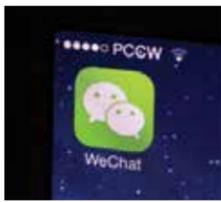




**PLANETARIUM
KICKS OFF
NEW SPACE
FILM**

P4



**7 ARRESTED OVER
ILLEGAL BETTING**
Seven people were arrested in Macau for running an illegal betting scheme using WeChat

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**CHINA WANTS ELECTRIC,
BUYERS WANT SUVs**
Regulators are pushing automakers to sell electric cars, but buyers want gas-guzzling SUVs

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WORLD BRIEFS



JAPAN Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said that Japan's government is drawing up contingency plans in case a crisis on the Korean Peninsula sends an influx of refugees to Japan. Abe told a parliamentary session that the government is formulating measures including protecting foreigners, landing procedures, building and operating shelters, and screening asylum seekers.



KOREA Viewing his adversaries in the distance, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence traveled to the tense zone dividing North and South and warned Pyongyang that after years of testing the U.S. and South Korea with its nuclear ambitions, “the era of strategic patience is over.” More on p12



NORTH KOREA Tensions have spiked in recent weeks over North Korea's advancing nuclear technology and missile arsenal. But in Pyongyang, people seem not to notice a difference. More on p13



CHINA Economic recovery is gaining momentum, with growth ticking up to a 6.9 percent annual pace in the first three months of the year. More on p11

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Moderate HK lawmaker denied entry to Macau

P3



BLOOMBERG

Tokyo's skyline set to see 45 new skyscrapers by 2020 Olympics

P9

Chui pledges to safeguard national security

The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, pledged on Friday that he would continue to safeguard national security, unity and territorial integrity. Chui made the remarks on the eve of the second National Security Education Day, which falls on April 15 each year. The aim of the event is to raise awareness of national security among the public. Chui said in a speech to the public that national security is closely related to daily life and, given the current unfortunate incidents in the international community, that Macau citizens should remember that the regional security measures are of vital importance to each of them on an individual level. The CE added that the stability of Macau relies on national security. Chui reiterated that Macau should stick to the "one country, two systems" principle, and "one country" should be the basis and prerequisite of "two systems."

'Native Colors' opens on April 21

The exhibition, "Native Colors – Works by Célia Rosário" will debut on April 21 at the Art Garden gallery. The exhibition is organized by Art for All Association and features a total of 14 acrylic works. According to the organizers, most of the artist's works depict totem images represented with striking color contrasts. The exhibition will be open to the public until May 7.

Gov't reclaims 2,900 square meter plot of land

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) carried out an eviction that has finalized their reclamation of a plot of land in Taipa. The government previously designated the land, (with an area of approximately 2,900 square meters, located in the surroundings of the roundabout of Dr Sun Yat Sen and between Av de Guimarães, Av Dr Sun Yat Sen and Rua Siu Kuan) to be used to build the new facilities of the Public Security Police Force (PSP) in Taipa, that will be located right next to the Taipa Fire Services (CB). The 2,900 square meter plot of land had been illegally occupied as a deposit for ship containers, construction materials and machines, according to the bureau.

TRANSPORT

Chronic dissatisfaction likely to clash with fare hike demands

THE taxi industry was once more in the spotlight during this week's TDM Forum talk show.

While Macau Taxi Drivers Mutual Association president, Kuok Leong Son, was calling for a fare increase to "cover the [industry's] high operating costs," lawmaker Song Pek Kei remarked that such a proposal is likely to provoke the population, who on the whole feel a sense of "chronic dissatisfaction with taxi services" to actively oppose a price hike.

Instead, Song proposed a change in the bidding mechanism for the licenses of the regular taxis- this change would lower the currently-high costs of acquiring a taxi license and in turn the license cost would have less effect over the monthly income of the drivers.

"The bidding mechanism needs to be adjusted so the cost of running a regular taxi wouldn't need to be so high," she said in her interjection, adding that "[taxi drivers] need to get MOP 2 million to bid [for] a taxi [license]."

A member of the talk show's audience questioned the specification of new "on-call" taxis



as a "residents only" service, asking, "is it really a good thing to specify special taxis for residents only?" He added that "the [system] shouldn't be like this. Both visitors and residents have the right to use any kind of taxi."

In reply, Kuok noted that the differentiation between normal and special taxis is helpful for the residents since "special taxis are able to provide services for residents, which is what [residents] have complained that regular taxis couldn't do." Kuok recalled the recurring example;

if regular taxis drop off passengers at the Border Gate, they must wait in line at the same place to get new customers who "most probably will end up [their trips] in Cotai casinos." This closed loop prevents people living in old town and residential areas from accessing the taxi system.

During the talk show, the former general director of the Vang Iek Radio Taxi Company Ltd, Fong Nim Seong, commented on how the business status of Macau's legal app-based taxi hailing service providers is less

than ideal.

Fong said that each taxi needs to make 30 to 50 trips per day if it expects to cover its costs.

Currently, there are 50 taxis run by the Companhia de Servicos de Rádio Táxi Macau, S.A. Fong said that based on his previous statement, this company needs to attend 1,500 requests per day to cover its daily operations costs. However, the company can only successfully serve 800 to 900 trips.

Given these facts, Fong determined that the app-based taxi-hailing service providers in Macau are not contributing significantly to ease Macau's taxi demand.

Fong also considered that during the next year, Macau's human resource cost and road conditions will leave the new taxi operators facing a troubled future.

In a reply to the Macau press, the app-based company said that it is facing a problem caused by an imbalance in demand and supply. It also said that they receive a high number of calls for services, although the number of cars do not meet the requirements posed by the number of requests.

ARTS

Cultural Centre dubs 'Rice' a success



THE Macau Cultural Centre (CCM) presented "Rice" by Cloud Gate Dance Theatre last Saturday evening. According to a statement issued

by CCM, the dancers, who have been trained and mentored by choreographer Lin Hwai-min, stepped on stage for their display of sharp, meticulous mo-

ves, in combination with the sounds of traditional Hakka songs and classical compositions by Camille Saint-Saëns and Richard Strauss. The audience

witnessed a sequence that balanced hyper-slow intense moves with bursts of fury, in a choreographic blend of modern dance and martial arts.

In parallel to the performance, CCM organized a string of activities which included a workshop hosted by Cloud Gate's performers that was designed to lead dance enthusiasts to explore their physical capabilities.

On the day of the show, the audience had the chance to attend a pre-performan-

ce talk and a back stage tour.

Founded in 1973, the Cloud Gate Dance Theatre has dedicated itself to transforming ancient aesthetics into a thrilling and contemporary display of physical movement.

The troupe is internationally known as leaders in the field of modern dance and have been frequent guests at New York's Next Wave Festival. They have also performed on other international stages, such as London's Sadler's Wells and Barbican Centre, Moscow's Chekhov International Theatre Festival or the Movimentos in Germany.

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Julie Zhu

Moderate Hong Kong lawmaker barred at border

KENNETH Leung, a Hong Kong lawmaker representing the Accountancy Functional Constituency, was denied entry into Macau last Sunday afternoon.

The denial has been deemed unreasonable and bizarre, as he had just visited mainland China a few days prior to this refusal of entry to Macau.

The moderate pan-democrat was travelling to Macau with his family, but was refused entry to the city while he was trying to pass the border checkpoint through the e-channel.

"This is utterly strange and totally beyond comprehension," Leung said, cited by South China Morning Post. "I have done nothing related to Macau recently. [...] The Macau authorities are [denying entry] recklessly."

Leung added that he entered Macau last April. In his opinion, a pan-democrat blacklist is being enforced in the MSAR. "I do not understand why I would be turned away from Macau when I could actually enter the mainland."

The lawmaker was reportedly taken to an office for more than half an hour before he was told by Macau's immigration authority that he could "pose a threat to Macau's security", and later was directed to a ferry back to Hong Kong.

Leung even showed the Macau authority his hotel booking and stated that his trip was simply for tourism purposes.

On the day before his visit, Leung returned from Guangdong, where he had been for a two-day fact-finding visit regarding Hong Kong's water supply.

He is not coming to Macau for political events, he is here for a family trip.

LARRY SO
SOCIOLOGIST

Many months ago, Leung also traveled to mainland China without problems. Leung even obtained his new ten-year return home permit to the mainland.

Leung has never been refused entry into the territory by Macau.

Leung said that he would report the case to the Hong Kong Security Bureau and also to Hong Kong's newly appointed Chief Executive Carrie Lam.

Larry So Man Yum, who is currently a commentator and a retired social work professor from the Macau Polytechnic Institute (IPM), judged the refused entry of Leung as "unfriendly."

"For the past several times, sometimes, when Hong Kong's pro-democrat lawmakers came to Macau, somehow Macau did not welcome them, and did not allow them to enter the territory," said So, adding "however, this time, even China has given him [Leung] a home return permit. [...] He is not coming to Macau for political events, he is here for a family trip."

In last October, many Hong Kongers were denied entry into Macau, including independent film director Lo Chun Yip, actor and former social activist Lam Fai Fred and human rights activist Shaw Kwok Wah. Lo intended to visit Macau to attend a short movie workshop hosted



Kenneth Leung

by his friend, while Lam had been invited by a Macau middle school to present a lecture on travelling.

Over ten pan-democratic lawmakers have been refused entry to Macau at least once since 2008. Several social activists were also barred because they allegedly posed a threat to Macau's internal security.

League of Social Democrats lawmaker Leung Kwok-hung, also known as "Long Hair", and eight activists were detained last October as they tried to enter Macau. Leung's group had travelled to protest during Premier Li Keqiang's visit to the city last year, planning to urge Beijing to free dissidents and to give Hong Kong more autonomy.



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AUX BEAUX ARTS



MSC's Planetarium kicks off new space film

Lynzy Valles

THE Macau Science Center's (MSC) Planetarium kicked off its latest dome show, "Space Next 3D" in a bid to further educate space enthusiasts about the history and future of private space developments.

Holding a license to show the short film for a year, the center chose to launch the film just before the Easter break to provide visitors with options when planning for their weekend entertainment.

According to the center, the Planetarium aims to provide suitable and science-related movies targeting families whose children are interested in science and space.

In the media preview last week, Charles Si, head of Planetarium Department told the press that the short film is intended to inspire "explorers, scientists and dreamers."

"Space Next 3D" explores the possibilities of the human journey into space.

It conveys how humans have



Charles Si

dreamed of soaring into the sky for centuries from the invention of the hot air balloon by the Montgolfier brothers in 1783.

The short film also remembers Russian cosmonaut Yuri Gagarin, the first human to orbit the Earth, and American astronaut Neil Armstrong, who was the first to walk on the moon.

The construction of space stations, such as Mir and the International Space Station, was also explained in the 30-minute film, educating the audience

that they allow humans to stay in space for longer periods.

Si informed that two special shows will be screened at the planetarium this summer, most likely, The Little Prince and Aurora.

This year also marks the second year of the planetarium's "Starry Night" series.

The series includes talks and film screenings that are science and space related.

"We have many kinds of different topics in our planetarium," said Si.

Compared to last year's series, Si explained that more speakers will be invited this year.

