



### PHONE SCAMS ON THE RISE

150 residents fell victim to phone fraud cases between March 14 and April 5, the Judiciary Police revealed

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### SANDS LAUNCHES SCHEME TO SUPPORT LOCAL SMEs

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### CHINA CANCELS LAWMAKERS' TRIP

The visit was canceled after Australia joined 10 other countries in signing a letter questioning Beijing's human rights record

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

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



AP PHOTO

**PHILIPPINES** President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he has ordered the military to occupy and fortify all Philippine-held islands in the disputed South China Sea to assert the country's claims amid what he says is a race to control territory in the area. Duterte said he has ordered the armed forces to occupy and place flags on all islands, reefs and shoals controlled by the Philippines. More on p13



AP PHOTO

**THAILAND's** king signed the country's new military-backed constitution yesterday, approving a charter that could see the ruling junta allow fresh elections but limit the authority of the politicians who eventually take office.

### US-NORTH KOREA

A U.S. Air Force general says she is extremely confident the United States could intercept a ballistic missile fired by North Korea. Many weapons experts say the North could have a functioning nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the continental U.S. within a few years.

### AUSTRALIA-NAURU

Nauru's president said yesterday that Australia's controversial policy of sending asylum seekers to his Pacific island nation was "working well," as he met with the Australian prime minister amid questions over the fate of hundreds of refugees languishing at Nauru's Australian-run detention camp.

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## STUDY

# Macau is second choice for Hong Kong gamblers

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BLOOMBERG

## Trade, North Korea pose challenges as Trump meets Xi

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# CCAC with more complaints and fewer results in 2016

**T**HE annual report from the activities of the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) for 2016, released this week, shows a rise in complaints of 15 percent year-on-year.

As the Times reported yesterday, the number of criminal cases concluded in 2016 went down by 29 percent year-on-year, at a total of 182 resolved cases. This shows that out of a total of 910 complaints presented to the anti-graft agency were resolved.

As in the previous years, the commission, led by André Cheong, was driven almost exclusively by citizen complaints, which represented 92.2 percent of all the cases handled in 2016, at a total of 839 cases.

Meanwhile, investigations ini-

RENATO MARQUES



tiated by the CCAC were accountable for only 3.2 percent at 29 cases. Although small, this figure represents year-on-year growth of about 146 percent, as the number of cases initiated by the CCAC

comprised only 1.3 percent of the total in 2015.

The report mentions that in 2016, most of the criminal cases investigated concerned crimes committed by public officials, most notably the case involving former public prosecutor general Ho Chio Meng - the first involving a high-ranking official in the judiciary sector.

"Following the investigation, it was found that the accused, in collusion with private companies, would have been awarded for a long period of time and to certain undertakings, the works and the provision of services of the to obtain illicit benefits," the CCAC stated.

"Despite several difficulties encountered in the investigation, namely the limited time, the long timeframe of the unlawful practices and the number of cases to analyze, the CCAC concluded the case."

The report also refers to cases such as those involving workers from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM), the Health Bureau (SSM), the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) and the Housing Bureau (IH).

It also referred to further cases involving other public departmen-

ts for "severe impact [on] society" and that, according to CCAC, gave rise to similar complaints. This includes cases involving the Transport Bureau (DSAT) and car park management companies.

The CCAC added that most of

the cases investigated in 2016 involved fraud, document forgery and abuse of power, with the majority being related to obtaining fraudulent subsidies by the government, such as allowances related to the Fund for Environmental Protection and Energy Conservation, Education Development Fund and the Continuous Education Program.

These incidents resulted in reports urging the authorities to strengthen supervision and to strengthen the verification processes for subsidy applications. **RM**

## Ombudsman role now increasingly complex

**I**N addition to the fight against corruption, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) also acts as an ombudsman office. The commission said in its annual report that it had analyzed a total of 658 cases of alleged administrative infractions to date, as well as 649 information requests.

"In recent years the cases investigated by the CCAC have been increasingly complex, difficult to uncover and occurring over a very long period of time," states the report, which calls for an "adjustment in human resources so the staff can focus their efforts and use diversified investigative measures in order to enable ombudsman actions to be carried out in an optimal way."

In this chapter, the two major

enquiries performed in 2016 were related to the Iec Long Firecracker Factory land swap case in Taipa and the research report on the award of public car park management services by the Transport Bureau (DSAT).

In both cases, the CCAC found that the government departments involved had acted unlawfully and failed to protect public interests, and included suggestions for the settlement of such cases.

Regarding other activities, the CCAC also highlighted the proactive participation of the commission in the revision of the Election Law of the Legislative Assembly, where they made several suggestions based on previous experience in fighting electoral corruption and other illegal acts related to the elections.

### SLIGHT GROWTH IN CASES INVOLVING PRIVATE SECTOR

**WHILE THE** number of cases involving the private sector registered a "slight increase" in 2016, the CCAC believes that this increase is due to a "greater awareness of the right to complain about corruption crimes by private entities." As an example, the report cited some complaints

related to building management companies, owners and building administration boards of directors. This highlighted the existence of complex conflicts, "resulting in the acknowledgement that the legal regime on land management needs to be improved urgently."

### LETTER TO THE EDITOR

## Bilinguals' initial delay 'is only natural'

Dear Editor,

The title and take-home message of Tuesday's news item "Bilingualism may cause language delays in children" may harmfully mislead parents into perpetuating old, but still sporadically encountered myths that childhood bilingualism is detrimental to linguistic and/or cognitive development, that exposing the child to more than one tongue may cause language deficits, or that for children already diagnosed with impairments two languages mean too much unnecessary pressure and effort.

The reality is that language impairments, if they do occur, are independent of bi- or multilingualism. Inversely, children diagnosed with Specific Language Impairment who regularly use two (or more) languages have actually repeatedly been shown to make significantly fewer errors in certain areas of both their languages compared with age-matched monolingual SLI peers.

Bilinguals' initial delay in language production (concerning later development of some syntactic structures, lower scores in receptive vocabulary tests in each tongue, and fewer items named in verbal fluency tasks) is only natural given the time constraints (the same amount of time that a monolingual child spends in one language, in the case of a bilingual has to be shared among two) and the so-called complementarity principle (bilinguals usually acquire and use their respective languages for different purposes, in different areas of life, and with different interlocutors). However, differences between the two groups are much less pronounced than most parents believe: for instance, the lexical repertoire of school-aged children speaking two languages is roughly only 10 percent lower than that of their unilingual peers, and has been found to only concern home- but not school-related vocabulary. And while bilinguals are slower in vocabulary recall and more likely to experience the

'tip of the tongue' phenomenon (un-surprising given the relatively lower input in each of the languages and the necessity to suppress the influence of the other tongue(s) in cases of lexical conflict), the differences are in the regime of milliseconds, thus again virtually negligible and imperceptible in daily functioning.

With time bilinguals will catch up (at least to a level where the above-mentioned deficits can no longer be spotted in daily functioning), and overall the total lexical resources and linguistic repertoires of persons speaking more than one language are considerably larger than in monolinguals. The few minor inconveniences seem a price worth paying for the numerous and well-documented social, academic, professional and cognitive benefits of bilingualism.

It is also crucial to emphasise that mispronunciation of a word need not be indicative of a language delay, but may merely be a reflection of its low input frequency or non-target-like

production by caretakers or peers in the first place. Non-native-like pronunciation of an odd word or two should not be a cause for concern, unless it follows a systematic pattern.

**Michał B. Paradowski**

The reader is an assistant professor at the Institute of Applied Linguistics, University of Warsaw, a teacher and translator trainer, and a consultant for television. He has been an invited speaker at over 100 scientific and language-teaching events in Europe, America, Africa and Asia, including numerous visits to Macau, Hong Kong, and mainland China. His recent books are 'Teaching Languages off the Beaten Track' (2014), 'Productive Foreign Language Skills for an Intercultural World' (2015), and 'M/Other Tongues in Language Acquisition, Instruction, and Use' (2017), where he dispels the myths and misconceptions surrounding the notions of bilingualism and bilingual education.

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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 Sauttedé, 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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## GAMING

# Macau is second choice for Hong Kong gamblers

A recent study on the gambling activities of Hong Kong residents has shown that Macau's integrated resorts are the second choice for inhabitants of the neighboring SAR, with their first preference being casino ships.

The "Study on Hong Kong People's Participation in Gambling Activities in 2016" surveyed more than 1,250 respondents who said that they had gambled in the past year, and found that the average monthly amount gambled on casino ships (HKD45,259.6) far outstripped that at Macau casinos (HKD7,938.8).

This was compared to the average betting on Mark Six lottery (HKD159.9), social gambling (HKD423.8), horse race betting (HKD5,610.6) and football betting (HKD1,598.7).

In 2016, gambling at Macau's casinos and on casino ships were approximately 5.6 and 20 times higher, respectively, than the figures recorded in a similar study in 2012.

While the mean bet placed per month was HKD7,938.8, the median bet was around HKD167.

Around 8.4 percent of respondents said that they had visited a Macau casino in the past year, more than two-thirds of that 8.4 percent said that they had visited Macau between one and three times in the past year.

According to the data published in the study, around 7



An exterior view of the Metropolis Cruise gambling ship in Hong Kong

## Those gambling at Macau's casinos had a significantly higher chance of becoming problem gamblers than those on casino ships

percent of gamblers at Macau's casinos visited more than once a month, and just over 1 percent once or more per week.

However, those gambling at Macau's casinos – alongside horse race and football betting – nevertheless had a significantly higher chance of becoming problem gamblers than those on casino ships.

According to the report summary published on the Hong Kong government's official webpage, the rate of Hong Kongers' participation in gambling activities was 61.5 percent in 2016, lower than 62.3 percent registered

in 2012.

"The participation rate of secondary school students also fell from 33.5 percent in 2012 to 21.8 percent in 2016, representing a substantial decrease from 54 percent in 2001," the summary stated.

Despite the lower average bets placed by the respondents in the survey, the most popular gambling activities were the Mark Six lottery and social games such as mahjong and poker.

The report also highlighted the popularity of social gaming among students, especially secondary school pupils. Conversely, the online

gambling participation rate of secondary school pupils dropped between the two surveys.

Meanwhile, around 12.5 percent of telephone survey respondents said that they had participated in horse race betting in the past year. This participation rate was slightly lower than the 12.9 percent recorded in 2012 and considerably lower than the 30.4 percent in 2001.

Analyzed by demographic, the study found that gamblers who were unemployed job seekers and those aged between 30 and 49 had a proportionally higher participation rate in the Mark Six lottery, at 94.3 percent and 93 percent, respectively.

On the other hand, female respondents, employers and students recorded a proportionally higher rate of social gambling, at 55.5 percent, 64.9 percent and 64.5 percent respectively.

Male respondents, employers and those aged between 50 and 64 demonstrated more interest in horse race betting at 31.2 percent, 35.1 percent and 26.5 percent, respectively.

As for their propensity to visit Macau's casinos, employers were the most likely group, with 24.3 percent of respondents saying they had placed bets in the MSAR in the past year. Likewise, those who had the highest education level (bachelor's degree or above) were also more likely to bet in Macau. **DB/JZ**

13 percent yr/yr. March was down 4 percent versus Jan/Feb, which is in line with the 3-year average."

McKnight remained neutral in his opinion of gaming stocks, holding that the rise in gaming revenue may be driven by a delicate resurgence in the VIP segment.

"Our contacts maintain that VIP continues to outpace mass revenues. In our view, the VIP strength has been partly led by a Chinese real estate bubble," he wrote. "We expect the increased government restrictions on real estate to at some point cool the market." **DB**

## opinion

David Fickling, Bloomberg

## MACAU ROLLS THE DICE ON CHINA'S LUXURY RENAISSANCE

The days of President Xi Jinping's austerity drive in China are rapidly fading. Homes in Shenzhen now cost more, per square meter, than they do in Japan.

