



CROWN EXITS MACAU VENTURE

Casino billionaires Lawrence Ho and James Packer have said their last adieu to a decade-long gaming partnership

P7



CONTROVERSIAL VISA-FOR-SALE PROGRAM

Plenty can go wrong when foreign money mixes with immigration green cards, real estate deals and political connections

P11 CHINA



EURO DODGES NEW CRISIS WITH MACRON

P14

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES Pedophiles in the US, Canada, Europe and Australia pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, directing their moves through online livestreaming services. The AP watched a raid, rescue and launch of a major investigation. [More on p12](#)

CHINA Twelve people, including ten South Korean school children, were killed yesterday when their bus was involved in an accident and caught fire inside a tunnel in eastern China, the local government and a South Korean diplomat said. [More on p11](#)



INDONESIA A court sentenced the minority Christian governor of Jakarta, 'Ahok' Purnama, to two years in prison for blaspheming the Quran, a shock decision that undermines the country's reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam. [More on p13](#)

SOUTH KOREA Moon Jae-in declared victory in South Korea's leadership race, pledging to unify the nation after nine years of conservative rule that culminated in the country's biggest street protests since the 1980s. [More on p20](#)

[More on backpage](#)

ZHANG DEJIANG VISIT

Top legislator says patriotism is key factor

P4-5



EUROPE DAY IN MACAU

UM scholar: 'No vision' to tackle European refugee crisis

P2

EUROPE DAY IN MACAU

UM scholar: 'No vision' to tackle European refugee crisis

Lynzy Valles

EUROPE has been dealing with a migratory crisis for quite some time, but has thus far failed to manage the matter appropriately. A systematic solution to control the flow of migrants and refugees is not yet in place, according to Sten Verhoeven, an assistant professor at the University of Macau's (UM) Faculty of Law.

The scholar said European governments have failed to address the underlying causes of these crises, such as poverty, income inequality and other economic and political conditions.

"Continuously, migrants will keep on arriving at the shores. So the question is why do they arrive, and that's what I meant with 'no vision,'" Verhoeven clarified.

The scholar was speaking on the sidelines of Europe Day, an event organized by the European Union Academic Programme – Macau (EUAP) yesterday at UM.

Freedom of movement among European residents was an achievement of the European Union that has since become a continent-wide problem, as ter-

rorists can now easily move between member states.

Terrorist attacks conducted by EU citizens of Islamic background, as well as widespread smuggling of weapons and illegal goods, have been attributed to poor immigration control.

"That's an avoidable consequence [...] they [EU] have taken interest in database data sharing but there are still a lot of work to be done," continued Verhoeven.

Verhoeven said that freedom of movement is a boon for globalization but said that the phenomenon has created new challenges which need to be addressed, albeit "reluctantly."

On the other hand, he added that states now demonstrate more willingness to cooperate with neighboring regions.

According to Verhoeven, terrorist organizations which have been active in Europe are mostly based online, due to the ease of communication via social media. He said European governments require better cybersecurity to deal with such groups.

Echoing the same sentiments, Jorge Sales Marques, president of the Institute of European Studies of Macau, recalled that

European citizens are permitted freedom of movement under the Schengen Area agreement.

The agreement allows residents of 26 European states to travel freely without showing their passports, and can bypass immigration at shared borders.

"This agreement has been somehow put under very strong pressure with the refugee crisis as well as terrorist attacks in the EU. Some of the other states [have] decided to reinstate in-

ternal border control," Marques said.

However, the existing legal framework of the Schengen Area agreement limits extensive border control. Aviation and marine authorities still have not implemented these specific security measures.

Marques clarified that temporary internal border controls in the Schengen area would be phased out this year, as recently announced by the EU Commission.



Sten Verhoeven

"The movement and circulation of people in the EU space is very important not only because of the all the advantages and [low] transaction costs [...] but also because it helped build the sense that after all, particularly for the EU citizens, they are traveling within their own domestic space," he concluded.

Macron's victory to attract investors to Europe



PROFESSOR Sten Verhoeven has agreed that the victory of France's president-elect Macron will make Europe an attractive area of investment. He said the centrist win could assure investors that, unlike the United Kingdom, there would be no referendum over France's departure from the European Union (EU).

"It [the EU] still has its issues but nobody would want to go back to the National Front because that was not

the best solution," he said.

As Macron's win represents a vote for European unity, the scholar said he hoped the president-elect would succeed in carrying out his plans, especially for economic reform.

"The president-elect will now have to prove that he can deliver [on his promises] because I'm afraid the next election would otherwise be a victory for the National Front," he concluded.

LEGAL WISE BY MdME

Jacky Lai Kim Hong*

REAL ESTATE MARKET: PLAYING IT COOL

In 2008 Q4, the average purchase price of residential units was MOP\$1,678.00 per square feet of usable area. Just within a period of two and a half years before the administrative measure to be imposed by the government, the same amount had more than doubled (at MOP\$4,112 in the year of 2011 Q2). To curb the sudden rise of housing prices and to maintain Macau's housing affordability, in 2011 the Macau government introduced Law No. 6/2011, creating a special stamp duty of 20% payable upon sale of residential properties if the property is transferred within the first year, and a special stamp of 10% if ownership is assigned within the second year. Supplemented by Law No. 15/2012, this aforementioned special stamp duty was extended to commercial properties, offices and parking space, plus an additional stamp duty of 10% for buyers of residential properties that are legal entities, sole proprietors and non-residents.

This stream of measures had the effect of

shifting the focus of some investors and foreign buyers for a brief period of time, thus slowing the market. However, with the monthly increase in gaming revenue, the housing market has started to regain its old momentum since the second quarter of 2016, with an increase of 20% in house prices compared to the same time last year.

As such, and not surprisingly, the Macau government has once again seen fit to devise new ways to combat speculation and regulate the real estate market.

With the aim of controlling excessive investment, promoting stable development of the housing market and supporting local banks in their risk management, the Macau government has decided to apply "adjudgment measures" for foreign buyers, non-first-time buyers of residential properties and purchasers of properties off the plan.

For the purposes of these measures, starting from 5 May 2017, a Macau resident is considered a first-time buyer when they do not own

more than 50% of any residential property during the application of financial credits with banks. Properties obtained in the form of donation or inheritance are excluded from the criteria.

Moreover, mortgage lending limits will reduce 10% to 20% for non-first-time buyers who purchase residential properties valued at MOP\$3.3 million or less. They will now only be able to borrow up to 70% of the property value, as opposed to 90% previously. The loan-to-value ratio ("LTV") for mortgage lending will thus be adjusted from 90% to 70%; in relation to properties ranging from MOP\$6 to 8 million, the LTV limit will be adjusted from 60% to 50%; and in relation to properties above MOP\$8 Million, the LTV limit for mortgage lending will be adjusted from 50% to 40%.

Further, in relation to foreign buyers and buyers of properties which are still under construction, they will face a 10% reduction in each price bracket.

We applaud the government for consistently

introducing market cooling mechanisms with the intention of protecting Macau's residents' ability to purchase in the ever-growing housing market. We do, however, wonder if the paltry alterations to the mortgage lending rules will have any significant effect on real-estate investors and foreign buyers in the luxury market where housing prices regularly exceed MOP\$8 million.

Moreover, and regarding the two major stamp duty laws, we believe that there are still loopholes which investors can exploit, such as resorting to family members with first time buyer status or joint-ownership of several properties, which are common solutions to these types of taxation constraints, as seen for example in Hong Kong: Wealthy investors find loopholes in the newly implemented stamp duty regulations in Hong Kong and take major advantage of the newly established stamp duty tax reductions. The Macau government should take this as a cautionary tale and continue to find effective and practical measures to improve the quality of the Macau housing market, where investors and individual home buyers can coexist.

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GAMBLING

US shares fall after ATM facial recognition announcement

MACAU casino operators tumbled in New York after the announcement that the local government will require facial recognition and identification card checks at ATMs before Chinese UnionPay cardholders can withdraw cash.

The Government Information Bureau issued a statement this week about the new technology to be installed in automated teller machines across the city. "The government will install - in phases - "know your customer" (KYC) technology in ATMs in Macau. When using ATMs in Macau with such KYC features, holders of UnionPay cards issued by mainland banks will be required to scan their mainland identity card and undergo a facial recognition check."

ATM customers in Macau



Gamblers are very resourceful in trying to move money out of the mainland.

HARRY CURTIS
INSTINET LLC ANALYST

withdraw as much as 10 billion Hong Kong dollars a month (USD1.28 billion), according to the South China Morning Post.

The move could crimp spending in the short run, Instinet LLC analyst Harry Curtis said in a research note. "History tells us that, while there could be a near-term blip in middle-market mass gaming revenues, Chinese gam-

blers are very resourceful in trying to move money out of the mainland," he wrote.

The Chinese government began a crackdown on corruption in 2012 that caused betting in Macau, the only part of China where casino gambling is legal, to fall by a third. The move by the bank threw cold water on a rally in Macau casino stocks triggered by a rebound in betting that began in August.

Sands U.S. shares declined 2.8 percent to \$57.13 as of 2:23 p.m on Monday. They were up 10 percent this year as of May 5. Wynn fell 1.5 percent to \$120.27 and Melco Resorts & Entertainment dropped 4.5 percent to \$21.34. Melco also announced an agreement to buy the remaining stock in the company held by Crown Resorts using shares issued in an offering.



No Macau tour groups affected by Thai bomb

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) issued a statement yesterday expressing it is paying close attention to the recent explosion at a shopping center in Pattani, Thailand. GGCT said there is currently no indication that any Macau tour groups were affected, and that it has not yet received any requests for information or assistance.

Increase in mobile phone subscribers

At the end of March, the number of mobile phone subscribers rose by 5.1 percent to 1,979,328. According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the number of fixed-line telephone subscribers decreased by 5.5 percent year-on-year to 137,078. The number of Internet subscribers increased by 7.2% year-on-year to 370,202. In the first quarter of 2017, the cumulative duration of Internet usage reached 300 million hours, up by 4.1 percent year-on-year.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:
Until when will Thriller Live be showing at The Parisian Theatre?

Please email the answers to:
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).

Zhang highlights three areas for Macau's



ZHANG Dejiang, Chairman of the National People's Congress and the official responsible for overseeing Hong Kong and Macau affairs, highlighted three key aspects of Macau development's on the second day of his visit to the territory.

Speaking to more than 120 local community leaders – including all of the region's secretaries and most of the lawmakers – at a seminar yesterday at the Ma-

cau East Asian Games Dome, the NPC Chairman put forth three suggestions regarding the future of Macau.

Firstly, Zhang said Macau should learn from its past success in implementing the "One Country, Two Systems" policy, in order to make bigger strides in this area. Secondly, the region should ensure a solid foundation for the aforementioned policy, the implementation of which Zhang said was at a critical juncture.

Thirdly, Macau should continue to foster progress by safeguarding stability, proactively integrating with national development and making full use of its unique advantages.

In his speech, Zhang expressed his hopes that everyone in Macau will genuinely understand President Xi Jinping's "important directive spirit", which was emphasized during Xi's visit in December 2014 which marked the 15th anniversary of Macau's han-

dover.

