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MACAU VISIT
WAS 'VERY
SUCCESSFUL'**

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



CHINA has released two prominent human rights lawyers detained nearly two years ago, after they allegedly confessed in court to collaborating with foreign organizations and media to smear and subvert Communist Party rule. Xie Yang (left, above) and Li Heping are home free. More on p11

CHINA 18 people were injured when a man attacked people on a city street with a knife in northern China. The Changchun police department said on its microblog that the 50-year-old suspect the attack was taken into custody after being shot. It said none of the injuries were life-threatening and officers were looking further into any possible motivations.

VIETNAM'S ruling communists fired the party boss in the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City after finding he made "serious mistakes and violations" while heading oil and gas monopoly PetroVietnam.



SOUTH KOREA President-elect Moon Jae-in said as he took his oath of office that he was open to visiting rival North Korea under the right conditions to talk about Pyongyang's aggressive pursuit of nuclear-tipped missiles. More on p12

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UM reportedly paid to bestow honorary degree

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Trump seeks new FBI head as Comey's firing grips Washington

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BLOOMBERG

In honoris causa – ‘for the sake of the honor or the granter’

Renato Marques

THE idea of the attribution of an honorary degree – honoris causa – seems to have started during the 1470s at Oxford University in the UK. Records of the time say that the University approached a young bishop named Lionel Woodville (head of the Cathedral Church of Saint Peter) and King Edward IV's brother-in-law. It is said that the good connections, wealth, and noble standing of Woodville, contributed to the institution's decision to create such a distinction that created bonds with religion institutions.

After that, many universities, especially in Europe, emulated the idea, expanding the practice across the globe.

Locally, the first university institution to grant this kind of honors was the University of East Asia, the predecessor of the University of Macau (UM) in 1984. At that time five people were given the recognition: Ho Yin (businessman, politician and senior leader of the Chinese community in Macau), Vasco de Almeida e Costa (at the time, Governor of Macau), José Manuel Toscano Rico (Physician and University Professor), business and gaming tycoon Stanley Ho, and Jorge Rangel (at the time, Secretary for Public Administration, Education and Youth of Macau government).

According to the records of UM, since 1984 the institution has attributed a total of 97 honorary degrees to people the university considered to have given a valuable contribution to society, justifying such an endowment.



Such titles were granted in varied fields from Literature to Public and Private Administration, to Philosophy, Social Sciences and Law. The list of highlighted people honored by the institution during the first years continues with the attribution of honoris causa degrees to Ma Man-Kei (Businessman, Tycoon, Entrepreneur and Politician), Sir Run Run Shaw (Hong Kong's entertainment mogul and philanthropist), Monsenhor Manuel Teixeira (Jesuit priest, historian, and the leading expert in the Kristang language), Cheng Yu-Tung (Hong Kong billionaire with an extensive property investment, development and service businesses, hotels, infrastructure, jewelry retailing

and transportation), D Arquimínio Rodrigues da Costa (Bishop of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Macau from 1976 to 1988), Eduardo de Arantes e Oliveira (Portuguese civil engineer, educator), Chou Wen-Hsien (Entrepreneur and co-founder of Windsor Industrial Corporation dedicated to the promotion of Chinese traditional medicine) and Chui Tak-Kei (Chinese community leader, former Vice President of the Legislative Assembly and late uncle of the Current Chief Executive Chui Sai On).

With approximately three honorary degrees attributed per year (between 1984 and 2016), the UM seems to follow a common trend among universities in the region. During the first centenary of its existence (1916-2016) the University of Hong Kong (HKU) has attributed a total of 324 of these honorary degrees, also averaging about three per year, the exact number of those announced to be given in 2017. The youngest of Macau's tertiary institutions, University of Science and Technology (UST), according to the institution's official figures, have awarded 39 of these honorary degrees between 2010 and 2017, despite not awarding any of these degrees between 2011 and 2013, averaging about six honoris causa per year.