Kweichow Moutai Co., maker of the most-prized brand of baijiu sorghum liquor, looks set to overtake Diageo Plc soon as the world's biggest distiller by market value, despite having less than one-third the revenue of the maker of Smirnoff and Johnnie Walker.

Sales of luxury cars hit a record last September, and high-end brands in Europe have noticed a surge in domestic spending as Chinese start doing more of their conspicuous consumption in local stores and online, rather than opening their wallets only when traveling to Japan, South Korea or Hong Kong.

Sales in China rose 14 percent in the six months through December, LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE Chief Financial Officer Jean-Jacques Guiony said on an investor call in January. There's been "a much higher appetite for our industry generally since the second half," Hermes International SCA Chief Executive Officer Alex Dumas told reporters in February.

That's hard to square with an austerity drive. A crackdown on lavish spending by Chinese officials might drive consumption toward less visible products, such as overseas real estate and private wine cellars -- but it's hard to conceal your ownership of Louis Vuitton luggage or Birkin bags.

The new gilded age has been making its presence felt in Macau in the nick of time for the territory's casinos. Just 18 months ago, the industry was in turmoil. After spending billions building resorts to service a wave of high-rolling mainland gamblers, moguls were told that Macau wanted to develop a mass-market clientele of families and conference delegates instead, and would be approving fewer table games as a result.

Steve Wynn, whose Bellagio hotel helped drive Las Vegas to new heights of luxury, was driven to impolitic rage by the situation, describing the activity of the territory's regulators as "outrageous and ridiculous."

"The table cap is the single most counterintuitive and irrational decision that was ever made," he told investors on an October 2015 call. "The reason that these extraordinary non-gaming attractions exist is because the damn casino is the cash register."

That hasn't altogether changed. Macau had 30 percent more hotel rooms at the end of December than it did two years earlier, but only 10 percent more gaming tables.

Still, the money has come flooding back. Revenue from casino games in March rose 18.1 percent from a year earlier, the fastest pace since February 2014, when Lunar New Year wagers drove it to an all-time record of 38 billion patacas (\$4.75 billion).

The top end of town is outperforming, too. After tracking close to mass-market revenues for the past two years, high-rolling VIP gamblers are pulling ahead, according to Bloomberg Intelligence estimates. Shares of Wynn Macau Ltd. are trading HKD1.55 above analysts' target price, the biggest such premium since January 2014.

All six of Macau's casino companies are now among the top 10 most richly valued large casino businesses on a price-earnings basis, and Macau businesses take the top four places if you adjust for indebtedness by comparing Ebitda to enterprise value.

That leaves Wynn Macau little scope for slip-ups when it reports first-quarter earnings. Those who heeded Gadget's prediction of a revival last July have done pretty well over the past nine months, but every good gambler knows to quit while they're ahead.

The territory's future looks more sustainable now than it has in three years. For astute players, that's probably a good time to trim positions.

## ANALYSIS

## Gaming stocks edge higher after March results

GAMING stocks edged higher at the start of this week after last month's 18.1 percent year-on-year rise in Macau's gross gaming revenue (GGR) was released in official gaming statistics. The rise was higher than analysts had forecasted - an average predicted increase was 12 percent year-on-year.

Despite the year-on-year rise, gaming

revenues in March were down to about MOP21.2 billion from MOP23 billion in February, with the dip possibly the result of the Chinese New Year period, which was split across the first two months this year.

Should revenues hold stable in April over March, the year-on-year rise in GGR will stand at over 22 percent. This is due to

the fact that revenues were declining in the first half of last year while they are increasing this year, thus the year-on-year difference continues to widen each month.

In January 2017, GGR grew 3.1 percent year-on-year, while it increased by 17.8 percent in February.

Nevertheless, analysts at Wells Fargo predict that the year-on-

year GGR growth in April will be between 10 to 15 percent, higher than expectations from some other analysts.

"The yr/yr [year-on-year] growth was driven by an easy comparison with last year March being down 16 percent yr/yr," wrote Wells Fargo analyst Cameron McKnight in a note. "For the 1Q, gaming revenues are up



### Money supply grows

According to statistics released by the Monetary Authority of Macau, the broad money supply continued to grow in February. At the same time, resident deposits and loans rose from a month ago. Resident deposits increased 0.9 percent from the previous month to MOP536.4 billion while non-resident deposits grew 2.5 percent to MOP255.4 billion. Total deposits within the banking sector, including from public investment, increased 2.2 percent month-on-month to MOP962.2 billion. Meanwhile, domestic loans to the private sector increased by 0.6 percent compared with January, while external loans rose 2.2 percent. At the end of the month, the loan-to-deposit ratio for the resident sector dropped 0.9 percentage points from the previous month to 59.1 percent.

### ANIMAL RIGHTS | GREYHOUND RACING

# West Virginia facility latest to face final days

Daniel Beittler

A greyhound facility in West Virginia, U.S. may be facing its final days, the latest in a global trend of closures amid growing disinterest in dog racing.

The decision follows the waning popularity of such forms of racing entertainment, spurred by animal rights activism in recent years.

One target of such activism has been Macau's own Yat Yuen Canidrome Company, which has found itself the object of condemnation at recent European anti-racing rallies in Italy, Ireland and the U.K.

As a result of the widespread disapproval, the MSAR government last year presented the owners of the Canidrome with an ultimatum: relocate to another site or close down. In the absence of another feasible location for greyhound racing in Macau, most activists believe the racing activities will end this year.

The industry, which has long been unprofitable in West Virginia



and Macau alike, is set for a cut of USD14 million in subsidies that currently benefit dog racing breeders and handlers.

The subsidies, which were originally implemented to help greyhound racing compete with slot machines and gaming tables, were revoked by a recent bill in the state's local legislature. The last hurdle ahead of the bill's implementation is approval from the state's governor.

Lawmakers want that money to address a state budget shortfall that is expected to reach as much

as \$500 million next fiscal year.

"This is happening everywhere around the world," Albano Martins, the president of animal protection association Anima (Macau), told the Times yesterday.

"It's a daily fight every day around the world. In places like Ireland, greyhound tracks survive because of subsidies. In Macau, they are also saved by the government."

"The Macau [Yat Yuen] Canidrome will close in July next year," he added. "This has been confirmed by the government through the ultimatum: relocate or close down."

There is nowhere to relocate to, so the Canidrome will have to close. [...] The government will not change their mind on this front."

Despite general disinterest in the sport, racing officials in West Virginia are decrying the bill, claiming that it will kill the local industry and force hundreds to find work elsewhere.

In Macau, where unemployment remains healthy at just under 2 percent, the arguments for keeping the track open hinge on the Canidrome's contribution to Macau's heritage.

Macau lawmaker Angela Leong, the Canidrome's deputy president, previously described the facility as "a collective memory of Macau residents" and stated that it has "important historic and tourism value" to the city.

However, in the U.S., Republican Senator Mike Azinger stated in simple terms that "West Virginia's future is not in subsidizing losing ventures like these."

The decision in West Virginia will ultimately fall to the state's governor, Democrat Jim Justice. It is unknown if he intends to approve the bill, but he is expected to make a decision in the coming days.

"It is not clear whether they [the subsidies] will end soon," said Martins, "but it's no longer financially profitable to make this sort of entertainment [...] with the blood of animals."

AD

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POLICE

# Phone scams on the rise

Julie Zhu

**T**HE director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), Chau Wai Kuong, revealed that 150 residents fell victim to telephone fraud between March 14 and April 5.

Chau was speaking to journalists yesterday before a seminar where PJ officials shared the latest anti-cybercrime methods with representatives from different schools.

Seventeen of the aforementioned victims lost money to the cons, totaling nearly MOP11 million.

Chau explained that the 150 reported cases of telephone fraud represent an increase compared to the past month. However, in the long term, the number of telephone fraud cases is decreasing.

The recent surge of reports indicates that the police should ramp up communications regarding the crimes, Chau observed.

When asked about ways for the police authority to help reduce these incidents, Chau expressed hopes that residents will pay more attention to advertisements issued by the police.

"I hope that the residents can understand the nature of these crimes a little bit more through our publicity work, in order to prevent themselves from falling for such scams," said Chau.

Chau noted that many local residents had reported cases of telephone fraud to the police even if they had not fallen victim to them, as they simply wished to inform the authorities about the spread of such crimes.

He also stated that non-residents should be more aware of these scams, claiming that the police authority will step up their publicity work.

According to Chau, many of the victims opened bank accounts in Zhuhai to transfer money to the criminals.



Chau Wai Kuong

In order to raise local students' awareness of phone fraud, the PJ handed out educational booklets to more than 70,000 students in Macau.

A total of 68 primary schools, 49 middle schools, eight universities and ten night schools have joined the police's anti-cybercrime communication network.

"First, the schools and the parents should care more about their students and children," said Chau, explaining that the

parents and the schools should play the primary and secondary roles in educating children on how to avoid falling victim to cybercrime.

The PJ has been inviting students in middle schools to play the role of "anti-crime pioneers." Previously, the PJ enrolled 105 students as pioneers, and will recruit an additional 150 students in 2017. The PJ hopes these students will spread this information among their peers.

## Water Festival to move location

This year's Macau Myanmar Overseas Chinese Water Festival will take place at the Taipa Houses-Museum, according to a report by Macao Daily News. Last year, the Secretary for Cultural and Social Affairs, Alexis Tam, suggested the association to relocate the event for this year's edition, with the association's leadership accepting it. Earlier this week, during a meeting with the association, Tam expressed that it is a good change and that the festival will attract many tourists. This year's water festival will feature a variety of events involving food and photography, among other activities.

## 'Compatriot Permit' equals passport

The Public Security Police Force announced that, starting from April 10, Taiwan residents can enter Macau with their Compatriot Permit (a travel document issued by the Ministry of Public Security of China, which does not acknowledge the Taiwan Passport). The document holders will be granted a maximum 30-day stay in the territory. Currently, there are approximately one million visitors from Taiwan that visit the territory every year, meaning that the group represents the third largest source of tourists in Macau.

# ALBERGUE SCM

人婆仔屋文創空間

Shenzhen 深圳

## Design and Art Field Trip 2017

設計藝術考察

Albergue SCM will launch the "Design and Art Field Trip 2017 - Shenzhen" between 20 April and 22 April. To encourage exchanges between Macau and Shenzhen art and design professionals, the tour will visit culture site including Shenzhen Design Week, China Guanlan Original Printmaking Base, Dafen Oil Painting Village, OCT-LOFT OCT Creative Group, OCT Art Design Gallery, He Xiangning Art Museum and Guan Shanyue Art Museum, etc.

**Target Group:** Artists and designers aged 18 or above, holder of the Macau SAR Permanent Resident Identity Card  
**Language:** Chinese

**Documents Required (Printed and Digital Format):**

1. Photocopy of both sides of the candidate's Macau Permanent Resident ID card on one A4 page.
2. One recent 1.5-inch photo
3. Personal Information
  - Curriculum Vitae (Chinese and English)
  - Images / Published Articles about the candidate's work.
  - Description of the candidate's current creative project (text, draft, image or photo)

**Application Period:**

From now until 17:00 of 13 April, 2017

**Printed Application Delivery:**

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**Office Hours:**

Monday to Friday - 9:30 to 13:00; 14:30 to 18:30  
Saturday - 9:30 to 13:00

**Digital Application Delivery:**

creativealbergue@gmail.com

**Number of participants:** 20

**Date:** 20 April and 22 April, 2017

**Selection Announcement:** Selected candidates will be contacted by phone

**Selection Method:** An independent jury composed by local artists, scholars and curators, appointed by Albergue SCM, will analyze the curriculums of the candidates. Further interview may be required.