Zhang noted that the "One Country, Two Systems" policy has "achieved worldwide prominent success" and praised its results, which he said "are not easy to achieve."

The NPC Chairman said "the torch of patriotism" should be passed down to the younger generations by educating them on Chinese history and culture from a young age.

He said this was how Macau should preserve its mainstream social value of "loving the country and loving Macau."

Moreover, local associations should be a source of social power and unification, so as to meet the needs of local society and deal with global political changes.

Most noticeably, Zhang acclaimed Macau's development. "More and more countries and regions hope to board China's fast train of development. Macau, as an autonomous region, not only does not need to line up to buy tickets [to board the train], but it also gets to board the train for free," explained Zhang, adding that "the Central Government has already saved Macau a position in a VIP car."

During the event, six people, in-

cluding three lawmakers, voiced their concerns to Zhang.

Lawmaker Kou Hoi In presented four suggestions to the Central Government.

First, he asked for the Central Government's support for Macau by playing a role in the Macao Forum, which is being build Macau up as a platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

More and more countries and regions hope to board China's fast train of development.

ZHANG DEJIANG

He suggested that Beijing could help Macau establish offices in Guangzhou's Nansha area, or even at the Hengqin border gate, to offer traditional dishes from Portuguese-speaking countries, and to simplify customs procedures for the importation of such

Top legislator tour covers major infrastructure projects

THE Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, kicked off his Macau tour at the rooftop of the Macau Grand Prix Control Tower.

Zhang was at the building to review the progress of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) and its construction facilities.

Accompanying Zhang were Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário, and Customs Service director Alex Vong.

Zhang was briefed on the progress of the bridge's construction by the Coordinator of the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI), Chau Vai Man. The short visit ended



with the observation of the construction site through roof-mounted binoculars.

The bridge's construction made headway early this month with the installation of a 6,000-tonne, 12-meter wedge, which connects the tubes that will form the tunnel section of the bridge.

This segment is

part of a 6.7-kilometer tunnel, which in turn forms part of the 55-kilometer structure connecting Hong Kong, Macau and the city of Zhuhai in Guangdong Province. Zhang said the construction of the bridge is of great significance and has come into the limelight of the world. The construction of the cross-sea

bridge is highly difficult and filled with challenges, he said, adding that all those involved in the construction should beware of safety, arrange the schedule of the project properly and ensure the quality of the work.

Zhang hoped that the governments of Guangdong Province, the Hong Kong and the Macau SARs could further strengthen cooperation to ensure the construction project completed smoothly.

Construction of the cross-sea bridge began in December 2009.

Upon opening, it will halve ferry travel time as well as shorten land-based journeys between all three cities to a mere 30-minute drive, compared to three hours previously. **RM**

An insight into Macanese heritage

WHILE touring Macau, the Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, visited the Taipa Houses-Museum. There, he saw a Macanese photo exhibition, among many other antiques and artifacts from the region's past. Two notable members of the Macanese community – lawyer and lawmaker Leonel Alves, and architect Carlos Marreiros – guided Zhang on the tour, explaining the history behind some of the most important documents and pieces on display. The tour included a visit to the Macanese Living Museum, one of the five buildings of the Taipa Houses, which recreates a typical traditional Macanese house.

Leonel Alves introduced Zhang to Macanese culture.

"The Macanese are very happy and honored that he came to Macau and has time to visit our museum," said Alves. "Even though the museum is not that big, it expresses the historical culture."

Alves said the visit was relevant as it recognized that



"Macanese are also a part of Macau, it gives us great confidence." According to Xinhua, during the visit, "Zhang asked about the work and life of the native-born Portuguese people in Macau nowadays and wished them a blissful life."

During the visit, only the government's press department was able to obtain close-up photos of Zhang, while other media outlets had to keep their distance.

A few reporters asked Zhang about his impression of Macau, but he did not respond.

progress

food into mainland China.

He also raised the possibility of the Central Government helping Macau develop a fund to serve China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

Another proposal was that Beijing could support Macau's participation in the joint development of the Da Wan Bay area, in which Guangdong, Macau and Hong Kong are all involved.

Finally, he asked for the Central Government to support Macau in regulating the waters it had granted to the SAR in 2014.

Lawmaker Si Ka Lon said that he expects Macau to step up efforts to educate Macau residents

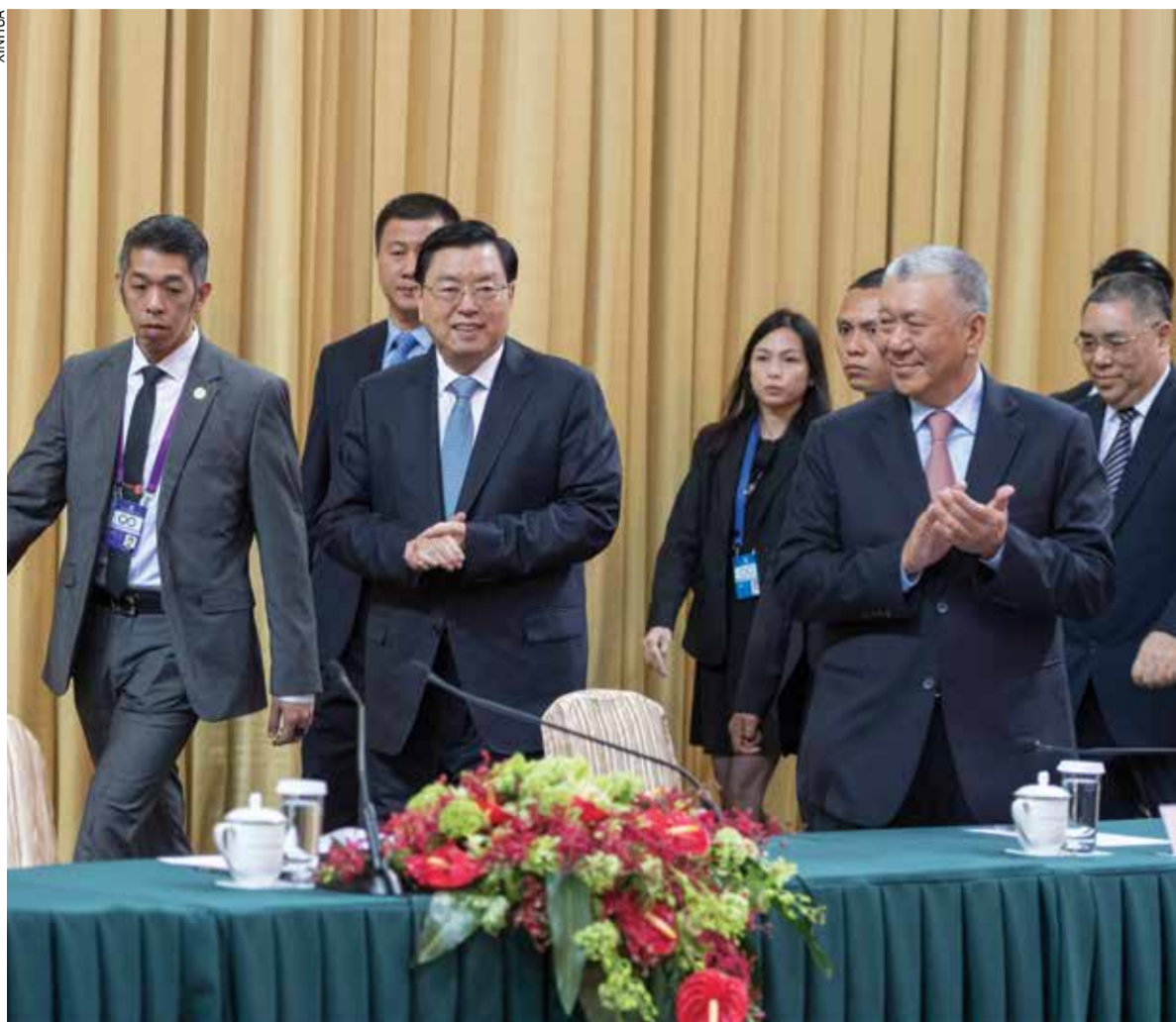
on China's constitution law and basic law, and also apply these to their work.

"After many years [...] Macau residents have a relatively thorough comprehension of the Basic Law, although their understanding [of] the constitution law, which is the fundamental law and the highest law, is relatively limited," Si said.

Lawmaker Lei Cheng I also mentioned the possible establishment of a local association to spread the ideology of "love the country, and love Macau", and discussed options for Macau's future development.

Lawmaker Wong Kit Cheng also voiced his opinions about Macau's development in terms of human resources.

Another speaker Lou I Wa talked about regional cooperation, particularly the Da Wan Bay development. **JZ**



Security law lauded in hint to Hong Kong

ZHANG lauded Macau's anti-subversion legislation in a message that appeared aimed at nearby Hong Kong. Similar legislation proposed there has stalled because of opposition from pro-democracy supporters.

Zhang Dejiang made the com-

ments to local officials and business leaders in the former Portuguese colony, which has been a special Chinese administrative region since 1999.

Zhang said he was pleased with Macau's efforts in making national security a priority after Beijing took control under a sys-

tem known as "one country, two systems."

Macau's government enacted its anti-subversion legislation in 2009.

Pro-democracy activists and lawmakers have objected to Hong Kong's version of the le-

gislation because of fears Beijing would use it to suppress dissent.

Hong Kong's government shelved plans for it in 2003 after half a million people took to the streets in protest. Some candidates in the race earlier this year to become Hong Kong's next

leader floated the idea of reviving it.

Hong Kong was promised much leeway to run its own affairs after China took control from Britain in 1997 but many residents fear Beijing is tightening its grip.

Importance of loyalty oath emphasized during AL visit



The AL president Ho Iat Seng shakes hands with Zhang

LEGISLATIVE Assembly (AL) president Ho Iat Seng personally briefed Zhang Dejiang on the AL's daily operations.

Zhang then took a group photo with the current lawmakers, upon which he voiced three additional hopes.

Firstly, he declared that every single lawmaker should take an oath of loyalty to Macau and its Basic Law.

Secondly, he said that Macau's legal system has room for progression.

"Lawmakers should be good at comprehending the exercise behind the One Country Two Systems, and at comprehending the

practical needs of Macau's economic development. Moreover, they should pay attention to the enhancement of the coordination with administrative organizations, thus pushing forward the SAR's legal works," said Zhang, adding that "lawmakers should express all sectors' needs objectively, and should supervise the government's administration rationally."

In a possible reference to recent developments in Hong Kong, the NPC chairman added that "Macau should insist on democratic, cooperative, and negotiable discussions. Lawmakers should refuse

adjourning the meetings [or] turning the meetings into violence, among other unhealthy phenomenon."

After leaving the AL, Zhang Dejiang visited the Court of Final Appeal. Judge Sam Hou Fai, together with Prosecutor-General Ip Son Sang, gave Zhang an overview of the court and the prosecution office.

