebook just minutes before the Wednesday rampage that left three pedestrians and one police officer dead and dozens more wounded.

As controversy swirled over the encrypted messages, police made another arrest in Birmingham, England, where Masood had lived. The 30-year-old is one of two men now in custody over possible links to the attack. Neither has been charged or publicly named.

Masood was shot dead on the grounds of Parliament.

Home Secretary Amber Rudd used appearances on BBC and Sky News to urge WhatsApp and other encrypted services to make their platforms accessible to intelligence services and police trying to carry out lawful eavesdropping.

"We need to make sure that organizations like WhatsApp — and there are plenty of others like that — don't provide a secret place for terrorists to communicate with

each other," she said.

Rudd did not provide any details about Masood's use of WhatsApp, saying only "this terrorist sent a WhatsApp message and it can't be accessed."

But her call for a "back door" system to allow authorities to retrieve information is likely to meet resistance from the tech industry, which has faced previous law enforcement demands for access to data after major attacks.

In the United States, Apple fought the FBI's request for the passcodes needed to unlock an iPhone that had been used by one of the perpetrators in the 2015 extremist attack in San Bernardino, California.

The FBI initially claimed it could obtain the data only with Apple's help, but ultimately found another way to hack into the locked phone.

Masood drove a rented SUV into pedestrians on Westminster Bridge before smashing it into Parliament's gates and rushing onto the grounds, where he fatally stabbed a policeman and was shot by other officers. A detailed police reconstruction has found the entire attack lasted 82 seconds.

Police are trying to pinpoint his motive and identify any possible accomplices, making the WhatsApp message a potential clue to his state of mind and his social media contacts.



Rudd said attacks like Masood's would be easier to prevent if authorities could penetrate encrypted services after obtaining warrants similar to the ones used to listen in on telephone calls or — in snail mail days — to steam open letters and read their contents.

Without a change in the system, she said terrorists would be able to communicate with each other

without fear of being overheard even in cases where a legal warrant has been obtained.

Rudd also urged technology companies to do a better job at preventing the publication of material that promotes extremism. She plans to meet with firms Thursday about setting up an industry board that would take steps to make the web less useful

to extremists.

British police investigating the attack say they still believe Masood, a 52-year-old Briton, acted alone and say they have no indications that further attacks are planned.

Metropolitan Police Deputy Assistant Commissioner Neil Basu said it may never be possible to fully determine Masood's motives.

"That understanding may have died with him," Basu said Saturday night as police appealed for people who knew Masood or saw him to contact investigators. "Even if he acted alone in the preparation, we need to establish with absolute clarity why he did these unspeakable acts, to bring reassurance to Londoners."

The Islamic State group, which is losing territory in Iraq and Syria but still has radical followers in other parts of the world, has claimed Masood was a "soldier" carrying out its wishes to attack Western countries.

Masood had convictions for violent crimes in the U.K. and spent time in prison. He also worked in Saudi Arabia teaching English for two years and traveled there again in 2015 on a visa designed for religious pilgrimages.

Along with the man arrested Sunday, a 58-year-old man detained in Birmingham several days ago remains in custody in the case. Nine others arrested after the attack have been freed without charges, while one person was released on bail.

The family of slain police officer Keith Palmer, meanwhile, released a statement thanking those who tried to save his life.

"There was nothing more you could have done. You did your best and we are just grateful he was not alone," the statement said. **AP**

GERMANY

Merkel celebrates election win, challenger deflated

GERMAN Chancellor Angela Merkel yesterday celebrated an encouraging win for her conservatives in a state election, declaring that her party has "every chance" in upcoming votes. Her center-left challenger in Germany's national election later this year vowed not to be put off his stride by a deflating result.

Merkel's Christian Democrats easily beat challenger Martin Schulz's center-left Social Democrats in Saarland state on Sunday. A much tighter race had been expected after the Social Democrats were boosted in polls by nominating Schulz, a former European Parliament president but a newcomer to national poli-

tics, in January.

The popularity of Saarland's conservative governor, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer, apparently trumped what has become known as the "Schulz effect" in this year's first electoral test.

A satisfied Merkel, who has largely ignored Schulz so far, brushed off a question about the "Schulz effect."

Sunday's outcome showed "we shouldn't worry permanently about polls. We should work toward convincing people," she told reporters. "I'm simply happy about the result, and that's what counts. I don't permanently occupy myself with effects."

Two more state elections

in May will be followed by a national parliamentary election on Sept. 24 in which Merkel is seeking a fourth term as chancellor.

"It will be a difficult election campaign and we have every chance," she added. "We have it in our hands."

Schulz was keen to highlight regional factors in explaining Sunday's disappointing vote in Saarland, a region of nearly 1 million people on the French border.

"We have picked up support in the last few weeks, in Saarland too, and we are looking ahead," he said, promising to draw "the necessary consequences" for the two next two state elections in May.

