



MACAU NARRATIVES ON THE SILVER SCREEN

P2 FILM



THAI RESIDENCY SCHEME PROMOTED IN MACAU

The promotion, sponsored by the Thai government, targets affluent Chinese migrants. Min. investment is USD15,000

P5



CHINA BARS WIFE OF TAIWAN ACTIVIST FROM VISITING

Lee Ching-yu said that she was prevented from flying to the mainland to seek a visit with her husband, Lee Ming-che

P11



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SYRIA U.S. Senator John McCain has accused Russia of having cooperated with Syria in a chemical weapons attack that has killed more than 80 people, including more than a dozen children. The Republican senator said yesterday at a press conference in Belgrade that he believes "the Russians knew about chemical weapons because they were operating exactly from the same base."

CAMBODIA Police are seeking to arrest a woman who was seen on a video clip on Facebook showing her throwing a shoe at a billboard of the ruling Cambodian People's Party. The government has been aggressively prosecuting critics and political opponents ahead of nationwide local elections this June, and a general election next year.

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte wants the U.S. to actively promote security and cooperation in the South China Sea, according to acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo, who downplayed the friction between the longstanding military allies. More on p13

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ANTI-GRAFT IMPACT FADES

Gaming stocks back on top



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Mistrust in real estate investment deepens

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PAULO COUTINHO



CULTURE | CINEMATHEQUE PASSION

Macau film season to kick off on Saturday



DANIEL BEITLER

Daniel Beitler

THE recently reopened Cinematheque Passion will host a themed program this month titled "Panorama: Macau Films", which will showcase a selection of around 25 films shot in Macau or directed by local filmmakers.

The festival will run from April 14 (Saturday) until April 28 at Cinematheque Passion. In addition to film screenings, audiences will be able to attend post-screening

talks and seminars to interact with the filmmakers.

Among those to be screened during the Panorama festival are the Macau entries for the International Film Festival and Awards – Macau (IFFAM) festival, namely Emily Chan's "Our Seventeen" and Tracy Choi's award-winning "Sisterhood". At the IFFAM festival, "Sisterhood" actress Jennifer Yu won the "best newcomer" award, while the film earned the audience prize.

The two films will each be screened twice throughout the program, once at the start of Panorama on April 14, and again on April 27 and 28.

Other films from the 1990s, which depict the final days of pre-handover Macau, will also be shown at various dates during Panorama.

These include Chu Iao Ian's "Ah Ming's Macao" – a critically-acclaimed film regarded as "the first Macau people's film under

the Portuguese Administration" – that interviews locals about their feelings regarding the then-approaching 1999 handover to China. The 31-minute short will be screened on April 15.

Also playing this month is "The Bicycle Man, Macau Diary" by Ivo Ferreira and António Pedro (showing on April 15), which also explores the late pre-handover era.

Then there is "The Bewitching Braid", a movie by Chinese directors Cai Yuan-yuan and Cai An-an, brothers from Sichuan Province. The plot is based on a novel by well-known Macanese writer Henrique de Senna Fernandes, who is regarded as one of the most prominent writers from the pre-handover period.

"I Repeated" by local documentary filmmaker Penny Lam will be screened on April 23. The documentary investigates Macau's unusually high rate of students repeating school years due to missed grades, and explores the link between these students and the lure of comfortable casino jobs.

Another documentary, Wallace Chan's "Fonting the City", follows a group of designers searching Macau for the "forgotten typefaces" that decorate buildings in the San Ma Lou area. They search for and reveal these fonts, hoping to draw people's attention to the

often-ignored aesthetics in urban typefaces, and the sheer variety of fonts present in the city. It will be shown on April 23 at the cinema house.

According to organizers, the program celebrates the evolution of local filmmaking in Macau which, since the handover, has been accelerated by government initiatives.

"Before Macau's handover in 1999, a group of Macau people passionate about films together with overseas graduates coming back to the city zealously made their own independent films without considering [...] the market," reads a statement published in the program's brochure.

"This was the beginning of Macau films."

The brochure adds that many young and talented filmmakers have been "successfully cultivated" over the past two decades, partly due to government support for the local industry.

Cinematheque Passion launched the inauguration ceremony for the revamped cinema house on March 30. The facility, which is owned and financed by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, is operated by CUT Ltd.

Parties interested in Panorama: Macau Films can visit Cinematheque Passion for more information.

Lynzy Valles

City U design students showcase artworks in exhibition

THE City University of Macau hosted a one-day exhibition titled "We Are Who U See Now," on Saturday, showcasing the graphic design works of two undergraduate students majoring in Environmental Design.

Tackling the exploration of a teenager's inner self, the university's first double-solo exhibition features 40 works of Mason Chao and Michael Yang, which will soon be available for purchase in local stores.

According to one of the exhibition's curators, Anastacia Lew, the works express teenagers' emotions, particularly young love, isolation and unspoken thoughts.

"They think expressing

themselves is very important and [that] it's really significant to pay attention to teenagers," she said of the two artists, who are in their early 20s.

"This exhibition is about themselves, their circles and the community," Lew added.

Other works in the exhibition include typography, minimalist prints and portraits.

Using Adobe Photoshop to create the masterpieces, one of Yang's creations is a set of portraits that features a face resembling his own, with chapped lips and bruises.

"All of these represent the inner self of a tee-

nager, and his struggles [with] his dark side," explained Yang.

"This is how a teenager struggles because his voice is too negligible to be heard [so] I want it to be known to [people]," he continued.

Most of Yang's artworks are intended to encourage young people to express themselves to the community.

One of Chao's collections aims to capture the different personalities and traits of a young person. The set of four artworks present the subject's multi-faceted persona, comparing them with subjects such as fire, lightning and a

leopard.

"Sometimes [we] are as furious and strong as a leopard and other times as passionate as flames. These represent what a teenager is, [so] I try to create works that would speak to people," said Chao.

Lew revealed that the artworks, which are priced between MOP800 and MOP1,500, will be sold at Tom N Tom's Café. The creators will receive 40 percent of all sales.

According to Lew, they are still in talks with a few other local stores to make their artworks more widely available for purchase. **LV**



Mason Chao and Michael Yang

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Police officer sacked for illegally receiving benefits

According to the latest news published on the website of the Office of the Secretary for Security, a police officer was sacked from the police force for handling cases in an illegal manner. Last August, the Judiciary Police (PJ) handed over one of its police officers to the Public Prosecutions Office. The officer is suspected of having accepted a HKD10,000 gambling chip after mediating a fight between a couple. After the brawl, the officer released the couple instead of taking them to the police station for further legal procedures as is required by law. Afterwards, the suspect continuously called the couple in an attempt to follow up on their situation and to cover up any evidence, however the couple later reported him to the police. The PSP initiated the investigation into the suspect in August 2016. In December 2016, the officer was suspended from his duties. The officer, surnamed Fong, joined the PSP in 2013.

CRIME

Taxi driver charged for trapping passengers inside car

Julie Zhu

A taxi driver has been charged for depriving people of their physical freedom, the Public Security Police Force (PSP) announced during a press conference held yesterday.

The 35-year-old male driver, surnamed Wong, is a Macau resident.

At 10 p.m., last Saturday, he picked up two passengers near a hotel located in Cotai. The two passengers asked the driver to take them to another hotel, also located in Cotai.

After driving for a short time, the taxi driver parked the vehicle near the Avenida de Cotai, got out of the car, locked it and left. The two passengers then tried to open the door, but failed, at which point they called the police for help.

When the PSP arrived on the scene, the two passengers were removed from the taxi. By then, the taxi driver had returned to the scene.



PSP took the driver to a police station, where he admitted that he locked the passengers inside the taxi.

Wong told the police that he did it because he deemed the distance between the pick-up and the drop-off locations to be too short.

Wong said that he had told the passengers to take another taxi before he carried them in his own, but

that the passengers did not comply with his suggestion. Wong, being angry with the passengers, chose to lock them in the car.

Phone frauds - The PSP received another report of a phone fraud in which the criminals pretended to be officers from the Pac On Immigration Department. However, no theft has been reported this time.

ted this time.

Last Friday, a male Macau resident received a phone call from the "Pac On Immigration Department", which questioned him on whether he had assisted other people in obtaining documents.

The resident, during his talk with the "immigration department" deemed that it could be a fraudulent call and decided to report the case to the police.

According to a PSP announcement made yesterday, since March 14 until 9 a.m. yesterday, the police authority received reports regarding similar frauds from 164 people.

Nineteen people claimed to have suffered financial losses, with the money involved amounting to MOP11.44 million.

Jewels robbery - A 30-year-old Filipino domestic helper has been arrested for stealing from a jewelry shop that belongs to her employer.

Last Friday, the jewelry shop, located in the central district, reported to the police that some items worth HKD48,000 had been stolen from the premises.

The police, after reviewing the CCTV records of the shop, found that it had been the domestic helper of the person in charge of that shop who had stolen the items.

The police then found the jewelry in the suspect's room at her employer's house. The suspect admitted to the crime.

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CONSUMER CONFIDENCE INDEX

Residents do not trust the housing market

Lynzy Valles

THE Macau Consumer Confidence Index (MCCI) stood at 86.35 in the first quarter of 2017, an increase of 3.26 percent from the fourth quarter of 2016.

The result implied a slight increase in Macau consumers' confidence towards six areas: "local economy," "employment," "consumer prices," "living standards," "housing purchase" and "stock investment."

Individual index scores below 100 suggest a lack of confidence, while scores over 100 imply a positive outlook on the economy.