Zhang praised Macau's judiciary work and expressed his hopes that Macau's judges and prosecutors will perform their duties prudently and lawfully to defend the people's rights, so that "under the 'One Country, Two Systems' policy, the city can protect the leading roles of the government's administration."

The NPC Chairman said judicial officials should continue to develop their skills and increase their legal knowledge, as they exercise influence on the quality and the implementation of the law. He concluded by saying that knowledge of local law should be more widely promoted in Macau.

Zhang's visit marked the first time that one of the seven members of the Politburo Standing Committee of the Communist Party had visited Macau's local parliament. **JZ**

Pro-democracy activists ejected from Macau

TWO pro-democracy activists from Hong Kong were deported hours after entering Macau, the Hong Kong Free Press reported.

The episode coincided with the visit of the Chairman of the National People's Congress, Zhang Dejiang, who oversees Hong Kong and Macau Affairs for the NPC.

According to the Hong Kong Free Press, Wong Tan-ching, the convener of the Tuen Mun Community Network, entered Macau with a friend at around 1 p.m. on Monday.

Wong claims to have been stopped by local police at the Senado Square area around 7 p.m. that day. Since Wong's friend had left his immigration forms at a hotel room, the two were brought to a local police station to confirm his identity.

Wong said he was later taken to the organized crime division, where he was asked if he was in contact with the New Macau Association and its vice presi-

dent Sulu Sou. He denied any affiliation with the organization and its vice president.

Wong was subsequently deported at around 1 a.m. yesterday on grounds of threatening the internal security of Macau, according to local police. He added that he had planned a tourist trip more than a month ago and did not know Zhang Dejiang would be visiting.

"The network is deeply disappointed by the Macau authorities' unreasonable act. We hope the government will stop political suppression in the form of unreasonable deportation," a statement issued by the Tuen Mun Community Network reads.

The network was formed in January last year to tackle issues facing the Tuen Mun community. Wong ran for a seat in the chief executive election committee last year, where he campaigned for the boycott of the election and failed to secure a seat.

The Hong Kong Free

Press reported that fellow pro-democracy activist Hui Lap-san, a district councillor's assistant, entered Macau as a tourist on Sunday to meet his girlfriend.

Hui arrived at the Taipa ferry terminal at 9.30 p.m. on Monday for his return trip to Hong Kong, only to be detained by immigration officials. He was then brought to the police headquarters and asked if he was in contact with Macau activists. The police claimed their documents showed that Hui joined the 2014 Occupy Central protests, but Hui denied being in Hong Kong at that time.

Hui was detained for two hours and then deported, ostensibly also due to internal security reasons.

"I don't understand how I create threats to Macau's internal security," he said.

Several Hong Kong lawmakers, district councillors and other pro-democracy figures had been denied entry to Macau prior to Zhang's visit.



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Crown exits decade-long Macau venture with Melco buyback

Vinicy Chan, Drew Singer and Daniela Wei

CASINO billionaires Lawrence Ho and James Packer have said their last adieu to a decade-long gaming partnership in Macau, with each going in opposite directions.

Packer's Crown Resorts Ltd. said it's selling the last of its stake in Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. and will receive about USD987 million from the transaction, according to an exchange filing yesterday. The company said it will use the net proceeds to reduce Crown's net debt.

Hong Kong billionaire Lawrence Ho, who controls the casino and resort developer, kicked off a share sale to fund the concurrent repurchase, the company said Monday in a filing. While calling Packer a "great friend and partner," Ho said he's taking the solo route in a global expansion, with Japan as the next target. Packer, on the other hand, is retreating back to Australia.

"Despite our positive history with Crown, I made the strategic decision to terminate the joint venture arrangement and allow Melco to pursue Japan alone," said Ho, chairman and chief executive officer of Melco Resort & Entertainment, in a statement. "This highlights our confidence in and commitment to, identifying and evaluating new markets which will drive long-term shareholder value."



Shares of Crown Resorts gained as much as 1.5 percent yesterday in Sydney. Shares of Melco fell 3.9 percent, the most since February, on Monday in New York where it's listed.

Crown Resorts began selling down its stake in Melco Crown last year, in the aftermath of a clampdown by Chinese authorities in

October, when more than a dozen Crown staff were detained for alleged gambling crimes. It's now mostly focused on its Australian resorts and development projects in the country.

Melco said Monday that it offered to sell 27.8 million American depositary shares and almost 82 million ordinary shares along with the buyback. Terms showed separately that 15.8 million ADS were offered at \$21.25 to \$21.45 each via Deutsche Bank AG, UBS Group AG and Morgan Stanley.

Melco Resorts' majority shareholder, Melco International Development Ltd., will repurchase its joint venture partner Crown Resorts' remaining stake in the company as part of the deal, according to a statement Monday. Upon the completion of the share repurchase on May 15, Crown Resort will cease to be a shareholder in the company and Crown's sole remaining nominee director will resign as non-executive director.

In the long-run, the partnership's end is a net positive for Melco that puts it in the driver's seat, said Union Gaming Group LLC analyst Grant Govertsen.

"The total elimination of Crown (and therefore the dissolving of the JV) is a positive for Melco," Govertsen said. "While the Melco side of the JV already had majority control, this transaction cements the control and allows Melco to solely determine strategies going forward."

Ho, whose company also operates a casino in the Philippines and owns a controlling stake in a Russian gaming resort, said in an interview with Bloomberg earlier that the company "will do whatever it takes" to get a casino license in Japan.

Japan legalized casino gambling last year, and legislation on the rules for the industry will be introduced in coming months. He forecast the country could "easily" be a \$20 billion market if cities such as Osaka or Yokohama had one or two casino resorts. **Bloomberg**



IPM's bachelor accredited

The Macau Polytechnic Institute's (IPM) Bachelor of Accounting program has successfully passed the Learning Program Review conducted by the Hong Kong Council for Accreditation of Academic and Vocational Qualifications (HKCAAVQ). IPM said in a press release that the result marks "the first degree program based in Macau in the field of accounting to have passed an international academic review. The HKCAAVQ assessment panel gave IPM's program very positive feedback on its academic development, research capabilities and teaching quality, which it said created an excellent learning environment for students."

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TECHNOLOGY

Amazon's new Echo adds touch screen and video-conferencing

Mark Gurman

AMAZON Inc.'s voice-activated Echo speakers already tell you things. Now, they can show you stuff, too.

On Tuesday, the Seattle-based giant unveiled the Echo Show, which features a seven-inch touch screen that can pull up calendar appointments, display music lyrics, play videos and a lot more.

The Echo Show will cost USD229 when it goes on sale in late June, \$50 more than the current high-end model. The debut follows last month's introduction of the Echo Look, which can evaluate a user's wardrobe. Including the two new entrants, Amazon will have five products in the Echo lineup, all powered by the Alexa digital assistant.

Amazon's gadget business isn't about big profits; it's a way to hook consumers into the company's fast-growing retail business and get people to sign up for the lucrative Prime subscription service. Meanwhile, Amazon has managed to outflank Google, which began selling its Home device two years after the Echo debuted, and Apple, which is still working on its own Siri-based version. Amazon won't say how many Echos have been sold, but it has grabbed 70 percent of the U.S. market for voice-assisted speakers, according to eMark-

ter, with Google accounting for most of the rest.

In a demonstration at Amazon's San Francisco offices, the Echo Show displayed full weather forecasts, news headlines and LeBron James highlights. The company says the device will also play camera feeds from such connected devices as baby monitors and camera-equipped door bells. Services that already connect to the Echo will be able to display information—say how far an Uber is from your front door or the basic box score for a baseball game. Alexa currently supports 12,000 “skills,” Amazon's term for third-party services, and over time will offer increasingly comprehensive information, such as the points scored by a specific player.

“We're not trying to build a phone or tablet interface on this, but extend that ambient nature of what you already have with an Echo,” says Amazon devices chief Dave Limp, who has been testing the Show at home for about a year.

This is the first Echo speaker with a built-in camera. The five-megapixel sensor makes possible a new video conferencing service that Amazon is rolling out alongside the new hardware. Similar to Apple's FaceTime, the service lets people make video calls from one Echo Show to another, or between the Show



This photo provided by Amazon shows an Amazon Echo Show on display in a living room setting

and an updated Alexa app on a smartphone. The service doubles as an intercom, allowing a person to call an Alexa speaker in another room without a camera. Users can't currently make cell phone calls via the Echo Show.

The Echo Show screen is slightly smaller than an iPad mini's and the same size as the Kindle Fire tablet. The Intel-powered device has better sound than its predecessor, eight microphones instead of seven and can now connect directly to WiFi, not solely via the Alexa smartphone app. By pushing a button, you can disable the camera and microphones. Limp says ha-

ckers won't be able to activate the camera remotely.

The new Echo will stream music from Amazon's own service, Spotify and Pandora, but not Apple Music. “We'd love to have Apple, but they're not super big” on opening up Apple Music integration, Limp says. (Apple Music subscribers can do a workaround by streaming audio from their smartphone to the Echo device via Bluetooth.)

Will the new Echo enhance Amazon's first-mover advantage? Photos of the Show—a black or white wedge of plastic—elicited decidedly mixed reviews on Twitter, with one person saying it belonged on Star Trek (presu-

mably the original) and another comparing it with the Chumby, a chunky digital assistant whose maker filed for bankruptcy. The Show may also be too pricey for many consumers. A report released Monday by Consumer Intelligence Research Partners in Chicago said the cheapest Echo product, the \$50, hockey puck-shaped Dot, has accounted for more than half of the estimated 10.7 million Echo devices sold since 2014.

Amazon's gadget business isn't about big profits; it's a way to hook consumers into the company's fast-growing retail business

Plus Apple, maker of beautiful products even when they aren't hits, potentially could leapfrog the Show. In a recent research note, analyst Ming-Chi Kuo said Apple may debut an Echo rival next month at the company's annual developer's conference. Apple employees have been testing a device at home for several months, according to people familiar with the matter. While marketing chief Phil Schiller recently talked up the benefits of having a screen on a voice-activated device, it's not clear whether the Apple version will in fact have one. **Bloomberg**

Alipay grabs slice of US market with first data

Jenny Surane, Selina Wang

CHINA'S mobile-payments king wants a piece of the world's biggest consumer market.

Alipay, owned by Jack Ma's Ant Financial, reached a deal that will let its users shop at 4 million U.S. merchants served by payments processor First Data Corp., the companies said Monday in a joint statement. The rollout will begin with businesses that use First Data's Clover products.

“This will open up Alipay to where it's truly ubiquitous across the United States and hopefully more countries later,” said Souheil Badran, president of Alipay North America. In the U.S., “we decided rather than trying to do it on



our own, this is an ecosystem that we're looking for a partner that can provide scale.”

Alipay and Tencent Holdings Ltd.'s WeChat Pay dominate the mobile-payments market in China with a combined 90 percent share. Alipay now wants to leverage the

millions of Chinese customers who travel abroad by offering them services wherever they go. The firm's mobile wallet -- which can hold cards from American Express Co., Visa Inc. and Mastercard Inc., among others -- is already accepted by more than 100,000 re-

tailers in 70 international markets, the company said.

