



GROUP SUES BEIJING IMPERIAL PALACE HOTEL

P2



AROUND 100K HELMETS EXPECTED TO BE BINNED

A committee voiced concerns about the disposal of around 100,000 helmets following new regulations

P7



HONG KONG RETAIL SALES RISE FOR 1ST TIME IN YEARS

Hong Kong retail sales posted a surprise gain, rising for the first time in two years as tourism from China rebounded

P9



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WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA - US The sister of President Donald Trump's son-in-law, Jared Kushner, has been courting Chinese investors using a much-criticized federal visa program that provides a path toward obtaining green cards.



SOUTH KOREA Creating jobs, ending corruption and boosting stubbornly low birthrates should be high on a to-do list for South Korea's next president after a campaign mostly dominated by security and foreign policy issues. There's concern that the economy will likely take a backseat to North Korea when South Koreans pick their next leader tomorrow.

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TIMES

China wields
power with
boycott
diplomacy

FRANCE

Macron defeats Le Pen to become president . P15



By-census: Average annual growth rate of Macau population surges . P3

Julie Zhu

TOURISM

Group sues Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel management

MORE than 12 people claiming to be victims of the closure of the Beijing Imperial Palace Hotel – formerly known as New Century Hotel – have filed a lawsuit against the Macau Hotel Developers Limited, as well as offshore company Victory Success Holdings Limited, which owns the hotel's titles.

The information was announced on Friday in a press conference organized by the victims. Wu Keng Kuong, president of the Travel Industry Council of Macau, said that legal proceedings have already commenced.

After a widely publicized ownership dispute, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) announced the temporary closure of the hotel in July 2016, based on "serious administrative irregularities, which constitute threats to public safety." The measures were supposed to be in force for a period of six months, but the hotel remains closed.

According to Wu, the victims consist of more than 20 organizations and individuals from the tourism industry, who pooled

their funds for the lawsuit. Some of these, he said, are "mainland businessmen who worked with the hotel to make the pre-sale hotel rooms."

The group wants the hotel to pay more than MOP99m in total

"We cannot contact the Macau Hotel Developers Limited nor the offshore company which is the hotel's title owner. Therefore, there is no other way for us to recover the losses but to resolve the issue by appealing," explained Wu.

Wu added that the group had previously reported and appealed to the Prosecution Office (MP) last September, following "suspicions of a deliberate fraud" occurring at the hotel, which violated the victims' rights. To date, no results have been announced.

"We hope that the government can give importance to what happened, in particular the victims' rights," said Wu.

The group reminded related managers, title representatives, the government, and potential investors to pay close attention to the lawsuit in order to avoid unnecessary financial losses or similar legal entanglements.

The group is represented by lawyer Chan Wa Keong and expects a payout of more than MOP99 million, which they feel should be "returned to the victims in view of the hotel's unfulfilled contracts."

According to Wong, the convenor of the lawsuit, the sum covers compensation for payments the group had previously made to the hotel, as well as for breach of contract.

The group also appealed to the court to invalidate a transfer deed signed by the hotel.

Wong said that a few victims



Wong (third from left) and Wu (middle)



The hotel's façade

had not joined the group but are seeking redress in other ways.

"The Macao Government Tourism Office thought this was a commercial dispute, whereby we

appealed to the Prosecution Office. However, until today, we have not received any reply," said Wong about the government's stance on the dispute.

VIP ROOM INVESTORS ACCUSE HOTEL

ON THE sidelines of a press conference yesterday, around eight private investors claimed to have lost money when the hotel closed. These individuals had invested money in seven to eight VIP rooms of the hotel's Greek Mythology Ca-

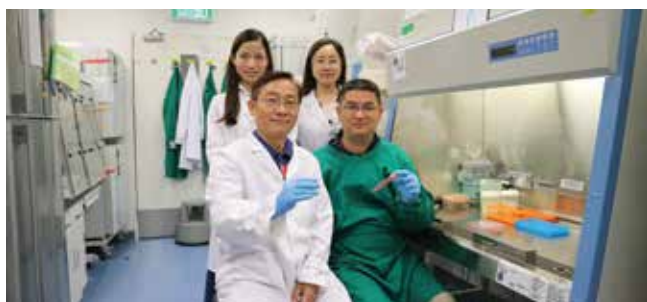
sino, which operated under an SJM Holdings license. A middle-aged woman surnamed Zhang revealed that when the hotel closed, more than hundreds of millions of Hong Kong dollars' worth of deposits in the VIP rooms also disappeared.

SCIENCE

UM researchers develop new technology for stem cell storage

THE University of Macau (UM) Faculty of Health Sciences (FHS) has developed a technology that enables the storage of stem cells at room temperature for at least seven days without the loss of viability or biological activities. According to a statement issued by UM, this new technology does not rely on the traditional cryopreservation method which requires costly equipment and tedious cryopreservation procedures, thus enabling cell storage and transport under ambient conditions.

Under professor Ren-He



UM researchers have developed a new technology for cell storage and transport

Xu's supervision, doctoral student Jiang Bin and postdoctoral researcher Yan Li, both from the FHS, engaged in the research study titled 'Spheroidal Formation Preserves Human Stem Cells for Pro-

longed Environment under Ambient Conditions for Facile Storage and Transportation'. Together with the participation of Chris Wong Koon Ho, an assistant professor at the FHS, they successfully de-

veloped the new technology. The related paper has been published in "Biomaterials," a renowned international journal in the field of biological materials.

The study found that preparing human mesenchymal stem cells (hMSC) to form spheroids with the hanging-drop or other methods, can reduce the cell metabolism and increase cell viability. Stored in a sealed vessel filled with regular culture medium, under ambient conditions without oxygen supply, the viability of hMSC in spheroids remain-

ned over 90 percent even after 11 days. This method is also applicable to higher pluripotent human embryonic stem cells.

Stem cells are found in various locations of the body such as bone marrow, blood, brain, spinal cord, skin, and corneal limbus. They are responsible for regenerating and repairing damaged tissues and organs in the body. Transplantation of stem cells can restore damaged tissues and organs to their original functions. For this reason, stem cells have significant clinical value. However, they require strict culturing and storage conditions. Extended exposure (over 24 to 48 hours) to unfavorable temperature, humidity, or levels of oxygen and carbon dioxide will cause the cells to gradually lose their functions and viability.

Currently, long-distance cell transport mainly relies on the costly method of cryopreservation. For short-distance transport, cells can be prepared in suspension or adherent culture, but the number of cells that can be transported via this method is limited. Moreover, cell viability decreases dramatically after transport for 48 hours under ambient conditions.

The UM claims that the new technology developed by its researchers can overcome the above limitations. "With this technology, a sufficient dose of stem cells that are being transported can be used in patients without the need to freeze stem cells before transport and to thaw, revive, and proliferate the transported stem cells," a statement from the institution reads.

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By-census shows an aging population

THE detailed results of the 2016 population by-census show accelerated population growth, coupled with continuous population aging over the past five years.

According to data released on Saturday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the population of Macau totaled 650,834 in August 2016, up 17.8 percent from 552,503 in the 2011 Population Census. The bureau attributes these results to a surge in non-resident workers living in Macau and a rebound in birth rate.

The data indicates that the average annual growth rate of the local population between 2011 and 2016 reached 3.3 percent, the highest in 20 years. Local population, excluding non-resident workers and foreign stu-

dents living in Macau, totaled 537,018, an increase of 10.7 percent compared to 2011.

The results also showed that the MSAR population continued to age. The elderly population aged 65 and above increased to 59,383, a substantial growth from 48.6 percent five years ago; this in turn accounted for 9.1 percent of the total population, up by 1.9 percentage points.

Moreover, the percentage share of elderly population to the youth population – namely, those under the age of 14 – rose by 15.6 percentage points to 76.3 percent. On the other hand, population aged between 55 and 64 took up 13.5 percent (87,583) of the total. The pace of population aging is expected to accelerate further in the next decade.

Macau's female population was found to outnumber their

male counterparts; the by-census recorded 336,816 females and 314,018 males, accounting for 51.8 percent and 48.2 percent of the total, respectively. For every 100 females, there are now 93.2 males. In terms of the local population – those born in Macau – the gender ratio dropped from 92.7 five years ago to 90.2.

The number of households totaled 188,723, an increase of 10.5 percent compared to five years ago. The average household size was 3.07 persons, a slight decrease from 3.08 in 2011. Analyzed by household size, three-person households accounted for 24.5 percent of the total households, up by 1.3 percentage points from five years earlier. On the other hand, the proportion of four-person households fell by 1.6 percentage points to 21.4 percent.

Households living in owner-occupied units (property belonging to members of the household) totaled 124,126, accounting for 66.2 percent of

total households, down by 4.6 percentage points as compared with 2011.

According to DSEC, the proportion of tenant households rose by 1.3 percentage points from five years ago to 25.8 percent (48,481). The bureau attributes this to more people moving into social housing, as well as a recent surge of non-resident workers living in Macau.

■ The average annual growth rate of the local population between 2011 and 2016 reached 3.3 percent

People who completed tertiary education comprised 23.1 percent of the population aged 3 and above, up by 6.4 percentage points compared to five years ago. 50.7 percent of the population completed junior secondary education or lower, representing a drop of 6.5 percentage points.

The 2016 Population By-census was completed last August and the preliminary results were released at the end of 2016.

Increasing population density

THE population density of Macau was 21,340 people per square kilometer, up by 15.5 percent from 18,478 five years ago. Areia Preta and Iao Hon remained the most densely populated districts, with 170,953 people per square kilometer, followed by Doca do Lamau with 146,857 people per square kilometer.

Areia Preta and Iao Hon remained the most populated statistical districts, accounting for 11.8% of the total population.

The population in Coloane Island surged by 530.9 percent from five years ago to 26,889, as more people moved into public housing units on the island. Meanwhile, the populations in Pac On, Taipa Grande and Universidade & Baia de Pac On soared by 126.7 percent and 99.2 percent, respectively. This was due to an increase in the number of tertiary education students moving into dormitories.

AGE AT FIRST MARRIAGE RISES

UNMARRIED PERSONS accounted for 29.9 percent of the population aged 16 and above, an increase of 0.7 percentage points compared to five years ago. Married persons comprised 63.2 percent, down by 0.8 percentage points. The average age at first marriage rose continuously from 29 in 2011 to 29.5 in 2016. Other data indicates that households with motor vehicles (motor-

cycles or automobiles) rose by 13.1 percent from five years ago to 105,993. Households with multiple vehicles became more common; those owning three or more motor vehicles totaled 21,212, a substantial increase of 28.9 percent compared to five years ago. Meanwhile, households which owned only one motor vehicle totaled 49,824, up by 6.8 percent.



AirAsia to operate Macau-Jakarta flights

AirAsia Indonesia will operate thrice-weekly direct flights from Jakarta to Macau effective August 7. Starting September 1, it will increase the number of weekly flights to four. "The growing number of Chinese and Indian tourists coming to Indonesia boosts our spirit to launch the new routes," said Dendy Kurniawan, AirAsia Group CEO for Indonesia, last week. AirAsia's Macau-Jakarta route is not the first of its kind in the SAR. Low-cost carrier Viva Macau operated flights to Jakarta, among other destinations, before filing for bankruptcy.

