



TREE BURIAL GARDEN
An IACM representative talks about the memorial garden which was recently set up in Taipa to provide tree burial services

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'SILENCE' PRAISED FOR HISTORIC REALISM

▲ P5 FILM



'NEW SHENZHEN' SPURS INVESTOR FRENZY
It didn't take long for news that China would set up an economic zone near Beijing to touch off an investor frenzy

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Times

FOUNDER & PUBLISHER Kowie Goldenhuys EDITOR-IN-CHIEF Paulo Coutinho

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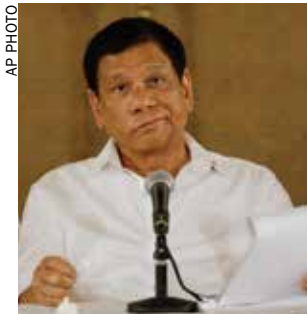
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte threatened yesterday to unleash new attack aircraft and the "full power of the state" against communist rebels if a new round of peace talks fails, and insisted they accept new conditions including a halt to extortion and to territorial claims. More on p13

CHINA Twelve people died and another 19 were injured in central China's Hunan Province yesterday after their truck overturned, local authorities said. The accident happened at about 5:50 p.m. as the truck owned by a landscaping company was on the way back after the workers finished their tree planting work in Chenzhou City.



INDONESIA Rescue teams using heavy equipment recovered another body yesterday from a landslide that swept into a village on Indonesia's main island, bringing the number of retrieved bodies to three.

JAPAN said yesterday that it is returning its recalled ambassador to South Korea despite a continuing impasse over a "comfort woman" statue, but insisted it is not caving in to Seoul's position.

More on backpage

CE 'strongly rejects' Land Law amendment

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TERRORISM | RUSSIA

Blast in St. Petersburg's busy subway station kills 10

▲ P15





Albergue presents Chinese ink drawings

Albergue SCM is set to present the exhibition "Desenhos 2006-2016" by Daniel Vicente Flores on April 19, showcasing 33 Chinese ink drawings. According to the cultural and creative space, "the artist explored his personality through the lines that sometimes break in angles and sudden variations." "My drawings are not studies of shadow and light from observation, but from light and color itself, which form the drawing related to the outside world only symbolically," the artist said, as cited in a press release issued by Albergue SCM. Flores was born in Macau in 1989. He developed his interest for drawing as an expression he exercised, and also developed in literature, particularly poetry, and music. Meanwhile, the artist's book, "Impressões," with his drawings and poems will be launched on the same day. The exhibition, sponsored by the Macau Foundation, will be open to the public at A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM until May 7.

Philippines Airlines to launch Chengdu routes

Philippines Airlines (PAL) is set to officially launch its Chengdu-Kalibo and Chengdu-Cebu routes, which allow the Chinese market to land directly in the central Philippines. There will be three weekly flights on the Chengdu-Cebu route and four on the Chengdu-Kalibo route, executives from the airline have stated. The airline operates over a hundred flights a week from Manila to the mainland China, with Cebu and Kalibo hosting a number of other domestic and international flights. Among the Chinese destinations served are Beijing, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, Macau, Jinjiang, Shanghai, Xiamen and Chengdu.

"We have been flying here in China since September 1946 when PAL resumed operations after the Second World War. [...] Our network expansion in China is a reflection of the vision of our Chairman Dr. Lucio C. Tan, who foresaw China's economic boom," PAL President and COO Jaime J. Bautista said, according to ENP Newswire. Aside from the Chengdu service, PAL will be opening more flights connecting the Philippines to China in the near future.

C2 Magazine 20th issue to be published tomorrow

Published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and produced by 100 Plus Cultural and Creative Development Ltd., the 20th issue of C2 Magazine will be launched tomorrow. According to a statement issued by the IC, "education plays a vital role in the development of the cultural and creative industries." As such, representatives from the Millennium Secondary School, the Macau Polytechnic Institute and Todot Design have been invited in this issue to discuss how education is a part of the cultural and creative sector. Macau-based director Tracy Choi will be featured in the edition under the "Budding Talents" section, in which she will share the difficulties she faced during the preparation and the production of her debut feature film, "Sisterhood". C2 is a trilingual magazine, published in Chinese, Portuguese and English. The bimonthly publication, released on the first Wednesday of every second month, can also be downloaded from <http://www.c2magazine.mo>.

CHING MING FESTIVAL

Tree burial - new alternative to bury deceased in Macau

TODAY marks this year's Ching Ming Festival, also known as Tomb-Sweeping Day, in Macau as well as in other parts of China.

In the densely populated region, citizens now have a new alternative to bury their deceased family members.

In Taipa's Sa Kong Municipal Cemetery, local civil affairs authorities set up a memorial garden to provide tree burial service for those who are ready to let their beloved ones merge into nature.

"It is a new way. Frankly speaking, not every one can accept this idea, but we have 56 completed services for now, and more people visit here for consideration," said Leong Kunfong, a member of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) Administration Committee, which is in charge of the tree burial service.

The tree burial garden has five Indonesian cinnamons at its center, with some other smaller plants grown under the canopies.

Around the cinnamons, over 440 slots on the ground are arranged in four lines to bury bone ash.



A cemetery in Macau

According to IACM's service procedure, all applicants will bring their deceased family members' bone ash to the garden after cremation.

After the ritual is completed, the bone ash will be kept in a paper bag and put into a vacant slot.

A square tile will be put above to seal the slot, then covered by stones and soil.

The names of the deceased will be carved on a memorial wall inside the garden.

"The bone ash will be degraded in two years and the garden can provide slots to other people on and on, so it is eco-friendly and saves land and space," Leong said.

"More importantly, the

trees become a symbol of the deceased and connect them with those who are still alive."

According to him, the garden chose Indonesian cinnamon for its Chinese name "Yin Xiang" which has special meaning in Chinese context. In Chinese, "Yin" means afterlife, "Xiang" means fragrance.

"The tree stands for a good wish that even someone passes away, his or her virtue will bless their offspring like cinnamon's everlasting fragrance," Leong explained.

Zhou Qingyi came here to see her deceased mother, who received tree burial service at the beginning of this

year.

"My mother is a very quiet person, I think she must like this place full of trees and flowers," she said, picking up a fallen cinnamon leaf from the ground.

To treasure the good memory with her mother, she chose tree burial as it means much more to her than an ordinary tomb or grave.

"I love her very much, and when I come here, I feel a part of her is still there inside those lively trees. I can talk to the trees as if I can talk to her," Zhou said, while holding that leaf tight and smelling the fragrance from time to time.

According to Macau's latest census, there are over 650,000 people live in a land area of just about 30 square kilometers.

As one of the most densely populated region in the world, grave burial is apparently unsustainable.

IACM also plans to develop another piece of land in Sa Kong Municipal Cemetery into a similar garden for flower burial service in the future, which can hold around 500 slots. **MDT/Xinhua**

AF marks 30th anniversary with Marion Sila show

ALLIANCE Française de Macao (AF) is set to present a concert featuring a French accordionist at Albergue SCM this Sunday to kick off the association's 30th anniversary.

Established three decades ago, the association will present several events this year including its music festival, to commemorate this anniversary.

AF has invited French accordionist and singer Marion Sila to



AF president Xavier Garnier

perform well-known French songs at the cultural and creative space.

Commenting on the upcoming concert, AF president Xavier Garnier said, "It's a popular tradition in France [...]

so we wanted to

invite Marion Sila because she could present popular French songs."

Sila was recently on a music tour through China and Mongolia, and Macau will be her last stop.

Garnier also no-

ted that the concert is sponsored by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). "We are actually supported by the IC to organize cultural events [...]" So we'll hold events that will really contribute to the cultural life in Macau," Garnier explained.

Every year, the association holds approximately 15 to 20 events from April to July, and September to December.

According to the president, the association

will also host events such as concerts and invite French artists to hold exhibitions in the territory.

This July, the association will organize a French dinner at Sofitel to celebrate the French National Day as it has done in the past, and in November it will hold its third music festival.

Meanwhile, the association's French-language classes will kick off for the Spring Session on April 24, which will run until July 2. A free trial class will also be conducted on Thursday.

Garnier noted that the AF runs five sessions of language classes every year. **LV**

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DIRECTOR AND EDITOR-IN-CHIEF_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR_Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS_Alban Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS_Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS_JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES_Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY_Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

SEND NEWSWORTHY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM.MO

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY_Denise Lo denise@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS_Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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CE 'strongly rejects' Land Law amendment

THE Chief Executive (CE) is against any attempt by lawmakers to change the Land Law to accommodate the interests of private developers who claim that the non-development of land was due to governmental inaction.

In a statement issued yesterday, the CE's Office "strongly rejects" the proposal by appointed lawmaker Gabriel Tong to vote on an amendment to the Land Law.

The statement indicated that according to article 75 of the Basic Law, "lawmakers who wish to present bills to the Legislative Assembly (AL) involving governmental policies must obtain written consent from the Chief Executive."

Article 75 also states that "bills which don't involve revenues or expenses, the political structure or the government functioning can be presented, individually or collectively, by lawmakers." These norms strongly limit the autonomy of lawmakers to present bills.

The CE's firm stance comes days after a controversial plenary session at the AL, dominated by appeals for a revision to the Land Law. The session was attended by some of the ow-

ners of the Pearl Horizon project who applauded lawmakers' appeals to "interpret" the law after the rental concession of land where the unfinished private housing project being developed by Polytex Corporation Limited was declared expired by the Court of Final Appeal in December. The project was expected to include 18 towers with over 5,000 residential units.

During the session, lawmaker Cheung Lup Kwan summarized the views expressed by other lawmakers, acknowledging that it was a mistake to approve the changes to the Land Law. "I believe that we made a mistake. I voted wrongly; I admit that like many others here," he said. "We have to think how to solve this."

Meanwhile, according to Pereira Coutinho, around 20 lawmakers -



The Pearl Horizon project

including all of the directly elected ones - have signed a letter requesting a meeting with the CE next week to discuss the issue. **PB**

NAM VAN TO APPEAL

THE DIRECTOR of the Nam Van Development Company, which is the concessionaire company of the C and D land plots of Nam Van lake, said that the company will go to court in order to challenge the reversion of the land plots located close to the AL. "It must

be done, resorting to court," Gilberto Gomes told Radio Macau. "But we need to wait for the government's notice in order to see how we reply. We also need to analyze that in the General Assembly of the company. It must be decided by the shareholders."