The First Data deal will put Alipay in the same league as Apple Pay in terms of acceptance. Apple Inc.'s mobile payments service can be used at 4.5 million locations in the U.S., Chief Executive Officer Tim Cook said last week on a call with analysts.

Still, Alipay, which started in 2004 as an online payments processor for Alibaba Group Holding Ltd.'s e-commerce sites, is entering a market that's much less reliant on mobile transactions than its home country. China's mobile payments transactions topped 38 trillion yuan (USD5.5 trillion) in 2016, triple the

previous year, according to Beijing-based IResearch. That compares with \$112 billion in the U.S., Forrester Research said.

Alipay is just the latest Chinese payments player looking to make a deeper push abroad. Ant Financial has agreed to pay \$1.2 billion for the U.S. money-transfer service MoneyGram International Inc. And China UnionPay Co. is working with U.S. payments networks to develop international standards for mobile payments.

First Data, which was taken public by private-equity giant KKR & Co. in 2015, operates a debit-card network, processes card transactions and provides merchants with fraud detection and data

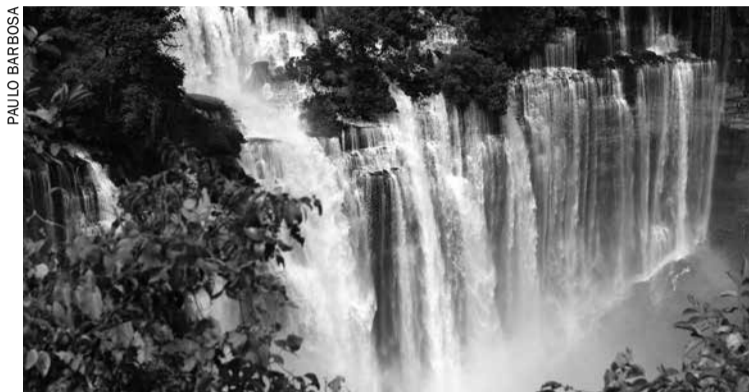
analytics services. The company began a trial run with Alipay at select luxury stores in California and New York in November.

The pilot “showed that it could work with those customers, but it could work on a greater scale,” said Dan Charron, head of First Data's global business solutions segment. “But you don't need to look at it as a U.S. or even a North America thing. You can look at it as a global thing.”

First Data shares have climbed 17 percent this year, outpacing the 3.4 percent advance of the 245-company Russell 1000 Financial Services Index. On Monday, the company reported better-than-expected first-quarter revenue of \$1.73 billion, fueled by a 7 percent increase in transactions at its global business solutions unit. **Bloomberg**

IN THE NEXT DECADE

Angola and Mozambique among the top 10 tourist destinations



Kalandula waterfalls, Luanda



Island of Mozambique

ANGOLA and Mozambique are among the 10 tourist destinations that are expected to record greater growth in demand for leisure travel in the next decade, according to the latest report on the competitiveness from the World Economic Forum.

Developing and emerging countries are the “stars” of the 2017 Travel and Tourism Competitiveness Report, which concludes that most of them “have significantly improved their performance since 2015” when the previous edition was published.

“Twelve of the 15 countries with the greatest improvements are emerging or developing countries,” the report said. Between 2016 and 2026, according to research by the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC), India will be the fastest growing destination for leisure travel, followed by Angola, Uganda, Brunei, Thailand, Chi-

na, Burma, Oman, Mozambique and Vietnam.

The competitiveness assessment includes a total of 136 economies, four of which are Portuguese-speaking, with Angola, due to insufficient data, not included in the analysis, in which it had been included in 2015.

Portugal is the best-placed Portuguese-speaking country, in 14th place, one place above the position reached two years ago, followed by Brazil, in 27th, which also rose one place.

Cape Verde rose three places to 83rd, with higher scores for the “air transport infrastructure” criteria (43rd, with the 2nd highest airport density in relation to the size of the population), “environmental sustainability” (44th) and “price competitiveness” (49th).

The lowest scoring criteria were “cultural resources and business travel” (134th) and “natural resources” (127th).

The Cape Verdean govern-

ment’s program aims to be among the 30 most competitive countries in the world in terms of tourism and among the top five in Africa by 2021.

Mozambique is one of the countries that performed best, eight places higher than in 2015, to 122nd place.

“The strengths of Mozambican competitiveness for tourism and travel continue to be its natural resources and its very open visa policy. This year, the country has risen due to improvements in information and communication technologies, resulting from increased use of mobile phones, reduced taxes and charges on air transport and the attribution of greater value to its natural resources,” the report said.

The tourism competitiveness report also highlights the sector’s great growth potential, in particular due to the expected increase in the world middle class by 2031 – another 3 billion people, most of them in China, India and emerging countries.

“This new purchasing power will give the middle class greater access to travel. Although travel is growing strongly in China, it is estimated that currently only 5% of Chinese citizens hold a passport, “a situation similar to that of other emerging countries, the report said. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Chinese tycoons plant money management flags on Wall Street

Miles Weiss

WHEN a new hedge fund opened in Mountainside, New Jersey, a leafy suburb that still holds an annual little-league parade, few would have guessed where much of its funding came from: Chinese billionaire Cai Kui.

The credit hedge fund, Westfield Investment, was founded by former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. Managing Director Renyuan Gao and managed USD139 million as of January. It's part of a new crop of asset management firms that are expanding China's reach on Wall Street as money has poured into the U.S. from the world's second-biggest economy.

China's marquee names are among those setting up shop in the U.S. Chen Feng, who controls the HNA Group airline and hotel conglomerate, has opened a U.S. money management firm. China Vanke Co., the mainland's second-largest residential developer, has indirectly taken a major stake in a manager. All told, about 324 firms with financial ties to the mainland and Hong Kong had registered with regulators by last year, more than double the number in 2012, filings show.

They are riding the wave of capital that left China on concerns about bank debt, a real estate bubble and the yuan, which plummeted about 11 percent against the dollar in the last two years. The currency flight was reflected in balance of payments data where capital outflows



tripled to \$220 billion last year from \$70 billion in 2014, according to Derek Scissors, a China economist at the American Enterprise Institute.

"There is so much Chinese money floating around the U.S. now," Scissors said. "If you're a Chinese money manager, why wouldn't you come here?"

The migration comes amid a Chinese shopping spree for an array of U.S. companies, including financial firms like New York's Cowen Group Inc. and the Chicago Stock Exchange. Chongqing Casin Enterprise Group led the purchase of the exchange, which was founded in 1882. The deal was reviewed by a U.S. panel on national security grounds and eventually cleared in December.

In another deal with political overtones, a subsidiary of Chen's

HNA Group agreed in January to buy a stake in Anthony Scaramucci's SkyBridge Capital, a New York fund of hedge funds firm. The announcement came after reports that Scaramucci had been tapped for a top job in the White House, stirring speculation that HNA's motives were partly political.

Scaramucci, whose White House job never materialized, has denied that HNA was seeking influence in the Trump administration.

The registration of the China-linked firms with the SEC hasn't drawn such scrutiny. The SEC began requiring hedge funds and buyout firms to sign up with the agency in 2012 as a result of the Dodd-Frank Act. About 30 percent of the Chinese firms that registered by 2016 are full-fledged

money managers. The rest filed as exempt advisers that operate in the U.S. on a more limited basis.

"It doesn't require a lot to register in the U.S.," said Michael McCormack, a financial marketing consultant who specializes in China's asset management sector. "Especially when you compare it with the months or years it takes to get registered as a money manager in China."

Several of the firms, such as Vanke, have government ties or connections with state-owned enterprises. Some registered managers plan to invest in China, Hong Kong or Taiwan. Others say they will buy U.S. assets, such as real estate, or venture capital stakes in Silicon Valley startups.

Vanke Holdings USA formed Brightstone Capital Partners with several U.S. real estate experts to acquire commercial property. "We are definitely seeing a lot of opportunities," said Kai Yan Lee, managing director of Vanke Holdings.

China's biggest financial firms have their hands in several of the startups. Hong Kong's ICBC Credit Suisse Asset Management International, which is controlled by a joint venture between Credit Suisse AG and the state-run Industrial and Commercial Bank of China Ltd., registered with the SEC last May. The asset manager, one of the largest in Hong Kong, plans to offer U.S. funds.

Citic Capital Holdings, a money manager for one of China's largest state investment companies, supplied \$45 million to

hedge fund CCSZF Management in Norwalk, Connecticut. ICBC provided financing in return for a cut of the profits. The fund makes leveraged bets on Treasuries through a relative value arbitrage strategy. Officials from ICBC Credit Suisse and ICBC didn't respond to requests for comment.

Billionaire's Manager

Some firms manage money primarily for moguls such as Cai, who has invested overseas for years and is worth \$2.7 billion, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He was married to Wu Yajun, who was the richest woman in China until the couple divorced in 2012.

Gao, Cai's hedge fund manager, generated a 51 percent gain at Westfield in 2016, in part by betting on distressed corporate debt, according to an investor letter viewed by Bloomberg. Gao and a spokeswoman at Cai's family office, Junson Capital, declined to comment.

Chen, whose conglomerate last year bought a stake in Hilton Worldwide Holdings Inc., has also focused his U.S. firm, HNA Investment Management, partly on tourism. The firm reported assets totaling \$78 million at the end of 2016, including a 19 percent stake in Red Lion Hotels Corp., a Spokane, Washington, hospitality and leisure company. HNA Investment officials didn't return calls seeking comment.

"Everyone is looking for ways of carrying cash across the border," said Robert McTamney, who formerly ran Goldman Sachs Asia's securities division. "To the extent that domestic Chinese investors can invest" abroad, "the single largest consideration is an implicit short on the renminbi," said McTamney, who now runs Ripple Capital Management in New York. **Bloomberg**

Beijing stepping up scrutiny of active stock traders as Xi hosts summit

CHINA is stepping up scrutiny of stock traders as the government prepares to host representatives from more than 100 countries at a summit in Beijing attended by President Xi Jinping.

The nation's equity exchanges told brokerages to notify clients that regulatory scrutiny will increase through May 16 as China hosts the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation, according to people with direct knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified discussing policies that haven't been announced publicly. Authorities will apply extra scrutiny to active traders, investors who control large sums of money and accounts that have already been flagged for special monitoring, the people

said. State-backed funds stand ready to buy shares if needed, they said.

The instructions, delivered at the behest of China's securities regulator, follow a pattern of market intervention during tightly-scripted government events. The Belt and Road summit -- part of Xi's push to increase trade ties across Asia, Europe, the Middle East and Africa -- kicks off Sunday against the backdrop of rising investor angst. The Shanghai Composite Index headed for its longest losing streak in three years yesterday amid concern that a separate regulatory crackdown on leverage will curb demand for shares.

The CSRC didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment. Exchanges in Shenzhen and Shan-

ghai declined to comment.

Xi will attend the Belt and Road event's opening ceremony and will host a roundtable summit with 28 foreign leaders, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan, China's foreign minister told reporters at a briefing last month in Beijing.