"We invited more speakers to our planetarium and this year, we have more returning costumers. We now have around 60 visitors at each full dome show on the program compared to the very beginning, when we only had around 5 visitors [every show]," Si said.

Meanwhile, the region's planetarium is hoping to keep its Guinness World Records award for being the highest resolution

3D planetarium in the world.

According to Si, neighboring regions are striving to acquire better equipment in their planetariums.

However, Si pledged that they would continually maintain quality projection system and maintenance.

"We are going to replace and renew our [graphic] system at the end of this year. We have already used it for eight years so we're going to renew it [and] hope to bring a better and more technical and full dome effect to visitors," he concluded.

ONE SHOT NEWS



The "Sports For All Day" was held on Saturday at Tap Seac Square. According to the Sports Bureau (ID), which organizes the monthly event in several locations, many Macau residents and families in particular participated in the April edition.

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THE trial of the two suspects who allegedly are responsible for the murder of Kim Jon Nam began late last week in Malaysia's capital city, Kuala Lumpur. The suspects' premeditations are already being exposed.

According to the Japanese newspaper, Asahi Shimbun, during her first testimony in court, Siti Aisyah, an Indonesian woman who is being accused of the murder of the half-brother of the North Korean leader, has said that the initial [murder] plan was supposed to happen in Macau and not in the Malaysian airport.

The newspaper cites an official attending the court session who was sent by the Indonesian government to help with the defense of Aisyah. The official shared that Aisyah said that the attack at the airport was a "sudden change of plans."

The two suspects facing the Malaysian justice system also revealed that they were "hired" by North Korean officials to participate in a "prank tv show" to be recorded in the region on early February.

The same source also mentioned that Aisyah named one of these officials as North Korean Foreign Ministry official Hong Song Hak, noting that it was he who "changed the plans" of the alleged location from Macau to Kuala Lumpur.

Media reports from last week showed both suspects, who are

Kim's murder was to happen in Macau, suspect says in court

charged with killing Kim Jong Nam by smearing his face with a highly toxic nerve agent, appearing in court wearing bulletproof vests.

At the court, the lawyers for Aisyah and the other suspect, Vietnamese national Doan Thi Huong, also told media that they feared a "trial by ambush" in which Malaysian police authorities did not divulge the crime's evidence.

The lawyers, Gooi Soon Seng and Hisyam The, representing respectively Aisyah and Huong have also told the court of these concerns. They highlighted that the police had not responded to their requests to provide evidence, such as CCTV recordings, and statements from three North Korean suspects allowed to leave Malaysia, along with the body of Kim Jong Nam as part of a deal with North Korea. Prior to the deal being struck, nine Malaysian nationals were prohibited from leaving North Korea as the Malaysian authorities were refusing to release the body of Nam or officials who were persons of interest in the case.

"We've lost an opportunity to cross-examine them. [...] There

should be no trial by ambush," said Aisyah's lawyer, noting that the authorization to depart the country for Ri Ji U (also known as James) had "compromised the defense," since he was a key witness, Gooi told the reporters outside the court, cited by Reuters.

Sharing in the same criticisms, Huong's lawyer has said his request to the police to provide evidence such as photos and communications from the two phones seized from his client has been ignored.

It is believed that four other North Korean nationals, identified as suspects on the same case, left Kuala Lumpur for Pyongyang on the exact day of the killing.

Last week Malaysian magistrate court was prepared to hear a request from the prosecution for the two women to be tried jointly in a higher court, but the hearing was postponed to May 30 due to a prosecution request for more time to collect relevant documents.

Indonesia's Siti Aisyah and Vietnam's Doan Thi Huong are facing the death penalty, in the case of conviction by the Malaysian court. **RM**



Vietnamese suspect Doan Thi Huong (center)



Indonesian suspect Siti Aisyah (center)

CRIME

Chinese nationals arrested over illegal betting via WeChat

SEVEN Chinese mainland nationals, who allegedly operated an illegal betting company worth HKD10 million involving high stakes baccarat and the Chinese social messaging app WeChat, were arrested in Macau.

Last week, the Judiciary Police (PJ) announced that the suspects arranged around 40 daily gamblers to bet on the results of some actual VIP baccarat games in local casinos.

The PJ spokesman Tam Weng Keong confirmed that the placing of bets and confirmation of game results were all communicated through WeChat.

The ring is reportedly believed to only have been in operation for about one month, although the gang has managed to handle total wagers of some HKD10 million.

Although the men, from Zhejiang Province, placed no limits on maximum bets, minimum wagers were HKD300.

Authorities raided the apartment in the Nam Van area out of which the suspects were running the operation, after receiving a tip-off that the location was being used as an unlicensed guesthouse.

During the raid, authorities confiscated three laptops and several mobile phones containing betting records.

Monetary transactions were made through the third-party payment platform Alipay.

Tam told GGRAsia that the illicit betting operators sent "two to three members" to actually gamble in an undisclosed casino, while the game's progress was broadcast

via the WeChat group.

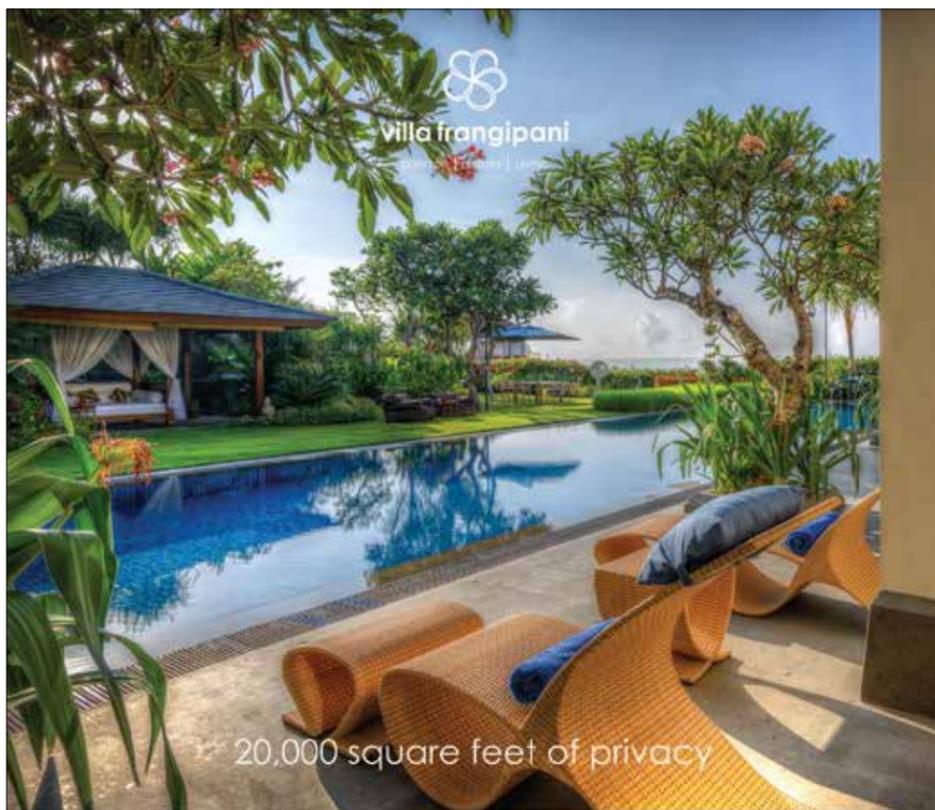
According to the spokesperson, a study of the seized communication devices showed that the overseas gamblers were given 70 seconds to decide how to wager after being informed of the game's progress.

"The suspects were very well organized in splitting their tasks," Tam told reporters, as cited in Macau reports.

"Everyone had their own position. For instance, the first and the sixth suspect were responsible for handling accounting via the computer, and controlled the wagering of their accomplices in the casino. The second and third suspects were mainly responsible for collecting the bets from the [WeChat] group members," Tam explained.

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CHINA'S Kweichow Moutai Co., the world's most valuable liquor distiller, said it aims to boost revenue by more than 15 percent this year as it benefits from Chinese consumers shifting to pricier spirits.

Full-year net income grew 8 percent last year to 16.7 billion yuan (USD2.4 billion), Moutai said in an exchange filing in Shanghai late Friday. Revenue rose 19 percent to 38.9 billion yuan.

The Guizhou-based distiller, whose fiery liquor is the toast of choice for China's political leaders, overtook Johnnie Walker-brand owner Diageo Plc this week as the most valuable distiller in the world with a market value of \$72 billion.

Moutai forecast full-year net income last December that missed the consensus estimate of 17.2 billion yuan. Analysts said this was due to a higher tax bill from China's adjusted consumption tax policy. In that statement, Moutai said it is targeting sales volume of 50,000 tons of liquor in 2017.

Profit growth comes as Moutai raises wholesale prices, a sign that the top-shelf brands in the \$115 billion baijiu industry have succeeded in appealing more to a growing middle class.

"Moutai boasts the strongest pricing power in the industry

Moutai aims for 2017 sales growth of 15 percent

with its strong brand awareness," Lyu Chang, an analyst at SWS Research Co., said before the results. "It has robust growth momentum and rising levels of profitability driven by rising income levels and middle-class consumers spending more."

Moutai boasts the strongest pricing power in the industry with its strong brand awareness.

LYU CHANG
ANALYST AT SWS RESEARCH

China's officials and elite had propped up demand and prices for top-tier baijiu before President Xi Jinping's anti-corruption campaign clamped down

on government excess. In 2013, when the campaign was at its height, Moutai shares plunged almost 40 percent. Since then, the stock has more than tripled, closing at 395.45 yuan on Friday in Shanghai.

Even as the baijiu industry leaves the anti-corruption crisis behind, it faces the long-term challenge of attracting young Chinese drinkers who are fonder of bars and nightclubs than the banquet halls where baijiu is often downed. Their willingness to spend more is also matched by a desire to invest in healthier lifestyles, while makers of wine and Western liquors like whiskey make a strong bid for their attention.

China imported \$341 million in wine in December last year, up 54 percent from \$221 million in the same month in 2013, according to data released by the customs administration.

"Red wine is gaining popularity among younger Chinese for dinner-table drinking, which is where baijiu is tradi-



tionally consumed," said Hunter Williams, a partner at Oliver Wyman Ltd. in Shanghai. "There's a growing health-

consciousness among consumers that could impact the demand for baijiu in the long term." **Bloomberg**

ANALYSIS | RETAIL

Prada needs to work it before any recovery's guaranteed



Andrea Felsted

AFTER the excitement of LVMH Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton SE's forecast-busting performance, luxury has come down to earth with a bump.

Prada SpA last week unveiled its lowest full-year profit since its 2011 initial public offering.

To some extent, the slump reflects 2016's broader industry slowdown. The Milan-based group was hit particularly hard because of its large exposure to China. Some aggressive store expansion early on, as well as slowness in developing a digital offering and a bloated cost base didn't help either.

Prada is addressing its store issue, planning to hold its number of outlets steady, outside of the occasional pop-up to create buzz.

The company is also making progress on digital, and has significantly cut costs: Operating expenses fell 10 percent in the year through January. With lower capital expenditure, that helped operating cash flow increase 72 percent to 632 million euros (\$673 million).