CTM compensates customers

Following the partial Internet blackout that occurred last month, CTM announced a once-off 15 percent discount on Internet monthly service charge "for potential affected Internet customers served by BRAS21 and BRAS22 internet servers on 18 April." According to the local telecom operator, the relevant customers will be automatically entitled to the discount on the Internet monthly service charge of April, the discounted amount will be shown in the customers' June service bill.

Foreign Correspondents' Club head to give talk in Macau

The Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) will host a talk by Eric Wishart, president of the Foreign Correspondents' Club, Hong Kong, on "News Judgment, Fact-Checking and Fake News." The event will take place on Friday at the Military Club. Wishart is a member of the global news management of Agence France-Presse. He began his career in the 1970s as a reporter in Scottish newspapers and joined AFP in Paris, 1984. Since then, he has been head of AFP's Middle East English service (Nicosia, 1992-1996), Asia-Pacific editor (Hong Kong, 1996-1999), global editor-in-chief (Paris, 1999-2005) and Asia-Pacific director (2005-2012). He lectures part-time at Hong Kong Baptist University.

Renato Marques

NON-PERMANENT resident Simon Lam was stopped by the Public Security Police Force (PSP) at the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal on May 1 and reportedly given two days to exit the territory, according to media reports last week.

In an email response to the Times, the PSP said Lam is “not a resident of Macau, and he is [suspected] of violating the Macau law. Therefore, the PSP led the proceedings strictly in accordance with the law.”

The PSP stated that it “fulfills the duty of inspection and control of the entries and exits of the MSAR, in strict accordance with the law and with the procedures established to examine the conditions of entry and exit of all people, and in this way, decide to authorize or refuse entry and exit of visitors.”

The statement did not reveal why Lam was stopped at the immigration checkpoint in the first place, nor did it explain the subsequent investigation.

While the PSP confirmed that Lam’s resident visa had been revoked on the same day, they did not specify whe-

PSP says act of force “strictly in accordance with the law”

ther it had been revoked prior to the incident.

According to Lam, the case is related to his quarrel with a taxi driver on December 18, 2016 near the Hotel Okura in Taipa. A letter from the PSP to Lam stated that the taxi driver had sustained physical injuries after “the suspect [Lam] supposedly took the victim’s blue cap for no apparent reason and used his right hand to press the victim’s left eye.”

“Considering the fact that these behaviors have already caused threats to the local region’s public security and order, the head of the Macau immigration department signed a notice on May 1 to terminate the suspect’s residency permit, [and] ordered him to leave Macau before May 3,” it added.

“If the suspect violates the aforementioned ruling, he will be regarded as illegally overstaying and will be expelled,” the letter concluded.

Lam did not sign the letter as it was written in Chinese and he is not proficient in the language. However, he has stated that the contents of the letter are false, and that he was the victim of the assault by the taxi driver. Lam added that he had pressed charges against the driver. According to Lam, the quarrel started “because he refused the ride, I refused to exit the car. He dragged me out and hit me.”

He added that the incident had been witnessed by the security of Galaxy Macau and recorded by surveillance cameras.

“My friends all saw the incident. We all gave statements on that day,” he said.

At the time of the incident, Lam was waiting for the renewal of his visa, which had expired on November 2016.

Lam told TDM he feared that the decision to reject his visa renewal application was based on false information.




Simon Lam

AD



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Located in an up-and-coming neighborhood with proximity to diverse grocery and dining options. Clubhouse facilities include gym, sauna, pool,



Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)
4,003sq. ft. HKD200,000

The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities including a food & beverage

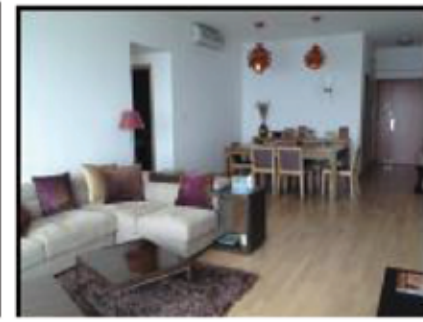


Va Fat, Taipa

(Ref: 17040648)
765sq. ft. HKD 11,800

Well appointment two bedroom apartment in Old Taipa. Two good size bedrooms, one shower room. Open plan modern kitchen.

Living area with a mix of modern Chinese furniture. Newly furnished. Available from Mid May 2017.



Macau, One Central Residences

(Ref: 16050589)
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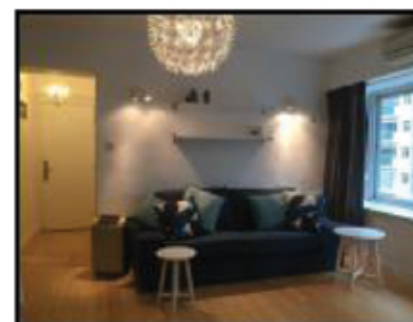
Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 16120629)
2,000sq. ft. HKD 20,500
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.



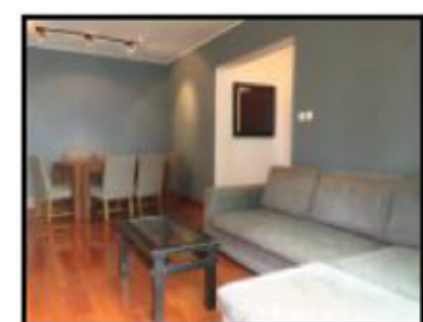
Camellia Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(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.



Jardim Lameiras Taipa

(Ref: 17030643)
720sq. ft. HKD 12,800
Modern two bedroom apartment recently decorated throughout. Two double size bedrooms with built-in 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 Cotai with shops, cafes, banks close by as well as a bus stop below.



Kingsville, Taipa (I 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, polished floors, air conditioners serviced and deep cleaned

For Sale



Hellene Gardens, Lot IV, Unit B, Carnation Court, Coloane

(Ref: 17025509)
1,663sq. ft. HKD9.2M
Rate: HKD5,532sq ft

Located in the clean, beautiful environment of Coloane, this rarely available 3 bedroom, 2 bath apartment has incredible sea views from the living room and master bedroom and green mountain views from all other rooms. Fully furnished with modern bathrooms and kitchen, new balcony construction with high quality heavy storm doors. Three bedrooms all have custom bamboo window blinds. Modern appliances include large stainless steel refrigerator, Siemens dishwasher, washer, dryer and newly installed Mitsubishi Heavy Industries air con units with inverter heat in the living room. Includes one car park space.

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 16095497)
1,503sq. ft. HKD 11.20M
Rate: HKD7,451sq ft

Very nice 3 bedroom + Maids room apartment in the Ocean Gardens complex, Taipa. This building continues to be one of the premier buildings in Taipa, and is much sought after by both locals and ex-pats. The apartment offers easy access to shops, taxis and the Cotai strip in a popular complex where property is in high demand. The building has a supermarket as well as multiple shops, and a well presented modern lobby area. The current tenants are leaving the apartment during the month of October, and viewings are available from November onward. An accompanying Car Park is also for sale, and may be purchased together with the property.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



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.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

(Ref: 17035513)
1,800sq. ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 6,3882q 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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CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

Sands China partners WWF for environmental initiatives

Lynzy Valles

SANDS China and World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF) have joined forces to reduce environmental impact, launching WWF's Earth Hour "Just One" Hotels Programme this June as part of a three-year partnership.

At a press conference last week in Sands Cotai Central, the organizations said the program will enable guests to play a part in tackling climate change.

Guests have the option to add USD1 to their bill for every night spent at The Venetian Macao and The Parisian Macao.

The collected funds from the 6,000 guest rooms will go toward supporting two initiatives: the "WWF-China Biomass Fuel Stove Project" and WWF's Earth House "Just One" Hotels Program, which aims to raise regional awareness of environmental sustainability through the distribution of "Earth Hour Home LED Kits".

The "WWF-China Biomass Fuel Stove Project" will impact at least 1,000 families in several



mainland Chinese villages, where coal is the primary source of fuel for cooking.

"It's a question of identifying projects that are climate related and identifying a project where we'll see direct tangible impact with a certain timeframe," Sudhanshu Sarronwala, executive director of Communications & Marketing of WWF International, told the Times.

This project, under Sands ECO360°, was nearly three years in development.

According to Sarronwala, both parties had to complete significant due diligence to understand the needs of, and how to work with, the local community.

As the majority of Macau's hotel guests hail from mainland China, Sands China and WWF emphasized the importance of Sands China properties in providing a platform for guests to help combat climate change at home.

Sarronwala explained that the initiative would play a vital role in "putting an end to the smog and haze resulting from field and burning in Jilin province's corn belt, by promoting corn stalk as a viable biomass energy source and encouraging local communities to use biomass fuel stoves."

He added that Sands China's large-scale hotels would serve as a useful platform for such environmental efforts.

"This kind of scale – you can only get it in Macau with one or two properties. Because you don't have many 3,000 room hotels in the world [and] it happens to be here," he added.

Meanwhile, WWF's Earth House "Just One" Hotels Program will deliver some 5,000 "Earth House Home LED Kits" to several local schools for distribution to students and parents.

Each kit includes relevant information for families to switch to energy-efficient lighting and for participation in Earth Hour.

The kit also includes energy-efficient LED light bulbs, an Earth Hour t-shirt, a card kit and a reusable cloth bag.

WWF's partnership with Sands China marks the debut of the "Just One" Hotels Program in Greater China. Organizers expressed their hopes that the program would raise citizens' awareness of environmental initiatives.

"We're hoping that the program's concept is a concept that guests really get connected with and understand where the money is going," Sarronwala concluded.

Former DSAT official's sentence reduced

The former head of the Division of Transport Management Department of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lou Ngai Wa, has been sentenced to 15 months of imprisonment, a sentence three months shorter than the one read last year by the Court of First Instance (TJB). The court also dropped two charges against Lou regarding counterfeit property declaration. In 2015, the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) found Lou to have received MOP16 million in bribes for helping three companies to obtain parking lot management contracts from the government between 2012 and 2015.

Traffickers arrested in police operation

The Judiciary Police arrested two mainland women suspected of involvement in a human trafficking network, according to an announcement by the Unitary Police Service. The women were charged with operating an illegal hotel. Last Thursday, Hong Kong, Macau and Guangdong police forces organized a joint operation to combat crime. Approximately 193 Macau police officers were deployed to inspect casinos, bars and other venues during the operation. 790 people were reviewed, of which 95 were taken to the police station for further investigations.

Human traffic index at tourist spots suggested

Li Nong, chief of the marketing office of 12301 Smart Travel Public Services Platform of China, has suggested that Macau should use modern technology to provide tourists with information about human traffic at popular tourist spots. Li put forth a number of possible solutions, such as the use of WeChat to provide updates on human traffic at specific times and locations. He also suggested using red, yellow, and green colors to indicate each location's carrying capacity. He also suggested that Macau create new alternatives for the city's tourist spots, especially those with historical landmarks.

Around 100k helmets expected to be binned

HONG Wai Tong, a member of the Northern District Advisory Committee for Community Services, has voiced concerns about the disposal of approximately 100,000 motorbike helmets following new regulations.

According to a report by Macao Daily News, Hong said that when the city's new helmet safety law comes into effect on May 13, motorbike

owners will dispose of around 100,000 non-regulation helmets.

Hong said that it will be difficult to recycle these helmets despite their uncomplicated structures.

He pointed out that the government has yet to devise a solution for eco-friendly helmet disposal, which also puts pressure on the recycling industry.