**Notes:** Albergue SCM reserves the right of final decision according to this regulation.

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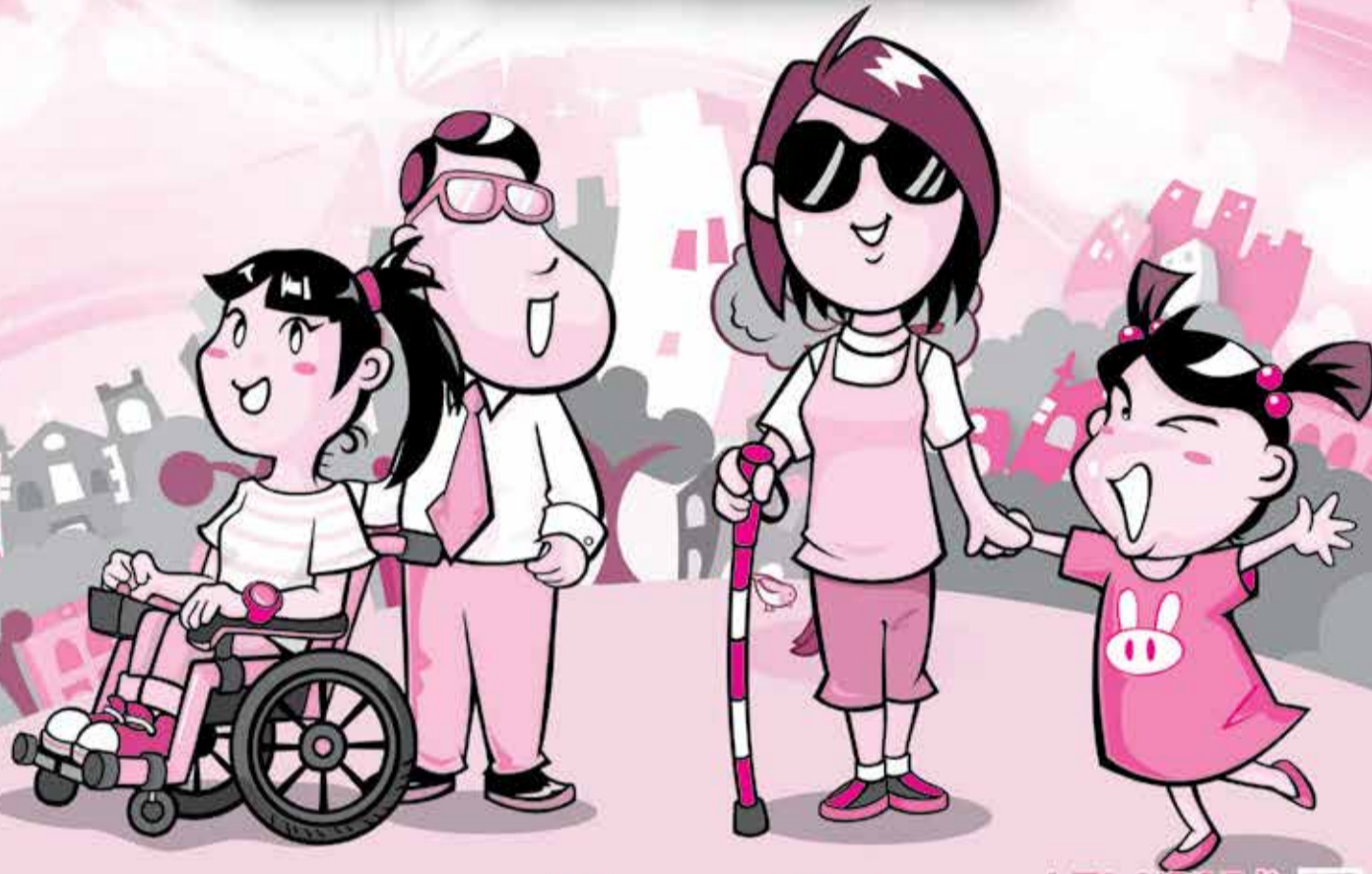
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# Sands launches scheme to support local SMEs



Renato Marques

**S**ANDS China launched its new F.I.T. program, which aims to support and increase the region's supply of goods from local SMEs.

The program, presented at a press conference held yesterday at The Venetian Macao, aims to offer new benefits to young local entrepreneurs with small enterprises, such as a 30 percent advance payment on purchase orders.

"As a company rooted in Macau, Sands China is proud to take this step as the first operator to offer this special 30 percent advance payment to eligible young entrepreneurs," said

Sands China president Wilfred Wong at the inauguration.

"We understand the financial challenges sometimes faced by young entrepreneurs, and we hope this new initiative can help them grow together with Sands China in Macau."

The initiative focuses on three types of local businesses identified in collaboration with the Macau Chamber of Commerce; namely, small and micro-sized companies, "Made-in-Macau" companies and young local entrepreneurs.

The F.I.T. acronym stands for the three main pillars that support the plan: Financial Support, Invitational Matching and Training and Develop-

ment.

In terms of financial support, local entrepreneurs aged between 22 and 44 years old with fewer than 15 staff members in their companies will benefit from the 30 percent advance payment.

As for invitational matching, Sands China will be hosting targeted trade shows, inviting local SMEs to demonstrate their products and services directly to potential buyers, encouraging direct communication between vendors and consumers.

The first such matching session was held immediately after the press conference.

The session featured mostly food and beverage items presented by 22 local SME suppliers, who showcased their products and services to the gaming operator's food and beverage management, chefs from Sands China-owned and partner hotels, as well as representatives from other outlets on the company's premises. The selection included raw products, processed foods and beverages, which the chefs and F&B managers could sample on the spot.

Upcoming matching sessions will target other industries such as operating supplies, furniture and lighting, and others.

Wong claimed that these invitational matching sessions are "the first of their kind in Macau."

The final pillar - Training and Development - provides local SMEs with business knowledge and skills, which will "help local SME suppliers strengthen their operations to better meet international standards."

Wong stated that this is due to the positive results seen in the 2016 program, in which he claims the company spent MOP2 billion on 375 local SME suppliers.

Suppliers present at the event told the Times that they would be happy to participate in such events, and expressed their hope that this opportunity would open doors to business with Sands China.



# SJM signs HKD25b loan facility

**S**OCIEDADE de Jogos de Macau (SJM) announced the signing yesterday of a HKD25 billion syndicated loan facilities agreement with 19 leading financial institutions, in order to provide the company with the finances for the construction of the Grand Lisboa Palace.

According to a statement issued yesterday by SJM, the facilities consist of a HKD15 billion term loan facility with final maturity in 2022 and a HKD10 billion revolving credit facility with final ma-

turity in 2020.

The facilities are guaranteed by SJM Holdings Ltd. and carry interest at HIBOR (Hong Kong Interbank Offer Rate) plus a variable margin.

The facility agent and the security agent for the agreement is Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Macau) and the senior mandated lead arranger is Bank of China Macau Branch.

Representing SJM at the signing ceremony were Chairman of the Board of Directors for SJM, Ambrose So, the

company's Managing Director and Chief Administrative Officer Angela Leong and Director Rui Cunha.

"We are delighted to see the positive response of the banking community to these loan facilities," said Ambrose So during the signing ceremony yesterday. "This transaction demonstrates the confidence of the capital markets in participating with us in helping Macau achieve its destiny of becoming a world center of tourism and leisure."

Budgeted at HKD35 billion, the Grand Lisboa Palace resort in Cotai is scheduled to open in the first half of 2018.

## JUNKETS' 'BORROWERS LIST' ENDORSED BY DICJ

**THE GAMING** Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) has endorsed the idea of compiling a list of all money borrowers, as proposed by VIP gaming promoters. "As long as the laws of Macau are respected, namely the one that protects privacy, we give all our support [for the creation of such a database from the junkets]," said DICJ director Paulo Martins Chan. Speaking on the sidelines of the launch ceremony for Sands China's F.I.T.

program, Chan said that the list would enable greater awareness of "the credibility of the borrowers for the purpose of credit for gambling" in order to avoid "bad debts." Chan also commented on the possibility of gaming tables being allocated to "The 13" hotel in Coloane. "For now, we haven't received any request from the hotel. Even if there will be one, it has to be done through one of the gaming concessions currently operating."

# Mandarin House to hold a bazaar

**T**HE "Bazaar at the Mandarin's House", will be held over the weekend from 12 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Mandarin's House.

Co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) and the Macau Cultural Resources Association, the event includes a series of activities divided into different zones, such as performances, games, lantern riddles and souvenir redemption. These activities will allow the public to enjoy the Chinese-

style courtyard during the spring atmosphere.

The games zone offers different games for families, such as "Beanbag Toss & Snatch" and "Lock of 'Lu Ban'", a Chinese traditional craft. Visitors can collect stamps after playing games and exchange them for traditional hand-made crafts, including magical sugar painting and a fortune windmill, in the souvenir redemption zones.

Visitors will be able

to taste local delicacies, like traditional Chinese candy "Bing Tang Hu Lu" and split pea coconut pudding. They can also take the riddle challenge in the lantern riddles zone to win delicate lanterns. Several performances will be held, including Han Tang Chinese classical dance, and Han Chinese clothing and dance performances. Tea lovers will also have the chance to taste different types of tea in the main building.

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## REAL ESTATE MATTERS Clarifying costs for buyers

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JULIET RISDON

Investing in a property involves not only the purchase price of the property itself, but also the associated costs of the purchase.

In this three-part series, we break the cost of purchasing a property into three categories, and have outlined the details in each one.

However, be warned that these costs do fluctuate, and whilst the figures themselves may change, you will at least know what you are looking for.

The categories are;

- Purchase Costs - The cost of the property itself
- Legal & Administration Costs - Taxes, notary, registration fees etc.
- Property Costs - Renovation, improvements and furnishing
- Property prices in Macau are in HKD, so for the sake of consistency please assume that all prices here are in HKD.

For the purpose of this article, we are going to look at a property that is purchased for HKD6,000,000.

### Purchase costs

The purchase cost is the price of the property itself, and the amount of cash you will need to buy the property.

### Initial Deposit - \$100,000

The initial deposit is a token amount that is paid upon the signing of the 'Provisional' Sales & Purchase Agreement.

This amount can vary, but is usually between \$100,000 to \$500,000.

### Second deposit - \$500,000

The second deposit is paid upon the signing of the 'Promissory' Sales & Purchase Agreement, the agreement put together by the lawyers and signed in the lawyers office, normally within 30 days of signing the original document.

This deposit can vary, but is usually the amount required to bring the total deposit paid to 10 percent of the purchase price.

In this example, since the purchase price is \$6,000,000, then 10 percent is \$600,000.

As we have already paid an initial deposit of \$100,000 then there is a remaining balance to pay of \$500,000.

### Balance - \$5,400,000

The balance is paid upon the signing of the 'Sales & Purchase Agreement' during the final part of the process, and is conducted in the presence of a Public Notary usually within 60-90 days of signing the original agreement. The balance will usually consist of a Bank Loan plus the additional cash required.

In this case we are going to assume that the bank loan represents 70 percent of the purchase price (\$4,200,000), and the total cash required represents the remaining 30 percent (\$1,800,000).

As we have already paid \$600,000 and the bank will pay \$4,200,000 then the remaining balance payable at the signing is \$1,200,000.

This balance is usually paid with a cashier order.

So the breakdown of our purchase costs looks like this;

- Cash required - \$1,800,000
- Bank loan - \$4,200,000

**Next Week: Part 2 - Legal & Administration Costs**

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# Guitars oust minarets as Hard Rock redoes Taj Mahal casino

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

**D**ONALD Trump, domes and minarets are out. Rock 'n' roll and guitars — lots of guitars — are in as the Hard Rock chain re-does Atlantic City's former Trump Taj Mahal casino.

The company owned by Florida's Seminole Indian tribe on Wednesday unveiled its USD375 million plan for the shuttered casino resort, which it bought last month from billionaire investor Carl Icahn, and plans to reopen by summer 2018.

It will draw on the world's largest collection of music memorabilia to help brand the new resort, with a decided New Jersey slant.