The government has been said to intervene in markets during past events of political importance, including Xi's appearance at the World Economic Forum in Davos in January and the last two annual meetings of Chinese lawmakers in Beijing. Authorities may be especially keen to project an image of stability in 2017 as they prepare for a twice-a-decade Communist Party leadership reshuffle toward year-end.



Volatility in the Shanghai Composite has fallen to levels not seen since the earliest days of China's stock market in the 1990s, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. Daily losses in the benchmark gauge have exceeded 1 percent in just

one of the past 96 trading sessions.

Chinese regulators have faced criticism for past efforts to intervene in the stock market, most notably their campaign to halt a crash in the summer of 2015. During that episode,

authorities allowed hundreds of companies to halt trading in their shares and banned major stockholders from selling, measures that contributed to MSCI Inc.'s decision to exclude China's domestic equities from its global indexes. **Bloomberg**

Jeff Horwitz & Alicia A. Caldwell, Washington

Trump in-laws promote thorny visa-for-sale program in China

PLENTY can go wrong when foreign money mixes with immigration green cards, real estate deals and political connections.

Revelations that the sister of Jared Kushner, President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, promoted a program offering a path to U.S. citizenship to Chinese backers in a Kushner family project bring new scrutiny to a foreign investor visa program. The Kushner Companies apologized yesterday [Macau time], saying it had not meant to lure investors by using Jared Kushner's name at an investment promotion event held Saturday at a Ritz Carlton in Beijing. Marketing materials for the event promoted Nicole Kushner Meyer as Jared's sister, and cited the Kushner family's "celebrity" status.

The project promoted by Meyer in Beijing is a 79-story apartment building called Kushner 1. The company is seeking 300 aspiring U.S. residents to invest a total of USD150 million, and it follows other Kushner family projects using the investment program known as EB-5, including a nearby Trump-licensed building promoted as "Trump Bay Street."

At a press briefing, White House spokesman Sean Spicer said Jared Kushner has no involvement in the project. An attorney for Jared Kushner said he had sold his stake to a trust benefiting other members of the Kushner family, and would recuse himself from related policy matters while serving as an adviser to Trump.

Though the foreign investor immigration program has become a source for cheap real estate financing for projects like the Kushner family's, questions about its fairness and national security implications have made it a political briar patch for years. One recent scandal involved Hillary Clinton's brother.

Created in 1990 as a way to encourage investment during a recession, the program requires fo-



Event promoting EB-5 investment in a Kushner Companies development at a hotel in Shanghai, earlier this week

reigners to invest \$1 million in a business that sustainably employs 10 people anywhere or \$500,000 in rural areas or those with high unemployment.

The smaller investment is done through a regional center, a collection point for multiple investments that can be used for a variety of projects. The regional center is the root of many complaints about the program.

As part of such deals, investors — who in recent years have been overwhelmingly from China — typically accept below-market investment returns to qualify for a visa, allowing the developer to pocket the savings on financing costs. After as little as two years,

participants can apply for a fast-track green card and later U.S. citizenship. With permanent residency in hand, the foreign investors can then sponsor additional visas to bring in family members.

Critics have faulted the program for failing to bring investment into downtrodden communities as intended. By gerrymandering together rich geographic areas with poor ones, developers have managed to win approval from economic development authorities for luxury projects in Manhattan, Beverly Hills and Miami's South Beach.

Beyond the question of whether the program encourages development as intended lie allegations of

political favoritism and national security risks.

President Barack Obama's choice for the No. 2 official at the Homeland Security Department nearly had his appointment derailed in 2013 amid allegations that he provided special treatment to a company run by former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's brother and others. Alejandro Mayorkas was accused of intervening in three visa cases involving prominent Democrats, including Clinton's brother.

The Homeland Security Department inspector general concluded in 2015 that Mayorkas' intervention created the appearance of favoritism and special access.

Mayorkas denied wrongdoing. He said at the time that while he disagreed with the inspector general's report, he would "certainly learn from it and from the process."

U.S. officials have raised concerns about the vetting of investors, too. A 2013 Homeland Security Department investigation cited risks that Iranian intelligence operatives may have exploited the program, and the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services found numerous fraudulent documents when it audited a sampling of investors' green card applications.

In an unclassified State Department report from June 2012, officials said that Chinese applicants to the program are "usually coached and prepped for their interviews, making it difficult to take at face value applicant claims regarding income" or membership in the Communist Party.

In 2015, the Government Accountability Office warned that the program could not reliably catch fraud by visa applicants who bought into the program with money obtained through drug trade, human trafficking, or other criminal activities.

The program's flaws have drawn repeated efforts by members of Congress, including Sens. Chuck Grassley, R-Iowa, and Diane Feinstein, D-Calif., to impose further oversight and restrictions on the visas, but such efforts have not overcome substantial lobbying by developers and real estate interests.

Trump administration spokesman Sean Spicer said the president would look at the foreign investor visa program as part of a broader review of immigration policy. **AP**

12 killed, including 10 S Korean children, in accident

TWELVE people, including 10 South Korean school children, were killed yesterday when their bus was involved in an accident and caught fire inside a tunnel in eastern China, the local government and a South Korean diplomat said.

A Chinese child and the bus driver were also killed, while the children's teacher was injured and undergoing surgery, said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he wasn't authorized to talk to reporters.

The Weihai city govern-

ment said on its microblog that the vehicle caught fire inside a highway tunnel in the city but gave no other details. It said the accident's cause was under investigation. The diplomat, based in the nearby port city of Qingdao, said he had no word on the accident's cause.

South Korea's Yonhap news agency said the South Korean children attended a kindergarten affiliated with an international school catering largely to Koreans resident in China.

Meanwhile, authorities have removed six officials

in central China from their positions after 18 workers were killed by a gas leak in a coal mine, state media reported.

Those removed included the deputy county chief for Youxian County, Wang Zhuowen, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

Those responsible for the accident were detained by police, the news agency reported, although it was unclear if they were the same as the local officials removed from office.

Investigators were testing the makeup of the gas blamed for Sunday's

accident at the Jilinqiao mine in Hunan Province. China is the world's largest coal producer and its mining industry has long been one of the world's deadliest, with hundreds of deaths annually.

After the gas leak was discovered, Jilinqiao's manager asked workers to enter the mine to rescue their colleagues, Xinhua said. The manager and some others who participated in the rescue were among those killed.

Authorities said 37 rescued miners were sent to hospitals for treatment. **MDT/AP**



Authorities have removed six officials from their positions after 18 workers were killed by a gas leak in a coal mine in Hunan, last Sunday

Martha Mendoza &
Jim Gomez, Mabalacat

AP EXCLUSIVE | PHILIPPINES

Big child webcam sex bust reveals rising abuse

THE suspected pedophile could see people banging on his front door. But were they neighbors? Cops?

One had letters on her jacket. As David Timothy Deakin googled “What is NBI?” from the laptop on his bed, the Philippines National Bureau of Investigation smashed their way into his cybersex den.

Children’s underwear, toddler shoes, cameras, bondage cuffs, meth pipes and stacks of hard drives cluttered the stuffy, two-bedroom townhouse. Penciled on the wall, someone had scrawled “My Mom and Dad love me.” In his computer were videos and images of young boys and girls engaged in sex acts.

“Why is everyone asking about children coming into my house?” said Deakin, 53, bare-chested and slick with sweat, his breath sour and glasses foggy, his wrists bound with a zip tie.

Deakin’s arrest April 20 reveals one of the darkest corners of the internet, where pedophiles in the U.S., Europe and elsewhere pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, even babies, directing their moves through online livestreaming services.

This relatively new crime, webcam sex tourism, is spreading rapidly. The United Nations describes “alarming growth of new forms of child sexual exploitation online.” The FBI says it’s epidemic, and that at any given moment, 750,000 child predators are online.

Almost every case stems from the Philippines, where good English speakers, increased internet connections and widespread international cash transfer systems combine with widespread poverty and easy access to vulnerable kids. There have been as many as three busts a week there this spring. The youngest victim ever, rescued a few weeks ago, was an infant, 2 months old. Most are under 12.

This spring The Associated Press watched a raid, rescue and launch of a major investigation that continues to play out on both sides of the world.

“This should serve as a warning,” said NBI anti-human trafficking chief Janet Francisco, who led the case. “We will really put them in jail and they will die in jail.”

Even as police burst in, Deakin was streaming illicit content through the anonymous Tor network. Agents said he had a webpage open to wipe his phone clean. They tied him up with an iPhone charging cord before he could hit the button.



Former pedophile cybersex victims participate in a study course at a counseling center for sexual exploitation survivors in Manila

AP and investigators asked him repeatedly why he had the obscene images stored on his computer.

“There was no children in front of the cam in my house, not even dressed, as far as I know, not even with their frigging mothers as far as I know,” he said.

But he said the images and videos may have slipped in when he downloaded massive files using BitTorrent, a data tool used legitimately by academics and artists, but also by child pornographers. FBI agents looking for abusers search BitTorrent to

spot people sharing exploitive images.

Deakin said he grew up in Peoria, Illinois, in a splintered family. He was licensed as a roofing contractor in his 30s, seasonal work which left winters free; he used the time to study computers. He moved to the Philippines in 2000 for a job setting up internet service providers and installing Blackmagic livestreaming production programs.

In recent years, Deakin said, he earned USD30 an hour as a systems administrator. But his home was filled with junk,

his refrigerator near empty. Stacks of used egg cartons fell from the shelves, and a half-eaten pot of cold rice sat on the stove.

“You know what you’ve done in this room,” an investigator told Deakin.

She showed him a photo of several children. Shrugging, he said one of them was probably a few doors away with her cousin. Minutes later, two girls, 9 and 11 years old, were rescued by police.

AP did not interview the girls Deakin told police about; victims of such raids need immediate and long-term counseling and care. But in the tranquil garden of a shelter for sexual exploitation survivors about 60 miles south of Deakin’s town house, 19-year-old Cassie described her ordeal. AP did not use her whole name to protect her privacy.

The youngest daughter in an impoverished family, Cassie believed the man who came to

her village promising a better life if she’d go to the city with him. She was 12.

Within months the man bleached her dark skin, straightened her hair, and began waking her at 4 a.m. to work.

“He needed some girl to show her whole body in front of the camera,” she said.

The abuse ended when her older sister found out and went to the police.

Some buyers try to brush off the abuse, saying they’re not directly touching the children.

“It’s not just a virtual crime. It is an actual crime,” said human rights attorney Sam Inocencio, who heads International Justice Mission’s Philippines office, which supports local law enforcement with investigators and attorneys. “Online sexual exploitation is possibly the most evil thing that I’ve seen.”

In 2013, online sex exploitation of children gained global attention after researchers at the Netherlands-based nonprofit Terre des Hommes launched a realistic-looking animation of a 10-year-old Filipino girl named Sweetie. They took the fake girl on chat groups and online forums. Pedophiles swarmed. In 10 weeks, analysts identified 1,000 men in 71 countries who had tried to get illegal images.

The proliferation of crimes, along with new mandatory reporting, led to 8.2 million reports last year to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s CyberTipline related to online child sexual exploitation. That compares with 8.3 million reports in the 17 years prior.

