



KIM'S BODY STILL IN MALAYSIA

The country's health minister said yesterday the body of Kim Jong Nam is still in Malaysia

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P6 EXECUTIVE COUNCIL



ASIAN COMMUNITY CLASHES WITH POLICE

In Paris, clashes erupted between police and protesters outraged at the police killing of a Chinese man in his home

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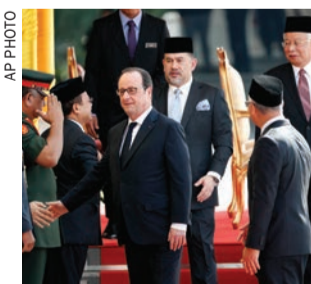


XINHUA

CHINA's chances of qualifying for the World Cup have virtually ended with this first defeat in competitive action for coach Marcello Lippi since he was appointed in November. China has just five points from seven of the 10 games. Iran maintained its four-point lead in Group A thanks to a Mehdi Taremi strike just after halftime, which sent the vast majority of the near 100,000-strong crowd wild.

CAMBODIA has permanently banned the export of human breast milk by a company headed by a former Mormon missionary that pioneered the business two years ago. The letter gave no legal reason for the ban, but indicated that national pride was at stake.

THAILAND Authorities in Thailand have escalated their effort to collect taxes they say are due from ousted Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, posting a bill for 17.6 billion baht (USD503 million) at the house where he lived before fleeing into exile in 2008 to avoid a prison term for conflict of interest.



AP PHOTO

FRANCE-MALAYSIA French President Francois Hollande lobbied yesterday for the sale of Rafale fighter aircraft to Malaysia, but Prime Minister Najib Razak said his government is not yet ready to purchase the jets.

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AACM hosts aviation security exercise workshop

Working in collaboration with the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), Macau's Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) is hosting a four-day aviation security exercise workshop the MSAR. The event commenced yesterday with the aim of educating participants with the knowledge of developing and planning an aviation security exercise and evaluating the effectiveness of the exercise, through theory courses and simulation. A total of 20 participants from eight different countries and administrations in the Asia Pacific region join the workshop. The participants in this small-scale workshop are all aviation security personnel. They work for aeronautical authorities and industry operators in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Hong Kong and Macau. According to a statement issued yesterday AACM has been working hand-in-hand with ICAO to organize aviation security training courses in Macau on a regular basis.

'EU constitution' seminar to be held at UM

The European Union Academic Programme in Macau (EUAP-M) will hold a seminar tomorrow at the University of Macau (UM), titled "Constitutional Perspectives: From the 'European Constitution' to a Global Constitutionalism." The seminar will be delivered by Professor Paulo Ferreira da Cunha of the University of Porto. It will cover a controversial international issue, namely the establishment of European constitutional integration, which has been previously blocked by French and Dutch vetoes. According to organizers, Cunha will attempt to answer the question: "To what extent can the Treaty of Lisbon be considered as a true European constitution?" The professor, who is based at the University of Porto, is currently working in Brazil as part of a team creating an International Constitutional Court. Since he was very young, Cunha has described himself as a European enthusiast. The seminar will be held in English at 3 p.m. at the UM's Faculty of Law (E32) and all are welcome to attend.

Ecuador to waive visa requirements

After negotiations with the Embassy of the Republic of Ecuador in the People's Republic of China, Macau's Identification Services Bureau (BIR) has been informed that holders of the Macau SAR passport are now exempted from visa requirements when entering Ecuador for a maximum stay of 90 days. According to a statement from the BIR, a total of 128 countries or territories have agreed to grant visa-free access or visa-on-arrival permission to MSAR passport holders. A 2017 passport strength index published by residence advisory firm Henley & Partners earlier this month showed that MSAR passports were ranked a tied 36th strongest in the world in terms of the number of countries that offer visa-free access and visa-on-arrival services.

HERITAGE

Lai Chi Vun shipyards demolition suspended

Lynzy Valles

THE demolition of the controversial Lai Chi Vun shipyards area has been postponed for a year; a period of time which will allow the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) to complete an evaluation process to determine whether Lai Chi Vun is a historical site.

The IC conducted a press conference yesterday to announce that the bureau has a year to conduct an evaluation through consulting with relevant experts and the public.

IC president Leung Hio Ming told the press that the evaluation process would formally start after yesterday's press conference.

"For the final result of whether we are going to enlist the historic site, it has to wait until we finish all the procedures - according to the law," Leung reiterated.

The first stage of the process will include a further investigation of the details, data and historic facts about the shipyards area. After, the bureau will hand the investigative documents to a cultural preservation committee.

According to Leung, the committee is scheduled to conduct their first meeting at the beginning of April.

Aside from consulting relevant professionals, the president stressed that the IC would produce a detailed report on what they have at the moment and organize a public consultation period for at least 30 days.

The IC has pledged to organized seminars, workshops and to invite members of the public to hear their opinion.

We cannot ignore the voice of society.

LEUNG HIO MING
IC PRESIDENT

"After we gather all the information from the public, with sufficient professional data and information, then we are going to make the difficult decision; and everything has to finish within one year," Leung explained.

When questioned about what actions the bureau would conduct if the results pointed to a complete demolition of the area, Leung replied, "we cannot ignore the voice of society."

Yet he noted that the public should trust professional opinions and decisions.

Last Thursday, a group of concerned



Leung Hio Ming (center) pictured during yesterday's press conference

citizens handed a petition - which collated 670 signatures from Macau residents - to the bureau.

The group called for the IC to suspend the demolition immediately and conduct a cultural heritage assessment of the shipyards.

In the midst of several concerned groups criticizing the decision on demolishing the area, Leung listed the bureau's fundamental opinion of the

controversial issue.

"Our realization of this place is three-fold: we must preserve the art of ship building, we have to preserve the old village living style in that area, and we have to preserve the [opportunity for] people to get in touch with nature," the president vowed.

The first dismantlement of two lots in the area occurred on March 8 due to their precarious state.

Unknown fate for dilapidated shipyards

THE government reclaimed three properties in the Lai Chi Vun area in May 2016. Around that time, the former IC president, Ung Vai Meng, said that these properties - which include shipyards and two small wooden houses - would "serve to launch a display of traditions" showcasing the heyday of Macau's shipbuilding industry.

Last month, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), proposed that masters of shipbuilding technology could be invited to help turn these houses into tourist attractions.

However, earlier this month, two lots of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards area were demolished given their precarious state. The Marine and Water Bureau said the demolishing was necessary since the structures were "seriously damaged due to lack of maintenance, which led to the partial collapse of

the main structure of their premises, creating a high security risk."

As recently as the 1950s, the coastal villages were thriving in Macau. Historical accounts indicate that at the time there were around 10,000 fishermen and over 30 shipyards in Macau, many of them in Lai Chi Vun.

Suffering from regional competition and the surge of the gaming industry in Macau, the industry collapsed in the 1990s.



Lai Chi Vun demolition works

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Malaysia says Kim Jong Nam's body still in the country

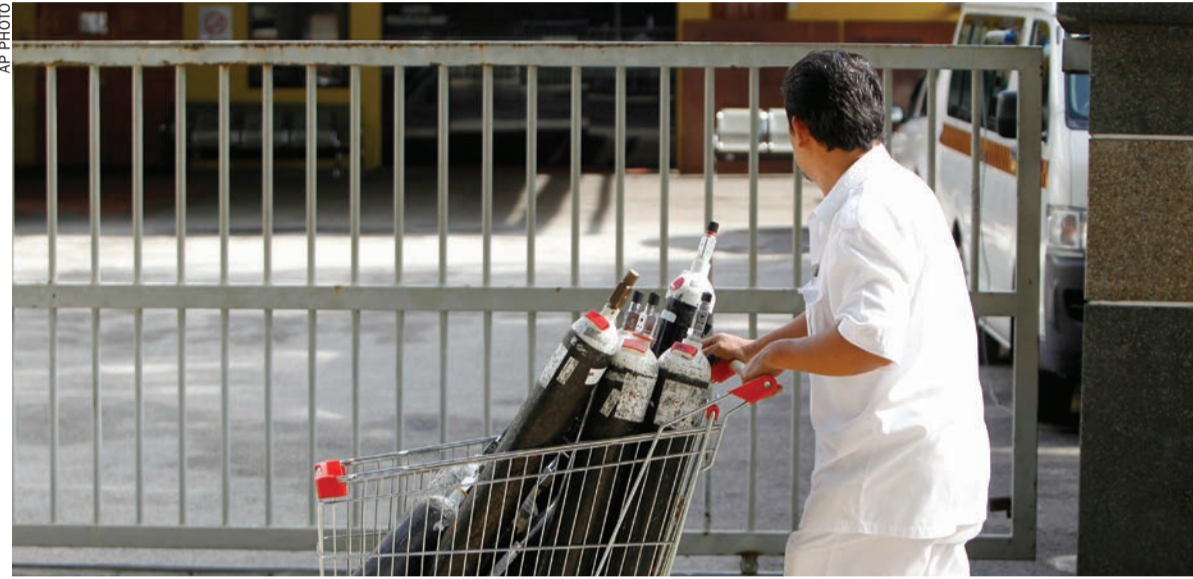
Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA'S health minister said yesterday the body of Kim Jong Nam is still in Malaysia, six weeks after the exiled half brother of North Korea's leader was poisoned in Kuala Lumpur.

Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam made the announcement as rumors swirled that Kim's body was about to flown out of the country as part of diplomatic negotiations. Custody of the body has been a flashpoint in the case as relations between Malaysia and North Korea deteriorated sharply.

Kim was poisoned on Feb. 13 at a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur. According to Malaysian investigators, two young women went up to Kim as he waited for a flight and smeared VX nerve agent — a banned chemical weapon — across his face. He was dead within 20 minutes.

Although Malaysia has never directly accused North Korea of being behind the attack, many speculate that it must have orchestrated it.



A medical worker pushes a trolley outside forensic department at Kuala Lumpur Hospital

Experts say the VX nerve agent used to kill Kim was almost certainly produced in a sophisticated state weapons laboratory, and North Korea is widely believed to possess large quantities of chemical weapons.

North Korea has denied any role in the killing and denounced the investigation as flawed and politically motivated. North Korea does not even acknowledge the victim is Kim Jong Nam, referring to him instead

as Kim Chol, the name on the passport he was carrying when he died.

North Korea has demanded custody of the body because the victim was one of its citizens. But Malaysia refused, in part because it needed to formally identify the body, which it now says it has done, using DNA from his son.

Conflicting reports in the local media on Monday said Kim's body was to be cremated and

flown to North Korea, or that the body was about to be sent to Macau, where his family is believed to be.

But Health Minister Subramaniam Sathasivam said the body is still at the morgue. "As far as we are concerned, there has been no change," he said.

"Once they finish the discussion and come to a definite decision, we will make an announcement," he said, in reference to negotiations between the two

countries.

Relations between Malaysia and North Korea have frayed since Kim's death, with each expelling the other's ambassador. North Korea then blocked Malaysians from leaving the country until a "fair settlement" of the case is reached. Malaysia responded in kind, barring North Koreans from exiting its soil.