In the first year of UST's existence (2010), a total of 15 hono-

rary degrees were granted, the first going to the Founding President of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Woo Chia-Wei. On this list was also the Portuguese politician, Minister for Social Equipment and current non-executive president of the board of Galp Energia (Portuguese oil products and natural gas), Francisco Luís Murteira Nabo.

Among the latest recipients from UST is the prominent Chinese economist, leading voice for the privatization of state-owned companies, and the man who contributed to the establishment of China's stock markets in 1990, Li Yi Ning.

According to research conducted by the Times, the University of Saint Joseph (USJ), formerly known as the Macau Inter-University Institute (IIUM), has given at least seven honoris causa titles since its inception in 1996 and 2011, the first conferred to the late American researcher Reverend Carl Smith, renowned Macanese lawyer and writer, Henrique de Senna Fernandes, and also Comendador Arnaldo de Oliveira Sales, a prominent figure of Hong Kong and the Portuguese communities in the Far East. On the list of UST awardees is also Professor Wang Bin, Dean of the School of Foreign Languages and the School of Translation and Interpretation of the Sun

Yat-sen University (Zhongshan), and a member of the scientific committee of the Transcultural Studies Centre at Beijing University.

Most recently, the university conferred the recognition on the Architect Gustavo da Roza, the Portuguese Writer and Poet Vasco Pereira da Costa, and Fr Luis Sequeira, founder and Vice-Director of the Macau Ricci Institute, Principal of Mateus Ricci College and a collaborator of the University.

According to figures provided by the Tertiary Education Service Office (GAES), during the same period and until the academic year 2016/2017, there was a total of 648 Doctoral Degrees concluded in the four tertiary education institutions, a figure that has been growing year-on-year until the last four years when it apparently reached a plateau of around 57 per year.

The UM is the university that contributes the most to this figure with a total of 363 Doctoral Degrees conferred (a ratio between Doctoral degrees and honoris causa conferred of 3.7).

GAES does not keep records of honorary degree attributions

The second position is occupied by the MUST with a total of 113 Doctoral degrees conferred (ratio 2.9).

USJ was accountable for 95 Doctoral degrees (ratio of 13.6 Doctoral degrees per honorary title).

As for other institutions granting such titles in Macau, the City University of Macau gave no reply regarding its conferral of honorary degrees to the Times as of the time of this edition going to press. Nevertheless, and according to GAES, the institution conferred 57 Doctoral degrees.

The GAES told the Times that the office does not keep records of honorary degree attributions as "they are awards and do not represent any academic qualifications."

According to what the Times could ascertain, the same practice occurs in other jurisdictions, in which the conferral of honorary degrees is regarded as a private matter of each institution as they are not subjected to any control or specific regulation.



UM has attributed 97 HC degrees since 1984

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Times

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UM conferred an honorary doctorate upon former US president George H. W. Bush in 2009

UM reportedly paid to bestow honorary degree to Bush Sr

LOCAL universities have systematically conferred honoris causa academic degrees. According to local scholar Teresa Vong, in at least one case, the University of Macau (UM) "paid a certain amount of money" to the former US President George Bush in order for him to accept such an award.

The UM conferred the title of Doctor of Social Sciences honoris causa upon the 41st President of the United States at Texas A&M University (TAMU) in the United States, on April 21, 2009.

Vong noted that the real purpose of many of the honorary degrees is to create links between the institution and important personalities.

"Most of the practice followed by the universities granting such degrees is, first, to acknowledge the contribution of certain people in certain areas, but I think most of the universities make use of these to make a connection with the most significant or important people", Vong said.

"For instance, in the UM we have granted such awards to quite a number of the Nobel Prize awardees, and this is a way to increase the degree of internationalization of the University, because according to some university rankings, if you have a higher number of these [the Nobel Prize awardees amongst your members] then you will get some points."

Teresa Vong also noted that in some other cases, the reasons are related to the establishment of diplomatic relations with one [particular] country or with a business partner. So they [the universities] will make use of this to achieve different purposes."