But perhaps most significantly, Prada's presence in China (it's one of the luxury brands most exposed to the nation) is now a positive. Chief Financial Officer Alessandra Cozzani said there

had been a "big rebound," including in Hong Kong and Macau. This, together with new products, helped sales at the Prada and Miu Miu brands move in the right direction in the second half.

Investors are betting on the turnaround gathering pace. The company's Hong Kong-traded shares are up 32 percent over the past 12 months and trade on a forward price earnings ratio of 29 times. To some extent, that reflects the collapse in Prada's earnings. Even so, the premium to both LVMH and the Bloomberg Intelligence luxury peer group looks stretched.

Sales rose in January for the first time in more than a year, however on Wednesday, Cozzani would only say that the trend for same-store sales in February and March was "positive enough".

Prada is doing all the right things to try to address its underperformance. But to justify its lofty valuation, it must be more emphatic that this is delivering actual sales growth. A full-blown recovery isn't in the tote bag just yet. **Bloomberg**

AD



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For Rent



Kingsville, Taipa (1 Unit)

(Ref: 17010631)
1,200sq. ft. HKD 16,800
Popular building in Central Taipa this apartment is fantastic with great views across Taipa village, West facing. The apartment has two double bedrooms, one bedroom with en suite the second double bedroom shares a separate shower room with the third single bedroom. Lovely spacious living dining room with good size balcony. Recently redecorated; painted throughout, caulking of bathrooms, new mattress and bed frame in master bedroom, large two metre sliding door wardrobe,



Jardim Lameiras Taipa

(Ref: 17030643)
720sq. ft. HKD 13,800
Modern two bedroom apartment recently decorated throughout. Two double size bedrooms with builtin mirrored wardrobes providing great storage. Two shower rooms, one en suite. Lovely bright living area with small dining table for two. Galley style kitchen is well laid out with further storage in the hallway. Great location behind CuppaCoffee by the Taipa Square roundabout, a stones throw from Cotal with shops, cafes, banks close by as well as a bus stop below.



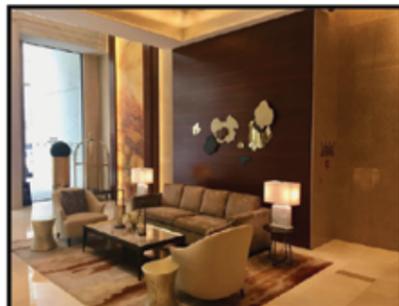
Camellia Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 17020639)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 13,800
Lovely three bedroom apartment with green mountain views. All bedrooms are doubles, one with en suite shower room. Good layout with spacious living/dining area and small balcony. Modern kitchen with plenty of storage and large enough for second dining table. Simply furnished throughout with one car park included in the asking price.



One Central Tower 7

(Ref: 17030644)
1,292sq. ft. HKD 19,500
Furnished 2 bedroom apartment in the luxurious complex of One central. Rent inclusive of management fees which will allow you to make full use of the exclusive clubhouse with indoor and outdoor pool, gym, tennis courts and other extensive recreational facilities. This apartment has stunning lake and city views. Known as the best address in Macau and directly linked to the shopping centre. Great location with MGM, Wynn, Mandarin Oriental etc. all within walking distance.



The Carat

(Ref: 17030641)
679.79sq. ft. HKD 11,000
Nice studio apartment edging on the bays of Macau, The Carat is sculpted in the bustling Dynasty District, captures the sensational two shores and three bridges. This unprecedented waterfront hotel styled residence at the city centre is a rare jewel, at its best. At the top of The Carat, enjoy a splash of water in the 60-foot indoor swimming pool or power run in the gym room, be indulged at the Sky Club overlooking the breathtaking view of sunrise



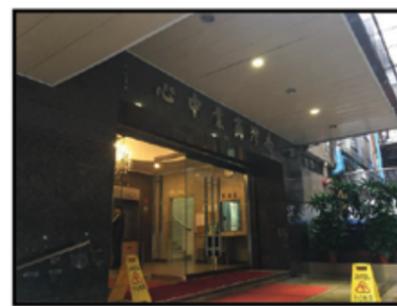
Poplar Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 17020640)
1,693sq. ft. HKD 14,800
Super three bedroom two shower room apartment in the well known complex of Ocean Gardens. Most unusual in Macau all three bedrooms are carpeted, making the property most luxurious. Lovely views from the back of the apartment over the Taipa mountain, while at the front the view is Macaus Friendship bridge. Good size oblong living room, with a dedicated dining area.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 16120629)
2,000sq. ft. HKD 23,000
LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Adjacent to the dining area there is a wonderful outside area perfect for barbecuing and al fresco dining. On the mezzanine floor two large double bedrooms with a lots of built in storage



Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau

(Ref: 16100626)
836sq. ft. HKD 12,200
Office Space available in central Macau, great location. This high floor office is light and bright with great views looking over the park towards Sanado Square. Unit F is currently one large open planned space with a small office and storage room. The office will be painted with a new ceiling and carpets throughout. Management fees of \$1,883 per month are paid by the tenant direct.

For Sale



Kam Lai Kuok

(Ref: 17035512)
1,380sq. ft. HKD 10.980M
Rate: HKD 7,956sq ft

Central Macau, wonderful three bedroom apartment with two bathrooms and modern great size kitchen. Spacious balcony although as been built in could easily be opened up again very easily. The living room is approximately 500 sq ft including the allocated dining area. The apartment comes with a parking space in the same building which is included in the asking price.

Located a stones throw from the Hotel Lisboa, The Military Club and the CBD its a fabulous location central to everything. Currently tenanted, viewings to be scheduled.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



The Manhattan - Taipa

(Ref: 17035515)
2,305sq. ft. HKD 18.2095M
Rate: HKD 7,900sq ft

4 bedrooms apartment in an excellent location, in the 5-star residence: The Manhattan. High quality finishes and furnishings. Club House facilities include gymnasium, outdoor swimming pool & sun deck, golf simulator, children door & outdoor play areas, bbq facilities, lounge/party room with private kitchen. Perfectly located, close to super markets, restaurants, cafes, shops and walking distance to the Cotal Strip.

High floor with sea view, overlooking the Friendship Bridge. One car park for sale, asking HKD1.9 million.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Roof Top Apartment, Macau

(Ref: 15055441)
799sq. ft. HKD 4.38M
Rate: HKD 5,481sq ft

Loft style apartment with concrete floor which includes a good size double bedroom, great size separate bathroom, open plan fitted kitchen, lovely bright & spacious dining area with floor to ceiling windows and cosy living area with small picture window of the view. The wooden staircase leads to the second floor open area which could be great to use as a second bedroom, or office, yoga studio or entertainment area. The roof top terrace is wonderful; a great place to entertain friends and family with its open view across the roof tops of the Chief Executives office and beautifully manicured gardens towards Taipa. This property is unique with a view that unlike most in Macau will not change for many years to come.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

(Ref: 17035513)
1,800sq. ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 6,388sq ft

Beautifully furnished, bright and spacious 3 bedroom furnished apartment. Large open plan living/dining room with a long balcony off the living area. 3 double bedrooms, master bedroom has an en-suite bathroom.

Reverse cycle air con in both the living room and master bedroom. Western style kitchen with oven. Great location with supermarkets, restaurants, bars and ferry terminal within walking distance.

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Joe McDonald, Beijing

China car dilemma: Beijing wants electric, buyers want SUVs

AUTOMAKERS face a dilemma in China's huge but crowded market: Regulators are pushing them to sell electric cars, but buyers want gas-guzzling SUVs.

The industry is rattled by Beijing's proposal to require that electric cars make up 8 percent of every brand's production as soon as next year. Consumers are steering the other way: First-quarter SUV sales soared 21 percent from a year earlier to 2.4 million, while electric vehicle purchases sank 4.4 percent to just 55,929.

"It's tough for someone with an EV to come and take away market share from SUVs," said Ben Caverder of China Market Research Group.

The Shanghai auto show, which opens to the public on Friday, will showcase work on electric models meant to appeal to Chinese drivers who are wary of the unfamiliar technology's reliability and cost.

The pressure for electrification in China is an added headache for automakers at a time when sales growth is slowing and competition heating up in a market they are counting on to drive global revenue.

Sales growth fell to 1.7 percent in March from last year's 15 percent. SUVs made up 40 percent of sales, while sedan purchases fell 4.9 percent.

At the Shanghai show, the industry's biggest marketing event this year, almost every global and Chinese brand plan to display at least an electric concept car, if not a model ready for sale, alongside its latest SUVs and sedans.

General Motors Co.'s Buick unit announced plans last month for Chinese sales of its Velite 5 gasoline-electric hybrid sedan. Buick also sells a hybrid LaCrosse in China.

This month, Ford said it will sell an all-electric SUV and a plug-in hybrid Mondeo Energi sedan in China. Ford's joint venture with state-owned Changan Automobile Co. will manufacture the Mondeo.

Ford said by 2025 it plans offer electric versions of 70 percent of



A security personnel riding a motorized platform moves past an electric vehicle charging station in Beijing

its models sold in China.

"We are prioritizing our electrification efforts on China to reflect its importance as a global electrified vehicle market," Ford CEO Mark Fields said in a statement.

NextEV, a Shanghai-based startup, says it will display 11 vehicles in Shanghai from its all-electric NIO brand. They include the two-door EP9, a contender for the title of fastest electric car, with what the manufacturer says is a top speed of 194 mph (310 kph).

Volkswagen plans to announce its electric vehicle plans for China and unveil an electric concept car. Honda Motor Co. will show its new NeuV, a futuristic concept car the company has suggested might get an electric drivetrain.

Government planners see electric vehicles as a sector where China can lead, and a Cabinet technology development plan issued in 2013 calls for two of the top global brands in 2025 to be Chinese.

Hence the proposal, released in September, calling for electric or gasoline-electric hybrids to make up 8 percent of every automaker's output next year. That would rise

to 10 percent in 2019 and 12 percent in 2020.

Manufacturers failing to meet those targets could buy credits from companies that produce more electrics, helping to subsidize development.

People in the industry say manufacturers have warned Beijing those targets are too ambitious. News reports say regulators might have agreed to lower or delay them in an updated plan due out this year, but there has been no official confirmation.

China's stand-out EV success so far is BYD Auto Co. It sells all-electric vehicles to taxi and bus fleets in China and abroad and gasoline-electric hybrid SUVs and sedans to Chinese consumers.

BYD Auto says last year's sales rose 70 percent over 2015 to 100,183 vehicles. That would make it the biggest electric brand for a second year, with Tesla Inc. in second place at 76,230 vehicles sold.

Other Chinese brands offer plug-in electrics but most sold only a few hundred vehicles last year. That is partly because their

vehicles cost up to 350,000 yuan (\$50,000), or two to three times the price of equivalent gasoline models.

Even Great Wall Motors Ltd., which became China's most profitable auto brand by making almost nothing but SUVs, has unveiled an electric compact sedan, the C30 EV, which looks almost comically small next to its hulking other vehicles. It has yet to say when sales will start.

Some brands promise a range of up to 200 kilometers (120 miles) on one charge. But industry analysts say that is too much money and too short a distance for most drivers, who have few places to recharge.