Conflicting reports in the Malay media on Monday said Kim's body was to be cremated and flown overseas

The two women accused of wiping Kim's face with the poison have been charged with murder. The two — an Indonesian and a Vietnamese — say they were duped into thinking they were taking part in a hidden-camera prank TV show. Authorities also say they are looking for seven North Koreans. Four of them left Malaysia on the day of the killing and are likely back in North Korea. Police said the other three men are believed to be hiding in the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur. **AP**

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FDCT increases budget for science project-funding



UM rector Wei Zhao

FOUR applied science-related projects, funded by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT), were presented yesterday, showcasing the works conducted by Macau universities and institutions.

During yesterday's presentation, FDCT recalled that it received over 158 applications, with an overall requested sum of more than MOP335 million.

Although the institution continually sees an annual increase in its received applications, FDCT president of the Administration Committee of FDCT, Frederico Ma, said they have decreased the num-

ber of successful applicants. "We try to decrease because for each application, we would like to increase the funding to have a higher rate of finishing the project," he told the Times.

However Ma noted that there are plans to increase the budget for 2017 applications.

"This year we have a total budget of MOP220 million, about a 10 percent increase [compared to the past]," Ma indicated.

FDCT is currently focusing on funding researches in Information Technology, engineering and Traditional Chinese Medicine.

Yesterday, the University of Macau (UM), Civil Engi-

neering Laboratory of Macau (LECM) Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST) and Hou Kong Middle School presented their concluded projects.

UM rector Wei Zhao was the first to present, with the university's project titled, "Theoretical foundations, design methodologies, and supporting technologies for cyber physical networking systems."

The project, which UM called "WInternet," is a technology and science base for internet of things (IoT).

IoT is a critical networking infrastructure for cyber-physical systems, as cited in the university's Faculty of Science and Technology's webpage.

"With IoT, physical objects should be seamlessly integrated into an internet-like networking system so that the physical objects and cyber-agents can interact to each other in order to achieve mission-critical objectives," the presentation indicated.

The four-year project, which was budgeted at around

MOP4 million, claimed to be the first university to be able to develop a system that interconnects different IoTs to different places in the world, making them a global network.

"This technology has a lot of potential to be commercialized. Macau needs to diversify its industry, [so] we need to identify several fields in which we can develop technology to help Macau develop its own industry," the rector explained to the Times.

Wei also revealed that the university is currently developing a national laboratory to develop mature technology, which he hoped would contribute to Macau and other regions.

When asked how the technology is currently being integrated in society, Wei noted that companies are approaching them to utilize their products in their firms.

"We are working for different companies," he claimed. "We've been recognized [favorably as] the very first academic journal of IoT published our article," he concluded.

LECM, MUST and Hou Kong Middle School presented projects which amounted to MOP739,300, MOP2 million and MOP360,500 respectively. **LV**

UM to hold Open Day on April 9

THE University of Macau (UM) will hold an Open Day on Sunday, April 9. There will be various activities held on the Open Day, including an International Students' Parade, admission consultation, booth games, performances by famous Macau-based singers who are graduates of UM and an International Food Festival.

UM's various faculties, residential colleges, laboratories, and classrooms will open to the public to help visitors learn more about the university's academic programs and student life in the residential colleges.

There will also be talks and workshops to introduce UM's programs, faculty team, as well as teaching and research achievements. Students can visit the various departments according to their interests to receive information about admission requirements.

The Open Day will take place from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Apart from the activities mentioned above, there will also be student performances, demonstrations of innovative mechanical technologies, lectures, a lucky draw and campus tours guided by PR Student Ambassadors.

According to a statement issued by UM, "all Macau residents are welcome to attend the Open Day and spend a joyful Sunday on UM's campus."

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Firm linked to Imperial Pacific arranged Saipan lawmakers' trips

Daniela Wei, Matthew Campbell

THE company that paid for controversial fact-finding visits to Hong Kong and Macau by lawmakers from the U.S. territory of Saipan has connections to the operator of the island's casino, according to evidence accepted by a Hong Kong court this month.

In a High Court judgment issued March 16 in a suit over casino debts, Judge Bebe Pui Ying Chu found "credible" the overall testimony of a Chinese gambler who said that Ji Xiaobo and Cai Lingli were representatives of a firm called Esteem Capital Success Ltd. in the fall of 2013. Ji's mother owns a controlling stake in casino operator Imperial Pacific International Holdings Ltd., while Cai is its executive director. Ji was the Saipan casino's project manager as of November, the company said then.

This is the first time a link has been drawn between Esteem Capital and Imperial Pacific, which in a November interview said it never had any connections to the firm. The trips taken by Saipan legislators, including then-senator Ralph Torres, to Hong Kong and Macau were arranged by Esteem, according to Torres, who is now the territory's governor. Esteem was not among bidders for Saipan's first-ever casino license. Soon after the trips that were taken from late 2013, Imperial Pacific won the bidding, gaining exclusive rights to operate a casino in the Pacific territory.

The trips raised questions at the time, with critics of the license process alleging that the gaming bill passed by the legislature benefited the investor group that had brought the legislators to Hong Kong and Macau, the Sai-

BLOOMBERG



pan Tribune reported in 2014.

Imperial Pacific declined to comment on the relationship between Imperial Pacific and Esteem Capital or the language in the court's judgment. Esteem Capital is not listed in company registries in Hong Kong or China.

■ The visits to HK and Macau occurred a few months before Saipan legislators reversed years of opposition to a casino on the island

Torres was "offered no reason to establish a connection between Esteem Capital and Imperial Pacific" when he traveled to Hong Kong and Macau to observe the operation of integrated casino resorts, he said in an email

through a representative. Torres was told that Esteem was in the business of promoting such resorts in Asia, he said. The governor was unaware of the Hong Kong judgment and said he couldn't comment on it.

The court decision included testimony that described Ji's office, listed on a business card bearing his name and that of Esteem Capital, as the same 70th-floor suite in Hong Kong's International Finance Center skyscraper that since last year has housed Imperial Pacific's corporate headquarters.

In a Hong Kong exchange filing in 2011, the same suite was listed as the address for a subsidiary of Simsen International that was identified in the court decision. Ji held a 9 percent stake in Simsen in 2014. The suite was occupied by the Simsen unit up until Imperial Pacific took it over, according to the building's reception.

In the Hong Kong case, a Simsen subsidiary sued Chinese gambler Jiang Quanlong for allegedly not paying back more than HKD212 million (USD27 million) in loans.

Ji's mother, mainland Chinese entrepreneur Cui Lijie, owns about 64 percent of Hong Kong-

listed Imperial Pacific, according to a Hong Kong exchange filing in October. Cai, Imperial Pacific's executive director, was described in the court testimony as Ji's secretary at Esteem.

Imperial Pacific's casino on remote Saipan, dubbed Best Sunshine Live, has attracted attention throughout the gambling industry for posting per-table VIP revenues far greater than those of the largest facilities in Macau, Asia's gambling capital. The company has said that success is due in part to wealthy Chinese bettors choosing to take the roughly five-hour flight to the Pacific island rather than going to Macau, sometimes betting millions of dollars at a time.

A competing bidder for Saipan's sole gambling license alleged in an unsuccessful 2014 lawsuit that local lawmakers had illegally received "significant benefits" from casino investors, and that regulators had refused to investigate whether Imperial Pacific was linked to them. A spokeswoman for Torres said in November there is no evidence to support allegations of improper benefits to legislators.

The visits to Hong Kong and Macau occurred a few months before Saipan legislators in March 2014 reversed years of opposition to a casino on the island, passing a law to open bidding for the license.

Imperial Pacific's then-Chief Executive Officer Mark Brown said in an interview in November that Imperial Pacific has never been connected to Esteem or had anything to do the legislators' visits to Hong Kong.

"We met them, but we had nothing to do with the trip or taking them around," Brown, now the company's chairman, said in November, referring to meetings between the legislators and Imperial Pacific. Brown said he didn't know who arranged the meetings that took place before he joined Imperial Pacific in November 2014.

"Whoever they were, they dropped out," he said, referring to Esteem not joining the list of bidders for the Saipan casino license.

Brown, a former executive in President Donald Trump's Atlantic City casino empire, has led Imperial Pacific's plan to replace what it describes as a temporary facility with a much larger luxury hotel and casino complex slated to open next month. After downgrades from Fitch Ratings and Moody's Investors Service in January, the company sold \$150 million in bonds this year to Inventive Star Ltd., which is controlled by Cui.

Imperial Pacific has faced multiple court challenges since the Saipan facility opened, including a December suit from a former executive who alleged violations of money-laundering rules at the facility. The company says it complies with all relevant regulations. Imperial Pacific told the court March 1 that it will file an amended answer to the plaintiff's claim shortly. **Bloomberg**

Leong: 'Prudent' management of MSAR's investment portfolio

THE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said that the government would continue to adopt safe, effective and prudent strategies in managing its investments.

The Monetary Authority of Macau (AMM) revealed last week that Macau's fiscal reserve in 2016 recorded a total investment income of MOP3.31 billion, representing an annual

return of 0.8 percent. Allocated assets contributing to the generation of last year's investment income included global bonds; while the reserve's investments in foreign exchange and equity markets recorded deficits due to market volatilities experienced worldwide.

Speaking this week on the sidelines of a banquet to mark the 9th anniversary

of the People's Alliance of Macau, Lionel Leong said he had directed the Monetary Authority of Macau to monitor closely developments in the global economy in 2017, and to diversify the investment profile, based on a full and balanced assessment of risk factors.

The secretary added that the government's investment in the equity market

— an investment overseen externally by asset managers — had an allocation of 11 percent of its fiscal reserve. The government is studying the possibility of increasing the proportion of investment in the equity market in order to allow the participation of more investment professionals.

Regarding an interest rate increase in the Uni-

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Lionel Leong

ted States, Leong said that the MSAR authorities are closely monitoring how to ensure maintenance of the region's economic growth. Leong is looking in parti-

cular at how the city might be affected by possible changes in the purchasing power available to some of its visitors, due to the move by the U.S.



Ho Chio Meng trial resumes today

It was confirmed by order of a judge that the trial of former prosecutor general, Ho Chio Meng, would resume today. The trial had been suspended after the legal team that was representing Ho, led by Leong Weng Pun, stepped down earlier this month. After the new defense lawyer Oriana Pun took up the case, a break period of two weeks was provided to give her enough time to familiarize herself. Initially, Pun had requested at least one month to study the case. The court gathered last week in order to hear non-Macau resident witnesses that had already been notified.

Few employers respond to 'flawed' gov't survey

The Labour Affairs Bureau has said that it need to continue conducting public consultation sessions with employers and employees before agreeing to a new adjustment to the minimum wage for cleaning and security staff, just one year after a related law was introduced by the government. Representatives of employers met with government officials yesterday afternoon to discuss the issue, where they complained that authorities had not sought enough opinions from the private sector. A representative of the Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs said that very few of the companies surveyed had actually responded, citing a "flawed questionnaire design," according to public broadcaster TDM. "The number of respondents failed to reflect the law's impact on the industry," the representative said. Meanwhile, worker representatives, also present at the meeting, said that they hope a universal minimum wage will be introduced in Macau by 2019.