"We're in it for the long

haul — that message goes to those who are celebrating today, understandably from their point of view, but should not celebrate too early," he said.

Saarland is run by a "grand coalition" of Christian Democrats and Social Democrats, Germany's biggest parties and traditional rivals, the same combination that Merkel leads at the national level.

In Saarland, the Social Democrats failed to win enough support for a new coalition with the hard-left opposition Left Party.

A similar national alliance adding another left-leaning party might be Schulz's best hope for becoming chancellor, but the prospect may also have turned



Chancellor Angela Merkel (left) hands over a bunch of flowers to the party's top candidate for Saarland, Annegret Kramp-Karrenbauer

off Saarland voters.

The Social Democrats had ruled out working with the Left Party in previous national elections, although they do have regional alliances in the opposition party's eastern heartland.

They have left the possibility open this time, but any combination would be complicated by foreign policy differences, including the Left Party's opposition to military missions abroad. **AP**



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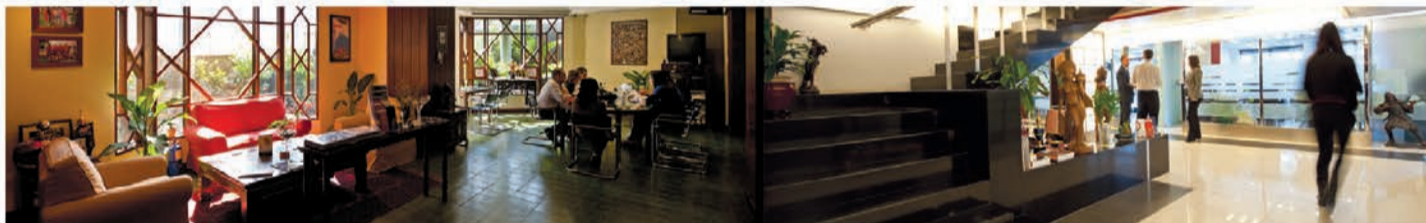
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USA

Agency follows a uniquely American way of funding arts

Hillel Italie, New York

WHEN the National Endowment for the Arts was established in 1965, organizers had different models to choose from.

They could have looked to the French Ministry of Culture, a cabinet-level institution committed to maintaining France's cultural heritage. Or they could have copied the generous and government-directed support favored by some Scandinavian countries, or even the state-controlled art of their Cold War rivals: the Soviet Union and China.

But the NEA, which the Trump administration wants to eliminate along with Legal Services Corp., the Institute of Museum and Library Services and dozens of other agencies and programs, developed in uniquely American fashion: diverse and independent, with a significant part of the budget distributed to state and local organizations. It also collaborates with nonprofit and private donors.

"Our system is quite different from any of the other countries," says Robert L. Lynch, president and CEO of the nonprofit Americans for the Arts, which leads a network of organizations and individuals involved in the arts. "Most of the other countries use a subsidy system with few or any other sources of funding."

"I love the NEA model because it was founded on a government-



Dana Gioia, new chairman of the National Endowment for the Arts

private giving system, and nothing succeeds like having buy-in from the various communities," says actress Jane Alexander, who served as NEA chair from 1993-97. "I'm a resident of Canada and while there's a lot of support for the arts it can be hard to get a project off the ground because there's not a lot of incentive for private giving."

From the beginning, the endowment was rooted in American political culture. It was founded when faith in government was high and when advocating for the arts was a popular position for an elected official. Democratic President Lyndon Johnson, elected in a landslide in 1964, had strong public backing to fulfill the goals of the assassinated John F. Kennedy. And the econo-

mic expansion of the post-World War II era had led to a growing appetite for self-improvement and increased money and leisure time for artistic interests.

"There wasn't this feeling we needed to rescue the arts," says Mark Bauerlein, an English professor at Emory University and a former NEA official who helped write and edit an NEA history that covered the endowment's years from 1965-2008. "We hear that now a lot, but the original point was more along the lines of we have the momentum and we should take it to the next level."

Dana Gioia, who headed the NEA from 2003-2009, says the endowment has managed to use relatively little money to build a nationwide arts network. But the

NEA has endured contentious moments, rooted in a long-term debate over how and whether governments should fund the arts. Conservatives have objected to some of the art being supported — notably graphic photographs by Robert Mapplethorpe and a handful of other works in the 1980s — and argued that the government shouldn't interfere in the marketplace. Some on the left have worried that accepting money from the government risked compromising one's vision, especially after the NEA began asking grant recipients to sign a "decency" clause in the wake of the Mapplethorpe controversy.

A 1963 report commissioned by the Kennedy administration, "The Arts and the National Government," acknowledged that "There

will always remain those who feel that art and government should exist in different spheres, having nothing to do with each other."

"Although government's role in the arts must always remain peripheral, with individual creativity and private support being central, there is no reason why the things which the government can properly do in this field should not be done confidently and expertly," the report reads.