Drivers who fail to

comply with the new rules will be fined MOP 600. One technician from DSAT has suggested that the public refrain from using helmets with labels that are easily damaged.

Until the end of April, the Transport Bureau received 501 applications from drivers seeking approval to use helmets of their choice. Of these, 306 have been approved.

BLOOMBERG



EDUCATION

Committee pushes for courses abroad

THE Talents Development Committee (CDT) continues to push forward with the previously announced "UNESCO Internship Program".

The information accompanies a statement from CDT that acknowledges the outcomes achieved in preparing such works.

CDT recently gathered to discuss these developments and present new opportunities that include internships for individuals such as qualified aerospace staff, and management staff for com-

panies and highly qualified bilingual staff (Chinese and Portuguese).

Wu Zhiliang, presiding over the Committee meeting noted that from June onwards, the Committee would implement several training programs for qualified staff in the above fields. The Committee will implement a Financial Support Program for those seeking to participate in the "The Lisbon MBA" Course, jointly organized by Universidade Nova de Lisboa (UNL), Universidade Católica Portuguesa

(UCP) and Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT).

Beneficiaries of the course may choose between opportunities in either Portugal or the United States.

Regarding the training of Sino-Portuguese (bilingual) staff, CDT informed that it would also implement a Financial Support Program that aims to attract students to participate in a Master's degree in translation and interpretation at the University of Coimbra, Portugal.

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Asian development lender takes stock as US policy shifts



Japanese Finance Minister Taro Aso (front row, center), Asian Development Bank President Takehiko Nakao (front row, third right), and members of the ADB board of governors

ACCELERATING growth in Southeast and South Asia can help make up for slowing momentum in China but it requires smart investments in infrastructure and technology, the president of the Asian Development Bank said Saturday as the regional lender started a meeting of its board of governors.

ADB President Takehiko Nakao and other leaders of the regional lender said investments should concentrate on high-

quality projects and technology should be made available to all as countries stretch to make up for shortfalls in needed spending, they said.

Nakao said he was optimistic about the outlook for Asia, which contributes about half of world economic growth. Overall growth is forecast at 5.7 percent in 2017 and economies in India, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Vietnam are gaining momentum.

The unstated backdrop to the meeting is Japan's continued strong role in the ADB at a time when the administration of U.S. President Donald Trump has adopted an "America first" stance and China is pushing ahead with its own infrastructure initiatives.

Opening the meeting in the port city of Yokohama, Finance Minister Taro Aso said Japan, the biggest donor to the ADB, would contribute \$40 million to a fund promote use of high technology.

Aso said that as the Manila, Philippines-based ADB marks its 50th year it should adopt a "strong strategy" to ensure it remains a "highly relevant institution at a time when needs for investment in infrastructure such as power generation, sanitation, roads and ports are growing in both "quantity and quality."

The ADB estimates more than \$26 trillion is needed for ports, power, water and other infrastructure in the region by 2030, or over \$1.7 trillion a year. The current level of spending is below \$900 billion.

Aso said the regional lender

should generally prioritize poorer countries in allocating its financing while helping "upper middle income" countries with expertise in such areas as environmental protection.

Aso welcomed moves to reform purchasing procedures to "put more emphasis on quality." "I encourage the bank to continue to move in this direction," he said.

The policy shift under Trump is raising questions over the strength of the U.S. commitment to multilateral organizations like the ADB, raising questions about how to increase financing and make it as effective as possible.

Nakao, the ADB president, said the lender was working to find ways to streamline its operations and deepen collaboration with local governments and the private sector. Co-financing with other banks, including the China-backed Asia Infrastructure Investment Bank, and with the private sector has become an increasingly important source of support, involving \$13.9 billion of the total \$31.7 billion in funds allocated last year by the bank. **AP**

Jakarta seeks reparation for Thai firm's oil spill

THE Indonesian government is seeking USD2 billion in compensation from Thailand's state oil company and its Australian unit for an oil spill in the Timor Sea nearly eight years ago, an official said Friday.

Deputy Coordinating Minister of Maritime Affairs Arif Havas Oegroseno said the lawsuit was registered last week at the Central Jakarta District Court against Petroleum Authority of Thailand Public Co. and its related companies PTTEP Australasia and Petroleum Authority of Thailand Exploration and Production Public Co. Ltd.

More than 400 barrels of oil a day flowed from the Montara well into the Timor Sea and stained the coasts of Indonesia and East Timor before mud pumped through a relief well shut off the deep-water spigot 11 weeks later.

Oegroseno described the civil lawsuit as "an effort to seek justice." He told a news conference that the demand for compensation includes \$1.725 billion for environmental damage and \$330 million for restoration work. He added that the environmental damage included 1,200 hectares of mangroves, 1,400 hectares of seagrass and 700 hectares of corals. **AP**

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:

Who is the creator of Thriller Live show?

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thriller@macaudailytimes.com

Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets - Giveaway

Four sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us the correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for four days (Monday to Thursday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP480 for a total prize value of MOP3,840. Shows tickets (show session: May 17, 8pm) will be offered.

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

THRILLER LIVE, a stunning theatrical concert that commemorates one of the world's greatest ever entertainers Michael Jackson, made a triumphant return at The Parisian Theatre from April 28 – September 3, 2017. The show is the 15th longest running musical in West End history and will perform at a limited season. Theatrical producer and THRILLER LIVE creator Adrian Grant said that he and his team were excited to be back after the great response the show received back in 2016.

"It's wonderful the show was so successful here first time around, and that the love for Michael Jackson means we can come back to Macao. We are honoured to be able to perform at The Parisian Theatre again, this time with a show that focuses on Michael's hits from 1983

onwards.

"The cast still perform the medley of Jackson 5 hits which is important as we tell the story of Michael's career through his music. And while there are no song changes, we do have some new cast members, including singers and dancers, who I know the audiences will just love." THRILLER LIVE features Jackson's timeless songs and signature dance moves, has been performed close to 5,500 times and seen by more than four million people in over 30 countries. Direct from London's West End where it is now in its eighth year, it is a 90-minute, high-energy explosion of pop, rock, soul and disco that takes the audience on a magical audio-visual journey through Michael Jackson's astonishing 45-year musical legacy. As well as experiencing his

legendary live performance and innovative dance routines, fans can expect to hear their favourite Jackson songs perfectly rendered by the exceptionally talented cast, including I Want You Back, ABC, Man in the Mirror, Black Or White, The Way You Make Me Feel, Smooth Criminal, Beat It, Billie Jean, Dirty Diana, Bad, They Don't Care About Us, Dangerous, Thriller and many more.

Leading the talented team are theatrical producer and THRILLER LIVE creator Adrian Grant, performers Rory Taylor, Britt Quentin, Sean Christopher and Shaquille Hemmans.

Tickets for THRILLER LIVE, which runs from April 28 – September 3, 2017 at The Parisian Theatre, are still available via Cotai Ticketing. Tickets are priced from HKD/MOP 180-480, and can be booked online now at www.cotaiticketing.com or by phone at +853 2882 8818 (Macao) / +852 6333 6660 (Hong Kong) / 4001 206 618 (mainland China).



HK retail sales rise, ending two-year streak of declines

Lisa Pham

HONG Kong retail sales posted a surprise gain, rising for the first time in two years as tourism from China rebounded.

Retail sales by value gained 3.1 percent in March from a year earlier, the statistics department said Friday. That compared with a median estimate for a 0.9 percent decline projected by economists in a Bloomberg survey. Retail sales volume climbed 2.7 percent, rising for the first time since July 2015 and defying forecasts for a 1 percent decline.

"Retail sales resumed moderate year-on-year growth in March," the government said in a statement. "This reflected partly the continued recovery of visitor arrivals and partly the robust local consumption demand."

Mainland Chinese arrivals to Hong Kong rose 10.4 percent in March from a year earlier, the most since February 2015, tourism board data show. Even so, a recovery in mainland spending in

the city has lagged that of Macau, where casino revenue rose for a ninth straight month in April as visitors flocked to the only Chinese territory where gambling is legal.

■ Mainland Chinese arrivals to Hong Kong rose 10.4 percent in March from a year earlier

"China continues to be a major challenge," said Kevin Lai, an economist at Daiwa Capital Markets in Hong Kong. "The dollar is still too strong. Hong Kong isn't that attractive as a tourist destination. We may get some additional tourists from other countries, but I'm not that positive. We're not talking about a big recovery." **Bloomberg**

Toronto airport said worth USD3.7b

CANADA is considering the sale of at least a minority stake in Toronto Pearson International Airport that values the country's busiest airport at about C\$5 billion (USD3.7 billion), according to people familiar with the matter.

The stake sale, just one of many options laid out in a report to government prepared by Credit Suisse Group AG, would free up billions of dollars for new infrastructure projects, the people said, asking not to be identified because the matter is private.

A federal advisory panel recommended last year the government look at selling its airports, and the C.D. Howe Institute estimates privatization of the country's eight major airports could rake in between C\$7 billion and C\$17 billion, with Pearson alone fetching as much as C\$6 billion. Selling the airports would cut costs for travelers and create opportunities for more shops and services, the non-partisan research

institute said.

"The subject is still being studied and no decision has been taken," Marc Roy, a spokesman for Transport Minister Marc Garneau, one of the lawmakers overseeing the consideration of privatization. "We won't comment on any rumors." The government has so far declined to release the Credit Suisse report.

Selling slightly less than half of Pearson would be the easiest of several scenarios Credit Suisse presented to Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's government in a report last year, according to the people. That scenario would allow the government to retain control of the airport while raising billions for other projects.

Sam Pollock, the head of Brookfield Asset Management Inc.'s infrastructure group, has said there would be a "feeding frenzy" among institutional investors if airports were put up for sale. **Bloomberg**

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There are few things that are more important to our future than understanding that the actions we take now will create the society and environment of tomorrow. Even through taking small positive steps in our lives, gradually over time, they lead up to big impact.

At MGM we recognize the important role we can play as responsible corporate citizens in reducing our operational impacts on the environment and engaging our team members in creating a greener and more sustainable Macau. During March and April, MGM rolled out its Go Green Campaign, a host of fun, educational and interactive initiatives aimed at engaging our team in environmental protection.

The Campaign focused on the following three themes.

Protecting our natural environment



Did you know that by 2050, it's expected that there will be more plastic in the ocean than fish? On March 21, MGM's onsite team of aquarists held a special talk for employees on the issues related to water pollution and the need to protect our marine environment. To put talk into action, on March 30, thirty-seven of MGM's Volunteer Team went to the beach at Sai Van Bridge for a beach cleaning activity in collaboration with IACM.

On March 23, MGM also participated in a tree maintenance program organized by IACM at Hác-Sá Reservoir Country Park to help preserve Macau's green spaces under the guidance of IACM's tree specialists. On March 24, MGM's Volunteer Team participated in IACM's mangrove planting program and awareness raising exercise to mark the importance of Macau's mangroves which are vital to Macau's ecosystem biodiversity and coastal protection.



Raising awareness of climate change

On March 25, from 8:30am to 9:30pm, MGM once again joined Earth Hour 2017, the global effort to raise awareness of climate change and environmental protection. We joined together with 17 of MGM Resorts International properties in honor of this global conservation effort by dimming the property's exterior lighting, with all treatment rooms at Tria Spa powering off and illuminating treatment rooms with ambient candles.