"The biggest worries for people buying an electric car are lack of convenience for charging and the miserable range most electric cars have," said Zhang Xin, an independent auto industry analyst.

To ease such "range anxiety," the Cabinet has ordered the state-owned power industry to step up installation of charging stations.

Government plans call for China to have 100,000 public charging

stations and 800,000 private stations by next year, up from a total of 50,000 at the start of 2016. Longer term, the government wants a network that can support 5 million vehicles by 2020.

The government also is trying to nudge buyers toward electrics by exempting them from sales taxes and from license plate fees and lotteries imposed by Beijing, Shanghai and some other cities to curb congestion.

The biggest worries for people buying an electric car are lack of convenience for charging and the miserable range most electric cars have.

ZHANG XIN
AUTO INDUSTRY ANALYST

Aside from BYD, Chinese manufacturers are waiting to see what price regulators set for credits before deciding whether to buy them or develop their own technology.

"Even by 2020, it's not going to be a profitable business," said John Zeng of LMC Automotive.

"The industry has to prepare for the worst case," said Zeng. "That means who you have to have all the technology ready in case you need it, but on the other hand they don't want to commercialize it now, because it is not profitable." AP

Tokyo's skyline set to see 45 new skyscrapers by 2020 Olympics

TOKYO'S skyline is set to welcome 45 new skyscrapers by the time the city hosts the Olympics in 2020, as a surge of buildings planned in the early years of Abe-nomics near completion.

Japan's capital will see nearly 50 percent more new high-rise space in the next three years than it did in the preceding three, Toyokazu Imazeki, chief analyst at office leasing and consulting firm Sanko Estate Co, said in an interview. He said the increase was fueled by the fiscal expansion and mo-

netary easing under Abe's economic program, launched after his election in late 2012.

"This marks the timing for completion of buildings planned from about 2013 when developers were expecting the economy to expand," said Imazeki. The increase in building was supported not only by Abe's expansionary policies but also Japan's ultra-low interest rates, he said.

New leaseable office space in buildings with floors of over 661 square-meters in

the three central wards in Tokyo will rise to about 1.8 million square-meters in 2020 from 1.2 million square-meters in the three years to 2017, Imazeki said. As well as properties in areas such as the Marunouchi district near Tokyo Station, a 41-floor new main building at the iconic Hotel Okura is scheduled for completion in 2019.

Seventy-five percent of new constructions in the 2016-2018 period will be in the central Chiyoda, Chuo and Minato wards,

compared to 61 percent from 2011 to 2015, according to Mori Building Co research.

"Most of the buildings are centered on the three prime areas in central Tokyo," said Takashi Ishizawa, a senior researcher at Mizuho Securities. "This could heat up competition for tenants in other areas of the city" as office occupiers are drawn to the premier locations, he said. Ishizawa added there will be demand tied to Tokyo's hosting of the Olympics. Bloomberg



Josh Lederman, Washington

ANALYSIS

Mixed reactions greet Trump's new attitudes on China, Russia

ONCE soft on Russia and hard on China, President Donald Trump rapidly reversed course in the last weeks, concluding there's more business to be done with Beijing than with Moscow.

Trump's evolving views on those two world powers have brought the U.S. back into alignment with former President Barack Obama's pattern of "great power" politics. Though Russia critics welcomed Trump's newly hardened tone, there's less enthusiasm from America's allies in Asia, who fear the U.S. could overlook China's more aggressive posture toward its neighbors.

It may be that Trump, the businessman-turned-world leader, is discovering China's transactional approach to foreign relations is better suited to achieving his own goals. Chinese leaders have sought a U.S. relationship based on the two powers respecting each other's spheres of influence and not intervening in one another's internal affairs.

Such a balance-of-powers approach had been Russia's traditional stance. Moscow still wants Washington out of its backyard, but Russia's alleged campaigns to influence the U.S. presidential election and upcoming votes in the heart of Western Europe have made it harder for American officials to take the offer seriously. Russia's support for Syrian President Bashar Assad and Trump's newfound commitment to militarily countering any chemical weapons attacks also is proving hard to square.

Also, Trump and Russian President Vladimir Putin's shared tendency toward nationalist, "don't-mess-with-us" rhetoric may be putting the pair on a collision course.

The sudden U-turn for Trump has been head-snapping for people around the world, despite

his self-professed penchant for unpredictability and willingness to adapt to changing circumstances.

As the Republican presidential nominee, Trump praised Putin repeatedly as a strong, "very smart" leader. Trump dismissed America's Russia hawks as "stupid people or fools" and predicted that under his leadership the Cold War foes would "work together to solve some of the many great and pressing problems and issues of the world."

Trump's gestures to Moscow even fueled perceptions that his campaign and Russia were colluding to help him get elected — a possibility the FBI is now investigating.

"Frankly, if we got along with Russia and knocked out ISIS, that would be a good thing, not a bad thing," Trump told a radio host in October, citing his still unrealized goal to have both countries cooperate to defeat the Islamic State group.

This past week, it was the opposite message, as the U.S. and Russia feuded about Syria.

"We're not getting along with Russia at all," Trump said. "We may be at an all-time low."

Trump's declaration came at a joint news conference with the leader of NATO, an alliance established as a Cold War bulwark against the Soviet Union. Trump had dismissed NATO as "obsolete," but now says it is "no longer obsolete."

As he shifts away from Russia, Trump is offering an outstret-



Trump-Xi summit last week in Florida may have been a game changer

ched hand to China. Trump recently hosted Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's Florida resort, and last week hailed Xi as a "terrific person" and a "very special man."

For years Trump said that China was "eating our lunch," and he peppered his campaign rallies with promises to label China a currency manipulator as one of his first acts. He even threatened to start a trade war, arguing that China's trade surplus was the reason for America's economic woes.

Trump's growing focus on the North Korean threat, heightened by signs the North might soon conduct another nuclear test, has changed Trump's thinking. Now

he is looking for help from China, North Korea's dominant trade partner, and easing up on his rhetoric. "I think China has really been working very hard" on North Korea, he said.

Coinciding with this new assessment was Trump's announcement that he won't declare China a currency manipulator. It was Trump's second major concession to Xi, after backing away from a threat to abandon America's "One China" policy that sees Taiwan as part of China.

So what did Trump, the self-declared deal-maker, get in return?

"The U.S. hasn't gotten anything from China yet," said Evan Medeiros, who was Obama's top Asia adviser in the White House.

"The question becomes, if they don't give him what he wants, what happens next?"

Trump and White House aides have pointed to Beijing's move to restrict coal imports from North Korea as a sign it's listening to Trump. But the restriction merely put in place U.N. sanctions passed last year with China's support — before Trump took office.

As he shifts away from Russia, Trump is offering an outstretched hand to China

Although U.S. allies Japan and South Korea are heartened by Trump's North Korea focus, his softer tack toward Beijing is causing concern. China's other designs for Asia include staking sovereignty to maritime territories, sometimes far from its coast, that others countries claim as well.

Despite Trump's argument that China is taking North Korea seriously, China remains adamantly opposed to U.S. deployment of an advanced missile defense system in South Korea. Trump, like Obama before him, insists the system's sole purpose is to protect against the North. Beijing isn't so sure, and doesn't like such sophisticated radar being able to peer into Chinese territory. **AP**

Chinese dissident says he will seek asylum in Taiwan

A Chinese dissident who abandoned his tour group while in Taiwan said he will apply for political asylum by today in hopes of staying on the self-governing island to promote democracy on the mainland.

Zhang Xiangzhong said in an interview yesterday that he hoped Taiwanese officials would take a "tolerant" view toward his appeal, but acknowledged there were legal hurdles.

"I want to tell them that Taiwan's spirit represents the Chinese people," Zhang said. "They don't have an asylum policy, but I hope they will be tolerant."

Chang Hsiao-yueh, minister of Taiwan's Main-



Chinese dissident Zhang Xiangzhong is seen on a computer screen during an interview via videoconference

land Affairs Council, said at a Cabinet hearing yesterday that the island does not offer political asylum to Chinese citizens although they sometimes offer permits for long-term re-

sidence on a "case-by-case basis."

Zhang's case could further exacerbate cross-strait tensions weeks after China detained a Taiwanese pro-democracy activist

Lee Ming-che during a trip to the mainland. Cross-strait relations have been near an all-time low since the election of Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen, whose Democratic Progressive Party has advocated for Taiwan's formal independence. China cut off contacts with Taiwan's government in June, five months after Tsai was elected.

Zhang told The Associated Press that he was inspired to defect after hearing about Lee's story and how his wife, Lee Ching-yu, defied Chinese government warnings and attempted to fly to the mainland to search for her husband.

Zhang, 48, was previously jailed for three years for

participating in a mainland civil rights movement called the New Citizens' Movement, which was backed by prominent legal scholars, businessmen and artists.

Zhang said he did not fully make up his mind to defect until after he arrived in Taiwan on an eight-day tour package. Zhang said he realized that Taiwan was the inheritor of the Chinese people's spirit and culture after he toured historical archives. Yet, it was a seemingly mundane, everyday gesture that finally swayed him: He encountered respectful drivers on Taiwan's streets.

"I asked myself, when will we ever be like that

in the mainland?" said Zhang, who added that the international image of mainland Chinese suffered relative to other Asians because of China's political system.

The Global Times, a state-run tabloid, on Monday dismissed Zhang's defection as "ideological antics" and pointed out that he had previously been arrested for disrupting social order.

"If Taiwan is willing to accept Zhang Xiangzhong, the mainland shouldn't necessarily be bothered by his behavior or his crazy talk," said the commentary, which later appeared to have been removed from the paper's website. "And if Taiwan wants to accept more dissidents like him, the mainland might as well also turn a blind eye." **AP**

ECONOMY GAINS STEAM

Q1 growth at 6.9 pct fastest since 2015

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINA'S economic recovery is gaining traction, with growth rising to its fastest pace in over a year in January-March.

The 6.9 percent annual pace of expansion for the world's second-largest economy, reported yesterday, surpassed economists' forecasts and was an improvement from 6.8 percent growth in the last quarter of 2016.

Growth last was that strong in July-September of 2015.

Analysts said government spending and a property boom spurred by easy credit were the main factors helping to drive stronger demand.

China saw its slowest growth in nearly three decades in 2016, at 6.7 percent. The official full-year economic growth target for 2017 is 6.5 percent.

"Currently, China's economy is demonstrating good signs of pickup in growth, overall price stability, expansion in employment and improvement in the international balance of payments," Mao Shengyong, a spokesman for the National Bureau of Statistics, told reporters in Beijing.

Fears of being dragged into a trade and currency war with the U.S. have abated after U.S. President Donald Trump toned down his previously antagonistic comments against Beijing.

A summit earlier this month with Chinese President Xi Jinping en-

ded calmly, and the U.S. Treasury Department did not label China a currency manipulator in its latest assessment.

During the first quarter, investment in fixed assets such as factories expanded 9.2 percent from a year earlier, while retail sales grew 10 percent. Industrial production rose 6.8 percent, including a stronger-than-expected 7.6 percent year-on-year gain in March.