The survey, which was conducted by the Macau University of Science and Technology (MUST), reported that during

the first quarter of this year, five of the six sub-indexes included in the study increased and one decreased.

The "local economy" sub-index was 101.41, up by 1.87 percent compared against the fourth quarter of 2016. This change shows a slight decrease in consumers' pessimism toward the overall performance of Macau's economy.

The "employment" sub-index increased substantially to 106.74, an increase of 6.45 percent, representing the highest score among the six sub-indexes in the first quarter.

The "consumer prices" sub-index was 74.28, up 2.8 percent compared with the previous survey - a change that implies that consumers are less concerned about how inflation will affect their lives in the near future.

The "living standards" sub-index was 97.40, only slightly up by 0.17 percent.

The "housing purchase" sub-index was still the lowest, which stood at 53.37, down by 2.76 percent. This decrease continued the downward trend of the previous quarter, suggesting a worsening of the already-negative outlook among potential homebuyers.

The "stock investment" sub-index was 84.4, representing a substantial increase of 9.51 percent. This change reflects an increase in the willingness of lo-

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cal consumers to invest in the market.

During a press conference yesterday, Chan Lai Kow, director of MUST's Sustainable Development Department noted that the latest MCCI surveys in conjunction with the previous 33

■ **The 'Stock investment' sub-index was 84.4, a substantial increase of 9.51 percent**

surveys had all consecutively shown that consumer confidence increased substantially with education levels.

In particular, the 34-quarter average MCCI for consumers with tertiary education was 4.59 points (5.4 percent) and 9.97 points (12.6 percent) higher than those for consumers with only secondary and primary education respectively.

Additionally, the MCCI for consumers with only primary education tended to be more volatile across different quarters and years.

Kow suggested that focusing more on education and training for Macau citizens as well as supporting citizens' continuous

learning and self-enhancement could be of fundamental importance for increasing Macau consumers' confidence.

Consumer confidence is related to consumer characteristics, and patterns have changed somewhat based on the latest cross-analysis.

In terms of education levels, the highest confidence was in "local economy" and the lowest confidence was in "housing purchase" for all groups of people.

For personal income, the highest confidence was in "employment" for all groups of people; except those with monthly income between MOP5,000 and MOP10,000, who were most confident in "local economy".



Chan Lai Kow

Thailand advertises residency to affluent Chinese citizens

THE Government of Thailand has appointed a global citizenship and residence advisory firm to promote the country's residence visa program, Thailand Elite. One of the targets of the promotion will be affluent Chinese migrants.

The program gives foreigners the right to live in the country for up to 20 years.

The Thai government partnered with Henley & Partners to conduct the program that is expected further popularize Thailand among Chinese high net worth individuals.

A statement issued by the firm stated that Thailand Elite is the first residence program that includes VIP membership

privileges as part of the package.

The issued statement implied that the program is also targeting Macau residents.

The program is designed to attract wealthy global citizens, families, investors and entrepreneurs who want to spend extended periods of time in the country and take advantage of its beneficial tax regime and affordable standard of living.

Figures from CBRE Thailand, a real estate firm, showed that the Chinese expatriate population has doubled over the past five years, making it the second-largest foreign community in Thailand after the Japanese.

"The concept of being a

global citizen is gaining traction as a beneficial second or third residence or citizenship gives wealthy individuals a choice of more freedom of movement, global mobility, privacy and security" said Jennifer Lai, managing partner and head of North Asia for Henley & Partners.

"In response to these migration trends, governments are rolling out residence and citizenship programs, like Thailand Elite, as a way of driving economic growth, securing much-needed foreign investment as well as attracting people who have proven business success, talents and networks," Lai added.

To obtain a Thailand residence visa, foreigners

must be a member of Thailand Elite, a program offered by the Thailand Privilege Card Company Limited (TPC), a wholly owned subsidiary of the Tourism Authority of Thailand.

The Thailand residence program provides a multiple entry visa and allows holders to stay in the country for an unlimited period of time as the one-year stay extension can be renewed every year without the need to cross the border.

According to the firm, seven different options are available to meet different family and individual needs.

The Elite Ultimate Privilege provides a 20-year residence visa with com-

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plementary VIP services for applicants over the age of 20 years who pay a one-off fee of approximately USD60,000 and an annual fee of approximately USD600.

Meanwhile the "Elite Privilege Access" provides a 10-year residence visa to applicants with a one-off fee of appro-

ximately USD30,000 for the primary applicant and approximately USD22,500 for each dependent with no annual fee or age restriction.

Another popular option is the "Elite Easy Access," which provides expats a five-year residence visa with a one-off fee of USD15,000. **LV**

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Vicky Leong



Wong Chilong

CONTINUING EDUCATION

Third phase of plan launched with added security rule

Renato Marques

THE Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) is launching today the third phase of the government's Continuing Education Development Plan, to run from 2017 to 2019.

For this phase, most of the mechanics were retained but at least one rule was added in order to guarantee more governmental control and to increase

their entitlement to inspection, the DSEJ informed yesterday in a press conference held at its headquarters.

The rule asks the institutions' lecturing classes and courses included in the plan to submit an electronic record of student attendance within seven days of each session.

Vicky Leong, Chief of the Education Department of the DSEJ, said the measure has been included to "raise the inspection ex-

tent." When questioned Cheong added that such a measure does not replace any of the previously enforced measures but "just adds to it. We will still receive the attendance maps in paper support that need to contain the students' signature [to prove its authenticity]." She also noted that the DSEJ performs many other tasks to ensure that everything is done according to the law, like surprise visits to the venues of training courses

and conducting interviews with students who concluded their courses.

Wong Chi Iong, the chief executive of the division of Continuing Education also remarked that DSEJ have completed during the previous phase "about 500 visits and inspected over 5,000 documents [to make sure that was all according to the rules]."

According to Wong's figures, a total of 11 serious faulty cases were found and reached the judiciary authorities during the last phase of the plan.

Another of the differences from this phase of the program concerns the speed of the processing of applications for courses from the institutions - which was said to have been adjusted so that institutions are able to receive a quicker reply from DSEJ to be able to quickly start courses.

Wong noted that the institutions will be given a period of 15 days (from April 11 to April 25) to submit their course applications with the result of these applications to be known by April 28.

Remarking on the results of the previous editions of this plan, Wong said that in the second phase (2014 to 2016) a significant growth was registered for the number of participants in the plan, leading to a rise from around 145,000 (phase 1 - 2011 to 2013) to 167,000. Wong noted that such a number is already "quite high. [It is not expected that it] will grow much further during the third phase," he said when questioned by the media.

Also the government's subsidy remains unchanged: MOP6,000 per applicant, representing a total investment of around MOP740 million as in the plan's second phase.



Election monitoring body launched

Former New Macau Association leader Jason Chao announced yesterday the launch of his new election monitoring project, titled "Project Just Macau". The project's website, JustMacau.net, will serve as a secure communication channel for residents to submit information and complaints on the Legislative Assembly elections due to be held in September. "While the prevalence of illegitimate activities at Macau elections is an 'open secret', in most of the cases, the authorities fail to show a determination to hold the unscrupulous, but powerful, candidates accountable," the local activist wrote in a statement. He added that although official channels currently exist, the lack of transparency in the handling of these complains means "whether justice is served is highly questionable."

Tobacco control enforcement agents fine 40,170 people

Since the adoption of the Tobacco Prevention and Control Law, on January 1 of 2012, tobacco control enforcement agents have performed a total of 1,372,014 inspections, resulting in 40,170 charges to people who have been caught smoking in forbidden places, the Health Bureau has revealed. These figures show that up to March 31, agents undertook an average of 716 inspections per day. Gardens and recreational areas are the places in which law infringement is most frequently detected, with a total of 416 cases (18.7 percent), from January 1 to March 31. More than two-thirds of these perpetrators were tourists.

Woman almost loses leg in car accident

A 24-year-old mainland woman almost lost one of her legs after being hit by a bus at the cross between R. do Alm. Sérgio and R. de João Lecaros. The serious accident took place at 6 p.m. last Sunday. According to a report by Jornal Cheng Pou, the woman, who works in Macau, was jaywalking when the accident occurred. The police are still investigating the causes of the accident. The bus driver, who is in his 60's, passed the required blood alcohol tests. The woman was initially reported to have needed an amputation after having been sent to the hospital. However, during a police press conference, yesterday, the Judiciary Police clarified that the woman will not have to undergo the procedure.

corporate bits

THE ROADHOUSE MACAU DONATES MOP51,000 TO ARTM



The Roadhouse Macau restaurant at Broadway, Galaxy Macau auctioned off a Bruce Lee portrait by Irish artist, Barry Jazz Finnegan, with the pro-

ceeds of MOP51,000 going to the ARTM (the Association of Rehabilitation of Drug Abusers of Macau). This donation will support the work they do

within the Macau community.

"We were really happy to be able to auction such an amazing portrait with Barry's help and give the proceeds to ARTM, an association we've been supporting since 2010", shared Tess Carruthers, owner and managing director at The Roadhouse Macau.

"It's something we always try to do, give back to this community. We know how important their work is and it's our pleasure and mission to support them in all ways we can," Carruthers added, as cited in a press release issued by the firm.

Augusto Nogueira, President of Direction of the ARTM, noted that with such organized fundraising events and support, the association can ensure the improvement of its services.

SANDS COTAI CENTRAL MARKS 5TH ANNIVERSARY WITH FAMILY ORIENTED ACTIVITIES



Sands Cotai Central is celebrating its fifth anniversary with promotions and offers for visitors and hotel guests until May 7.