Commission created to supervise public administration reform

The government has taken a step forward to advance the reform of Macau's public administration by creating the Commission for the Coordination of Public Administration Reform.

A notice published yesterday in the Official Gazette indicates that the Coordination Committee has been established to coordinate the implementation of measures for the reform of public administration. The committee will supervise the strategies related to the definition, planning and coordination of the goals of the public administration reform and create policies for the modernization of the MSAR.

Included in this plan is the reform of the management of civil servant workers, the

adjustment of the organizational structure and optimization of procedures of the public administration, as well as the development of the Electronic Government (e-government). These measures are some among many to modernize the public administration and increase its effectiveness.

The order also dictates the composition of the Coordination Committee that will be chaired by the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan and will also have members such as the Chief of the Office of the CE (or a representative nominated by it), Chief of Staff from each Secretariat from the government, and the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau.

Macau Daily Times contest



BIBAP Delicious Musical

Question for readers:

How many people make up the BIBAP performance group?

Please email the answers to: bibap@macaudailytimes.com Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets - Giveaway

Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us the correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for four days (Monday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP480 for a total prize value of MOP3,840.

Tickets from MOP180 are now available through cotaiticketing.com or 2882 8818.

Created to celebrate the national dish of bibimbap and promote Korean food culture worldwide, BIBAP is a comedy deliciously blending martial arts, street dance and hip-hop that takes place at The Parisian Theatre, The Parisian Macao from April 7 to 23, 2017. Prices start from MOP/HKD180 and tickets are now available via cotaiticketing.com or call 2882 8818.

BIBAP is the story of a cooking competition between two master chefs, Green Chef and Red Chef, at 'BIBAP' restaurant, alongside six other hyperactive performers also dressed as chefs. Revolving around the Korean national dish of spicy rice, vegetables and beef called bibimbap, it is a nonverbal performance incorporating

music, beat box and b-boying (breakdancing), acrobatics and singing, which debuted in 2009 and has now been performed all over the world. Audiences can expect to be dragged into the fun, with the cast encouraging them to handle and even taste the food, tidy up the stage and generally get involved throughout the Macao show. Spontaneous blind dates between audience

members are also not unknown! The audience plays an even bigger role in that the performers observe crowd reaction to decide the way show will progress, so no two evenings are ever the same. Book your tickets now and join Red Chef, Green Chef, MC Chef, Rhythm Chef, Sexy Chef, Cutie Chef, Iron Chef and Rookie Chef for BIBAP - the most fun you can have in the kitchen!



AD

Macau, mainland discuss police cooperation

Representatives of the police forces in Macau and mainland China recently met to discuss law enforcement cooperation on fighting economic crime, drugs, and telecommunication fraud, security authorities in Macau said yesterday. The Office of the Secretary for Security told the press that the 20th police work meeting between Macau and the Chinese mainland had been held in Xiamen on Friday. Secretary Wong Sio Chak and China's Vice Minister of Public Security, Chen Zhimin, led the two sides to review the cooperation in 2016 and exchange ideas for 2017. Last year, the two sides studied the joint customs clearance procedure in the Zhuhai-Macau part of Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, with all related regulations and facilities under development. In terms of the plan for 2017, both sides will strengthen coordination in dealing with security risks and challenges, including telecommunication fraud and illegal immigration. The meeting also decided to push forward the realization of mutual legal assistance in criminal matters between Macau and Chinese mainland.

SJM announces salary raise

Sociedade de Jogos de Macau (SJM) has announced a salary increase for its eligible employees of between 2.5 percent to 9.1 percent, effective April 1, 2017. "This year's salary adjustment focuses on local employees and on raising the salary level of junior employees," a statement from SJM informed. The company's statement also said that the raise reflects its commitment to the "development of local talent, despite being faced with challenging economic conditions." Local residents currently comprise over 95 percent of SJM's workforce. Moreover, the Grand Lisboa Palace, an integrated resort in Cotai penned for a 2018 opening, is expected to provide local residents with more than 10,000 jobs, most of which are non-gaming positions.

Filipino migrants in Macau call for Vice President impeachment

A group of Filipino migrants in the MSAR gathered on Sunday to express their dismay over the actions of The Philippines' Vice-President, Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo, and to add their voices to the global rally calling for her impeachment.

In the context of the country's current controversial war on drugs initiated by President Rodrigo Duterte, the Vice President sparked controversy after the broadcast of a video message at the annual meeting of the UN Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, Austria.

In the video, she claimed that the crackdown on drug trafficking being conducted by the Philippine National Police (PNP) has resulted in over 7,000 deaths, many of them extra-judicial killings. These allegations sparked rage amongst Duterte supporters, because her claims were reported to be unverified. These supporters consequently called for a global rally to impeach Robredo, with a slogan "PalitBise," meaning 'change of Vice President'.

In Macau, Jonathan Marigsa, a migrant worker, organized a small group of people to participate in the global movement.

He stressed their dismay over Robredo's claims, adding that the Vice



Philippine Vice President Maria Leonor "Leni" Robredo

7,000 deaths recorded by the PNP, only one third are related to drug trade.

"Not all those deaths are related to extra-judicial killings. The calculations are wrong because it included other criminalities such as kidnapping, robbery and such," he said.

Not all those deaths are related to extra-judicial killings.

JONATHAN MARIGSA
PROTEST ORGANIZER

President presented a bad image of The Philippines to the UN. "We didn't like Leni Robredo's statements regarding human rights. It was even showed to the UN but we don't believe her claims," Marigsa told the Times on a phone interview.

According to him, of the over

"It gives the Philippines a bad image due to the statement she gave to the UN. She should instead be of help to the administration," the Duterte supporter criticized.

Although the gathering only attracted a few dozen, Marigsa believed that majority of the Filipinos residing in the region are Duterte supporters, recalling that Duterte's win during the elections in May last year was a landslide victory. LV

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Film on 17th-century Macau Jesuits praised for historic realism

Daniel Beitler

MARTIN Scorsese's latest project, a historical period drama titled "Silence", has been praised for its accurate depiction of Jesuit activities in Macau and East Asia, as well as for its closeness to the original novel that served as the inspiration behind the film.

Released internationally in December last year, the film features scenes of a recreated 'old Macau', which served as an important center for Jesuit activities in the Asia-Pacific region during the 16th and 17th centuries.

The film's plot recounts the fictional story of Jesuit missionaries trying to find their missing colleague in Japan. Leaving their base in Macau, two Portuguese priests enlist the help of an exiled Japanese man to venture into the hostile country, which at that time had embraced state-sponsored persecution of Christians.

In one of the opening scenes, three Jesuit priests are seen exiting a whitened, and presumably intact, version of the present-day Ruins of St. Paul's. However, only its front-facing façade is shown in the film.

The background to the scene is a tranquil hilltop view of Portuguese Macau, adorned with colonial-style buildings and what appear to be wooden ships in the harbor. The hills of nearby China (today Zhuhai) can be seen across the narrow stretch of water.

The detailed recreation of old Macau prompted the Times to ask local authorities whether government departments such as the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) or the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) had collaborated with researchers for the film.

MGTO has previously been involved in projects to bring filmmakers to Macau, for example the International Film Festival and Awards that debuted in Macau debuted last year, as part of its plan to generate more international awareness of the MSAR through film productions and promote tourism in the process.

A representative of the IC told the Times that the bureau had no involvement in the film in terms of providing assistance to researchers. The Times did not receive a reply from MGTO by press time.

Meanwhile, Macau-based filmmakers suggested to the Times that the production team behind the film, which was shot entirely in Taiwan, had not vi-



Andrew Garfield (left) and Shinya Tsukamoto in a scene from "Silence"

sited Macau and instead produced the set from historical archives.

According to Catholic media website, Crux, Jesuit priest James Martin had worked closely with the filmmakers as a consultant to ensure an accurate portrayal of the members of the Society of Jesus.

Professor Hugo Gonçalves Dores, who presented a seminar at the University of Saint Joseph last week detailing his research on Portuguese missionary work in Africa during the 19th and 20th centuries, said that the film was well-received by academics in his field, who regard it as an accurate portrayal of the period.

"I am not a specialist [in missionary work in Asia] but my colleagues who are specialists said the film was very realistic – true to the book and to the reality," he said.

The film was adapted from a 1996 historical fiction novel by Japanese author Shūsaku Endō, which explores the theme of a silent God accompanying a believer who must face trials of faith.

"The experience [of missionaries] in Africa and Asia was quite different," he said, "but they were a part of the same imperial structure."

While the importance of Macau as a missionary base in the region diminished quite rapidly

■ The film was well-received by academics, who regard it as an accurate portrayal of the period

following the entry of other colonial powers to East Asia – namely the Dutch, the French and the British – the role of the enclave during the 16th and 17th centuries earned Macau the title of the "Mother of Missions in Asia".

This title, which was bestowed on the territory centuries later by contemporary academics, was the result of Macau serving as a node for missionary work in the region.

Leonor Diaz de Seabra, an associate professor of history at the University of Macau, told the Times that during the 16th and 17th centuries, "all the [European] missionaries came to Macau first and then spread to East Asia and Southeast Asia."

"Macau was very important to the Jesuits at this time and the Jesuits were also important to Macau, particularly in administrative affairs," said Seabra. "They [operated] the first university, St. Paul's College, where

they taught not only religious matters but also scientific matters."

Scorsese's "Silence" was reviewed favorably by film critics and audiences. IMDb has aggregated a score of 7.4 out of 10 based on 38,743 votes, while Rotten Tomatoes rates it at 7.6 out of 10, with audience reviewers on the site (non-professionals) awarding it 3.7 out of 5.

Scorsese has visited Macau previously. In October 2015, he attended the opening of Melco's (then Melco Crown's) Studio City resort in Cotai, where a short film featuring the director, Robert De Niro, Leonardo DiCaprio and Brad Pitt was premiered.

Missionaries thought it 'a noble thing to spread their faith'

PROFESSOR Hugo Gonçalves Dores, a scholar who is researching the Portuguese colonial experience in sub-Saharan Africa, presented a seminar last week at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ).