Taiwan democracy activist said to be detained in China

Lee Ming-che, a Taiwanese community college manager and member of Taiwan's Democratic Progressive Party, who allegedly disappeared – possibly in Macau – while en route to Guangdong Province, is in Chinese custody, according to his wife. Lee Ching-yu, said yesterday that a Taiwanese government agency also told her earlier this week that it had indirect information pointing to a Chinese state security detention (more on page 10).

Macau to implement new rules on tax information exchange

Renato Marques

DEBATE over legal amendment which establishes new rules for the financial transparency of Macau based persons and companies which have tax residences abroad has reached a conclusion.

The amendment will be sent to the Legislative Assembly (AL) in the next couple of days to be voted on and approved, the spokesperson of the Executive Council (ExCo), Leong Heng Teng, informed yesterday in a press conference. The proposal was made because of the need to adapt the current Law on Exchange of Information on Tax Matters so that it will comply with the Common Reporting Standard and Due Diligence on Financial Account Information (CRS) from the United Nations (UN) Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD). The CRS from the OECD demanded that all countries need to start sharing this information in an automated system and that these automated systems should be operational by 2018. The OECD also encouraged countries and persons to participate in these systems in a more voluntary and spontaneous way.

The ultimate goal of such systems is to help to fight fraud and tax evasion and avoidance. Besides the already established mechanism of formal request of information, the revision establishes two new mechanisms that will include the automated exchange.

As Leong explained, while the exchange of information by request is due to "people, associations, foundations or other



Leong Heng Teng (left) and DSF director Iong Kong Leong (center)

legal entities that are supported by other government services, institutions or people in MSAR [regarding their actions] related to operations done in the finance system, 'offshore', and insurance," such information sharing is depending on approval by the Chief Executive. If approved, they will be done with entities with "which Macau has agreed a principle of reciprocity and as long as Central or local government secrets are not violated as well as other commercial or professional secrets are not questioned."

Answering questions posed by journalists, Leong said that such information might include "names, addresses and account balances." He said that such a system does not include Macau residents "that are not included in other countries' ta-

xation systems," aiming mostly to "disallow multinational companies that are based in different countries to transfer part or the totality of their profits into a different country in order to benefit from more a convenient taxation" he noted.

As for the automated exchange of information, the first of these mechanisms are related with the finance institutions and establishes that information of banking operations should be recorded and shared with the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) in pre-established periods in a systematic way. Records of such information should be kept for a period of five years.

As for the spontaneous exchange, it is related to information regarding tax exemption or reduction that might

justify the payment of extra taxes on another country and as the ExCo spokesperson explained is mostly related to a system that will allow cross-checking of information preventing contributors from providing "false declarations in other countries about their assets and benefits."

■ The system does not cover residents which are not included in overseas taxation systems

The draft will also establish administrative penalties regarding the responsibilities of the entities, personal data protection and regarding the principle of confidentiality as well as empowering the DSF with the ability to undertake and manage the exchanges and supervise the financial institutions that would perform automated exchanges.

The director of the DSF, Iong Kong Leong, replying to questions from the media also noted that in the cases where there is a request for information, the authorities must inform the account holder.

Iong also noted that to fulfill the international agreements to provide information from 2018 the financial institutions will need to start to collect data from July 1 this year.

Carlos D'Assumpção book launch next month

A book launch event for "Carlos D'Assumpção – A Man of Value" by Celina Veiga de Oliveira will be held on April 8 at Albergue SCM.

The book is a "photobiography" of the Macanese personality, spanning a total 267 pages of full, high-quality photographs and documentation on Carlos D'Assumpção.

The collection and organization of the content was arranged by the historian, Dr. Celina Veiga de Oliveira.

This edition is the second trilingual volume of the book, containing Chinese, Portuguese and English text, according to organizer Albergue SCM.

Carlos D'Assumpção was born in Macau on March 1, 1929. An illustrious lawyer, he was a prominent figure in the public and private institutions of the territory and in the political departments of Macau. His service included acting as the deputy and president of the Legislative Assembly during four

consecutive legislative terms. He was also a member of the drafting committee of the Basic Law of the MSAR.

"Macau is proud to honor a citizen who has so well interpreted the value of dialogue and urbanity among men," noted a statement released by Albergue SCM. "[He was a] Macanese political figure, a most striking figure in the last quarter of the twentieth century, who contributed, in a compelling way, to the construction of the recent history of Macau."



Carlos D'Assumpção (center) during a 1984 meeting

Organized by Albergue SCM and with the patronage of the Macau Foundation, the book launch session will be held at Alber-

gue SCM at 3 p.m. on April 8. The session will be conducted in Chinese and Portuguese, according to organizers.

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RETAIL

Manhattan landlords are turning to giveaways for retailers

Sarah Mulholland

MANHATTAN landlords, who have seen retail occupancy plummet after boosting rents to record levels, are trying to avoid big price cuts. Instead, they're writing checks for things like interior redesigns and moving expenses to keep storefronts from going empty.

Tenant-improvement allowances haven't been typical in the Manhattan retail market. But now the concessions, which can pay for anything from lighting and displays to a complete overhaul, are becoming a key component in some new leases, particularly for large, flagship stores in high-profile areas, such as Madison Avenue and Fifth Avenue, according to Steve Soutendijk, an executive director at brokerage Cushman & Wakefield Inc.

"We're seeing tenant-improvement and concession packages that retail landlords never, ever contemplated before," he said.

The sweeteners signal that the balance of power is tilting toward merchants in Manhattan after a relentless surge in rents during the past five years. Landlords facing rising vacancies are more willing to negotiate with retailers, who have gotten battered by the rapid rise of e-commerce and have shied away from committing to costly, long-term leases.

The incentives are "a creative solution that landlords are using now to get deals done," said Jeffrey Roseman, an executive vice president at Newmark Grubb Knight Frank Retail. "It's a way to get over the hump."

The details of leases in Manhat-



U.S. flags fly above the Niketown store in New York

tan are often closely guarded secrets, making it difficult to quantify the incentives retailers are receiving. Landlords have a lot of ways to cut a deal without lowering asking rents, such as paying the construction contractor, offering an extended period of free rent or simply writing a check for the tenant to use at their discretion.

Property owners are kicking in as it becomes more expensive to build out stores. Companies are creating elaborate installations, such as the basketball court where customers can try out their sneakers in Nike Inc.'s 5,100-square-meter Soho store, in an effort to create an experience that shoppers can't get online. Sportswear maker Under Armour Inc. plans to open what Chief Executive Officer Kevin Plank has called "the single greatest retail store in the world" at its new Fifth Avenue home, formerly occupied by FAO Schwarz.

In the city's largest retail lease of 2016, Nike in December signed a 15-year agreement to rent 69,214

square feet across seven floors at 650 Fifth Ave. in Midtown. Landlords SL Green Realty Corp. and Jeff Sutton had been working to fill the space since acquiring the property in 2013. They bought out the leases of Devon & Blakely and Godiva and committed to adding three additional floors and re-routing the storefront's entrance, according to a presentation in December for SL Green's investors.

"That deal did not come easy by any stretch," Andrew Mathias, president of SL Green, said while discussing the Nike lease at the investor conference.

As part of Nike's deal at 650 Fifth Ave., the landlords offered to take over the company's lease obligation at an existing store about five blocks away and adjacent to Trump Tower, according to a person with knowledge of the transaction who asked not to be named because the terms are private.

The landlords haven't disclosed the breakdown of rental rates and costs associated with the USD700

million Nike deal. In its presentation, SL Green forecast a 7.75 percent return on the investment.

Representatives of SL Green, Sutton and Nike declined to comment.

At 680 Madison Ave., fashion designer Tom Ford signed a lease in August for 12,300 square feet, taking over the space after a Qatari luxury retailer backed out of a deal. As an enticement, landlord Thor Equities gave Ford about \$12 million in an improvement allowance, a person with knowledge of the transaction said.

Merchants in Manhattan are gaining more leverage in negotiations after landlords pushed leasing costs to record highs. As the U.S. emerged from the recession and overseas tourism in New York boomed, rents on Fifth Avenue from 49th to 60th streets -- the world's most expensive stretch of retail real estate -- jumped about 50 percent in the past five years, according to Cushman. The growth drew property investors.

"Street retail was the golden goose," said Alexander Goldfarb, an analyst covering real estate investment trusts at Sandler O'Neill

& Partners. "Suddenly, everybody wanted a golden goose."

Tepid demand for luxury goods and a stronger U.S. dollar that's crimped spending by tourists have particularly hurt Fifth Avenue, where the space-availability rate was at a record 15.9 percent in fourth quarter, up from 10.1 percent a year earlier, Cushman data show. The average rent on the stretch from 49th to 60th streets reached a record \$3,213 a square foot in the third quarter before dropping in the last three months of the year to \$2,985.

Companies are creating elaborate installations in an effort to create an experience that shoppers can't get online

Some landlords will grant generous tenant-improvement allowances rather than slash rents in order to maintain a property's value, said Susan Kurland, an executive vice president of retail services at brokerage Savills Studley Inc. That trend has accelerated over the past 12 months in prime locations in Manhattan, she said. **Bloomberg**

LANDLORDS OFFERING CONCESSIONS

THE RISE in costs for retail landlords mirrors trends in other corners of the commercial-property market. Manhattan office landlords, facing falling rents and heightened competition, took on a record 12 percent of the expense of converting raw space last year, according to Savills Studley. Apartment landlords are offering concessions and paying broker's

fees - a burden typically shouldered by the tenant in New York - to better compete as a glut of new towers gives renters more choices. "People bought assets predicated on achieving incredible rents and were unable to deliver," Goldfarb said. "One of the oldest tricks in real estate is to maintain high face rents by funding a lot of incentives up front."

Twitter adds video ads to periscope amid YouTube content uproar

Sarah Frier

TWITTER Inc. is adding advertising to posts from its Periscope live-broadcasting tool - but only on the safest videos.

As some of the world's largest advertisers pull spending from Google's YouTube video-sharing site amid concerns about placement with potentially offensive material, Twitter is touting that its Periscope ads will be placed predictably and only

with high-quality publishers that the marketers choose.

"They'll be able to scale and have complete control about where their message appears on live content on Twitter," Matt Derella, Twitter's vice president of global revenue, said in an interview. "Brands can control and choose the trusted content they want to align their message with."

It's a difficult promise to make about live content. Periscope users have pos-

ted live feeds of violent protests and crimes, for example. The social-media company has a program to work directly with certain publishers, such as media organizations and influencers. When advertising starts on Periscope in the coming weeks, initially on a trial basis, Twitter will share the revenue with those top-tier creators. The ads will play before the videos start rolling.

Twitter is struggling to win market share in a di-

gital-ad market dominated by Facebook Inc. and Alphabet Inc.'s Google. It may have an opportunity in video as YouTube works to repair relationships with advertisers that saw their commercials play alongside offensive, racist or extremist content. YouTube had been matching ads to videos automatically, as opposed to letting marketers pick the pairings - a tactic that allowed the site's ad business to grow quickly but now has the company scrambling



for technical solutions.

