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China's government confirmed it is holding a Taiwanese activist who arrived to Macau on March 19 before disappearing

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**WORLD BRIEFS**



**MYANMAR** An armed militant group fighting Myanmar's government on behalf of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority has issued a statement asserting its right to self-defense and denying links to any terrorist group. The statement issued 20 demands to the government for ensuring Rohingya rights. **More on p13**

**AUSTRALIA** Residents of the cyclone-battered tropical northeast emerged from their homes yesterday to find roofs lying in their yards, boats flung onto rocks and roads blocked by tangles of fallen trees and power lines, as emergency officials tried to reach communities cut off by the powerful storm.



**NEPAL** Mountaineering expedition organizers in Nepal are sending huge trash bags with climbers on Mount Everest during the spring climbing season to collect trash that then can be winched by helicopters back to the base camp.

**INDIA** Mobs have repeatedly attacked Africans in a New Delhi suburb in recent days after rumors that a local boy had been kidnapped by Nigerians. A mob of people is searching the area for Africans, with some accusing kidnapers of eating the boy.

More on backpage

**HO CHIO MENG TRIAL**

**Polytec owner accused of collusion with Ho** P3



**It's over: Britain files for divorce from the European Union** P7,14-15





## Places available for MAM's Spring Art Courses

The Macau Museum of Art (MAM) will host its annual Spring Art Courses from early April until the end of June this year. The first admission list of selected candidates has been announced on MAM's webpage, with limited seats still available on some courses. The Spring Art Courses feature 22 classes for which nearly 700 applications have been received. Seats are still available in several art workshops, including "Crazy Art: Children's Creative Workshop," "Creativity and Fact Recording in History Paintings", and "Travelling the Inner Harbor with Drawings: Scenery Sketching" which takes an overview of the coastal view along the Inner Harbor to tell the story of Macau's transformation.

## Chief Executive to attend AL meeting on April 21

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, will attend a plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) on April 21 where he will answer legislators' questions on government policy and social issues. The session will start at 3 p.m. and will be broadcast live on television and radio channels of public broadcaster TDM. In addition to attending plenary sessions of the Assembly every year to deliver the Policy Address regarding the following fiscal year, the Chief Executive also attends two AL plenary meetings.

## Live jazz on LMA

Live jazz music is about to get a permanent venue in Macau. Starting on April 2, the Live Music Association (LMA), located on avenue Do Coronel Mesquita, will host live sessions from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. The event is promoted by the Jazz Club. Local veteran band "The Bridge" will inaugurate the sessions.

Lynzy Valles

**A**LTHOUGH the local government is seeking to establish Macau as a "Smart City," even listing this aim in its five-year plan, a scholar has argued that unless the government builds an administration that focuses on urban development, its plan will not be realized.

Since Macau is facing issues with high density, traffic and a lack of space, Francisco Vizeu Pinheiro, an architect and assistant professor at the University of Saint Joseph, suggested that the region's solutions should be customized rather than imitated from other locations.

Speaking on the sidelines of the French Macau Business Association monthly breakfast meeting, the architect critiqued the local government, noting the lack of coordination between departments.

"In Macau we have different government departments with different objectives without a central plan, so that's why there is a lot of lack of coordination," Pinheiro told the Times.

## In Macau we have different gov't departments with different objectives.

VIZEU PINHEIRO

Although some of the concepts of a Smart City may work in the region, an entity similar to Singapore's Urban Development Authority which implements laws,

# Architect: Macau should expand using Hengqin, Zhuhai land



Vizeu Pinheiro

designs of building codes, master plans and such, is needed in the MSAR, according to the assistant professor.

"We cannot continue what have done until now, that is in a scattered way with a lack of central planning. A small city such as Macau should have it," he explained. "That's why Macau is less effective than Singapore, Shanghai or Beijing, where the structure, planning and structure management are more integrated," he said.

Meanwhile, as the region has conducted several land reclamations due to its lack of space, Pinheiro believes that Macau should focus on developing land available in Zhuhai or Hengqin – particularly when constructing public housing.

Pinheiro noted that the process of reclaiming land in Macau is slow; thus when all the works, including the construction of residential buildings, are completed, it will not be sufficient to address the region's need for housing given

that this may take up to ten years.

"It's an advantage to Macau citizens, but it's a political question about the willingness. I think the University of Macau is a good predecessor for these kinds of solutions and should serve as an example for housing and other facilities," he said.

In terms of diversifying the region's offerings, Pinheiro suggested that the MSAR construct a maritime museum to showcase the nautical history of cooperation between China and Portugal.

The scholar added that Macau could also consider integrating medical tourism within the territory to attract millions more visitors from China, as there is more trust in the medical western system than in the mainland's system.

When asked about other factors hindering Macau from expanding into other markets, the expert suggested: "The planners in the government should be more daring," adding that Macau should be able to foresee its direction and industry over the next 20 years.

## LAI CHI VUN DEMOLITION A 'BAD INCIDENT'

**COMMENTING ON** the demolition of two delapidated shipyards at Lai Chi Vun, Pinheiro expressed the belief that there is a lack of communication between government departments, and inadequate participation from locals. "I think it's very bad that the place was demolished. We know there were some plans by government authorities before the demolition went ahead," he lamented. Pinheiro also criticized

that the heritage site was destroyed, contrary to UNESCO's mandates regarding heritage conservationism. "If this is just for real estate or commercial use, the place would lose its characteristics very fast," he concluded. The area of Lai Chi Vun showed the real size of Portuguese and Chinese ships. According to him, Lai Chi Vun's significance lay in its proof of the historic cooperation between east and west.

## CEM pledges to 'adopt more low-carbon emission approaches'



**D**URING yesterday's Annual General Meeting of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM), the company's board of directors pledged to "adopt more low-carbon emission approaches in power

generation during this year."

It was noted that the natural gas supply for Coloane Power Station B resumed in March 2017, which is projected to lead to an increase in the proportion of power

generated locally.

CEM will focus on three main areas for business development including the continued discussion with MSAR authorities over building new combined cycle gas turbine generator units, infrastructure improvement on the smart metering pilot project, the construction of the LEED-certified new Dispatching Centre, the expansion of the electric vehicle charging network in different districts, and increased and

better communication between customers and the community.

The Annual General Meeting also approved the content of the 2016 Financial Statements and Annual Report. As previously reported by the Times, last year, power consumption in the MSAR increased by 5.8 percent year-on-year to a record high of 5,255 GWh, while peak demand climbed by 5.6 percent year-on-year to 932 MW. CEM reported a final net profit

of MOP746 million for 2016.

The increase of overall power consumption in Macau, prompted an increase in local power generation by 4.6 percent to 787 GWh from 2015, accounting for 15 percent of the total power consumption of Macau. In addition, energy imported from mainland China in 2016 also went up 6.2 percent to 4,306 GWh compared with 2015, which provided 81.9 percent of the total power consumption.

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Renato Marques

## COURTS

# Ho Chio Meng to judge, journalists: 'Help me, please'

**T**HE former public prosecutor general, Ho Chio Meng called yesterday for the help of the court and journalists present at the latest session of the trial in which he is defendant.

As has become the pattern over the course of proceedings, just before the lunch break of yesterday's session, the defendant stood to comment on facts previously discussed during the hearing of an investigator from the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) who had investigated Ho's case.

However, this time Ho requested the court's assistance to obtain important information from the three witnesses who were listed to be heard during last week's court sessions but did not attend.

"They could testify. They could prove many important things like the use of the Teachers' Resting Room and of the Cheoc Van villa and also the trip to Denmark," Ho said anxiously.

During the statement, Ho partially revealed the identity of these witnesses, noting that they were the director of the Public Prosecutions Office of Guangdong province, the head of the Public Prosecutions Office of the city of Zhuhai and "the most important one," a high ranked official from China's Supreme Court.

Regarding the Supreme Court official, Ho remarked that he knew they could not come to Macau to testify due to the "one country, two systems" constitutional principle, but he requested the help of the Court of Final Appeal (TUI) to find ways to hear their testimony regardless.

Previously (on at least two instances during the first sessions of the case), Ho had requested help from the Liaison Office which had "refused to help him," saying that people he believed to be friends had turned their backs on him.

Exiting the courtroom yesterday, Ho addressed a similar call for help to the journalists, saying "Help me, please."

During the morning session, the court proceeded with the hearing of a CCAC investigator reviewed the findings from the department related to contracts awarded for cleaning and security, plague prevention, copying machines maintenance and air conditioning, rental and plant maintenance.

The witness, with the help of the prosecution, sought to establish a link between the contracts, proposals, and minutes found within the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) archives with the support of

RENATO MARQUES



electronic documents found on MP computers and other electronic devices, primarily from Lam Hou Un and Wang Xiandi. Both Lam and Wang are also accused of taking part in the scheme to benefit from the profits of an alleged criminal organization led by Ho.

**They could testify. They could prove many important things like the use of the Teachers' Resting Room and of the Cheoc Van villa.**

HO CHIO MENG

The investigator tried to prove that the accused would take "commissions greater than usual," for these contracts, in addition to the fact that several measures were taken within the MP to evade the law in different ways to directly award contracts instead of going through the mandatory public tender process.

On the other hand, the defendant's lawyer, Oriana Pun,

sought to refute questioning on the position Ho held in relation to those cases.

The investigator replied that the former prosecutor general, in the cases prior to 2011, had signed the final proposal that led to the contracts being awarded.

Pun also remarked that two people who were not defendants in any of the cases have also spoken on the matter, calling for the presentation

of concrete evidence that Ho knew of the issue, and moreover, actually directed the contracts to be awarded.

The investigator then commented on the creation of the so-called "general management group," which was created by Ho, and was allegedly responsible for the processes that led to the criminal acts.

Pun once again asked for proof that Ho was directly involved, but the investigator

failed to provide it, claiming, "they are in some small things."

Also in his remarks before the lunch break, Ho expressed his repulsion over the prospect that the "general management group" had sought to commit crimes, explaining that the group was "created to do many works that no department wanted to take. Small and diverse things that were important."

## Polytec owner involved in Ho's trial

**O**R Wai Sheun, real estate tycoon and owner of Polytec Group, was unexpectedly involved in Ho Chio Meng's trial yesterday.

Or was suggested to be involved in Ho's acquisition of an apartment in the Villa del Mer building, a development of Polytec Group in the Areia Preta area.

The accusation is that the residential unit was acquired for a discount of about 25 percent from market value (around HKD 2 million) by Mak Im Tai, one of the alleged leaders of one of the shelf companies, who is being trialed separately in the Court of First Instance (TJB).

Mak was allegedly a friend and a partner of Or in other businesses, and was afforded special benefits in acquisitions, benefits that he eventually passed to Chao Sio Fu, Ho's wife, with the consent of Or.

The information came during the hearing of three witnesses who were all managers in different departments within Polytec Group.

The last of the three was a member of the finance department named Ip, and she admitted to have been the person who provided extensive information to the TUI on the case.

However, she did not fully explain at the time the unaccounted figure of HDK2 million, despi-

te the presence of receipts for the sum. During yesterday's trial, she explained that this was because it "covered" the discount offered by Or to Mak, as the sum was eventually paid back into Polytec Group accounts with money allegedly from the owner of the company who had given orders to use an account from another company owned by Or - Hongs Trading company - to repay the missing money. Polytec is listed on the Hong Kong stock market and could not risk being penalized for these actions.

Ip sought to explain why Or and Polytec Group took so many risks and performed several illegal financial tasks to benefit the former public prosecutor.

She said that such activities were "not exceptional within the company," although she failed to give concrete figures on how many times similar acts were done in the past.