Titled "Historiographical limits and the challenges of studying Christian missions in imperial times," the public lecture shed light on the various forces that affected missionary work on the continent during the 19th and 20th centuries, including religious doctrine, imperialism, internationalism and intra-religious factionalism.

One idea that Professor Dores said he gra-

ppled with in his research was the idea of "Christian missionaries being collaborators of the imperial regimes."

"I tend not to be so careful [favorable] about the concept of 'the Empire' as many are in Portugal," he said, explaining that the imperial experience has traditionally been a source of national pride for the Portuguese.

"My job as a historian is to look at specific realities in specific contexts. At the time [of the missionaries], they thought they were not being racist or judgmental. They were just Christians who thought they were doing a noble thing to spread their faith."

Safety regulations to be raised after HKZMB deaths

THE enforcement of safety regulations on construction sites will be heightened, said Hong Kong's Secretary for Labor and Welfare, Stephen Sui, according to a report published by Hong Kong's The Standard. The enforcement is following 10 worker deaths so far this year due to industrial accidents on construction sites.

The deaths include two workers who died last week when a temporary platform at the site of the under-construction Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) collapsed.

The Hong Kong Secretary said that after the Labor Department conducted more than 62,000 regular inspections at construction sites, it found that the accidents in question were due to inadequate safety measures.

From these inspections, 174 "suspension notices" were delivered and 348 "improvement notices" were issued in January and February this year alone. A total of 317 prosecutions were also undertaken in the period.

According to The Standard, Sui, speaking at an event on the weekend, said that the accident at the HKZMB site is currently under investigation by a committee in Hong Kong. He said that the existing penalties are high enough to deter employers from



poor safety practices, citing two cases that resulted in fines of HKD185,000 and HKD520,000.

However, the chairman of the Hong Kong Construction Industry Employees General Union, Chow Luen-kiu, said during the event that these fines were negligible when compared to the total construction costs of the projects in question. He said that the fines would be assumed by employers as business costs.

"A bridge costs HKD10 billion or HKD20 billion. If a worker died, [the contractor] may compensate the family with some HKD1 million and the court may fine it hundreds of thousands of dollars," he said, as cited by The Standard. "The companies may just count everything as the business cost."

He added that the HKZMB is now seen as "the most dangerous construction site" in Hong Kong.

UNDERGROUND TUNNEL COMPLETED

THE CONSTRUCTION of the underground tunnel that connects to the HKZMB has been completed. The 55-kilometer-long bridge will open by the end of this year, linking the cities of Macau, Hong Kong and Zhuhai. Contractors responsible for

the tunnel's construction said that all testing post-construction has been successful. During the construction of the tunnel, various risk assessments were conducted to account for the potential inflow of water and mud, as well as structural collapse.

MACAU DEAF ASSOCIATION

Bilingualism may cause language delays in children

RESULTS of a Cantonese-speaking assessment tool conducted by the Macau Deaf Association shows that some children raised in a bilingual environment are more likely to experience delays in language development.

The association has identified 240 children with language delays and disorders through its assessment tool, including those who have grown up in bilingual households.

Those children raised in a bilingual environment take slightly longer to pass an assessment test in comparison to toddlers raised in single-language homes.

The tool, which investigated the language capabilities of preschool children last year, measures the development of language in children with special needs.

According to the group, they only use standardized test materials to ensure accurate results.

One of the children's parents told TDM they were glad to have participated in the assessment test as it gave them a warning.

"We're actually glad to have taken the test because

it gave us a warning. Now we know what problems my daughter is facing and that's why I brought her here to see a speech therapist who's now following up on her," said the mother, who TDM identified as Jackie.

Macau Deaf Association's speech therapist, Kou Lau Ieng, explained that the assessment tool could easily identify language or hearing delays in children between two and three years old.

"For example we'd ask what they see in this picture. [...] They wouldn't score a point if the pronunciation of 'apple' is inaccurate," Kou explicated.

The speech therapist said that the children diagnosed with language delays would be sent for further in-depth assessment.

"We will then need to conduct a more comprehensive test and analyze their family's language profile and their development process and several other factors," the therapist said.

Although 240 children in the MSAR suffer speech delays, not all of them experience significant problems with speech.

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Melco stress overseas expansion focus



IN a statement announcing the company's 2016 annual audited financial results, the recently renamed Melco International Development Ltd. stressed its interest in continuing to develop opportunities in several overseas locations which include Japan, South Korea, the Philippines and Cyprus.

"We have been actively exploring opportunities in new markets, such as South Korea, Cyprus and Japan," noted the company's CEO, Lawrence Ho, according to Friday's statement.

The announcement stated that the multinational consortium formed between Melco, Hard Rock International and

Cyprus Phasouri (Zakara) Ltd. has now entered the final stage in the process of obtaining a 30-year license for the operation of the new casino resort with a 15-year exclusivity period, from the Cypriot government.

"Riding on the ongoing recovery of Macau underpinned by a pivot of the market towards the mass market segment, Melco continues to further develop our operations in Macau as well as in overseas markets, including the Philippines, Russia, South Korea, mainland China and the Pan-Asian region," said Ho, according to the statement.

"We are also resolved to advance our expansion plan in Cyprus, and to explore new opportunities in other countries, such as Japan," he added, "[as] the legalization of casinos in December 2016 has paved the way for tremendous business opportunities in this wealthy and populous country."

As previously reported, Melco recorded profit attributable to shareholders of HKD10.4 billion.



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Slot machine maker says Japan casinos need Vegas-style rules

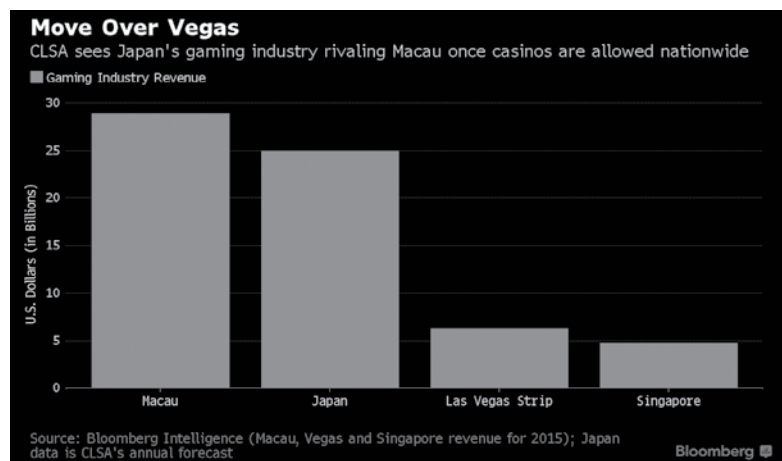
Chris Cooper, Grace Huang

KONAMI Holdings Corp., which supplies slot machines to some of the world's biggest casinos, will participate in Japan's gaming industry if the regulations are as strict as those in Las Vegas.

Satoshi Sakamoto, a senior executive director at Konami, said an industry with a good reputation will attract more Japanese visitors and turn resorts into destinations for events other than gambling, such as school reunions. At the same time, it wouldn't threaten Konami's licenses to operate in Nevada and other U.S. states.

"In Las Vegas, if you have a license they'll take it away if you start getting involved in strange things, and that would be a big problem," Sakamoto said in a March 30 interview in Tokyo. "If Japan is too loose, then we'd have to remove ourselves."

Las Vegas Sands Corp., Wynn Resorts Ltd. and MGM Resorts International are among the companies interested in



building resorts in Japan after lawmakers passed a bill in December to legalize casinos. Legislators are due to vote on a second bill and decide on the number of resorts and locations this year, with CLSA predicting the industry could generate as much as USD25 billion in annual revenue. The first casinos are likely to start operating in 2023.

Tokyo-based Konami, whose customers include MGM and the Hard Rock Cafe International Inc., has more than 400

licenses in the U.S., Europe, Australia, Singapore and South Africa. In addition to selling slot machines, it signs agreements to share profits from leased machines. Konami had licenses in 45 U.S. states as of December.

The regulation overseeing casino operators in Nevada calls for checks once every two years and examinations of the finances of top executives as well as their spouses.

"The most important thing is to have compliance and rules at the same level as Nevada," Saka-

moto said. "We want a clean casino and entertainment."

In Japan, the legalization of casinos in December has divided Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Buddhist-backed coalition partner Komeito amid concerns about compulsive gambling. The government is considering restrictions on existing gambling establishments, including pachinko parlors and race tracks, in a bid to tackle addiction.

Konami, which also operates health and fitness clubs, wants to see the details of the next bill advancing casino plans before deciding on its level of involvement in integrated resorts.

"We're not going to compete with our customers," Sakamoto said. "If our customers ask us, then we'll look at the details and decide. First, the rules should be decided."

Konami is targeting about 12 percent of the slot-machine market in Japan casinos, in line with its current share in the U.S., Sakamoto said. He predicts there could be about 10,000 machines with three large, inte-

grated resorts.

Konami forecast its net income more than doubled about 24 billion yen (\$215 million) for the year ended March 31, as it restructured and cut costs. Its shares have risen about 16 percent since Japan legalized casinos in December, compared with a 1.7 percent decline in the Topix index.

Konami is targeting about 12 percent of the slot-machine market in Japan casinos

The company developed casino management software called Synkros to help customers, including Norwegian Cruise Lines, manage their marketing, cash, slots and tables. It's also rolling out a new series of gaming machines called Concerto. "With much of the development cost of these new products now past, there may be room for margin to expand with sales," Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Matthew Kanterman said in a March 23 report. **Bloomberg**

Lufthansa counting on A350 fleet to end Munich long-haul losses

DEUTSCHE Lufthansa AG is banking on Airbus Group SE's latest A350 wide-body jet to shore up its Munich hub, where the deployment of less efficient planes means normally lucrative long-haul flights are losing money.

The first 15 of 25 A350s ordered by Lufthansa are to be based in the Bavarian city, with the composite-fuselage, twin-engine model providing a 25 percent fuel saving compared with the four-turbine Airbus A340s currently used there.

"The new A350 fleet is a big step toward profitability," Wilken Bormann, who heads Lufthansa's operations in Munich, said in an interview. Two A350s are now flying from the secondary hub, with the third delivered Saturday, and the number is set to reach

six this year and 12 by the end of 2018, he said.

Lufthansa is focusing on Munich after turning all inter-continental routes from its main Frankfurt base profitable last year, terminating some services and introducing a denser seating layout on others.