Periscope's progress will be slower, with an invitation-only trial to start, Derella said. Twitter wouldn't say how much of the video on its site comes from its Periscope tool - only that many millions

of hours of Periscope are watched every month. The company is betting on video advertising to help boost its sales, which have slowed in recent quarters and are expected to post their first annual decline this year. **Bloomberg**

Cape Verde reinforces openness to foreign investment



Mindelo, Cape Verde

CAPE Verde, the Portuguese-speaking African country with the highest level of development and greatest political and economic stability, is preparing a set of measures to further open up the archipelago to foreign investment, according to a recent publication.

Recent developments and prospects for this year in the Cape Verde archipelago are the focus of the first of the Africa Reports, a new publication launched this month, joining Africa Monitor Intelligence, Legis-PALOP, a legal knowledge and information sharing platform and Eupportunity, a consultancy specialized in European affairs.

Among the main trends identified in Cape Verde for the coming months are privatizations, pending the presentation by the government of a program that includes the management of ports and airports, energy and water, ship repair, air transport, production and sale of drugs and the financial restructuring of public enterprises, in particular airline TACV and real estate company Imobiliária Fundiária e Habitat (IFH), which is in a weak financial situation due to the risks of its largest housing project (House for All).

Sectors of the country's economy will be privatized

Other trends identified include improving the business climate "one of the government's big short term goals," as the "reduced margin for public investment" means the private sector, especially when related to foreign investment, "has to assume a more prominent role as a driver of growth and employment, based on the considerable expansion of

infrastructure in recent years."

"The tax reform package is ambitious, as are the aims of creating conditions to promote financing of the economy. Similarly, measures are expected for greater flexibility of the labor market and education and training initiatives, to further reduce a mismatch of skills, which affects productivity," says the report.

The second half of the year will be also marked by regionalization, mooted in January, including a "government" and a deliberative assembly on each island as well as the deepening of relations with the European Union.

The report includes information on international development assistance from various international institutions funds – including the European Union, the European Investment Bank, the World Bank and the African Development Bank – and also data on the foreign investment regime, including guarantees for investors and setting up companies with foreign capital.

The report also highlights the top five figures in Cape Verde in recent months, including Ulisses Correia da Silva, elected prime minister in 2016, with an absolute majority, breaking a 15-year cycle of governance by left-wing party PAICV.

The political hegemony conquered in 2016 by his party, MpD, gives Ulisses, "unique conditions to impose its agenda, in stark contrast to the governments (of former Prime Minister) José Maria Neves: administrative decentralization, reduction of the state's role in the economy, more private enterprise, improving the business climate to attract investments to the tourism sector and beyond this," the report said.

"The high debt burden inherited from the previous government, together with the weak financial situation of the major public companies are urgent problems to be solved," it said. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Beijing concerned over Paris Asian community clash with police

VIOLENT clashes in Paris between baton-wielding police and protesters outraged at the police killing of a Chinese man in his home injured three police officers and led to the arrest of 35 protesters, authorities said yesterday.

The incidents prompted international attention, as China's Foreign Ministry expressed concern to French authorities over Sunday's killing of the man, who it says was shot by a plainclothes officer.

France's Foreign Ministry responded by calling the security of Chinese in France "a priority."

Monday night saw angry demonstrators from the Asian community gather outside a police station in Paris' multicultural northeast where the killing occurred, said Agnes Thibault-Lecuire, of the Paris Prosecutor's Office.

The crowd's fury stemmed from rumors that the man was shot in his home in Paris 19th district in front of his children

while cutting up fish with scissors and had not hurt anyone. Police say an officer fired in self-defense during a raid after the victim wounded an officer with a "bladed weapon."

With chants of "murderers" and candles that spelled "opposition to violence" lining the road Monday night, scores of demonstrators broke down barricades, threw projectiles and set fire to cars during the brutal clashes with police that lasted several hours.

Authorities said 26 demonstrators were held for participating in a group planning violence.

Witnesses said that one man of Chinese origin was injured in the clashes, according to China's state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said that China had summoned a representative of the French embassy in Beijing Tuesday and urged French officials to "get to the bottom of the inci-

AP PHOTO



dent as soon as possible."

Chinese authorities "hope that Chinese nationals in France can express their wishes and demands in a reasonable way," Hua said.

France's Foreign Ministry confirmed that an inquiry has started to shed light on the exact circumstances of the shooting.

This did not calm some 100

people from Paris' Asian community who gathered at the police station on Tuesday afternoon to demand justice — including families and friends of those in custody waiting for them to be released.

"Justice must be done, the killer must be punished!" the protesters shouted, ahead of a meeting of the Chinese com-

munity yesterday to decide on what further action to take.

France is home to Europe's largest population of ethnic Chinese, a community that routinely accuses police of not doing enough to protect them against racism.

Last September, 15,000 people rallied in the French capital to urge an end to violence against the Asian community after the beating to death of Chinese tailor Chaolin Zhang called new attention to ethnic tensions in Paris suburbs. The victim's lawyer said the August 2016 attack was ethnically motivated.

"Chinese are victims of racist attitudes in France — especially from other ethnic groups like Arabs. They are targets for crime because they often carry cash and many don't have residence permits, so can be threatened easily. They're angry with police for not protecting them enough," said Pierre Picquart, Chinese expert at the University of Paris VIII.

"Chinese people do not like to protest or express themselves publicly, so when we see them like this it means they are very, very angry. They've had enough of discrimination," he added.

He estimated that there are 2 million people living in France of Chinese origin. **AP**

A Taiwanese pro-democracy activist believed to be in Chinese custody may have attracted the attention of China's security services after he used the social media site WeChat to discuss China-Taiwan relations, a colleague said yesterday.

Lee Ming-che, 42, disappeared after clearing immigration on March 19 in the semi-autonomous Chinese territory of Macau and never showed up for a planned meeting later that day with a friend across the border in the Chinese city of Zhuhai, according to Chiu Yi-ling, secretary general of the Taiwan Association for Human Rights, where Lee had been a volunteer.

Cheng Hsiu-chuan, president of Taipei's Wenshan Community College where Lee has worked for the past year as a program director, said it's likely that Lee attracted the attention of Chinese security last year after using WeChat to "teach" an unknown number of people about China-Taiwan relations under the government of Taiwan President Tsai Ing-wen.

"For China, the material he was teaching would be seen as sensitive," Cheng said. WeChat has millions

TAIWAN

Missing activist Lee talked politics on WeChat

of active users and is hugely popular as a means of communication in China.

Lee had traveled annually to China for the past decade to see friends, Cheng said. He would discuss human rights in private but had never held any public events there, Cheng said.

For China, the material [Lee Ming-che] was teaching would be seen as sensitive.

CHENG HSIU-CHUAN
PRESIDENT,
WENSHAN COLLEGE

However, in mid-2016 Chinese authorities shut down Lee's WeChat account and confiscated a box of books published in Taiwan on political and

cultural issues, Cheng said. "According to the news we've gotten, the state security bureau there doesn't know how to handle Lee's case," Cheng said.

On his most recent trip, Lee planned to see friends and get Chinese medicine for his mother-in-law in Taiwan, his wife, Lee Ching-yu said. He was expected to stay in the southern Chinese hub city Guangzhou through March 26, she said.

Lee Ching-yu said a Taiwanese government agency also told her this week it had indirect information pointing to a Chinese state security detention.

"I want the government of China to act like a civilized country and tell me what they're doing with my husband on what legal grounds and, like a civilized country, what they plan to do with him," Lee said.

Police and government officials in southern China either could not be reached or said they had no information about Lee. China's foreign ministry

said it was unaware of his case.

China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a free-wheeling democracy with freedoms largely unknown on the authoritarian, Communist-ruled mainland. China insists that the two sides must eventually unify and has raised pressure on Taiwan since the election last year of President

Tsai, whose Democratic Progressive Party advocates for Taiwan's formal independence. China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949.

Taiwan's semi-governmental Straits Exchange Foundation said it has asked its China counterpart for information.

The Taiwan government's Mainland Affairs Council, a China poli-

cymaking body, demanded Monday that Chinese government departments disclose their "handling" of Lee and ensure his safety.

"The government is paying a high degree of attention to Mr. Lee's safety or danger and will continue doing its utmost to help his family members," the council said in a statement. **AP**

Ex-president Ma found innocent of secrets leak, libel



TAIWAN'S China-friendly former President Ma Ying-jeou was found innocent yesterday of libel and leaking confidential information in a case involving suspected influence peddling by a powerful lawmaker.

The Taipei District Court found Ma in-

nocent. Ma, a U.S.-educated legal scholar, had denied the charges.

Ma was credited with substantially improving Taiwan's relations with rival China during his two terms in office from 2008 to 2016.

His Nationalist Party lost both the presidency and its parliamentary majority to the pro-independence Democratic Progressive Party in elections in January last year.

The charges against Ma stemmed from a 2013 lawsuit brought by Democratic Progressive Party lawmaker Ker Chien-ming alleging that the then-president leaked information from a wiretapped conversation featuring powerful Nationalist lawmaker Wang Jin-pyng.



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Report says man-made islands nearly complete

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A report from a U.S. think tank says China has nearly completed construction work on three man-made islands in the South China Sea, giving it the ability to deploy combat aircraft and other military assets to the disputed

region.

The Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies analyzed recent satellite photos and concluded that runways, aircraft hangers, radar sites and hardened surface-to-air missile shelters have either been finished or are nearing completion.

The report, released yesterday [Macau time], appears to be the most conclusive indication yet that China is using its island-building project to give teeth to its claim over almost the entire South China Sea and its islands and reefs.

The islands in the study — Subi, Mischief and Fiery Cross

reefs — are part of the Spratly chain, which is claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

On each of the islands, China has constructed enough concrete hangers for 24 fighter jets and four or five larger planes such as bombers or early warning aircraft, CSIS reported.

China already uses an existing airfield on Woody Island in the similarly disputed Paracel chain, located to the north, where it has maintained mobile HQ-9 surface-to-air missiles for more than a year and deployed anti-ship cruise missiles on at least one occasion, CSIS said.

The airfields and advanced surveillance and early warning radars will allow China's military to operate over virtually the entire South China Sea.

"Beijing can now deploy military assets, including combat aircraft and mobile missile launchers, to the Spratly Islands at any time," the report said.

China's creation of seven man-made islands in the South China Sea has drawn strong criticism from the U.S. and others, who accuse Beijing of further militarizing the region and altering geography to bolster its claims.

China says its island construction is mainly for civilian purposes, particularly to increase safety for ships that carry an estimated \$5 trillion worth of goods through the waterway each year. It has also provided reassurances that it will not interfere with freedom of navigation or overflight, although questions remain as to whether that includes military ships

and aircraft.

Commenting on the report, a senior Philippine defense official said the construction China has carried out on the islands "belies a clearly military purpose contrary to Chinese public pronouncements that it is civilian in nature."