Before the closing of the session, Ho made a statement, saying, "I have no knowledge of any benefit or discount given to me," stating once again that the house was bought in his wife's name.

Ho also said that he paid the price in full "believing that was the family [brothers and sisters] that had paid that first part."



GAMING

# Saipan casino opening will likely be delayed

Daniel Beitler

**I**MPERIAL Pacific International Holding's Saipan casino project is unlikely to meet its first quarter opening deadline it has emerged, with construction of the integrated resort still far from completion.

Imperial Pacific had announced in January that the new casino would launch "in the first quarter of 2017," with the possibility of a "soft opening" on March 31.

However, pictures of the integrated resort, taken at the end of last month and sent to the Times, indicate that the resort will not be able to meet this deadline.

According to a source with knowledge on the matter who asked not to be identified, as of late last month, "the [building's] structure wasn't even finished yet."

The source also told the Times that within Saipan's internal political dialogue, there appears to be a disagreement between incumbent governor Ralph Torres and the attorney general of the Northern Mariana Islands, Edward Manibusan.

Manibusan has reservations over



This February 25, 2017 photo shows the under-construction integrated resort in Saipan

allowing the casino to partially open while construction works are underway, while the governor is allegedly lobbying for permission to operate under such conditions.

"Cranes are still overhead and the Saipan attorney general does not want people going into a construction site but the governor is leaning very heavily on him to grant approval for a partial opening despite cranes operating overhead," the source informed the Times.

It was revealed earlier this week that

Ralph Torres had been invited on a fact-finding mission to Hong Kong and Macau in 2013 that may have been arranged by a firm connected to Imperial Pacific. Soon after, Imperial Pacific was awarded the contract to build a casino on the island, reported Bloomberg.

Late last month, the company started the process of applying to local authorities for a delay in the casino's opening, as well as an extension to the operation of its temporary casino.

Imperial Pacific has already submitted a formal request for the extension of the temporary casino, which opened in July 2015 and was due to close on April 30 this year. The request proposes October 31, 2017 as the new deadline for its closure.

Meanwhile, the permanent casino would begin operations from February 11, 2018, and not as originally planned in August this year.

According to the Marianas Variety newspaper, the company has justified the need for an extension to complete the construction works on the basis of "extensive damage to the construction site and office" caused by a powerful typhoon in 2015.

# Melco announces official name change



**M**ELCO Crown Entertainment Limited announced the company's official name change from "Melco Crown Entertainment Limited" to "Melco Resorts & Entertainment Limited" yesterday. The name change will become effective upon registration of the gaming operator's new name by the Registrar of Companies in the Cayman Islands. The company also announced its intention to change its NASDAQ ticker symbol from "MPEL" to "MLCO". While the English name of the company has changed, however, the company's Chinese name remains the same. The effective date of the name change and the

ticker symbol change will be announced at a later date.

The move comes subsequent to Melco International Development Limited's purchase of additional interest in Melco Crown Entertainment (MCE) in February, thereby assuming majority ownership of the company. Melco now holds approximately 51.3 percent of MCE whereas previously it owned approximately 37.9 percent.

In light of this change, MCE's management proposed a special resolution on March 29 at the company's annual general meeting, to change the company's English name, receiving shareholders' approval.

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# Sino-Luso Int'l Medical Forum starts today

**T**HE 36th Sino-Luso International Medical Forum in Macau will be held in the city between March 30 (today) and April 2, with the title "Best Practice in Medical Education and Surgical Skills," according to organizers.

The Forum constitutes a symposium and a number of surgical workshops, which will share some of the latest developments in the field of medical education.

The event's stated objective is to "promote excellence in all aspects of medical education" and also to support Macau's medical educational development. According to organizers, it encourages research in medical education through international exchange and scientific symposiums to benefit frontline healthcare workers.

"It is my pleasure to welcome international and local healthcare providers to this special medical symposium and surgical workshops in Macau," said the president of the Forum, Manson Fok, according to a statement signed by representatives of the Macau University of Science and Technology.

"This medical training series is our contribution to the improvement of efforts taken to tackle the needs of high quality medical education in this city and region," continued Fok. "We all expect that this decade will see great advances in the field of medical and surgical education in research and innovations especially in this dynamic region."

One of the medical education experts attending this edition of the Forum is Professor Madalena Patriocio, a former president of the Association of Medical Education of Europe.

"It is great to see this reciprocal support aimed at improving health education in Macau together with Portuguese-speaking countries," she said, according to the statement.

Among the other notable attendees are two speakers from Australia who will bring new curriculum designs to the Forum and perspectives to the discussion on medical education. An experienced vascular surgeon, Professor Bill Tennent will speak on the topic, "How to set up a surgical skill course."

## MUSIC

# Marcel Khalife to play in Macau



**T**HE Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) announced that a concert by Marcel Khalife will be held on June 17. Dubbed one of the most prolific contemporary Arabic musicians, the Lebanese singer and oud master is acclaimed worldwide for his avant-garde compositions.

Born in the Middle-East, a region that has been characterized by much warfare and instability, Khalife never stopped dreaming about peaceful reconciliation in his multi-re-

ligious society. His contributions to the promotion of arts and culture have earned him recognition through numerous prizes such as the Palestine Award for music in 1999, UNESCO's Artist for Peace awarded in 2005, and the Académie Charles Cros Award in 2007.

Combining the tradition of the oud (an ancestor of the European lute) with classical, jazz and folk idioms, Khalife has taken his unique sound to festivals around the globe,

from Morocco's World Sacred Music Festival, to Sweden's Re Orient. Aside from his live concerts, Khalife's compositions have also caught the attention of reputed musical ensembles, with his scores being interpreted by the likes of the San Francisco Chamber Orchestra and the Royal Oman Symphony.

Tickets at various prices and discounts will be available at CCM's box office and MacauTicketing Network outlets from April 2.

AD

28.03 / 15.04

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<p><b>28.03</b>   18.30h   <b>Marionetas Asiáticas   亞洲派對   Asian Puppets</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 colaboração privada de   private collaboration: Elisa Vilaça</p>	<p><b>2.04</b>   15.00h   <b>"The Vaudeville" &amp; "Small Rhesus Monkey"</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 com   by: Hong Kong Puppet and Shadow Art Center</p>
<p><b>31.03</b>   10.30h   <b>Capuchinho Vermelho   紅帽   Red Riding Hood</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Jardim de Infância D. José da Costa Nunes 魯彌士主教幼稚園 com   by: Elisa Vilaça</p>	<p><b>2.04</b>   16.00h   <b>En Cantos   BB 保你大   In Chants</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 com   by: Elisa Vilaça música ao vivo com   live music with: Tomás Ramos de Deus e Miguel Andrade</p>
<p><b>1.04</b>   15.00h   <b>"The Vaudeville" &amp; "Drunk Zhong Kui"</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 com   by: Hong Kong Puppet and Shadow Art Center</p>	<p><b>2.04</b>   18.30h   <b>Mono   單聲道</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Edif. Ind. Nam Fung, 13<sup>o</sup> andar D, Areia Preta, Macau 澳門馬撈度博士大馬路, 431號至487號, 南豐工業大廈, 13樓D座 com   by: Sérgio Rolo</p>
<p><b>1.04</b>   16.00h   <b>En Cantos   BB 保你大   In Chants</b></p> <p>local   劇場   venue: Casa Garden 東方基金會會址 com   by: Elisa Vilaça música ao vivo com   live music with: Tomás Ramos de Deus e Miguel Andrade</p>	

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NG LAP SENG CASE

# Assistant in bribery case plea talks

**M**ACAU billionaire Ng Lap Seng's assistant, Jeff Yin, who is standing trial in New York over several charges including bribery, is now in plea talks with the prosecution, his lawyer said yesterday [Macau time].

A plea bargain is an agreement in a criminal case between the prosecution and the defendant whereby the latter agrees to plead guilty in exchange for some sort of concession from the prosecutor, typically a more lenient sentence.

The information was published in a letter filed in a Manhattan federal court by Yin's lawyer, which noted that prosecutors had agreed to negotiate a plea bargain.

His lawyer, Sabrina Shroff, is seeking to have the court deadlines extended so that Yin can consider the offer. According to Reuters, Shroff said in the letter that the offer is "complex and involves



Ng Lap Seng (left)

civil tax assessment and liabilities."

She would not comment directly to Reuters on the plea bargain, nor would Ng's lawyer or the U.S. Attorney's Office in Manhattan.

Yin, who is a U.S. citizen based in California, is standing trial alongside his employer, Ng Lap Seng. Both are accused of committing a number crimes, ranging from bribery, money laundering and tax evasion charges, and could face prison time if convicted.

It is not clear at this stage

which of the charges Yin would plead guilty to under the terms of the plea bargain.

Ng and Yin are accused paying USD500,000 in bribes to former United Nations General Assembly President John Ashe, who died in June under mysterious circumstances while awaiting trial.

The objective was to secure Ashe's support for a U.N.-backed conference center in Macau, which would be constructed by Ng's real estate company and would allegedly serve as his legacy in the MSAR.

ELECTION

# CAEAL to set limits on noise levels in public places during campaign

**T**HE Electoral Affairs Commission for the Legislative Assembly Election (CAEAL) plans to set limits on the level of noise that can be produced in public places during the campaigning period in a bid to mitigate noise pollution.

The chairman of the Commission, Tong Hio Fong, said yesterday that the Commission "hopes to achieve a balance between the promotion efforts of campaign teams and the variety of lifestyles in the community, given that a number of people work shifts as part of round-the-clock services," according to a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau.

Tong briefed the press yesterday after a meeting with representatives of the Environmental Protection Bureau to discuss issues associated with the election which will be held on September 17.

CAEAL claims that regulating the noise level generated by campaigning events will be relatively difficult so it plans instead take into consideration the scheduled time of any proposed event to check if its occurrence is prohibited by existing regulations. However, the Commission noted that campaign promotion via broadcast-

ing vans or use of other equipment was within the rights of campaign teams.

Tong also mentioned a meeting held on Tuesday between a member of the Commission and representatives from the Macau People with Visually Impaired Right Promotion Association. The meeting was held to discuss issues relating to the design of ballots and of voting procedures for the visually impaired, after the association voiced their concern about the initial arrangements.

According to CAEAL, "the idea of designing a ballot specially for the visually impaired is to allow such people an alternate method of voting. They can, if they prefer – and as in previous elections – ask for assistance in casting their vote from someone they trust."

Regarding the allocation of polling stations, Mr Tong said the Commission would choose schools and facilities of public entities as ballot stations. CAEAL is still looking for appropriate venues given that some venues used in previous elections will be undergoing construction work at the time of the upcoming election. CAEAL plans to operate around 33 polling stations.

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# Stock markets, pound subdued as UK triggers Brexit request

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

**W**ORLD stock markets were subdued yesterday as Britain triggered the start of its exit from the European Union, a formal step that kicks off two years of negotiations that will have wide-ranging consequences for business in the region.

**KEEPING SCORE:** Britain's FTSE 100 was faring worst in Europe, dropping 0.4 percent to 7,317. Germany's DAX climbed 0.4 percent to 12,200 and France's CAC 40 added 0.1 percent to 5,050. U.S. stocks were poised to open higher. Dow and S&P 500 futures were flat.

**BREXIT:** British Prime Minister Theresa May triggered Article 50 of the EU's treaty, meaning it begins talks on how to exit the bloc and on creating a new trade relationship. Though no more details on the talks were revealed yesterday, the issues to be discussed over two



years will affect business: from tariffs to economic cooperation. The pound was down ahead of May's formal announcement, but recovered slightly after that, to trade down 0.1 percent on the day at USD1.2434.