A commemorative celebration was held yesterday in Paradise Gardens to officially mark the occasion. During the fifth anniversary

celebrations, visitors to Sands Cotai Central will be offered a series of promotions and activities, including some Easter events especially for children.

Giant celebratory decorative installations will also be on display on Bridge of Stars, Sands Cotai Central's East Lobby, and Holiday Inn Lobby.

Sands Cotai Central is offering a range of fun family-oriented activities for both hotel guests and visitors.

"As the center for family, fun and adventure, Sands Cotai Central is dedicated to delivering unparalleled resort experiences for both leisure and business travellers alike," said Ruth Boston, senior vice president of Marketing and Brand Management of Sands China Ltd.



GAMING ALERT

Vice stocks are back on top as anti-graft impact fades

INDUSTRIES that suffered under President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign are thriving again.

Shares of Macau casino operators have clawed their way back to the highest level since August 2015 as VIP takings reco-

ver. Makers of pricey spirits, which became a symbol for official excess, are trading near multi-year highs. Even Chinese im-

ports of Swiss watches are looking buoyant, jumping 28 percent in December alone, as demand rebuilds in the wake of the Communist Party's crackdown on conspicuous spending.

Much of the investor confidence can be attributed to the success of industry efforts to target the mass market, rather than relying on a cashed-up elite. Casinos shifted to courting tourists and building family-friendly facilities in Macau. Kweichow Moutai Co. cut prices of its premium liquor to make it more affordable, an approach emulated by Swatch Group AG, which introduced more economical models. Bolstering their outlook is a perception that Xi's campaign is losing its immediacy, according to Sun Hung Kai Financial Ltd.

"Anti-corruption remains a concern to those stocks, but it's no longer a top concern," said Kenny Wen, a strategist at Sun Hung Kai Financial in Hong Kong. Demand from the mass market has given these industries a "new growth engine," he said.

It's easy to see why investors are optimistic. Macau's casino revenue growth jumped 18 percent in March, the fastest pace in eight months, as both high rollers and leisure gamblers flocked to the former Portuguese enclave. Kweichow Mou-

tai said in February it expected first-quarter net income to climb about 16 percent to 5.7 billion yuan (USD826.4 million).

Such a turnaround is remarkable given the pressures that affected the industries near the start of Xi's presidency. Macau gambling revenue fell every month for more than two years straight beginning in mid-2014, a stretch that included a record 49 percent plunge in February 2015. This helped drag shares of companies such as Galaxy Entertainment Group Ltd. and Sands China Ltd. down more than 65 percent from their peak.

The crackdown on graft equally reverberated through the alcohol industry. Five years ago, government-related sales accounted for about 70 percent of the total at premium spirits distillers Kweichow Moutai, Wuliangye Yibin Co. and Luzhou Laojiao Co., according to Sanford C Bernstein & Co. That's fallen to no more than 10 percent, said Hong Kong-based Bernstein analyst Euan McLeish, citing meetings with the companies' management.

"The structure of demand has fundamentally changed," said McLeish. "What has become increasingly apparent is that there is underlying demand from individuals. That's really why the interest in those stocks picked up so much."

The BI Macau/China Gaming Market Competitive Peers gauge rose 1.1 percent at yesterday's close, in a sixth day of gains. Kweichow Moutai slipped 0.9 percent.

Anti-corruption remains a concern to those stocks, but it's no longer a top concern.

KENNY WEN
STRATEGIST AT SUN HUNG KAI

There are concerns gains in vice stocks have been too far, too fast. Galaxy has surged 58 percent in the past 12 months, the third-best performance on Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index. Its shares

trade at 26 times projected earnings, 42 percent above its five-year average. Kweichow Moutai and Wuliangye have gained more than 50 percent in that time, five times the pace of China's CSI 300 Index.

"Casino stocks have almost fully priced in an industry recovery in 2017 so shares may end the year roughly unchanged," said Daniel So, Kong Kong-based strategist with CMB International Securities Ltd.

Arthur Kwong, Hong Kong-based Head of Asia Pacific Equities at BNP Paribas Investment Partners Asia Ltd., says enthusiasm toward casinos would quickly dim if the State Council rolls out tough measures to curb capital outflows.

And Xi's drive to clean up official corruption hasn't gone away, even if investors are less worried about the impact as the campaign enters its fifth year. About 415,000 officials were punished in 2016, a 23 percent increase from the previous year, according to government statistics. At least 120 officials at the vice-ministerial rank or above have been among those ensnared, including Zhou Yongkang, the country's former security chief, and Ling Jihua, the former chief of staff to Xi's predecessor.

Xiang Junbo, chairman of the country's insurance regulator, became the latest senior official to come under the spotlight. Xiang, formerly head of Agricultural Bank of China Ltd., is under investigation on suspicion of severe disciplinary violations, according to a government statement posted on Sunday that didn't give further details of the probe.

Still, analysts are bullish: Galaxy has 20 buys and just 1 sell rating, while Kweichow Moutai has 26 buys and zero sells. Ebru Sener Kurumlu, an analyst at JPMorgan Chase & Co., forecasts the spirit maker will lift sales by about 11 percent this year, while Foundation Asset Management (HK) Ltd.'s Michael Liang sees the recovery continuing.

"With the improving economy, soaring home prices and growing luxury car sales, I see the big picture," said Liang, Hong Kong-based chief investment officer of Foundation Asset. "It's a consumption upgrade."

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Zhejiang Electric Power Construction negotiating dam purchase in Brazil

THE Chinese Zhejiang Electric Power Construction Co Ltd (ZEPC) is negotiating the purchase of a stake in the Belo Monte hydroelectric complex on the Xingu River in Pará state, Reuters financial agency reports, citing sources linked to the process.

The dam, with production capacity of 11,233 megawatts, is located on one of the main tributaries of the Amazon River. It is owned by the Norte Energia consortium which includes Eletrobras, Neoenergia, Cemig (Companhia Energética de Minas Gerais), and Light Serviços de Eletricidade, the Vale mi-

ning group and the Metros and Funcef pension funds.

The CEO of Eletrobras, a group previously known as Centrais Elétricas Brasileiras, said that some consortium shareholders (which he did not identify) aimed to sell their respective stakes in the business.

The Norte Energia consortium has already invested 31.6 billion reais (USD10.1 billion) in the hydroelectric project, though delays, extra costs and licensing problems have resulted in a lack of profits, with some partners having indicated their discontent. **MDT/Macauhub**

MOZAMBIQUE

Economy still destabilized by liquidity crisis

THE Mozambican economy will continue to be destabilized by a liquidity crisis due to public debt impossible to manage and the suspension of international aid, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) indicates in its latest report on the country.

The document states that the government plans to control fiscal and monetary policies in order to resume relations with the International Monetary Fund and resolve the liquidity problems, but adds that resistance from the political elite and the electorate will weaken that determination.

The economy's real growth rate will remain low in the 2017-2018 biennium, owing to weak domestic demand and reduced investment, though the following years should see more robust performance, "as the confidence of investors gains strength."

According to the EIU, the Mozambican government's priority is to recover macroeconomic stability in a scenario marked by unsustainable public debt, a sharp drop in capital inflow and very little economic growth when compared to growth

AFRICA GEOGRAPHIC MAGAZINE



rates achieved in the recent past.

The revelation of state-endorsed loans unlawfully contracted by public enterprises led to suspension of the support programme with the International Monetary Fund and shortly afterward with the group of countries and international bodies that supported the state budget and additional development projects.

The country officially defaulted on its debt in February 2017 when it failed to pay the first coupon of the bond issue of Empresa Moçambicana de Atum. It subsequently failed

to make another payment concerning Proindicus and the government then stated it did not have the capacity to meet its financial commitments.

The EIU states in this document obtained by Macauhub that the most likely solution for the three debt issues will be grouping them in one single instrument, with the holders of Mozambican public debt having to accept a major cut and payment of the remaining debt postponed until after 2020. **MDT/Macauhub**

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THE flood of angry anti-Muslim rhetoric on social media was the first sign of how fiercely the suburban middle-class homeowners in this central China city opposed a planned mosque in their neighborhood. It quickly escalated into something more sinister.

Soon a pig's head was buried in the ground at the future Nangang mosque, the culmination of a rally in which dozens of residents hoisted banners and circled the planned building site. Then the mosque's imam received a text message carrying a death threat: "In case someone in your family dies, I have a coffin for you — and more than one, if necessary."

"How did things get stirred up to this point?" the imam, Tao Yingsheng, said in a recent interview. "Who had even heard of the Nangang mosque before?"

On the dusty plains of the Chinese heartland, a bitter fight over a mosque exemplifies how a surge in anti-Muslim sentiment online is spreading into communities across China, exacerbating simmering ethnic and religious tensions that have in the past erupted in bloodshed. It's also posing a dilemma for the ruling Communist Party, which has allowed Islamophobia to fester online for years as part of its campaign to justify security crackdowns in its restive region of Xinjiang.

"It's let the genie out of the bottle," said James Leibold, a professor at La Trobe University in Australia who has tracked the growth of anti-Muslim hate speech on China's internet.

Interviews with residents and an examination of social media show how a few disparate online complaints by local homeowners evolved into a concerted campaign to spread hate. Key to it was an unexpected yet influential backer: a Chinese propaganda official, 2,500 kilometers (1,500 miles) away in Xinjiang, whose inflammatory social media posts helped draw people into the streets on New Year's Day, resulting in a police crackdown.