To support low carbon living and raise awareness that our day-to-day actions can have an impact on the environment and contribute to climate change, MGM MACAU officially launched Green Monday in the employee dining room on March 20 (and continuing every Monday thereafter). A special menu has been created by our chefs that is both low carbon, and good for our health!

Fun events for team engagement

On March 24, we organised Be Green, Wear Green, a casual wear day reminding our team that by wearing cooler clothing (with a splash of green), we can keep the air-conditioning at acceptable levels to help save energy.



We ended the Campaign on a high note, finishing with our Go Green Fair on April 3 which was a fantastic funfair of games, prizes and information about MGM's environmental sustainability program. This was led by MGM's Green Team, which includes our green champions from across the company. We also arranged a selection of food stalls from organic and eco grocery stores from around Macau to present their green and healthy product options.

MGM's Go Green campaign was also in support of Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's (IACM) Green Week, as well as the annual Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition.

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Hainan plans a USD3 billion medical tourism hotspot



A man stands near a flight of stairs at the construction site of the Evergrande International Hospital inside the Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone

ON the hilly and tropical island of Hainan, local officials and companies are investing billions of dollars to transform a string of riverside villages into a medical tourism destination.

Their aim? To lure wealthy Chinese patients, who might otherwise venture overseas, to this province in the South China Sea known for its beach-front resorts. To do so they are making an unusual promise: The hub will bring in cutting-edge treatments for diseases like cancer that are available abroad, but don't yet have regulatory approval in China.

There's plenty of demand. The travel site Ctrip.com estimates about half a million Chinese traveled abroad for medical services last year. Millions are dying from cancer and heart disease, but regulatory bottlenecks have slowed approvals for the newest international therapies. Chinese hospitals are overflowing, and affluent jet-setters prefer Japan for physical check-ups or the U.S. for genetic screenings.

In 2013, the provincial government of Hainan, often known as

China's Hawaii, earmarked more than 1,600 acres of fertile farm land along a river flowing to its eastern coast for a medical tourism hub. Since then fishing villages and rice paddies are slowly being replaced by palm-tree-flanked driveways. The zone's first hospitals are opening their doors this summer, the effective beginning of this medical experiment.

Local officials say businesses have already committed to spending 23 billion yuan (\$3.3 billion) for 27 projects ranging from hospitals to plastic surgery clinics, with dozens more awaiting approval. The mission is partly to "retain domestic consumption," the government body managing the Hainan Boao Lecheng International Medical Tourism Pilot Zone said in e-mailed comments.

Among the investors are Beijing-based Ciming Health Checkup Management Group and Guangzhou-based medical services firm Evergrande Health Industry Group Ltd., which is being advised by Boston's Brigham and Women's Hospital, a teaching hospital of Harvard Medical School.

In an early example, the zone's Chengmei International Health Center imported 24 vials of the Merck & Co. cancer drug Keytruda for six patients under the special access channel last October, the government says.

The medicine is approved in the U.S. and elsewhere, but remains unavailable in the mainland. The special permits by the Chinese regulator only allow for a small amount of the drug to be used in the tourism hub, and it can't be distributed elsewhere.

Merck in a statement said it's conducting clinical trials on Keytruda in China and doesn't sell the drug in the country. The China Food and Drug Administration and Chengmei didn't respond to a request for comment.

By 2025, the hub's managers want to draw more than one million tourists a year on health-related visits.

Still, China has a patchy record of managing specialized economic zones. Centers like Shenzhen, the fishing-village-turned metropolis, have thrived. But others have had a quick boom and bust, like the Caofeidian industrial zone in the northeast, which ended up as a ghost town.

The Hainan medical hub's relatively remote location and the country's shortage of qualified doctors make it harder to draw patients. Competition for medical resources is fierce, said Chen Bo, associate partner at consultancy McKinsey & Co.

"Building health-care capabilities there will require attracting excellent talent to work and live in the pilot zone, and good doctors are already badly needed in Chi-

na's major cities," said Chen.

On a recent visit, the area still had the feel of an underdeveloped backwater, showing the challenges to transforming it into a flourishing tourist center. It is dotted with semi-finished hospitals that remain under construction, without medical equipment inside and prefabricated homes outside for construction workers. By the end of March, five facilities had begun operating on a trial basis, local officials say.

The travel site Ctrip.com estimates about half a million Chinese traveled abroad for medical services last year

Evergrande has said it plans to spend 5 billion yuan on its cancer hospital there. Brigham and Women's hospital in an e-mailed statement said it is serving as a strategic advisor as Evergrande expands its health-care network in China, helping the development of clinical programs and other aspects like training.

Working with international partners has shown that local staffing tends to be the most effective, and Boao Evergrande International Hospital clinicians will be providing all patient care at that facility,

Brigham said.

The hospital was slated to start operating in the first half of this year, according to a December statement on Evergrande's website. In a later March release the company noted the start date would be in 2017.

In late March, balloons and banners adorned the hospital's front gate, even though a quick glance inside the bronze-colored building from a back entrance showed dark rooms with bare concrete walls, unpacked crates and cement piles. An Evergrande representative said the decorations were for the opening of the Boao Asian Forum Healthcare Track and that a soft launch date will be released later.

Off the main street, behind the hospital pilot zone, was a side road yet to be paved with plywood and empty barrels of asphalt scattered around.

Li Peijuan, an analyst at Forward Industries Institute, a Chinese research firm, said the area can benefit from Hainan island's environmental beauty, but the quality of service, the standard of medical technology as well as costs will ultimately be key to its success.

Foreign medicines have in the past taken longer to reach the Asian country partly because the regulator has been understaffed and so struggled to shepherd surging numbers of drug applications through its complex review process.

The China Food and Drug Administration is now in the midst of dramatic reforms to its approval system to reduce the so-called "drug lag" on the mainland. If that succeeds, Hainan will need to find other selling points.

"It was very appealing a few years back when approval of innovative drugs was relatively slow, but if the pilot zone can't build full-fledged medical teams and business models in the next two to three years, its attractiveness will be greatly weakened," said McKinsey's Chen. **Bloomberg**

THE first large Chinese-made passenger jetliner completed its maiden test flight on Friday, a milestone in China's long-term goal to break into the Western-dominated aircraft market.

The takeoff of the C919 brought cheers and applause from hundreds of invited guests at Shanghai Pudong International Airport and was broadcast live on Chinese state television. The jet soon became invisible on a windy and polluted day in Shanghai, which was also in the path of dense sandstorms from the north.

After the 1 1/2 hour flight was over, the test pilots came down smiling from the plane, wearing orange overalls with the Chinese flag.

1st large Chinese-made passenger jet makes its maiden flight

With the flight, the official Xinhua News Agency said China had become "one of the world's top makers of jumbo aircraft," becoming the fourth large jet producer after the U.S., Europe and Russia.

China is touting the C919 as a rival to single-aisle jets such as the Airbus A320 and Boeing 737. It was originally due to begin flying in 2014 and be delivered to buyers in 2016, but has been beset by delays blamed on manufacturing problems. It's now unlikely to carry commercial passengers until at least 2019.

Mohshin Aziz, a Kuala Lumpur-based aviation analyst at Maybank Kim

Eng Securities, said it wouldn't be clear for 7-9 years whether the C919 can make a dent in Airbus and Boeing's duopoly.

"This is just the test flight," he said. "Eventually it needs to have some cornerstone customers, of which it will have because there are state-owned airlines, some of them are going to be forced to use it."

Mohshin said other potential customers would wait to see what experience the first customers have. "You are not going to spend a lot of money on something you don't know," he said.

The aircraft's maker, state-owned Commercial Aircraft Corp.



of China Ltd., or Comac, will seek certification from China's civil aviation authority and foreign regulators before making any deliveries.

Bao Pengli, deputy director of Comac's project management depart-

ment, said Thursday the manufacturer planned to make two planes a year from now to 2019 to obtain proof of safe flight before any mass production is started.

Comac says it has 570 orders from 23 domestic

and foreign customers. Most are state-owned Chinese airlines. The handful of foreign customers includes GE Capital Aviation Services and Thailand's City Airways.

The plane can be configured with 155-175 seats and has a standard flight length of 4,075 kilometers.

The jet's development is a key step on the path laid out by Chinese leaders to transform the country from the world's low-cost factory into a creator of profitable technology.

At the same time, China's aviation market is growing rapidly as a rising middle class travels more for leisure and business. **AP**

Charlotte Ryan

SOME of the rarest cars in the world are at the heart of a London lawsuit embroiling an associate of one of China's wealthiest men.

Zhao Hua Chen, who court filings say works for Chinese aluminum billionaire Zhongtian Liu, has accused Eric Po Chi Shen of buying real estate, rare red diamonds and super cars with money he embezzled while acting as his financial adviser, according to court documents filed in London's High Court.

At stake in the case is ownership of two classic cars that could be worth as much as USD87 million. Chen says his former business associate falsified his financial reports and lied about how much he spent on property deals, before using the spoils to buy a 1998 McLaren F1 and a 1963 Ferrari 250 GTO Berlinetta. He is asking a judge in the British capital to order the cars to be sold or handed over to him.

The case, which was filed in September and is being heard in the U.K. because the cars are in storage outside London, is running at the same time as a lawsuit in Texas over money and diamonds. Chen alleges that Shen bought red diamonds with further embezzled funds, claiming he has the diamonds in his possession in Hong Kong.

"The cars involved in the suit are of extraordinary economic value but they are also of extraordinary interest in themselves," Robert Dougans, a lawyer for Chen at the Bryan Cave law firm, said in an interview. There are only four or five other similar Ferraris worldwide, co-counsel Charles Pok said.

The 1963 Ferrari 250 GTO Berlinetta is likely worth around \$25 million, according to John Collins, a classic Ferrari dealer at Talacrest. The model is a Series 2, he said in a telephone interview, with the Series 1 fetching at least \$40 million. Both parties in

Ferrari supercar fight leads to embezzlement lawsuits



A 1963 Ferrari 250 GTO

the lawsuit say it is worth much more than that, with Shen saying it could fetch as much as \$72 million.

The car has a colorful past, with previous owners including English TV and radio personality Chris Evans, a one-time host of the BBC's Top Gear program, and car collector Jean Pierre Slavic, according to the Berlinetta website.

Only 39 of the Italian brand's 250 GTOs were ever produced, one of which sold in 2013 for a record \$52 million.

The McLaren, estimated to be worth as much as \$15 million, has also seen its fair share of action. Court filings detail how Shen took it to Italy in May 2014 to participate in the McLaren Owners' Tour of Italy, before crashing it into a tree on the first morning of the event. Mr. Bean star Rowan

Atkinson was one of the first to come to Shen's aid, according to press reports at the time.

Chen has chosen to make a claim to the cars rather than asking for money because of the significance of the vehicles themselves, Dougans said. The cash value of Ferraris has soared in recent years. The Hagerty Ferrari Index of 13 models has more than doubled since 2013, and a 1962 GTO 250 sold for \$38.1 million in a 2014 auction, the most ever.

If the case goes to court, Chen's lawyers will aim to prove that the cars were bought with money stolen from their client and the two sides will also debate whether a debt certificate signed by Shen was completed under duress.