**QUOTE WORTHY:** "While it is certain that today will go down in history as the day the U.K. decided to start an irreversible Brexit process that will terminate its 44-year-old membership with the EU, the

outcome remains an uncertainty that may leave investors on edge," said Lukman Otunuga, analyst at foreign exchange trader FXTM.

**CONFIDENCE RISING:** Supporting investors' moods

earlier in the day was more evidence that the U.S. economy, the world's biggest, continues to strengthen. The Conference Board's consumer confidence index rose in March to its highest level since 2000, in an upbeat sign of consumers' future expectations. Also, U.S. home prices in January jumped at the fastest pace in nearly 2½ years because the tightening supply of houses for sale sparked bidding wars in many cities.

**ASIA'S DAY:** Tokyo's benchmark Nikkei 225 index edged up 0.1 percent to close at 19,217.48 while South Korea's Kospi rose 0.2 percent to 2,166.98. Hong Kong's Hang Seng added 0.2 percent to 24,392.05, but the Shanghai Composite index lost 0.4 percent to 3,241.31. Australia's S&P/ASX 200 rose 0.9 percent to 5,873.50.

**CURRENCIES:** The dollar strengthened to 110.89 yen from 110.57 yen. The euro fell to \$1.0756 from \$1.0810.

**ENERGY:** Benchmark U.S. crude oil futures rose 20 cents to \$48.57 a barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 64 cents on Tuesday. Brent crude, used to price international oils, climbed 24 cents to \$51.57 a barrel in London. **AP**

**2017MIECF**  
Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition  
2017年澳門國際環保合作發展論壇及展覽

Ufi Approved Event

## GRAND OPENING

### 30/03-01/04/2017

創新綠色發展 — 可持續的未來

Innovative Green Development for Sustainable Future

Host: 中華人民共和國澳門特別行政區政府  
Government of the Macao Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China

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**Special Supporting Organisations:**  
National Development and Reform Commission of the People's Republic of China  
Ministry of Science and Technology of the People's Republic of China  
Ministry of Industry and Information Technology of the People's Republic of China  
Ministry of Environmental Protection of the People's Republic of China

**Co-organisers:**  
People's Government of Fujian Province  
People's Government of Jiangxi Province  
People's Government of Hunan Province  
People's Government of Guangdong Province  
People's Government of Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region  
People's Government of Hainan Province  
People's Government of Sichuan Province  
People's Government of Guizhou Province  
People's Government of Yunnan Province  
Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

**Host Co-ordinators:**  
Government Agencies of the Macao Special Administrative Region  
Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM)  
Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA)

**Event Manager:**  
Koelnmesse Pte Ltd.

Highlights of the Official Events		
30/3/2017 (Thursday)		
10:00 - 11:30	Opening Ceremony for 2017MIECF Keynote Speech: Mr. Achim Steiner	The Venetian Ballroom
11:00 - 18:30	Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching	Expo Hall A
Green Forum, Green Business Co-operation Day and Signing Ceremony		
14:00 - 15:30	Session 1 Future of Manufacturing – Innovative Sustainable Economy	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
16:00 - 17:30	Session 2 Green Business of Sustainable Coastal Tourism	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
17:30 - 18:30	Signing Ceremony	Expo Hall A
31/3/2017 (Friday)		
09:00 - 18:00	Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching	Expo Hall A
Green Forum		
09:30 - 11:00	Session 3 The Blueprint for Innovative Green Development	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
09:30 - 11:00	Session 4 The Ways to Drive Higher Performance in Green Buildings	Florence Room (2201-2302)
11:15 - 12:45	Session 5 Sustainable Coastal Management, Climate Adaptation and Resilience of Cities	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
11:15 - 12:45	Session 6 (Workshop) Maximizing Energy Saving in Buildings - Efficiency and Assessment	Florence Room (2201-2302)
14:30 - 15:15	Industry Insights with Mr. Achim Steiner - Special session Harnessing Environmental Innovation as Key Driver for Sustainable Development	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
15:30 - 17:30	Session 7 Pan-Pearl River Delta Region (PPRD) Session Part I: Sharing of Brazil and Portugal business communication delegation Trip Part II: Green Innovative Development in the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region (Roundtable Discussion)	Florence Room (2201-2302)
15:30 - 18:00	Session 8 Green Chemical Forum - Emissions Trading Contributing to the Development of Low-Carbon Industry	Sicily Room (2401-2502)

1/4/2017 (Saturday)		
09:00 - 17:00	Green Showcase, Green Matching & Eco Market Macao	Expo Hall A
10:00 - 17:00	Green Public Day	Expo Hall A

**2017MIECF Green Forum – Keynote Speaker**

**Mr. Achim Steiner**

- Former of Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme
- Former of United Nations Under-Secretary General
- Former of Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN)
- Director of the Oxford Martin School
- International Vice-Chair of the China Council for International Cooperation on Environment and Development (CCICED)

**\*FREE ADMISSION TO THE EXHIBITION. ALL ARE WELCOME.\***

**Programme of Seminars & Presentations**  
Venue: Expo Hall A - Macao Pavilion

30/3/2017 (Thursday)		
14:30 - 15:15	Buyer Briefing Session: Waste Management	
15:30 - 17:00	Advanced Environmental Technologies and Products from the Czech Republic	
31/3/2017 (Friday)		
10:30 - 11:15	Buyer Briefing Session: General Environmental Products and Services	
11:30 - 12:15	Buyer Briefing Session: Water & Waste Water Management (2)	
15:30 - 16:15	Buyer Briefing Session: Green Building Sector	

**Programme of Concurrent Events**

1/4/2017 (Saturday)		
10:00 - 13:00	The 2 <sup>nd</sup> Macau Maritime Forum: Ocean, the Origin of Green Innovation	Sicily Room (2401-2502)
11:00 - 13:00	Latin American Forum - Investment in the World's Hottest New Energy Source: Lithium	Florence Room (2201-2302)
14:00 - 18:00	Green Facilities and Utilities Forum	Sicily Room (2401-2502)

**Hotline: 8798 9675**

**Venue: The Venetian Macao-Resort-Hotel**

Remarks: Please refer to the program of the above activities at [www.macaomiecf.com](http://www.macaomiecf.com) for more updated details.





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# Trump has casino trademark in Jordan but gambling is illegal

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

**T**HE president of the United States holds a trademark in Jordan for a Donald Trump casino, despite the fact that gambling is illegal in the kingdom. It is one of four he received before he ran for office, and suggests that the former casino executive may have had wider hopes for businesses across the Middle East than was previously known.

To keep the trademarks active, the Trump Organization would need to reapply for them during Trump's four-year term, raising potential ethical concerns for his company in Jordan, a stalwart U.S. ally in the fight against the Islamic State group and a mediator in relations between Israel and the Palestinians.

The Trump Organization told The Associated Press that its "decision to enforce its intellectual property rights is nothing new," while declining to discuss whether it knew how controversial gambling was in the kingdom.

Jordan's government acknowledged the trademarks, but that doesn't mean gambling is in Jordan's future.

"That does not give any right to the company to practice any activities unless it is formally registered as a company in Jordan and licensed to practice," government spokesman Mohammed Momanani wrote in an email. "Needless to say, gambling is illegal in Jordan, so if a company applies for this, it will be disapproved."

Richard Painter, the chief White House ethics lawyer under George W. Bush, said the casino trademark raised new concerns about the Trump Organization's inter-



A giant billboard advertising the Trump International Golf Club hangs at the Dubai Trade Center roundabout

national entanglements. He is part of a lawsuit alleging Trump is violating the U.S. Constitution by allowing his business to accept payments from foreign governments

"We don't want foreign governments in a position to pay off our politicians with special treatment," Painter said.

Trump for years tried to enter the Mideast as a businessman, seeing it as an open market for his profitable business of licensing his name to construction projects. He applied for and received trademarks in Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia, Turkey and the United Arab Emirates.

Trump shut down some of his companies in the days after beating Hillary Clinton in the November election, including several connected to a possible venture in Saudi Arabia. While most recent presidents have sold their financial holdings to avoid conflicts, Trump has said that is not necessary. Instead, he has turned managerial control over to his two adult sons, vowing not to pursue more deals abroad and

appointing a lawyer to screen his business for conflicts.

Meanwhile, his sons recently opened a new Trump golf course in Dubai as a developer there still plans for another.

The developer, DAMAC Properties, also offered USD2 billion in new deals after Trump's victory, which he declined.

As the Trump Organization remains composed of hundreds of companies in a complex, interconnected web, it makes the full scale of his deals before becoming America's 45th president difficult to understand, a mystery only deepened by the president's unwillingness to release his tax returns.

In Jordan, Trump applied for four trademarks with the Industry, Trade and Supply Ministry in June 2008 and won its approval in February 2009. Those trademarks, retained by an organization under Trump called DTTM Operations LLC, include holding his name for developing commercial, residential and hotel property, as well as running restaurants, bars, cafes or a golf course.

The trademarks expire in February 2019, about halfway through Trump's term in the White House.

Among those businesses listed was "gambling and casino services, and the provision of casino facilities," according to one of the trademarks.

Trump once owned three Atlantic City casinos, but the businesses nearly destroyed him financially.

Jordanian law explicitly bans gambling. However, a secret deal in 2007 signed by Jordan's then-tourism minister would have allowed a Britain-based developer to open a casino on the Dead Sea. It also made the government potentially liable for hundreds of millions of dollars to the developer if it breached the 50-year agreement. It was rescinded later the same year.

## Trump for years tried to enter the Mideast as a businessman

The deal caused a major political scandal that reverberated for years in Jordan, a nation ruled by King Abdullah II. Amid the 2011 Arab Spring protests, the king appointed as prime minister Marouf al-Bakhit, who personally signed off on the 2007 casino deal. Al-Bakhit's appointment outraged Islamists and he stepped down from the role eight months later.

It's unclear whether Trump knew the controversy surrounding the casino proposal when his

company sought the trademark a year later. Alan Garten, an executive vice president and chief legal officer at the Trump Organization, described the company's decision as "broad trademark protection" to guard against others using the Trump name.

"While the trademark registration also included casino-related activities, the company has never pursued a casino," he said.

In the Middle East, Jordan remains a crucial partner for the U.S. The kingdom hosts more than 650,000 Syrian refugees displaced by that country's grinding war, while also taking part in the U.S.-led coalition battling the Islamic State group. Jordan has hosted Americans training Syrian rebel fighters.

Jordan also serves as custodian of the Al Aqsa Mosque compound, the third-holiest site of Islam, located in east Jerusalem on the same spot that Jews revere as the Temple Mount. Jordan routinely mediates in conflicts over access to the sites and has warned that moving the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem is a "red line" that would inflame the Arab and Muslim worlds.

On Feb. 2, King Abdullah II briefly met with Trump in Washington. The same day, the White House issued a statement saying "the construction of new [Israeli] settlements or the expansion of existing settlements beyond their current borders may not be helpful" in achieving peace between Israelis and Palestinians. However, the White House stressed it hadn't "taken an official position on settlement activity."

The casino trademark, however, raised new questions about what the White House could ask for, said Painter, the former chief White House ethics lawyer.

"If we're going to get involved in trying to work out Middle East peace, Jordan is a key player," Painter said. "We're going to have a lot of different things on the table and I guess this casino is going to be part of what's on the table. [...] That's just corruption." AP

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA TAKES CHILDREN WITH DOWN SYNDROME ON FUN DAY



A group of 35 Sands China Care Ambassadors spent their Saturday afternoon with 40 children and parents from the Macau Down Syn-

drome Association.

The ambassadors took them on an "Amazing Race" through several DreamWorks experien-

ce-themed adventures at Sands Cotai Central and The Venetian Macao, ending with a visit to Ice World.