That raises the likelihood of further militarization and restrictions on air and sea traffic, posing a "clear and present danger to the present regional security balance," said the official, who requested anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to reporters on the matter.

Beijing can now deploy military assets, including combat aircraft and mobile missile launchers, to the Spratly Islands at any time.

REPORT

China has refused to confirm speculation over whether it plans to declare an air defense identification zone over the South China Sea as it has done already over international airspace in the East China Sea. The U.S. has refused to recognize the East China Sea zone, which requires aircraft to declare their flight plans, identify themselves to Chinese traffic monitors and follow their instructions. **AP**

Australia shelves planned extradition treaty with China

THE Australian government yesterday shelved a planned extradition treaty with China rather than allow the Senate to reject it over human rights concerns.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop said senior ministers decided not to proceed with trying to ratify the treaty after the opposition Labor Party declared it would block it in the Senate. Labor was the conservative government's last hope of getting the treaty through the upper house a decade after it was signed.

Bishop said she would renew negotiations with China and Labor to find a compromise that the Senate would accept.

"China has asked us to

uphold our end of the deal which is to ratify the treaty and that's what we've been seeking to do," Bishop told reporters.

"It is very much in Australia's national interests for us to have the highest level of cooperation with China and other countries with whom we have an extradition treaty," she said.

In Beijing, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying told reporters that the treaty would help in the fight against transnational crime and promote judicial and law enforcement cooperation.

"We hope Australia can bear in mind the general picture of bilateral relations and proceed with its

relevant domestic procedures so as to make the treaty come into force as soon as possible," Hua said.

Former conservative Prime Minister John Howard's government signed the treaty in September 2007, only weeks before the government was defeated in a general election. The prime ministers who have followed Howard in the past decade have proved less enthusiastic about the deal, which was never ratified.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang urged Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull to ratify the deal during a visit last week which focused on closer economic ties, Bishop said.

"They want the extradi-

tion treaty because they are seeking to crack down on criminals who leave China and seek safe haven in Australia," Bishop said.

The issue has split the government, with government lawmaker and former Prime Minister Tony Abbott telling The Australian newspaper in an interview published yesterday that "China's legal system has to evolve further before the Australian government and people could be confident that those before it would receive justice according to law."

Australia has an extradition treaty with Saudi Arabia which, like China, has not ratified the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (left) in a recent trip to Manila

A parliamentary committee recommended in December that it be ratified, but made recommendations designed to strengthen protections of human rights.

A report by Labor lawmakers said the committee should not dismiss concerns over the lack of

transparency in the Chinese judicial system, allegations of ill-treatment and torture of prisoners and the continuing imposition of the death penalty.

Australia opposes capital punishment and demands assurances that extradited prisoners will not be executed. **AP**



AP PHOTO

AUSTRALIA

Powerful cyclone slams into tropical northeast

A powerful cyclone packing winds of up to 260 kilometers per hour roared across Australia's tropical northeast yesterday, uprooting trees, tearing down fences and knocking out power to thousands, officials said.

Cyclone Debbie, which slammed into the coast of Queens-

land state as a fierce Category 4 storm, quickly began to weaken after making landfall near the resort town of Airlie Beach, the Australian Bureau of Meteorology said. By yesterday night, it had been downgraded to a Category 2 storm, with wind gusting up to 155 kilometers per hour.

One man was injured after a wall collapsed in Proserpine, a town south of Airlie Beach, Queensland Police Commissioner Ian Stewart said. The man was taken to a hospital, where he was in stable condition.

The extent of the damage from the storm was not known as night fell across the region, but

there were reports of roofs peeling from homes, fences crumbling and trees snapping in half. The idyllic Whitsunday Islands, a popular tourist destination, were hit particularly hard, with one recorded wind gust of 263 kilometers per hour, the meteorology bureau reported.

The slow-moving storm pounded the coastal region for hours, creating what Stewart called a "battering ram effect," with the same areas enduring the howling winds and drenching rains for a punishingly long time.

Communities along more than 300 kilometers of coastline were expected to be impacted, Stewart said.

Australia's military was sending vehicles, aircraft and supplies to the region, with soldiers focusing on clearing debris and reopening roads, State Recovery Coordinator Brigadier Chris Field said.

John Collins, a member of the Whitsundays government council, was sheltering from the storm with his wife and four daughters inside their house in Proserpine. He could see that four of his neighbors' sheds had been destroyed and every house within sight — including his own — had lost their fences. At least four trees had been smashed to pieces.

"It sounds like you got a jumbo jet sitting on the roof of your

house," Collins said by telephone of the wind roaring outside. "It really is so loud. It's incredible."

Collins' wife and two of their daughters were so scared they were hiding under blankets. Meanwhile, one of his other daughters — whom he described as "a real weather nerd" — was enthralled with the storm, and was diligently listening to the radio for updates on its path. The family's power had been out since yesterday morning, and they were resigned to several more hours of waiting until it was safe to emerge from their house.

"It's just going on and on and on," he said.

Thousands of people evacuated low-lying areas in the storm's path on Monday. Hundreds of schools were closed yesterday and more than 50,000 households were without power.

"Conditions have deteriorated rapidly," Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said in an address to Parliament. "Take care and stay safe. Be prepared to shelter in place until today."

The storm also poses a serious threat to the farming region's crops. The area produces sugarcane and a wide range of fruits and vegetables, including tomatoes, mangoes and peppers. AP

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THE Ferrari driver who allegedly slammed into a motorcycle cop, dragged him along the road and then sped away from the mangled body took just hours to find, as investigators followed a trail of brake fluid into the gated estate of one of Thailand's richest families.

But the prosecution of Red Bull heir Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya has been delayed almost five years. When Vorayuth, 31, has been called in to face authorities, he hasn't shown up, claiming through his attorney that he's sick or out of the country on business. And while statutes of limitations run out on key charges this year, it's widely assumed he's hiding, possibly abroad, or quietly living locally, only going out in disguise.

He isn't.

Within weeks of the accident, The Associated Press has found, Vorayuth was back to enjoying his family's jet-set life, largely associated with the Red Bull brand, an energy drink company co-founded by his grandfather. He flies around the world on Red Bull jets, cheers their Formula One racing team from Red Bull's VIP seats and keeps a black Porsche Carrera in London with a custom plate: B055 RBR. Boss Red Bull Racing.

And he's not hard to find.

Last month, social media clues led AP reporters to Vorayuth in the sacred city of Luang Prabang, Laos, where he and his family enjoyed a USD1,000-a-night resort, visited temples and lounged by the pool.

Critics say inaction in this case epitomizes longstanding privilege for the wealthy class in Thailand, a politically tumultuous country that has struggled with rule of law for decades.

The Yoovidhya family attorney did not respond to AP's request to interview Vorayuth. Police say Vorayuth is once again on notice to show up and hear the charges.

He's due at the prosecutors' office tomorrow.

Vorayuth and his siblings grew up in a private, extended family whose fortune expanded from millions to billions. His brother is nicknamed Porsche, his sister Champagne. Vorayuth received a British education at a \$40,000-a-year boarding school.

In rural Thailand, police Sgt. Maj. Wichan Glanprasert didn't have such opportunities, but he was ambitious. The youngest of five, he was the first to leave their coconut and palm farm for the city, the first to get a government job, to graduate from college. He paid for his parents' medical care and supported a sister through cancer. He had no children, but planned to put his brother's kids through college.

Their lives collided pre-dawn on Sept. 3, 2012, when Vorayuth's Ferrari roared down Sukhumvit Road, one of Bangkok's main drags. The bloody accident scene made national

THAILAND

Red Bull heir enjoys jet-set life four years after hit-and-run



Vorayuth "Boss" Yoovidhya (second left) whose grandfather co-founded energy drink company Red Bull, walks with his mother Daranee at the Formula 1 Grand Prix in Abu Dhabi (Nov 2016)

headlines for days.

The policeman's family grieved, but they figured at least there would be justice. Wichan was a police officer. Certainly the system would hold his killer responsible.

"At first I thought they'd follow a legal process," said his brother Pornanan.

Now he's not so sure.

"We will not let this police officer die without justice. Believe me," said Bangkok Police Commissioner Comronwit Toopgrajank in the days after the accident.

As the case unfolded, the Yoovidhya family attorney said Vorayuth left the scene not to flee, but to tell his father. Vorayuth's blood alcohol levels were high because he drank once he got home to settle his nerves, said the attorney.

Sgt. Maj. Wichan's family accepted a settlement, about \$100,000. In turn, they promised not to press criminal charges.

"Blood money," says Pornanan, whose share sits in the bank.

Meanwhile, Vorayuth failed to show up when ordered to face criminal charges of speeding, hit-and-run, and deadly, reckless driving. Police say Vorayuth disputes the reckless-driving charge, claiming the officer swerved in front of him. The speeding

charge expired after a year. The more serious charge of hit-and-run, which police say carries a penalty of up to six months in jail, expires in September.

Complicating matters, Yoovidhya's attorney has repeatedly filed petitions claiming unfair treatment in the investigation.

Police say it's up to prosecutors to charge him. Prosecutors say extra investigation is needed, but wouldn't specify.

Thammasat University law professor Pokpong Srisanit said the situation is "not normal" but does appear legal.

Meanwhile, the Thai media figures he's laying low.

Last year the Bangkok Post said that after paying the settlement in 2012, Vorayuth "has been out of the country or otherwise unable to answer the criminal case against him in the years since."

A few weeks after the article appeared, a photo of Vorayuth was posted online. He was on the beach at a seaside resort south of Bangkok.

While Vorayuth's case has been on hold since 2012, his carefree lifestyle has not.

More than 120 social media posts show Vorayuth visiting at least nine countries since Sgt. Maj. Wichan's death. He's cruised Monaco's harbor, snowboarded Japan's powder, and celebrated his birthday at Restau-

a duck seller.

Before Vorayuth was born, Chaleo partnered his company T.C. Pharma with Austrian entrepreneur, Dietrich Mateschitz, investing \$500,000 each to carbonate and market a caffeine-powered syrupy energy drink popular in Thailand. In 1987, Red Bull Energy Drink went international.

Red Bull is now sold in 170 countries. It has its own media company, race cars and jets, and sponsors concerts and extreme athletes. Forbes estimates Vorayuth's father Chalerm Yoovidhya's net worth at \$9.7 billion.

Vorayuth's legal situation is far from unique.

In 2010, a 16-year-old unlicensed daughter of a former military officer crashed her sedan into a van, killing nine people. The teen, from an affluent family, was given a two-year suspended sentence and had misunderstandings that postponed her community service until last year.

Her case, and others involving what the local press calls "Bangkok's deadly rich kids," are handled markedly different than most deadly car crashes, in which Thais are typically arrested, prosecuted and sentenced to jail.

Today in his small apartment, Sgt. Maj. Wichan's brother keeps a few photo albums of him. Pornanan says Thailand runs on a "double standard."

Last month on Instagram, a friend posted a group shot, guys taking a snowboarding break at Japan's majestic Annapuri ski resort.

"ran into little bull @bossrbr lets catch up tonite dude" says a friend.

"Snow snow snow," chimes in another.