"Most of the universities will make use of this to increase their fame [reputation] and to bring their name up in terms of internationalization," Vong explained, adding that according to her knowledge, "sometimes the universities will pay a great amount of money to that person to receive your degree, not vice-versa," recalling a case which occurred in 2009. Vong revealed that the university "paid a certain amount of money" to the former US President George Bush in order for him to accept the award.

Most of the universities make use of these [degrees] to make a connection with the most significant or important people.

TERESA VONG

According to the education site education-portal.com - the modern practice of conferring honoris causa degrees follows a similar procedure worldwide, as the honorary degrees are "usually awarded at regular graduation ceremonies, to which the recipients are often invited to make a speech of accep-

tance before the assembled faculty and graduates." Such a moment often constitutes the highlight of the ceremony. "Generally, universities nominate several persons each year for honorary degrees; these nominees usually go through several committees before receiving approval."

The site also notes that, "often, it is perceived that the system is shrouded in secrecy, and occasionally seen as political and controversial."

Such acknowledgments have led several individuals as well as institutions both in the past and recently to criticize the conferring of honorary degrees, going so far as to advocate the abolition of the practice. Several US universities such as the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), The University of Virginia, Cornell and Stanford University, do not award honorary degrees as a matter of policy. The University of Virginia, according to their records is most probably the first US institution to have a clearly stated policy of not awarding honorary degrees at the behest of its founder, the third US President Thomas Jefferson. In Chapter 4 of the University Regulations - Honorary Degrees - the institution states: "The University of Virginia does not award honorary degrees. In conjunction with the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Foundation, the University presents the Thomas Jefferson Medal in Architecture and the Thomas Jefferson Award in Law each spring. The awards, recognizing excellence in two fields of interest to Jefferson, constitute the University's highest recognition of scholars outside the University."

As for MIT it has on rare occasions awarded "honorary professorships" (Winston Churchill in 1949 and Salman Rushdie in 1993). However, these awards do not confer any academic degree nor can they be confused with one.

The fact that honorary degrees are capable of creating confusion and can even be subjected to misuse is seen as one of the main reasons for its abolition.

"They can cause confusion about qualifications and embarrassment for institutions, so why are they awarded?" asks Malcolm Gillies in an article published in August 2016 by the Times Higher Education - World University Rankings.

In the article, Gillies attempts to investigate the reasons behind the giving of the honoris causa degrees.

As Gillies explains, Cambridge, Oxford and Trinity College Dublin are three of the most notable universities to offer honorary degrees to those who already have a degree from another member of the group, which he calls a "syndicate." He elaborates, saying, "For instance, if you have a PhD from Cambridge and you teach at Oxford, then Oxford might award you its DPhil. This can lead those who are not 'in the know' to think you have actually studied for two doctorates."

According to the author, the purpose of the honoris causa should be to "bring honor to awardee and awardee alike," adding that "they can celebrate any form of life achievement, the holding of a high office or support of the university." These reasons lead many institutions to claim that they "select honorary doctors as inspirational models for their own students."

But Gillies is especially concerned with the cases in which awardees might have influenced the institutions in order to achieve such merit, noting that "while some universities exclude current staff, students, governors or serving politicians, others have no such qualms. Some hold highly

secretive conclaves to elect this academic equivalent of knights of the realm, while others openly canvass the university community for nominations, involving faculty and academic boards in a process that is normally sealed by a confidential committee of the governing body."

Questioned on the topic by the Times, scholar Leanda Lee expressed the belief that the granting of such degrees to people unrelated to the universities can be seen as a public relations (PR) tool to promote the institution by using the name of a well-known and influential person.

"Where the university is lesser known or lower ranking and the recipient is a well established, well awarded, generally well known and respected name globally and not particularly connected to the university, then the university is using the award as a PR mechanism - borrowing the eminence of the recipient," she said, adding, "it shouldn't be a political tool to influence or gain favor... It shouldn't be about the person but about what they have contributed to the community, particularly the academic community and that institution over a period of time."

Lee also expressed the opinion that the attribution of such awards is "over done," remarking that people receive such recognition in areas where their skills and achievements do not seem to fit the award.