The group began their adventure at Sands Cotai Central's Paradise Gardens, the first of five checkpoints in the fast-paced treasure hunt.

The treasure hunt ended at The Venetian where the group enjoyed a visit to Kung Fu Panda Adventure Ice World with the DreamWorks All-Stars, according to a press release issued by Sands China.

The gaming operator invited children from the association to Saturday's community event as a way of reaching out to the local community by bringing fun and warmth to underprivileged families.

### CEM VISIT ELDERLY AT PAK TAI BIRTHDAY LUNCHEON



A lunch gathering was held by CEM at Largo de Camoes in Taipa (in front of the Pak Tai Temple) at midday yesterday, with the aim of expressing care and respect for the elderly while celebra-

ting Pak Tai's Birthday.

CEM arranged 25 tables to receive over 300 senior citizens from Taipa and Coloane, free of charge. Besides the luncheon, various performances were

also presented at the venue, "making the event warm-hearted and joyous," according to the company.

CEM has held this event for 13 consecutive years and receives the support of Pak Tai's Birthday Organizing Committee to co-organize the event. The event aims to celebrate Pak Tai's Birthday with senior citizens, and thank senior citizens for their contributions. Another aim of the organizers is to "carry forward the fine tradition of showing respect and care for elders."

CEM had set up an "Ambassadors Team" for volunteering to assist the elderly in 2004. According to the company, it was one of the first organizations in Macau to set up such a team, which currently has 77 volunteers.



Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA promised yesterday to stick to its climate commitments after President Donald Trump eased U.S. curbs on coal and oil use, opening the way for Beijing to assert itself as a leader in environmental policy.

China is the No. 1 emitter of climate-changing greenhouse gases but also the top investor in solar, wind and other renewable energy. It has promised to cap coal use and rein in growth of carbon dioxide emissions.

"As a responsible developing country, China's plan, determination and policy to tackle climate change is resolute," foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said.

Beijing's collaboration on climate with Trump's predecessor, Barack Obama, had been seen as a bright spot in a bilateral relationship with numerous strains.

Trump has called climate change a hoax created by China and promised to unwind Obama's measures to curb global warming. Trump's order rescinded nearly a dozen measures enacted by Obama. Trump said he wanted to create more coal mining jobs, though industry analysts say demand is likely to decline as the price of solar, wind and other alternatives falls.

Asked about Trump's order at a regular news briefing, Lu didn't mention the United States or the American president but said Beijing was committed to carrying out its pledges under the Paris climate agreement negotiated in 2015.

Signed by 170 countries, the agreement calls for holding global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in hopes of preventing sea level rise and environmental damage.

# Beijing affirms climate pledge after Trump rolls back rules



Workers load "clean coal" promoted by the government at a factory in Qianan, in Hebei province

All signers should "fulfill their pledges and implement the agreement with positive actions," Lu said.

"We are willing to strengthen dialogue and cooperation with the international community to advance the global process of climate governance and promote the green, low-carbon and sustainable development so as to build a better future for next generations," he said.

China long resisted binding emissions limits, citing its economic development needs. Its about-face began in 2014 when President Xi Jinping, in a joint declaration with Obama, set a 2030 deadline for emissions to stop rising.

Despite the lack of a formal commitment, China already

is making faster progress than most countries due to official efforts to reduce reliance on steel production and other heavy industry and to promote technology and consumer spending.

China has spent heavily on solar, wind and hydro power to clean up smog-choked cities and curb surging reliance on imported oil and gas. Researchers say that means carbon dioxide emissions are likely to peak before 2025, well ahead of the official target.

China's 2015 spending of USD103 billion was more than double the U.S. level of \$44 billion, according to the U.N. Environment Program. China leads the world in wind and hydro generating capacity and is No. 2 behind Germany in solar.

Last year, Chinese coal consumption fell 4.7 percent, its third annual decline, according to official data. Coal's share of total energy consumption fell to 62 percent from 2015's 64 percent.

In a report last week, the environmental groups CoalSwarm, the Sierra Club and Greenpeace said an unexpectedly sharp decline in the number of new coal-fired power plants being built in China and India improved chances that climate targets could be met. The two countries have suspended construction of more than 100 power plants, though dozens more still are due to come online by 2020.

Beijing also sees renewable energy as a commercial opportunity. Its leading solar panel producers are among their global industry's biggest competitors and Chinese state-owned utilities

are building or buying wind and solar farms in Europe and Latin America.

A plan released in January by the Cabinet's planning agency calls for spending another 2.5 trillion yuan (\$360 billion) on renewable energy by 2020 in an effort to clean up smog-choked Chinese cities.

Still, the Cabinet says it expects at least 62 percent of China's power to come from coal in coming decades.

The development plan calls for doubling the share of China's energy from non-fossil fuels to 20 percent by 2030. But that will only bring China into line with today's global average.

Trump's order initiates a review of the Clean Power Plan, which restricts greenhouse gas emissions at coal-fired power plants.

The order also lifts a 14-month-old moratorium on new coal leases on federal lands. The Obama administration had argued the program must be modernized to ensure a fair financial return to taxpayers and address climate change.

The order covers a range of other Obama-era rules, including repeal of measures to consider the "social cost" of carbon emissions in all regulatory actions and crack down on methane emissions at oil and gas wells. It also eliminates a rule restricting fracking on public lands and another that requires energy companies to provide data on methane emissions at oil and gas operations. AP

## China is the No. 1 emitter of climate-changing greenhouse gases but also the top investor in solar, wind and other renewable energy

SOUTH CHINA SEA

## Duterte to US: Why didn't you send armada vs man-made islands?

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he has asked the U.S. ambassador why America did not deploy an armada of warships to pressure China to stop constructing man-made islands that are now at the heart of regional concerns in the disputed South China Sea.

Duterte said in a speech that U.S. Ambassador Sung Kim was unable to reply to the question when they met Monday in southern Davao city, where the president had a separate meeting with the Chinese ambassador. While criticizing the U.S., Duterte did not berate China's behavior in his speech.

Duterte said he told Kim that he was surprised by

what he described as U.S. inaction when newspapers were publishing pictures of China's construction of runways and other structures on the newly built islands in the disputed waters.

"Had America really wanted to avoid trouble, early on [...] why did you not send the armada of the 7th Fleet which is stationed there in the Pacific, you just make a U-turn and go there and tell them right on their face, stop it?" Duterte said he asked Kim, referring to the U.S. naval fleet based in Japan.

Kim, who arrived in Manila last year as American ambassador, replied that he was assigned elsewhere at the time and could not give an answer, Duterte

said.

Duterte spoke in a visit to Oriental Mindoro province a day after concerns were raised over a report by a U.S. think tank that China has nearly completed construction work on three man-made islands that will allow it to deploy combat aircraft and surface-to-air missiles.

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.

One of the islands mentioned in the report, Philippine-claimed Mischief

Reef, was seized by China in 1995, drawing protests from Manila then. Another island, Subi, is very close to a Philippine-occupied island in the Spratly chain, which is claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Taiwan and Brunei.

Duterte repeated that he would not go to war with militarily superior China over the territorial conflict.

"The first thing that will be blasted away from this planet Earth will be Palawan," Duterte said, referring to the western Philippine island province facing the disputed waters. "All of the deposits of armaments of the Americans, including ours, are there."

When Duterte took office



in June, he reached out to China to mend relations strained under his predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, over the territorial dispute. While taking a friendly stance toward Beijing, he lashed out at the United States for criticizing his brutal campaign against illegal drugs.

Duterte thanked President Xi Jinping over the

renewed friendship and return of normal trade relations, praising the Chinese leader as "very kind."

Duterte, however, said he will invoke an international arbitration ruling that declared China has no historic title to the disputed waters if Beijing drills for oil or gas in a shoal contested by China and the Philippines. AP



# China confirms detention of Taiwanese pro-democracy activist

Christopher Bodeen  
& Ralph Jennings, Beijing

**C**HINA'S government confirmed yesterday it is holding a Taiwanese pro-democracy activist and is investigating him on suspicion of "pursuing activities harmful to national security," the latest detention in an ongoing crackdown on civil society.

Lee Ming-che, 42, cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 and never showed up for a planned meeting later that day with a friend in Zhuhai.

China's Taiwan Affairs Office said Lee was in good health but gave no information about where he was being held or other terms of his detention. "Regarding Lee Ming-che's case, because he is suspected of pursuing activities harmful to national security, the investigation into him is being handled in line with legal procedures," spokesman Ma Xiaoguang told reporters at a news briefing.

Amnesty International said Lee's detention raises fears China is broadening its crackdown on legitimate activism, and urged the authorities to provide further details on his detention.

Lee's "detention on vague national security grounds will alarm all those that work with NGOs in China. If his detention is solely connected to his legitimate activism he must be immediately and unconditionally released," Nicholas Bequelin, the group's east Asia director, said by email.

Responding to Ma's comments,



Lee Ching-yu, third from right holds up a photo of her missing husband in Taipei

Taiwan's Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council said repeated requests have been made to China through both official and private channels for information about Lee, but none has been forthcoming.

It said he suffered from high blood pressure and other health problems, and asked that China "please provide the appropriate medical care and ensure his physical health."

A colleague of Lee's said he may have attracted the attention of China's security services after he used the social media platform WeChat to discuss China-Taiwan relations.

Cheng Hsiu-chuan, president of Taipei's Wenshan Community College where Lee has worked for the past year as a program director, said Lee used 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 hundreds of millions of active

**Lee Ming-che cleared immigration in Macau on March 19 and never showed up for a planned meeting with a friend in Zhuhai**

users and is hugely popular in China, where other social media tools such as Twitter are blocked by the authorities.

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.

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.

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

"I want the government of Chi-

na 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 Ching-yu said.

China claims sovereignty over Taiwan, a free-wheeling democracy with personal and political 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.

While China has rarely been forthcoming with information about alleged national security crimes, Lee's case could be further complicated by the fact that China cut off its already limited contacts with Tsai's government last June.

National security crimes in China are broadly defined and have a range of penalties. Authorities usually release little or no information on the specific allegations, citing the need to protect state secrets.

Powers of the security services in dealing with foreign groups and their Chinese partners were strongly enhanced under a law that took effect in January, leading to concerns about further prosecutions and restrictions on civil society.

Under President Xi Jinping, China has widely suppressed independent organizations and dissenters, as well as lawyers defending people caught up in its crackdown. Rights groups say activists are increasingly being accused of subversion or other crimes against state security.

Dozens of lawyers have been questioned or detained in an ongoing campaign against dissident lawyers launched in July 2015. AP

## Chinese demand for elephant ivory drops, new report says

**T**HE price of ivory in China has dropped sharply as the country plans to end the legal trade in ivory later this year, a leading elephant conservation group said in a new report yesterday.

Chinese demand for tusks has been driving African elephants toward extinction, experts say. The Chinese government in recent years has taken steps to stop the trade in ivory, which is used for ornamentation and souvenirs. China's ivory factories are to be shut down by tomorrow, followed by the closing of retail outlets

by the end of this year.

The new report surveys the price of ivory in markets across China between 2014 and early this year. It found the price dropped from USD2,100 per kilogram in early 2014 to \$730 in February.

Conservationists say tens of thousands of elephants have been killed in Africa in recent years as demand for ivory in Asia, particularly China, increased. Past estimates of Africa's elephant population have ranged from 420,000 to 650,000. Some conservationists estimate that up to 20,000

elephants are killed by poachers every year to meet demand.

"This is a critical period for elephants," said Iain Douglas-Hamilton, president and founder of Save the Elephants, which carried out the research.

"With the end of the legal ivory trade in China, the survival chances for elephants have distinctly improved. We must give credit to China for having done the right thing by closing the ivory trade. There is still a long way to go to end the excessive killing of elephants for ivory, but there is now

greater hope for the species."