Fears of being dragged into a trade and currency war with the US abated after President Trump toned down his previously antagonistic comments against Beijing

Although exports have also shown sharp improvement, strong lending and investment figures suggest Beijing is relying on its traditional strategy of powering growth through government sti-



People walk near the Central Business District during the morning rush hour in Beijing

mulus. China's leaders have been trying to shift to an approach based more on consumer demand but tend to open the spending and credit taps at times when growth appears to be slowing too much.

"The question we need to ask is whether this investment-led model is sustainable as the authorities have trouble taming credit," said Raymond Yeung and David Qu, economists at ANZ.

The latest figures indicate China's economy is on track to meet its official growth target — a good sign for China's communist leaders, who don't like surprises and are preparing for a twice-a-decade party congress in the autumn to

appoint new leaders.

"The 6.5 percent target this year, you could say it's more important than ever, because of the political reshuffle later this year," said Amy Zhuang, chief Asia analyst at Nordea Markets. "At least being able to maintain the stability in growth is very, very important for Beijing."

On a quarter-to-quarter basis, which is how other major economies report data, the economy lost steam, expanding just 1.3 percent. That's slower than 1.7 percent in the fourth quarter of 2016.

The economists at ANZ said such figures should be viewed cautiously because they might reflect chan-

ges in how the government made adjustments for seasonal factors.

Economists say they expect the boost from the government's policies and the property boom to persist for a few more months before fading later in the year.

Real estate plays an outsize role in fueling growth in the wider Chinese economy by spurring knock-on demand in the manufacturing and service sectors.

House prices will likely start cooling this year as tighter restrictions finally kick in, but Beijing will probably take steps to offset that decline with more stimulus to meet its annual growth target, Zhuang said. **AP**

Matthew Brown, Beijing

REPORTS

ATibetan Buddhist monk set himself on fire in western China in an apparent protest against Beijing's rule, a monitoring group and a U.S. government-backed radio station said.

The monk set himself ablaze in a public square on Saturday morning in Kardze, also known as Ganzhi, in western Sichuan province, according to Radio Free Asia and Free Tibet, an advocacy group based in Britain.

The unidentified monk was taken away after the fire was extinguished by security forces, reports said. It was unclear if he survived.

A man who answered the phone at the local police station yesterday said he was unaware of the case and "not clear" about the situation. The government for Garze Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture,

Tibetan monk sets himself on fire in Sichuan

which includes the town of Kardze, referred questions to police.

A YouTube video purported to be of the incident showed two men spraying fire extinguishers on what appeared to be a body at the edge of a busy street as a crowd gathered.

Free Tibet acquired the video from a witness who posted it on social media, according to John Jones, a spokesman for the group.

If the self-immolation is confirmed, it would be the 148th recorded case of a Tibetan self-immolating since 2009, according to Radio Free Asia and Free Tibet. At least 125 have died, according to monitoring groups.

China claims Tibet has

been part of its territory for more than seven centuries and regards the Dalia Lama, Tibet's exiled Buddhist leader, as a dangerous separatist. Many Tibetans insist they were essentially independent for most of that time and have protested what they regard as China's heavy-handed rule.

Self-immolations peaked in 2012 with 83 that year, Jones said. A security crackdown has made it more difficult to confirm subsequent incidents, particularly in the Tibetan Autonomous Region that includes Tibet's regional capital, Lhasa, he said.

Before lighting themselves on fire, many cried out for Tibetan independence or prayed for the return of



Tibetan monks outside a temple in New Delhi, India

the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet in 1959, eyewitnesses have been quoted as saying.

The most recent previous incident, also in Kardze, was in mid-March, when a Tibetan man

identified by monitors as Pema Gyaltzen set himself on fire. Jones said Monday that the 24-year-old farmer's fate remains unknown.

Chinese officials last week lashed out at In-

dia for hosting the Dalai Lama near their disputed border and said that, by allowing the Tibetan spiritual leader's visit, India was violating its commitment to respect China's claims to the region. **AP**

Ken Thomas, Panmunjom

VIEWING his adversaries in the distance, U.S. Vice President Mike Pence traveled to the tense zone dividing North and South Korea and warned Pyongyang that after years of testing the U.S. and South Korea with its nuclear ambitions, “the era of strategic patience is over.”

Pence made an unannounced visit to the Demilitarized Zone at the start of his 10-day trip to Asia in a U.S. show of force that allowed the vice president to gaze at North Korean soldiers from afar and stare directly across a border marked by razor wire. As the brown bomber jacket-clad vice president was briefed near the military demarcation line, two North Korean soldiers watched from a short distance away, one taking multiple photographs of the American visitor.

Pence told reporters near the DMZ that President Donald Trump was hopeful that China would use its “extraordinary levers” to pressure the North to abandon its weapons program, a day after the North’s failed missile launch. But Pence expressed impatience with the unwillingness of the regime to move toward ridding itself of nuclear weapons and ballistic missiles.

Pointing to the quarter-century since the United States first confronted North Korea over its attempts to build nuclear weapons, the vice president said a period of patience had followed.

“But the era of strategic patience is over,” Pence declared. “President Trump has made it clear that the patience of the United States and our allies in this region has run out and we want to see change. We want to see North Korea abandon its reckless path of the development of nuclear weapons, and also its continual use and testing of ballistic missiles is unacceptable.”

Later yesterday, Pence said in a joint statement alongside South Korean Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn that the United States’ commitment to its ally is “iron-clad and immutable.” Pence reiterated that “all options are on the table” to deal with threat and said that any use of nuclear weapons by Pyongyang would be met with “an overwhelming and effective response.”

The vice president earlier visited a military installation near the DMZ, Camp Bonifas, for a briefing with military leaders. He also met with American troops stationed at the joint U.S.-South Korean military camp, which is just outside the 2.5-mile (4.02-kilometer)-wide DMZ. Under rainfall, Pence later stood a few meters from the military demarcation line outside Freedom House, gazing at the North Korean sol-



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence arrives at the border village of Panmunjom in the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) which has separated the two Koreas since the Korean War

KOREA-US

Pence warns North Korea ‘era of strategic patience is over’

diers across the border.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, speaking to a parliamentary session yesterday, said: “Needless to say, diplomatic effort is important to maintain peace. But dialogue for the sake of having dialogue is meaningless.”

“We need to apply pressure on North Korea so they seriously respond to a dialogue” with the international community, he said, urging China and Russia to play more constructive roles on the issue. deforested stretch of North Korea from a lookout post in the hillside.

Pence’s visit, full of Cold War symbolism, came amid increasing tensions and heated rhetoric on the Korean Peninsula. While the North did not conduct a nuclear test, the specter of a potential test and an escalated U.S. response has trailed Pence as he undertakes his Asian tour.

Trump wrote Sunday on Twitter that China was working with the United States on “the North Korea problem.” His national security adviser, H.R. McMaster, said the U.S. would rely on its allies as well as Chinese leadership to resolve the issues with North Korea.

McMaster cited Trump’s recent decision to order missile strikes in Syria after a chemical attack blamed on the Assad government, as a sign that the

president “is clearly comfortable making tough decisions.” But at the same time, McMaster said on “This Week” on ABC that “it’s time for us to undertake all actions we can, short of a military option, to try to resolve this peacefully.”

Pence told reporters that the North Korean people and military “should not mistake the resolve of the United States of America to stand with our allies,” calling the alliance “iron-clad.” He said the U.S. and its allies would deal with the situation “through peaceable means or ultimately by whatever means are necessary.”

After a two-month policy review, the Trump administration settled on a policy dubbed “maximum pressure and engagement,” U.S. officials said Friday. The administration’s immediate emphasis, they said, was to be on increasing pressure on Pyongyang with the help of Beijing.

The officials weren’t authorized to speak publicly on the results of the policy review and requested anonymity.

Pence sought to explain the policy in meetings with South Korean Acting President Hwang Kyo-ahn and other top officials in Seoul at the start of the trip, which will also include stops in Japan, Indonesia and Australia. He will aim to reassure allies in South Korea and

Japan that the U.S. will take appropriate steps to defend them against North Korean aggression.

The concerns were exacerbated after a North Korean missile exploded during launch on Sunday, U.S. and South Korean officials said. The high-profile failure came as the North tried to showcase its nuclear and missile capabilities around the birth anniversary of the North’s late founder and as a U.S. aircraft carrier neared the Korean Peninsula.

The Trump administration is hoping that China will help rein in North Korea in exchange for other considerations. Last week, Trump said he would not declare China a currency manipulator, pulling back from

a campaign promise, as he looked for help from Beijing, which is the North’s dominant trade partner.

“Why would I call China a currency manipulator when they are working with us on the North Korean problem? We will see what happens!” Trump tweeted on Sunday.

Along with the deployment of the U.S. aircraft carrier and other vessels into waters off the Korean Peninsula, thousands of U.S. and South Korean troops, tanks and other weaponry were deployed last month in their biggest joint military exercises. That led North Korea to issue routine threats of attacks on its rivals if they show signs of aggression.

The White House foreign policy adviser traveling with Pence told reporters that the type of missile that North Korea tried to fire on Sunday was medium-range, and that it exploded about 4 to 5 seconds after it was launched.

The North regularly launches short-range missiles, but is also developing mid-range and long-range missiles meant to target U.S. troops in Asia and, eventually, the U.S. mainland.

North Korea has conducted five nuclear tests, including two last year. Recent satellite imagery suggests the country could conduct another underground nuclear test at any time. **AP**

■ ■
We want to see North Korea abandon its reckless path of the development of nuclear weapons.

MIKE PENCE
VICE PRESIDENT, USA

NORTH KOREA

Tensions spike, but Pyongyang barely notices

Tim Sullivan, Pyongyang

THE clouds of war, it might seem, are gathering around the Korean Peninsula.

The North Korean government flaunts an increasingly sophisticated arsenal of intercontinental missiles and launches a midrange version, which apparently fails seconds after takeoff. The U.S. moves an immense warship to the waters off the peninsula in a display of military might. President Donald Trump warns he's ready to "solve North Korea," while North Korea's deputy foreign minister says his country will conduct its next nuclear test whenever it sees fit.

And in Pyongyang, where war would mean untold horrors, where neighborhoods could be reduced to rubble and tens of thousands of civilians could be killed, few people seem to care much at all.

On Sunday, the city's zoo was



Soldiers salute as their national anthem is played during a military parade to celebrate the 105th birth anniversary of Kim Il Sung, in Pyongyang

crowded, playgrounds were full of children and families strolled along downtown sidewalks speckled with the falling blossoms of apricot trees. At the city's annual Kimilsungia flower show — held to celebrate Saturday's 105th anniversary of the birth of North Korea's founding ruler, Kim Il Sung, and the purple orchid named for him — thousands crowd-

ed around the displays, many using cellphones to take photos of friends and family.

In a country where the propaganda is all-encompassing, and where the same family has held power for three generations, every display mixed bright flowers with reminders of Kim Il Sung or the nation that his grandson, Kim Jong Un, now rules. So

there were dioramas of Kim Il Sung's birthplace, photos of him meeting foreign leaders, paintings of new housing developments — and models of missiles.

And there was Chong Ok An, a retiree pushing her way through the crowds with her family.