Network airlines typically accept losses on short-haul routes that feed passengers onto longer trips where margins are usually healthier, buoyed by sales of premium seats.

Routes from Munich to Delhi and Boston are already served by the A350, with Mumbai set to become the model's next destination from April 15, followed by cities in East Asia, Bormann said. Hong Kong, Beijing, Shanghai, Seoul and Tokyo all currently use the A340, which

has been out of production since 2011.

Chief Executive Officer Carsten Spohr said last month that Munich will become more important to Lufthansa, something Bormann said may mean stationing more aircraft there. Europe's third-biggest airline has 25 wide-body jets at the hub, including 16 A340s used on about half of the 20-plus long-haul routes, though Bormann didn't reveal how many are failing to break even. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA PARTICIPATES IN EARTH HOUR



Sands China took the month of March to shine an additional spotlight on environmental sustainability by drawing the attention of the public and its team members to climate change through two events; Earth

Hour and an in-house Climate Week.

On March 25, the company participated in Earth Hour for the ninth consecutive year, turning off lights at all its properties.

Beginning at 8:30 p.m., exterior lights and non-essential indoor lights were turned off for one hour at all Sands China properties, the gaming operator said in a statement.

Sands China then followed up this year's Earth Hour observance with a Climate Week event, encouraging team members to take action on climate change (Twitter hashtags #ECO360 and #ChangeClimateChange).

Held from March 27-31 at employee back-of-house areas, Climate Week featured an Energy Saving Roadshow.

The week encouraged team members to save energy at home and further support the environmental goals of Earth Hour and Sands ECO360° by changing out their homes' incandescent and compact fluorescent bulbs for ultra energy-efficient LEDs.

CEM ANNOUNCES FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS FOR EV CHARGING FACILITIES



CEM held a press conference at CEM Building on Friday to brief the media about its electric vehicle

(EV) charging facilities and plans for future development.

Currently, 18 Macau pu-

blic car parks are equipped with EV charging facilities. More than 70 chargers are available for EVs and e-bikes, and cover more than 40 percent of public car parks.

CEM said in a statement that it will install more EV charging stations at eight public car parks for its next phase of development in the territory.

This move will equip 60 percent of public car parks with EV charging stations.

CEM will also increase the number of charging stations in accordance with usage status, as well as the growth of EV usage in the region.

The company will also analyze the usage patterns of various districts to optimize the distribution of different charging systems.

Half the population of Angola will have access to power by 2025

FOURTEEN million Angolans will have access to electricity from the national grid by 2025, announced in Soyo, the capital of Zaire province, the Minister of Energy and Water, João Baptista Borges.

The population of Angola totaled 28.3 million people, according to an estimate announced in late January by the National Statistics Institute, of which 7.7 million people live in Luanda province.

“Our ultimate goal is that by 2025, about 14 million Angolans can benefit from electricity from the public system, which means a doubling of the access rate, either through large projects or with other smaller ones in municipalities and provinces across the country,” said the minister at the end of a visit to the construction work of the Soyo Combined-Cycle Power Station.

The minister noted there was a National Development Plan, whose priority is the execution of basic infrastructure related to water and electricity, with a view to universal access to these services, “as they are synonymous



People walk on the side of the road in Malanje

with development.”

“The completion of the Lauca and Cambambe dams will allow the northern system and the center system to be linked in order to bring electricity to Huambo and from there on to Lubango. The aim is to bring electricity from the main production centres to different regions of the country, to transform the current energy isolation of many regions that depend heavily on thermal sources,” said João Baptista Borges, cited by state newspaper Jornal de Angola.

The minister also said that all the municipal headquarters of Zaire province will be connected to the national electricity grid within two years of the signing of the contract for the work. **MDT/Macauhub**

Entrepreneurs from CPLP and China meet in Cape Verde

FROM June 16 to 18, Cape Verde will host a meeting between businesspeople of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) and China under the theme “Promoting opportunities for economic cooperation between China and the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries,” Cape Verdean investment agency Cabo Verde TradeInvest said last week.

Ana Lima Barber also told the Inforpress news agency that the meeting is part of the framework to strengthen economic and business cooperation between China and the CPLP and aims to promote business opportunities in each country.

“The idea is to increase trade, facilitate meetings, especially for small and medium-sized enterprises, in order to identify new markets and exploit synergies, taking advantage of Cape Verde’s platform, which is stable, de-



The meeting will take place in the capital, Praia

mocratic and well situated,” she said.

The meeting will take place in the capital, Praia, with the participation of about 300 entrepreneurs from China, Angola, Cape Verde, Mozambique, Brazil, Portugal, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome

and Principe and East Timor.

A Macau delegation organized by the Macau Institute for Trade and Investment Promotion (IPIM) will attend the gathering with representatives of Forum Macau and the Pan-Pearl River Delta. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Xi's plan to create 'New Shenzhen' in Hebei spurs speculative rampage

Lisa Pham and Jeanny Yu

It didn't take long for news that China would set up an economic zone near Beijing to touch off an investor frenzy.

Within 24 hours of Saturday's announcement that the government would create the Xiongan area in Hebei province - in the same spirit that Shenzhen and Shanghai's Pudong was built - hordes of prospective buyers had thronged to the region. Highways were clogged as they came to purchase real estate, with some camping outside property agent offices overnight, according to local media reports. On Sunday the government banned all property sales in the zone to stem speculation, according to the National Business Daily.

Yesterday, shares of Chinese cement, building and port-related stocks surged in Hong Kong amid optimism the decision will spark a flurry of construction activity. The move by President Xi Jinping, which evokes memories of the rise of Shenzhen since it was declared a special economic zone more than three decades ago, is seen as a historic milestone to power China's growth for a "millennium to come," the official Xinhua News Agency reported. The new zone is expected to eventually cover about 2,000 square kilometers and jumpstart China's economic growth.

"This would be one of the centrepieces of a high-level development



Shenzhen

plan for the Beijing-Tianjin-Hebei region," said Bill Bowler, a sales trader at Forsyth Barr Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "I would liken it to the development of a brand new New York City, with Beijing as Washington. The regional plan has been termed a '1000-year project'; the first of its kind since Mao."

The development of the region will create an urban district in Hebei that will help move some of the non-capital functions away from Beijing, Xinhua reported on Saturday. The new district would initially cover an area of about 100 square kilometers, and authorities want to turn the region into a new growth center as China's economy slows, according to the news agency.

Shares of cement company

BBMG Corp. surged as much as 46 percent in its biggest gain since July 2009. Tianjin Port Development Holdings Ltd rallied 16 percent and China National Building Material Co. advanced 7.4 percent. Mainland Chinese markets are closed for a public holiday and reopen tomorrow.

"China's new economic zone plan makes investors feel more optimistic about China's economic outlook," Castor Pang, head of research at Core Pacific-Yamaichi in Hong Kong, said by phone. "The investment plan could support demand for cement, steel and construction-related materials in the next ten years in China."

Investor euphoria surrounding the plan may cause a headache for authorities, who have vowed to

crack down on speculative buying frenzies spanning stocks to real estate. President Xi and his policymakers have pledged to curb excess leverage in the financial system and have committed to enforce prudent and neutral monetary policy to deflate bubbles.

The regional plan has been termed a '1000-year project'; the first of its kind since Mao.

BILL BOWLER
Sales trader

Soaring home prices cities such as Shenzhen, Beijing and Shanghai have prompted authorities to impose restrictions to cool the market. China's central bank last month asked banks in Beijing to scrutinize home loans to newly divorced couples and funding sources for borrowers, adding to other curbs to cool the market.

Beijing has been suffering from pollution and traffic congestion with heavy smog prompting more than 60 cities across China, including the nation's capital, to issue health alerts this year. Beijing's city government's plans to spend

18.2 billion yuan (USD2.6 billion) to tackle air pollution in 2017, Xinhua reported in January.

China is targeting growth of about 6.5 percent "or higher if possible" this year, after gross domestic product slowed for a sixth year in 2016. Economic and social stability are key priorities before President Xi and his cadres gather later for a reshuffling of top officials, which is planned for the fourth quarter.

"The collaborative development of the three regions is intended to solve problems like overpopulation and traffic congestion in Beijing," Howard Lau, an analyst at Jefferies Group LLC in Hong Kong, wrote in a note. "The relocation and transformation of industries could boost infrastructure and property investment in the region."

Tangshan Jidong Cement Co. sent out an internal notice to its customers to raise cement price by 50 yuan per ton starting from April 2, according to Duncan Chan, an analyst at China Securities International Finance Holding Co. in Hong Kong. BBMG last year signed a pact to buy a controlling stake in Jidong Cement.

"The price raising move should be triggered by China's plan to build an economic zone," Chan said. "We expect other cement makers to follow the move to hike cement prices thanks to the construction needs." AP

China demand for bananas to cotton drives Asia export rebound

PHILIPPINE bananas, Indian cotton and New Zealand lamb have at least one thing in common. They're all objects of resurgent Chinese demand.

As Donald Trump prepares to go head to head with Xi Jinping on trade, China's consumer power is kicking Asia's export engine into gear, moving the world's fastest-growing economies.

Shipments to China from around the region have risen sharply in both value and volume, ending what economists at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. described as Asia's two-year trade recession.

Higher commodity prices are lifting export values for countries like Indonesia

and Malaysia while rising oil prices have boosted Singapore and India. The planned launches of Samsung Electronics Co.'s new Galaxy S8 and Apple Inc.'s iPhone 8 are fueling demand for semiconductors and other components made in South Korea and Taiwan.

"Asian exports have staged a significant rebound," said Rajiv Biswas, Asia-Pacific chief economist at IHS Global Insight in Singapore.

In Japan, exports are underpinning a modest economic recovery, with shipments to China, its biggest customer, jumping 28 percent in February, helping total exports rise the most in two years. South Korean exports rose the most in

five years during the same month, thanks to accelerating shipments to China, which jumped by nearly a third from a year earlier.

Indian exports to China rose by nearly half in December from a year earlier, driven by shipments of cotton, ores and zinc. The figure compares with a 5 percent drop in overall Indian exports, and pares the 7.7 percent decline in Indian exports to China for the full year.

"Non-oil exports from India have really perked up over the last six months," Arvind Subramanian, India's chief economic adviser, told Bloomberg Television in an interview. "It's a steady upward trend."