Other factors behind the drop in the price of ivory include an economic slowdown in China resulting in fewer people being able to afford luxury goods, and a crackdown on corruption that has dissuaded business people from buying expensive ivory items as "favors" for government officials, the new report says.

"Findings from 2015 and 2016 in China have shown that the legal ivory trade especially has been severely diminished," said Lucy Vigne, a research-



cher with Save The Elephants. The 130 licensed outlets in China gradually have been reducing the quantity of ivory items on display for sale, and recently have been cutting prices to improve sales, the report says.

By 2015, some of China's main licensed retail ivory outlets were closed at the time of the researchers'

visit due to slow sales. In other cases, vendors were replacing elephant ivory displays with mammoth ivory dug out of the Russian tundra.

China continues to be the largest consumer of mammoth ivory, whose price also has dropped from \$1,900 per kilogram in 2014 to \$730 this year, the report said. AP



## NUKE TESTING 101

# How, and why, North Korea tests its bombs

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

**L**ET'S say you're North Korea and you have this nuclear device you really want to test. And let's say you'd rather some of the more sensitive details remain private.

Physicists, geologists, imagery analysts, some of the best militaries in the world, monitoring posts set up by non-proliferation organizations — beating the technology arrayed against you will be no mean feat.

As soon as you detonate your device, seismographs all over the world are going to pick it up. If it has a decent yield, it will look like a moderate earthquake, but not to the experts — who will quickly identify it as a man-made explosion. Military “sniffer” spy planes — probably already in the area because your preparations have been caught by spy satellites — will soon be scouring the air for samples of elements that can be used to analyze your blast.

But, it turns out, they might not actually find very much.

North Korea has proven over the past 10 years that it can be exceptionally difficult to determine from a properly set up nuclear test some of the most basic details an adversary would want to know.

Here's a look at how they do it, and why they keep it up.

## THE TUNNELS OF MOUNT MANTAP

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests, the first in 2006.

All were conducted in the depths of Mount Mantap, a nondescript granite peak in the remote and heavily forested Hamgyong mountain range about 80 kilometers as the crow flies from Chongjin, the nearest big city. North Korea is the only country in the world that still conducts nuclear weapons tests, so its Punggye-ri site on — or mostly under — Mount Mantap is also the world's only active nuclear testing site.

Its existence is hardly a secret. It's a favorite target of spy satellites — military and commercial — and North Korea even released a propaganda film depicting it in 2010.

Located about halfway up the 2,205-meter mountain, it has three visible main entrances, or portals, into a series of horizontal tunnels stretching a kilometer or more into the mountain. Studies of the tunnel used for the second test, which was conducted in 2009 and featured in the propaganda film, suggest it has the shape of a fish-hook, which is what experts might expect. Pakistan

used a similar design.

When a test is conducted, which in the North's case has always been between 8 and 10 in the morning, the nuclear device is placed at the farthest end of the tunnel, which uses the angles and corners of the “hook” section to deflect and absorb as much of the blast as possible. To further optimize absorption, the tunnel, believed to be about 3 meters wide and 3 meters high, has nine or 10 sharp corners with bulkheads and several dead ends that serve as debris traps.

Most of the blast is intended to be absorbed within the area defined by the first four bulkheads. To prevent ejecta from escaping into the atmosphere — and to further contain the explosion itself — sand, gravel or other materials can be mixed with concrete to plug, or “stem,” segments of the tunnels.

It has been estimated the most recent test was conducted below 700 meters of solid mountain.

Concern that another test may be looming has been heightened recently by images from satellites and analysis by experts Joseph Bermudez and Jack Liu on the website 38 North. The latest unclassified imagery, from March 25, suggests communications cables used to initiate a test and collect data may have been laid already. They also detected water being pumped out of one portal, “presumably to keep the tunnel dry for monitoring or communications equipment.”

But subterfuge could be at work here as well.

North Korea is aware its site is being watched and activity can be staged to create a false alarm.

## KEEPING THE GENIE IN THE BOTTLE

North Korea didn't do an especially good job of obscuring its 2006 test.

Xenon and krypton isotopes — the smoking guns of a nuclear test — were detected in the atmosphere. That made it possible for scientists to conclude Pyongyang had used a plutonium-fueled device. Adding insult to injury, seismic data suggested the test was less than a complete success, more of a fizzle than a bang.

In 2009, North Korea used a new tunnel and no such gases were detected.

In 2013, xenon isotopes were detected — but possibly because North Korea drilled back into the mountain after the test, not from the test itself. Moreover, the samples were collected



North Korean soldiers turn and look toward their leader Kim Jong Un from a military parade vehicle

nearly two months after the fact and were too degraded to answer the biggest question: Did the device use plutonium or highly enriched uranium?

Being able to build a bomb with highly enriched uranium is important for two reasons: The North has only limited supplies of plutonium, so uranium enrichment would allow it to build a bigger stockpile; and uranium enrichment facilities are easier to conceal. It is widely believed the North has tested both.

There are other North Korean claims that experts would like to evaluate. Pyongyang says it tested an H-bomb in January last year and that September detonated its most powerful device to date. It further claims the September test proved it can put a nuclear warhead on a long-range ballistic missile.

David Albright, a physicist and founder of the nonprofit Institute for Science and International Security in Washington D.C., said that without better evidence such as noble gases, such claims cannot be confirmed or denied.

Albright said the lack of signature gas samples shows Nor-

th Korea has been “surprising in its effectiveness,” considering the number of tests it has conducted and the difficulty of preventing leakage not only into the air but into mountainous terrain with natural cracks and flowing, underground water.

## WEIGHING THE FALLOUT

There are all kinds of reasons a nuclear test isn't a great idea. Each one North Korea conducts invites more international condemnation, tougher economic sanctions and anger from China, which is its economic lifeline and former Korean War comrade in arms.

But Pyongyang has stated repeatedly that its “nuclear deterrent” is the cornerstone of its defense against what it views as a hostile U.S. Showing off what you can do — especially if you can do it in a manner that suggests even greater capabilities — can be of tremendous benefit from the military perspective.

Though debates persist regarding the true yield of the blasts — another detail that can be hard to pin down with precision — they are believed to have

been on an upward trend, with the most recent coming in at somewhere between 10 and 30 kilotons. For comparison, the bomb dropped on Hiroshima had a 20-kiloton yield.

“My guess is that the North is happy to have the world see that it is testing and get an estimate of the yield — at least as long as it is increasing — but likes keeping the world guessing about how advanced its program really is,” said David Wright, a senior scientist at the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Albright, meanwhile, said he is particularly concerned the North is trying to develop and master the use of thermonuclear bomb materials such as weapons grade lithium-6 to enhance the power of its arsenal. He also suspects it is looking at new fission designs, such as bombs with composite cores of plutonium and enriched uranium.

The payoff could be smaller, but deadlier, bombs that would be easier to put on long-range missiles and would use less plutonium per weapon.

In other words, expect more testing. **AP**



## MYANMAR

# Armed Rohingya militants deny terrorist links

Grant Peck, Bangkok

**A**N armed militant group fighting Myanmar's government on behalf of the country's Muslim Rohingya minority has issued a statement asserting its right to self-defense and denying links to any terrorist group.

The statement, dated March 29 but released Tuesday through overseas sympathizers, is the first public announcement issued in the name of the Arakan Rohingya Salvation Army, which previously called itself the Faith Movement, or Harakah al-Yaqin. Analysts including the Brussel-based International Crisis Group say it has been carrying out armed resistance.

The statement says the group "came forward to defend, salvage and protect Rohingya community in Arakan with our best capacities as we have the legitimate right under international law to defend ourselves in line with the principle of self-defense." Arakan is another

term for Rakhine, the western state of Myanmar where most of the country's 1 million Rohingya live.

The Rohingya face severe discrimination in Buddhist-majority Myanmar and were the targets of inter-communal violence in 2012 that killed hundreds and drove about 140,000 people — predominantly Rohingya — from their homes to camps for the internally displaced, where most remain. Most are denied citizenship because they are looked on as having migrated illegally from Bangladesh.

The statement issued 20 demands to the government for ensuring Rohingya rights.

In October last year, armed men killed nine Myanmar border guards, triggering a savage counterinsurgency sweep by the army in the Rohingya area of Rakhine. Alleged human rights abuses by the army, including rape and killing of civilians and the burning of more than 1,000 homes, caused international criticism and led to a U.N. Human Rights Council call

AP PHOTO



Hard-line Buddhists during a protest march against the government's plan to give citizenship to some members of the persecuted Rohingya Muslim minority

last week for an independent international investigation.

Harakah al-Yaqin has taken credit for the killings of the border guards, according to the International Crisis Group, and the government has accused them of being terrorists.

"We do not associate with any terrorist group across the world," the Arakan group's statement

said. "We do not commit any form of terrorism against any civilian regardless of their religious and ethnic origin as we do not subscribe to the notion of committing terrorism for our legitimate cause."

It said the group assures "the safety and wellbeing of all ethnic communities, their places of worship and properties" in Rakhine state. **AP**

## Chinese military conducts drill near Myanmar border

**C**HINA has conducted military exercises near its border with Myanmar, where fighting between the regular army and ethnic rebels has flared in recent months.

The annual training exercise this week involved the Chinese army and air force and tested troops' rapid response and joint strike capabilities, the defense ministry said in a statement.

China's government said earlier this month that more than 20,000 people from Myanmar have fled into China amid renewed fighting. At least 30 people were killed this month in a single day in a Myanmar town in a Chinese-speaking region near the border.

China has called for a cease-fire and says authorities in the border area have offered shelter and assistance to the refugees.

AD

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Jill Lawless, London

IT'S OFFICIAL

# Britain files for divorce from the

**T**HE United Kingdom filed for divorce from the European Union yesterday, overturning four decades of integration with its neighbors, demolishing the notion that EU expansion is inevitable and shaking the foundations of a bloc that is facing challenges to its identity and its place in the world.

Britain's top envoy to the EU, Tim Barrow, hand-delivered a letter to European Council President Donald Tusk formally triggering a two-year countdown to the final split.

"Today the government acts on the democratic will of the British people," Prime Minister Theresa May told lawmakers in the House of Commons, adding, "This is an historic moment from which there can be no turning back."

Tusk tweeted that "after nine months the UK has delivered," followed by a photo of Barrow handing him the letter in front of British and EU flags in Brussels.

There is "no reason to pretend this is a happy day," Tusk told reporters later, emphasizing that the priority now is to minimize costs for EU citizens and member states.

To Britain, he said: "We already miss you."

But for Britons who voted 52 to 48 percent to leave the bloc in a referendum nine months ago, it was a time for celebration.

Former U.K. Independence Party leader Nigel Farage, who campaigned for years to take Brexit from fringe cause to reality, said Britain had passed "the point of no return."

"I can still, to be honest with you, scarcely believe today has come," he said.

For "remain" campaigners, it was time to fight for a divorce settlement that preserves what they see as key benefits of EU membership, including free trade in goods and services and the right to live and work anywhere in the bloc.

"The phony war is over," said Joe Carberry, co-director of the pro-EU pressure group Open Britain. He said Britain had decided that it would leave the bloc — but "the issue of how we will leave, and the democratic checks and balances along the process of the negotiations, remains unresolved."

May's six-page letter to Tusk was polite and conciliatory, stressing that Britons want to remain "committed partners and allies to our friends across the continent."

She said the two sides should "engage with one another constructively and respectfully, in a



Britain's permanent representative to the European Union Tim Barrow, left, hand delivers British Prime Minister Theresa May's Brexit letter

spirit of sincere cooperation."