"We're not afraid," she said. "As long as we have Marshall Kim Jong Un we can win any fight."

Her response reflected the phrasing of North Korean propaganda, as well as the reality that every person here has heard talk of war for decades. The Kim family has entrenched its rule by portraying the country as being relentlessly under siege, leaving its people unable to distinguish between daily hyperbole and the reality of an increasingly tense situation.

The same unending hyperbole has affected South Koreans as well. They have heard North Korean warnings of their destruction for so long that the threats barely even register. While interest in North Korea spikes immediately after a missile launch, within hours internet search traffic is again dominated by TV comedy shows, taxes and real estate.

After the North's weekend birthday celebrations passed with no huge provocations like a nuclear test, people and the media in South Korea were more preoccupied Monday with domestic news such as the start of the official campaigning period for next month's presidential election and a popular singer and actor's wedding plans. Later Monday, South Korean prosecutors were expected to indict former President Park Geun-hye on corruption charges, providing for headline-grabbing news. **AP**

AD

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Filmmaker learns why she endured airport stops for years



Documentary filmmaker Laura Poitras poses for a portrait in New York (2014)

Deb Riechmann, Washington

LAURA Poitras' travel nightmare began more than a decade ago when the award-winning filmmaker started getting detained at airports every time she tried to set foot back in the United States.

She was stopped without explanation more than 50 times on foreign travel, and dozens more times on domestic trips, before the extra searches suddenly stopped in 2012. Only now is Poitras beginning to unravel the mystery, which goes back to a bloody day in Baghdad in 2004.

Time after time, airport authorities searched her baggage, rummaged through her electronics and quizzed her for hours about her trips.

In Germany, she was told her name lights up "like a Christmas tree" when security officials scan flight rosters. In Austria, she was told her threat score was "400 out of 400."

At John F. Kennedy International Airport in New York, her laptop, video camera, footage and cell phone were taken and held for 41 days. In Newark, New Jersey, a security officer threatened to handcuff her for taking notes with a ballpoint pen that he said could be used as a weapon.

"I asked for crayons because I thought that would be less

threatening to him as a weapon," recounted Poitras, whose 2014 documentary film, "Citizenfour," about the National Security Agency leaker Edward Snowden, won an Academy Award. "He denied me any kind of writing device."

Poitras, 53, knows U.S. government officials are not exactly fans of her politically sensitive work.

"Citizenfour" depicted Poitras and journalist Glenn Greenwald's rendezvous with Snowden in a Hong Kong hotel where he handed over classified material documenting NSA's widespread surveillance program. Her new film, "Risk," is about WikiLeaks founder Julian Assange.

Still, she never knew why the security delays started in 2006. She unsuccessfully sought answers from the Homeland Security Department. She finally took the government to court, filing a Freedom of Information Act lawsuit in 2015 with help from the Electronic Frontier Foundation, a civil liberties advocacy organization.

Late last year, as a result of the suit, the government released more than 1,000 pages of documents to Poitras, which she shared with The Associated Press. The documents show for the first time that the U.S. government investigated Poitras on suspicion she might have

been involved in an ambush that led to a U.S. soldier's death in Iraq in 2004.

On Nov. 20, 2004, Poitras was in Baghdad filming "My Country, My Country." The film depicts Iraqi elections from the perspective of an Iraqi doctor, who criticized the U.S. occupation yet hoped democracy would take root in his homeland.

Members of a U.S. Army National Guard unit from Oregon reported seeing a "white female" holding a camera on a rooftop just before they were attacked. David Roustum, 22, an Army National Guardsman from West Seneca, New York, was killed. Several troops were wounded. Some guardsmen who saw Poitras suspected she had a heads-up about the attack and didn't share that information with American forces because she wanted to film it. If true, Poitras would have broken U.S. criminal law.

■ Laura Poitras, 53, knows US government officials are not exactly fans of her politically sensitive work

Poitras called the allegation false and said she didn't film the attack.

"There is no ambush footage," Poitras told the AP. "That's the narrative that they created, but it doesn't correspond with any facts."

After the attack, a lieutenant colonel, whose name was redacted from documents, reported the woman with a camera to his superiors. No action was taken.

But after returning home, the lieutenant colonel was contacted by author John Bruning of Dallas, Oregon, who was interviewing guardsmen for a book about their experiences in Iraq. According to the government's documents, the author learned about the woman filming on the rooftop before the ambush.

In an email exchange on Jan. 15, 2006, Poitras confirmed to Bruning that she was filming in the area the day of the attack, but didn't think she could help the author with his research.

"I was staying in the house of an Iraqi family I was following so my record of the fighting is from the perspective of the family," Poitras wrote to Bruning. "I did not venture out onto the street that day — didn't seem like it would have been a good idea. So I really don't have a document of what took place on the streets."

Bruning told the lieutenant colonel that Poitras was the woman on the rooftop. The lieutenant colonel then informed the U.S. military that she could have been involved.

In February 2006, a military police agent from Fort Lewis, Washington, interviewed the lieutenant colonel and the author.

Bruning declined to speak to the AP about Poitras.

But in his sworn statement to military investigators, he said he believed Poitras had prior knowledge of the attack. He said Poitras was staying in a pro-Saddam Hussein neighborhood "and she was not in fear of her life or being kidnapped at a time when Western journalists were being abducted and executed."

Nevertheless, the Army Criminal Investigation Command at Fort Belvoir, Virginia, wrote a two-page letter shortly after to the FBI, saying the Army lacked sufficient evidence to charge Poitras.

It said: "A review by our legal staff of the information developed thus far revealed credible information does not presently exist to believe Ms. Poitras committed a criminal offense; however, this could quickly change if Ms. Poitras were to be interviewed and admitted she had knowledge of the ambush and refused to notify U.S. forces in order to further her documentary and media interest."

Poitras said she was never interviewed.

In May 2006, Army officials sent a summary of their investigation of Poitras to FBI headquarters in Washington.

The airport detentions and delays began shortly thereafter.

David Lapan, a Homeland Security Department spokesman, said other agencies control who is flagged as a high-risk traveler. When people are flagged, he said, authorities must "put them through enhanced screening procedures. This is the reason for Ms. Poitras' repeated referrals to secondary screening." The FBI, which had investigated Poitras, declined to comment.

The detentions stopped abruptly six years later after a 2012 news article highlighted her travel problems.

Lapan said Poitras was deemed no longer of "significant interest." That allowed Customs in June 2012 to "discontinue its enhanced screening procedures," he said.

Poitras worries her ordeal will resume.

She is seeking more information from the government. A federal judge in Washington ruled late last month the FBI hadn't provided adequate justification for withholding some information.

"I don't know if the investigation is ongoing," she said. "I don't know if it was ended or why it was ended." **AP**

TURKEY

Erdogan proves a popular and polarizing figure

Elena Becatoros & Zeynep Bilginsoy, Istanbul

RISING from humble origins to take the helm of Turkey's government in 2003, Recep Tayyip Erdogan quickly attracted a fervent following. But Erdogan, who served as prime minister and then president, also became feared and hated by many who saw him as an increasingly autocratic leader seeking to erode the country's secular traditions by imposing his conservative, religious views.

Constitutional changes that would change the country's system of government from parliamentary to presidential — and grant Erdogan even more authority — were narrowly approved by Turkey's voters yesterday [Macau time], according to unofficial results from the country's election commission.

The changes, one of the most

AP PHOTO



radical political reforms since the Turkish republic was established in 1923, could see the 63-year-old president remain in power until 2029.

The vote's outcome reinforced Erdogan's image as a figure both popular and polarizing. While thousands of flag-waving supporters cheered the referendum's

approval, political opponents immediately questioned the legitimacy of the balloting and said they intended to challenge a sizeable share of the count.

Erdogan served three consecutive terms as prime minister as head of his Islamic-rooted Justice and Development Party, before becoming Turkey's first directly

elected president in 2014.

Supporters found in him a man who gave a voice to the working- and middle-class religious Turks who long had felt marginalized by the country's Western-leaning elite.

He was seen to have ushered in a period of stability and economic prosperity, building roads, schools, hospitals and airports in previously neglected areas, transforming hitherto backwaters.

"He's a real leadership figure because he is not a politician that comes from the outside. He comes from the street," Birol Akgun, an international relations expert at Ankara's Yildirim Beyazit University, said. "He has 40 years of political experience and is very strong in practical terms."

But with each election win, Erdogan grew more powerful, and, his critics say, more authoritarian.

His election campaigns have been forceful and bitter, with Er-

dogan lashing out at his opponents, accusing them of endangering the country and even supporting terrorism. After surviving an attempted coup last July, Erdogan launched a wide-ranging crackdown on followers of his former ally, Islamic cleric Fethullah Gulen.

Erdogan blames Gulen, who lives in the United States, and his supporters for plotting the coup, an allegation Gulen has denied.

The crackdown saw roughly 100,000 people lose their jobs, including judges, lawyers, teachers, journalists, military officers and police. More than 40,000 people have been arrested and jailed, including pro-Kurdish lawmakers.

Hundreds of non-governmental organizations and news outlets have been shut down, as have many businesses, from schools to fertility clinics.

Erdogan has also blasted European countries, accusing authorities in the Netherlands and Germany of being Nazis for refusing to allow Turkish ministers to campaign for Sunday's referendum among expatriate voters.

His critics fear that if the "yes" vote prevails in the referendum, Erdogan will cement his grip on power within a system that has practically no room for checks and balances, opposition or dissent. **AP**

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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

LOVE OF MACAO - PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

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

TAK SENG ON PAWNSHOP

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

VENUE: No. 396 Avenida Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

SAILING FOR DREAMS - WORKS BY KWOK WOON

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No.1, Rua de S. Tiago da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

STRIP MALL! NUDE MODEL, PHOTOGRAPHER ARRESTED NEAR STORES

Police say a man was taking photos of a woman who was wearing only thigh-high black stockings and high heel shoes at a strip mall near Pittsburgh.

Monroeville police say 21-year-old Chelsea Guerra, of Indiana, was posing in front of businesses at Miracle Mile Shopping Center for 64-year-old Michael Warnock, of Pittsburgh, early last week.

Police say Warnock told them he hired Guerra after placing an ad for a nude model on Craigslist.

She was charged with indecent exposure. He was charged with criminal solicitation, criminal conspiracy, disorderly conduct and possession of controlled substances.