Most importantly, Lee noted that "it should never be awarded for anyone achieving less than an exemplary academic achiever of the same degree," otherwise it can be seen as a "transaction" in which the university "is paying to have the institution's name of that individual's CV."

As she remarked, even when people acknowledge the purpose of such attribution "How does one say no to a degree being bestowed by a minor institution, without appearing churlish?" **RM**



Teresa Vong



Qian Qichen (second from left)

Former Chinese top diplomat Qian Qichen dies at age 90

A former Chinese vice premier and top diplomat who oversaw the handover of Hong Kong and Macau has died in Beijing at the age of 90, state media said yesterday. Citing an official statement, the Xinhua News Agency said Qian Qichen died of an unspecified illness on Tuesday night.

The Shanghai-born veteran diplomat was chairman of a committee that China appointed to prepare for Hong Kong's change of sovereignty in 1997. He was also the chairman of the Macao SAR Preparatory Committee.

Qian was also the country's top foreign affairs official in 2001 when relations with the United States took a steep downturn after a U.S. Navy surveillance plane collided with a Chinese fighter jet over the South China Sea. The Chinese plane crashed, killing the pilot.

Qian's diplomatic career began in 1955 when he worked in the Chinese Embassy in Moscow, returning home in 1963. Xinhua said Qian, who spoke English and Russian, was "an outstanding leader in diplomacy of the country." MDT/AP

NPC head praises Hengqin campus



BEFORE departing to Beijing, Zhang Dejiang, Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress, visited the University of Macau (UM). During yesterday's morning visit, Zhang said that UM's new campus, which covers approximately one square kilometer, is a testament to the combined support of the central and SAR government to higher education development in Macau.

Accompanied by the Chief Executive Chui Sai On, Zhang was received at UM by several local figures, including Lam Kam Seng, chair of the UM University Council and Wei Zhao, rector of UM. Lam told Zhang

about the university's campus design, master plan, educational philosophy, and achievements in scientific research.

According to a statement issued by UM, Zhang used the term 'very good' to praise UM's campus and development. He said that the SAR government has invested a lot of resources in facilities so that it could develop rapidly in recent years and become one of the top universities in China and the world.

The Rector of Keang Peng School, the rector of Macao Polytechnic Institute, a professor from the University of Macau, a teacher from Hong Kong Middle School, and represen-

tatives of UM's student union had a chance to talk to Zhang during his visit to UM, expressing their opinions mostly about what had been said in Macau including the enhancement of Macau's human resource competencies, and the exchange between mainland and Macau students.

[Zhang] encouraged the mass educators to remember their holy mission.

WANG ZHI MIN
LIAISON OFFICE HEAD

During his speech at the airport, the head of the Central Government Liaison Office in Macau, Wang Zhi Min, described Zhang's visit to the Hengqin campus

"[Zhang] encouraged the mass educators to remember their holy mission, to insist on perpetuating an accurate educational direction, to let Love the Country, Love Macau values become the youth's mainstream ideology," said Wang, adding that "[Zhang] encouraged the students to set up ambitions that serve the country, [...] and to be the successors and constructors of the One Country, Two Systems policy."

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Zhang departs Macau, says visit was 'very successful'

Julie Zhu

ZHANG Dejiang, Chairman of the National People's Congress and the official responsible for overseeing Hong Kong and Macau affairs, departed from the Macau International Airport yesterday morning.

Once again, 200 primary school students stood along the red carpet that paved Zhang Dejiang's walk into his plane.

Zhang arrived at the airport around 10.40 a.m. When stepping out of his car, a reporter asked him about his impressions of Macau and what was achieved during his three-day visit.

"It was very successful and satisfactory," replied Zhang. However, this time Zhang did not make any official speech, boarding the plane after short political and social conversations with government officials.

During the departure ce-



emony, the head of the Central Government Liaison Office in Macau, Wang Zhi Min, delivered a speech. Wang said that Zhang's trip to Macau "went smooth and was meaningful."