■ **The NEA was founded when faith in government was high and when advocating for the arts was a popular position for an elected official**

The U.S. government has had a sporadic relationship with the cultural community. While Thomas Jefferson and other founders had strong beliefs in the value of art, there were long periods when Washington had little involvement, especially in the 19th century. In the 1930s, New Deal officials established the Works Project Administration, which supported everything from murals and theatrical productions to historical guidebooks. But the WPA was based more on job creation than on cultural patronage. "Hell, they've got to eat just like other people," New Deal administrator Harry Hopkins said of artists who benefited. **AP**

Nataliya Vasilyeva, Moscow

RUSSIA

Protest leader Alexei Navalny gets 15 days in jail

RUSSIAN opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who organized a wave of nationwide protests against government corruption that rattled authorities, was jailed for 15 days yesterday by a Moscow court for resisting police orders.

Navalny was arrested Sunday as he walked to a protest in Moscow and spent the night in jail before appearing in court.

Tens of thousands of anti-corruption protesters took to the streets across Russia on Sunday in the biggest show of defiance since 2011-2012 anti-government protests. President Vladimir Putin's spokesman yesterday chided opposition organizers for putting people's lives at risk in the unauthorized protests and defended the actions of Russia's helme-



Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny appears in court in Moscow yesterday

ted riot police, which critics called heavy-handed.

The 40-year-old Navalny, Russia's most popular,

charismatic opposition leader, has been twice convicted on fraud and embezzlement charges that he

has dismissed as politically motivated. Navalny, who is currently serving a suspended sentence, has also recently announced his bid to run in Russia's 2018 presidential election.

"Even the slightest illusion of fair justice is absent here," Navalny told reporters yesterday at the defendant's bench, complaining about the judge striking down one motion after another. "Yesterday's events have shown that quite a large number of voters in Russia support the program of a candidate who stands for fighting corruption. These people demand political representation — and I strive to be their political representative."

The Kremlin has dis-

missed the opposition as a Westernized urban elite disconnected from the issues faced by the poor in Russia's far-flung regions. Yet Sunday's protests included demonstrations in the areas that typically produce a high vote for President Vladimir Putin, from the far western city of Chita in Siberia to southern Dagestan's capital of Makhachkala.

Russian police say about 500 people were arrested in the protests Sunday, but a human rights group published a list of detainees that has more than 1,000 names. Yesterday, the European Union called on Russian authorities to release the demonstrators.

Putin's spokesman chi-

ded the organizers for inciting illegal acts.

"The Kremlin respects people's civic stance and their right to voice their position," Putin spokesman Dmitry Peskov told reporters. "We can't express the same respect to those who consciously misled people and who consciously did it yesterday and provoked illegal actions."

Asked about the Kremlin's reaction to the wide geography of the protests, something that has not been seen at least since 2012, Peskov said "the Kremlin is quite sober about the scale of yesterday's protests, and are not inclined to diminish them or push them out of proportion." **AP**

what's ON

MONKEY KING

TIME: 8pm daily

UNTIL: March 31, 2017

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780, MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5pm, closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macao / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

THE VOICE OF DESIGN – WORKS EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN OF MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: April 15, 2017

VENUE: IFT Café, Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

4:35 - WORKS BY LEI CHEOK MEI

TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)

UNTIL: April 26, 2017

VENUE: Intersection of Av. do Coronel Mesquita and Av. do Almirante Lacerda

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

TEENS WEARING LEGGINGS BARRED FROM UNITED FLIGHT

Two teenage girls were barred by a gate agent from boarding a United Airlines flight from Denver to Minneapolis on Sunday because they were wearing leggings, according to a spokesman for the airline.

The girls, whose ages were not specified, were not allowed onto the morning flight because they were traveling under an employee travel pass that includes a dress code, United spokesman Jonathan Guerin said.

The dress code bars pass travelers from wearing spandex or Lycra pants such as leggings. The teenagers agreed to change their clothing and take a later flight, Guerin said, but the airline's actions sparked a quick backlash on Twitter.

Activist Shannon Watts of Denver tweeted that she witnessed Sunday's events and questioned United's decision to police women's clothing.

Watts said the girl's father was allowed to board while wearing shorts and called the airline's policy sexist.

Regularly ticketed passengers are not subject to the same dress code and can wear leggings, Guerin said. But the airline was standing by its policy for pass travelers because they are essentially representing the company, he said.

"We would ask the same of pass riders who were wearing flip-flops or who were wearing clothing that revealed their undergarments or torn, tattered jeans," Guerin said.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Criminal Minds S.9
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:25	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

27-29 MAR

POWER RANGERS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Dean Israel

Starring: Bryan Cranston, Elizabeth Banks, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 124min

LIFE

ROOM 2

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

Director: Daniel Espinosa

Starring: Jake Gyllenhaal, Rebecca Ferguson, Ryan Reynolds

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

KONG: SKULL ISLAND

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jordan Vogt-Roberts

Starring: Tom Hiddleston, Samuel L. Jackson, Brie Larson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



SILENCE

ROOM 3

6:45pm

Director: Martin Scorsese

Starring: Andrew Garfield, Adam Driver, Liam Neeson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

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



1965 THOUSANDS JOIN DR KING IN ALABAMA RALLY

Dr Martin Luther King has taken a crowd of nearly 25,000 people to the steps of the state capital of Montgomery, Alabama to highlight black grievances.