Officials at both ends of the abuse agree they need to collaborate to stop it, and last month the U.S. committed \$3 million.

Deakin’s bust turned out to be one of the largest seizures of its kind in the Philippines. His Cheery Mobile Touch HD tablet — which can be wiped clean and reset with a four digit code — had more than 4,000 contacts. One computer had another 13 networked into it, from servers he said were around the world. There were 30 hard drives.

Neighbor Bessie Geronimo was teary-eyed. She’d seen children going in and out. Now, she wondered, could she have intervened?

“Oh, I pity those children,” she said.

Authorities from a village police substation said a housekeeper filed a complaint against Deakin last year: he wasn’t paying her, she said, and she was worried about what he was doing with children in the bedroom with the door closed. They visited his house but had no authority for a raid. **AP**

■ **Arrest reveals one of the darkest corners of the internet, where pedophiles in the US, Europe and elsewhere pay facilitators in the Philippines to sexually abuse children, even babies**

INDONESIA

Jakarta governor sentenced to 2 years prison for blasphemy

Stephen Wright, Ali Kotarumalos, Jakarta

AN Indonesian court yesterday sentenced the minority Christian governor of Jakarta to two years in prison for blaspheming the Quran, a shock decision that undermines the country's reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam.

The five-judge panel said Gov. Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama was "convincingly proven guilty of blasphemy" and ordered his arrest.

He was taken to Cipinang Prison in east Jakarta, said one of his lawyers, Ronny Talampey. Ahok said he would appeal but it was unclear if he would be released once an appeal was underway.

Outside the court, supporters of Ahok wept and hugged each other amid shouts of jubilation from members of conservative Islamic groups.

"Here we have witnessed that the judge has become a representative of God, that the judge



Supporters of Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama display a poster that reads "Free Ahok" during a rally outside the court where his sentencing hearing is held in Jakarta

has upheld justice," said Syamsu Hilal, a member of an anti-blasphemy group who reported Ahok to police last year.

Massive protests in the past six months against Ahok and the verdict are among mounting signs

of an increasing religious conservatism in the world's most populous Muslim nation, which has been traditionally been seen as a bulwark of tolerance and pluralism in the Islamic world.

Vigilante groups frequently at-

tempt with impunity to prevent Indonesia's religious minorities from practicing their faith and the country's gay community has faced a surge in persecution in the past two years.

The blasphemy case was a de-

cisive factor in Ahok's defeat to a Muslim candidate in last month's election for Jakarta governor. Hard-line Islamic groups opposed to having a non-Muslim leader for the city capitalized on the trial to draw hundreds of thousands to anti-Ahok protests in Jakarta that shook the centrist government of President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo.

The two-year prison sentence was a surprise outcome after prosecutors had recommended two years of probation.

The maximum sentence for blasphemy in Muslim-majority Indonesia is five years in prison.

The lead judge, Dwiwarso Budi Santiarso, said the trial was a purely criminal one and the court disagreed that there were political aspects to the case.

He said Ahok's comment during the election campaign that people were being deceived if they believed the Quran forbids Muslims from voting for non-Muslims had degraded and insulted Islam.

"As part of a religious society, the defendant should be careful to not use words with negative connotations regarding the symbols of religions including the religion of the defendant himself," he said.

Wayan Sudirta, another lawyer for Ahok, said there was "so much pressure" for Ahok to be imprisoned.

"We can understand but we cannot accept the verdict. Therefore we will appeal," he said. AP



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David Mchugh &
Barry Hatton, Lisbon

VITOR Rodrigues remembers when they told him in the 1990s that the euro would bring affluence. The owner and only full-time employee of the Leitura bookstore on a leafy street in Lisbon's Estefania district says he believed it.

"Now I feel very disenchant-ed," the 47-year-old says at his cash register. "The euro has served macro interests, not the man in the street. It's been good for banks and for political careers but it hasn't brought us any great benefits."

The euro, the target of populist politicians who claim it has inflicted undue economic pain on Europeans, has a new lease on life after Emmanuel Macron, a firmly pro-euro moderate, won the French presidential election this week. His rival, the right-wing Marine Le Pen, had wanted to pull France out of the bloc, with likely painful consequences for the currency.

But even Macron acknowledges the need to strengthen and reform the euro. He will find it, however, an uphill battle.

There are political logjams making the currency more resistant to market crises and to end its most painful shortcoming — a reliance on crushing budget austerity to fix countries whose finances and economies run into trouble.

Countries that ran into heavy debt — Greece, Ireland, Portugal, Cyprus and Spain — got bailout loans from the other members in return for massive cuts to public spending. That caused job losses, pushed families into poverty and hurt company earnings.

It pitted creditor countries like Germany and the Netherlands against the often resentful debtors. And even countries like France or Italy, large economies that are struggling to grow but did not need bailouts, have had to focus on public spending cuts to meet euro rules.

The eurozone is growing and many of these economies are now doing better. The EU's regular Eurobarometer poll shows 56 percent agree the euro is good for their country, with 33 percent saying it's bad. Even in Greece and Portugal, majorities support the euro. But the brutal bailout experience has fueled the kind of disenchantment Rodrigues conveys.

He says he and people he knows have undergone years of steady erosion of their buying power. "Someone in an average job, say middle management, earns less now than they did before the euro," he said.

Portugal hoped to graduate from being a low-wage economy with membership of the euro in 1999. But the low interest rates that came with its linkage to stronger economies like Germany invited



Vitor Rodrigues picks up a book titled "Vencer o Medo", or "To Defeat Fear", by union leader Manuel Carvalho da Silva

EU

Euro dodges new crisis with Macron win, but needs fixes

overspending. Portugal dug itself deep into debt and needed a 78-billion-euro bailout in 2011.

Portugal's finances are healing, but only after years of cutbacks, including wage freezes and pension cuts. The average monthly salary in the private sector, also before tax, is around 1,100 euros (USD1,200).

Worst hit has been Greece, which saw its economy shrink by a quarter. Shuttered storefronts litter downtown Athens. Whole families can be seen lining up for free meals at a growing number of soup kitchens.

What went wrong? When trouble arrived, member countries found that joining the euro had taken away important safety valves. They could not let their currency fall in value to make themselves more competitive in international trade. And there was no large central treasury to even out recessions.

Roberto Gualtieri, who chairs the committee on economic and monetary affairs in the European Parliament, thinks the need for new steps is widely enough recognized that action could follow the German elec-

tion in September.

"I hope that after this electoral cycle, we will have the political conditions for providing more investments, more reforms, and better and more completed economic and monetary union," Gualtieri told The Associated Press. "The great victory of Macron is an encouraging signal in this direction."

There already have been a few fixes. Supervision of the biggest banks was toughened by handing it to the European Central Bank, to prevent the cost of bailing them out from forcing governments to require bailouts themselves, as in Ireland's case. The European Central Bank took market pressure off government finances by offering to buy the bonds of governments facing excessive borrowing costs. Member countries set up a bailout fund, the European Stability Mechanism.

So far, the 19 governments have not been willing to go farther. In particular, the idea of giving the European Union central taxing and spending authority remains anathema to Germany, the biggest and most politically powerful member.

Germans don't want to get the bill for other countries' troubles in a so-called "transfer union." Their view is that countries that want more growth can do what Germany did in 2004: pass tough, pro-business reforms that cut long-term jobless benefits and made temporary work arrangements easier.

So what's the answer? One proposal is to add EU-wide deposit insurance. That would add more insulation against bank crises and market panic. Another is some more limited form of central fiscal help — such as EU-wide unemployment insurance that would automatically provide collective assistance when recession strikes an individual country.

The euro has served macro interests, not the man in the street.

VITOR RODRIGUES
BOOKSTORE OWNER, LISBON

Gualtieri says the first step is to avoid reducing deficits too aggressively and to take a more balanced approach that would include more investment spending — and then tackle improvements to the make-up of the euro.

The euro's "current construction is clearly suboptimal, but I disagree with those who consider it structurally unsustainable and permanently on the verge of collapse," he said. "I have seen in the recent years many predictions about the imminent dissolution of the euro, and they have always proven to be wrong."

EU jobless insurance, for instance, could provide a crisis cushion but avoid permanent transfers by requiring the assisted country to pay the money back over time once the economy improves. The EU policy-making process could take up deposit insurance again after the German election.

"A healthy euro is in Germany's interest, it is in everyone's interest," Gualtieri said. "We are not asking anyone to pay... We could do far better and we should do better." AP

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what's ON



MACAO ARTS WINDOW 2017: UNTITLED TRAVEL – WORKS OF LIN GE

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

UNTIL: May 14, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

ARTISTIC CRAFTSMANSHIP OF OUR ANCESTORS - EXHIBITION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS OF TAIPA AND COLOANE

TIME: 10am-6am daily (Last admission at 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

PHOTOGRAPHS OF OLD TEMPLES IN MACAO

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

UNTIL: July 16, 2017

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

MUSEUM ADMISSION: MOP5 (Free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LOVE OF MACAO – PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

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

UNTIL: July 2, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LEATHER CARVING EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am-6pm (Closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: June 18, 2017

VENUE: 10 Fantasia, No. 10, Calçada da Igreja de S. Lázaro

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 4582

Offbeat

MAYOR CHARGED WITH CORRUPTION HOSTS CRUISE TO PAY LEGAL FEES

A New Jersey mayor facing corruption charges has hosted a cruise to raise money for his legal fees.

NorthJersey.com (njersy.co/2prj6AB) reports that Paterson Mayor Joey Torres charged USD150 to \$250 per person for a Hudson River harbor evening cruise last week.

Torres says about 300 people attended the event. He did not say how much money was raised.

Torres and three city public works officials are charged with conspiring to have city employees work overtime at a warehouse leased by the mayor's family. He has pleaded not guilty.

The mayor says he plans to hold another legal defense fundraiser in July and plans to run for re-election next year.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:15	Revenge S1
17:40	Once Upon A Time Sr.2 (Repeated)
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:30	Drama
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	EU Short Film Challenge 2016
23:50	Champions League Highlights
01:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:40	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



Nelson Mandela

1994 MANDELA BECOMES SA'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT

Nelson Mandela has become South Africa's first black president after more than three centuries of white rule.

Mr Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) party won 252 of the 400 seats in the first democratic elections of South Africa's history.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria today, attended by politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries around the world.

As part of the ceremony he pledged his allegiance to South Africa and his determination to continue his work for reconciliation.

"I do hereby swear to be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and do solemnly and sincerely promise to promote that which will advance and to oppose all that may harm the republic... and to devote myself to the well-being of the republic and all its people."

Jubilant scenes on the streets of Pretoria followed the ceremony with blacks, whites and coloureds celebrating together.

When the new president, flanked by First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Second Deputy President FW de Klerk, appeared on the Botha Lawn beneath the Union Buildings the crowd went wild.

More than 100,000 South African men, women and children of all races sang and danced with joy.

Addressing the crowd President Mandela paid tribute to outgoing president Mr FW de Klerk: "He has made for himself a niche in history.