Shen denies committing fraud and alleges that he only signed the debt certificate after he was repeatedly threatened by Zhong-

tian Liu, one of China's wealthiest men and the owner of aluminum firm Zhongwang Holdings. Liu is worth an estimated \$2.54 billion, according to Bloomberg's Billionaires Index.

On one occasion, Liu allegedly told Shen that "someone might come up behind you with a needle and you might find yourself in a container," Shen's lawyers said. Shen says he believed Liu "could and would follow through on his threats" as he "believed that Mr. Liu had very substantial financial links to powerful figures" in China, the filing said.

Shen's lawyers declined to comment on the case beyond what is in the filing, saying it had not been possible to reach their client. A spokesperson in China for Zhongwang said Mr. Liu "vigorously denies such allegations and believes them to be fabrica-

ted by an individual in the midst of litigation."

The dramatic lawsuit seems unlikely to reach a speedy resolution, with Justice Marcus Smith saying in the most recent filing that he had "grave concerns" about the pleading of the case and allowing Chen another chance to sufficiently prove the ownership of the cars.

Meanwhile, the elite vehicles are being stored at the site of an old airport in Suffolk and Chen's lawyers plan to pursue the claim.

Chen has chosen to make a claim to the cars rather than asking for money because of the significance of the vehicles themselves

"It's not as if it was just property or stocks and shares held around London and New York and Singapore, it's tangible assets that are of real interest to people and real rarity value," Dougans said.

It's not the first time a lawsuit has been brought over the Italian brand. A 17-year legal battle over a Ferrari worth \$15.4 million was finally settled last April after descending into chaos, with lawsuits and counter-suits going four ways and ownership claims from Paraguay to Switzerland. **Bloomberg**

Ski-obsessed China presents opening for Austria's Skidata

IT'S a long way from Austria's iconic Hahnenkamm downhill course to the gentler pistes of northeastern China, but Hugo Rohner is returning to tap into Beijing's new-found fixation with skiing.

Rohner, 43, runs Austria's Skidata, which has sold its management system - allowing skiers to buy tickets online and getting them onto lifts at a faster pace through automatic turnstiles - to ski resorts from Kitzbuehel, with its famous Streif run, to Verbier in Switzerland and Aspen in the U.S. He plans to go back to China

next month, following a visit in January, to continue talks with a couple of "more established" ski resorts.

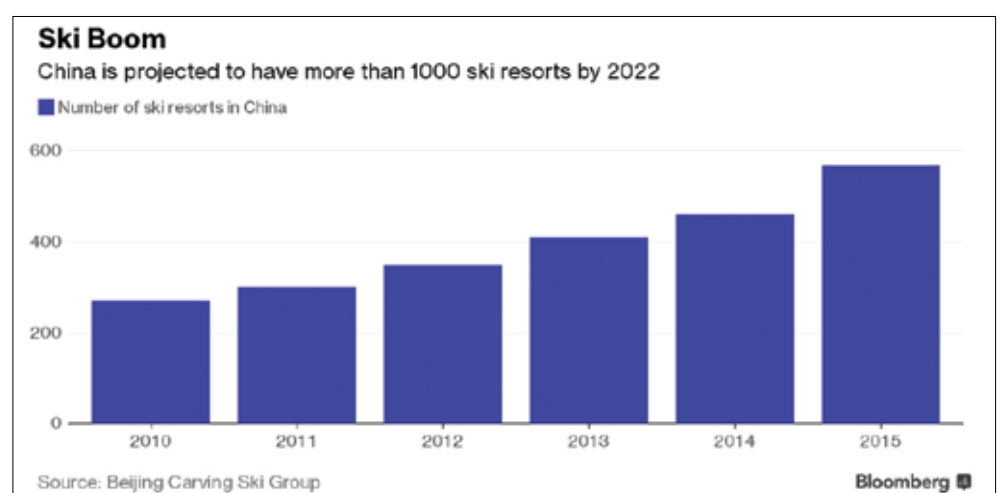
Skidata's push to find new markets comes as Chinese President Xi Jinping tries to turn 300 million people to winter sports by the time Beijing hosts the 2022 Winter Olympics. Rohner doesn't underestimate the scale of the challenge: he says the Chinese market of about 8 million skier days a year is only an eighth the size of the U.S. and one sixteenth of Europe's.

"I have absolutely no dou-

bt it will go to 10-12 million; the question is, will it go up to 20 million?" said Rohner, a Swiss national who grew up skiing in the resort of Lenzerheide. "China has strong political plans to put people into skiing. In the end they need to create the middle class that sees skiing or snowboarding as a lifestyle."

Getting the Skidata's brand name known early is key to winning business in China, he said. "One needs to be there from the start."

Rohner declined to name the resorts he's in discussions with. Among the big-



gest are in Yabuli, north of Harbin, and Huaibei near Beijing.

In the Chinese capital

alone, city officials plan to boost revenue from winter sports and tourism to about \$6 billion by 2022,

and get a third of Beijing's more than 20 million people's onto skis, sleds and skates. **Bloomberg**

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North Koreans bow to bronze statues of the late leaders, Kim Il Sung (left) and his son Kim Jong Il

N. Korea's death plot accusations mimic its own misdeeds

Matthew Pennington, Washington

IN the paranoid universe of North Korea, the feverish accusations it makes against its sworn enemies bear a creepy resemblance to its own misdeeds.

Its latest claim of a South Korean and American plot to assassinate Kim Jong Un using biochemical weapons comes weeks after the North Korean leader's estranged brother, Kim Jong Nam, was slain in a Malaysian airport. Authorities cited the presence of VX nerve agent, and North Korea is widely believed to have been behind responsible.

While Pyongyang's allegations can't be entirely discounted, its history is replete with allegations of deadly conspiracies by its enemies, like purported planning for a U.S. invasion or nuclear war plans, and South Korean kidnapping missions. These assertions from Pyongyang often appear like the pot calling the kettle black. The North has a grim record of military aggression, abductions and assassinations against South Korean leaders

that pale in comparison to anything it has faced.

Friday's statement on state media was published days before South Korea's May 9 election. A more liberal government is likely to emerge, one that could take a softer line toward the North. But the reclusive communist government may have intended its lambaste as a rebuff to U.S. efforts to reinstate North Korea as a state sponsor of terrorism — a black mark that was lifted in 2008.

"Pyongyang's diatribe could be an attempt to redirect attention away from its own use of a chemical weapon of mass destruction," said Bruce Klingner, a Korea expert at the Heritage Foundation.

Here are instances of North Korea claiming conspiracies against it, alongside evidence of actions the North itself has perpetrated.

ASSASSINATION PLOTS

North Korea has railed against U.S. and South Korea planning for "decapitation" strikes against its leadership. In December 2008, the Nor-

th even claimed it arrested a South Korean intelligence operative who was on a "terrorist mission" against Kim Jong Il, the current leader's late father. State-run news said the suspect was sent "speech and acoustic sensing and pursuit devices for tracking the movement of the top leader and even violent poison."

There is precedent for South Korea plotting to kill the North Korean leader. In 1968, South Korea set up a secret commando team charged with assassinating North Korea's founding leader, Kim Il Sung, the current leader's grandfather. But it never carried out the mission. Amid warming inter-Korean relations, the team mutinied in 1971, killing its trainers and marching on Seoul before being stopped.

The mission followed a 1968 North Korean attempt to assassinate South Korean President Park Chung-hee. Thirty-one North Korean commandos slipped into South Korea and came within striking distance of the Seoul presidential palace. South Korean security forces repelled the assault.

The only commando who was captured said he came to "slit the throat" of Park.

In 1983, North Korean agents detonated a bomb meant for South Korea's leader while he visited Myanmar, then known as Burma. President Chun Doo-hwan narrowly escaped the attack. But 20 others died, including four Cabinet ministers, his ambassador to Burma and several top aides. In 1987, North Korea bombed a Korean Air passenger jet, killing 115 people.

ABDUCTIONS

Another regular North Korea accusation: South Korea abducting or enticing the North's citizens to defect. Seoul denies the claims. More than 29,000 North Koreans have fled to the south since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, according to South Korean government data. Many North Korean defectors report wanting to avoid the North's harsh political system and poverty.

After 13 North Korean workers from a restaurant in China defected last year,

Pyongyang said they were kidnapped by South Korean spies. North Korea has demanded their return. South Korea said the workers chose to resettle on their own. It was the largest group defection to the South since Kim Jong Un took power in 2011.

North Korea has a record of abducting other nations' citizens, though. A U.N. Commission of Inquiry in 2014 found hundreds of South Koreans, Japanese and others were abducted between the 1960s and 1980s in operations approved by the supreme leader.

In 2002, North Korea acknowledged kidnapping 13 Japanese citizens decades earlier to train spies in Japanese language and culture. Five were allowed to return to Japan that year. The North said the others died or never entered North Korea. Japan is investigating hundreds of more cases of possible abductions.

MILITARY AGGRESSION

North Korea maintains that it must develop nuclear weapons because of the "hostile" policy of the United States, which retains 28,500 troops in South Korea and holds bi-annual military drills the North considers rehearsals for invasion. Tensions have spiked as President Donald Trump deployed an aircraft carrier strike group to waters off the Korean Peninsula. Last week, North Korean Defense Minister Gen. Pak Yong Sik said his country was ready to use pre-emptive strikes to defend against "U.S. imperialists," warning nuclear war could break out because of the "frantic war drills."

Typically, North Korea has provoked the periodic military clashes that break out with South Korea. In March 2010, a North Korean torpedo allegedly sank a South Korean naval vessel, killing 46 sailors. Months later, North Korea fired artillery at a South Korean island, killing two South Korean marines and two civilians. South Korea returned fire, but it's unclear if North Korea suffered casualties.

North Korea is the only country to have conducted a nuclear explosion in the 21st century and it has accelerated weapons testing as aid-for-disarmament negotiations have stalled. Between 1994 and 2008, it did 16 ballistic missile tests and one nuclear test; since 2009, 72 missile tests and four nuclear tests. Even China, which fought on its side in the Korean War, opposes the testing, which violates U.N. Security Council resolutions. Experts say North Korea may already be able to hit South Korea or Japan with a nuclear weapon, and within years could have the capability to target the American mainland. **AP**



A woman walks on the Spanish side of the border between Spain and the British overseas territory of Gibraltar

Brexit holds the cards to Gibraltar's gambling future

Barry Hatton

DEEP inside the Rock of Gibraltar is a room known as The Vault. Dug by the British army in World War II, it now houses servers that power the websites of dozens of international online gambling companies.

Those companies were lured to this speck of British territory on Spain's southern tip by its low taxes and its unimpeded access to the European Union's single market of around 500 million people.

It's a flourishing and hugely important business for Gibraltar, accounting for around 25 percent of the economy, some 40 percent of corporate tax revenues and almost 3,000 of its 26,000 jobs.

And the European market is only set to get bigger. According

to market data company H2 Gambling Capital, it could be worth around 30 billion euros (USD32.5 billion) a year by 2021, nearly double current levels.

Britain's looming departure from the EU, therefore, has cast a cloud over Gibraltar's future because Brexit could see it shut off from the rest of the EU. That possibility is already having an indirect impact on Gibraltar, by magnifying the appeal of other low-tax jurisdictions such as Malta.

Nobody is panicking yet, and no gambling company has said it intends to leave Gibraltar while EU and British officials negotiate Brexit — in March, before calling an early general election for June 8, Prime Minister Theresa May formally triggered the two-year Brexit process.