It's not known if they have lawyers. They face preliminary hearings on June 19.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeat)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Nos League: Braga - Porto (Repeated)
16:25	Revenge S1
17:10	Criminal Minds S.9
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sport (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:40	Once Upon A Time S2
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

13 APR - 19 APR



THE BOSS BABY

ROOM 1

(2D) 2:15, 4:00, 7:30pm

(3D) 5:45pm

Director: Tom McGrath

Starring: Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Jimmy Kimmel

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 97min

SWORD ART ONLINE THE MOVIE: ORDINAL SCALE

ROOM 1

9:30pm

Director: Tomohiko Ito

Starring: Ryan Bartley, Christine Marie Cabanos

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 119min

FAST & FURIOUS 8

ROOM 2

(2D) 2:15, 4:45, 9:45pm

(3D) 7:15pm

Director: F. Gary Gray

Starring: Vin Diesel, Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 136min

THE SMURFS: THE LOST VILLAGE

ROOM 3

2:15, 4:00, 5:45, 7:30pm

Director: Kelly Asbury

Starring: Demi Lovato, Rainn Wilson, Joe Manganiello

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 90min

A SILENT VOICE: THE MOVIE

ROOM 3

2:15, 7:15pm

Director: Naoko Yamada

Starring: Miyu Irino, Saori Hayami, Aoi Yuki

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 129min

MACAU TOWER

13 APR - 26 APR



FAST & FURIOUS 8

2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

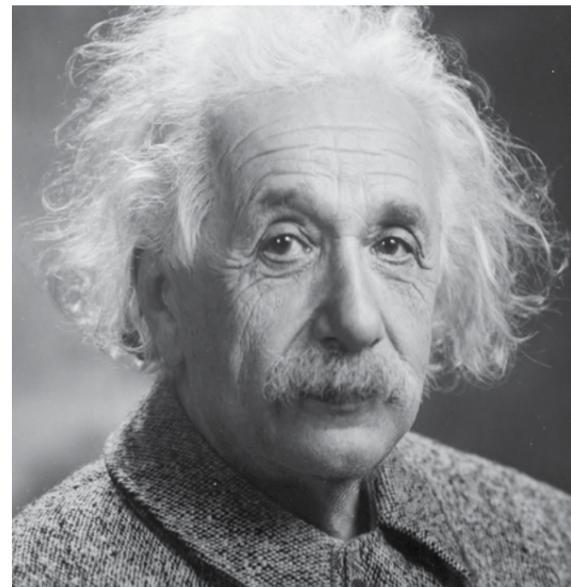
Director: F. Gary Gray

Starring: Vin Diesel, Jason Statham, Dwayne Johnson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 136min

this day in history



1955 ALBERT EINSTEIN DIES

Albert Einstein has died in hospital in Princeton, New Jersey, aged 76.

The eminent scientist and originator of the theory of relativity was admitted to hospital three days ago with an internal complaint.

In recent years Dr Einstein had lived a secluded life although he was still a member of staff at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University.

In a statement issued following the scientist's death, US President Dwight Eisenhower said: "No other man contributed so much to the vast expansion of the 20th century knowledge.

"Yet no other man was more modest in the possession of the power that is knowledge, more sure that power without wisdom is deadly.

"To all who live in the nuclear age, Albert Einstein exemplified the mighty creative ability of the individual in a free society."

Albert Einstein was born on 14 March 1879 to Jewish parents at Ulm, Wurttemberg in Germany.

Soon afterwards the family moved to Munich where the young Einstein began his education at the Luitpold Gymnasium.

His early academic career was notable only for the fact he was asked to leave his school for "disruptive" behaviour.

But he had always excelled at mathematics - a subject which would later make him the most renowned scientist in the world.

In 1896 Einstein entered the Swiss Federal Polytechnic School in Zurich to train as a physics and maths teacher.

But he struggled to get a job, largely due to the fact he was German, so, in 1902, he accepted a job as a technical assistant in the Swiss Patent Office.

It was during his seven years at the Patent Office that, in his spare time, he worked on his mathematical theories which would eventually take the world by storm.

The Special Theory of Relativity, which describes the motion of particles moving close to the speed of light, was published in 1905.

In the years that followed, Einstein took up senior academic posts in Berne and Zurich. In 1911 he became Professor of Theoretical Physics in Prague but returned to Zurich a year later.

However, well-known German physicists, Walter Nernst and Professor Planck, were eager for Einstein to return to Berlin.

In 1913 they persuaded him to take up the position of director of the projected research institute for physics in the University of Berlin and become a member of the Royal Prussian Academy of Science.

Einstein's General Theory of Relativity was published in 1916. In 1921 he was awarded the Nobel Prize for physics.

He kept the positions in Berlin until 1933, when he accepted a part-time post at Princeton University in America.

His plan was to divide his time between Germany and America but in the same year the Nazis came to power and Einstein, being a Jew, never returned to his birthland.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Albert Einstein's work laid the groundwork for many modern technologies including nuclear weapons and cosmic science.

After his death, Einstein's brain was removed and preserved for scientific research by Canadian scientists.

It was found that the part of Einstein's brain responsible for mathematical thought and the ability to think in terms of space and movement was 15% wider than average.

It also lacked a groove which normally runs through this region suggesting that the neurons were able to communicate.

In 1999 Albert Einstein was named "person of the century" by Time magazine.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Conveying your emotions to the people who have affected them...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Things in your life are loosening up, and you have a lot more wiggle room than you have had for a while...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you are worried about any aspect of your health, you need to act on these worries. Going online and researching your way into panic mode is not a wise use of your time...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It might seem like an obvious thing to remember, but it doesn't hurt to remind yourself about it one more time: Do not get involved with stuff that you are not sure about!

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your attitude about your physical self needs to change, and if it takes some research to help you find an answer, then you can find that answer today...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Don't hesitate to prioritize investigation over cooperation today - you are feeling much more intellectually curious than usual...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If you are diving into a new subject, book, job, task, project or relationship today, it doesn't matter how prepared you are. Just go deep and you'll navigate these waters, no problem!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Your magnetic personality is pulling people to you left and right today. At first, you'll love all of the attention - but as the day goes on, it might be tough getting comfortable with all of it.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If you want to be alone right now, then for goodness' sake be alone - you cannot be peer-pressured into being social. So tell friends to go on and have their fun without you, you'll be fine.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Moving from where you are in life to where you want to be in life is a lot easier than you think. Today, new energies are coming into your life and they are wiping the slate clean.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 If you are feeling a bit stuck in a rut at work right now, a new career is not what you need - what you really need is a new career attitude! To infuse your daily grind with more positive energy, pretend you're a newbie again.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If you feel unsure about what the next steps should be in a romantic or work relationship, look for signs that will indicate what the right path is today. They are there - you just need to see them.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Served perfectly; 5- ___ Ark; 10- Gilbert of "Roseanne"; 14- Alluring; 15- First name in cosmetics; 16- ___ arms (angry); 17- Arabian Sea gulf; 18- Great bargain; 19- The doctor ___; 20- Galileo's birthplace; 21- Patterns; 23- ___ Brooks, filmmaker responsible for "Blazing Saddles"; 25- Perceive; 26- Spanish Miss; 31- Redbreast; 35- Gone by; 36- Old-womanish; 38- They're taboo; 40- Wall St. institution; 42- Sphere; 44- Shout; 45- Imitating; 47- Trunk; 49- Sch. group; 50- Pick up the tab; 52- Footfall; 54- Hi-___; 56- Freight weight; 57- Be unsuitable; 62- Top-rated; 66- Swirl; 67- Rhino relative; 68- Worshipped one; 69- Z ___ zebra; 70- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 71- Actress Petty; 72- Summer shirts; 73- Souvenir; 74- Ladies of Spain; Abbr.;

DOWN: 1- Pronto!; 2- Basic monetary unit of Ghana; 3- Former spouses; 4- Electric generator; 5- Young bird; 6- Bone; Prefix; 7- Up and ___!; 8- Piles; 9- Monger; 10- Interview-wear; 11- Basilica area; 12- Journalist Jacob; 13- Abby's twin; 22- Long time; 24- Time to remember; 26- Capital of Yemen; 27- Exodus origin; 28- Polite refusal; 29- Slant; 30- Standoffish; 32- Son; 33- All thumbs; 34- Nick of "Cape Fear"; 37- Spanish river; 39- Smack; 41- Vane dir.; 43- Recondite; 46- Attire; 48- Siouan speaker; 51- Move unsteadily; 53- Slowpokes; 55- Fish covering; 57- Gds.; 58- Romeo's last words; 59- Dict. entries; 60- German auto; 61- Short skirt; 63- Aroma; 64- Asta's mistress; 65- Yale students; 66- Grab a bite;



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
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AD



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FOOTBALL

It's on: EPL title race heats up as Chelsea loses at United

Steve Douglas, Manchester

Atactical masterclass from Jose Mourinho ensured the path to the English Premier League title will no longer be a procession for his former club, Chelsea.

Only four points separate Chelsea and second-placed Tottenham with six games left after Manchester United's 2-0 win over the lackluster leaders opened up the title race early yesterday [Macau time]. At one stage four weeks ago after a 2-1 win over Stoke, Chelsea held a 13-point lead.

It was a signature win for Mourinho near the end of his first season at United. He detailed Ander Herrera and Matteo Darmian to man-mark Chelsea forwards Eden Hazard and Pedro Rodriguez, made the bold call to start Marcus Rashford ahead of top scorer Zlatan Ibrahimovic, and played two youngsters — Rashford and winger Jesse Lingard — up front in a surprise move.

The decisions paid off brilliantly, with Rashford and Herrera scoring the goals and being the star performers at Old Trafford. Chelsea didn't have a shot on target in a league game for the first time in nearly a decade. Hazard barely had a meaningful touch.

"I think it was almost perfect,"



Herrera said.

Chelsea might be starting to wobble. This loss came 15 days after a 2-1 home defeat to Crystal Palace, while Spurs have won seven straight league games — scoring 22 goals in the process.

Chelsea's only tough remaining game appears to be a trip to Everton on April 30, and it could hardly ask for four better fixtures to finish the season: Middlesbrough, West Bromwich Albion, Watford

and Sunderland.

Still, the pressure is certainly on the leaders now.

"We have to think that there are six finals from now until the end," Conte said. "The league is open and we have a 50 percent (chance) to win the league."

United was playing between two games against Anderlecht in the Europa League quarterfinals, with many pundits suggesting Mourinho's focus had switched

to earning Champions League qualification through winning the European competition.

Dropping Ibrahimovic — United's top scorer this season with 28 goals — was another sign of that, but Mourinho insisted he wasn't prioritizing.

United moved back into fifth place, four points behind fourth-placed Manchester City with a game in hand. The Manchester rivals meet at City's Etihad Stadium on April 27.

Liverpool, which beat West Bromwich Albion 1-0 away in Sunday's other game, is six points clear of United in third place but has played two more matches.

Here's a closer look at both games:

MANCHESTER UNITED 2, CHELSEA 0

Offering more mobility than Ibrahimovic, Rashford tormented Chelsea's defense all game and showed there is a bright future at United if the Swedish striker decides to end his stay at Old Trafford after just one year.

Rashford opened the scoring in the seventh minute when he ran onto Herrera's pass behind David Luiz and sent a shot bobbling past goalkeeper Asmir Begovic.

Herrera looked to have handled the ball in the build-up to that

goal but he wasn't penalized. And the midfielder made Chelsea pay even further when he drove in a shot that deflected off Kurt Zouma and span high into the net in the 49th.

Chelsea was without first-choice goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who was injured, and wing back Marcos Alonso pulled out of the game during the warm-up after suffering from a virus during the week.

Alonso's absence, in particular, unbalanced Chelsea, which put in its worst performance since a 3-0 loss to Arsenal in September that forced manager Antonio Conte into a season-defining switch to a 3-4-3 formation.

It was Chelsea's fifth league loss of the season and first to United in 13 matches dating to 2012. United's unbeaten run in the league extended to 22 games, the longest in Europe's top five leagues.