A stone inscription outside its gate shows the original Nangang mosque was established in the 1780s by members of the Hui minority, the descendants of Silk Road traders who settled across China centuries ago. In its present form, the mosque has served the area's 4,500 Hui for decades, its domed silhouette partially hidden by overgrown shrubs in the countryside beyond Hefei's last paved boulevards.

Over the past 10 years urbanization has come to Hefei, with sprawling development reconfiguring the landscape and its demographic flavor, and Hui leaders had been

Unfettered online hate speech fuels Islamophobia



Tao Yingsheng, the imam at the Nangang mosque, stands in the mosque in Hefei central China's Anhui province

pushing for years to relocate their mosque to a more convenient urban location.

City planners in November finally selected a site adjacent to the newly built Hangkong New City condominiums, with its \$200,000 two-bedroom units, faux-Mediterranean stylings and a Volvo dealership across the street. The project's homeowners overwhelmingly members of China's ethnic Han majority began complaining on China's popular microblog, Weibo.

Some complained the mosque would occupy space promised for a park. Others warned that safety in the area would be compromised.

Others were more blunt: Han residents were uncomfortable that a center for Hui community life would be less than 100 meters from their building, a homeowner who later identified himself in messages to the AP by his surname, Cheng, wrote in a petition posted in December.

"And the less said about what happens on Eid al-Adha, the better," Cheng wrote, referring to the Islamic holiday in

which animals are slaughtered for a sacrificial feast. "It's absolutely shocking."

The story soon caught the attention of Cui Zijian, a boyish-looking propaganda official in Xinjiang who writes about the threat of religious extremism on his Weibo account with nearly 30,000 followers.

On Dec. 16, Cui suggested homeowners lobby local officials to block the construction, adding: "If that doesn't work, then how about pig head, pig blood."

Cui followed that a few hours later with another post repeating the four Chinese characters for pig blood and pig head over and over, attracting hundreds of reposts. While Cui was criticized by some on Weibo, a larger number — including at least one other government propaganda official — took his post as their cue to hurl abuse at the Hui.

The mosque dispute was just the latest flashpoint for an increasingly active anti-Muslim social media movement in China.

A video of a Hui girl reciting the Quran in Arabic sparked

outrage last May over so-called terrorist infiltration of Chinese schools, prompting officials to announce a "strict ban" on religion on campuses. Online activists derailed a Hui official's effort to regulate the halal food industry, arguing that religion was creeping into the officially atheistic Chinese state.

Han Chinese, who make up 95 percent of the population, have long grumbled about the dozens of China's officially recognized minority groups receiving advantages on the hyper-competitive college entrance exams or exemptions from family-size limits, but online abuse has increasingly targeted Muslims.

The rise in Islamophobia comes as Chinese have been buffeted by news of militant attacks in Europe, while at home, violence in Xinjiang and elsewhere has been blamed on Muslim separatists. Beijing has responded to the bloody, years-long insurgency from Muslim Uighur minorities in Xinjiang with further restrictions on Islamic expression, a move rights groups warn cou-

ld potentially radicalize moderate Muslims. Such policies have also drawn vows of retaliation from the Islamic State and al-Qaeda.

Ethnic hostility can only deepen, scholars say, when the government stops discussion of the plight of Muslims or ethnic policies while allowing anti-Muslim rhetoric and hate speech to go unchecked.

Political observers say the recent rise of a faction within the Communist Party advocating for a hard-line approach on religious affairs has coincided with the rise of government-linked commentators who openly warn about the danger of Islam.

"Interest groups have actively promoted Islamophobia in interior regions in order to create a nationwide environment that justifies Xinjiang's anti-terrorism campaign," said Ma Haiyun, a history professor specializing in China's Muslims at Frostburg State University in Maryland. "There's an Islamophobic movement that aims at creating chaos and even conflicts at the local level." **MDT/AP**



Lee Ching-yu (center)

China bars wife of detained Taiwanese activist from visiting

Gerry Shih, Taipei

THE wife of a Taiwanese pro-democracy activist detained in China said yesterday that she was prevented from flying to the mainland to seek a visit with her husband, whose case has inflamed tensions between the sides that have already sunk to their lowest level in years.

Lee Ching-yu said airline staff told her when she tried to check in for her flight that Beijing authorities had canceled her Chinese-issued travel permit. Li was hoping to fly to China to demand information about her husband,

Lee Ming-che, who has not been heard from since March 19.

A Chinese official said last week that Lee was under investigation on suspicion of endangering Chinese national security and was in "good physical condition," but offered no additional information. Lee Ching-yu says her husband suffers from hypertension and has asked that medication be provided to him.

Lee, a college employee who used the WeChat social media platform to discuss China-Taiwan relations, is the first Taiwanese activist in years to be held by China on security charges. His colleagues said his

account on WeChat — a mainland China-based service used broadly in the Chinese-speaking world — had been shut down by Chinese authorities in mid-2016, suggesting he had attracted government attention.

Lee, 42, formerly worked for the Democratic Progressive Party, which has advocated for Taiwan's formal independence. He was due to meet a friend in the southern Chinese province of Guangdong on March 19 but never arrived.

China cut off its already limited contacts with Taiwan's government in June, five months after the DPP's Tsai Ing-wen was elected

president. Since then, China has been seen as further restricting the island's already limited diplomatic breathing space while bringing economic pressure to bear.

Trailed by a scrum of supporters and media, Lee Ching-yu was turned away at the check-in counter by an Air China employee who said the airline had been informed by Beijing that her permit to visit the mainland had been voided, without providing details. China regards Taiwan as part of its territory and requires the island's residents to use a document called a Taiwan Compatriots Pass rather than their passport when traveling to

the mainland.

"I wonder why China needs to stop me, a defenseless woman, from visiting," Li told reporters at the airport.

Yesterday's drama raises the stakes in a case already complicated by the absence of formal cross-strait diplomatic channels. The Taiwanese government department responsible for relations with China says its requests for information about Lee have largely gone ignored.

Lee Ching-yu said Sunday that a middleman who claimed to have Chinese government contacts sought to persuade her not to make the trip, saying that her husband would be released soon if she acted in an "obedient and quietly cooperative" manner. If not, Lee said, the middleman suggested that Chinese state television would air a confession extracted from her husband.

Taiwanese media yesterday disclosed the middleman's identity as former Taiwanese intelligence officer Lee Chun-min, who told the press that he would no longer work on the case.

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

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

In recent years, China's state security apparatus has detained foreign activists, domestic lawyers and other political elements it considers hostile and extracted and aired video confessions as proof that they were working to undermine China's national security. In several instances, the detainees recanted their confessions upon their release. **AP**

Norwegian leader meets with Xi as ties restored

CHINESE President Xi Jinping met with Norway's prime minister yesterday as the two countries sought to move beyond a six-year rift following the awarding of the Nobel Peace Prize to an imprisoned Chinese dissident.

Meeting in Beijing, Xi commended Prime Minister Erna Solberg for her "hard work" in helping normalize ties between the countries. It was the first visit from a Norwegian prime minister to China in 10 years. "Your visit this time holds a lot of significant

importance," Xi said. "This is the first high-level visit since the normalization of China-Norway relations in December."

China suspended its bilateral trade deal with Norway and restricted imports of Norwegian salmon when the peace prize was awarded to Liu Xiaobo in 2010.

Liu was sentenced to 11 years in prison after being convicted of subversion in 2009 for writing and disseminating Charter '08, a document calling for democracy.

Although the peace prize is awarded in

Norway's capital, Oslo, the Norwegian government has no say over the Nobel panel's decisions.

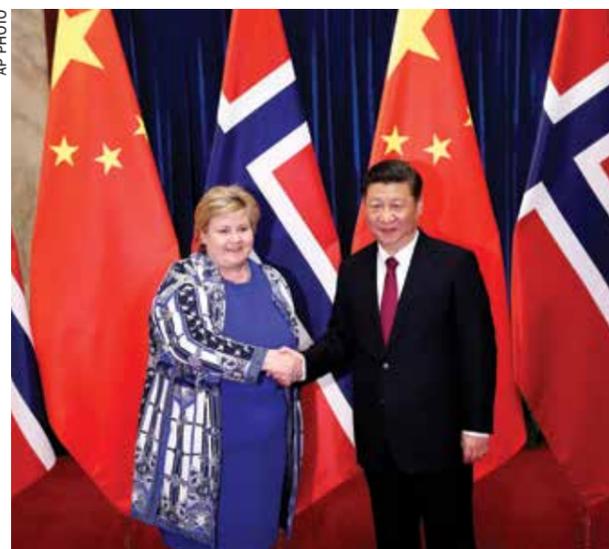
Despite that, Chinese officials demanded that Norway recognize the "error" of awarding the prize to Liu, which China deemed as interference in its internal affairs.

Relations resumed after China's foreign ministry said Norway made "explicit statements" in support of China's sovereignty.

Xi noted yesterday that Norway was one of the first Western countries

to recognize the People's Republic of China upon its founding in 1949. He recalled visiting Norway on an official trip 38 years ago as a secretary to former Vice Premier Geng Biao and said the trip had left a deep impression on him.

Solberg said she appreciated the Chinese government's hospitality during a visit that began Friday. She added that Norway's King Harald V was planning a state visit to China next year after receiving an invitation from Xi. **AP**



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) shakes hands with Norwegian Prime Minister Erna Solberg at the Great Hall of the People in Beijing



Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi (right) talks to his Australian counterpart Malcolm Turnbull during the ceremonial reception at the Indian presidential palace in New Delhi

Australia says it's ready to supply uranium to India

Ashok Sharma, New Delhi

AUSTRALIA said yesterday that it was ready to export uranium to India, nearly three years after the two countries signed an export deal for peaceful power generation.