European leaders expressed dismay, with Danish Prime Minister Lars Løkke Rasmussen saying Britain's goodbye to the Euro-

pean Union is "incredibly sad" and he expects "many bumps on the road."

Germany's Foreign Ministry said Britain would remain a "close

partner and friend" of the EU, but that "being a close friend is not the same as being part of the family."

The loss of a major member is destabilizing for the EU, which

AD



**BBAM**  
澳門英國商會  
British Business Association of Macao

## Business Luncheon

Tuesday, 25<sup>th</sup> 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

Please RSVP to

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# European Union

is battling to contain a tide of nationalist and populist sentiment and faces unprecedented antipathy from the new resident of the White House.

It is even more tumultuous for Britain. For all the U.K. government's confident talk of forging a close and friendly new relationship with its neighbors, it cannot be sure what its future relationship with the bloc will look like — whether businesses will freely be able to trade, students to study abroad or pensioners to retire with ease in other EU states. Those things have become part of life since the U.K. joined what was then called the European Economic Community in 1973.

It's not even certain that the United Kingdom will survive the exit intact. Scotland's parliament voted Tuesday to back First Minister Nicola Sturgeon's call for a referendum on independence within two years. Scottish voters backed remaining in the EU in last year's vote, and Sturgeon insists Scotland must not be "taken down a path that we do not want to go down without a choice."

May insists "now is not the time" for a referendum, setting her on course for a showdown with the Edinburgh administration just when the U.K. government wants to devote all its energies to the EU talks.

The trigger for all the economic and constitutional uncertainty is Article 50, a previously obscure clause of the EU's Lisbon Treaty that allows a member state to withdraw from the bloc. The two sides now have until March 2019 to agree on a divorce settlement and — if possible — establish a new relationship between Britain, the world's fifth-largest economy, and the EU, a vast single market stretching over 27 countries and half a billion people.

May said Britain's aim was to reach a deal on divorce terms and a new relationship within the two years — something EU officials say is unlikely. May conceded yesterday

that there would have to be a "phased process of implementation."

Tusk has said that within 48 hours he will respond with a draft negotiating guidelines for the remaining 27 member states to consider. Leaders of those nations will then meet on April 29 to finalize their negotiating platform before instructing the EU's chief negotiator, French diplomat Michel Barnier.

Then Barnier will sit down with his

## Today the government acts on the democratic will of the British people.

THERESA MAY

British counterpart, Davis, who has said the first item on the agenda will probably be: "How we do this?"

As in many divorces, the first area of conflict is likely to be money. The EU wants Britain to pay a hefty bill — Jean-Claude Juncker, president of the EU's executive Commission, put it at around 50 billion euros (USD63 billion) — to cover pension liabilities for EU staff and other commitments the U.K. has agreed to.

British negotiators are sure to quibble over the size of the tab.

Davis said Monday that Britain will "meet our international obligations," but added: "I don't think we are going to be seeing that sort of money change hands."

Negotiations will soon hit a major contraction: Britain wants "frictionless" free trade, but says it will restore control of immigration, ending the right of EU citizens to live and work in Britain. The EU says Britain can't have full access to the single market if it doesn't accept free movement, one of the bloc's key prin-

ciples.

Both Britain and the EU say a top priority will be guaranteeing the rights of 3 million EU citizens living in Britain, and 1 million Britons living elsewhere in the bloc.

The two sides also appear to disagree on how the talks will unfold. EU officials say the divorce terms must be settled before negotiators can turn to the U.K.'s future relationship with the bloc. British officials want the two things discussed simultaneously.

May has suggested that if talks stall she could walk away, saying that "no deal for Britain is better than a bad deal for Britain." But she backed away from that notion yesterday, saying in her letter that "is not the outcome that either side should seek."

That prospect of no deal alarms many British businesses. If Britain crashed out of the EU without a trade deal it would fall back onto World Trade Organization rules, meaning tariffs and other barriers to trade.

Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee has warned that the British government has not done enough for the "real prospect" that talks may break down, ending in no deal and "mutually assured damage" to both Britain and the EU.

Even if talks go well, EU leaders say there is little chance a final agreement on relations between the two parties will be reached by 2019. Some say it could take a decade.

Carberry, from Open Britain, accused the government of offering an unrealistic picture of the costs of Brexit.

"They are saying everyone's going to get free money and a free pony, basically," he said. "The government is going to need to start being up front with people about the risks and outline more clearly how they are going to mitigate against those risks."

But Brendan Chilton of anti-EU group Labour Leave predicted that soon "the chest-beating will stop and actually you'll get down to cool, hard diplomacy and we'll get a good deal."

"It is in the interests of both parties to get this done as quickly as possible and as amicably as possible," he said. **AP**



A pro-European Union membership supporter holds a European flag opposite Downing Street

## Joy, sorrow: People react to Brexit triggering

**A**CROSS the United Kingdom and throughout Europe, there was joy and sorrow as Prime Minister Theresa May formally triggered a two-year process that will end with Britain exiting the European Union. The country voted 52 to 48 percent to leave in a June referendum.

Charles Goodacre, 62, former taxi driver, in Sunderland, England: "I'm glad this day has finally come, this is what the people voted for. I voted for Brexit and today is the day that vote starts to count. Things have been bad round here for a while and we needed a change. There's been a lot of arguments about what happened but we can now get on with it."

Nigel Dentoom, runs a commodities trading company in the City of London: "Obviously there will be a couple of difficult years in negotiation but I think the UK and London in particular will end up being the largest financial center because of its time zone and the resource and the intellectual capital and the infrastructure that we have here."

Telecommunications professional Frederic Royer, a Frenchman who works in London: "We are a little up-

set. A little disappointed. I hope it will not affect London and that it will continue to grow and be a big city like it was before."

Janet Freeman, 66, a retired secretary in Sunderland: "I voted for Brexit so it's good it's going to start. I have become a bit concerned about what it might mean for jobs but I think we will make the best of it. It's not right we were controlled from Europe, we need to control our own destiny."

City of London worker Nicola Gibson: "No one knows how it's going to go so it's just a question on keeping an eye on the next few days. Is it going to affect me personally? Probably not. I shall still go about my daily business. I shall still work. I shall still carry on having holidays. And we'll see what happens."

Polish engineer Piotr Wierzbicki, 64, flying from Poland to England: The British "shot themselves in the foot and will also lose Scotland now. It will be bad for their economy and it will be bad for the EU."

Anti-Brexit protester Ron Daniel of London: "I don't accept Brexit. I don't accept the democratic choice of Brexit. It's racist. It's about deporting people."

## Timeline of events leading up to Brexit

**Jan. 23, 2013:** British Prime Minister David Cameron promises a referendum on Britain's membership to the EU if the Conservative party is elected in the next general election. He does so to try to garner support among euro-skeptics within his own party.

**Sept. 18, 2014:** Scottish voters decide in a referendum to remain part of the United Kingdom rather than become an independent country.

May. 7, 2015: British voters elect a majority Conser-

vative government. Cameron confirms in his victory speech that there will be an in/out referendum on European Union membership.

**Feb. 20, 2016:** Cameron announces that he has negotiated a deal with EU leaders which will give Britain "special status." He confirms that he will campaign for Britain to remain in the 28-nation bloc. The referendum date is set for June.

Feb. 21: Cameron is struck with a severe blow as one of his closest Conservative allies, the media-savvy Bo-

ris Johnson, joins the Leave campaign.

**June 16:** One week before the referendum, Labor MP and Remain campaigner Jo Cox is killed by extremist Thomas Mair who shouted "Britain First" before killing the mother of two.

**June 23:** Britain votes 52 percent to 48 percent to leave the European Union. As the results come in, UKIP leader Nigel Farage proclaims that this day should be considered Britain's "independence day."

**June 24:** Cameron says he will resign in light of the results because Britain needs "fresh leadership" to take the country in a new direction.

**July 11:** Following a heated leadership contest, Home Secretary Theresa May becomes prime minister-elect when her competitors withdraw from the race.

**Oct. 2:** May says that Britain will begin the formal process of leaving the EU by the end of March 2017. In order to do this the British



Prime Minister Theresa May signs the official letter to European Council President Donald Tusk, in 10 Downing Street

government would have to invoke Article 50 of the EU's Lisbon Treaty.

**Jan. 24, 2017:** The British Supreme Court rules that parliamentary appro-

val is needed before Article 50 can be triggered by government.

**March 13:** Britain's Parliament approves a bill giving the government the authority to invoke Article 50. Scotland's first minister, Nicola Sturgeon, says she plans to have a second referendum on Scottish independence in late 2018 or early 2019.

**March 28:** May signs the letter that will trigger Brexit at 10 Downing Street.

**March 29:** Brexit was formally triggered when the letter was hand-delivered to EU Council President Donald Tusk at around 11:30 GMT.



## 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 &amp; 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

## LIBRARY PATRON RETURNS BOOK HE TOOK IN 1982, PLUS USD200

A patron who stole a book from a Montana library in 1982 has returned it after reading it at least 25 times, having it restored and having the author sign it.

The man said having the stolen copy of Richard Matheson's 1975 novel "Bid Time Return" had been bugging him. He included a USD200 donation to the Great Falls Public Library while asking "for a chance at redemption here."

The man called the book fascinating and said he considered it one of the greatest sci-fi/romance stories ever written, the Great Falls Tribune (gftrib.com/2odP7vI) reported this week. It is the story of a dying man who falls in love with a portrait and wills himself back in time to meet the woman.

"This is not my book, it belongs in the Great Falls Public Library — wrongfully taken, yes, but if you can, kindly take into consideration it has been loved and cared for all these years and know I am sorry for taking it," the man wrote. Library officials did not release his name.

Library Director Kathy Mora recently told trustees that while she didn't condone the theft, "the effort and funds he put into caring for the book are remarkable."

Matheson, who died in 2013, is best known for his 1954 novel "I Am Legend" which was made into a movie starring Will Smith in 2007. Other books include "The Shrinking Man," "Hell House" and "What Dreams May Come," all of which were made into movies.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:40	Criminal Minds S.9
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Castle S6
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

30 MAR - 4 APR

## GHOST IN THE SHELL

ROOM 1

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

Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

## GHOST IN THE SHELL (3D)

ROOM 1

7:30pm

Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

## IN THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

ROOM 2

2:15, 7:15pm

Director: Sunao Katabuchi

Starring: Megumi Han, Yoshimasa Hosoya

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min



## POWER RANGERS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Dean Israelite

Starring: Brian Cranston, Elizabeth Banks, Naomi Scott

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

## MACAU TOWER

30 MAR - 12 APR



## GHOST IN THE SHELL (3D)

ROOM 3

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

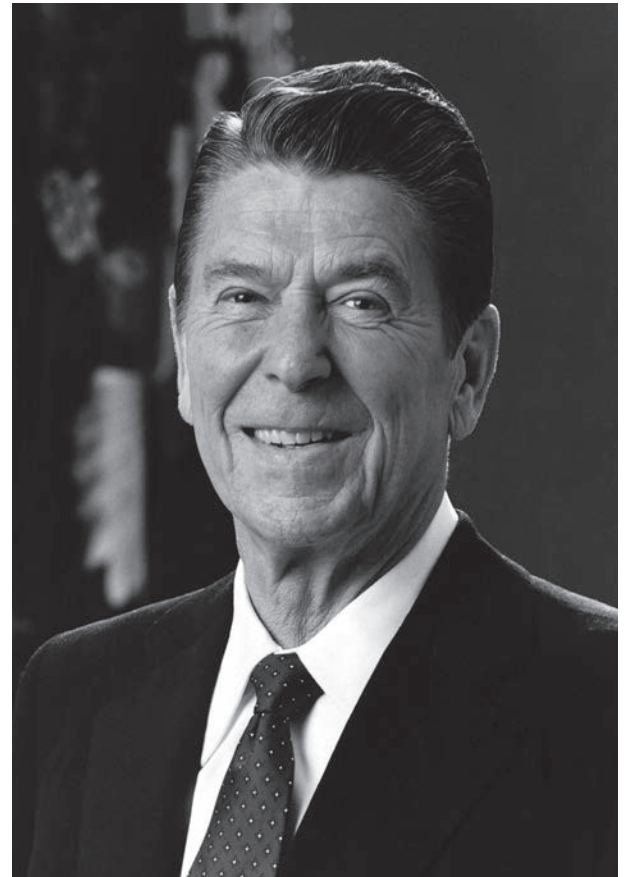
Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

## this day in history



## 1981 PRESIDENT REAGAN IS SHOT

President Ronald Reagan has been shot and wounded after a lone gunman opened fire in Washington. He is currently undergoing emergency surgery at George Washington University Hospital but there are unconfirmed reports he walked in unaided.