WEST BROMWICH ALBION 0, LIVERPOOL 1

Roberto Firmino scored Liverpool's winning goal for the second straight game as his team climbed back above Manchester City into third place.

Much of the pre-match buildup focused on Liverpool's issues in coping with set-pieces — a real strength of West Bromwich under Tony Pulis. There was a sense of irony that West Brom ended up getting undone in that department, with James Milner's free kick being flicked on by Lucas Leiva for Firmino to head home at the far post.

Liverpool dominated but needed goalkeeper Simon Mignolet to spread himself and block Matt Phillips's attempted chip in a late chance for West Brom. **AP**

ONE driver failed to start, the other could not finish, and neither has scored a point this season.

McLaren's miserable Formula One campaign went from bad to awful at the Bahrain Grand Prix.

So much, in fact, that two-time F1 champion Fernando Alonso was sarcastic about his team's glaring shortcomings and lack of speed after he returned to the garages shortly before the end of the race with yet another engine problem — even more humiliating considering his team had actually installed a new power unit the day before.

"The deficit in power and performance we had on the straights today was amazing," the Spaniard said, turning his anger into sarcastic humor.

His withering assessment continued as he described how a car that was far behind him — Frenchman Esteban Ocon's Force India — was

FORMULA ONE

McLaren's season gets even worse in Bahrain

able to surge past him on straight-line speed.

"Sometimes I looked in the mirrors at the beginning of the straights and saw the other cars 300, 400 meters behind, so I forgot completely about that car and started changing settings on the steering wheel and doing my own things," he said. "Then, the next thing I see is that car alongside me."

Alonso's best race finish last year was fifth, while former teammate Jenson Button's best was sixth. It was a difficult season then as McLaren struggled to adapt after switching back to Honda, the Japanese engine supplier with which it was once so successful.

But after retiring at the season-opening race in Australia and then in Chi-

na, Alonso feels the car is going backwards.

"[On Sunday] we never had the pace we had in Australia and China," Alonso said. "You don't enjoy the battle."

There was nothing to like for Alonso in Sunday's race, where he started from 15th on the grid and was back in the garage by the time Ferrari's Sebastian Vettel won the race to match Alonso's tally of three wins in Bahrain. The 35-year-old Alonso's last win in Bahrain was seven years ago with Ferrari.

While Vettel pulled clear at the front, Alonso became embroiled in overtaking battles and defensive moves with drivers who are not even close to matching his career achievements.

His frustration was evi-

dent in his prickly radio messages.

In one of them he said "[I have] never raced with less power in my life" and in another he replied "Do what you want, man" when his engineer suggested a back-up plan.

As things stand, Alonso is not close to getting another podium soon — let alone a 33rd career race win.

But at least he got on the track, which is more than his teammate Stoffel Vandoorne did.

"I'm sorry for Stoffel who has had so much bad luck all weekend," Alonso said.

Vandoorne was meant to start from 17th on the grid, two places behind Alonso, but never made it out of the pits.

"The team discovered a water-pressure issue on



Mercedes driver Valtteri Bottas of Finland, foreground, leads Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel of Germany, right, and Mercedes driver Lewis Hamilton of Britain in the first laps of the Bahrain Formula One Grand Prix

the way to the grid," said the Belgian driver, who is in his first full season after one F1 race as a stand-in for Alonso last year. "You do all the preparation work, put in so much effort. We drivers train a

lot to keep fit to be able to go racing, and then not being able to start is a shame. It's been an extremely difficult weekend for me, having two failures on Friday [in practice]." **AP**

opinion

World Views
 The Editors, Bloomberg

WEIRDLY, TRUMP'S RIGHT ON PRIVACY

On one issue, at least, President Donald Trump has united the country: More than 70 percent of the public - across political parties - oppose a bill he signed that rolls back rules protecting online privacy. Unfortunately, it's an issue on which Trump and the Republican Congress happen to be mostly right.

The rules in question, which hadn't yet come into effect, would have required broadband providers to ask customers' permission before collecting personal data for use in selling ads. That sounds sensible. In reality, it most likely would have raised prices for consumers without doing much to protect privacy. The public's support for these rules points to a central confusion about the \$83 billion market in digital advertising.

To begin with, it's an error to think that broadband carriers, as gateways to the internet, have a uniquely intrusive view of their customers' habits. Web companies such as Facebook Inc. often collect much more information about their users, yet the privacy rules didn't apply to them. Also, the growing use of encryption - such as the HTTPS protocol - means that much of the information flowing through a broadband company's pipes remains private. Anyway, individually identifiable customer information is broadly protected by law. Broadband carriers aren't selling personalized browsing histories; they're selling anonymous packs of data. It's pretty boring, really.

A different worry is that some carriers have a dominant market share, and their customers have no alternative if they disagree with a privacy policy. That's a reasonable concern. But if broadband suppliers can no longer profit from customer data - a growing revenue stream in recent years - they'll be much more likely to raise prices for standard services. In effect, the rules in question regarded privacy as more important than cheaper service. Many consumers may agree, but the choice should be theirs.

When asked if they're concerned about online privacy, consumers almost invariably say yes. But the vast popularity of services that collect their data and use it to sell ads - Google, Facebook and so on - suggests otherwise. Evidently users don't always understand the trade-offs they're making. The services are free, the privacy policies are confusing, and the data collection unfolds so smoothly that few people notice it.

The odd result is that the public happily supports this arrangement, while approving of regulation that would probably kill it.

The way to resolve this dilemma is to put a price on personal information, so that customers can choose more deliberately. AT&T Inc. tried this approach starting in 2013, allowing customers to opt out of certain kinds of data collection for \$30 a month. For its trouble, the company was ridiculed by activists, condemned by politicians and eventually gave up.

Actually, it was on the right track. Research suggests that people will pay for enhanced privacy protections, provided they trust that they're getting a good deal. Letting them do so might give broadband companies a new source of revenue while reducing the anxiety of their customers. It could enable more low-income people to get online. Perhaps most important, it would bring some much-needed transparency to the internet economy. And who could be opposed to that?

THE BUZZ THE NATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF ABU DHABI SEES LAYOFFS AFTER SALE

A state-backed newspaper in the United Arab Emirates that was bought by an Emirati who oversees the English soccer club Manchester City is undergoing layoffs.

Those with knowledge of the layoffs told The Associated Press that staffers at The National were informed this weekend they had been let go. They spoke to the AP on condition of anonymity for fear of repercussions.

International Media Investments, owned by Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan of Manchester City, bought The National in November from state-owned Abu Dhabi Media.

The English language paper was founded in 2008, staffed with top writers and editors from Western newspapers. The paper broke local stories, but largely stayed away from controversial topics in a country with strict laws governing speech.

FILM

'Fast and the Furious' on road to record global debut



Lindsey Bahr, Los Angeles

THE eighth installment in the "Fast and the Furious" is on the path to becoming the biggest worldwide debut of all time, besting both "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" and "Jurassic World."

Universal Pictures yesterday [Macau time] estimated that "The Fate of the Furious" would earn a record USD532.5 million worldwide over the holiday weekend, thanks to a particularly robust showing in 63 territories, including China.

If the figures hold, it will just inch past the previous record holder, "Star Wars: The Force Awakens" which launched to \$529 million in December of 2015 without China.

The film broke the record for biggest international weekend ever, with \$432.3 million. The previous record holder was "Jurassic World" with \$316.7 million.

"There is no market that hasn't had a strong reception," said Duncan Clark, Universal's president of international distribution. "Whatever culture, whatever language, whatever country, we seem to have found a home."

The China opening alone brought in a record \$190 million followed by \$17.8 million from Mexico and \$17 million from the U.K. and Ireland.

An estimated \$100.2 million of the global total comes from 4,310 Nor-

th American theaters - a second best for the franchise and enough to easily top the domestic charts, but well below the \$147.2 million opening of "Furious 7" in 2015.

"Furious 7" had a groundswell of additional interest due to the death of actor Paul Walker, who played cop turned street racer Brian O'Conner, a lead character in six of the films. He died in a car crash while the film was still in production.

For the studio, "Fast 8" stands on its own as being "an extraordinary result."

"Each one of these films has its own momentum," said Nick Carpou, Universal's president of domestic distribution. "There are factors from one film to the next that make them unique and certainly there were unique factors with 'Furious 7.'"

"The Fate of the Furious" has many of the returning stars like Vin Diesel, Dwayne Johnson, Michelle Rodriguez, Tyrese and Ludacris, but has added some new elements behind the camera in director F. Gary Gray and in front of the camera with Charlize Theron.

The \$100.2 million is slightly below analyst expectations for the film. Audiences were 58 percent male, 50 percent under the age of 25 and diverse (41 percent were Caucasian, 26 percent Hispanic and 19 percent African American).

The studio has not released an official production budget, but it is reported

to be in the pricey \$250 million range. However, an A Cinema Score from exit polls suggest that it will have sufficient staying power.

The "Fast and the Furious" is a global juggernaut for Universal Pictures, which plans two additional pictures. With the addition of "Fast 8," the franchise has earned an estimated \$4.4 billion globally.

"It is a franchise that has adapted and changed over the years and is as relevant in 2017 as it was in 2001," noted Paul Dergarabedian, the senior media analyst for comScore. "The 'Furious' franchise perfectly represents what that global audience is all about. They're poised perfectly for installments 9 and 10 to do very well. It's still firing on all cylinders."

The rest of the chart looked sleepy in comparison to the fresh fuel of "The Fate of the Furious." "The Boss Baby" took second with \$15.5 million, while "Beauty and the Beast" held on to third place with \$13.6 million.

"Beauty and the Beast" crossed the \$1 billion mark worldwide this weekend. Rounding out the top five were "Smurfs: The Lost Village" with \$6.5 million and "Going in Style" with \$6.4 million.

The summer movie season really kicks into high gear in a few weeks when "Guardians of the Galaxy Vol. 2" goes into orbit on May 5. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Ten people have died and five were injured when a bus veered off a highway and fell into a river in southern China. The Xinhua News Agency reported that four people went missing in the accident yesterday morning in Guizhou province. The state news agency says the 19-seat bus was travelling from Kaiyang county on the outskirts of the provincial capital to the Qiannan Bouyei-Miao Autonomous Prefecture when it went off a highway and into the river.



NEPAL A former Sherpa guide who was the first person to scale Mount Everest 10 times has been hospitalized after suffering a brain hemorrhage, an official said. Ang Rita (pictured) was rushed to a hospital in Kathmandu last week after he fell unconscious, said the Nepal Mountaineering Association. He was still in serious condition on yesterday, but his situation was improving.

SRI LANKA Rescuers were digging through heaps of mud and trash that collapsed onto a clutch of homes near a Sri Lankan garbage dump, killing at least 29 people.



TURKEY President Recep Tayyip Erdogan won a historic referendum that will greatly expand the powers of his office, although opposition parties questioned the outcome. **More on p15**

PORTUGAL A small plane crashed yesterday beside a supermarket near Lisbon, killing four people on board the aircraft and one on the ground. Four others were slightly injured, emergency services said. The dead included the Swiss pilot, three French passengers on the plane and a Portuguese truck driver