New Zealand's shipments to China grew 12 percent

in the three months to February, driven by demand for beef, lamb and milk powder, according to ANZ. There's more to come. New Zealand wants to upgrade an existing trade deal with China and neighboring Australia has signed a beef-export pact with China.

In Southeast Asia, Thailand and Malaysia's exports to China in January rose by nearly a third from a year earlier. Indonesian exports to China jumped almost 44 percent in February from a year earlier while Singapore's soared 65 percent the same month.

"China has more than doubled their imports of bananas in the last few months so, we're OK," Philippine Finance Secretary Carlos Dominguez said in



an interview.

To be sure, the sustainability of the export recovery is far from assured. Though volumes are up, much of the rebound reflects higher commodity prices and seasonal effects can provide a gloss to overall numbers. Beijing is faced with a challenge as it tries to rein in excessive debt and leverage while shifting the economy away from a reliance on stimulus.

"You should expect China to slow this year," said Mark McFarland, chief economist for Asia at Union

Bancaire Privee in Hong Kong.

Then there's Trump. While he's toned down threats of dramatic trade action against China, his administration appears committed to shrinking a yawning trade deficit through tariffs on the country's goods or other punitive measures. Heightened trade tensions between the two largest economies would spill over to the rest of Asia given the region's tightly knit supply chain and the U.S. position as by far the world's largest consumer market. AP

CHINA-US

Trump says US prepared to deal with North Korea on its own

Catherine Lucey, Potomac Falls (Va.)

AP PHOTO



PRESIDENT Donald Trump says that the United States is prepared to act alone if China does not take a tougher stand against North Korea's nuclear program.

Trump's comments in an interview with the Financial Times come just days before he is set to host Chinese President Xi Jinping at his Mar-a-Lago estate in South Florida. The two are expected to discuss a number of issues, including North Korea, trade and territorial disputes in the South China Sea during their meeting on Thursday and Friday.

"Yes, we will talk about North Korea," Trump told the newspaper for a story that appeared yesterday [Macau time] on its website. "And China has great influence over North Korea. And China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't. And if they do that will be very good for China, and if they don't it won't be good for anyone."

Trump said trade was the incentive for China to work with the United States. Still, he said the United States could "totally" handle the situation in North Korea without China's help.

Asked how he would tackle North Korea, Trump said: "I'm

not going to tell you. You know, I am not the United States of the past where we tell you where we are going to hit in the Middle East."

While China provides diplomatic and economic support to its neighbor, it claims that its influence over Kim Jong Un's government is limited.

The relationship between the United States and China has been uncertain since Trump's election. During his campaign he accused China of unfair trade practices and threatened to raise import taxes on Chinese goods and declare Beijing a currency manipulator, though it is unclear whether Trump will follow

through with either threat.

Trump told the newspaper that he doesn't "want to talk about tariffs yet, perhaps the next time we meet."

Trump's ambassador to the United Nations Nikki Haley, also offered tough talk on China, saying on ABC's "This Week" that the U.S. is pressing Beijing

to take a firmer stand regarding North Korea's nuclear program.

U.N. resolutions have failed so far to deter North Korea from conducting nuclear and missile tests. Last year, the North conducted two nuclear tests and two dozen tests of ballistic missiles.

"They need to show us how concerned they are," Haley said of the Chinese. "They need to put pressure on North Korea. The only country that can stop North Korea is China, and they know that."

China will either decide to help us with North Korea, or they won't... If they don't it won't be good for anyone.

DONALD TRUMP

Asked what the U.S. would do if China doesn't cooperate, Haley said: "China has to cooperate."

Former Defense Secretary Ash Carter, however, said he doubted that Beijing will cooperate.

"I've been working on the North Korea problem since 1994," Carter said on ABC. "And we have consistently asked Chinese leaders [...] because they uniquely have the historical and the economic relationship with North Korea to make a difference.

"They haven't used that influence, and so it's hard for me to be optimistic with that," he said. **AP**

Using technology, China ramps up its 'toilet revolution'

FED up with the theft of toilet paper from public bathrooms, tourist authorities in China's capital have begun using facial recognition technology to limit how much paper a person can take.

The unusual move — part of a "toilet revolution" — is another step in China's vast upgrading of public facilities.

Bathrooms at tourist sites, notorious for their primitive conditions and nasty odors, are a special focus of the campaign, a response to a vast expansion in domestic travel and demands for better-quality facilities from a more affluent public.

"Today in China, people are highly enthusiastic about tourism, and we have entered a new era of public tourism," said Zhan Dongmei, a researcher with the China

Tourism Academy. "The expectation of the public for the toilet is becoming higher."

At Beijing's 600-year-old Temple of Heaven, administrators recognized the need to stock the public bathrooms with toilet paper, a requirement for obtaining a top rating from the National Tourism Authority. But they needed a means of preventing patrons from stripping them bare for personal use — hence the introduction of new technology that dispenses just one 60-centimeter section of paper every nine minutes following a face scan.

"People take away the paper mostly because they are worried they can't find any when they want to use it the next time. But if we can provide it in every toilet, most people will not do it anymore," Zhan said.

Launched two years ago, the revolution calls for at least 34,000 new public bathrooms to be constructed in Beijing and 23,000 renovated by the end of this year. Authorities are also encouraging the installation of Western-style sit-down commodes rather than the more common squat toilets. Around 25 billion yuan (USD3.6 billion) has already been spent on the program, according to the National Tourism Administration.

The ultimate target, Zhan said, "is to have a sufficient amount of toilets which are clean and odorless and free to use."

At Happy Valley, the largest amusement park in Beijing, around 4 million annual visitors rely on 18 bathrooms, each of which is assigned one or two cleaners who must make their rounds every 10 mi-



A man walks out from a ladybird shaped public toilet in Beijing

nutes on busy days.

"People come here to have fun, but if the toilets are disgusting, how can they have a good time here?" said Vice General Manager Li Xiangyang. "It is the least we should do to offer a clean and tidy environment for tourists to enjoy both the tour of the park and the experience of using our toilets."

Going a step further, the financial hub of Shanghai even opened its first gender-neutral public toilet in November in order to boost convenience and efficiency.

"Women are stuck waiting in longer lines for stalls than men, and it is fair for men and women to wait in line together," Shanghai resident Zhu

Jingyi said after using the facility.

Zhan said the toilet revolution is about 90 percent complete, but warned that it has yet to be won.

"We can't accept the situation that a lot of investments have been made to build toilets and they turn out to be unsanitary and poorly managed," he said. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Liberal front-runner in presidential race wins party nomination

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

A liberal South Korean opposition leader who wants to improve ties with rival North Korea and pursue sweeping reforms became his party's presidential candidate yesterday, boosting his status as front-runner in next month's election of a successor to recently ousted President Park Geun-hye.

If Moon Jae-in is elected, it would end nearly a decade of conservative rule in South Korea, during which ties with North Korea have plunged to one of the lowest points in decades due to the North's nuclear and missile tests and the South's response. Analysts say Moon's softer approach toward North Korea could produce discord with Washington.

Moon's popularity has surged since last fall, when a high-profile corruption scandal involving Park and a confidante flared. Millions took to the streets and called for Park's ouster, leading



Democratic Party leader Moon Jae-in celebrates after winning the nomination as the party's presidential candidate during a party's presidential primary in Seoul yesterday

parliament to impeach her in December and the Constitutional Court to formally end her rule in March. Prosecutors ar-

rested and jailed Park last week. Moon, who lost the 2012 election to Park, received a second chance to run for the presiden-

cy by winning the Democratic Party's nomination in party voting that ended yesterday. In a victory speech, Moon said if elected he would try to eradicate corruption, heal a deepening conservative-liberal divide and strengthen national security.

Moon didn't touch upon North Korea. But he has previously called Park's hard-line North Korea policy a failure, saying it's time to use both sanctions and dialogue to persuade the North to resume negotiations on ending its nuclear and missile programs. He has also been highly critical of Park's decision to let the United States place a high-tech missile defense system in South Korea that has angered both North Korea and China.

Moon's stance could trigger "a certain level of friction or discord" with the government of U.S. President Donald Trump, which has signaled a tougher stance toward North Korea, said Lim Eul Chul, a North Korea expert at South Korea's Kyungnam

University. But Lim said Moon isn't likely to take any drastic reconciliation measures because North Korea "has gone too far" in its nuclear program in recent years.

Moon, 64, previously worked as chief of staff for former liberal President Roh Moo-hyun, who espoused greater reconciliation with North Korea. Roh's cooperation projects with North Korea were suspended by his conservative successors including Park, who pushed for a tougher response to North Korea's nuclear program. Critics say that policy allowed North Korea to advance its bomb program while talks remained suspended.

Currently, Moon is the favorite in opinion polls for the May 9 election, but analysts say some of his rivals might join forces to field a single candidate in an attempt to defeat Moon, a common practice in South Korean presidential races. No serious attempt to launch a joint anti-Moon front has yet occurred.

Moon's main challenger is moderate Ahn Cheol-soo, who a recent poll indicated would beat Moon in a hypothetical two-way matchup but would lose in a multi-person race. Almost all other recent surveys have shown Moon enjoying comfortable leads in both multi-candidate and two-way polls against any of his competitors. AP

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PHILIPPINES

Duterte warns rebels ahead of new round of talks

AP PHOTO



Jim Gomez, Manila

PHILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte threatened yesterday to unleash new attack aircraft and the “full power of the state” against communist rebels if a new round of peace talks fails, and insisted they accept new conditions including a halt to extortion and to territorial claims.

Government and rebel negotiators have flown to the Netherlands for a resumption of the talks, which collapsed in February after Duterte angrily protested the killings of government troops in renewed attacks by the New People’s Army rebels. The formal opening ceremony of the Norwegian-brokered talks, which the government announced would take place Sunday, was delayed by a day.

“We’re facing the NPAs, we’re having talks in the Netherlands, they have not made any progress because I have some conditions to impose before we go back,” Duterte said in a speech at the presidential palace in Manila.

He accused the guerrillas of undermining the talks and said the

48-year conflict — one of Asia’s longest-running rebellions — may continue if the rebels don’t accept his conditions.

Government chief negotiator Silvestre Bello III acknowledged the difficulty of the talks in a speech at the ceremony marking the resumption of talks. He welcomed the rebels’ openness to a possible joint cease-fire.