The procession marks the end of a five-day march which started in Selma last week and it brings to a close a month of civil rights protests in Alabama.

Troops policed the roads surrounding the capital and army helicopters hovered overhead as the crowd swelled to nearly 25,000.

Dr King, who addressed the protesters from a podium in the square, described the trek as "one of the greatest marches in the history of America".

"Our aim is not to humiliate and defeat the white man, but to win his friendship and understanding," he added.

Dr King tried to present a petition of black grievances to Governor George Wallace but he refused to meet the delegation.

The civil rights leader said he would ask trade unions to refuse to transport or use the state's products and he urged the Federal Government and the Treasury to withdraw all assistance from the area.

Dr King also said that demonstrations would have to continue where essential conditions remained unmet.

When the march began last week, large bombs were planted at a black church, a funeral parlour and a leading black lawyer's home.

They were later discovered and detonated by experts from the army base at Anniston, Alabama.

To prevent further attacks, US President Lyndon Johnson gave the marchers the protection of nearly 3,000 troops, plus FBI and local police assistance.

But three days ago Viola Liuzzo, a white civil rights advocate who had been ferrying demonstrators to their homes, was shot dead on a lonely stretch of road near the route of the march.

Meanwhile, leaders of the Ku-Klux-Klan movement have reportedly tried to contact President Johnson to discuss his aversion to their organisation.

There was no immediate response from the US President, who recently launched a scathing attack on the group, describing it as "a band of hooded bigots, whose loyalty was not with the United States".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The protests came just months after the signing of the Civil Rights Bill which created equal rights regardless of race, colour, religion or national origin. The Voting Rights Act, which banned literacy tests and poll taxes which had previously been used to prevent black people from voting, was introduced in August 1965.

But many states acted quickly to circumvent the law and most of the decade was marked by race riots and assassinations.

Further riots followed in Los Angeles in August 1965.

They lasted six days and left 34 dead and a further 1,000 people injured.

Dr King was assassinated in April 1968 and this led to riots in 100 US cities.

Black people continued to remain at a disadvantage when looking for work, and programmes of "affirmative action" were introduced during the 1970s under President Nixon.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A new person in your life is sparking some questions in your own mind -- where are you going -- how soon do you need to get there? Answers won't come easy, and they shouldn't.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Plans are shifting out of place today -- but don't waste time trying to figure out why. Instead, you should direct your energy toward formulating the most effective reaction to the new situation.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When you aim at your target today, switch off your emotions. Doubt, fear -- even confidence -- must get pushed aside or else you may miss your mark. Approach everything with an analytical eye.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 The rat race is getting especially rough right now, and not for the right reasons. If you're getting overwhelmed by the crowds, step out -- you won't miss out on any big opportunities, despite what others may say.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Everywhere you go will be crowded and active today, so get ready for some sensory overload. To some extent, you'll get a rush from the crowds. But when you need a break, you'll really need a break.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Everyone is taking their own journey through life, and that's liberating -- but it can also be isolating, because no one else can truly understand what you are experiencing.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If social juggling were an Olympic sport, you'd snag the gold for sure. Finalize tentative plans with a friend today. This marathon-length game of phone tag needs to come to an end.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Memories of an awkward moment still hang in the air -- don't you think it's time one of you reached out and made an effort to reconnect? Make the first move -- you'll feel good and will gain extra credit for doing so.