Few things are more New Jersey than the mob and Bruce Springsteen, and Hard Rock rolled out someone who embodies both to help reintroduce the resort. Steven Van Zandt of Bruce Springsteen's E Street band and "Sopranos" TV fame, said he'll periodically broadcast his radio show, "Little Steven's Underground Garage" from there, and will help organize beach concerts.

"It's a timeless place where you can come, and for the younger generations that feel like they missed the rock 'n' roll era when it first came along, we make sure that they get the experience," said Van Zandt, who plays guitar with Springsteen and portrayed mobster Silvio Dante on the HBO mob series. "The spirit of rock 'n' roll is still alive; you didn't miss it."



Now-President Donald Trump built the Taj Mahal in 1990, but lost control of it and two other Atlantic City casinos in a series of bankruptcies that happened before Icahn scooped it up last year from yet another bankruptcy. Icahn shut the casino in October after a crippling strike that sought to restore workers' health insurance and pension benefits that were eliminated in bankruptcy court.

Its literally over-the-top decor of Indian-inspired domes and minarets soon will be a thing of the past; the purple carpet that Trump loved was ripped out long ago.

"There will not be one — and underscore the word 'one' — piece of design, architecture, minaret or anything left over from the Taj Mahal," Hard Rock CEO Jim Allen said. "We are removing it all."

It's place will be items from the world's largest music memorabilia collection. Hotel guests will even be lent Fender electric guitars to play in their rooms.

Republican Gov. Chris Chris-

tie, whose administration seized Atlantic City's assets and major decision-making power last November, said Hard Rock's investment in Atlantic City shows that the state's tough love is working in the cash-strapped city.

"Hard Rock's willingness to come in and invest in Atlantic City shows you that they appreciate the hard things that have been done to restructure the city and make it a place where investing makes sense," Christie said.

Since the takeover, Christie's administration has negotiated a tax settlement with the Borgata casino that will save the city nearly \$100 million. It also is seeking drastic cuts to the police and fire departments.

Others feel that recent encouraging developments such as the Hard Rock purchase, the planned reopening of the former Atlantic Club casino as a water park, and the rebirth of the former Showboat casino as a non-gambling hotel, are due more to market forces in a less competitive environment than to anything Christie has done.

Allen resisted getting drawn into a political debate, but he did say that if Atlantic City had declared bankruptcy — something that loomed as a real threat before the state takeover — Hard Rock would not have invested there.

Assemblyman Chris Brown, a fellow Republican, was less reticent.

"Tell me something the governor has done" to make Atlantic City better, he said. "Off the top of my head, I can't think of anything." AP

## REAL ESTATE

# Aussie millennial home ownership ranks low

**A**USTRALIAN millennials have the second-lowest level of home ownership for their peer group, an HSBC Holdings Plc survey found, just ahead of an oil-rich absolute monarchy.

Only 28 percent of Australians aged between 19 and 36 own a home, pipping the United Arab Emirates on 26 percent, the survey of more than 9,000 people in nine countries showed. That was well below France on 41 percent and far beneath China on 70 percent. Three-quarters of Aussie millennials said the challenge of saving a deposit was their biggest barrier.

"Despite the rising costs, millennials overwhelmingly still want to own a home in Australia," Alice Del Vecchio, head of mortgages at HSBC Australia, said in a statement yesterday. "The dream certainly isn't dead."

Australia's east coast property market has rocketed in the past five years as the central bank slashed interest rates to support the economy's transition from mining to services and manufacturing. On top of cheap cash fueling demand, domestic investors seeking a decent return and taking advantage of tax breaks have been snapping up properties, while foreign buyers, particularly Chinese, looking to park their cash of-



shore have supercharged the market.

The record-low cash rate of 1.5 percent has provided little help to savers; in addition, the speed with which prices have risen has made it particularly difficult to nail down a deposit. Since 2009, house prices in Sydney have more than doubled and Melbourne has similarly surged. Still, 83 percent of Aussie millennials intend to buy a home in the next five years, the report found.

Young Australians said their second-biggest barrier to ownership was an insufficient salary to allow saving, with 61 percent needing a higher wage before they could buy a home, compared with 54 percent of their U.K. peers, according to HSBC. A key problem in post-mining boom Australia has been anemic wage growth as the economy adjusts to regain global competitiveness.

According to HSBC, 45 percent of Australian millennials who do own a home said they had overspent on their original budget, while only 17 percent of millennials have a pre-

cise budget for buying a home in the first place. HSBC said this demonstrated that many are not yet prepared for the realities of owning real estate in Australia.

As to the "bank of mum and dad" as a source of funding, HSBC said this was most common in the UAE with 50 percent tapping their parents and least common in France at 26 percent.

A Deloitte report earlier this year found Australian millennials are particularly pessimistic about their prospects: Just 8 percent expected to be better off financially than their mum and dad, compared with a global figure of 26 percent; even worse, only 4 percent of Aussies reckoned they'd be happier than their parents, versus 23 percent internationally.

Counterintuitively, given Australia had its last recession in 1991, none of this generation of Australians have lived through a slump; indeed, the youngest adults in the workforce when it happened would be approaching their mid-forties this year. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM ROLLS OUT 'GO GREEN CAMPAIGN'



MGM rolled out a two-week "Go Green Campaign" for its 6,000 employees in support of

the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IACM) Green Week, as well as the annual Macau In-

ternational Environmental Cooperation Forum & Exhibition.

The campaign lasted from March 20 to April 3, and its itinerary included an ocean conservation talk and a beach cleaning activity. During the ocean conservation talk, employees were briefed on issues related to water pollution, particularly from plastic materials.

The beach cleaning activity saw a group of 37 MGM Volunteer Team members, with the support of the IACM, gather at a beach area near Sai Van Bridge on March 30.

The "Go Green Campaign" also included internal activities such as the launch of Green Monday in its employee dining room, which served healthy low-carbohydrate dishes.

### BNU DONATES MOP1.6M TO TUNG SING TONG



BNU donated MOP1.6 million to the Tung Sin Tong charity in a ceremony on April 3. The ceremony was chaired by Chui Sai Cheong, president of Tung Sin Tong, and Pedro Cardoso, CEO of BNU.

BNU and Tung Sin Tong launched the Tung Sin Tong Visa Credit Card in 1999 and the Tung Sin Tong Visa Platinum Credit Card in 2012.

As BNU will donate 1 percent of consumers' retail spending on this affinity credit card to charity, cardholders will be able to aid the needy by shopping.

Since the inception of this donation scheme, BNU has contributed more than MOP12.1 million to Tung Sin Tong.

Michael Biesecker & Louise Watt,  
Washington

## CHINA-US

# Trump boosts coal as Xi takes the lead on climate change

FOR years, cutting carbon emissions to stave off the worst impacts of climate change was routinely near the top of the agenda at talks between the leaders of the United States and China.

Not anymore.

As President Donald Trump hosts President Xi Jinping at his Mar-a-Lago resort in Florida this week, the world's two largest economies and carbon polluters are taking dramatically divergent paths on climate policy.

The Chinese government recently canceled construction of more than 100 new coal-fired power plants and plans to invest at least USD360 billion in green energy projects by 2020. It is a building boom expected to create an estimated 13 million jobs. China already leads the world in total installed solar and wind capacity.

Trump, who has said global warming is a hoax perpetrated by the Chinese to hurt the U.S. economy, signed an executive order last week that aims to roll back Obama-era policies regulating carbon emissions. He has pledged to reverse decades of decline in coal mining, which now accounts for fewer than 75,000 U.S. jobs.

"Clean energy is the next, largest global market," said Barbara Finamore, Asia director at the Natural Resources Defense Council, a U.S.-based environmental group. "The U.S. risks losing out."

With Trump threatening to pull out of the Paris climate accord negotiated by the Obama administration, Xi is poised to become the world's foremost leader on climate change. Signed by nearly 200 nations, the 2014 agreement calls for holding global temperature increases to no more than 2 degrees Celsius (3.6 degrees Fahrenheit) in hopes of preventing devastating droughts, storms and sea level rise.

Speaking at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, in January, Xi called the Paris accord a "hard-won achievement" and urged signatories to "stick to it."

The White House declined to comment Wednesday on whether climate change will even be mentioned at Mar-a-Lago. U.S. officials are instead expected to focus on enlisting China's cooperation on curbing the North Korean nuclear threat.

While China eclipsed the United States as the world's top carbon polluter more than a decade ago, it is also now outpacing the U.S. in transitioning to a cleaner energy portfolio. China is currently generating about 20 percent of its electricity from renewable sources, compared to about 13

percent in the U.S.

China still burns more coal than any other nation, but its consumption of the dirtiest fossil fuel fell in 2016 for a third consecutive year. An analysis by Greenpeace of data from the Chinese National Energy Administration showed an expected corresponding decrease in China's carbon dioxide emissions of 1 percent in 2017, in what would be the fourth straight year of zero growth or a decline.

**Clean energy is the next, largest global market... The US risks losing out.**

BARBARA FINAMORE  
US ENVIRONMENTAL GROUP

That puts China on track to meet its 2030 target under the Paris accord as much as one decade early.

"Given the absolute lack of leadership from the Trump administration, China is seeing a stronger role both in its self-interest as a country threatened by the impacts of climate change, and also as a diplomatic opportunity in the vacuum left by Trump's retrograde position," said Lauri Myllyvirta, a senior coal campaigner for Greenpeace in Beijing.

In China's capital, Trump's public statements doubting that human activity is the primary cause of global warming are greeted with a mixture of bemusement and worry.

As China has burned gargantuan amounts of coal to accelerate the development of its economy, residents of its mega cities have had to deal with choking smog at levels not seen in the United States since passage of the Clean Air Act in 1970.

"In the past, some Chinese officials and ordinary people even believed that climate change was something created by developed countries to curb China's economic growth," said Teng Fei, a vice professor at Tsinghua University's Institute of Energy, Environment and Economy in Beijing. He said Trump's claim that climate change is a hoax might erode public support for taking action reducing the country's reliance on coal.

Wang Ke, a professor at the School of Environment and Natural Resources at Renmin University in Beijing, agreed: "Sometimes we joke that all our efforts are no use against one word from President Trump."

Even as Trump suggests global warming is mostly made up, climate scientists predict the issue will someday arrive literally at his doorstep.

Mar-a-Lago, the site of his summit with Xi, is located in one of the most vulnerable regions in the United States to sea level rise. Some streets in Palm Beach County already flood on sunny days during high tides, and recent studies predict Trump's prized resort will be underwater by the end of the century. AP



## US presses on N.Korea; downplays Taiwan



**WARNING** the U.S. could act alone, President Donald Trump has vowed to deliver an ultimatum to Chinese leader Xi Jinping to rein in North Korea when the two men come face-to-face for the first time this week. But Trump's early retreat on Taiwan already has chipped away at his standing with Beijing, and another bluff could leave him looking the way he hates most: Weak.

While Trump enters first U.S.-Chinese summit short on foreign policy experience, he may have advantages to help him succeed where past presidents have failed. Trump's candor and unpredictability, combined with his veiled threats of possible sanctions on Chinese banks and even U.S. military action against North Korea, could provide him new leverage with Beijing. But if he's bluffing, and Xi calls him on it, that might prove damaging in future negotiations with China or in building a united front against North Korea's nuclear and missile programs.

The two-day meeting at Trump's Florida estate, Mar-a-Lago, has begun after yet another North Korean provocation:

the latest test-launch of a ballistic missile. Although U.S. officials said the launch was a failure and didn't threaten North America, it underscored North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's intent to advance his weaponry in defiance of international law. The North may also be preparing for another nuclear test.

Trump warned this week, "If China is not going to solve North Korea, we will." He didn't elaborate, but his administration is looking at sanctions against Chinese banks and companies that provide North Korea access to the international financial system, a move strongly backed by Congress. And on a recent trip to Asia, Secretary of State Rex Tillerson reminded the region that the U.S. also retains the option of pre-emptive military force.