“Our discussion in the following days may prove to be difficult and exacting given the diversity of the positions taken by the parties on the issues at hand,” he said in his speech, a copy of which was issued by the presidential palace in Manila.

Duterte told reporters Sunday that he had asked Bello and his adviser on the talks, Jesus Dureza, to stick to four new conditions he has laid down, including the forging of a joint cease-fire and an end to extortion by the rebels and their claims to rural territories. All military, police and civilians held by the rebels should also be freed, he said.

“Without these, there will be no peace talks,” Duterte said.

There was no immediate rebel reaction to Duterte’s new con-

ditions. In the past, they have rejected government conditions they deemed were a surrender of the advances they say they have made in their rural-based uprising.

Duterte said yesterday that he would use newly acquired attack aircraft and other weapons against the guerrillas if the talks go nowhere.

“I’ll really use those against the enemies of the government,” he said. “I will not hesitate to use the full power of the state.”

The rebels have negotiated unsuccessfully with five Philippine presidents before Duterte. Battle setbacks, surrenders and infighting have weakened the guerrilla group, which is considered a terrorist organization by the United States and remains a major Philippine security threat.

The rebels and the government declared separate cease-fires last year as they resumed peace talks after Duterte took office in June. That allowed the government to withdraw troops from battlefields to focus on an offensive against the Abu Sayyaf and other Muslim extremist groups in the country’s south.

The initially upbeat negotiations under Duterte gradually unraveled as the rebels accused troops of violating the government’s own cease-fire by continuing combat operations in what they said were their rural strongholds. The rebels and Duterte separately lifted their cease-fires, sparking new violence that left rebel and military casualties. **AP**

I will not hesitate to use the full power of the state.

RODRIGO DUTERTE

AUSTRALIA

Canberra pledges support during Afghan president’s visit

AUSTRALIA pledged ongoing support to Afghanistan during a visit by the Afghan president yesterday, after hundreds of protesters demanded a better deal for the Hazara ethnic minority.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and President Ashraf Ghani signed an aid agreement at the Australian Parliament House worth 320 million Australian dollars (USD240 million) over four years.

The two countries will cooperate on infrastructure, education and employment of women and girls, agriculture and water management, training of Afghan civil servants and anti-corruption initiatives.

Hundreds of protesters came to the capital, Canberra, to demonstrate against the first visit to Australia by an Afghan president, calling for Ghani’s government to end discrimination against



Protesters against Afghan President Ashraf Ghani’s visit to Australia gather outside Government House in Canberra

the Hazaras and repatriation of asylum seekers rejected by Australia.

The protesters gathered outside Government House, where Ghani met with Governor General Peter Cosgrove.

Hazara protester Barat Ali Batoor said the security situation in Afghanistan had deteriorated too much for the Afghan government to continue to accept asylum seekers rejected by Australia. Afghanistan signed a memorandum of understanding with

Australia in 2011 to accept failed Afghan asylum seekers.

“There needs to be a moratorium on any more forced repatriations,” Batoor said.

Refugee Action Coalition spokesman Ian Rintoul said Hazaras were rarely returned by Australia and it was unclear whether the Afghans would now be prepared to accept such forced removals.

Some estimates put the numbers of protesters, many of them Shiite Muslim Hazaras, at between 1,000 and

2,000 men, women and children. Protest organizer Najeeba Wadzeffost said as many as 3,000 had gathered from across Australia and neighboring New Zealand to mark Ghani’s first official function on his visit.

“We are seeking that our President Ghani take practical, concrete steps to protect the rights of all ethnic groups in Afghanistan, including the Hazaras,” she said.

She also urged Australia not to give aid to the current Afghan government, saying the money would end up in the hands of war lords.

Ghani arrived in the Australian capital, Canberra, late Sunday and is to leave tomorrow.

He laid a wreath at the Australian War Memorial yesterday before meeting with Turnbull in the evening.

Australia has lost 41 troops in Afghanistan since the U.S.-led invasion in 2001. **AP**

Man rescued after shark attacks kayak off Australian coast

A police boat rescued a man after a shark bit the back off his kayak and left him sinking off the Australian coast, police said.

The 39-year-old man made an emergency phone call from his damaged watercraft that was taking after the attack over the weekend in Moreton Bay off the east coast city of Brisbane, a police statement said.

Brisbane water police responded to the call and were able to track his location with the help of planes coming in to land at nearby Brisbane Airport, police said.

Police retrieved the man on Sunday afternoon as well as his formerly 6.5-meter kayak, which was missing its stern.

The man was uninjured “although quite shaken and glad to be out of the water,” the statement said.

Police Sgt. Gordon Thiry said the man was fortunate to have been quickly found.

Thiry urged people heading out on the water to wear a life jacket and carry an Emergency Position Indicating Radio Beacon, or EPIRB.

The man had been paddling with eight friends to an island when his kayak was attacked 8 kilometers from shore.

GENUINE STUNNING

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monitora/monitor:
Cristina Vinhas

horário/schedule:
Quartas
Wednesdays
18h30 - 21h30

total: 15 horas/hours
05 sessões/sessions


início/starts: 05/04/2017
fim/finishes: 17/05/2017

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RUSSIA

Blast on St. Petersburg subway kills 10, injures 50

Irina Titova, & Nataliya Vasilyeva, St. Petersburg

AN explosion yesterday ripped through a subway train in the Russian city of St. Petersburg, killing at least 10 people and injuring 50 others, the spokesman for the city's governor told Russian television. The blast came as Russian President Vladimir Putin was visiting the city, his hometown.

Putin, speaking from Constantine Palace in St. Petersburg, said investigators were looking into whether the explosion was a terror attack or if there might have been some other cause. He offered his condolences to the families of those killed.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the blast.

The unidentified explosive device went off at 2:20 p.m. on a train that was leaving the Technology Institute station and heading to the Sennaya Square station, Russia's National Anti-Terrorist Committee said.

The St. Petersburg subway immediately shut down all of its stations and the national anti-terrorism body said security measures would be tightened all key transport facilities across Russia. Maxim Liksutov, Moscow's deputy mayor, told Interfax that Moscow authorities were tightening security on the subway in the Russian capital.

Social media users posted photographs and video from the Techno-

logy Institute subway station in the city center, showing injured people lying on the floor outside a train with a mangled door. Frantic commuters were reaching into doors and windows, trying to see if anyone was there, and shouting "Call an ambulance!"

St. Petersburg, Russia's second-largest city with over 5 million residents, is the country's most popular tourist destination. The two stations that were the site of the blast are some of the subway's busiest.

Putin was in St. Petersburg yesterday for talks with Belarusian President Alexander Lukashenko.

"Law enforcement agencies and intelligence services are doing their best to establish the cause and give a full picture of what happened," Putin said at the start of his talks with Lukashenko.

St. Petersburg governor Georgy Poltavchenko was overseeing the rescue effort.

Russian transport facilities have been the target of previous terror attacks.

Double suicide bombings in the Moscow subway in March 2010 killed 40 people and wounded more than 100 people. Chechen rebel leader Doku Umarov claimed responsibility for that attack by two female suicide bombers, warning Russian leaders that "the war is coming to their cities."

The high-speed Moscow-to-St.Petersburg train was also bombed on Nov. 27, 2009 in an attack that left 26 dead and some 100 injured. Umarov's group also said he ordered this attack. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Blast victims lie near a subway train hit by an explosion at the Tekhnologicheskoy Institut subway station in St.Petersburg yesterday

MIDDLE EAST

Official: Trump senior adviser Jared Kushner travels to Iraq



White House Senior Adviser Jared Kushner

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's son-in-law and senior adviser, Jared Kushner, is visiting Iraq with the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, an official said.

Details about the trip to the Middle East with Gen. Joseph Dunford were not released. A senior administration official said Kushner wanted to see the situation in Iraq for himself and show support for

the Iraqi government. The official wasn't authorized to speak about confidential meetings by name and demanded anonymity.

Kushner's West Wing portfolio is robust. He has been deeply involved with presidential staffing, recently launched a task force meant to modernize government using lessons drawn from the private sector, and has played

the role of shadow diplomat, advising on relations with the Middle East, Canada and Mexico.

And though Kushner had no previous diplomatic or government experience, Trump also tasked him with trying to broker a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

"If you can't produce peace in the Middle East, nobody can," Trump told Kushner at a gala a few days before his inauguration.

Kushner was also the latest Trump associate to be swept up into the ongoing probe into contacts with Russian officials. The White House confirmed last week that

he had volunteered to be interviewed by the Senate intelligence committee. North Carolina Sen. Richard Burr, the committee's chairman, said that Kushner would likely be under oath and would submit to a "private interview" about arranging meetings with the Russian ambassador and other officials.

Kushner is married to Trump's oldest daughter, Ivanka. He was expected to have a major role in meetings later this week between Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's winter retreat in Palm Beach, Florida.

The Iraq trip was first reported by The New York Times. **AP**

what's ON



KUNG FU PANDA ADVENTURE ICE WORLD - ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am -8pm (Last admission at 7:30pm)
UNTIL: July 9, 2017

VENUE: The Venetian Macao, Cotai Expo Hall F (temperature is -8°C inside the venue, thus hooded coats will be provided free of charge in limited quantities and sizes for children and adults)

ADMISSION: MOP120 (for one adult and one child aged 3 to 12), MOP312 (for three family members and one child aged 3 or above)
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

CELEBRATION OF INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY, LOCAL AND PORTUGUESE-SPEAKING COUNTRIES ARTIST

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: April 16, 2017

VENUE: Albergue SCM - Gallery A2, No. 8, Calçada da Igreja de São Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550, 2852 3205

LOVE OF MACAO - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 9, 2107

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ARTEFACTS OF EXCELLENCE - SEAL CARVINGS BY LUO SHUZHONG FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission at 6:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: July 2, 2017

VENUE: Macao Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, s/n, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAO GIANT PANDA PAVILION

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

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

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

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

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

URBAN MYTH PROVES TRUE: GRAMMAR VIGILANTE IS FIXING UK SIGNS

It's an urban myth come true — the presence of a man dedicated to ridding the English city of Bristol of grammatical errors in its shop signs.

He goes out at night with a self-styled device used to cover up misplaced apostrophes from street signs in the city 120 miles west of London. He uses stickers, not paint.