"He has turned out to be one of the greatest reformers, one of the greatest sons of South Africa."

He also spoke of the "human disaster" of apartheid.

"We saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict... The time for healing of wounds has come... Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the oppression of one by another."

And urging forgiveness he said in Afrikaans: "Wat is verby verby" - "What is past is past"

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the inauguration ceremony, President Mandela entrusted his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, with the day-to-day business of the government. Mandela himself concentrated on the ceremonial duties of a leader, building a new international image for South Africa.

Mandela stepped down as South Africa's president after the ANC's landslide victory in the national elections in the summer of 1999, in favour of Mr Mbeki.

Since his retirement he has continued travelling the world, meeting leaders, attending conferences and collecting awards.

Nelson Mandela died on December 5, 2013, in Johannesburg.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You might get backed into a corner by a boss or coworker today, but don't panic. When you panic, you start to make stupid decisions - and your tendency to exaggerate grows.

Taurus April 20-May 20 The big issues are totally under control, and you're on a positive path - but things are getting, well, a bit weird. Public information is suddenly going private and secrets abound.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 No matter how many errands you have to run today, you'll have lots more flexibility than you think. So don't limit yourself - don't cut off any new opportunities because you're afraid of falling short on time.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's not about the destination this time; it's all about the journey. Don't rush ahead when you really want to take your time. You'll not only end up creating a sub-par product, but you won't enjoy the process.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You've been procrastinating too often recently, and while it hasn't created any problems, it could. So if you're dealing with a nagging issue at work or at school, it deserves all your attention today.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Getting a consensus about vital information will give everyone a stake in this project, make you look like a great leader, and set a much more positive tone for the days ahead.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Whichever direction you move in, take it slowly until you get comfortable - the pendulum swings in the other direction of your life today. You may be confronted with information that makes you rethink your beliefs.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Luckily, the encounter will be fairly brief. You can try to teach them a lesson if you really want to, but it might be much more amusing if you just laugh in their face and walk away.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You are always prepared to hear the truth, but the truth might not come in such a diplomatic package this time. Someone whose opinion you value will give you feedback today that leaves you feeling confused.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Whatever you're trying to distract yourself from isn't going away any time soon! Until you face the person, place or thing you are trying to avoid, you will never find the peace of mind you deserve.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Be careful whom you deal with today, and trust only the people who have proven their trustworthiness. Try not to get too paranoid, but just remember it's wiser to be safe than sorry.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Today, any dramas that pop up should be fairly insignificant, although annoying. Take this turmoil seriously. If you ignore it, it'll just keep coming back to drive you crazy.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for China and World cities, including columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Fess up; 6- Wedding cake feature; 10- Layered hairdo; 14- Birds on Canadian coins; 15- 1952 Winter Olympics site; 16- Used to be; 17- Monster; 18- Patron saint of sailors; 19- Not ___ many words; 20- An opening; 22- Reflecting surface; 24- The Beatles' "Back in the ___"; 25- Naming; 26- Tenant; 29- Is in the red; 30- Yours, in Tours; 31- Resolute; 37- Steal, ransack; 39- Corroded; 40- Accustom; 41- Appraisal; 44- Revenuers, for short; 45- Clairvoyant; 46- In the least; 48- Curved sword; 52- ___ about (approximately); 53- Pesters; 54- Clog; 58- Designer Christian; 59- Former Hungarian premier Nagy; 61- Ditto; 62- Kitchen addition; 63- Lecherous look; 64- Betel palm; 65- New driver, often; 66- Singer Fitzgerald; 67- Yellowish citrus fruit;

DOWN: 1- Jessica of "Dark Angel"; 2- A small town; 3- Pout; 4- Intruding; 5- Deadly fly; 6- It's human; 7- Archipelago part; 8- Freddie Krueger roamed ___ Street in the movies; 9- More spacious; 10- Eddy; 11- Artist Matisse; 12- Burning of another's property; 13- Conductor Solti; 21- Second hand, took advantage of; 23- "Who's there?" response; 25- Twixt's partner; 26- Dr. Zhivago's love; 27- Hot times abroad; 28- In order (to); 29- Brown-furred aquatic carnivorous mammal; 32- Chair designer Charles; 33- Meddle; 34- Deprived of sensation; 35- ___ saw Elba; 36- Fender bender; 38- Sontag composition; 42- Permanently attached, to a zoologist; 43- Sound quality; 47- Usual; 48- A trainee in a profession; 49- Join; 50- Govt. security; 51- Actress Sophia; 52- ___ barrel; 54- Pitcher Hershiser; 55- Tabloid twosome; 56- Nuts; 57- Bank offering; 60- Gibson or Brooks;



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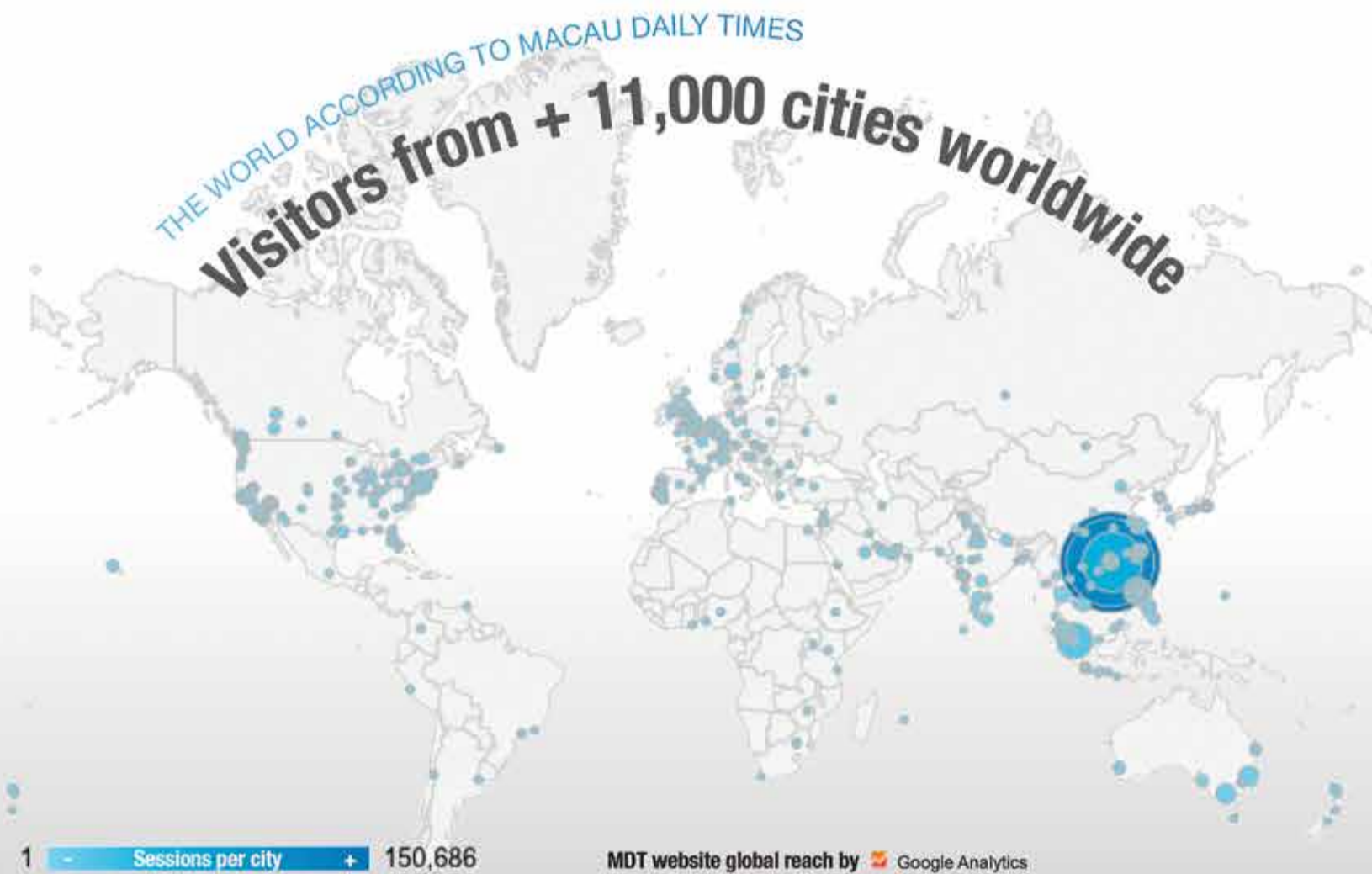
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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Recent rout of Real Madrid boosts Atletico's hopes

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

Thursday, 2:45am
Atletico M v Real M
H 2.79, D 3.68, A 2.7

IT was a match more than two years ago that is keeping Atletico Madrid hopeful of a comeback against Real Madrid in the Champions League semifinals.

Atletico needs to overturn a 3-0 loss from the first leg today [Thursday, 2:45am], but it wasn't too long ago that fans at the Vicente Calderon Stadium witnessed the type of feat that can put Atletico in the final.

It was on a Saturday afternoon in February 2015 that Atletico had one of its greatest victories over Madrid, a 4-0 rout in the Spanish league.

That was Atletico's only win over Madrid by a difference of three goals in the last four decades, but it's what has been giving many fans and players some hope ahead of the team's difficult task at the Calderon.

"We already beat them by four goals in the Calderon, with Cris-



AP PHOTO

tiano (Ronaldo) playing and all," Atletico midfielder Jorge "Koke" Resurreccion said after the first leg. "You never know what's going to happen in soccer, just ask Paris Saint-Germain. We are going to keep fighting."

The Spanish teams remain very similar to what they looked like in that encounter in 2015.

At the time, Atletico was al-

ready touted as the third force in Spanish soccer under coach Diego Simeone, and three of the goals scored on that cold day in the Spanish capital came from players still on the team — Tiago Cardoso, Saul Niguez and Antoine Griezmann. The other goal was scored by Mario Mandzukic, who now plays for Juventus.

A repeat of that performance

would be just what Atletico needs this time. It was in control from the start and scored early goals to take a 2-0 lead by the 17th minute, then added the third not long after halftime and closed the scoring a few minutes from the end.

A 3-0 win by Atletico would send the game into extra time and, possibly, a penalty shootout.

Madrid had nine starters in

2015 who are still on the current team, including Toni Kroos, Gareth Bale, Karim Benzema and Ronaldo, who scored a hat trick in the first leg last week to give his team a commanding advantage going into the game.

"It's going to be very difficult, but this is soccer," Simeone said. "Unexpected things can happen and we will fight until the last drop of hope. We will try to do something impossible, but we are Atletico Madrid and we just might be able to do it."

Atletico is trying to avoid losing to Madrid for the fourth straight season in the Champions League. It had heart-breaking losses in the finals in 2014 and 2016, and also was eliminated in the 2015 quarterfinals.

"It's very difficult to overturn this result but we will keep believing until the end because that's our mentality and we will be playing with our fans behind us," Atletico defender Stefan Savic said.