Initial reports claim he may have a punctured lung. Five to six shots were fired as he left the Washington Hilton Hotel where he had been addressing a union convention, about one mile from the White House.

A man, firing at close range, also wounded White House Press Secretary James Brady in the head.

A Secret Service official and a Washington policeman were also injured before the gunman was pushed to the ground by police.

The president had appeared from the hotel smiling and walked towards his limousine turning momentarily to acknowledge calls from the waiting press.

A burst of gunfire was then heard before the president was bundled into a bullet proof limousine and whisked away.

First Lady Nancy Reagan is understood to be on her way to the hospital to visit her 70-year-old husband.

The attacker is described as being in his twenties and blonde.

He was pinned to the wall by secret service agents and he has now been arrested.

The assassination attempt has sent shock waves around the country where memories of the murder of president John F Kennedy remain vivid.

President Reagan has only been in office for 69 days and the attack leaves the running of the country in some confusion as his vice-president George Bush is currently on his way back from Texas.

Until the arrival of Vice-President Bush it is unclear who is in charge.

The American Stock Exchange has stopped trading and the Academy Awards have been postponed until tomorrow night in the wake of the attacks.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The president initially appeared to have escaped serious injury, but had been hit by a ricocheting bullet as he was bundled into his limousine by Secret Service Agents.

He was operated on and made a fast recovery.

Mr Brady suffered severe head injuries, and policeman Thomas Delahanty and Tim McCarthy of the Secret Service were also injured.

John Hinckley, 25, the son of an affluent oil industry executive, was charged with trying to assassinate the president fuelled by an obsession with actress Jodie Foster and a desire to impress her.

The following June, Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was committed to hospital.

Ronald Reagan went on to win a second term in office by a wide margin almost four years later.

He died in June 2004, aged 93, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
If there's a problem happening in your personal life, you're in a good position to take care of it. This almost always starts with asking the other person how they're feeling.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Take some time to consider whether your effort is meeting the requirement for your happiness. If it isn't, then you might consider a career shift. What about something that involves teaching?

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Nobody would call you prodigal. But today you might want to focus even more than usual on conservation. Today should be dedicated to taking stock and making sure everything is as stable as possible.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
Sometimes the trick to having a good day is sleeping in. Today, do your best just to relax. Get up slowly. Stay in your pajamas. Make a big breakfast, but don't stress out about it.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Why not just get started on learning a new sport? Or a new language? Or how to cook, if you don't know how to already? The great thing about learning something new is you don't have to be in control.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Have you been putting off any details lately? Today is a great day to go ahead and get through these little things. Give yourself plenty of time, make sure you have plenty of energy.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Whether you've been working to establish a new neighborhood soup kitchen or you've been polishing up your own cooking skills to make more meals for your friends and family.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
You are nothing if not a terrific planner. But have you been neglecting your social circle in all of your work planning? Your people might be feeling a little left out of your well-planned, excellently executed world.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
You're tough. Not just because you didn't cry once during your marathon training a few years back. Not because you get up at daybreak and do crunches until your tummy muscles absolutely ache.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
You're a very socially sensitive, community-oriented person, and if you are engaged in work that doesn't involve a role in the community, you should probably make some changes.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
You have a golden touch, but not in a bad way like King Midas. No, you've got a lighter golden touch where everything that passes through your fingers takes on a warm, healthy glow. It might sparkle a little too.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Don't forget that one of the nice things about having a social circle is that you have different outlets for different elements of your personality (which is, as you know, multifaceted).



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	7	15	cloudy
Harbin	-3	9	cloudy
Tianjin	9	14	overcast/drizzle
Urumqi	7	20	clear
Xi'an	9	17	drizzle/cloudy
Lhasa	3	14	overcast/cloudy
Chengdu	12	19	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	15	18	moderate rain
Kunming	10	20	shower
Nanjing	9	13	overcast/drizzle
Shanghai	10	14	overcast/drizzle
Wuhan	13	18	moderate rain
Hangzhou	12	16	drizzle/moderate rain
Taipei	19	26	overcast
Guangzhou	20	25	shower
Hong Kong	20	24	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-9	2	flurry/drizzle
Frankfurt	8	19	drizzle/cloudy
Paris	6	19	overcast
London	11	14	drizzle
New York	2	10	drizzle/clear

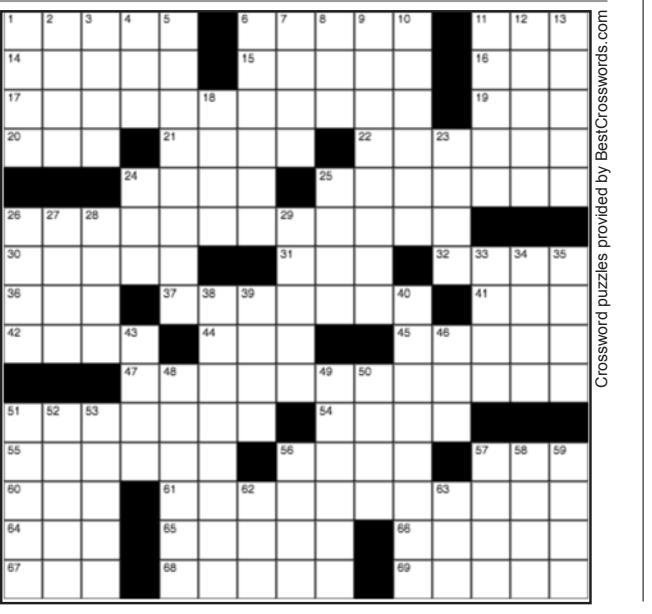
**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Room at the top; 6- Bury; 11- Faucet; 14- Painter Uccello; 15- Audacity; 16- Source of iron; 17- Conceit; 19- Stutz contemporary; 20- Slalom curve; 21- "The Time Machine" people; 22- Tropical American crocodilian; 24- Scandinavian capital; 25- Favorable termination of endeavors; 26- Remove chlorine from; 30- Fragrance; 31- Rat-a-; 32- Struck, old-style; 36- Mighty \_\_\_ a Rose; 37- Talk softly; 41- Ox tail?; 42- Got it; 44- Belief system; 45- Down source; 47- Division into segments; 51- Respire; 54- Estimator's phrase; 55- Sea off Greece; 56- Goddess of discord; 57- Part of TNT; 60- Accomplished; 61- Given to loud talk; 64- "Evil Woman" grp.; 65- Ancient region of Asia Minor; 66- Rustic; 67- Thesaurus wd.; 68- Slippery as \_\_\_; 69- Chopin piece;

**DOWN:** 1- Basilica area; 2- Shooting marbles; 3- Digits of the foot; 4- Off one's feed; 5- Cabbage salad; 6- Not al fresco; 7- "M'A'S'H" soft drink; 8- Uno + due; 9- Leave empty; 10- Edit; 11- Mellow Mel; 12- Bailiwicks; 13- Lowly workers; 18- London greeting; 23- Frozen treats; 24- Resistance unit; 25- Ginger cookie; 26- Surrealist Salvador; 27- Periods of history; 28- King of pop?; 29- "Who's there?" reply; 33- Calf-length skirt; 34- Prefix with logical; 35- Small gull; 38- 1952 Gary Cooper classic; 39- Woe \_\_\_; 40- Restore confidence; 43- Morales of "NYPD Blue"; 46- Simpson trial judge; 48- And others, in Latin; 49- Usual; 50- Threesome; 51- Waits; 52- Turbulent; 53- \_\_\_ a high note; 56- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 57- Drive-\_\_\_; 58- Went through, as the paper; 59- Twiddling one's thumbs; 62- Article in Le Monde; 63- Boy king;

**Yesterday's solution**

A	T	A	T	R	O	T	E	C	H	O			
W	E	R	E	H	E	M	I	N	S	A	A	B	
E	L	A	N	A	D	A	N	O	E	N	D	O	
D	E	T	E	R	I	O	R	A	T	E	N	I	L
A	S	S	U	C	H	E	N	R	O	L	L	I	
E	M	U	L	U	R	E	D	S	P	L	I	T	
N	I	B	S	T	O	T	E	M	E	O	N	S	
E	N	S	U	E	S	A	N	A	A	N	E	E	
O	P	E	R	A	S	I	S	T	A	S	I	S	
A	N	C	O	M	M	O	N	P	L	A	C	E	
D	O	I	N	O	R	S	E	A	C	A	D		
A	L	E	E	S	T	E	L	E	M	E	S	A	
V	O	S	T	E	D	O	I	D	E	M			



**USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS**

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



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<p><b>Kok Wui, St Pauls</b> Macau <b>2 Bedroom Apartment</b> <b>Tastefully Furnished</b> HKD 12,800 / 600 sq ft Ref: 17030642</p>	<p><b>The Carat</b> Macau <b>Studio Apartment</b> <b>Waterfront Hotelstyle</b> HKD 11,000 / 679.79 sq ft Ref: 17030641</p>	<p><b>Houston Court</b> Coloane Village <b>2 Bedroom Apartment</b> <b>Furnished and Renovated</b> HKD 11,800 / 740 sq ft Ref: 15110549</p>	<p><b>Edf. Nam Long - J Unit</b> Taipa <b>2 Bedroom Apartment</b> <b>Rare &amp; Unique Apartment</b> HKD 12,800 / 750 sq ft Ref: 17010634</p>





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Mike Corder, Amsterdam

FOOTBALL

# Down and nearly out: Dutch soccer in decline

**L**AST year, their team absent from the European Championship, Dutch soccer fans sat drinking beer overlooking Marseille's Old Port under an orange banner which read: "We only do World Cups."

That seems like wishful thinking now.

Halfway through its qualifying campaign for the 2018 tournament, the Netherlands -- a finalist and semifinalist at the last two World Cups -- is hunting for a new coach and facing an uphill battle to qualify for Russia. The previous coach, Danny Blind, was fired Sunday, the day after his team lost to Bulgaria 2-0 in Sofia.

With five matches to play in Group A, the Netherlands is in fourth place, six points behind leader France and three points adrift of second-place Sweden. Only the group winner is guaranteed a World Cup place.

The attacking "total football" that propelled the Netherlands to two World Cup finals in the 1970s and Ajax to three straight European Cup titles from 1971 is a distant memory.

After a 2-1 friendly loss to Italy on Tuesday, striker Memphis Depay took off his shirt to reveal a tattoo on his back of a lion, symbol of the KNVB, the national soccer association.

Depay, once seen as the next big thing in Dutch soccer, showed flashes of skill against Italy, but did not score. The Lyon striker has only five goals in 28 international appearances.

His tattooed back and recent failures to find the net are emblematic for the state of the national sport in the Netherlands.