The man has not been identified but he told BBC in a report broadcast yesterday that he doesn't consider his alterations of the signs and store fronts to be a crime. He says the real crime is putting apostrophes in the wrong places to begin with.

It's not a new obsession — he's been at it for 13 years.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Planes
16:20	News
16:40	Documentary series
17:10	Criminal Minds S.9
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:20	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	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)

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



1968 MARTIN LUTHER KING SHOT DEAD

The American black civil rights leader, Dr Martin Luther King, has been assassinated.

Dr King was shot dead in the southern US city of Memphis, Tennessee, where he was to lead a march of sanitation workers protesting against low wages and poor working conditions

He was shot in the neck as he stood on a hotel balcony and died in hospital soon afterwards.

Reverend Jesse Jackson was on the balcony with Dr King when the single shot rang out.

"He had just bent over. I reckon if he had been standing up he would not have been hit in the face," said Mr Jackson.

Police in Memphis were put on alert for a "well-dressed" white man who is said to have dropped an automatic rifle after the shooting and escaped in a blue car.

There were early signs of rioting in Memphis after Dr King's death and 4,000 members of the National Guard were drafted into the city.

A dusk-to-dawn curfew has been ordered to ward off disturbances.

The US President, Lyndon Johnson, has postponed a trip to Hawaii for peace talks on Vietnam.

The president said he was "shocked and saddened" by the civil rights leader's death.

"I ask every citizen to reject the blind violence that has taken Dr King who lived by non-violence," Mr Johnson said. Dr King, 39, had previously survived several attempts on his life including the bombing of his home in 1956.

The charismatic civil rights leader joined the crusade for equal rights for black people in America in the mid 1950s.

He first came to national prominence as one of the leaders of the Alabama bus boycott in 1955.

In 1963 Dr King led a massive march on Washington DC where he delivered his now famous "I have a dream" speech.

Dr King advocated the use of non-violent tactics such as sit-ins and protest marches.

In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel peace prize.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Martin Luther King's assassination led to riots in more than 100 US cities. James Earl Ray was convicted of his murder and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

But he later retracted his confession and said he had been only a minor player in a conspiracy.

However, his appeals for a new trial were rejected and he died in prison in 1998.

Ray was supported by some members of Martin Luther King's family who believed the US Government may have been involved in Dr King's death. Their case was strengthened in December 1999 when a jury in a wrongful death case brought by the King family, decided the civil rights leader was the victim of a murder conspiracy.

However, in June 2000 after an investigation the US Justice Department said it had uncovered no reliable evidence of a conspiracy.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Sometimes it feels like patience isn't a virtue as much as it's a method of torture! If you want to retain any sense of balance in your life, you are going to have to find a way to take your internal clock and slow it down!

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Slowing down might not feel comfortable right now, but it is the right thing to do. The intense energy you put out today shouldn't be directed at solving problems or putting out fires.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

It is a good thing to share your ideas and goals with all the people in your life who can encourage you, but you need to do more than that, right now. After all, is talking about what you want going to get it? No!

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Bring your two worlds together and watch all the people you love most make each other laugh and smile. You don't have to make it a big affair - a potluck, picnic or pizza party would all serve the same wonderful purpose.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

It seems like everyone has issues right now, and their insecurities could start to get on your nerves. Before you lose your temper and tell them off, it's best to go off by yourself and be alone.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

There is no need to get involved in anyone else's problems, even if you think you have a solution for them. They are different from you, so what worked for you might only make things worse for them.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

A new person is coming into your life today, and their powerful magnetic charisma will be quite captivating! Just but be careful it doesn't distract you from what you need to get done.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

You will encounter someone today who seems like a text book example of a jerk - but try to be open-minded about them! Judging a book by its cover has never been your style, so why start now?

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

You'll be able to read the other person's body language like it's an open book. And you'll be able to sense how close their offer is to what they are really capable of giving you. You will have the upper hand today; there is no denying that!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

If you make any assumptions about people's beliefs, you should keep them to yourself, or risk offending someone. For safety's sake, wait until you know them better before sharing your opinions.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Better than anyone else right now, you understand the energy that a connection between two people can create. It's all about pairs - group situations can be fun, but right now they're going to feel more strange than stimulating.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Build on that good feeling by taking a few more bold risks and challenges in your life - you need to start believing that you can excel in the most demanding situations.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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Easy+

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Medium

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Hard

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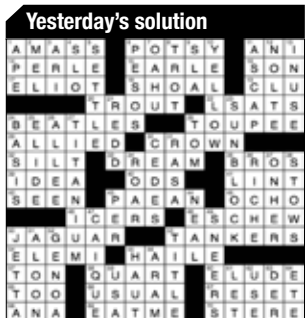
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	12	20	overcast
Harbin	7	22	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	14	20	smoggy
Urumqi	2	9	drizzle
Xi'an	11	18	overcast/cloudy
Lhasa	2	16	shower/cloudy
Chengdu	12	22	overcast/cloudy
Chongqing	17	22	shower/overcast
Kunming	11	22	shower
Nanjing	13	21	cloudy/shower
Shanghai	13	19	cloudy/overcast
Wuhan	16	20	drizzle
Hangzhou	12	25	cloudy
Taipei	17	25	clear
Guangzhou	16	26	cloudy
Hong Kong	18	24	cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	1	8	drizzle
Frankfurt	5	19	clear/cloudy
Paris	7	17	cloudy/overcast
London	4	16	overcast/cloudy
New York	9	16	overcast/heavy rain

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Courtyard; 6- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 10- King mackerel; 14- Lulus; 15- ___ breve; 16- Kaffiyeh wearer; 17- Shooting sport; 18- Aromatic fragrance; 19- Completely without madness; 20- "Slippery" tree; 21- Nose job; 24- Official sitting; 26- Surprisingly; 27- Chem., for one; 28- Copycats; 30- Voting compartment; 33- Have a feeling about; 34- Loser to DDE; 37- Lodge members; 38- The opposition; 39- Word of woe; 40- Mag. staffers; 41- First American to orbit Earth; 42- Magazine copy; 43- Euripides tragedy; 44- USMA grads; 45- Figure of speech with "like" or "as"; 48- Most orderly; 52- Involving two or more races; 55- Somme summer; 56- Religious ceremony or ritual; 57- Fr. miss; 58- Speck in the ocean; 60- Cabinet dept.; 61- Opposite of sans; 62- Lend ___ (listen); 63- Get an A, say; 64- Appoint; 65- Bellini opera;

DOWN: 1- Assumed attitudes; 2- Slender part of the leg; 3- Abounds; 4- Rage; 5- Flightless bird; 6- Polio vaccine developer; 7- Oomph; 8- London greeting; 9- Humidity; 10- Cellist Pablo; 11- Efface; 12- Tirades; 13- Follows orders; 22- ___ polloi; 23- Passed-down knowledge; 25- Grounded fleet; 28- Big name in insurance; 29- Nabokov novel; 30- Nectar collector; 31- Advanced in years; 32- Authorizes; 33- Dagger; 34- Gore and more; 35- It's bottled in Cannes; 36- Opposite of NNW; 38- Councillor; 39- Type of D.A.; 41- Hair goops; 42- Dressing choice; 43- Pit-workers; 44- Pasture; 45- Throat problem; 46- Skater Slutskaya; 47- Ships' officers; 48- Bridget Fonda, to Jane; 49- Sniggler; 50- Water vapor; 51- Aquarium fish; 53- Edison's middle name; 54- Skelton's Kadiddlehopper; 59- ___-Cone;



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- PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
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- 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
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Wan Yu Villa, D Unit
Macau
1,800 sq ft / HKD 6,388sq ft
HKD 11.5M
Great Location
Ref: 17035513

Jardim Lameiras
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Decorated Throughout
HKD 13,800 / 720 sq ft
Ref: 17030643

Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens
Taipa
1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,451 sq ft
HKD 11.2M
Ocean Gardens complex
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Edf. Nam Long - J Unit
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
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HKD 12,800 / 750 sq ft
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Times

“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



So Yeon Ryu holds the trophy after winning the LPGA Tour's ANA Inspiration golf tournament

GOLF

Lexi Thompson's penalty puts spotlight back on golf's rules

Greg Beacham,
Rancho Mirage (Calif.)

LEXI Thompson heard fans chanting her name as she approached the 18th green, and it moved her to the brink of tears for the second time in an hour.

Although she had lost her big lead at the ANA Inspiration on a four-shot penalty for a day-old rules violation, Thompson had gained the unabashed support of a crowd desperately willing her to overcome this bizarre break.

Instead, So Yeon Ryu seized her opportunity to win the LPGA Tour's first major of the year when she birdied the only playoff hole Sunday [yesterday, Macau time].

Thompson had to settle for second place, a check worth roughly USD155,000 less — and

widespread sympathy as the latest golfer to get blindsided in a major by the peccadillos of this fussy, fastidious sport.

"It's great to have the fan base that I do, and they really got me through the whole round," Thompson said. "It's unfortunate what happened. I did not mean that at all. I didn't realize I did that. I fought strong through the finish, and it was great to see the fans behind me."

The fans on the Dinah Shore Course largely shared the mixture of bewilderment and anger expressed by Thompson's fellow golfers and most viewers online.

The 22-year-old U.S. Olympian is the third major contender to be hit with a perplexing penalty for a violation of golf's stringent rules in the past year. The decision reignited the debate about this sport's baffling willingness

to allow armchair refereeing — and renewed hope for common-sense rule changes that could be adopted as early as 2019.

"Viewers at home should not be officials wearing stripes," Tiger Woods tweeted. "Let's go @Lexi, win this thing anyway."

Thompson was penalized for marking and moving her ball less than an inch before a 1-foot putt on the 17th green during her third round at Mission Hills Country Club on Saturday. After putting down a marker and picking up the ball, Thompson swiftly put it back — but not precisely in the same place, video review showed.

The minor action went unnoticed live, but a television viewer spotted it and emailed tour officials while Thompson was playing the front nine on her final round with Suzann Pettersen

on Sunday.

After nearly two hours of agonizing over video of the moment, LPGA Tour rules official Sue Witters got the unpleasant job of informing Thompson about her penalty after she left the 12th green.

"Is this a joke?" Thompson asked.

Even Witters understands the prevailing opinion about the ruling.