At a joint news conference in New Delhi with Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull, Indian Prime Minister

Narendra Modi said that cooperation between the two countries in the energy sector, including renewable energy, was on the upswing.

Turnbull said Australia was looking forward to the first export of Australian uranium to India as soon as possible. "We have worked closely with India to meet our respective requirements for the provision of fuel

for India's civil nuclear program," he said.

India has more than 20 nuclear reactors in operation. Modi has promised to provide power to the entire country by 2019 and needs uranium imports to fuel India's nuclear power plants. Around 400 million Indians still have no access to electricity.

India and Australia signed

agreements yesterday on cooperating to combat international terrorism and transnational organized crime, as well as working together in areas such as the environment, climate, wildlife and civil aviation security. Details were not immediately available.

Turnbull said that two-way trade in goods and services last year was nearly USD20 billion

— more than double of what it was a decade ago.

He said, however, that it was a fraction of what it should be. "Now we are working with India to secure timely conclusion of a quality Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership, which would provide a significant boost to regional confidence," he said.

Modi said the future of the two countries was deeply tied to peace and stability in the Indo-Pacific. "We therefore agree on the need for a secure and rule-based Indo-Pacific," he said. "We are also aware that in this globalized world, challenges like terrorism and cybersecurity extend beyond the boundaries of our region."

The two leaders also inaugurated a research center on nano and bio technology. Modi described it as a classic example of the kind of cutting-edge science and technology cooperation that was happening between the two countries.

"The Australia-India Research Fund of nearly \$100 million has focused on collaborative research projects in the areas such as nano-technology, smart cities, infrastructure, agriculture and disease control," he said.

Today, Turnbull will visit Mumbai, India's financial and entertainment capital, before flying to Sydney, according to India's External Affairs Ministry. **AP**

INDIA

Four suspected rebels killed in Kashmir

Aijaz Hussain, Srinagar

FOUR suspected rebels were killed in fighting with the Indian army in Kashmir, as businesses and schools shut in the disputed region yesterday in response to a separatists' call to protest the killing of eight civilians by government forces during a weekend by-election, officials said.

Army spokesman Col. Rajesh Kalia said a gunbattle erupted Sunday night after the four militants crossed from Pakistani side of the Himalayan territory into the Indian-held portion of Kashmir in Keran sector.

There was no independent confirmation of the incident.

Meanwhile, a strike called by separatists who challenge India's sovereignty over Kashmir paralyzed life in the Kash-



A relative of Umer Farooq, a Kashmiri civilian who was killed Sunday, cries over his body during his funeral at Baroosa village

mir Valley yesterday.

Widespread protests and clashes on Sunday marred a by-election for a vacant seat in India's Parliament as thousands of people attacked polling stations.

Government forces fired on rock-throwing protesters, killing eight people and wounding at least 100. Officials said about

100 police and paramilitary soldiers were also injured in the clashes.

Only about 7 percent of the area's nearly 1.3 million voters cast ballots on Sunday, the lowest turnout in elections held by India in the region over the past five decades, said chief electoral officer Shantmanu, who uses

only one name.

A second by-election is scheduled for tomorrow in Anantnag, Shopian, Pulwama and Kulgam districts.

Anti-India separatists consider elections in Kashmir to be illegitimate, saying that India militarily occupies the region. India has long viewed polling as an endorsement of its control over a portion of Kashmir.

Rivals India and Pakistan each administer part of Kashmir, but both claim the Himalayan territory in its entirety.

Since 1989, rebel groups have been fighting for independence from India or its merger with Pakistan. About 70,000 people have been killed in the rebel uprising and a subsequent Indian military crackdown.

Rebel groups have largely been suppressed by Indian forces in recent years. However, public opposition to Indian rule remains deep and is now principally expressed through street protests marked by youths hurling stones at government forces. **MDT/AP**

PAKISTAN

Army sentences alleged spy to death

Asif Shahzad, Islamabad

PAKISTAN'S military sentenced an Indian naval officer to death yesterday on charges of espionage and sabotage, officials said.

Kulbhushan Jadhav, who was arrested in March 2016, had been convicted by a military tribunal, the Pakistani army said in a statement. Gen. Qamar Javed Bajwa, the head of Pakistan's armed forces, signed off on the sentence. Pakistan's Defense Minister Khawaja Mohammad Asif alleged that the spy had official Indian government backing.

"Anyone who patronizes our killers will be met with iron hands," he told the local Geo TV channel. "We have no mercy for them."

Islamabad alleges that Jadhav was an Indian intelligence official who aided and financed terrorist activities in the southwestern province of Baluchis-

tan and the southern port city of Karachi. Pakistan's army released a video shortly after Jadhav's arrest in which he confessed to having spent years sowing unrest in Pakistan. It was not clear if he was speaking under duress.

"I have been directing activities on behalf of the RAW [Research and Analysis Wing]," he said in the confessional video. RAW is India's premier intelligence agency. Jadhav said he started working with RAW in 2013 after more than a decade in the Indian Navy.

India's foreign office summoned Pakistani High Commissioner to Delhi, Abdul Basit, to register a formal complaint.

The External Affairs Ministry issued a statement dismissing Jadhav's trial as a farce and saying Pakistan had ignored 13 separate requests in the past year to be permitted to offer him consular services. **AP**

THE Philippines appears to be softening its tone toward the U.S. before holding talks with Beijing on the South China Sea.

President Rodrigo Duterte let the insults fly last year, telling former leader Barack Obama to “go to hell” for opposing his drugs war and announcing a “separation from the U.S.” during a trip to Beijing. He also sought to buy more military equipment from Russia.

Now Duterte’s government wants the U.S. to actively promote security and cooperation in the South China Sea, according to acting Foreign Affairs Secretary Enrique Manalo. He downplayed any friction between the longstanding military allies.

“Our relationship with the U.S. is strong and vibrant,” Manalo, who was appointed last month, said Friday in an interview in his Manila office. “The key is not letting these rough patches affect the core of the relationship.”

The friendlier posture toward the U.S. comes as tensions rise with China after an official said it would install monitoring stations on the disputed Scarborough Shoal, about 250 kilometers off the Philippines coastline. While the Philippines accepted China’s offer to host bilateral talks next month over disputes in the sea, mixed messages continue to flow from Manila.

“China has been causing some problems, doing things in and around the South China Sea, even in the Philippines’ exclusive

PHILIPPINES

Duterte softens tone on US before South China Sea talks



President Rodrigo Duterte gestures while addressing army troopers during the 120th anniversary celebration of the Philippine Army

economic zone, that go against what Duterte may have wanted,” said Malcolm Cook, senior fellow at the Institute for South East Asian Studies in Singapore.

“And Manalo, as a longstanding career diplomat, may reflect the government view which is different from the Duterte view, that

the U.S. is the Philippines’ most important economic partner and security partner.”

Duterte said last week that the Philippines should occupy and inhabit disputed land features in the South China Sea to assert ownership. While the comments were quickly walked back by his spokesman Ernesto Abella, they mark a stark contrast from when Duterte reaped USD24 billion worth of investment deals on his Beijing trip last year.

“We must build bunkers there or houses and make provisions for habitation,” he told reporters in Palawan province. Duterte even threatened to go to a disputed island himself and raise the Philippine flag.

Manalo, a career diplomat who was appointed after his predecessor was removed, said a meeting between Duterte and U.S. President Donald Trump later this year was being worked out.

Manalo said he expected to hold talks with U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson next month.

“We have a long relationship with the U.S. and we look forward to building on that,” Manalo said. “With China, we are building bridges to improve our relationship.”

Manalo said that no specific

date had been set for the May bilateral talks with China to discuss issues of concern in the South China Sea. The talks weren’t the only forum for discussions with Chinese officials, he said, citing recent meetings between economic policy makers as well as the Coast Guards.

Manalo said last year’s international court ruling rejecting China’s claims to more than 80 percent of the South China Sea would be at the back of Philippine officials’ minds during the negotiations.

“As far as we are concerned, the ruling is already part of law,” Manalo said.

Still, Duterte’s administration is still seeking to balance ties between China, one of its largest trading partners, and the U.S., which has been the Philippines’ closest ally since independence in 1946.

“We would like to see the U.S. and China in the region undertake a role here where they promote stability and also promote cooperation,” said Manalo. “That’s the positive role we would like to see, not only us but all the countries in the region.”

MDT/Bloomberg

INVESTORS CONFUSED

THE UNCERTAINTY generated by Duterte’s sudden shifts in foreign policy priorities could raise questions among investors, wrote Capital Economics senior economist Gareth Leather in an email to Bloomberg on Friday. He added that Duterte’s earlier moves to devolve economic policy to his respected finance team had been encouraging. “The president’s increasingly erratic and crass style is a major concern, and the risks to our medium-run GDP growth forecast of

around 6.5 percent lie firmly to the downside,” Leather said. Unlike other countries in Asia such as Vietnam, Korea and Taiwan, the Philippines has had little success integrating its economy with China and exports about 50 percent more to the U.S., according to Leather. That means closer ties with China were unlikely to yield greater economic benefits at the risk of undermining a much more important bilateral relationship, he said.