In particular, Zhang experienced Macau's atmosphere personally, having encouraged Macau to enhance itself during this key stage when the One Country Two Systems policy has been put to practice successfully.

"Macau must keep insisting on the One Country foundation, and reap the

benefits of the two systems," said Wang.

After two days visiting the Macau's Legislative Assembly and the region's top court (among others), Zhang praised Macau's good work and said that the future of the MSAR is optimistic. "Regarding the SAR's executive, legislative, and legal operations, Zhang gave full credit to their effective support of the SAR's executive-led political system," revealed Wang, adding that Zhang also encouraged "government high

officials to be loyal to the country and to the SAR by strengthening their sense of political responsibility and their historical mission."

Moreover, according to Wang, Zhang made a few remarks to the lawmakers about the needs of the future, such as the need "to firmly shape their concept of the state, to advance the SAR's legal construction, and to cherish and insist on the organic combination of an electoral democracy with a consultative democracy."

Wang also mentioned that Zhang encouraged judiciary organizations to resolutely shape the authoritativeness of the constitution law and of the basic law."

The Central Government believes that under the leadership of Chief Executive Chui Sai On, the Macau SAR government, along with other administrative groups, must implement their policies according to the Central Government's directives, as stated by Wang.

April's taxi infractions increase yearly and monthly

The Public Security Police force (PSP) recorded 366 taxi infractions during the month of April, according to a statement released by PSP. The total number of infractions is 13 cases more than in March. The infractions include 204 cases (55.7 percent) of overcharging and 106 cases (29 percent) of taxi drivers who refused to accept passengers. Compared to March, there were 25 more cases of overcharging, while refusal to take passengers also increased compared to March, when 81 cases were recorded. One infraction was related to a taxi driver who did not follow passengers' requests. Nine of these cases occurred in March. During the same period, the police recorded 136 cases involving unauthorized taxis, 121 of which related to mobile taxi hailing services. When compared to April of 2016, April 2017 saw a significant increase in the number of taxi infractions. The infractions in April of 2016 included 102 cases of overcharging and 89 cases of taxi drivers refusing to accept passengers, among other infractions. Back then, the police recorded 135 cases involving unauthorized taxis. In total, in April of 2016, 289 taxi infractions were recorded.

Man arrested for engaging in sex with minor

A 23-year-old man has been arrested for having intercourse with a 15-year-old female student. According to a report by Macao Daily News, the girl met the man through a mobile chatting app last March. Last Monday, while the two were having sex at her home, the girl's parents returned and found the couple hiding in the bathroom. After being questioned, the girl admitted to having had sex with the man three times from last April until last Monday. The girl's father reported the case to the police, and the police later arrested the man.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:

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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).

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Brazil opens to casinos, Adelson hints USD8b project

AT the hint of a most probable reintroduction of casinos in Brazil after a ban that took effect seventy years ago, the interest of gaming moguls in the largest country in Latin America has been growing.

Las Vegas Sands president Sheldon Adelson reportedly met earlier this week with the Mayor of Rio de Janeiro, Marcelo Crivella, before heading to Brasilia, the country's capital city, Brazilian newspaper O Globo reported.

During the meeting with Crivella, Adelson advanced plans to hold a project in Brazil that will represent an investment of around USD8 billion, according to O Globo.

This project is said to follow the same idea of the integrated resorts built in Macau, and could generate over 10,000 jobs.

Adelson reportedly also mentioned that the project might depend on the capacity of the city to receive tourists for gambling, inferring that the city would need to have more 4 and 5 star hotels.

After the meeting, Crivella revealed to the newspaper that the meeting with the American businessman was related to investments in



the city, although he did not mention the word 'casino'.

The same source says that this is not the first such visit, noting that recently, the head of MGM Resorts group, James Murem, was also in Brasilia, and adding that other people such as the former Mayor of Las Vegas and current top executive at Caesars Entertainment Corporation, Jan Laverty Jones, had also been seen in Brazil's capital city.

The list is not restricted to the Americans. Portuguese Estoril Sol group and an Austrian state-run operator also met with Brazil's high officials to present several ideas and projects.