"Sure, but what's my choice?" she asked. "[Allow] a violation in the rules, and then it would be the opposite story: 'Oh, they knew. Why didn't they do anything about it?' I can't go to bed tonight knowing that I let a rule slide."

"It's a hard thing to do, and it made me sick, to be honest with you."

Sickening things have happened

ned with regularity in majors lately.

At the men's U.S. Open at Oakmont last year, Dustin Johnson won despite playing the last seven holes without knowing his score. His ball had moved slightly while he lined up a putt on the fifth green, the USGA eventually hit him with a one-shot penalty after his round.

A few weeks after that at the U.S. Women's Open, Anna Nordqvist got a delayed two-stroke penalty during a three-hole playoff for accidentally touching the sand with her club in a bunker when a television cameraman spotted it. Brittany Lang won by — you guessed it — two shots.

Perhaps all of this drama only underlines the importance of what could soon happen to that centuries-old rulebook.

The two governing bodies of golf released a draft of modernized rules last month, attempting to simplify the arcana. The numerous proposed changes would eliminate some of the punishment for inadvertent mistakes and freak occurrences that don't actually give an advantage to a competitor.

But those changes haven't been adopted yet, and Thompson was left with a crushing penalty for an action that easily could have been ignored under a more pragmatic interpretation of intent — a "reasonable judgment standard," under the proposed rules.

Instead of losing her composure after the ruling, Thompson incredibly birdied the next hole, burying a 25-foot putt. She made two more birdies and a bogey down the stretch, but missed a 15-foot eagle putt to win it on the last hole of regulation.

Ryu nearly put her playoff approach shot into the water, but got up and down with a 6-foot birdie putt to win. Her celebration was understandably muted, but she still took the traditional leap into Poppie's Pond.

A few yards away, Thompson embraced her family and later signed dozens of autographs. She was shaken, but not deterred.

"Every day is a learning process," Thompson said. "I wasn't expecting what happened today, but [...] it happens, and I'll learn from it and hopefully do better." AP

FOOTBALL

South Korean women arrive in North Korea for match

THE South Korean women's football team arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for an official game in the North Korean capital later this week.

The two Koreas will face off against each other on

Friday in a qualifying match for the Asian Football Confederation Cup in the 50,000-seat Kim Il Sung Stadium. Pyongyang is hosting the qualifying games for group B — which also includes India, Hong Kong and

Uzbekistan — through April 11.

The North and South Korean men's squads have played each other before in North Korea, but not in an official game since 1990.

According to South Ko-

rea's Yonhap news agency, 51 South Koreans, including media, will stay in Pyongyang for the event. It said the South Korean women would begin training on Tuesday.

The winner of the group

moves on to the 2018 Women's Asian Cup in Jordan, which is also the regional qualifier for the Women's World Cup in 2019, in France.

As of March 12, the South Korean women were ranked second and

the North 32nd in the AFC.

North Korea, along with having a major home advantage, is the favorite to win the Korean showdown. They are ranked 10th by FIFA and the South 17th. AP

opinion

World Views

Barry Ritholtz, Bloomberg

YOUR BRAIN WASN'T BUILT TO HANDLE REALITY

Most Republicans - to be precise, 74 percent, according to a CBS News poll - think it's very or somewhat likely Donald Trump's offices were wiretapped, even though the White House has offered no evidence to back up the president's claim that his predecessor ordered the monitoring.

I just love data points like this. They say so much about humans as a species - how we process information, our inability to look dispassionately at a situation, the ever-present cognitive errors, even the challenges of reaching a simple, rational conclusion based on evidence.

There are lessons here for investors who want to better understand how their own minds operate, and how they can manage their own behavior. Each of these bullet points applies equally to the survey respondents cited above and to almost all investors:

No. 1: We seek information to reinforce our beliefs. As investors, we suffer from the endowment effect: We place a higher value on holdings we 'already' own. Hey, if we bought it, then 'it must be good!' I suspect this is due to a combination of wishful thinking and self-validation. Most people don't really want to find evidence that their investments are a dog; they hate to admit error. Instead, they seek proof that the original purchase decision was correct.

No. 2: Selective perception prevents us from becoming fully informed. Not only do we overvalue what we already own, but we tend to seek out information that confirms the value of that holding. Selective perception and confirmation bias see to it that we overlook evidence to the contrary.

Take the claim above - or any investment thesis, for that matter. It should be considered a simple assertion, waiting to be proven or debunked. If you are objective, you should always be seeking and evaluating evidence that disproves your thesis.

That's not what typically happens. Instead, we create a filter bubble to reinforce support for our holdings.

No. 3: The ability to step out of ourselves to see the world from a different angle or perspective is hard. It's more than selective perception and confirmation bias: Every buyer should be able to make a case for why that stock should be sold. Every forecaster who predicts a stock-market top should be able to explain why the rally could go on for years. Every pundit who assures us that economic growth will be robust should be able to spot the immediate recession risks.

For every transaction, there are at least two valid points of view: The buyer's and the seller's. Investors should take a page from the lawyers and learn how to argue all sides of any investment.

No. 4: Emotions get in the way. When we become aware that we may be looking at things in a biased manner, we at least have a chance to overcome errors. However much we may seek this sort of self-awareness, emotions can trip us up. The tribal nature of politics works against us; so too do fear and greed when capital is at risk. Seeing the world without letting our own feelings color perceptions is a never-ending battle.

No. 5: Objectively measuring data isn't our strong suit. If keeping our emotions under control is difficult, evaluating data is even more challenging. Compelling narratives can easily sway us, even when the facts say otherwise. Sports fans and partisans are so deeply invested in a specific outcome that they simply lose the ability to objectively judge reality.

As an example, when confronted with the lack of evidence for the wiretapping claim above, the pushback was "the lack of evidence does not mean it did not happen." As physicist Carl Sagan once observed, "Extraordinary claims require extraordinary evidence."

We believe what we 'want' to believe, regardless of the evidence. In the capital markets, the costs of such an approach can be quite expensive.

THE BUZZ GERMAN TOURIST RAPED IN SOUTH INDIA; POLICE SEARCH FOR 2 MEN

Indian police searched yesterday for two men suspected of raping a German tourist in the beach town of Mamallapuram in southern India, the latest case of sexual violence to shock the country.

The German woman told police that she went for a walk and dozed off in a deserted part of the beach when she was raped Sunday. The woman was part

of a group of German tourists visiting the town, which is famous for its many Hindu temples.

Teams of police were searching nearby areas in Tamil Nadu state. Police said no arrests had been made.

The incident highlights persistent violence against women in India.

PIRACY

11 Indian sailors on small boat hijacked off Somali coast

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

PIRATES have seized a small boat and kidnapped its 11 Indian crew members off the coast of Somalia, an investigator said yesterday, the latest vessel targeted by the region's resurgent hijackers.

The attack on the small ship happened Saturday as the vessel passed through the narrow channel between Yemen's Socotra Island and the Somali coast, said Graeme Gibbon Brooks, CEO of Dryad Maritime, a shipping security firm. The pirates are taking the vessel to the Eyl area of northern Somalia, he said.

There was conflicting information over the boat's name and where it was heading.

Brooks said the small dhow, a traditional wooden sailing ship common in regional waters, initially was heading from Dubai to Bosaso, Somalia. Malini Shankar of the Indian Directorate General of Shipping told the Press Trust of India news agency that the vessel was instead heading to Yemen, where a Saudi-led war against Shiite rebels holding its capital has raged for years.

Other Indian media reported the boat was heading to Mukalla, a southern port city once occupied by al-Qaida in the Arabian Peninsula that has since



Masked Somali pirate stands near a Taiwanese fishing vessel that washed up on shore after pirates were paid a ransom (2012)

been captured by Saudi-led forces. India's Ministry of External Affairs said it was trying to gather information about the hijacking.

Databases also showed the boat was named either the MV Al Kausar or the MV Al Kaushar. It wasn't immediately known what cargo the vessel is carrying or who owns or operates it.

Lt. Ian McConnaughey, a spokesman for the U.S. Navy's 5th Fleet in Bahrain, said sailors there are "aware of the reports and we are monitoring the situation." The 5th Fleet oversees regional anti-piracy efforts.

Piracy off Somalia's coast was once a serious threat to the global shipping industry. It has lessened in recent years after an international effort to patrol near the country, whose weak central government

has been trying to assert itself after a quarter-century of conflict. Since then, concerns about piracy off Africa's coast have largely shifted to the West Africa's Gulf of Guinea on the Atlantic Ocean.

But frustrations have been rising among Somali fishermen, including former pirates, at what they say are foreign fishermen illegally fishing in local waters.

In March, Somali pirates hijacked the Comoros-flagged oil tanker Aris 13, marking the first such seizure of a large commercial vessel since 2012. They later released the vessel and its Sri Lankan crew without conditions, Somali officials said at the time.

Pirates in late March also seized a fishing trawler, which police warned could be used for further piracy. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Hermann J. Knippertz



Rye spikes are pictured in a field near Bad Muenstereifel, western Germany, during the morning sun. Scientists in Germany have for the first time mapped the entire genome of rye, a cereal known for its hardy properties.

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

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



QATAR laid out plans yesterday to boost production from a vast underwater natural gas field by 10 percent, giving the energy-rich Gulf nation potential new revenue as it pursues ambitious infrastructure plans.

EGYPT The family of an Italian graduate student tortured to death in Egypt is urging Pope Francis to seek information about the case during his upcoming visit to Cairo.

CYPRUS The rival leaders of ethnically divided Cyprus said more work is needed to prepare the ground for the resumption of stalled reunification talks, despite having their first face-to-face meeting after nearly two months that was hoped would clear the negotiations logjam.

GERMANY A German court handed lengthy prison sentences yesterday to four Islamic extremists over plots to bomb a train station and kill a far-right politician.



U.S. The Catholic Church on the Pacific island of Guam has been devastated by allegations that its longtime archbishop sexually abused altar boys. But even before the scandal broke, Guam's church was divided over another issue — the presence of a controversial European lay movement that became so toxic that a community of nuns fled to the mainland U.S. in despair.

EU-SYRIA The European Union's top diplomat says it is unrealistic to think that President Bashar Assad could retain power over any future government in a post-war Syria. "It is for the Syrians to decide - but for all Syrians to decide," EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said.

HOLIDAY TIMES

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Thursday, April 6. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.