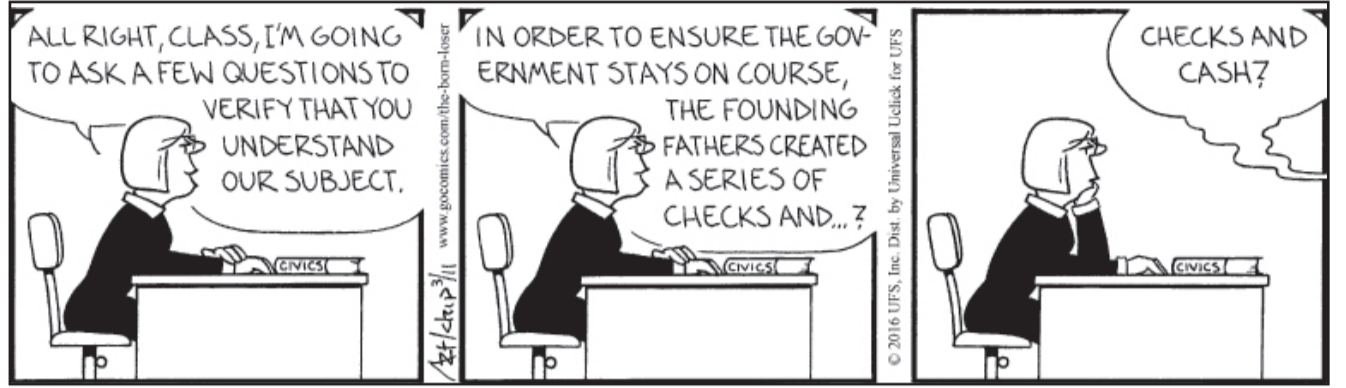
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Whether you realize it or not, you're in the midst of some amazing changes right now. Trouble is that the most productive ones usually take the longest to complete.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Sharing your life can be tricky, but you're handling the balancing act quite well -- especially now. The only thing you may want to watch out for is spreading yourself too thin.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're not weak if you ask for help. Before things get to the panic phase, seek the assistance you know you need. Friends who have been there before are waiting for you to ask -- they have some wise advice.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you reach too high for your goals, you may end up disappointing yourself. You hold yourself to exceptionally high standards, and it's been working for you -- to a certain extent.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Blind as ___; 5- Old-womanish; 10- Letters, e.g.; 14- Palm starch; 15- Crazy; 16- Member of a great Peruvian people; 17- Con game; 18- You ___ right; 19- Simmer; 20- Husky; 22- Fishermen; 24- Slugger's stat; 25- Chihuahua cheer; 26- The end of ___; 29- "Silent" prez; 32- Perimeters; 36- Western pact; 37- Idea; 39- Suffix with fail; 40- In spite of; 43- Doctors' org.; 44- Applauds; 45- Hipbones; 46- Japanese-American; 48- Not for a Scot; 49- Staggering; 50- Actor Beatty; 52- Consumed; 53- Asmara is its capital; 57- Farm vehicle; 61- Clairvoyant; 62- Weeps; 64- Ike's ex; 65- River in central Switzerland; 66- Chocolate tree; 67- The Tower of Pisa does this; 68- Peter Fonda role; 69- Take ___ for the worse; 70- Pull abruptly;

DOWN: 1- Kind of prof.; 2- "Goldberg Variations" composer; 3- Petri dish gelatin; 4- The day following today; 5- Stradivari's teacher; 6- ___ a soul; 7- Serpent's tail?; 8- Actress Bonet; 9- Low-budget prefix; 10- Misguided; 11- Initial stake; 12- Bakery employee; 13- Rules; 21- Lawyers' org.; 23- First American to orbit Earth; 26- Kofi of the U.N.; 27- A Judd; 28- Kett and James; 29- Rumsfeld's predecessor; 30- Baffled; 31- Petrol unit; 33- Duplicitous; 34- Tennessee ___ Ford; 35- George of "Just Shoot Me"; 37- To the ___ degree; 38- Western Hemisphere org.; 41- More frigid; 42- Firsthand; 47- Main course; 49- ___ loss for words; 51- Bing Crosby's record label; 52- Favored crime of pyromaniacs; 53- Son of Rebekah; 54- Actual; 55- Able was ___; 56- I smell ___; 57- Drop of water expelled by the eye; 58- ___ yellow ribbon...; 59- ___ epic scale; 60- Social standing; 63- Hosp. section;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