Trump discussed the issue Wednesday with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The White House said Trump "made clear that the United States will continue to strengthen its ability to deter and defend itself and its allies with the full range of its military capabilities."

Susan Thornton, the top U.S.

diplomat for East Asia, yesterday called North Korea "an urgent and global threat."

And it's no longer one that just affects U.S. allies like South Korea and Japan, and the tens of thousands of American forces stationed in each. North Korea could develop a nuclear-tipped missile that can strike America within a few years. As that danger nears, Trump's diplomacy with Xi will only grow in importance.

Trump "is making it seem like we are prepared to go to war or use military action [...] and I don't think that is going to be viable," said Kurt Campbell, top U.S. diplomat for the region during former President Barack Obama's first term. The devastation could be dramatic. South Korea's capital, Seoul, lies within retaliatory range of North Korean artillery and missiles.

In his two-and-a-half-months in office, Trump has backed off on one sensitive issue with China: Taiwan.

As president-elect, Trump said he didn't feel "bound" by existing U.S. policy toward the self-governing island that China considers part of its territory, demanding concessions from Beijing in trade and other areas. Within weeks, Trump reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the four-decade-old "one China" policy, smoothing the way for a February phone call with Xi.

Asked if Taiwan was up for negotiation, Thornton said: "We have basically moved on from there." AP

## Taiwan: US relations won't be harmed by Trump-Xi meeting

**TAIWAN** said yesterday that it is confident its relations with the U.S. won't be harmed when President Donald Trump holds his first summit with his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping this week, citing assurances from the U.S. side.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Eleanor Wang said at a news conference that the government was in close contact with Washington and was assured the island's interests would not be harmed.

"We are deeply concerned with the Trump-Xi meeting, prior to which we have been in full communication with the U.S. side to ensure that the interests of the Republic of China are not affected," Wang was quoted as saying by the official Central News Agency. The Republic of China is the formal name of Taiwan's government, which was transplanted to the island amid the Chinese civil war in 1949.

While Trump earlier said he didn't feel "bound" by existing U.S. policy toward the self-governing island that China considers part of its territory, he later reaffirmed Washington's commitment to the four-decade-old "One China" policy, smoothing the way for a February phone call with Xi.

That back-down and Trump's unpredictability have raised concerns among some China watchers that he might use Taiwan as a bargaining chip in seeking concessions from China.

In her comments, Wang referenced recent remarks by State Department and White House officials that they would hold to their assurances to Taiwan under a U.S. law that established strong unofficial relations following the severing of diplomatic ties in 1979.

Along with providing political backing, the U.S. is also Taiwan's main source of arms and military assistance to defend against China's threats to use force to bring the island under its control.

The meeting between Trump and Xi comes amid a sharp downturn in relations between Taiwan and China that followed the election last year of independence-leaning Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen. In June, Beijing severed government-to-government contacts between the sides in response to Tsai's refusal to endorse the principle that the island and mainland China were part of a single nation and would eventually reunify.

The troubled state of ties was reinforced by the detention of Taiwanese pro-democracy activist Lee Ming-che during a personal trip to China last month. AP

# China cancels Australian lawmakers' trip as tensions deepen

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

**CHINA** canceled a visit by Australian lawmakers to meet law enforcement officials after Australia joined 10 other countries in signing a letter questioning Beijing's treatment of human rights lawyers.

Craig Kelly, chairman of the Parliamentary Joint Committee on Law Enforcement, said yesterday he had not been given details of why he could not lead his three committee colleagues on the trip. The journey to Beijing, Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Hong Kong was to have started on Wednesday.

"The Chinese said they can't accommodate us at this time," Kelly told the AP. "The reasons for that are not clear."

Australian Broadcasting Corp. reported the weeklong trip was cancelled because Beijing was offended by Australia signing a letter to Chinese Minister for Public Security Guo Shengkun that questions China's treatment of human rights lawyers.

Damien Kingsbury, a Deakin University expert on international politics, described the cancellation as a "fairly blunt message" and agreed that the human rights letter was the most likely trigger.

The controversy comes during tense diplomatic times in the Sino-Australian relationship.



Pro-China demonstrators gather outside Parliament House in Canberra last month

Premier Li Keqiang visited Canberra last month and asked the government to ratify an extradition treaty so that Chinese fugitives from China's anti-corruption campaign could no longer use Australia as a safe haven. The treaty was shelved a week later because it was doomed to

be blocked in the Senate over human rights concerns.

Australian law enforcement authorities fear the diplomatic setback could damage cooperation with their Chinese counterparts on stopping illicit Chinese drugs such as methamphetamine from reaching Australia.

Justice Minister Michael Keenan on Wednesday praised Australia's cooperation with China's National Narcotics Control Bureau, which he said had stopped 7.5 metric tons (8.3 U.S. tons) of drugs from reaching Australian streets.

Kelly said his trip could not have been affected by the treaty dispute because he was told of the cancellation around the time Keqiang landed in Australia.

"I really don't like to speculate on it," Kelly said.

"We were meeting with Chinese politicians and law enforcement

**The Chinese said they can't accommodate us at this time. The reasons for that are not clear.**

CRAIG KELLY  
AUSTRALIAN MP

## Dalai Lama consecrates monastery in India as Beijing seethes

**THE** Dalai Lama consecrated a Buddhist monastery yesterday in India's remote northeast, amid Chinese warnings that the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader's visit to a disputed border region would damage bilateral relations with India.

Nearly 10,000 people, some of them from neighboring Bhutan, greeted the Dalai Lama at the Thubchok Gatsel Ling Monastery in Tawang district in the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Indian official Jemba Tshering said.

The visit to Arunachal Pradesh, which China also claims as its territory, has raised tensions

between the nuclear-armed Asian neighbors. China's Foreign Ministry has said the visit "severely harms China's interests and the China-India relationship," while India has cautioned Beijing to stay out of its internal affairs.

China considers the 81-year-old monk, who fled to India in 1959 amid an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet, a separatist seeking Tibet's independence. The Dalai Lama says he merely advocates substantial autonomy and protection of the region's native Buddhist culture.

The 81-year-old monk reiterated Wednesday that

he as well as his people were not seeking Tibet's independence, but are struggling to secure "meaningful autonomy" for the region from China.

"Firstly, we are not seeking independence. We are very much willing to remain within China," The Telegraph newspaper quoted him as saying. "At the same time the Chinese government must give us meaningful self-rule, autonomy and must take full care of the environment."

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying on Wednesday rejected arguments that the trip was solely religious in nature, and said China would lodge a



formal protest with New Delhi.

The top elected official of the state of Arunachal Pradesh, Pema Khandu, accompanied the Dalai Lama as he addressed young monks on Wednesday. Khandu said China had no business telling India what to do

and what not to do, the Press Trust of India news agency reported.

The visit is the Dalai Lama's seventh to Arunachal Pradesh and his first since 2009. China has criticized previous visits, but they did not spark any major rift between the two countries. AP

officials to see what they were doing to crack down on methamphetamine shipments to Australia," he added.

The Chinese Embassy in Canberra did not immediately respond to a request for comment on Thursday.

Around the time Keqiang arrived in Canberra, Canadian newspaper The Globe and Mail reported that Australia, Canada, Japan, Switzerland and seven European Union countries had signed a diplomatic letter to Guo.

The letter, dated Feb. 27, expressed "growing concerns over recent claims of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment in cases concerning detained human rights lawyers and other human rights defenders," the newspaper said.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying accused the countries of "violating the spirit of the rule of law" with the letter.

"We strongly oppose any country disrupting China's judicial sovereignty and independence with the excuse of human rights," Hua told reporters.

Human rights issues have caused friction in the bilateral relationship recently.

Foreign Minister Julie Bishop gave a speech in Singapore last month in which she said China can only reach its full economic potential if it embraces democracy.

Her department also made representations to Beijing over Sydney academic Feng Chongyi, who was not allowed to leave China for several days after a three-week trip researching human rights lawyers.

Australian National University international relations expert Michael Clarke said the canceled trip "would seem to be not coincidental to recent issues between Australia and China." AP



This undated photo, released by National Archives of Korea, shows a group of men working at a land reclamation worksite in Seosan in the 1960s

## SOUTH KOREA

# Ex-vagrants want land promised for forced labor

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seosan

**C**HUNG Young-chul takes a drag on his cigarette and watches as wild ducks fly across rice fields and land on a reservoir in this remote farming village. He's among nearly 2,000 people — ex-gangsters, ex-convicts, former prostitutes, orphans — who were once held here, forced to work without pay for years and are now largely forgotten.

"Some died after they were beaten and got sick. Others died of malnutrition or in accidents," said Chung, 74. "It was worse than a prison camp [...] We were starving slaves."

They were victims of social engineering orchestrated in the 1960s by dictator Park Chung-hee, late father of just-ousted President Park Geun-hye. His 18-year rule was marked by both a dramatic economic rise and enormous human rights abuses.

He cleared city streets of so-called vagrants and put them to work on land and road projects as free labor to help rebuild the country after the 1950-53 Korean War. The victims say they've never received a proper investigation or compensation.

In Chung's village in Seosan city, about 130 kilometers south of Seoul, about 1,770 people were made to work without pay in land reclamation projects. They lived in army-style barracks. Some were ordered to

marry female inmates, mostly ex-prostitutes sent from government-run shelters, in two rounds of mass weddings. Ex-workers say local officials told them repeatedly that they would be given some of the land they reclaimed, but that never happened.

**It was worse than a prison camp ... We were starving slaves.**

CHUNG YOUNG-CHUL

Only about a dozen of the workers, mostly in their 70s, still live in this village; the rest left or have died. Those remaining pay rent to authorities to farm rice on the land they reclaimed. After repeated legal defeats, some have accepted a recent government proposal to buy the land at market prices in installments over 20 years, though they know they'll probably die before they complete the payments.

They've always been poor and falling rice prices have made them poorer. Deeply in debt, Chung said he and others are pushing to file joint petitions with as many government offices as possible to appeal for help again.

"We have no money to hire lawyers," he said. "We are the only ones abandoned by South Korea's legal system."

Past media reports during Park Chung-hee's rule, which ended with his assassination in 1979, largely portrayed the people here as making a fresh start with government help. The true nature of their story has been shielded from the public; official records are limited and many workers won't talk about what they believe were their dark past.

"Governments in South Korea have been very indifferent to them," said Kim Aram at the Seoul-based Institute for Korean Historical Studies, one of the few experts on the issue. "Now, it's important to let the people know about the truth of this story because it's completely unknown to them."

Chung was left alone at an early age. A North Korean bomb killed his mother in the Korean War, and he was separated from the rest of his family when he fell off the roof of a train carrying refugees.

He worked as a shoeshine boy with other orphans in the southeastern port city of Busan, then became a member of the "Apache" gang, collecting protection money from bars and teahouses.

"We felt strange when we spent a day without fighting" other gangsters, he said.

Chung's life changed after Park seized power in a 1961

coup and attempted to "purify" society by rounding up people deemed vagrants and putting them to work.

In 1962, Chung said marines carrying rifles smashed down his shack door and took him to a rehabilitation center where hundreds were detained. They were told they were now members of the Republic of Korea Juvenile Pioneering Group.

Chung was sent to a land reclamation site in southern South Korea. About six months later, he volunteered to move to Seosan because he hoped he'd have a better chance to escape. But that was virtually impossible. His supervisors, senior inmates working under a civilian leader, stood guard every 30-50 meters (100-160 feet) and watched inmates even when they went to the toilet.

Each day they used shovels, pickaxes, carts and their bare hands to cultivate reclaimed land. They built waterways and a reservoir.

Most meals were only a bowl of rice and a thin soup made of dried Chinese cabbage leaves. They caught and ate frogs, snakes and rats. At night, they were often ordered to recite Park's lengthy "revolution promises." Those who stammered were beaten.