Senior executives of 888, which

runs one of the world's biggest online casinos, have already sounded the alarm about potential dangers, however.

Earlier this year, they warned that 888's reach into the EU's other 27 member countries could be limited in the event of a so-called "hard Brexit" scenario whereby Gibraltar, like the rest of Britain, sees trade disrupted by the imposition of tariffs and businesses potentially becomes ineligible for regulatory licenses in some EU countries.

In its full-year financial report, 888 said it "would reconsider the appropriateness of remaining registered, licensed and operational in Gibraltar in these circumstances" and added that "Malta may be considered as an alternative 'dot com' licensing jurisdiction."

Malta, a small island nation in

the middle of the Mediterranean Sea, stands ready to attract Gibraltar's gambling firms. The Maltese government is another champion of the online gambling sector, which represents 11 percent of the nation's GDP and employs 8,000 people.

Two other gambling industry big-hitters, Ladbrokes Coral Group and William Hill, say they are monitoring the Brexit negotiations — and, like 888, have no plans at the moment to depart.

William Hill has set up a Brexit Working Group to assess Brexit's possible financial, operational and regulatory consequences and make sure that "suitable arrangements are in place should there be disruption to the Gibraltar (border) crossing or the availability of any services offered through Gibraltar."

■ **Online gambling is a flourishing and hugely important business for Gibraltar, accounting for around 25 percent of the economy**

For those working in the sector, the coming two years are likely to be a worrisome period. Some 1,800 staff — nearly 60 percent of the sector — commute from Spain to their workplaces, which are often located in smart office blocks overlooking the Bay of Gibraltar where elegant yachts bob on the calm waters.

Their fate, and the industry's, depends to a large degree on whether

Madrid opts post-Brexit to hinder cross-border traffic, as it has occasionally in the past.

That is the "real worry" for employees, says Mark Jordan, the head of gambling industry analysis at PwC in London: "How difficult will Spain be?"

Gibraltar has been a thorn in the side of U.K.-Spain relations for decades. In 1969, Spanish dictator Gen. Francisco Franco slammed the border shut in an attempt to wreck its economy and snatch the territory from Britain.

Brexit, some fear, might achieve what Franco couldn't.

The Gibraltar government has made no secret of the importance of the EU. On its website, it still lauds the benefits of EU membership as one reason why firms should set up on The Rock. The people of Gibraltar clearly think it's important — nearly 96 percent of Gibraltarians voted to remain in the EU in last June's referendum.

No wonder — the territory has prospered under Britain's rule and free trade with the EU.

For now, Gibraltar officials are holding their nerve.

Phill Brear, the territory's Gambling Commissioner, says it is "sensible, prudent management" for the online gambling industry to be making arrangements for potential Brexit outcomes.

"They're hedging their bets," he told the Associated Press, noting how many are taking out Malta licenses alongside their Gibraltar ones.

Brear notes that Gibraltar will still have access to U.K. customers, who account for around 40 percent of the entire EU market in financial terms, according to H2 Gambling Capital data.

Brear has not given up hope of working around any future regulatory constraints.

One fear has already come true, though: Gibraltar's worry, he says, "was that if you open this Pandora's box of Brexit, who knows what it'll look like." **AP**

Protesters march in Venezuela, destroy Chavez statue

Hannah Dreier, Caracas

WOMEN banged on pans and some stripped off their white shirts Saturday as they protested Venezuela's socialist government in an event the opposition billed as a "women's march against repression." As they marched, local media carried a video showing people toppling a statue of the late President Hugo Chavez the day before in the western state of Zulia.

Thousands of women took over streets in major cities all around the South American country. Wearing the white shirts of the

opponents of country's increasingly embattled government, the women sang the national anthem and chanted, "Who are we? Venezuela! What do we want? Freedom!"

Some sported makeshift gear to protect against tear gas and rubber bullets. Others marched to protest. One woman came in her wedding dress.

As they have near-daily for five weeks, police in riot gear again took control of major roads in the capital city. Clashes between police and protesters have left some three dozen dead in the past month.

Local news media carried a video circulating on Twitter of the Chavez statue being pulled down. The media reported that students destroyed the statue as they vented their anger with the food shortages, inflation and spiraling crime that have come to define life here.

Several young men could be seen bashing the statue that depicted the socialist hero standing in a saluting pose, as onlookers hurled insults as the late president.

Defense Minister Vladimir Padrino Lopez on Friday denounced the protest movement, and said

opposition "terrorists" were attempting a kind of nonconventional warfare.

The protest movement has drawn masses of people into the street nearly every day since March, and shows no sign of slowing. On Saturday, some of the women marchers approached soldiers in riot gear to offer them white roses and invite them to join the cause.

"What will you tell your kids later on?" one woman asked.

In a call with the president of Peru, U.S. President Donald Trump addressed the deteriorating situation in Venezuela.



Anti-government protesters stage a sit-in blocking the Francisco Fajardo highway during a women's march against repression in Caracas

A statement from the White House's Office of the Press Secretary said Trump underscored to President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski that

"the United States will work together with Peru in seeking to improve democratic institutions and help the people of Venezuela." **AP**

Macron defeats Le Pen to become French president

EMMANUEL Macron beat the anti-euro nationalist Marine Le Pen in France's presidential election.

Macron, a 39-year-old centrist, leads Le Pen by about 65 percent to 35 percent, according to the estimates of four separate pollsters. The firms sampled real votes as they were being counted and weighted their results to reflect the composition of the French electorate. Their projections were all within 1 percentage point. Le Pen conceded defeat in a televised statement.

The victory will prove a relief for markets after a campaign that saw bond yields fluctuate in tandem with the fortunes of Le Pen's bid to take France out of the euro.

A pro-European globalist, Macron will have to unite a divided France after one of the most bitter and turbulent elections of modern times. His challenge will be to end years of high unemployment and sluggish



growth, deal with the terrorist threat that has traumatized the country and, ultimately, restore faith in the political establishment.

The election brings to an end a tumultuous campaign that culminated in a hacking attack on the Macron camp on the eve of polling. Surprises littered the

way to today's runoff [Macau time]. The incumbent Francois Hollande decided not to seek re-election, a first for a sitting president, while former head of state Nicolas Sarkozy and former Prime Minister Manuel Valls suffered humiliating defeats in their parties' primaries. **Bloomberg**

Euro seen advancing as Le Pen concedes defeat

THE euro may open higher after Marine Le Pen conceded victory to centrist Emmanuel Macron in France's Presidential elections.

Macron is set to beat the anti-euro candidate Le Pen by about 65 percent to 35 percent, according to the estimates of four separate pollsters -- a bigger lead than predicted by surveys before the election -- and one which removes the risk of France being led out of the currency bloc. Macron's victory in the first round sparked a rally in the nation's assets, with the euro gaining as much as 2 percent in its immediate aftermath.

With polls consistently giving a Macron lead of about 20 points, markets had largely priced in a victory for the centrist, meaning the scope for a relief rally may be more limited this time. Still, Le Pen's defeat removes a cloud that has been hanging over the shared currency for most of 2017, and



will strengthen its longer-term outlook, according to analysts.

"The euro is likely to gap higher by less than a cent as traders in New Zealand run stop losses," Sebastien Galy, a macro strategist at Deutsche Bank AG in New York, said in emailed comments. "In the weeks to come, inflows into euro zone equities should give the euro some support, but so will other factors."

The shared currency closed at \$1.0998 on Friday, up 2.5 percent since the first round of voting on April 23. **Bloomberg**

AD



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DEFINE THE FUTURE

Friday, 19/05/2017

Non-Obvious Future: Jackpot or Bust?

Speaker: **Mr. Paresh Shah**, Inspirational Speaker, Non-Obvious Innovator, Entrepreneur, Strategist, Mindfulness Expert, The Non-Obvious company

FMBA Business Luncheon

Introduction: We are living in a time where People mistrust leaders and organizations. This illuminating talk will reveal five critical trends that are not Obvious to most companies and which will shape the future of gaming, hospitality and consumer service based experiences.

Date: Friday, 19th May 2017
Time: 12:30-14:30 pm (Reception: 12:15pm)
Venue: Four Seasons (Lily Room, Level 2)

RSVP before 2 pm on 15th May 2017
info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

- 2017 FMBA members join @ MOP 300*
- Guests & non-members @ MOP 400*

www.francemacau.com

* Price includes Lunch at Four Seasons and Yoga Session at Grand Coloane Resort Macau (first-come, first-served basis)

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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

MACAO ARTIST SOCIETY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S EXHIBITION 2017

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: June 25, 2107

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery - S1 Room, Anim' Arte Nam Van

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MONKEY KING

TIME: 8pm daily (No performances on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780, MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

FORMER HOME OF REVOLUTIONARY LEADER YE TING

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: 76, Rua Almirante Costa Cabral

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

MACAU GRAND PRIX MUSEUM & WINE MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-8pm daily (Except Tuesdays)

VENUE: Rua Luis Gonzaga Gomes, 431, basement (Tourism Activities Centre-CAT)

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8798 4108 / 2833 3000

CITY, IMPRESSION: EXHIBITION OF OLD MACAO PHOTOS

TIME: 9am-9pm (Open on public holidays)

UNTIL: May 21, 2017

VENUE: Temporary Exhibition Gallery of IACM, No. 163, Av. Almeida Ribeiro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

PRIEST PLEADS GUILTY TO STEALING USD500K FOR CASINOS, CONCERTS

The rector of a church-owned retirement home for Roman Catholic priests has admitted embezzling a half-million dollars to pay for casinovisits, high-end dinners and Philadelphia Pops concerts.

Monsignor William A. Dombrow pleaded guilty Thursday to four federal wire fraud counts for skimming money over nine years from a Villa St. Joseph account he controlled.

The Philadelphia Archdiocese runs the facility in Darby to house aging priests and treat those accused of sexual abuse.

Federal prosecutors say much of the stolen money came from insurance payments for priests who died and parishioners' estates.

Lawyer Coley Reynolds says the 77-year-old priest agreed to cooperate as soon as he was confronted.

He faces about three years in prison under federal guidelines when he is sentenced in August.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	Non-Daily Portuguese News
15:20	Documentary
16:15	Documentary Serie
17:10	Revenge S1
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sport
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

08 - 10 May



GIFTED

ROOM 1

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

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, Mckenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE SHACK

ROOM 2

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

Director: Stuart Hazeldine

Starring: Sam Worthington, Octavia Spencer, Radha Mitchell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 132min

THE BOSS BABY

ROOM 2

9:30pm

Director: Tom McGrath

Starring: Alec Baldwin, Steve Buscemi, Jimmy Kimmel

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 97min

THIS IS NOT WHAT I EXPECTED

ROOM 3

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

Director: Derek Hui

Starring: Takeshi Kaneshiro, Zhou Dongyu, Sun Yizhou

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 106min

MACAU TOWER

27 APR - 10 MAY



GUARDIANS OF THE GALAXY VOL.2

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

Director: James Gun

Starring: Chris Pratt, Zoe Saldana, Dave Bautista

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 136min

this day in history



"Rocket man," Los Angeles Olympics

1984 MOSCOW PULLS OUT OF US OLYMPICS

Twelve weeks before the opening ceremony of the Los Angeles Olympic Games, the USSR has announced it is boycotting them. It is expected most of the Eastern Bloc will follow suit.