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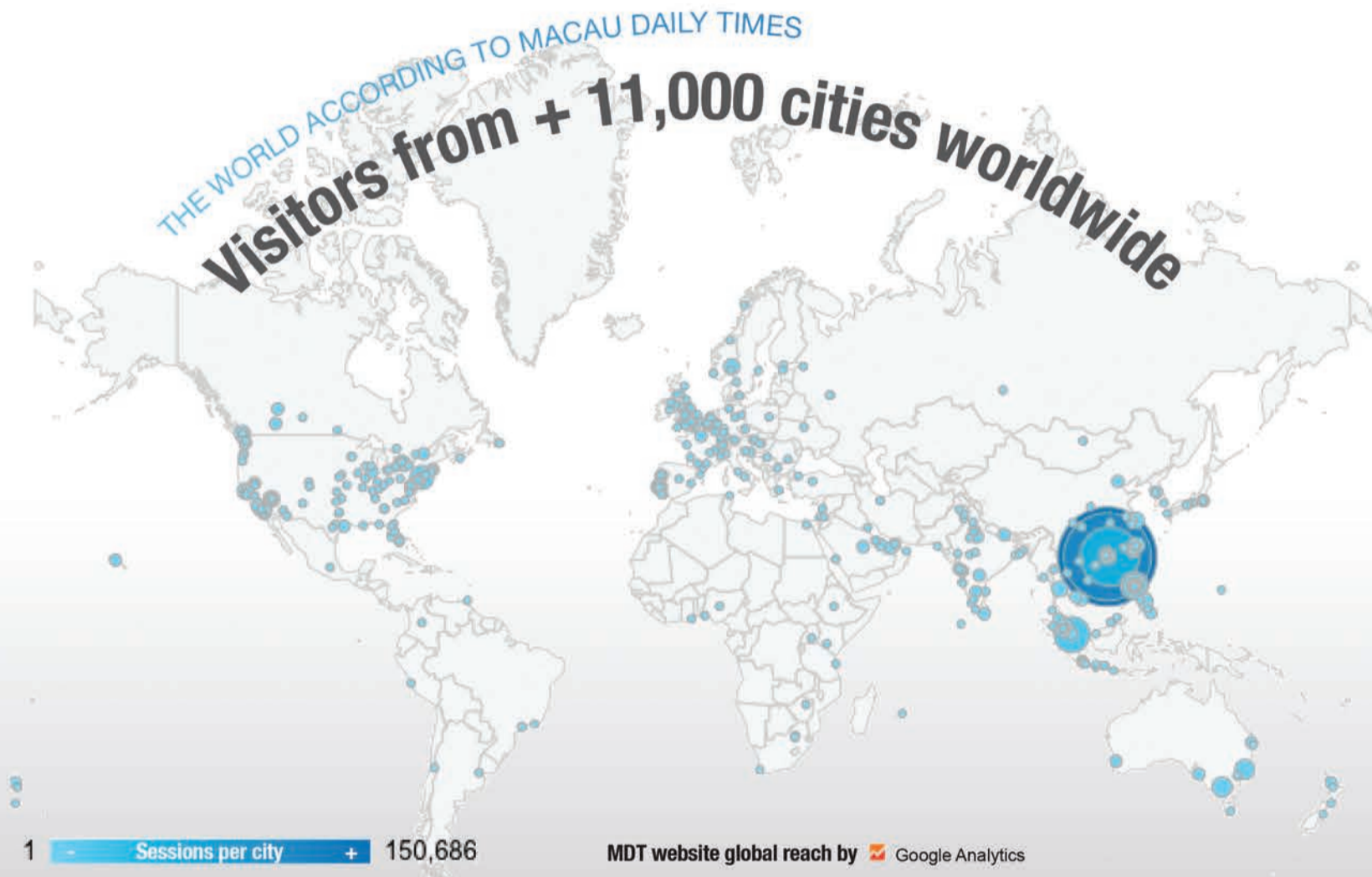
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MacauDaily 澳門每日時報®
Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



Carlos Queiroz



Marcello Lippi

Lippi and China face toughest test yet in Iran

John Duerden, Seoul

Tuesday, 8:00pm
Iran v China
H 1.6, D 3.8, A 7

IF Marcello Lippi and China are to have any chance of going to the 2018 World Cup then they are going to have to pass what is currently the toughest test in Asian football — a game against Iran in front of 100,000 fans in Tehran.

After six games of 10 already played in Group A in the third round of qualification, Iran is not only four points clear at the top but has yet to concede a single goal in 540 minutes of football. The latest clean sheet came in a

1-0 win in Qatar on Thursday.

Iran is nine points clear of China in fifth and with the top two in the group progressing automatically to Russia, needs just two wins from the last four games to be certain of a second successive World Cup appearance.

“We are happy to be top of the group but there is still work to do,” Iran coach Carlos Queiroz told Associated Press.

“Lippi is a good coach and already we can see that China is better-organized,” added the former Real Madrid coach. “It will be a tough game for us but we are ready to keep trying to get the point to qualify once again.”

Lippi, World Cup winner with Italy in 2006, arrived in Beijing in October, charged with resur-

recting the fortunes of Asia's biggest underachieving team that has reached just one World Cup, back in 2002.

China arrives in Tehran after its best result in years, a 1-0 win over South Korea, only a second win against its regional rival in 32 meetings.

“I hope my team don't get too self-satisfied with this,” Lippi said. “I hope they can have even better achievements. We know that Iran is going to be very difficult and we don't have much time to prepare but we will try our best as always.”

While Lippi and Queiroz are basking in the glow of good results, other coaches around Asia are under pressure.

Uli Stielike has come under fire

for becoming only the second coach in South Korea's history to lose to China, which after a 1-0 loss in Iran marked a second defeat in three games for Asia's most successful World Cup team.

Lippi is a good coach and already we can see that China is better organized.

CARLOS QUEIROZ

The German apologized to fans after the defeat and received the public backing of Chong Mong-gyu, the head of the Korean Football Association.

“We didn't play such a bad match,” Chung said upon arriving back in South Korea. “The

players did the best they could under the circumstances. We haven't lost hopes of qualifying for the World Cup and talks of a coaching change (are premature).”

Failure to defeat Syria in Seoul would add to the pressure and put South Korea's chances of a ninth successive World Cup appearance in serious doubt. Tottenham Hotspur forward Son Heung-min returns from a suspension that kept him out of the China defeat.