Chung likened his experience to the horrible accounts by escapees from North Korea's notorious political prison camps. "Some don't believe what they've testified but we trust their testimonies by 100 percent because that's what we had endured, too," he said.

Some of the South Korean inmates died, through illness, beatings or accidents, but there is no official data on fatalities. Local officials reached by The Associated Press said they have no information on the operations, and many of them acknowledged they have never heard about the ROK Juvenile Pioneering Group. But a handful of experts like Kim Aram and local villager Kim Tae-young, who works with remaining inmates on land dis-

putes, said the suffering was tense.

By the time the pioneering group was dissolved — which came as Park's government shifted to export-driven industrialization — control had loosened and many inmates had already left.

Ex-inmates said they had cultivated about 357 hectares, but that it was too salty and uneven. Seosan officials "tentatively" distributed the land to the roughly 300 remaining inmates and other poor people in the village between 1968 and 1971, according to farmers and villagers in Seosan.

Some simply sold their parcels — for as little as a sack of potatoes, Chung says — but others cultivated the land. By the time ex-inmates began harvesting rice, the government imposed rent for using state-owned property, Chung and other villagers said. They staged a legal fight, but a local district court ruled against them in 2000 in a verdict upheld by higher-level courts.

In 2011, the state-run Anti-Corruption & Civil Rights Commission recommended that the government lower the prices of the land to reflect ex-inmate's previous labor but a ministry in charge of government-owned land used the market rates.

There are 278 families who farm the reclaimed land in Seosan, including about a dozen ex-inmates, including Chung and Sung Jae-young.

"It's really shameful [...] but I'm paying the installments with the help of my children," said Sung, who lowered his head and wept. "I've been enduring it until now because I wanted my hard work to pay off. But things have become terrible."

Chung called Park Chung-hee a "gangster" who ruined his life.

"He captured us and put us here. So he should have taken responsibility for our lives to the end," he said, tears rolling down his cheeks. **AP**



Chung Young-chul shows his rice field during an interview in Seosan

SOUTH CHINA SEA

# Philippines to occupy and fortify Spratly islands it holds

Teresa Cerojano, Manila

**P**HILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday he has ordered the military to occupy and fortify all Philippine-held islands in the disputed South China Sea to assert the country's claims amid what he says is a race to control territory in the area.

"We tried to be friends with everybody but we have to maintain our jurisdiction now, at least the areas under our control," he said during a visit to a military camp in western Palawan province.

Duterte said he has ordered the armed forces to occupy and place Philippine flags on all islands, reefs and shoals controlled by the Philippines.

"There are about nine or 10 islands there, we have to fortify," he said. "I must build bunkers there or houses and provisions for habitation."

Duterte said he may visit one of the islands, Pag-asa, to plant a Philippine flag on Independence Day. He said money has been budgeted to repair the runway on Pag-asa, home to a small fishing community and Filipino troops.



Pag-asa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands

Since taking office in June, Duterte has worked to mend ties with China that were strained under his predecessor over the territorial disputes.

An impeachment complaint has been filed against him that cites, among other things, his alleged failure to protest China's territorial expansion in the South China Sea.

Rival claimants, including the Philippines and Vietnam, have expressed alarm over Beijing's building of artificial islands in the disputed region.

"It looks like there's a race to grab islands," Duterte said. "What is ours now, we should get and make a strong point that it is ours."

He said he will rename Benham Rise — a potentially resource-rich undersea region off the country's northeast coast — the Philippine Ridge.

Benham Rise is on the opposite side of the Philippines from the area at dispute in the South China Sea. The U.N. Commission on the Limits of the Continental Shelf confirmed in 2012 that Benham Rise is part of the extended continental shelf of the Philippines.

Defense Secretary Delfin Lorenzana has said that Chinese survey ships were seen crisscrossing the Benham Rise area last year. **AP**

# Australia, New Zealand warn of possible attack in Turkey

**A**USTRALIA and New Zealand warned yesterday that extremists may be planning an attack on the commemoration of a World War I campaign that is being held in Turkey this month.



Australian Veterans Affairs Minister Dan Tehan urged the nearly 500 Australians and New Zealanders registered to travel to Gallipoli, Turkey, to mark ANZAC Day on April 25 to exercise a high degree of caution amid the warning, but offered no specifics about the alleged threat. ANZAC Day is an annual holiday commemorating the April 25, 1915, landings in Gallipoli — the first major military action fought by the Australian and New Zealand Army Corps during World War I.

Australian Federal Police deputy commissioner Mike Phelan declined to release details of what prompted the warning,

saying only that the government had received information that extremists may attack the services being held on the Gallipoli peninsula. Phelan said there was no specific plot linked to the alert.

"It is just that terrorists may indeed try to carry out a terrorist attack during the celebrations," Phelan told reporters in the nation's capital, Canberra. "That is all we have got at this stage."

Tehan said Australia and New Zealand were working closely with Turkish authorities on security arrangements and the commemoration was scheduled to continue as planned.

AD

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## CHEMICAL ATTACK

# International donors pledge USD6 billion in Syria aid

**I**NTERNATIONAL donors pledged USD6 billion in aid for war-ravaged Syria as the U.N. Security Council held emergency talks over a suspected chemical attack that killed dozens in a rebel-held province.

Donors from more than 70 countries meeting at a conference on Syria in Brussels made a "collective pledge of \$6 billion for this year alone," EU Humanitarian Aid Commissioner Christos Stylianides said.

Stylianides described the pledge — which appeared to approach the conference hosts' target — as "an impressive figure."

Syria's "needs are massive. Our conference is sending a powerful message," he said. We are not letting down the people of Syria."

However, the good will at the meeting was shadowed by the chemical attack Tuesday in Idlib that killed 75 people.

Responding to the grim news, U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres appealed for Syria's warring factions and government backers such as Russia and Iran to bring an end to a six-year conflict that has taken the lives of almost 400,000 people.

"Nobody is winning this war, everybody is losing," Guterres said. "It is having a detrimental and destabilizing effect on the entire region and it is providing a focus that is feeding the new threat of global terrorism."

Nearly half the Syrian population has been displaced by the violence, with millions seeking sanctuary in neighboring Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey, or heading further west to Europe. U.N. agencies estimate war damage across Syria so far at \$350 billion, including physical destruction and the loss of eco-



This photo provided by activist group Edlib Media Center, which has been authenticated based on its contents and other AP reporting, shows victims of a suspected chemical attack, in the town of Khan Sheikhoun

nom activity. Four out of five people are living in poverty.

"Behind these figures lies a gradual draining of hope and a turn toward despair that we must reverse," Guterres said.

While it was unclear who was responsible for the chemical attack, many fingers at the Brussels conference pointed toward Syrian President Bashar Assad.

"The world should not be shocked because it's letting such a regime do what it is doing. What should shock us is the increase of

children dying and that the whole world is watching," Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri said. "Everyone is coming to Brussels to make a statement, and the regime made its statement in Syria."

Hariri said Lebanon has been overwhelmed by the arrival of some 1.5 million Syrian refugees and "cannot sustain this issue anymore. The international community has to do something."

German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel noted that with the European Union divided over

the refugee emergency, the bloc has failed to share responsibility for even a quarter of the 160,000 refugees that member countries promised to relocate from Italy and Greece. By contrast, Lebanon, Jordan and Turkey as shining examples, he said.

"They've taken in an unbelievable number of refugees and they are relatively poor countries," Gabriel said. "Sometimes I'm ashamed looking at the European debate going on."

**Nobody is winning this war, everybody is losing.**

ANTÓNIO GUTERRES  
UN SECRETARY-GENERAL

The aim of the conference, hosted by the EU with the United Nations, Britain, Germany, Kuwait, Norway and Qatar, was to drum up funds for Syria and the region and to support efforts to secure a lasting political solution to the war.

The long and onerous task of rebuilding Syria was also on the table, but no action will be taken until a political solution to the conflict is found.

Amid concerns about donor fati-

gue, the EU hoped the event would generate financial support at the same levels of recent years. Last year's conference in London raised more than \$12 billion in pledges — \$6 billion for 2016 and a further \$6.1 billion for 2017-20.

According to U.N. relief coordinator Stephen O'Brien "for the immediate needs of 2017, we need about \$8 billion," but he said that aid cannot reach those in need without a cease-fire.

"You have to have access, you have to have security," he said. "Once we have the funds we can deliver the programs that save lives and help to seek to protect civilians."

EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini said the bloc aims to remain the top humanitarian donor and is to provide 560 million euros in 2018 for Syria, Lebanon and Jordan. It is also providing up to six billion euros over the next few years to Turkey for Syrian refugees there.

"We can start preparing the post-conflict. I know it sounds surreal, especially today. But if you want peace, you have to start building," she said.

In a statement to the conference, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence said the gathering was "critical for the Syrian people, for the greater Middle East, and for the entire international community."

Pence said Washington "stands ready to do our part to provide humanitarian resources to those impacted by the conflict in Syria." AP

## USA

## Nevada man arrested on terrorism, weapon charges in Las Vegas

**A** Las Vegas man who has been free on bail for three months while fighting explosives and firearms charges was arrested late yesterday [Macau time] on counts of terrorism and possession of weapons of mass destruction, authorities said.

Nicolai Howard Mork's defense attorney, Nicholas Woolridge, expressed shock at the two new charges against his 40-year-old client in Nevada state court, and the USD8 million bail amount set by a judge who issued a warrant for his arrest.

Mork had posted

\$220,000 bail following his arrest in December.

Mork was taken into custody at one of his homes in a southern Las Vegas neighborhood after police evacuated residents from several nearby homes, police Sgt. Jeff Clark said. He called the evacuations a precautionary move.

Mork legally possessed materials commonly used for targets that can explode when shot during firearms target practice, his lawyer said.

Woolridge said similar devices are commercially available and not prohibited under federal law.

Deputy Las Vegas Police Chief Chris Jones declined to specify the materials that police seized Dec. 29 with a search warrant at Mork's home.

Mork was arrested at the time on charges that he illegally possessed explosives, a silencer and a gun with a serial number removed.

"The manner in which this individual was using these materials was not for legal purposes," Jones said. "These substances could be used in the manufacture of powerful explosive devices. The more you use, the larger the device, the more destructive it's

going to be."

Chief Deputy Clark County District Attorney Jacob Villani said the chemicals were strong enough to penetrate a military tank, the Las Vegas Review-Journal reported ([bit.ly/2nFaXqJ](http://bit.ly/2nFaXqJ)).

Woolridge disputed the newspaper's characterization of Mork as a theoretical mathematics graduate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Woolridge said his client had a master's in business administration from the school.

An FBI spokeswoman in Las Vegas said the



Las Vegas police and SWAT officers surround a home of Nicolai Howard Mork as they clear the property

bureau wasn't involved in the case. Officials at several gun stores and a public gun range in Las Vegas declined to comment about the commercial availability of explosive targets.

Jones, who heads the police department's Homeland Security unit, said the investigation arose after several explosions in two neighborhoods where Mork lived, and complaints by

neighbors about damage to their property.

"Devices had either exploded or were found unexploded," Jones said. "They clearly were not being used for legal purposes."

Clark County District Court Judge Douglas Herndon ruled that because of the seriousness of the charges, Mork will have to show the source of money used for his bail. AP

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## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Criminal Minds S.9
17:40	Castle Sr.6 (Repeat)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeat)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Miscellaneous
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:30	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

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

## SUNDAY

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

## Offbeat

UK WOMAN WHO URINATED ON TRUMP  
GOLF COURSE LOSES CASE

A British woman who was photographed urinating on a golf course in Scotland founded by U.S. President Donald Trump lost her demand for damages but said she was "very relieved" that her name had been cleared.