Pag-asa Island, part of the disputed Spratly group of islands, in the South China Sea located off the coast of western Philippines

Philippine appellate court affirms conviction of US Marine

A Philippines appeals court yesterday affirmed a regional trial court’s conviction of a U.S. Marine and his sentence of up to 10 years in jail for killing a transgender Filipino, whose heirs he was also ordered to compensate.

The Court of Appeals decision seen yesterday did not accept Lance Cpl. Joseph Scott Pemberton’s

claim of self-defense in killing Jennifer Laude inside a motel room in northwestern Olongapo city after they met in a disco bar in October 2014.

The killing sparked anger in the Philippines and reignited calls by left-wing groups and nationalists for an end to U.S. military presence in the country.

Pemberton had claimed

Laude molested him in the motel room by pretending to be a woman and he had to defend his dignity, but that he had no intention to kill her. He said Laude slapped him when he confronted her for pretending to be a woman.

But the decision penned by Associate Justice Marlene Gonzales-Sison said physical evidence contra-

dicts Pemberton’s claim. “As proven by the prosecution, Pemberton did not leave Laude merely unconscious, but ensured his death by submerging his head inside the toilet bowl,” it said. “Clearly, Pemberton intended the natural consequence of his wrongful act.”

The court also upheld, with slight modification, the order for Pemberton

to pay Laude’s heirs more than USD90,000 for loss of Laude’s income, civil indemnity, moral damages and actual damages.

Rep. Harry Roque, who served as the Laude family’s private lawyer, welcomed the court’s decision, saying that “the fact that a member of the U.S. Marines was found guilty for breach of our criminal laws for the very first time is an affirmation of Philippine sovereignty.”

Pemberton, an anti-tank missile operator from New Bedford, Massachusetts, was one of thousands of American and

Philippine military personnel who participated in joint exercises in the country in 2014. He and a group of other Marines were on leave after the exercises and met Laude and her friends at a bar in Olongapo, a city known for its nightlife outside Subic Bay, a former U.S. Navy base. At least two witnesses testified that Laude was a sex worker.

Pemberton has been detained at a compound guarded by Philippine and American security personnel, at the main military camp in metropolitan Manila. AP

G-7 ministers aim to press Russia to stop backing Assad

FOREIGN ministers from the Group of Seven industrialized nations were gathering in Italy yesterday for a meeting given urgency by the chemical attack in Syria and the U.S. military response, with participants aiming to pressure Russia to end its support for President Bashar Assad and help mount a new push for peace.

Last week's nerve gas attack in the rebel-held town of Khan Sheikhoun, which killed more than 80 people, stirred President Donald Trump to strike for the first time at Assad's forces. U.S. warships fired 59 cruise missiles at the Syrian air base from which the U.S. believes the attack was launched.

U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson said yesterday at the site of a World War II-era Nazi massacre in central Italy that the United States is rededicating itself to hold to account "any and all" who commit crimes against innocent people.

With the group of wealthy nations working to see if it can strike a common front on Syria, Tillerson accompanied Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano to Santa'Anna di Stazzema, where 560 civilians, including some 130 children, were killed in 1944.

Alfano said the site of past Nazi atrocities was a reminder that "peace is not a given. [...] That is why we are here to work all together for peace and liberty."

The meeting in the Tuscan walled city of Lucca brings together the foreign ministers of France,



Italian Foreign Minister Angelino Alfano (right) and British Secretary of State Boris Johnson arrive for a bilateral meeting in Forte dei Marmi, near Lucca, yesterday

Germany, Britain, Japan and Canada — as well as the U.S. and current G-7 president Italy.

Ahead of the full meeting, Tillerson held bilateral talks with G-7 counterparts who included Japanese Foreign Minister Fumio Kishida and British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson.

Britain is keen for the ministers' meeting to produce a tough statement and perhaps a threat of new sanctions if Moscow does not end its military support for

Assad.

Over the weekend, Alfano said that Europe's broad support for the U.S. military strikes had contributed to a "renewed harmony" between the United States and its partners as the G-7 foreign ministers prepared to meet for the first time since Donald Trump took office in January.

"We need to remember that not 10 years ago, but 100 or 120 days ago, the concern in Europe was that the United States and the

EU were moving apart," Alfano told Sky TG24 Sunday. "I welcome this renewed harmony."

Officials are hoping the moment of unity can be leveraged to bring a new diplomatic push to end the six-year-old civil war in Syria.

After meeting Tillerson, Japan's Kishida said "Japan supports the U.S. commitment in trying to take responsibility to prevent spread and use of chemical weapons and we confirmed

Japan and the U.S. will continue to work together [in that effort]."

The chemical attack has sent a new chill through relations between the West and Moscow, which denies Syrian forces used chemical weapons.

Russia plans to put forward a proposal for an independent and impartial investigation of the attack, a spokesman for German Foreign Minister Sigmar Gabriel said in Berlin.

Officials are hoping the moment of unity can bring a new diplomatic push to end the war in Syria

The spokesman, Martin Schaefer, said Germany viewed it as "a good and important sign."

Russia was kicked out of the club of industrialized nations, formerly the G-8, after its 2014 annexation of Ukraine's Crimea region and assistance for pro-Russian separatists in eastern Ukraine.

Britain's Johnson, who had been due to visit Russian counterpart Sergey Lavrov in Moscow ahead of yesterday's G-7 meeting, canceled the trip at the last minute, saying the chemical attack had "changed the situation fundamentally."

He said that instead he would work with the United States and other G-7 nations "to build coordinated international support for a cease-fire on the ground and an intensified political process." **MDT/AP**

UN refugee agency urges EU not to return migrants to Hungary

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

THE U.N. refugee agency yesterday took the rare step of urging European Union members to suspend returns of asylum-seekers to their partner, Hungary, faulting its new policy of systematically placing migrants in containers and expelling any migrants not holding the proper papers.

UNHCR says that since a tough new law took effect on March 28, Hungary's government has detained 110 people — including children — in "shipping containers surrounded by

high razor fences at the border" while their asylum cases are reviewed.

Filippo Grandi, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, said the situation for asylum-seekers in Hungary was already a concern before the measures, and "has only gotten worse since the new law introducing mandatory detention for asylum-seekers came into effect."

The move is bound to put a new spotlight on Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban's government, which has faced scorn from U.N. agencies and

advocacy groups over its tough policies on migrants — even if its populist message has resonated in the country and elsewhere in the West.

A complex European Union rule known as the Dublin Regulation holds that any asylum-seekers should have their cases processed in the first country of the bloc that they enter, and should be returned there if necessary.

Grandi urged EU countries to suspend transfer of asylum-seekers to Hungary, "until the Hungarian authorities bring their

practices and policies in line with European and international law," according to a statement from his office.

UNHCR Spokeswoman Cecile Pouilly said the call for such suspensions within the EU is rare, and such an appeal was last made in 2012, also with regard to Hungary. Others in the past involved Bulgaria and Greece, in different instances.

Hungary's "emergency measures" under the revised law also violate the country's obligations under international law, by leading to expulsions of



An Afghan family rest in the makeshift refugee camp near the border crossing into Hungary, near Horgos, in Serbia

anyone who enters irregularly, the Geneva-based U.N. agency said.

The new rules call for all asylum-seekers over age 14 to be placed in one of two container camps on Hungary's border with Serbia until their asylum claims are decided. The Budapest government says they are free to leave

the camps and return to Serbia at any time.

Orban's government was previously criticized for erecting border fences in 2015 to try to block entries of people among the migrants and refugees who flooded into Europe, until an EU-Turkey accord helped stanch the huge inflows. **AP**

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Wednesday, 26/04/2017

How Good is your Time Management?

Speakers: **Ms Valérie Hotton** and **Ms Frédérique Blanchard**,
Coaches and Training Managers at Care Consulting Training & Coaching

FMBA Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: In today's fast-paced work life, the ability to manage our time has never been so important. Ms Hotton and Ms Blanchard will help busy executives and professionals to increase work effectiveness, productivity and overcome work stress, achieve greater control of their daily activities and overall well-being.

Date: **Wednesday, 26th April 2017**
Time: **9:00-10:30 am** (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: **Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16**
Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on 24th April 2017
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what's ON

KUNG FU PANDA ADVENTURE ICE WORLD - ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

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

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

ADMISSION: MOP120 (for one adult and one child aged 3 to 12),

MOP312 (for three family members and one child aged 3 or above)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

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

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: April 16, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550, 2852 3205

LOVE OF MACAO - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

UNTIL: July 2, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAU GIANT PANDA PAVILION

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

VENUE: Seac Pai Van Park, Coloane

ADMISSION: MOP10

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

Offbeat

RIGA MAYOR TALKS ABOUT POTHOLES, INTERRUPTED BY CAT



The mayor of Latvia's capital, Riga, was talking about the city's efforts to fix potholes during his weekly online question-and-answer show when he got interrupted ... by his cat Dumka.

City Hall spokesman Viktors Smirnovs says the black-and-white fluffy feline decided to have a sip from Nils Usakovs' mug while he was recording the video that was posted Sunday on Facebook.

Smirnovs said "we thought it was funny," so the City Hall decided to re-publish the clip of the animal strutting into the frame and boldly starting to drink out of mug as Riga's 40-year-old mayor calmly watched.

Usakovs tried to pet the cat but it jumped off the desk.

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
15:30	Nos League: Moreirense - Benfica (Repeated)
17:10	Criminal Minds S.9
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Documentary Series
21:10	TDM Interview
21:50	Once Upon A Time S2
22:20	Now Generation
23:10	TDM News
23:40	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema

CINETEATRO

10 APR - 12 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



1957 BRITAIN AGREES TO SINGAPORE SELF-RULE

The British government is to allow the island colony of Singapore to govern itself under a new constitution agreed in London.