"Wof wof," says bossrbr. AP



An image posted to the Instagram account of Porpeer Salin Suyarnsettakorn on July 2, 2015 showing Vorayuth

UK

Complaints as paper focuses on leaders' legs, not policy



Britain's Prime Minister Theresa May (right) and Scotland's First Minister Nicola Sturgeon in a meeting recently in Glasgow

Gregory Katz, London

BRITAIN'S Daily Mail tabloid has sparked complaints with a front page

photograph focusing on the legs of Prime Minister Theresa May and Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon.

The photo of the two leaders

published yesterday displays their legs prominently alongside a headline that read "Never mind Brexit, who won Legs-it!"

May and Sturgeon had met to discuss vital differences in their approach to Britain's exit from the European Union and a possible second Scottish independence referendum that could break up the United Kingdom.

It was their legs however that drew the popular tabloid's attention, drawing complaints of sexism from some politicians and readers. An inside headline said their "pins" were the finest weapons at their command.

The newspaper said in a statement that the piece about the legs was a "lighthearted" side-bar alongside a serious political story, and urged critics to "get a life."

The statement said the Daily Mail often comments on the appearance of male poli-

tics, and asks if there is a rule that all political coverage must be dull.

A spokesman for Sturgeon said it is "slightly surprising" that when two leaders are discussing such important issues the newspaper's "main focus should be on their legs and what they are wearing."

Former Labour Party leader Ed Miliband was among politicians who derided it.

"The 1950s called and asked for their headline back," he tweeted.

But the British Vogue said the tabloid's latest "sexist headline" should not depress readers.

"Take a moment to consider this," the magazine says on its website. "Don't these women look magnificent? Don't they, whisper it, look like women, rather than women masquerading as men? Try to take a positive out of this sticky photocall: Here are two of the most powerful women in the world, with the confidence to promote their female sovereignty. All power to them." AP

RIVALS PARIS AND LONDON ANNOUNCE JOINT BUSINESS PLAN

PARIS AND London, traditional rivals when it comes to attracting tourists and industry, have signed a business agreement to cooperate in attracting visitors and companies. The two cities, which are linked by rail, have seen their rivalry intensify recently as Paris hopes to welcome finance jobs that are expected to leave London because of Brexit.

Yesterday, London Mayor Sadiq

Khan and Paris' Anne Hidalgo announced the Paris-London Business Welcome Program initiative. Hidalgo called it a "very positive dynamic that Brexit will not change." It will launch in 2018 to encourage trade and investment between the two cities, as well as focusing on promoting culture and heritage. The U.K. says that visitors to London and Paris spend in excess of 34 billion euros a year.

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Business Luncheon
Tuesday, 25th April
Guest Speaker: Prof. Philip F. Xie, Ph.D.
Dean, Faculty of Hospitality and Tourism Management
Macau University of Science and Technology

**"Macao at a Crossroads:
Diversification Strategies in Hospitality
and Tourism"**

Prof. Xie will discuss problems faced by the Tourism & Hospitality Industries in Macao; the needs & possibilities of tourism diversification to help trigger creativity and sustainability; as well as trends in the hospitality industry to shape guests' experiences. He will address future tourism potential & growth, and attach the importance of creative tourism and initiate the concept of smart hotels.

Prior to his current position, Prof. Xie was at Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA, where he was Chair of the Sport Management, Recreation & Tourism Division. He was School Director of Human Movement, Sport & Leisure Studies. Dr. Xie received his Ph.D. in planning from University of Waterloo, Canada in 2001. Prof. Xie undertakes research, writes and consults in the field of cultural heritage tourism; aboriginal tourism & the morphology of tourism.

Venue Oasis Private Room, 2/F
Galaxy Macau, Cotai
12.30: Drinks
1 pm: Lunch
1.45 pm: Presentation by Prof. Philip F. Xie
2.30 pm: Close

BBAM Members – MOP/HKD 400 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 600
Vegetarian dish to be requested by Friday 21st April
Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

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CLIMATE PLAN

Trump takes aim at Obama's efforts to curb global warming

Matthew Daly &
Jill Colvin, Washington

MOVING forward with a campaign pledge to unravel former President Barack Obama's sweeping plan to curb global warming, President Donald Trump will sign an executive order today [Macau time] that will suspend, rescind or flag for review more than a half-dozen measures in an effort to boost domestic energy production in the form of fossil fuels.

As part of the roll-back, Trump will initiate a review of the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants. The regulation, which was the former president's signature effort to curb carbon emissions, has been the subject of long-running legal challenges by Republican-led states and those who profit from burning oil, coal and gas.

Trump, who has called global warming a "hoax" invented by the Chinese, has repeatedly criticized the power-plant rule and others as an attack on American workers and the struggling U.S. coal industry. The contents of the order were outlined to reporters in a sometimes tense briefing with a senior White House official, whom aides insisted speak without attribution despite President Trump's criticism of the use of unnamed sources in the news media.

The official at one point appeared to break with mainstream climate science, denying familiarity with widely publicized concerns about the potential adverse economic impacts of climate change, such as rising sea levels and more extreme weather.

In addition to pulling back from the Clean Power Plan, the administration will also lift a 14-month-old moratorium on new coal



■ In addition to pulling back from the Clean Power Plan, Trump will also lift a moratorium on new coal leases on federal lands

leases on federal lands.

The Obama administration had imposed a three-year moratorium on new federal coal leases in January 2016, arguing that the USD1 billion-a-year program must be modernized to ensure a fair financial return to taxpayers and address climate change.

Trump accused his predecessor of waging a "war on coal" and boasted in a speech to Congress that he has made "a historic effort to massively reduce job-crushing regulations," including some that

threaten "the future and livelihoods of our great coal miners."

The order will also chip away at other regulations, including scrapping language on the "social cost" of greenhouse gases. It will initiate a review of efforts to reduce the emission of methane in oil and natural gas production as well as a Bureau of Land Management hydraulic fracturing rule, to determine whether those reflect the president's policy priorities.

It will also rescind Obama-era executive orders and memoranda, including one that addressed climate change and national security and one that sought to prepare the country for the impacts of climate change.

The administration is still in discussion about whether it intends to withdraw from the Paris Agreement on climate change. But the moves to be announced will undoubtedly make it more difficult for the U.S. to achieve its goals.

Trump's Environmental Protection Agency chief, Scott Pruitt, alarmed environmental groups and scientists earlier this month when he said he does not believe carbon dioxide is a primary con-

tributor to global warming. The statement is at odds with mainstream scientific consensus and Pruitt's own agency.

The overwhelming majority of peer-reviewed studies and climate scientists agree the planet is warming, mostly due to man-made sources, including carbon dioxide, methane, halocarbons and nitrogen oxide.

The official who briefed reporters said the president does believe in man-made climate change.

The power-plant rule Trump is set to address in his order has been on hold since last year as a federal appeals court considers a challenge by coal-friendly states and more than 100 companies who call the plan an unconstitutional power grab.

Opponents say the plan will kill coal-mining jobs and drive up electricity costs. The Obama administration, some Democratic-led states and environmental groups countered that it would spur thousands of clean-energy jobs and help the U.S. meet ambitious goals to reduce carbon pollution set by the international agreement signed in Paris.

Trump's order on coal-fired power plants follows an executive order he signed last month mandating a review of an Obama-era rule aimed at protecting small streams and wetlands from development and pollution. The order instructs the EPA and Army Corps of Engineers to review a rule that redefined "waters of the United States" protected under the Clean Water Act to include smaller creeks and wetlands.

While Republicans have blamed Obama-era environmental regulations for the loss of coal jobs, federal data shows that U.S. mines have been shedding jobs for decades under presidents from both parties as a result of increasing automation and competition from cheaper natural gas. Another factor is the plummeting cost of solar panels and wind turbines, which now can produce emissions-free electricity cheaper than burning coal.

According to an Energy Department analysis released in January, coal mining now accounts for fewer than 70,000 U.S. jobs. By contrast, renewable energy — including wind, solar and biofuels — now accounts for more than 650,000 U.S. jobs.

The Trump administration's plans drew praise from business groups and condemnation from environmental groups.

U.S. Chamber of Commerce President Thomas J. Donohue praised the president for taking "bold steps to make regulatory relief and energy security a top priority."

"These executive actions are a welcome departure from the previous administration's strategy of making energy more expensive through costly, job-killing regulations that choked our economy," he said.

Former EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy accused the Trump administration of wanting "us to travel back to when smokestacks damaged our health and polluted our air, instead of taking every opportunity to support clean jobs of the future."

"This is not just dangerous; it's embarrassing to us and our businesses on a global scale to be dismissing opportunities for new technologies, economic growth, and U.S. leadership," she said in a statement. **AP**

Cheney blasts Russia's alleged interference in US election

FORMER U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney has criticized Russia's alleged interference in the U.S. presidential election, calling it a hostile act.

Russian President Vladimir Putin made a serious attempt to interfere in the 2016 election and other democratic processes in America, Cheney said.

"In some quarters, that would be considered an

act of war," Cheney said in a speech this week at a conference in New Delhi.

Cheney said the Cold War was long over but Putin is on a course to re-establish Russian power following the collapse of the former Soviet Union.

"Putin has aspirations of trying to correct what he sees as a disaster. He has designs on the Baltics. He wanted Crimea and he

took it. And he is trying to undermine NATO," Cheney said.

Russian cyber interference is "the kind of conduct and activity that we'll see going forward," he said.

But he also warned that Russia should not "underestimate the weight that we as Americans assign at Russia's attempts to interfere in our democratic

processes."

Cheney's accusation comes at a time when both the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives intelligence committees are investigating possible Russian interference in the election that brought President Donald Trump to power.

Among the other threats faced by the United States, Cheney listed an aggressive

China, North Korea, Iran and the terror threat posed by the Islamic State group.

He described North Korea as the "most dangerous part of the world with an unpredictable head of government" who is developing nuclear warheads and missiles to add to his stockpile.

Cheney said these threats come at a time when the

U.S. military is at a "significantly diminished level" following eight years of budget cuts under the Obama administration.

The U.S. budget debate in the coming weeks will focus on how to allocate more funds to rebuild the military and restore the relationships that the United States had with its allies and adversaries in the past, he said. **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

WHAT THE SMURF?!
SMURFETTE IS SHUNNED IN
ISRAELI ULTRA-ORTHODOX CITY

Israel's pious ultra-Orthodox Jewish community has long chafed at public displays of women, whether the images are of female public figures or ordinary women.

Now even animated characters appear to be a no-go.

The PR company promoting "Smurfs: The Lost Village" movie, which opens tomorrow in Israel, says it has removed the images of Smurfette — the only female among the Smurf characters — from promo posters in the central Israeli city of Bnei Brak.

The Mirka'im-Hutzot Zahav company says it did so as not to offend the city's ultra-Orthodox residents.

The original poster shows Smurfette alongside friends Brainy, Clumsy and Hefty. But in Bnei Brak, she's nowhere to be found.