Carol Rohan Beyts, 62, a longtime campaigner against the course in northeast Scotland, said staff breached data protection laws by secretly taking pictures of her in April 2016. Beyts, who says she has bladder problems and had no choice but to urinate in a sand dune, sought 3,000 pounds (USD3,700) in damages from Trump International Golf Links Scotland.

The firm said staff members were collecting evidence of a criminal act.

A judge at Edinburgh Sheriff Court said Beyts shouldn't have been filmed but declined to award damages, saying her distress was not caused by the company's failure to register under the Data Protection Act.

The judge, Donald Corke, warned that people "taking pictures of females urinating in the countryside put themselves at real risk of prosecution under public order or voyeurism."

After the ruling, Beyts said she was "very relieved."

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

06 APR - 07 APR



## A SILENT VOICE: THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

2:15, 7:15pm

Director: Naoko Yamada

Starring: Miyu Irino, Saori Hayami, Aoi Yuki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 129min



## SWORD ART ONLINE THE MOVIE: ORDINAL SCALE

ROOM 1

4:45, 9:45pm

Director: Tomohiko Ito

Starring: Ryan Bartley, Christine Marie Cabanos

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 119min

## GHOST IN THE SHELL

ROOM 1

(2D) 2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

(3D) 7:30pm

Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min



## BYE BYE MAN

ROOM 3

2:00, 3:45, 5:30, 9:45pm

Director: Stacy Title

Starring: Douglas Smith, Lucien Laviscount

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

## IN THIS CORNER OF THE WORLD

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Sunao Katabuchi

Starring: Megumi Han, Yoshimasa Hosoya

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 118min

## MACAU TOWER

30 MAR - 12 APR



## GHOST IN THE SHELL (3D)

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

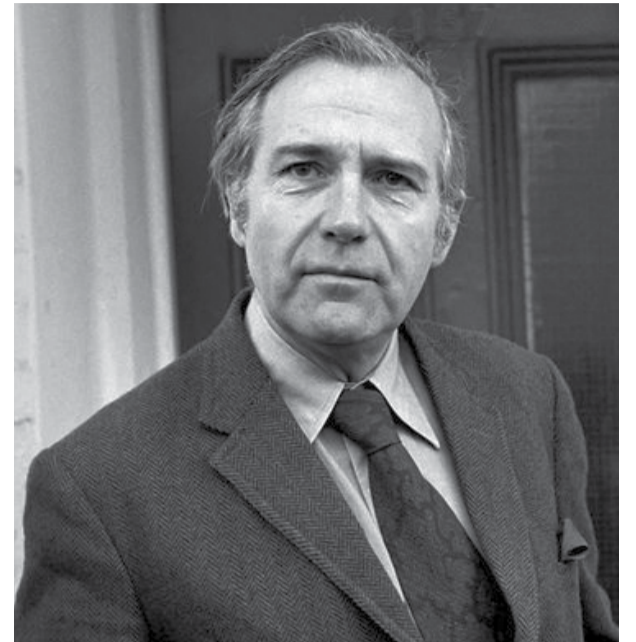
Director: Rupert Sanders

Starring: Scarlett Johansson, Takeshi Kitano

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 106min

## this day in history



John Stonehouse

1976 GOVERNMENT CRISIS AS  
STONEHOUSE QUILTS

The controversial MP and former Cabinet Minister John Stonehouse has resigned from the Labour Party, leaving the government in a minority of one.

In his resignation letter, he launched a scathing attack on the government, saying it was "dangerous and unrealistic" for Labour to continue in power without an immediate general election.

"The country cannot afford a government whose main concern is surviving from week to week," he said.

His resignation leaves Prime Minister James Callaghan, who has been in power for just two days, with 315 MPs to the opposition parties' 316.

The MP is accused of faking his own death in a bizarre series of events which began with his apparent drowning off a beach in Miami in November 1974.

He was arrested while living under a false name in Melbourne, Australia, five weeks later.

He faces 18 charges of theft, forgery, attempted insurance frauds and conspiracy involving more than £170,000. His secretary, Sheila Buckley, also faces various charges of theft and conspiracy.

In his resignation letter, he accused his constituency, Walsall North, of prejudging him by discussing his political future ahead of his trial at the Old Bailey in three weeks' time.

A meeting of the Labour Party management committee in Walsall North last month voted 47-1 to ask Mr Stonehouse to resign.

When he refused, he was told he would not be re-selected as the official Labour candidate at the next general election.

Mr Stonehouse will now act as an independent, ending 19 years as a Labour MP.

The development could cause serious problems for the government's legislative timetable, possibly delaying proposed bills on nationalising the aircraft and shipbuilding industries and extending the dock labour scheme.

The immediate argument, however, was over the number of MPs allowed to sit on committees.

Both the Conservative Chief Whip, Humphrey Atkins, and the Liberal Chief Whip, Alan Beith, are calling for committees to have a majority of members from the opposition parties, to reflect the new balance of power in the House of Commons.

Courtesy of BBC

## IN CONTEXT

John Stonehouse's first speech to the Commons as an independent MP, two days later, was boycotted by almost the entire Labour Party.

He was forced to address near-empty benches, and not one vote was cast in favour of his proposal for an early general election. Shortly afterwards he joined the English National Party, a fringe party with about 5000 supporters.

His trial began on 27 April 1976. After a marathon 68 days, the MP was convicted and sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. Sheila Buckley was sentenced to two years' imprisonment, suspended for two years.

Stonehouse resigned as an MP on 28 August.

He was released from prison in 1979 on health grounds, and married Ms Buckley in 1981. He died of a heart attack in 1988, aged 62.

The government of James Callaghan clung on to power with the Lib-Lab pact of 1977, but finally lost the 1979 general election to the Conservative Party under Margaret Thatcher.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Two possible scenarios are on the agenda. First, a wonderfully entertaining individual will charm you right out of your fiery little shoes with not much more than a word, a glance or a gesture you'll find immensely attractive.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
The heavens have quite the agenda set up for you, starting bright and early this morning. That arrangement you've been working on almost nonstop for what seems like months will finally start to come together.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
Still feel like you're spoiling for a fight? Don't let it happen. Not when you're this close to achieving the goal you've been planning out, minuscule detail by minuscule detail.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You need some time alone to rest, recuperate and get your act together - more together, that is. Take it right now, because over the next few days, you'll have your hands full with entertaining.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Being the star of the show isn't just something you're used to. It's something you've learned to expect - and that has nothing to do with being vain, either. People love to be entertained...

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
The particular project you've been focused on is about to come to a close, and even though it's not your style to congratulate yourself before every last little detail has been tended to, this time out, it seems to be in order.

**Libra**  
Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Just for now, it's going to seem like everyone around you is in the mood to be just as sociable and friendly as you try to be every minute of every day. Why ruin a perfect evening - and maybe more...

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Someone has been not-so-subtly 'working' you, for reasons you have yet to discern - and that fact alone is making you crazy. Half of you believes they're interested in you for more than professional or platonic reasons.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Your attention has most definitely shifted from mediation to more personal matters - personal matters and travel. Yes, given your druthers right now, as a reward for how good you've been lately.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Our routine - something you're ordinarily quite attached to - will be most definitely disrupted now, but only because of surprise errands or short trips you'll find extremely pleasant.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Making a choice between two attractive offers has never been something that's especially disturbed you - especially when you've been responsible for arranging each of them.

**Pisces**  
Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
If anyone knows how it feels to be so darned happy, infatuated and out of your mind in love, it's you. So when you pass by someone (or two someones) with 'that look' on their face.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	11	20	overcast
Harbin	0	13	cloudy
Tianjin	14	22	cloudy/overcast
Urumqi	2	8	cloudy
Xi'an	12	21	cloudy/overcast
Lhasa	3	19	cloudy/clear
Chengdu	13	24	cloudy
Chongqing	17	24	cloudy/overcast
Kunming	10	25	clear
Nanjing	13	20	overcast
Shanghai	15	18	drizzle
Wuhan	14	23	cloudy
Hangzhou	16	21	heavy rain/moderate rain
Taipei	22	28	drizzle/cloudy
Guangzhou	20	27	overcast/cloudy
Hong Kong	23	28	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	6	16	drizzle
Frankfurt	5	14	cloudy/drizzle
Paris	2	14	clear
London	6	14	clear/drizzle
New York	8	18	moderate rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Waist band; 5- Molten material; 10- Village People hit; 14- Banned orchard spray; 15- China's Zhou \_\_\_; 16- Slippery swimmers; 17- "M\*A\*S\*H" soft drink; 18- Let's Make \_\_\_; 19- Collections of anecdotes; 20- Seize the day; 22- Blow one's top; 23- Lennon's mate; 24- Abby's twin; 25- Sunset; 29- Spirit; 33- Compile, accumulate; 34- Shrek, for one; 36- Wonka's creator; 37- Law enforcement agency; 38- Appliance brand; 39- Calendar box; 40- Author \_\_\_ Stanley Gardner; 42- \_\_\_ of Man; 43- Lower legs; 45- Grating; 47- Locate; 49- Hosp. section; 50- \_\_\_ Plains, IL; 51- Clear the boards; 54- French composer; 60- \_\_\_ Alto, CA; 61- Journalist \_\_\_ Rogers St. Johns; 62- Farming prefix; 63- Novelist Bagnold; 64- Dense element; 65- Half-moon tide; 66- Kitchen addition?; 67- Dice game; 68- Ball belles;

**DOWN:** 1- Judge's seat; 2- Zeno of \_\_\_; 3- Cowardly Lion portrayer; 4- Camera stands; 5- Lea; 6- The King \_\_\_; 7- Elation; 8- Polite address; 9- Have a bug; 10- Longed for; 11- Diner's card; 12- Put your hands together; 13- Gal Fri.; 21- Slaughter of baseball; 22- Naval rank, briefly; 24- Out of port; 25- More secure; 26- Dark area; 27- Metal spikes; 28- Chinese menu phrase; 29- Sea eagles; 30- Gymnast Comaneci; 31- Repeat rhythmically; 32- "Family Ties" mom; 35- Guy's date; 38- Hokkaido native; 41- Incident; 43- Type of gun; 44- Married man; 46- Vanilla \_\_\_, American rap star; 48- Standards of perfection; 51- Fencing sword; 52- Talk wildly; 53- Came down to earth; 54- River to the Baltic; 55- Greek cheese; 56- Envelope part; 57- "A Death in the Family" author; 58- Pinchy crustacean; 59- Jumps on one leg; 61- Onetime Jeep mfr.;



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



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## FORMULA ONE

# Hamilton again expects stiff challenge from Vettel in Shanghai

Justin Bergman, Shanghai

**T**HREE-TIME Formula One champion Lewis Hamilton finds himself in an unfamiliar position just one race into the new season — facing a stiff challenge from a driver other than former Mercedes teammate Nico Rosberg.

With Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel earning a surprising and emotional victory at the Australian Grand Prix last month, Hamilton will now try to reassert his team's long-held position at the top of the sport at this weekend's

Chinese Grand Prix.

"It just fuels the fire even more," Hamilton said yesterday. "We wanted to win [in Australia]. We wanted to be the ones at the front. And we've got a real fight on our hands."

The Australian Grand Prix gave racing fans a taste of what they've been yearning for during three straight years of Mercedes domination — the prospect of a true rival to the silver cars at the top. Mercedes won 19 of the 21 F1 races in 2016, with Red Bull capturing the other two.

Vettel's win — his first since Sin-

gapore in late 2015 — came after F1 instituted new regulations designed to make this year's cars faster and bring more excitement and wheel-to-wheel racing to a sport that had grown predictable in recent years.

Following the changes, the 2017 cars now have wider tires, greater aerodynamics, bigger fuel loads and increased downforce, making them heavier but also significantly faster. The tires, which are 25 percent wider, have more grip and are more durable, enabling drivers to push harder and limit pit stops.

Despite his loss in Melbourne, Hamilton is a fan of the new rules. Anything to bring more intensity and competition to F1 is a good thing as far as he's concerned.