Syria, in fourth, arrives in Seoul full of confidence after defeating third-placed Uzbekistan 1-0. Uzbekistan needs to bounce back at home against bottom team Qatar.

In Group B, the big game is between Australia in third and fourth-placed United Arab Emirates in Sydney.

Australia has drawn its last four games and is now three points behind the two leaders Saudi Arabia and Japan.

Socceroos boss Ange Postecoglou won the 2015 Asian Cup but has been criticized for experimenting with a new system in the 1-1 tie with Iraq on Thursday.

The hosts need to return to winning ways and with three of the four remaining games at home, the coach is confident the Australians will make it.

“We're in a tough group, no doubt, and every game has its challenges,” Postecoglou, who will be without suspended star midfielder Aaron Mooy, said. “We've had four tough away trips, it'd be great to have some more points, but it was always going to come down to these last few games, especially at home.”

“It's still in our hands, but it has to be part of the overall process of making sure we don't deviate or cower now just because people are anxious about qualifying.”

United Arab Emirates coach Mehdi Ali is also under pressure following a 2-0 home defeat to Japan.

Saudi Arabia and Japan can both maintain their positions at the top of the group with winnable home ties against struggling Iraq and Thailand respectively.

AP / Oddschecker.com

Napoli's Sarri wins coach of the year award for Serie A

NAPOLI'S Maurizio Sarri was voted coach of the year in Serie A yesterday, beating Massimiliano Allegri and Eusebio Di Francesco.

The award, known as the Panchina d'oro (golden bench), recognizes the best coach of the previous season, as voted for by their peers.

The 58-year-old Sarri received 25 of 61 votes, three more than Allegri,

the Juventus coach who won the award last year. Di Francesco, who coaches Sassuolo, was third with seven votes.

It was the second Panchina d'oro award for Sarri, who won the Serie B prize for the 2013-14 season when he guided Empoli to second place and direct promotion.

“Usually getting an award doesn't give me particular satisfaction, I often

consider it as time taken away from my work,” Sarri said. “But this gives me enthusiasm and happiness, and I think that's because it was a decision made by my colleagues.”

Sarri is the first coach of Napoli to win the prize and breaks a four-year winning streak for Juventus — Allegri's victory last year followed three straight wins for Antonio Conte.

Napoli finished second last season, behind Juventus, in Sarri's first year in charge of his hometown club.

Also, former Leicester manager Claudio Ranieri received a special prize at yesterday's ceremony. Ranieri guided Leicester to the Premier League title last year but the Italian was fired nine months later with his team close to the relegation zone. AP



Napoli coach Maurizio Sarri

opinion

Our Desk
Renato Marques



BE CAREFUL FROM WHOM YOU TAKE ADVICE

We all seek advice in many occasions in our lives. Sometimes it's because we really need someone with expertise to help us to solve a problem or make the best decision, and on other occasions it's because we just want reassurance on something that we already know but perhaps are afraid to act on.

In both personal life and society, there exists both "good" and "bad" advice and a big part of the success of any action depends on the knowledge and expertise of whom we seek advice.

Too often we seek opinion instead of advice. Opinions have this odd feature that even if we do not ask for them, people around us keep giving them anyway.

Obviously I am not trying to state here that all the opinions are void of value, however the idea I am trying to highlight is be careful from whom you take advice. In particular, you should pay attention to that person's background, whether they have knowledge of the topic or are giving advice based solely on personal belief. Without this consideration, you are open to receive biased comments based on prejudices, or just pure ignorance.

A similar process is involved in the governance or in the management of any company or institution. You choose whether or not to hear others' voices, you choose to speak out or to stay quiet about your views on a certain topic.

This is particularly important not only because it will make a company, institution or country strive and move forward towards development but because such response will give a clear perspective of the way the leaders approach this topic of the "pursuit of advice" that ultimately should be "pursuit of wisdom."

So let's do a little interactive game. Tell me, would you seek medical advice on a health issue from cleaning staff at your company? Or would you ask for help on a mechanical problem you are experiencing in your car from a chef?

I know I would not because important matters deserve some expertise and that is why we have professions, why we have specialties and also why we have different career paths.

The idea is not to undervalue some professions or the role of different people in society, but quite the opposite, it is to acknowledge that a baker will always (in theory) know more about baking than a construction worker and that the same construction worker will always have a deeper knowledge of construction sites than a baker.

Another factor that is often seen to have an important influence on someone's capacity to give advice is their level of experience.

I agree with the idea that experience is far more important than theoretical or hypothetical knowledge; empirical knowledge is definitely a great advantage when it is proven to achieve good results.

So, all this said, from whom should we seek advice? Who should the governments and people approach to seek help to solve difficult problems?

Most people will say – the experts! The knowledgeable ones!

Seems like an easy answer in theory, although in practice we seem to fall into easy traps. We keep asking questions about tourism to those that have never travelled, ask for advice on planning of those that never have any ideas about the future, and seek wisdom about education from those that seem to be the most poorly educated.