The announcement, which was made on Russian TV this afternoon, blamed the commercialization of the games and a lack of security measures, which amounted to a violation of the Olympic charter.

The Soviet Union accused the United States of using the games "for political purposes" and "stirring up anti-Soviet propaganda" and of having a "cavalier attitude to security of Russian athletes".

In 1980 the USA and more than 60 other countries boycotted the Moscow Olympics in protest at the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan.

The Russians' withdrawal will devalue the Los Angeles Games far more than the US boycott as it seems certain that top-class athletes from the Eastern Bloc will also be prevented from taking part.

The White House denounced the move calling it a "blatant political act". John Hughes, a State Department spokesman, said the USA had "gone the extra mile" to ensure adequate security measures were in place.

He took the opportunity to attack the USSR for its "barbarous behavior" in Afghanistan and its persecution of Russian dissidents such as Dr Andrei Sakharov living in forced exile in the Russian town of Gorky.

Moscow has still not officially told the IOC of its boycott but there is little hope that the decision will be reversed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

With the exception of Romania, the entire Eastern bloc and Cuba joined the boycott - 14 countries in all.

Although a record 140 nations did turn up - including China which had not taken part since 1932 - the level of competition was somewhat lopsided with the absence of so many world-class athletes.

As a result the USA won a record 83 gold medals.

The Los Angeles Summer Games were highly commercialized - they were the first privately financed games ever and made a profit of \$225m thanks to corporate sponsorship and extensive use of unpaid volunteers. Forty-three companies were licensed to sell "official" Olympic products.

Los Angeles launched a bid to host the Olympic Games for a record third time in 2012 but the US Olympic Committee chose New York as its candidate.

LA will however host the 2006 athletics world cup.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Don't get too tied to the idea that progress can only be defined by how much you can get done in a specific amount of time. Life is not a race, so slow down. Today, don't take on any new projects.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Luck is shining on you today, and if you review your budget carefully enough, you will find serendipitous extra funds at your disposal. Think long term with this windfall.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Could circumstances beyond your control be turning you into a more jaded person? Today, before you lose sight of the wonders of the world, unearth some of your old idealistic tendencies. They aren't gone.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Back away from the weapon, slowly! You need to let cooler heads work things out - a showdown is completely unnecessary right now. Your emotions are pushing you toward a fiery rebellion.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The devil is not in the details today - it's in the nuances. Getting close to the finish line is not the same thing as crossing the finish line, so make sure you focus on follow-through right now.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your emotional intelligence is extremely sharp right now, and you should consult it a bit more as you meet your next challenge. It's not such a bad idea to stop thinking so much and just start doing more.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

When a change is necessary, it's necessary. Today, the truth will become too obvious to ignore - and you might see that it's calling you to make a big change in your life. If you really want someone just to go away today.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

The truth is a funny and powerful thing - because no one can deny it. Therefore, if you have been meaning to confess something to someone, do it today. Open up and admit what you're doing or what you're feeling.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

If your social life isn't quite up to par right now, don't spend too much time dwelling on what's wrong with it. You have to be the one to get the ball rolling. Stop with the pity party and get started planning a real party.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Today, if you are aching for a slower pace in your life, you have to create it yourself. Instead of sending instant messages or emails to make your point, seek out a slower way of making things happen.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

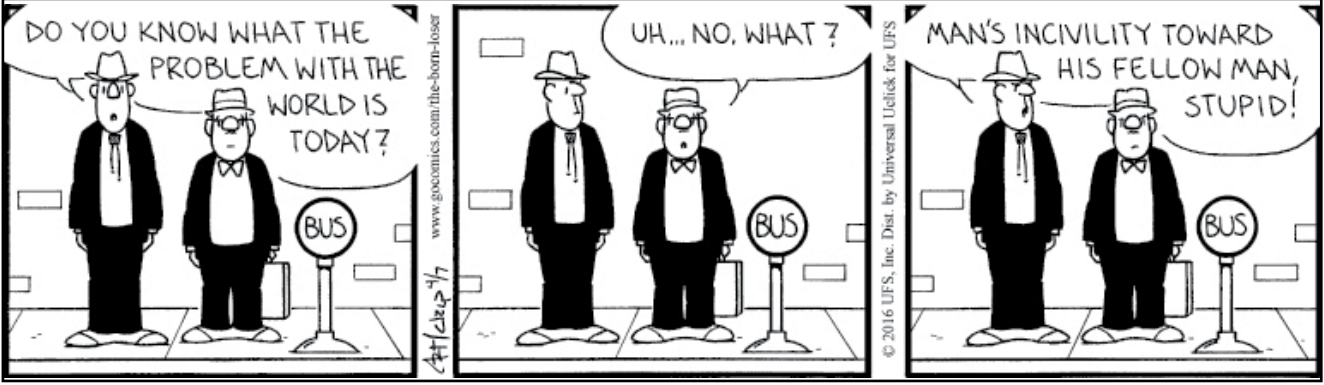
Too much laziness, jealousy and scheming is going on and you don't feel comfortable trusting anyone, especially if they're new. Stick with the people you know and love the most, and stay close to home if you can.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

As the saying goes, when one window closes, another one opens. In other words, just because something is ending doesn't mean something new isn't getting started. It may be right around the corner.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Unhearing; 5- Eggy drink; 8- Thick cord; 12- Communion table; 14- Bean curd; 15- ____-friendly; not too technical; 16- Tractor maker; 17- Frijole; 18- Pebbles's pet; 19- Abroad; 21- Companion; 23- Paddle; 24- Acapulco aunt; 25- Arctic explorer John; 26- Leave; 30- ____ Carta; 32- Highly skilled; 33- Building design creator; 37- Anklebones; 38- Mete out; 39- Sky color; 40- Courtesies; 42- Bundles; 43- Furze; 44- Student's second chance; 45- DDE opponent; 48- Permit; 49- Actor Beatty; 50- Fast day after Ramadan; 52- Channel; 57- Nabisco treat; 58- Univ. hotspot; 60- Monte ____; 61- Human bone, located in the arm; 62- Not punctual; 63- Mix dough; 64- Winter Palace ruler; 65- Night before; 66- Bond classic;

DOWN: 1- Pedestal part; 2- Mtn. stat; 3- Suit to ____; 4- Actor Jamie; 5- Turndowns; 6- Son-gun link; 7- Shootout; 8- Designer Gernreich; 9- Basketry twig; 10- Contour feather; 11- Wear down; 13- A place for vacationers; 14- Ski lift; 20- Chow down; 22- Rajah's wife; 24- Folded food; 26- Info; 27- Yellow cheese coated with red wax; 28- Soccer great; 29- Imitating; 30- 1957 hit for the Bobbettes; 31- Ready to hit; 33- Elite group; 34- Fashion mag; 35- Billiard implements; 36- Student's hurdle; 38- In a trembling state; 41- Kansas city; 42- Adorn; 44- Accelerate; 45- Roughly; 46- Viscounts' superiors; 47- City in Tuscany; 49- Pleasing; 51- Loud, deep utterance, especially used by lions; 52- Routine; 53- McNally's partner; 54- Uncle Remus title; 55- Dash; 56- Extinct flightless bird; 59- Dallas player, briefly;

Friday's solution

REATA	ALES	ASST
SELER	NOLE	TACO
ARENT	YEAR	TIRE
RITA	SUBMARINER	
NEANDER	GARTER	
TIE	SOLVE	
AFIRE	ELSIE	AIM
LIN	ITALO	FLAG
ARB	STENO	DOLLS
AS	ROAST	LEO
ASWIRL	CISTER	N
FORFEITURE	BRI	
ONEL	AERO	PAOLO
RISE	NAGS	OLDEN
EATS	STES	ILEDE

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PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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Electricity – Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Parking Upon Request
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Ref: 17010631

Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens
Taipa
1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,451 sq ft
HKD 11.2M
Ocean Gardens complex
Ref: 16095497

Villa de Mer – Tower 1
Macau
2 Bedrooms Apartment
Modern Furnishing
HKD 12,000 / 935 sq ft
Ref: 17040645

Treasure Garden Tower 2
High Floor, Taipa
1,708 sq ft / HKD 6,440 sq ft.
HKD 11M
Open Views of Taipa
Ref: 17045518

Va Fat
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Newly furnished
HKD 11,800 / 765 sq ft
Ref: 17040648

Kam Lai Kuok
Macau
1,380 sq ft / HKD 7,956 sq ft
HKD 10.98M
Fabulous Location
Ref: 17035512

Jardim Lameiras
Taipa
2 Bedroom Apartment
Decorated Throughout
HKD 12,800 / 720 sq ft
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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

ATHLETICS

Kipchoge falls 26 seconds short of first sub 2-hour marathon

Daniella Matar, Monza

OLYMPIC champion Eliud Kipchoge was 26 seconds short of running the first marathon in under two hours on Saturday.

Kipchoge ran the 42.2 kilometers around an oval track in an impressive 2 hours, 25 seconds, unofficially smashing Dennis Kimetto's world mark of 2:02:57 by 2 1/2 minutes and raising hopes that one of world sport's most famous barriers can be broken.

"We are human. We are going up the tree... I have lifted a branch and I am going onto the next one," Kipchoge said. «This is not the end of the attempt of runners on two hours.»

The time will not be an official world record, sanctioned by the IAAF, due to variables like pacers entering mid-race and drinks being given to runners via mopeds.

Considered the best marathon runner in the world, Kipchoge broke his personal best of 2:03:05 set at the London Ma-



Olympic marathon champion Eliud Kipchoge crosses the finish line of a marathon race at the Monza Formula One racetrack

rathon last year. Kimetto set the world mark in Berlin in 2014. Organizers first listed Kipcho-

ge's time as a second faster, then changed it to 25 seconds off the two-hour mark.

"I rank this as the highest-ever performance in my life," Kipchoge said. «The aim of <Breaking2> was to pass the message that running less than two-hour marathon is possible. That message is really special to me.»

It wasn't a road race, with runners completing 17.5 laps around the 1.5-mile Monza Formula One track. The attempt was held on the 63rd anniversary of Roger Bannister breaking the four-minute mile in 1954.

Nike planned the record attempt for three years, including making shoes it said made runners four percent more efficient. The Monza track was selected after extensive research that included average temperature, air pressure, and wind levels.

Two-time Boston Marathon winner Lelisa Desisa, from Ethiopia, and half-marathon world-record holder Zersenay Tadese of Eritrea were also part of the attempt, which started at 5:45 a.m. local time. They tried to help pace Kipchoge.

Desisa was dropped after 50

minutes, with Tadese falling back shortly afterwards. The duo still completed the marathon with Tadese shaving nearly four minutes off his personal best in 2:06:51. Desisa finished in 2:14:10.

That left just Kipchoge chasing the landmark time.

He passed the halfway mark in 59:54, but his average pace of 4:36 per mile was not quite enough, despite a final sprint to the tape.

■ The time will not be an official world record, sanctioned by the IAAF, due to variables like pacers entering mid-race

Kipchoge needed an average of less than 4:35 per mile — an improvement of about seven seconds per mile on Kimetto's record, or around 2.5 percent.

"I tried to maintain the pace," Kipchoge said. «As a human you are not a machine so you cannot go 2.50 exactly, and those micro-seconds really have an effect.» **AP**

Jon Gambrell, Dubai

ON his first trip to Dubai, former heavyweight boxing champion Mike Tyson recalls getting off a plane wearing a traditional Muslim cap and robes, carrying a Quran and expecting to find a society strictly governed by conservative mores.