The Singapore Constitutional Conference ended today after four weeks of talks when Chief Minister of Singapore Lim Yew Hock and Alan Lennox-Boyd, secretary of state for the Colonies, signed an agreement.

The constitution comes into effect some time after 1 January 1958 when the colony will become known as the State of Singapore.

Britain will remain in charge of external affairs and defence.

There was, however, one major pre-condition that the Singapore delegation would not agree to - that "persons known to have been engaged in subversive activity" would be barred from standing for the Legislative Assembly.

This demand is aimed at excluding extremist left-wing activists in the People's Action Party (PAP), some of whom have been detained for inciting anti-British riots last year.

At the signing ceremony at Lancaster House, Mr Lim rejected this demand as "a departure from normal democratic practice" but agreed to put it before the Legislative Assembly.

Under self-government, the office of Governor will be abolished and replaced with a Malayan-born representative of the Queen known as the Yang di-Pertuan Negara.

An internal security council preventing subversion is to be set up under the chairmanship of the UK Commissioner charged with safeguarding British affairs in the territory.

Last April, David Marshall, first Chief Minister of Singapore, led a delegation to London to ask for internal self-government with the aim of achieving independence or "merdeka" in Malay.

The talks failed, and as a result Mr Marshall resigned as Chief Minister last June. He was succeeded by Lim Yew Hock.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A few days later former Chief Minister David Marshall resigned from the governing Labour Front in protest at the agreement which he felt did not go far enough. He called it "a pock-marked beauty shrouded in chloroform".

The Constitutional Agreement was finally signed in London on 28 May 1958 and self-government achieved after Singapore held general elections in 1959.

The first government of the State of Singapore was sworn in on 5 June with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister.

It joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 and became totally independent in 1965, nearly 20 years after it was made a British crown colony.

The People's Action Party (PAP) has been the dominant political force since independence.

YOUR STARS

♈ Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Here's another day that's astrologically perfect for letting the world know just how good you are at your chosen area. This doesn't mean you have to make enemies...

♉ Taurus
April 20-May 20
This could very well be an instant replay of yesterday, complete with all the drama - or even melodrama. The good news is that by the time night arrives, you'll most likely be enjoying an equally romantic experience.

♊ Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Go easy when it comes to tossing that verbal charm around. You're already so disarmingly glib that you really should be licensed to operate that mouth of yours, but you're going to be even more lethal now.

♋ Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
This would be the perfect evening to have the whole crew over. You know there's something - and maybe someone - you'd love to show off. So why not do it this way?

♌ Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
It's very important that you pay attention to one key fact now: You can quite literally have anything you want. That's the easy part. What might be tough is the part that involves you dealing with it once you have it.

♍ Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
If this secret thing goes on much longer, it's going to make you crazy. You want to tell a certain someone about a certain issue, but you're not sure that you should - and uncertainty isn't your usual state of affairs.

♎ Libra
Sep. 23-Oct. 22
You're looking toward the future with a happy heart and an optimistic attitude - and there's really no better way to do it. That's not all that's required, however, and you know that, too.

♏ Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You're not panicking - not yet, anyway - but you are starting to get nervous. You woke up not quite feeling like your usual self. You have an insatiable urge to show off.

♐ Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
That travel bug hasn't gone anywhere just yet. In fact, you're beginning to wonder if it hasn't infiltrated your bloodstream. If you have plans, you're probably thinking about how to make the trip last longer.

♑ Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
You've been thinking over how to handle this attraction you're feeling for a certain someone, and you've come up with a plan. You don't take laying your feelings on the line lightly.

♒ Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
A certain someone you spend an awful lot of time with is about to let you know that every minute you've invested has and will be well spent. You're set up to learn the depth and breadth of a loved one's feelings.

♓ Pisces
Feb. 19-Mar. 20
You've known this person for a long time, most likely in far more than just a friendly way. In fact, you've crossed paths for job-related reasons many times.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	10	22	clear
Harbin	-2	10	cloudy
Tianjin	9	21	cloudy/clear
Urumqi	1	14	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	6	18	overcast
Lhasa	3	15	shower/overcast
Chengdu	14	21	overcast
Chongqing	14	18	shower/overcast
Kunming	17	27	clear
Nanjing	8	16	shower/overcast
Shanghai	11	14	drizzle/overcast
Wuhan	6	17	cloudy
Hangzhou	10	15	drizzle/overcast
Taipei	20	27	moderate rain/drizzle
Guangzhou	19	26	thundershower
Hong Kong	23	28	drizzle/thundershower
WORLD			
Moscow	10	19	cloudy/drizzle
Frankfurt	4	22	drizzle/cloudy
Paris	2	16	cloudy
London	5	17	overcast/cloudy
New York	14	22	cloudy

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Swedish import; 5- Pertaining to a sovereign; 10- Moving vehicles; 14- James of jazz; 15- Band together; 16- Prefix with logical; 17- Workers; 19- Type of tide; 20- Secret agents; 21- Takes into custody; 23- Queue after Q; 25- Analyze a metallic compound; 26- Neat; 29- Formerly, formerly; 31- ___ boy; 35- Year abroad; 36- ___ B'rith; 37- Boat basin; 38- Created by humans; 40- Woozy; 41- Begs; 42- Razor brand; 43- Heston's org.; 44- Coeur d'___, ID; 45- Final Four org.; 46- Senate position; 47- Heron; 49- Chop off; 51- Capital of Nicaragua; 54- Leg up; 58- At the drop of ___; 59- Molasses sugar; 63- Having a sound mind; 64- Embankment; 65- Swing around; 66- Boris Godunov, for one; 67- Wear down; 68- Slippery;

DOWN: 1- Puts in stitches; 2- At the apex of; 3- Longfellow's bell town; 4- Croissant emporium, e.g.; 5- Bemoan; 6- Lennon's mate; 7- Little bark; 8- Finally; 9- Sly looks; 10- Grape plantation; 11- Summer coolers; 12- Cool!; 13- Soaks (up); 18- Letter addenda; 22- Open shelter; 24- Looks after; 25- ___ see it...; 26- Bay city; 27- Counting everything; 28- Gift recipient; 30- Actress Charlotte; 32- Pooh's creator; 33- End of ___; 34- 1978 Nobel sharer; 36- No-goodnik; 37- Wall painting; 39- Cannibal; 40- 1959 Kingston Trio hit; 42- Perform in a play; 45- Closer; 46- One's husband or wife; 48- Monetary unit of the former Soviet Union; 50- Delivery room docs; 51- Pole; 52- Cries of discovery; 53- Granny; 55- Give the eye; 56- First king of Israel; 57- Deuce topper; 60- Lacto-___ vegetarian; 61- Marry; 62- Society-page word;



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



Sergio Garcia of Spain holds his trophy at the green jacket ceremony after the Masters golf tournament

GOLF

A long, tearful road to a major for Sergio Garcia

EIGHTEEN years and 71 majors later, more tears for Sergio Garcia. This time, they were accompanied by a smile.

Sunday at the Masters was a most joyous occasion, far different from when Garcia teed it up in his first major as a pro in the 1999 British Open at Carnoustie.

He was 19 and already heralded as a star and the most likely rival for Tiger Woods. Garcia was low amateur at the Masters that year. He shot 62 at the Byron Nelson Classic and tied for third in his pro debut on the PGA Tour. He won the Irish

Open, and the next week he was runner-up to Colin Montgomerie at the Scottish Open.

And then he shot 79-83 at Carnoustie and sobbed on his mother's shoulder on his way out.

Garcia never would have imagined then how long it would take for him to win a major, and he had reason to believe it might never happen.

"It's been such a long time coming," Garcia said after his playoff victory over Justin Rose.

No one had ever played as many majors as Garcia before winning his first one, so those tears were equal parts joy and relief. It showed.

Phil Mickelson leaped — not very high — when he finally won his first major at Augusta National in 2004. Garcia, who only needed two putts from 12 feet on the first extra hole against Rose, crouched when his birdie putt curled in the back of the cup. He clenched both fists and shook them repeatedly. He shouted multiple times. He blew a kiss to the gallery as it chanted his name. He crouched one more time, placing his hand on the green and then slamming his fist into the turf.

"It was just a lot of things going through my mind," he said.

Along with the happy reflec-

tions of the people around him — including Angela Akins, the former Golf Channel reporter he plans to marry in July — that final burst of emotion was thinking about "moments that unfortunately didn't go the way I wanted."

Garcia is not the first player that endured bad breaks and heartache in the majors before finally winning one.

Tom Kite won the PGA Tour money title twice and had played in 67 majors as a pro before he finally won the 1992 U.S. Open at Pebble Beach when he was 42. Corey Pavin was 36 when he hit that 4-wood onto the 18th green at Shinnecock Hills and won the 1995 U.S. Open. Mark O'Meara had 14 victories on the PGA Tour when he won the 1998 Masters at 41.

Most different about Garcia is that he made it easy to root against him, blaming everything but his own shots and missed putts.

Losing hurt, and it reached a point where Garcia acted as though he no longer cared.

That why his comments all

week at the Masters that he had changed his attitude, that he was learning to accept bad bounces, was met with skepticism.

What he found on Sunday, starting with his drive to the golf course, was a calmness he had never felt in the previous three times he played in the final group. And from that calm emerged the grit that Garcia had lacked.

He salvaged par from a certain bogey on the 13th that kept him in the game. He made eagle on the par-5 15th to tie for the lead. He reached the 18th green and stood over a 5-foot putt for the victory. The last time he had a putt to win a major was at Carnoustie in 2007. He missed and had to go into a playoff.