However, the first barrier that must be overcome is legal in na-

ture, since casinos are not allowed (for now) in Brazil and there are many groups in the country that oppose their legalization.

Such groups have argued that gambling could lead to addiction, money laundering, and the creation of criminal organizations. Legalization seems to be gaining favor within the government and political circles as a way to boost the economy.

According to lawmaker Elman Nascimento who presides a special committee that analyzed the issue, there is a high expectation that casino-related investments will reach over MOP200b.

Nascimento said to O globo, "These groups are interested in investing in the country, creating

integrated casino resorts. There is a high willingness to invest. But legal certainty is a requirement for such investments to take place," he noted, adding "in addition to the groups from the United States and Europe, there are also companies from Argentina and Uruguay with an eye on the country."

According to sources inside the Brazilian legislative system, there are currently two processes running in Brazilian institutions in order to proceed to a legalization of the casinos; one in the House of Representatives and another in the Senate. However, these process will at some point merge into a final regulatory system to be voted on by the plenary as one.

The process in the House of Representatives has already been voted on, and now awaits approval by the president of the house, Rodrigo Maia.

The bill in the Senate is in currently being analyzed by the Constitution and Justice Commission. It is already known that the regulatory framework will criminalize at federal level all kinds of other gambling and its exploitation in order to raise security for investors.

Gaming tables will also be connected to the Federal Taxes and Finance Department and will include an online monitoring system.

The proposal also establishes a ratio on the number of casinos allowed per city according to the number of inhabitants. Cities up to 15 million people will only be allowed one casino. Those with a population between 15 and 25 million people will be allowed two casinos, and those with populations above 25 million will be permitted three casinos. The proposal also suggests a limit of three casinos per state. **RM**

VISIT TO HELP DEFINE FUTURE STEPS

THE FACT that Sheldon Adelson is in Brazil this week holding meetings with local authorities is a clear sign that he is considering possible investments in the country as soon as gambling is legalized. According to Games Magazine, "Adelson's closest advisers say that he wants

to get closer to the discussions surrounding the passage of the law in Brazil, and that his visit to businessmen, deputies, senators and top officials of president Temer's government will help him in making decisions regarding investments in the Brazilian market."

IC unveils Portuguese themed pavilion

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will open the Macao Creative Pavilion at the 13th China (Shenzhen) International Cultural Industries Fair (ICIF), which opens today and ends May 15.

The event will take place at the Shenzhen Convention and Exhibition Center, and aims to showcase work by the region's cultural and creative entities.

This year's Macao Creative Pavilion will display locally-made Portuguese-style design and other creative products for purchase, according to a statement issued by the IC.

The Macao Creative Pavilion will be installed in section No.2D03 in the Creative Living Hall (Hall 2).

The pavilion's design is based on the blue color of traditional Por-

tuguese "azulejo" (ceramic tiles).

The hall is modeled on the hull of a ship and each booth will house unique exhibits.

The IC expressed its hopes for the public to experience the profound cultural essence of Macau as well as the blending of Chinese and Western cultures, and appreciate local cultural and creative products.

A total of 10 entities from Macau will participate in the fair: 8 Bit Ltd., Companhia de O-Moon Limited, Casa de Artesanato Nam Fan Lou, Mobiliário Urbano Designers Limitada, San Seng Fung, Fuhong Society of Macau, MPLUS Interior Design Company Limited, Art House, Leathership Creation Limited Company and Follow Design Company Limited.

IC has organized Macau's participation in the ICIF since 2006, and has invited local organizations to join the Macao Creative Pavilion since its debut in 2010.

This year's ICIF theme is "Develop Culture with Trade". Numerous exhibitors and organizations from mainland China and overseas are participating.

The venue has been partitioned into sections including the Cultural Industries Hall, the Creative Living Hall, the Film, Television and Animation Hall, and the Press and Publication - New Media Hall.

Other areas of the fair include the Cultural Technology Hall, the Art Hall, The Belt & Road - International Hall, the Intangible Cultural Heritage Hall, and the Arts and Crafts Hall.