He was in for a surprise.

This is "a party place, a place you have a good time at. This is like New York City, man!" Tyson exclaimed during an interview Thursday with The Associated Press. "That's what people think. They think of Dubai as some real strict Islamic place. [...] This place is so open. It's just unbelievable."

Speaking from a penthouse overlooking Dubai's man-made Palm Jumeirah archipelago, Tyson said he believes a city like Dubai can show people the best of the Middle East, its people and Islam. He told the AP during a wide-ranging interview that his new project franchising Mike Tyson Fitness & Boxing Academy locations worldwide fits in perfectly with the sheikhdom's desire to always be out front.

"People come over here

Mike Tyson lauds Dubai while promoting boxing gym franchise

and love this place. It's just what it is," he said. "I've been all over the world [...] and everything they've got there, they've got here."

Tyson converted to Islam while serving prison time in the 1990s over rape charges. He said he has performed the hajj pilgrimage required of all Muslims, as well as other trips to holy sites in Saudi Arabia.

Tyson, once known as the baddest man on the planet, was known for his explosive punching and quick knockouts. He said the heavyweight world had sagged in recent years, though Saturday night's crowning of British boxer Anthony Joshua as the new champion in his win over Wladimir Klitschko should reinvigorate the interest.

Told 90,000 people attended the fight, Tyson said "that's what rock groups do."

"He looks like the guy," Tyson said. "The look matters. Especially if you fight it matters."

Asked what he'd tell



Mike Tyson speaks during an interview with The Associated Press, in Dubai

Joshua, Tyson offered simple advice: "Take it very serious."

"In boxing, you have to be more chaste than you are with your wife and your girlfriend, because if you don't, you're going to be in a bad situation. It's going to hurt real bad," Tyson said. "It may look like entertainment, but Klitschko is hurt real bad. Right now he's in pain. That's what's going

to happen if you don't train and get in shape."

In Dubai, he and his business partners hope to open franchises of his new gym. Tyson said he will be involved with the gyms and their direction. His partners offered few details about when and where they will open, other to say one should be in Las Vegas in 2018.

Dubai is more known for being a city of superlatives,

ranging from being home to the world's tallest building to the world's busiest international airport. But sports also play a role in the city, though not now as summer approaches with its days of over 50 degrees Celsius.

Horse racing remains the passion of Dubai's ruler, Sheikh Mohammed bin Rashid Al Maktoum, who hosts the \$10 million Dubai World Cup each year. Camel races see teams jockey their steeds with robots controlled by remotes from SUVs racing alongside them.

Outside of traditional Arab pursuits, long-haul carrier Emirates hosts the rugby sevens, golf tournaments draw top players and Abu Dhabi hosts a Formula One race. Pakistani cricket clubs, largely unable to compete in their own country over fears of militant attack, play in the United Arab Emirates. Meanwhile, galas and glamor regularly draw soccer stars and other athletes to Dubai.

Athletic endorsements deals also are common, as famed English soccer club Arsenal plays at Emirates Stadium. In Dubai, the most prominent athlete attached to a project is golfer Tiger Woods, who designed a course being built now that will be run by the Trump Organization.

Tyson endorsed Trump earlier during his presidential run and fought several times at an arena adjoining a Trump casino in Atlantic City at the height of his career. On Thursday however, a local radio host named Kris Fade who emceed the news conference with Tyson warned journalists that "we'll eject you" if anyone asked about Trump. Public relations officials also stopped an interview with Tyson that had a question about Trump, though the boxer described the U.S. president as "a good man" when the camera went off.

But Tyson himself brought up Trump at the news conference after being asked by a female journalist if he refused doing interviews with women.

"What Donald Trump said: Are they your friend?" Tyson said. "I'll talk to them. Bring your friend. I'll talk to them." **AP**

opinion

Rear Window

Severo Portela



UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES

To the dismay of many a “mind your own business and nothing bad will happen to you” type of responsible citizen, political confrontation in the sister SAR of Hong Kong may be, if not spilling over to, at least affecting Macau...despite the enclave persona and its brand of realism that limits the emergence of social and political activism.

The matter at large is the usual handling of third party/outside entities evaluating MSAR deeds or misdeeds regarding human rights, cultural diversity, political development, and compliance with the Basic Law and international covenants; no longer is the response a polite and cautious do not complain, do not explain.

Now, besides an assertive rebuttal of “it does not stick to the facts” or other arguments about the data or (mis)interpretation of local issues, the Macau government now states unequivocally that the report or assessment (in this case, that of the EU- Brussels) constitutes an unacceptable meddling in China’s internal affairs. This is the same wording Beijing took on the joint-initiative by Joshua Wong of Occupy fame, Martin Lee as the veteran Hong Kong democracy pundit before and after the handover, Lam Wing, one of the missing booksellers, and former governor Chris Patten in the address to a congressional panel in Washington. China became even more strident in denouncing the Hong Kong Chinese residents of involvement in foreign meddling (in China’s internal affairs).

However, out of reach of the Hong Kong/China jurisdiction, Patten managed to strike a real political blow against Beijing by making the observation that the autonomy promised to Hong Kong (Joint Declaration/Basic Law) has been decaying: if China is not abiding by the Hong Kong international treaty, it could conceivably one day not comply with other international treaties and not carry out their terms.

Besides the call of “interference” by foreign reports, Macau seems to be crossing the Rubicon of the unexplained for barring apparently common people from entering Macau via jetfoil. Hong Kong lawmaker Andrew Wan, a former Democratic Party vice-chairman, was the second pro-democracy legislator to be stopped and sent back in one month. But this time, the proscribed was given an explanatory letter stating that he was a threat to Macau’s internal security. Both the disregard for external surveys - independent or not - as an interference in (China’s) internal affairs, and the license to expel Hong Kong democrats on grounds of being a threat to Macau’s internal security are steps towards another level of normal which can be perceived as improvements or otherwise according to one’s preferences. This is a real political haircut or hell (analogous in this case) with unintended consequences.

This helps to create an environment of disfranchisement towards things political, leading to dire consequences. For example, Labor Day 2017 risked having gone on record as a non-event had it not been for the Pearl Horizon buyers who took to the streets to demand a resolution to their case, as well as the usual demonstration of the Macau Family Reunion Association, and a residual group of workers seasoned in petitioning against imported labor. At least the latter was all about labor on Labor Day. Alienation is a growing disease.

On a brighter note, we ought to highlight the Macau government’s sponsored application to become a Gastronomic City under the UNESCO Network of Creative Cities. It is a wonderful idea in as far as the listing may help to show Macau’s cultural diversity. They say it’s a Latin City, don’t they?

THE BUZZ UN OFFICE DECRIES REPORTS THAT CHINESE POLICE SEIZED LAWYER

The U.N. human rights office is calling on China’s government to “halt the harassment” of lawyers and their relatives after police in southwestern Yunnan province reportedly took into custody a defense lawyer for another detained lawyer.

The office said Friday it was “deeply troubled” that Chen Jiangang was reportedly detained by police two days earlier with no official explanation, saying his whereabouts remain unclear.

Chen has defended Xie Yang, a lawyer who held since July 2015 and whose trial on charges including “inciting subversion of state power” did not begin as scheduled last week.

In March, Chen told The Associated Press that Xie “absolutely” had been tortured.

According to transcripts of January meetings with his lawyers, Xie said he had been punched, kicked, and subjected to abuse like sleep deprivation.

NIGERIA

82 freed Chibok schoolgirls arrive in Abuja

FIVE Boko Haram commanders have been released in exchange for the freedom of 82 Chibok schoolgirls, says a Nigerian government official.

The confirmation of the prisoner swap yesterday comes a day after the young women were liberated after more than three years in captivity by the Islamic militants.

There was no immediate comment about the exchange from the Nigerian presidency or Boko Haram, the extremists linked to the Islamic State group. President Muhammadu Buhari said Saturday that some Boko Haram prisoners had been released for the freedom of the schoolgirls, but he did not give any details.

The freed young women were flown yesterday by military helicopters from northeastern Nigeria to Abuja, the capital, where they were expected to meet the president.

“They will face a long and difficult process to rebuild their lives after the indescribable horror and trauma they have suffered at the hands of Boko Haram,” said Pernille Ironside, acting representative of UNICEF Nigeria.

Authorities say 113 schoolgirls remain missing of the 276 girls abducted from their boarding school in 2014. Girls who escaped said some of their classmates had died from illness. Others did not want to come home because



Chibok school girls recently freed from Boko Haram captivity are seen in Abuja

se they’d been radicalized by their captors, they said.

Human rights advocates also fear some of the girls kidnapped from the Chibok boarding school were used by Boko Haram to carry out suicide bombings.

In Nigeria’s capital, Abuja, anxious families were awaiting the official list of names of the 82 schoolgirls freed. Some parents have not lived long enough to see their daughters released, underscoring the tragedy of the three-year-long saga.

Last year, 21 other Chibok girls were liberated in October and they have been undergoing counseling for months. It was not immediately clear whether the newest girls freed Saturday would join them.

Those girls are still in government care in Abuja for medical attention, trauma counseling and rehabilitation, according to the government.

The International Committee of the Red Cross, which along with the Swiss govern-

ment has mediated negotiations between Nigeria’s government and Boko Haram, said the girls soon would meet with their families.

Saturday’s release marks the largest negotiated release so far of the 276 girls whose abduction in 2014 drew international attention to the threat of Nigeria’s extremists. Boko Haram has pledged allegiance to the Islamic State, and has increasingly carried out attacks in neighboring countries.

The mass kidnapping horrified the world and brought Boko Haram international attention. The failure of Nigeria’s former government to act quickly to free the girls sparked a global Bring Back Our Girls movement; U.S. first lady Michelle Obama posted a photo with its logo on social media.

The Bring Back Our Girls campaign said yesterday it was happy that Nigeria’s government had committed to rescuing the 113 remaining schoolgirls. AP

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate	
Ambient	55-75 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



NEPAL The body of an 85-year-old climber who died attempting to regain his title as the oldest person to scale Mount Everest was flown to Kathmandu where family and supporters held a funeral.

INDIA Anti-corruption crusader Arvind Kejriwal’s government in the Indian capital plunged into a crisis yesterday as a minister he fired over the weekend accused him of accepting 20 million rupees (USD300,000) in cash as a bribe.

VENEZUELA Women banged on pans and some stripped off their white shirts Saturday as they protested Venezuela’s socialist government in an event the opposition billed as a “women’s march against repression.”

More on p14

QATAR The state-owned carrier Qatar Airways signed an agreement with FIFA to sponsor two World Cup tournaments until 2022, filling a spot left vacant by rival Emirates when it quit its sponsorship following corruption allegations at football’s global governing body.



SCOTLAND’S nationalists failed to gain ground in local government elections as Prime Minister Theresa May’s Conservatives cemented themselves as the biggest threat to their dominance after campaigning against another independence referendum. With ballots in all of Scotland’s 32 regions counted, the Scottish National Party lost seven council seats and the Conservatives gained 164.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Rodrigo de Matos



Macau has become a trademark for the gambling industry worldwide. This centrally located gambling hall in Amsterdam offers slots machines and automatic roulette machines.