THE BUZZ CARRIE LAM'S RUDE NICKNAME PORTENDS CHALLENGES AHEAD

Carrie Lam received a harbinger of difficulties ahead when the announcement of her victory in Hong Kong's leadership election Sunday received not only cheers and boos, but laughter.

Behind-the-scenes backing from China helped Lam win a resounding victory among the 1,194 business and political elites who pick the city's chief executive, and dispatched an opponent more popular with the general public. But her vote total - 777 - was immediately seized upon as a nickname to deride the election process. In Cantonese, "seven" sounds like an expletive sometimes used to refer to an impotent person.

Within minutes of the result, the Asian financial hub's freewheeling social media scene lit up with lewd jokes and memes at Lam's expense. Her unpopular former boss, Chief Executive Leung Chun-ying, had been mocked as "689" for his own low vote total before ultimately deciding not to seek a second term. The reaction showed Lam would get no honeymoon before facing the same opposition.

"All politicians might be made fun of and that is quite common, but people doing it on Day Zero is a very strong indication of what an uphill battle it's going to be for her," said Alvin Yeung, an opposition lawmaker who voted in the election.

Hollande: Europe can beat protectionism by working with Asia

Annabelle Liang, Singapore

FRENCH President Francois Hollande said yesterday that European countries can fight protectionism in trade and other forms by standing united and reaching out to Asia.

Speaking at a lecture in Singapore, where he is on a two-day state visit, Hollande singled out the government of President Donald Trump.

"The U.S. again made a number of decisions and made some choices that will have an impact on its own economy and on the rest of the world," Hollande said, addressing the audience in French.

"We must explain what the closing of borders is all about, what building a wall, what unfair and migratory policies mean. It cannot be the strengthening of a nation at the detriment of [others]," he said. "It is indeed a battle, to a large extent a political battle, but we have a lot of arguments to win."

In March, the world's top economic powers dropped a pledge to fully oppose trade protectionism at the Group of 20 meeting in Germany, amid pushback from the U.S. government.

A statement issued by the group said that countries "are



French President Francois Hollande delivers his speech titled: "France and Singapore, Strategic Partners in A Fast Changing World" in Singapore yesterday

working to strengthen the contribution of trade" to their economies. By comparison, last year's meeting called on them to resist "all forms" of protectionism.

Hollande said Monday that "temptation" of an inward approach "could hit big countries, big democracies. It could exist in entire continents."

To counter that, "countries must sign trade agreements, which we did, between Europe and Singapore and between Europe and ASEAN," he said. ASEAN, short for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, is a 10-nation bloc that operates by consensus.

France and Singapore signed a Joint Declaration on Strategic Partnership in 2012 to strengthen ties in areas such as trade and investment, defense

and space technology.

Yesterday, the two countries pledged to ramp up collaboration in sectors such as space technology, smart cities planning and biomedical sciences.

Last year, their bilateral trade was valued at 16 billion Singapore dollars (USD11.5 billion). France was Singapore's second-biggest trading partner in the European Union.

"Singapore and France share a common vision of a world that embraces openness, multilateralism, globalization and the rule of law," said Singapore's Deputy Prime Minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam. "We all share common challenges, but the solutions are not to be found from turning inwards."

Hollande leaves for Malaysia today. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Foggy times. High-rise buildings are partly covered by heavy fog at Hong Kong's Victoria Harbour. Fog blanketing is common in springtime and may greatly affect shipping and aviation.

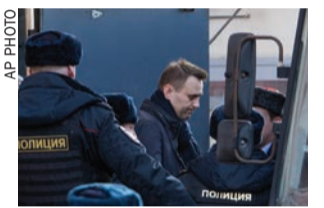
Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Good
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Good
Ambient	40-60 Good

SOURCE: D5M/G

WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN An avalanche killed seven Japanese high school students and an instructor yesterday during a mountaineering field trip at a ski resort north of Tokyo, authorities said. More on p12



RUSSIA Opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who organized a wave of nationwide protests against government corruption that rattled authorities, was jailed for 15 days yesterday by a Moscow court for resisting police orders. More on p15

SYRIA U.S.-backed forces in northern Syria said yesterday they will pause military operations near a major dam held by the Islamic State group in order to allow engineers to fix any problems after conflicting reports about its stability.

GREECE'S coast guard says a man carrying asylum application papers has been found hanged at the country's largest port, near Athens. The unidentified man, believed to be a migrant, was found near a passenger departure area at the port of Piraeus.



FRANCE Far-right presidential candidate Marine Le Pen yesterday reiterated her plan to hold a referendum on the euro issue if elected president and said that if it is rejected by the French, she will resign.

SWITZERLAND-TURKEY Swiss and Turkish prosecutors announced separate investigations yesterday after protesters hoisted a banner in Switzerland's capital showing a gun pointed at an image of Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan next to the words, "Kill Erdogan".