The ultra-Orthodox press in Israel has previously avoided publishing pictures of Hillary Clinton during last year's American presidential race.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Criminal Minds S.9
17:40	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Drama
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

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

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

1999 HANRATTY FAMILY WINS
RIGHT TO APPEAL

The case of James Hanratty has been sent back to the Court of Appeal - 37 years after he was hanged for the notorious A6 murder in Bedfordshire.

The Criminal Cases Review Commission, (CCRC), the body set up to investigate miscarriages of justice, has referred the case back to the courts after a two-year study of the evidence which convicted the 25-year-old.

New DNA evidence has emerged and a police inquiry into the conviction highlighted flaws in the original investigation.

Campaigners have produced new witnesses who insist Hanratty was 200 miles from the scene of the murder and have produced new evidence which calls into question eyewitness reports used to convict him.

Hanratty was hanged in Bedford Prison in April 1962, after being convicted of the murder of government scientist Michael Gregsten, 36, and assaulting Valerie Storie, 22, his laboratory assistant and mistress.

They were kidnapped from a cornfield in Berkshire in August 1961 and forced to drive 60 miles at gunpoint to Deadman's Hill in Bedfordshire, where Mr Gregsten was shot dead and Miss Storie was raped, shot and left for dead.

Miss Storie survived and picked out Hanratty at an identification parade from her hospital bed, where she lay paralysed from the waist down.

But Hanratty supporters said she had seen the attacker for only a few seconds during the six-hour ordeal, and failed to pick him out at the first police identity parade.

She later admitted her memory of the attacker was failing.

Hanratty insisted he was 250 miles from the scene in a bed-and-breakfast in Rhyl, North Wales, at the time of the attack and the landlady backed up his claim.

In the years after his execution a number of witnesses came forward to support the story.

Hanratty lost an appeal in 1962 and became one of the last men in Britain to be sent to the gallows.

He denied his guilt to the end and before he died he wrote to his brother Michael: "I'm dying tomorrow but I'm innocent. Clear my name."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Hanratty's case became a cause celebre, with politicians, pop stars, legal experts and writers, joining the campaign to prove he was the victim of a miscarriage of justice.

His family fought to clear his name and the CCRC decision in 1999 brought this opportunity.

During the case new forensic techniques not available at the time were used.

Hanratty's body was exhumed for DNA testing against traces found on Miss Storie's underwear and the handkerchief wrapped around the gun. After the test scientists said the DNA was 2.5 million times more likely to belong to Hanratty than anyone else.

Hanratty's family and lawyers argued these tests proved nothing because there was a real possibility evidence gathered in 1961 had been contaminated.

In 2002 his conviction was upheld at the Court of Appeal and a bid to have it heard at the House of Lords was rejected.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You are ready to put your ambition aside to pursue your social goals.

Taurus April 20-May 20 If you are convinced that you are right about a fact or issue today, how far are you willing to take it?

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When a suggestion is a good one, you should take it -- sometimes even if it goes against your own instincts.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Are you sure that you're getting the sleep you need? It's important to stay in tip-top shape right now to make the most of this highly productive period.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 One or two ego clashes are likely today, so prepare yourself for some disappointing behavior from people you used to respect.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 What important people say is very important today -- it could reveal some secrets and give you an edge over the competition.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 A new person in your life is serving as a sort of beacon for you. Their visionary ideas and bold suggestions might not be your style.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Communicating with your family might be difficult right now -- your feelings might be so complicated that you either don't feel like sharing them or don't know how to share them!

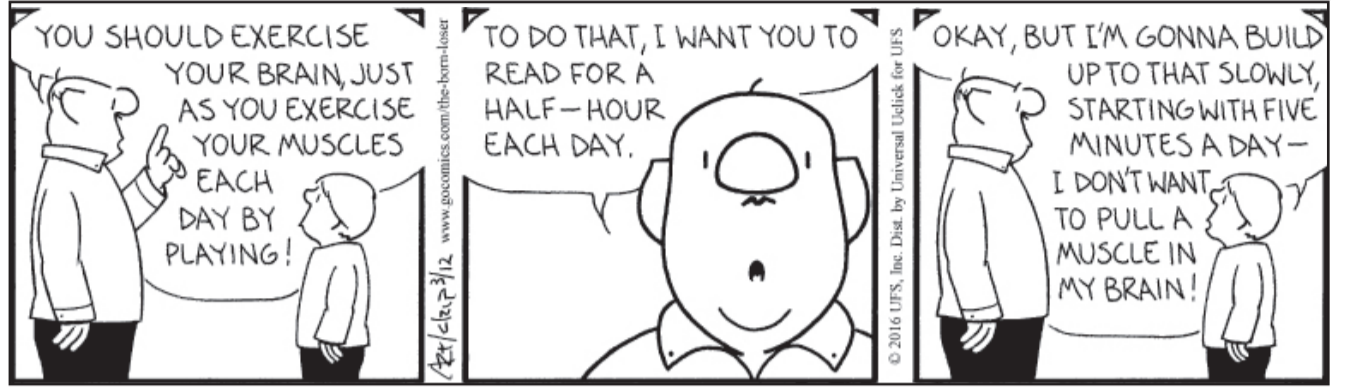
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People who have a lot of power over your life are going to be all around you today, so it's time to look your best and act your best.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your recent dreams have been vivid and rather entertaining, but do they hold valuable insight into how you can find happiness?

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You'll receive an inexpensive but impressive gift today -- and you should show your gratitude accordingly.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Focusing only on your day-to-day routine offers no stimulation whatsoever, no matter how interesting your days have been lately.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized as 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 the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Rat-; 5- Deteriorate; 8- Bounce back; 12- Used to be; 13- Corner; 15- Swedish import; 16- Enthusiastic vigor and liveliness; 17- Hersey's bell town; 18- Opposite of ecto-; 19- Become worse; 22- Naught; 23- Cigarette ingredient; 24- Writer Sarah Jewett; 26- In itself; 29- Register; 31- Flightless bird; 32- Enticed; 34- Cleft; 36- Pen points; 38- Tribal emblem; 40- Ages and ages; 41- Come after; 43- Capital of Yemen; 45- Society-page word; 46- Musical dramas; 48- Equilibrium; 50- Canal of song; 51- 401(k) relative; 52- Mandela's org.; 54- Ordinary; 61- Slay; 63- Like Thor; 64- Mil. school; 65- Sheltered; 66- Stone marker; 67- City near Phoenix; 68- Baseball's "Walking Man" Eddie; 69- Tokyo, formerly; 70- As previously given, in footnotes;

Yesterday's solution crossword puzzle grid with filled-in letters.

A crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

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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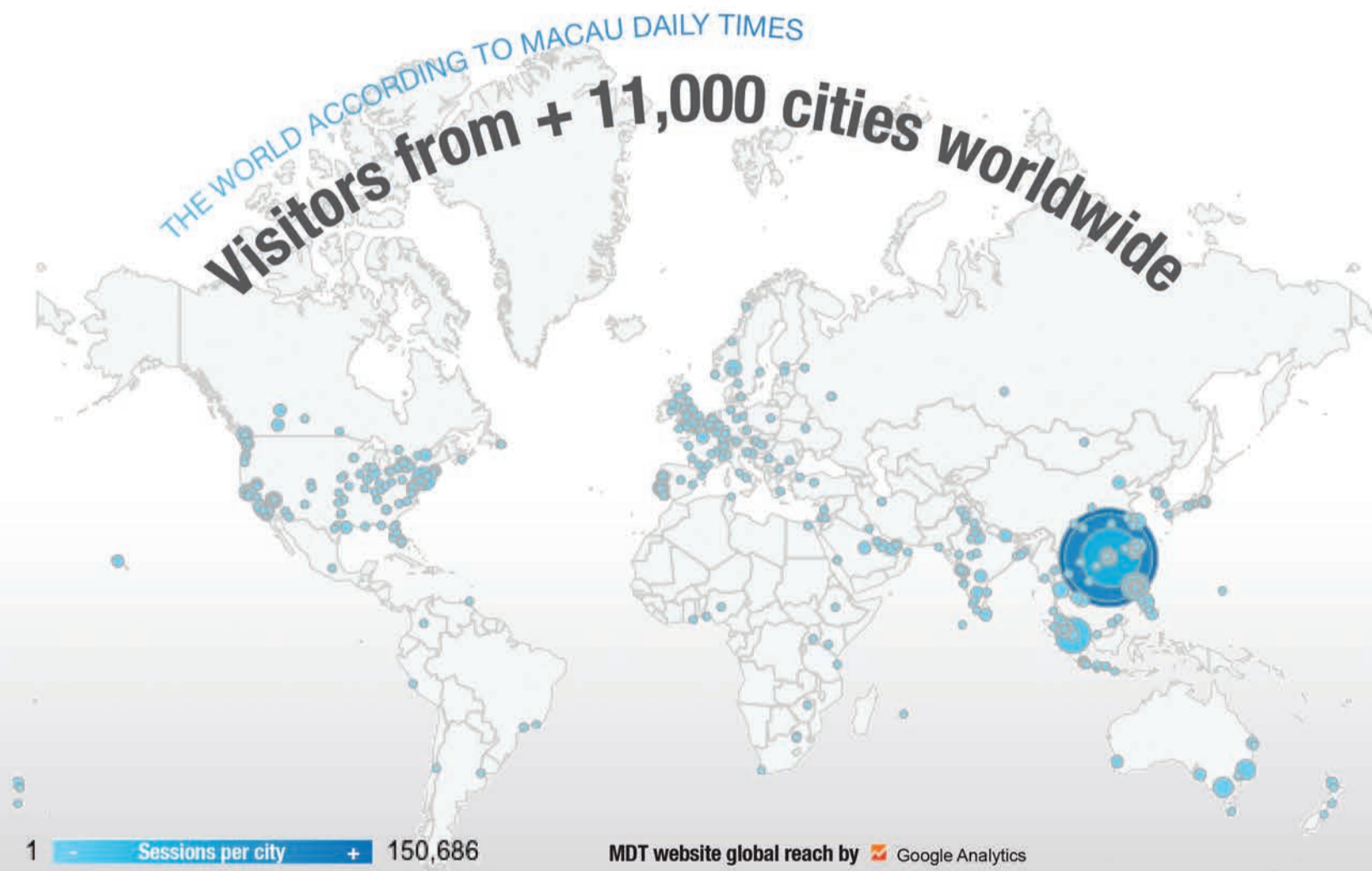
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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

WELCOME to Cristiano Ronaldo Airport. That will likely be the message awaiting passengers in the Madeira Islands when the local airport is renamed after the local star.

Ronaldo is expected to attend a ceremony at the airport outside his hometown of Funchal today, a day after his Portugal side plays Sweden in the city in a friendly.

It will be the first time Ronaldo plays with the national team in the city where he grew up. Funchal also features a Ronaldo statue, a museum about him, and a hotel complex named after him.

"This game is a great tribute to the people of Madeira, they deserve it," Ronaldo said on the Portuguese Football Federation website.

Portugal's squad landed on Monday at the airport, displaying the trophy it won at the 2016 European Championship in France.

A sign with the player's image was already being added to the facade of the airport, which until yesterday was called the Madeira International Airport.