"The lion of the KNVB has turned into a tired old circus lion

AP PHOTO



Netherlands' interim coach Fred Grim

sitting in the corner," Willem Vissers wrote in the national daily De Volkskrant.

Dutch clubs and their training academies used to mass produce stylish, skillful stars like Johan Cruyff, Marco van Basten, Dennis Bergkamp and Patrick Kluivert and export them to top clubs around the world. But the supply has largely dried up in recent years.

On Tuesday, Arjen Robben watched from the sidelines and Wesley Sneijder was brought on late for his 128th international appearance. Those two players and Robin van Persie have par-

tially papered over the cracks in Dutch soccer at big tournaments - Sneijder was one of the top scorers as the Netherlands reached the World Cup final in South Africa in 2010 and Robben's speed and skill were the driving force behind the team's progression to the semifinals four years later in Brazil.

The trademark "clockwork orange" style of incisive passing and movement put on the map by Cruyff is gone now. The Dutch still have a passing game, it just doesn't take them toward the goal often enough.

On Saturday in Sofia, Dutch

players completed 633 passes to Bulgaria's 130 and enjoyed 70 percent of possession, but only managed three shots on target.

Opinions are divided about the underlying cause of the malaise. Too many artificial fields in the Netherlands? Too much PlayStation? Is this just a cyclical downturn?

Over the coming two seasons, the KNVB will introduce smaller fields and smaller teams for players between the ages 7 and 12 at clubs across the country, following the example of countries including England,

Germany and Spain.

"This is all about giving children more enjoyment and improving their football," said Jan Dirk van der Zee, the KNVB's director of amateur football.

But before attempts to improve soccer at the grass-roots level bear fruit, Dutch authorities have a more pressing problem: Finding a new coach for the national team.

■ The attacking "total football" that propelled the Netherlands to two WC finals in the 1970s and Ajax to three straight European titles is a distant memory

With the team likely to struggle to qualify, the job appears a thankless task in the short term and two possible candidates, Everton manager Ronald Koeman and former Ajax and Inter Milan coach Frank de Boer both reportedly do not want it.

One man who has worked wonders for the team in the recent past watched Tuesday's match from the Amsterdam Arena stands - Louis van Gaal. It was his tactical vision that helped the Dutch team reach the semifinals of the World Cup in Brazil. But Dutch media report that Van Gaal is more interested in a leading role at the KNVB than a return to the dugout. **AP**

FASTEN YOUR SEATBELTS

# Cristiano Ronaldo Airport is here



President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa (left), Prime Minister Antonio Costa (2nd left) and Cristiano Ronaldo

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo now has an international airport named after him.

The Real Madrid striker was joined yesterday by dozens of guests and hundreds of fans in his

native Madeira Islands for an official ceremony renaming the local airport as Aeroporto Cris-

tiano Ronaldo.

Portugal's president and the prime minister flew to the island and unveiled a commemorative plaque outside the terminal entrance, above a bust of Ronaldo.

The 32-year-old Ronaldo is a local hero in Madeira, where he is seen as a rags-to-riches success. He already has a statue, a museum and a hotel named for him in Madeira.

"You know how proud I am of my roots, my homeland," Ronaldo, wearing a dark suit and tie, said in a speech.

The four-time player of the year has made a re-

cord 138 national team appearances for Portugal and is the team's top scorer with 71 goals.

The change was decided by the Madeira regional government after Portugal won the 2016 European Championship. Critics said a more distinguished historical figure would be more appropriate. Petitions were started for and against the change.

Ronaldo acknowledged that it was rare for a public figure to be honored while still alive, saying he was aware that some people didn't agree with the name change.

However, President Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa said the tribute was legitimate because it was decided by an elected government.

Ronaldo, Rebelo de

Sousa said in his speech, is "an example of excellence" and "projects Madeira and Portugal across the world far more than anybody else."

Ronaldo is not the first soccer player with his name on an airport. In Northern Ireland, an airport was renamed George Best Belfast City Airport in 2006, a year after the local player and former Manchester United winger died.

In Funchal, the regional government provided transport to the outdoor ceremony for schoolchildren and elderly people at care homes. Also present were players and officials from the local Andorinha soccer club, where Ronaldo started when he was 7 years old. **AP**



opinion

**Girl About Globe**

Linda Kennedy



**DAIQUIRI DALEKS**

Sci fi has not been good to the female waiting at the bar. It's when women dematerialize.

We've all been there. Endlessly lingering. Hopelessly waving. It could be the person in front has ordered five French martinis. More likely, the bar tender isn't seeing you. At such moments, I wonder: did Doctor Who just say 'Tardis for Kennedy'?

But, lady humans, things could be changing. I learned this week Royal Caribbean Cruises are using a robot bartender which can deal with 30 different ingredients, and produce 'a drink per minute per arm' or 120 cocktails an hour, so will just about keep up with demand on Wyndham Street in Hong Kong on a Friday night.

It's part of the much discussed automation of the food and beverage industry which has recently seen pizza topping being applied by robots in California restaurants, and cappuccinos being made by skinny Robo Caps.

The cruise company says their robots, which serve in Bionic Bars, are mainly for novelty value. Apparently studies have shown humans still mix the best drinks. But real life bartenders have peripheral vision that neglects women and that leaves a bad taste in the mouth which no subsequent cocktail can wash away. A robot bar tender could be different. It could be programmed to SERVE WOMEN FIRST. Do bar owners worldwide realize the potential of offering quickies? 'Ladies Night. Your drink, in a blink.'

These days, of course, there are a range of forms automation takes. The Royal Caribbean bar tender robot looks metallic, with hinged limbs. Hence there's a cool retro robot vibe. Think Daiquiri dalek.

Could a next generation bar-tending robot advance this? Might it be an algorithm with voice recognition tech which will 3D print your class of Merlot? (Actually, don't order wine. An algorithm making an 'Old-Fashioned' would be far more delicious.) Look out for a mobile sitcom. 'Cheers 3.0'. Where the Internet of Things knows your smart drink.'

Women in STEM, get onto this career track. Work out how to programme bar tech so its sensors are more aware of women waiting. No, I don't know how you do this. Perfume reactivity? High receptiveness to iterations of the phrase 'excuse me but I was here first'? Voice pitch differentiation?

Once that's sorted, have some retaliatory fun with men. If you can include some facial recognition tech, have it scan blokes and only pour them some rosé bubbles till programmed otherwise. Go girl. I mean, go lady human.

Or am I being old school about this? Maybe you shouldn't actually go to the bar and communicate the order, but order by app and the robot delivers to your table.

Women would definitely be at an advantage, seeing as most men's opening lines in tech comms are 'how u?' which in this case would be 'u make 5 beer emojis?'

Mind you. Or even mind u. Uber suspended its self-driving car programme this week after a crash. What if robotic bar tenders were to collide with each other, and we ended up waiting even longer?

There are wider issues. Like, will automation remodel beloved cocktails? A 'Silicon Valley' rather than a 'Manhattan'. An Apple martini with a trademark? A 'Screwdriver' was probably cutting edge once. Does it, in high tech times, become a 'Patch'? Will a Sea Breeze become a 'Sea Air Con'.

Inevitably there will be a mixologist strike, as the bartenders of the world down their limes, protesting about job losses. Poor guys. You should have served us first.

Let's hope there's no element of virtual reality in all this. I would actually like that cocktail.

**THE INVESTMENT FROM CHINA IN KUSHNER BUZZ MANHATTAN PROPERTY IS OFF**

Talks with a Chinese company seeking a stake in a Fifth Avenue skyscraper owned by the family of Jared Kushner are over.

Negotiations with Anbang Insurance to help fund redevelopment of the Kushner Cos.' struggling office tower on Manhattan's Fifth Ave. had drawn criticism from lawmakers and govern-

ment ethics experts. They saw it as a potential attempt by China to curry favor with the White House.

Jared Kushner is President Donald Trump's son-in-law and a senior adviser. He has sold stakes in several companies, including 666 Fifth Ave., to help allay concerns about conflicts of interest.

IRAQ

**US denies loosening rules for avoiding civilian casualties**



U.S. airstrikes probably played a role in the deaths of dozens of civilians in Mosul earlier this month, U.S. and Iraqi military officials acknowledged yesterday [Macau time], but they denied the rules for avoiding civilian casualties have been loosened despite a recent spike in civilian casualties.

Speaking from Baghdad to reporters at the Pentagon, the top commander of U.S. forces in Iraq said an ongoing investigation may reveal a more complicated explanation for the March 17 explosion that residents say killed at least 100 people, including the possibility that Islamic State militants rigged the building with explosives after forcing civilians inside.

Army Lt. Gen. Stephen Townsend said a recent spate of civilian casualties in Mosul was "fairly predictable" given the densely populated urban neighborhoods that the IS fighters are defending against Iraqi government troops. But the civilian deaths cannot be attributed to any loosening of American military rules of combat, he said, and Washington hasn't decided to tolerate greater risk of civilian casualties in U.S. airstrikes.

Amnesty International said the rising death toll

suggested the U.S.-led coalition wasn't taking adequate precautions as it helps Iraqi forces try to retake the city.

Townsend acknowledged the U.S. conducted multiple airstrikes in the area of the explosions. That, coupled with initial inquiries done by U.S. technical experts who visited the scene, led him to say: "My initial assessment is that we probably had a role in these casualties."

**Amnesty Int'l said the rising death toll suggested the US-led coalition wasn't taking adequate precautions**

But Townsend said the type of munitions used by the U.S. in the airstrikes should not have been able to bring down the entire building, raising questions about the level of American involvement. He said U.S. officials were assessing the possibility that IS forced civilians to gather there to act as human

shields or to lure the U.S. into attacking.

"It sure looks like they were," Townsend said. Another possibility that was being examined was that the militants filled the building with explosives, he said.

In the most extensive U.S. explanation of what is known about the event, Townsend stressed that no one should think it was a deliberate U.S. act. "If we did it — and I'd say there is at least a fair chance we did — it was an unintentional accident of war," he said.

Iraq's ministry of defense also blamed IS for the high civilian death toll.

"As our forces advanced toward that area to liberate it, the explosive-laden tanker truck headed toward our advancing troops, it was targeted by an airstrike which led to a huge explosion. The explosion damaged number of buildings, including the one where IS crammed about 130 civilians," said the ministry's spokesman, Brig. Gen. Yahya Rasool.

IS planned the incident to "impact the civilians, to inflame the public and to convey a wrong message to the world that the joint forces and the international coalition are behind the killing and bombings," Rasool said. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	☹️

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**YEMEN's** embattled president launched a scathing verbal attack on Iran at an Arab summit in Jordan yesterday, saying the non-Arab and mostly Shiite nation is pursuing expansionist policies to destroy the Arab identity.



**EGYPT's** famed pyramids at Giza have a newcomer in their midst: the largest on-site antiquities laboratory meant to restore the location's second pharaonic boat. The vessel is believed to be the ceremonial boat of Pharaoh Cheops, known for building the largest of Egypt's pyramids. The project is funded by the Japan International Cooperation Agency and the Higashi Nippon International University, and is set to complete the initial phase of repairs by 2020.

**KOSOVO** Albanians in Kosovo blocked roads yesterday to prevent the local Serb minority and people coming from Serbia from holding an electoral rally. Police said that the road was blocked in five or six locations but cleared after a couple of hours.



**FRANCE** The daughter of a man killed in a police raid at their home in Paris said her father never had a chance against the officers who broke down their door and shot him, disputing the police account of the deadly events that touched off riots in a neighborhood that is home to many Chinese immigrants.

**BRAZIL** Police have arrested a former executive engineering manager of Brazil's state-run oil company Petrobras for his alleged role in a mammoth corruption-kickback scheme.