Garcia is no longer that 19-year-old with curly hair and freckles, sprinting up the fairway at Medinah as he tried to chase down Woods in the 1999 PGA Championship. There is gray in his goatee. There are scars from majors.

And there was a green jacket on his shoulders. It looked as though it belonged there all along. **AP**

ONE SHOT NEWS



Spain's Maverick Vinales (right) celebrates at the podium his first place win, with second place winner and teammate Italy's Valentino Rossi at the end of the MotoGP race of Argentina's Motorcycle Grand Prix at the Termas de Rio Hondo circuit in Argentina. AP/Nicolas Aguilera

US could gain FIFA support through Mexico, Canada joint bid

A North American World Cup in 2026 with 48 nations would be far larger and played in almost all different venues than the 24-team event the U.S. hosted in 1994.

Soccer officials planned to announce details of the joint bid by the U.S., Mexico and Canada at a news conference yesterday atop the Freedom Tower at the World Trade Center site in lower Manhattan. The split of games was likely to be discussed.

"Don't think for a moment that the political climate in the United States

didn't impact this," former U.S. defender Alexi Lalas, now a Fox analyst, said Sunday. "A joint World Cup that includes Mexico probably garners additional support and sends a message."

U.S. President Donald Trump has faced criticism over his plans — since stopped by courts — to bar new visas for people from Iran, Syria, Somalia, Sudan, Yemen and Libya. FIFA President Gianni Infantino said last month that "any team, including the supporters and officials [...] who qualify

for a World Cup need to have access to the country, otherwise there is no World Cup. That is obvious."

Infantino and the six confederation presidents have recommended the North and Central American and Caribbean region get six berths, any host included. But the proposal said the FIFA Council would decide on a structure in the event of co-hosts.

"You sit there and just shake your head: Where is this thing going to go and why?" said former U.S. goalkeeper Kasey Keller, currently an ESPN

analyst. "Who knows, maybe they'll move it to 68 teams by that time? It's so hard to tell what FIFA's thinking or what they're doing or what's the process after the last bidding fiasco. I guess you just have to trust the people closest to it, that they know what they're doing."

FIFA announced last May that the 2026 vote will take place in May 2020 and said in October that the previous two World Cup hosts — Europe and Asia — will not be eligible to bid.

A joint effort could lessen



CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani speaks during a news conference in New York

costs in a process through which legal documents and promotion are exorbitant. The failed U.S. bid to host in 2018 or 2022 cost USD9 million, of which

about half was funded by the U.S. Soccer Federation. Major League Soccer and its owners gave about half the remaining contributions. **AP**

opinion

Our Desk
 Daniel Beitler



THE ELECTION MADNESS BEGINS

With the approaching Legislative Assembly (AL) election in September, we are once again being reminded of the civic powerlessness of the public and the shameless ineptitude of the government.

The Electoral Affairs Commission (CAEAL) is back in town to mismanage a two-week window in which 14 of the 33 Macau lawmakers will campaign for four-year terms in the legislature.

As always, the candidates for this year's election will be tied, strung up, blindfolded and duct-taped.

These are the rules laid out by the CAEAL, which has the stated purpose of maintaining "electoral fairness", though the body has never been able to explain exactly what it is trying to achieve through its draconian rules.

For example, it remains unclear exactly what the two-week campaign period and censorship of coverage before and during this period is actually intended to do. One would assume it is to 'protect citizens' from the super-confusing and stressful time that elections are supposed to be. Or perhaps it is to avoid candidates campaigning on actual issues and entrench the preferred method of tribal voting.

Now, as we approach the election period, the CAEAL will arbitrarily decide who to investigate and prosecute based on the tried-and-tested formula of who has the shiniest kowtow record. It's a system that was dreamed up in the age of feudalism but perfected in the modern day.

After the Portuguese and English Press Association sent a letter to the CAEAL last week demanding clarification on how – or whether – the entity will enforce the 'media silence', we are still none the clearer on the organization's actual policy. We are therefore none the clearer on the electoral law itself.

But in Macau, the rule of the law does not apply when it is not convenient for it to do so. Not when the government is involved and not when it has a stake.

It is in this context that I support the association launched earlier this year by former New Macau Association (ANM) leader, Jason Chao. He has begun managing an independent, non-governmental election monitoring organization as a counterweight to the CAEAL.

It is the natural extrapolation of the best form of resistance symbolized and practiced by ANM. It represents a challenge to the government's monopoly in interpreting the law and restricting the scope of public debate, in the same vein that a separate panda cub naming competition held by ANM last year was a challenge to the official, government one.

Language is ultimately a powerful tool and can be used to undermine authority. Establishing alternative names for concepts, people and institutions siphons power away from those who maintain authority through the threat and use of force and, of course, through propaganda. It is the ideal, non-violent form of resistance, because in a society without blatant censorship it cannot be easily shut down.

That is also why I have called in the past for a "Committee Against Corruption at the Commission Against Corruption", to investigate the ludicrous decisions made by that derisive department. This would not only undermine the "anti-corruption" bureau, by pointing out its own corrupt decision-making, but it would also serve as a means of actually identifying malpractice in government and business.

The Macau public is limited in its ability to affect change at the local government level. We can, however, change how the wider public views those at the top through the use of language - we can use names that call attention to corruption.

THE SEC. FOR SECURITY COMMENTS ON PROSECUTION OF ANIMA'S PRESIDENT

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, commented yesterday on the prosecution of Anima's president, Albano Martins over charges of breaching personal data protection laws for sharing a video of a man abusing a dog on social media. The man in question was later identified as a PJ officer. Wong noted that he only took note of the matter

through the Internet and he did not agree with the actions of the police officer.

The secretary also stated, "All criminal investigation officers must, first and foremost, give priority to their personal conduct and ethics," adding that "it is the duty" of police officers to have irreproachable behavior.

Legendary 77-year-old aircraft to land in Macau

Renato Marques

THE twin-engine propeller-driven Douglas DC-3 - that was previously owned by American Airlines (among other North American airliners) - and that now flies under Breitling colors is set to make its first landing in Macau on April 23.

The legendary 77-year-old aircraft has been in use since March 9, 1940 and will visit the region as part of the Breitling DC-3 World Tour initiative that proposes to take a trip around the globe with a number of stopovers. Each stopover on the tour (that began in Geneva last month) will make the most of the aircraft through showcasing events and air shows.

During the trip, the final stop of which will be in Macau, the DC-3 has flown from Geneva into the Balkans, moving on to the Middle East and the Gulf states and India before charting a course towards Taipei and Shanghai. After Shanghai it will reach Macau, the final destination.

When completed, the Breitling DC-3 will become the oldest ever aircraft to undertake an around-the-world tour.

A spokesperson from the company said in a statement that, "The Macau stopover is set to be the



biggest aviation event in town," adding, "we believe the Breitling DC-3's arrival brings forth an inspiration for Macau's future generations" which means that interested parties in Macau can connect with its aeronautical heritage and culture, foster their interest in aviation and the excitement may even prove to inspire the next generation of pilots.

Beside the amazing journey that is currently being undertaken, the aircraft itself is a piece of aviation history. After its maiden flight in 1940, it was in the service of American Airlines until 1942 when it was hired out to the US army forces from 1942 to 1944.

It has been used as a bomber, fighter, flying hospital, paratroopers' transport, and sightseeing aircraft before it was purchased in 2008 by pi-

lot Francisco Agullo and a group of friends with Breitling's support to undertake a full restoration process.

Carrying the legacy of the boom age of US aviation during the 1930s, the DC-3 has become a legend of worldwide aviation thanks to its performance, sturdiness and low fuel consumption that allow it to undertake long-haul trips. Currently the aircraft is going through a scheduled maintenance inspection at Seletar Airport, Singapore after four intensive weeks of flying from Geneva into Southeast Asia.

The Breitling DC-3 World Tour is set to continue on April 21 when it will fly from Singapore to its next destination, Kota Kinabalu, Malaysia, one stop closer on its journey to Macau.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	10-30 Good
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	20-40 Good

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA Four suspected rebels were killed in fighting with the Indian army in Kashmir, as businesses and schools shut in the disputed region yesterday in response to a separatists' call to protest the killing of eight civilians by government forces during a weekend by-election, officials said. More on p12

GEORGIA's breakaway province of South Ossetia has elected a new president. Russian news agencies yesterday quoted local election chief Bella Pliyeva as saying that Anatoly Bibilov, speaker of the local legislature, won nearly 58 percent of the vote while the incumbent got 30 percent.

GERMANY Police say they've found what they believe to be 384 kilograms of cocaine in cases of bananas shipped from Ecuador. The cases were shipped to Hamburg and then taken by truck to Leverkusen.

SPAIN-FRANCE Spain is asking French authorities to share information on the weapons surrendered by Basque separatist group ETA over the weekend. A Spanish judge wants to use the information to clarify hundreds of unresolved crimes.

BRAZIL Seven inmates have died in a penitentiary in a northern Brazilian state where riots left dozens of prisoners dead earlier this year, according to authorities. The circumstances surrounding all of the deaths are under investigation. One of those killed had been decapitated; another appeared to have been asphyxiated.



SPACE Three astronauts from the International Space Station have successfully landed in the steppes of Kazakhstan — two from Russia and one from the United States.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



AP Photo/Wong Maye-E

Waving mode. North Korean supporters wave and cheer on foreign participants of the Pyongyang marathon over the weekend.