Regardless of the outcome, it should be an emotional game for the home crowd at the Calderon. Atletico will be playing its last European game at the stadium before moving into a new venue next season. Atletico has won 29 of its last 35 European games at home, with only two losses. It hasn't lost in 10 straight home games in European competitions.

"The fans have always been with us in the most difficult moments and it's not going to be any different this time," Niguez said. "We have to give everything we have for them." **AP / Oddschecker.com**

FOOTBALL

Goulart double saves Guangzhou's Asian Champs League hopes

GUANGZHOU Evergrande got the point it wanted and a berth in the Asian Champions League playoffs by drawing with Suwon Samsung Bluewings 2-2 yesterday.

Guangzhou, which has won two of the last four continental championships and the last six Chinese Super Leagues, needed a point to progress to the last 16 but had to work hard against the South Korean side, another former two-time champion, in Group G.

Yeom Ki-hun put Suwon ahead after eight minutes but nine minutes later, Robert Goulart, signed for around USD18 million in 2015, fired home from outside the area.

Goulart headered in a second midway through the second half and Guangzhou held on after Kim Jung-woo equalized for Suwon, which was eliminated.

Kawasaki Frontale of Japan

took top spot above Guangzhou by routing Eastern SC of Hong Kong 4-0.

In group G, Adelaide United, Australia's only hope of a representative in the last 16, was eliminated when Ji Xiang scored the only goal with nine minutes remaining for the already-qualified Jiangsu Suning to win 1-0.

Jeju United of South Korea joined Jiangsu in the second round with a comfortable win over Gamba Osaka 2-0. Chung Woon opened the scoring in the first half and Hwang Il-su sealed the win with a spectacular second-half strike.

In group C, as expected, 2016 runner-up Al Ain of the United Arab Emirates took top spot by defeating Bunyodkor of Uzbekistan 3-0, while Saudi Arabia's Al Ahli finished second thanks to beating Iran's Zob Ahan 2-0. **AP**

TENNIS

Sharapova more disappointed to lose early than to detractor

TO Maria Sharapova, the most disappointing part of leaving the Madrid Open was doing so in the second round.

Not losing to arch critic Eugenie Bouchard.

Sharapova will more than likely meet Bouchard again, and have another shot at beating the Canadian who wanted her banned for life for doping last year and openly called her a cheater.

More important for Sharapova for now was tournament play, winning matches, getting match fit and her ranking up to where it was before her 15-month ban.

Sharapova's ranking rose from nothing to 258 after reaching the semifinals in Stuttgart two weeks ago, in her first tournament after her ban.

Going only two rounds



AP PHOTO

in Madrid, where she won in 2014, will bump her up into only the low 200s.

Her aim is to quickly lift her ranking so it's good enough to automatically qualify for main tour events, to at least 150, which would get her in the French Open this month.

That would mitigate her reliability on wild cards that a lot of her fellow tour players have opposed. The players believe Sharapova, af-

ter doping, should have gone through qualifying, worked her way back from the bottom instead of receiving free passes into main draws.

She has declined to enter that debate.

Like at Stuttgart and Madrid, where she was a former champion, Sharapova has a wild card into the Italian Open next week. Rome was the first to offer her a wild card while she was suspended, and the three-time champion

(2011, 2012, 2015) was grateful.

Her effort to automatically qualify for the French Open could become moot next week when organizers announce whether they will give one to Sharapova, the champion at Roland Garros in 2012 and 2014.

In the meantime, losing in the second round at Madrid stung.

"I would be worried about myself if I sat here and said I'm pretty happy with losing a tennis match, no matter who I face, no matter what round it is, whether it's the first round or final of a Grand Slam," she said yesterday [Macau time] after losing to Bouchard.

"I'm a big competitor. What you work for for so many hours every single day is to be on the winning end of matches. Of course I'm disappointed. That's what's going to make me a better player. That's what's going to win me more tournaments and more Grand Slams." **AP**

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



IMPROVING PERSONAL MOBILITY

When I last visited Paris several years ago, the racks of bicycles available for rental scattered around the city were quite noticeable, as were the significant numbers of people renting the bicycles. I was also very jealous when I saw a group of 10+ tourists riding through a park on Segways - 2-wheeled electric riding platforms - with their guide.

I understand that nowadays 50+ Chinese cities have bicycle sharing schemes operating increasingly successfully. Most of these systems are now "dockless" - you use a GPS based smartphone App to find and rent "close by" bicycles and renters just leave the bicycles on the road-side at the end of their ride.

It has also been very interesting to see the steadily increasing numbers of people riding around on bicycles in Macau and Hong Kong, and I love the MAMIL acronym for Middle-Aged Men In Lycra that goes with the trend. I have several local friends who have spent more to buy their bicycles than I spent on my last car, and I can say the same thing about both of my sisters in Australia.

An Economist article pointed out that shared bicycles have become a feature of street life in over 500 cities in 50 countries around the world. They also estimated that there are over 350,000 shared bicycles in China, but my guess is that there is less than 100 bicycles for rent in Macau, and I have only ever seen one Segway here, at the CEM power station in Coloane.

A system where bicycles can be rented from several nearby locations and dropped off at any other location, and where renting just involves clicking a smartphone App can be a very convenient form of public transport, for tourists and locals alike. The same could also be true for fleets of Segways.

There are a few "Mom and Pop" bicycle rental shops in Taipa and Coloane but their equipment is rather ad hoc and not well kept. I understand that the local government has tried to set up a sharing system but the bicycles quickly fell into disrepair.

People may say that there is too much traffic here, but I for one, would be happy to see half the roads in Macau closed and converted to pedestrian/bicycle paths, with cars and motor scooters banned on them. Limiting vehicle speeds to under 15kph on mixed paths should be enough to ensure everybody's safety. Macau is small enough that people do not really need to move faster to get around.

Encouraging people in Macau to walk or ride bicycles would significantly improve community health, and should also greatly reduce vehicle pollution. There is considerable medical evidence that modern sedentary lifestyles lead to major health problems and escalating health costs. It is also clear that prevention is much better than cure in these situations.

In Melbourne the bicycle sharing scheme has problems because the law requires all cyclists to wear helmets. If we limit speeds and separate cyclists and pedestrians from cars and motor scooters, I do not believe that helmets are really needed. Those who want to wear helmets can simply carry them around.

I, for one, would really like to see many of Macau's streets pedestrianized and a good bicycle and Segway sharing system put in place - what is stopping us? Surely, we can keep up with what they are doing in China.

THE CALIFORNIA MAY END BAN ON COMMUNISTS IN GOVERNMENT JOBS

Being a communist would no longer be a fireable offense for California government employees under a bill passed by the state Assembly. Lawmakers narrowly approved the bill to repeal part of a law enacted during the Red Scare of the 1940s and '50s when fear that communists were trying to infiltrate and overthrow the U.S. government was rampant. The bill now goes to

the Senate. It would eliminate part of the law that allows public employees to be fired for being a member of the Communist Party. Employees could still be fired for being members of organizations they know advocate for overthrowing the government by force or violence.

Moon declares election win, pledges to unify South Korea

Moon Jae-in declared victory in South Korea's leadership race, pledging to unify the nation after nine years of conservative rule that culminated in the country's biggest street protests since the 1980s.

With 40 percent of ballots counted in yesterday's presidential election, Moon received 39.5 percent of votes, leading conservative Hong Joon-pyo, who had 26.5 percent. Centrist Ahn Cheol-soo was third with 21.2 percent. The winner needs a plurality of votes.

"This is really a victory for the people who did their utmost to make a country for justice, unity, principles and common sense," Moon said in a speech to supporters in Seoul. "I'll become the president for everyone. A president who serves even those who didn't support me."

The left-leaning Moon has long led opinion surveys in an election triggered by the ouster in March of former President Park Geun-hye, who is now in jail while on trial for corruption charges. He has

pledged a softer touch with North Korea and tougher action against family-run conglomerates that dominate Asia's fourth-biggest economy.

Moon's stance on North Korea could put him at odds with U.S. President Donald Trump, who has stressed that he could take military action to halt the isolated nation's nuclear ambitions. The son of North Korean refugees, Moon criticized the early installation of a U.S. missile shield on South Korean soil and has said he'd meet with Kim Jong Un under the right circumstances.

At home, Moon faces the task of healing a nation which is still reeling from the graft probe that culminated in Park's arrest in March after months of street protests. He has pledged to add fiscal stimulus to create jobs for disaffected youth and bolster an economy forecast to expand this year at the slowest pace since 2012.

A total of 77.2 percent of voters cast their ballots, more than the 75.8 percent in the 2012 presiden-



Presidential candidate Moon Jae-in of the Democratic Party walks to cast his ballot at a junior high school in Seoul

tial election, which Moon lost to Park, according to the National Election Commission.

Supporters gathered to cheer Moon as he gave his victory speech in Gwanghwamun square in downtown Seoul, where hundreds of thousands of protesters had rallied every Saturday for months to demand Park's ouster.

Ahn, a software tycoon who had been billed as Moon's main rival, conceded defeat, saying he failed to meet a desire for change among the public. **Bloomberg**

THAILAND

Car bomb in Muslim-dominated south wounds over 50

SUSPECTED

Sinsurgents in Thailand detonated a car bomb yesterday outside a busy shopping center in the south of the country, wounding more than 50 people in a huge blast that ripped the building apart and sent people running for their lives.

The attackers initially set off a small bomb outside the mall before triggering explosives planted in a pick-



up truck at the shopping center's entrance in the city of Pattani, said police Capt. Preecha Prachumchai, who was investigating the blast. The military had earlier said the

initial blast was firecrackers. The explosion occurred at one of Thailand's Big C shopping centers, a major grocery and retail chain. Footage of the sce-

ne aired on Thai television stations showed a huge black plume of smoke rising skyward from the blackened building as rescue workers doused the flames and soldiers stood by.

Preecha said more than 50 people had been wounded. Pattani Hospital posted on its board of emergency room patients that 52 people were injured from the incident. No deaths have been reported. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-95 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Bad
Ambient	70-100 Bad

WORLD BRIEFS



CAMBODIA-AFRICA Attackers in Central African Republic ambushed a convoy of U.N. peacekeepers, killing one Cambodian soldier and wounding another, Cambodia's prime minister said. Three Cambodian peacekeepers were also missing and may have been kidnapped.



MALAYSIA Police said the country's top Islamic State operative was killed in an attack in Syria last month. Muhammad Wannady Mohamed Jedi, 26, was believed to have been responsible for a grenade blast at a bar in a suburb outside Kuala Lumpur last June that injured eight people. It was the first attack in the country by IS.



INDIA's top court found wanted tycoon Vijay Mallya guilty of disobeying its order barring him from transferring USD40 million to his children. Mallya fled to London last year where he's free on bail during the extradition proceedings.



SOUTH AFRICA A species belonging to the human family tree whose remnants were first discovered in cave in 2013 lived several hundred thousand years ago, indicating that the creature was alive at the same time as early humans in Africa. A meticulous dating process showed that Homo naledi which had a mix of human-like and more primitive characteristics such as a small brain, existed in a surprisingly recent period in paleontological terms.