The name change at the airport, known as one of the windiest in the world, attracted a lot of attention locally, with some politicians opposing it and saying that the footballer's name should be added to a stadium or another sporting venue. Some

Portugal airport to be named after Ronaldo near his hometown

said the Madeira regional government didn't have the legal right to make the name change without consulting the main government.

"Sometimes, national gratitude has short memory, but Madeira doesn't," Miguel Albuquerque, the president of the Madeira government, said when the name change was announced last year. He added that the tribute was fair considering Ronaldo's services to his homeland.

Sometimes, national gratitude has short memory, but Madeira doesn't.

MIGUEL ALBUQUERQUE
PRESIDENT OF THE MADEIRA GOV'T

Ronaldo is regarded as a promoter of Madeira, which is considered one of the world's top travel destinations.

A couple of years ago, he used his social media accounts to ask fans to vote for Madeira in a contest organized by the travel industry. The islands southwest of Portugal are known for their incredible landscapes, and their wine is known worldwide.

The islands are about 500 kilometers (310 miles) from the African coast, and some 1,000 kilometers (620 miles) from the European continent.

Ronaldo grew up in Funchal sharing a room with his older brother and two older sisters before moving to the mainland to join the youth squads of Sporting Lisbon. From there he made it to Manchester United and eventually to Real Madrid, becoming one of the world's biggest soccer stars. He received his fourth world player of the year award this year.

Last year, vandals painted Lionel Messi's name and jersey number on Ronaldo's statue after Messi received the world player prize.

The statue was unveiled in 2014 in the presence of Ronaldo and his close relatives. His family is also expected to attend the airport today. AP



A child touches a statue of Cristiano Ronaldo in Funchal



Ronaldo and Pepe (right) show off the Euro 2016 European championship trophy

Neymar sees Brazil as best team in the world



Neymar smiles during a press conference

Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

IN his first press conference as a Brazil player in more than 240 days, striker Neymar was not shy on Monday: he believes he is in the top moment of his career and plays for the best national team in the world.

The 25-year-old star also admitted he had to mature after a series of controversies on and off the pitch and promised Brazil would be one of the favorites in the next World Cup in Russia.

"There was never a dependency on Neymar. This is Brazil. If focused,

our team is the best," he told journalists before the South American zone leader's World Cup qualifying match against seventh-place Paraguay. "We know this, we are humble enough to respect our adversaries, we have to play. Sometimes one part or the other didn't fit. But coach Tite arrived and made adjustments. We are playing football. The players are not so different — it is the way of playing. Now everyone turns up."

But Neymar also accepted he had to change to get to the current level of play.

"We only learn when we get hurt or do something wrong. I already argued unnecessarily. I got yellow and red cards, harmed myself, harmed my teammates. But time makes us more mature. Nowadays I only think about playing football, I am better in every aspect," Neymar said in a press conference, alongside

Tite.

"Everyone needs time to get their heads straight so things calm down. I had my moment of being a little more silent, but now I am speaking again."

Beyond troubles on the pitch, Neymar also faces legal challenges in Spain due to suspicions of irregularities in his transfer from Santos to Barcelona. Tax authorities in Brazil are also investigating and have fined the striker, over which he is appealing. But that didn't stop the coach from giving the star the captaincy band for the game, a position Tite usually rotates.

"Neymar deserves the band, he is a skill leader and he is maturing despite unhuman pressure," Tite said.

Brazil's coach singled out a moment in his team's 4-1 victory at Uruguay on Thursday to show how much Neymar, who was often accused by rivals of diving and simulating in-

juries, had changed.

"In the last three games he was fouled more than 50 times and still remained focused on his game. Before he scored the third goal in the previous match, he knew [Uruguayan defender] Coates had already been booked and would be sent off if he had fallen. But he stood on his feet and scored," Tite said.

Although some already put him as future best player in the world, including big names like former Italian defender Alessandro Costacurta, Neymar rejected comparisons with multiple Ballon D'Or winners Cristiano Ronaldo and Lionel Messi, his teammate at Barcelona.

"I don't feel comfortable to compare," he said. "They are two geniuses who have had colossal performances. I admire both. One is on my side every day, is the best I've played with," the Brazilian said, adding Messi had

been key for his improvement.

"I was having a lot of difficulties in my beginning [at Barcelona]. Then the best in the world said 'Calm down, it will all fall into place, play your game.' It was great for me," Neymar said. "I was reticent about talking to an idol, but Messi helped me relax. We are friends and that helps on the pitch. I also get along with Luis Suarez, we always help each other. I am very happy for this moment that I am living."

Neymar said he was targeting another strong performance against Paraguay, but would be putting less pressure on himself.

"There has been a big change. We now have more confidence to seek our identity and we did it. No matter when or where, Brazil will always be one of the favorites for titles," Neymar said.

Brazil will qualify for the World Cup with four games in hand at the Arena Corinthians if it beats Paraguay and sees Chile and Ecuador failing to win home matches. AP

opinion

Markets Views

Andrea Wong, Bloomberg

THE BIGGEST RISK FROM THE DOLLAR'S DROP MAY NOT BE WHAT YOU WOULD GUESS

A high-risk corner of the USD5.1 trillion-a-day currency market has become the collateral damage of the dollar selloff.

Whipsawed by the greenback and confronted by U.S. policy confusion, carry trades were supposed to be a rare bright spot for investors who want to stay away from the world's biggest reserve currency. Under the strategy, you borrow in low-rate alternatives such as the yen, and buy high-yielding peers like the Mexican peso, benefiting from low volatility and the emerging-market rally.

Practitioners of the carry trade are learning there's no hiding from the dollar's influence. Growing doubts about the outlook for U.S. policy following the failed attempt at health-care reform not only led to a weaker dollar, it also caused investors to pile into havens such as the yen and the euro - the funding currencies carry traders sell as part of the strategy. The Japanese currency gained 2.2 percent against the dollar this month, while the euro rose 2.7 percent.

"The carry trade is far more important than the dollar move in the changing the currency market," said Bob Savage, chief executive officer of hedge fund CCTrack Solutions LLC in New York. "The rise in the yen may actually put the trade at risk. The dollar itself doesn't affect the biggest FX trade out there, but the yen does."

There's no hard evidence available in analyzing the scale of carry trades. But according to Bank of America Corp.'s flow data, buying emerging-market currencies made up the biggest long position as of last week. The data blend positioning and sentiment surveys conducted with its hedge fund and real-money clients, and publicly available futures data.

Nonetheless, carry traders could still make a profit because of yield differentials or appreciation in emerging-market currencies. At a time when most investors have capitulated on the strong-dollar bet and currency funds struggle to yield any return for yet another year, the carry strategy may be the last oasis.

In fact, the trade is still worth it even though the funding leg of the trade goes south, according to Societe Generale SA, and investors should buy currencies such as Russia's ruble, the Turkish lira or India's rupee against the euro.

"High yielding currencies should outperform a basket of low yielders over the near term," Guy Stear, head of emerging markets and credit research at Societe Generale, wrote in a note published March 24. "Global markets remain enamored of risk and emerging markets have been no exception."



THE 'CARLOS THE JACKAL' SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR 1974 ATTACK

The man known as "Carlos the Jackal" has been convicted in a French court of a deadly 1974 attack on a Paris shopping arcade and sentenced to life in prison for the third time.

The Venezuelan-born Ilich Ramirez Sanchez is already serving two life sentences in France for murders and attacks he was convicted of perpetrating or organizing on behalf of the Palestinian cause or of communist revolution

in the 1970s and '80s.

As the trial wrapped yesterday, the 67-year-old known worldwide as "Carlos" denounced "an absurd trial" for a 42-year-old crime. Carlos had denied involvement, saying there was no proof against him.

Five judges found Carlos, the only defendant, guilty of throwing a grenade onto a shopping area, killing two and injuring 32.

American Airlines buys stake in China Southern Airlines



Joe McDonald, Beijing

American Airlines has agreed to pay USD200 million for a stake in China Southern Airlines, the biggest of China's three major state-owned carriers, in a bid for a bigger share of the country's growing travel market.

American and China Southern will expand commercial cooperation, possibly in sales, airport facilities and code-sharing, the Chinese airline said in an announcement yesterday through the Hong Kong stock exchange. It said the deal represents 2.76 percent of China Southern's shares and requires regulatory approval.

Foreign carriers are forging steadily closer ties with Chinese airlines to gain a bigger share of China's air travel market, which is growing strongly while travel in Europe and North America is leveling off. In exchange, Chinese carriers get access to

experience and management skills.

China is forecast to pass North America over the next two decades as the biggest air travel market.

China's economic growth is slowing but tourism spending is rising as communist leaders encourage growth of service businesses in an effort to reduce reliance on heavy industry.

Chinese spending on air travel rose 10.6 percent in 2015, compared with 1.7 percent in the United States, according to the International Air Travel Association.

Two years ago, Delta Airlines paid \$450 million for 3.55 percent of China Eastern Airlines. The third major U.S. carrier, United Airlines, has a partnership with Air China, the third major Chinese government-owned airline. Hong Kong-based Cathay Pacific Airlines owns 18 percent of Air China.

Regulators in both China

and the United States are reluctant to allow large foreign ownership stakes or management control of their airlines.

China Southern, headquartered in Guangzhou, near Hong Kong, is China's biggest carrier by passenger volume but is known for sometimes haphazard service, with flights delayed or canceled with little notice.

China Southern says it operates more than 2,000 flights a day to 224 destinations in 40 countries and regions in Asia, Europe, North America and Africa. It says it carried 115 million passengers in 2016.

The partnership with American Airlines "is expected to provide continuous impetus for the company's long-term growth," said China Southern's announcement.

American, headquartered in Fort Worth, Texas, says it operates 6,700 flights a day to nearly 350 destinations in more than 50 countries. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Thailand's National Parks/Freeland via AP



Year of the Tiger. Conservationists say that the critically endangered Indochinese tiger is breeding in a Thai jungle, giving hope for the survival of an animal whose total population may be around 220 in two countries only, Thailand and Myanmar.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	40-60 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

AUSTRALIA A powerful cyclone packing winds of up to 260 kilometers per hour roared across Australia's tropical northeast yesterday, uprooting trees, tearing down fences and knocking out power to thousands, officials said. *More on p12*



PAKISTAN A health official says a special anti-polio drive has been launched in Islamabad after traces of the virus were found in the city's sewage system. The virus was detected weeks ago but so far no cases have been reported in Islamabad.



RUSSIA-IRAN Russia and Iran have agreed to boost their energy ties and continue joint efforts to help reach peace in Syria and Afghanistan. Russian President Vladimir Putin said after yesterday's talks with his Iranian counterpart that Moscow and Tehran will continue to "strengthen cooperation in the fight against international terrorism."

BRITAIN Scottish lawmakers voted yesterday to seek a new referendum on independence, to be held within the next two years. The Edinburgh-based legislature voted 69-59 to back First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's call to ask the British government for an independence vote. *More on p14*

EU Leaders from Central Europe said yesterday they reject a European Union policy that calls for all member states to receive migrants, protesting suggestions that the level of their compliance could be linked to the availability of EU funds to them.