"My favorite form of racing is go-karting [...] because it's wheel-to-wheel, all the way, from start to finish," he said. "I'm dying for that day to come again. I hope that happens with me and Sebastian. He's a four-time world champion, one of the best of our generation, so I think fans are sitting on the edge of their seats for that."

It helps that Vettel is also feeling particularly confident at the moment. Since capturing the last of his four world titles with Red Bull in 2013, he had only won three races before triumphing in Melbourne in March.

His new Ferrari team hadn't been at the top of the podium in Australia in 10 years.

"It's the best way to obviously kick off the season," Vettel said. "After one race, it's easier to say this year is better than last year, but it's only one race."

With a track featuring two long straights, which has favored the faster Mercedes cars in recent years, the Chinese GP presents a different challenge, however.

Hamilton has finished at the top of the podium in Shanghai four times. The now-retired Rosberg won last year's race.

"I think Mercedes has to be still the favorite," Vettel said. "We know that we have a good package which puts us in a strong place, but we know that there's a lot of things we need to do to keep up with them and keep the position that we are in now."

The other teams were significantly off the pace set by Ferrari and Mercedes in Melbourne. Max Verstappen finished fifth for Red Bull, while teammate Daniel Ricciardo was forced to retire

with a mechanical failure on the 28th lap.

"For sure, we have to improve, but that's how it is at the moment," Verstappen said. "It's quite a big gap, but I'm quite confident we can definitely close it in the upcoming races."

Two-time world champion Fernando Alonso also failed to finish in Australia as his second season with troubled McLaren got off to a predictably disappointing start. The team has struggled mightily since switching from a Mercedes engine to one built by Honda before the 2015 season.

**My favorite form of racing is go-karting ... because it's wheel-to-wheel, all the way, from start to finish.**

LEWIS HAMILTON

Sounding upbeat in Shanghai, Alonso quashed rumors that he might retire from F1 this season if McLaren's prospects didn't improve.

"I prefer to be here than in the supermarket in my hometown," the Spaniard said. "Definitely not true."

The 35-year-old Alonso said he's still racing because he wants the chance to compete for podium spots again. Asked whether he'd like to finish his career with a winning team like Mercedes, he deflected the question.

"I have nothing to say right now. It's a question for the future," Alonso said. "Nothing is ruled out." AP

## FOOTBALL

# FIFA turns to China again for sponsorship, with Hisense deal

**R**ACING to find sponsors for the 2018 World Cup following corruption scandals, FIFA has again found help in China — this time with consumer electronics firm Hisense.

The 16-month deal announced yesterday by Hisense's British division is unusually short for FIFA, which typically looks for contracts of at least two World Cups.

Hisense signed up in the second-tier global category as the official television sponsor only for the Confederations Cup later this year and the 2018 World Cup in Russia.

FIFA now has 10 World Cup sponsors, with new deals all coming from China and Russia. There are still 24 vacancies in a marketing plan that includes a new third-tier category giving sponsors only regional rights.

Hisense, which also sponsored the 2016 European Championship in France, did not disclose financial details.

"Over the years, Hisense has gained a lot of experience and seen strong brand growth through sports sponsorships," Hisense Group president Liu Hongxin was quoted as saying in a FIFA release.

"We are honored to take on our biggest challenge yet [...] and we believe that the competition will vastly improve global awareness and economic value for Hisense as a truly international brand."

Five major sponsors failed to renew with FIFA after the 2014 World Cup, including top-tier electronics backer Sony.

FIFA marketing officials have acknowledged that potential deals have been affected by American and Swiss federal investigations of corruption in international soccer which were revealed in May 2015.

It's been more than a year since FIFA landed a global top-tier sponsor for the World Cup, which is budgeted to earn more than USD5 billion.

In March 2016, Chinese property and cinema giant Wanda Group signed a four-tournament deal through 2030.

The previous new sponsor signed in September 2013 when Russian energy giant Gazprom signed up for the 2014 and 2018 World Cups.

FIFA currently has six top-tier "partners," with scope to add two more ahead of the kickoff in Russia in 14 months.



FIFA president Gianni Infantino

Hisense joins Budweiser and McDonalds in the second-tier "sponsor" category, which has between three and five vacancies.

In the new 20-slot regional tier, only Alfa Bank of Russia has signed to a program created by marketing executives hired under former President Sepp Blatter and who left FIFA since Gianni Infantino

was elected last year.

FIFA is looking for three more regional deals for Europe, plus four each in Africa and the Middle East, Asia, North America and South America.

The shortfall of sponsors contributed to a \$122 million loss in 2015, according to the last annual accounts published by FIFA. AP

opinion

**Kapok**  
 Eric Sautédé



**EVERYTHING'S PATRIOTIC NOW!**

Patriotism is double-edged: nurture the bond that it entails and it becomes a virtue; make it a blind imperative and venture into dangerous territories in which hierarchies are induced, force prevails and ultimately oppression arises. Broadly speaking, patriotism is assumed to be an act of "love", whereas nationalism, its contemporary by-product, helps build the case for war. Among the most notorious quotes drawing a distinction between the two is that by American essayist Stanley Harris: "The difference between patriotism and nationalism is that the patriot is proud of his country for what it does, and the nationalist is proud of his country no matter what it does; the first attitude creates a feeling of responsibility, but the second a feeling of blind arrogance that leads to war."

The word "patriotism" comes from "patria", the Latin for "fatherland", and indicated an attachment and commitment to a "familiar place" in Roman antiquity. It evolved into more of a political concept meaning a loyalty to some values, even though it was strictly more social than political. The civic engagement it presumed was in no way a challenge to the powers that be! From there, the idea was that patriotism be linked to citizenship, and a republican form of government took shape. In the Encyclopaedia Britannica, patriotism is "associated with the love of law and common liberty, the search for the common good, and the duty to behave justly toward one's country."

In contrast, nationalism, which originates in the Latin "natio", meaning birth, implies a linkage between the birthplace, language and culture, although at least two perspectives compete: a more "objective" one, backed by German philosophers, emphasises the commonality of characteristics shared by a group of people; and a more "subjective" one, upheld by French philosophers, insists on "the will to live together", and thus a voluntary act of belonging.

No doubt it is a mix of both conceptualizations that led Sun Yat-sen to define "nationalism" as one of the Three Principles of the People — together with "democracy" and "welfare" — that would allow China to restore its pride and become once again a free, prosperous and powerful country. In 1949, Mao's Communist Party "liberated" China from foreign invaders, and the People's Republic of China's army is still today called the People's Liberation Army. The problem is that "nationalism" is a "bourgeois ideology" in the Marxist tradition, and the reference to "nationalism" was somewhat confiscated by the Kuomintang, literally the "party of the people of a nation". In Chinese, one refers to a "feeling" (xin) when patriotism is summoned, whereas a "doctrine" (zhuyi) is invoked when it comes to "nationalism".

In today's Macao, patriotism serves every purpose. No significant association will not include — or have its statutes changed to reflect that new requirement — an article that insists on the purpose to "love the country, love Macao" (aiguo aiao), whether it is to promote Macao's F&B, modern dance or communal gatherings - even more so in education.

Although the "One thousand people program" (qianren jihua) funded by the Macao Foundation was originally to "nurture and promote the development of talents in Macao", its blunt imperative is actually to bond with the "motherland".

Almost all participating organisations in 2016 and 2017 (altogether 22 schools and 21 associations) correspond to Macao's traditional patronage associations, the very same that have been vested with this task for decades — from the General Association of Chinese Students of Macao to the Association of Returned Overseas Chinese Macao, together with the youth organisations of the Kaifong, the Women's General Association, the Federation of Trade Unions. Are these really the best channels to stimulate a "feeling" of double inclusiveness - an attachment to the familiar and a respect for a broader unity? Allowing for a bit of genuine "engagement" from diversified sources may prove more convincing!

**THE MAN KNOWN AS GODFATHER OF GRASS**  
**BUZZ BACK IN US; POT CHARGES LOOM**

A legendary outlaw known as the Godfather of Grass who disappeared almost a decade ago while federal agents were closing in on him was deported from Canada and was being held in a Vermont prison pending his return to Kentucky to face marijuana charges.

John Robert "Johnny" Boone was turned over to U.S. authorities at the Highgate Springs port of entry. He was then taken to federal court in Burlington, where he was ordered held until he can

be returned to his home state.

Boone, 73, was convicted in the 1980s and spent a decade in prison for what prosecutors called the "largest domestic marijuana syndicate in American history." They said he was the head of the Cornbread Mafia, which had 29 farms in Minnesota, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Michigan, Nebraska, Missouri, Kansas and Wisconsin.

Eventually, 70 Kentucky residents were charged with growing 182 tons of marijuana.

ORGANIZED CRIME

**Former Mexican cartel head gets life for drug smuggling**

A once-powerful Mexican drug cartel leader and associate of Joaquin "El Chapo" Guzman has been sentenced to life in a U.S. prison.

Alfredo Beltran Leyva, 46, was sentenced yesterday [Macao time] after pleading guilty in February to charges his multibillion-dollar operation smuggled tons of cocaine and methamphetamine into the United States. Beltran Leyva led the organization from the 1990s to his indictment in 2014, as it shipped tons of cocaine from South America to the United States, prosecutors said.

Authorities called him a "Goliath" of drug trafficking. A judge ordered him to forfeit more than USD529 million, based on what he described as a conservative estimate of the amount of cocaine Beltran Leyva brought into the United States.

Beltran Leyva led a "campaign of violence and fear that gripped communities across North America," acting Assistant Attorney General Kenneth A. Blanco said.

The organization relied on killings, torture, kidnappings and other violence to sustain its drug trafficking



Mexican federal police officers escort Alfredo Beltran Leyva, known as "El Mochomo", upon his arrival at Mexico City's airport (2008)

operation, prosecutors said. FBI Assistant Director Stephen Richardson said the life sentence marks an end to the group's "reign of terror."

The once-powerful Beltran Leyva cartel was led by Alfredo and his brothers as it grew to prominence as an arm of Guzman's Sinaloa Cartel. The Beltran Leyva group smuggled drugs and ran human trafficking operations, along with enforcement operations for the larger Sinaloa organization.

That relationship soured, according to federal prosecutors, after Alfredo Beltran Leyva's 2008 arrest. His brothers blamed Sinaloa leaders for his arrest,

and the split eventually led to a bloody fight among the two groups at the same time as the Sinaloa cartel was waging a war against the Juarez cartel for control of drug and human smuggling routes in northern Mexico.

The Beltran Leyva gang started to split apart in late 2009, when one brother, Arturo, who took over for Alfredo, was shot dead by Mexican marines and another brother, Carlos, was detained two weeks later. Another brother, Hector, was arrested in San Miguel de Allende.

Guzman is awaiting prosecution in New York following his extradition from Mexico in January. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	40-60 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



**AFGHANISTAN** The Afghan government is trying to grab the attention of President Donald Trump by dangling its massive and untouched wealth of minerals, including lithium, the silvery metal used in mobile phone and computer batteries that is considered essential to modern life. But tapping into that wealth, that estimates say could be worth from USD1 trillion to \$3 trillion, is likely a long way off.

**IRAN** A powerful magnitude 6.1 earthquake has struck northeastern Iran near the holy city of Mashhad, killing at least two people as residents fled onto the streets and aftershocks shook the region.

**MOROCCO** King Mohammed VI has appointed a new coalition government, ending six months of deadlock that had stalled the economy. Key defense, security and religious affairs posts were given to people with no party affiliation but who are close to the king.

**ITALY-SWITZERLAND** Switzerland and Italy are in a diplomatic dispute over Switzerland's decision to close three secondary border crossings at night in a bid to fight crime.



**BRITAIN** Scottish First Minister Nicola Sturgeon says Britain's prime minister is doing nothing to break an impasse over Scotland's future after Brexit, but she ruled out holding a referendum on independence without the British government's support.

times square by rodrigo