CE to attend Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation

THE Chief Executive (CE), Chui Sai On, has been invited to attend the Belt and Road Forum for International Cooperation taking place in Beijing. He will visit Beijing from Saturday to May 15.

A delegation from the MSAR will attend the opening ceremony of the Forum on Saturday, as well as leaders' roundtable summits and other additional sessions.

Officials accompanying the CE to Beijing will include the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong and the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

The delegation also includes several local figures, including Leong Heng Teng, Liu Chak Wan, Ma Iao Lai, Leonel Alberto Alves, Cheang Chi Keong and Chan Meng Kam.

During Chui's absence, the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Ms Chan Hoi Fan, will be the Acting Chief Executive.

The theme for the Belt and Road Forum for Interna-



tional Cooperation will be "Strengthening International Cooperation and Co-building the 'Belt and Road' for Win-win Development". According to a statement issued yesterday by the Government Information Bureau, it is the most high-level conference to be held by the country on this topic since the "Belt and Road" initiative was put forward by President Xi Jinping.

The local government has initiated a series of strategies so that Macau can support and participate in the Silk

Road Economic Belt and the 21st-Century Maritime Silk Road (also known as the "Belt and Road" initiative). These strategies include setting up in February of the Working Committee for the Development of "Belt and Road" Initiative, a body chaired by the Chief Executive and with the five government secretaries as members.

The Working Committee convened its first meeting last week to review the progress of Macau's contributions and outline further major tasks for this year.

TOURISM | TECHNOLOGY

TripAdvisor jumps after pulling back on instant book feature

Gerrit De Vynck

TRIPADVISOR Inc. said it's pulling back from a major strategic effort to get travelers to book hotels directly on its website after the initiative cut into revenue growth and sent the stock to its lowest price since 2012.

A massive online repository of hotel and restaurant reviews, TripAdvisor is "increasingly agnostic" about how its customers book their accommodations - whether through the site directly or via links to hotel booking sites - Adam Medros, senior vice president of product at TripAdvisor, said in an interview. The company has changed its website to make its "Instant Book" feature less prominent.

Investors cheered the move and TripAdvisor shares jumped as much as 8.6 percent to USD50.95 yesterday for their biggest intraday gain in more than a year, even as the company reported earnings that missed analyst estimates.

For years TripAdvisor made money by charging a referral fee for sending its users to sites like Expedia Inc. At the end of 2014, though, it started trying to get those customers to book directly on its site, aiming to capture higher-margin booking fees. The effort continued, while revenue fell and some investors abandoned the stock. In the last few weeks, the company did an about-face, changing its website to more prominently show deals from other websites if the prices were better.

"With Instant Book now heavily rolled back on both desktop and mobile, we no longer view IB as a meaningful headwind," Cowen & Co. analyst Kevin Kopelman said in a note to clients. Medros insisted Instant Book is still a key part of TripAdvisor's strategy.

"If Instant Book wasn't



working, we would just kill it, but we're not killing it," he said. "We are trying to change the perception of TripAdvisor to not just be a review site."

As travelers increasingly use mobile phones to book hotels and flights, the referral model comes under pressure.

TripAdvisor, like other e-commerce companies, constantly tests different versions of its apps and website to find the best way to make money. Slowing down on Instant Book just means the company is listening to its users, Chief Executive Officer Stephen Kaufer said on a conference call yesterday.

"We believe Instant Book plays a role in that but not as big a role as we anticipated a couple years ago," he said. "And that's okay for us."

A new TV advertising campaign is set to launch this quarter

with the aim of convincing travelers to see TripAdvisor as more than just a place to look up reviews, but the best place to find low-priced hotels as well, Kaufer said.

Still, questions remain for TripAdvisor. One of the driving reasons behind Instant Book was the fact that pop-up ads and links to other websites don't work as well on mobile phones as they do on desktop computers. As travelers increasingly use mobile phones to book hotels and flights, the referral model comes under pressure. Visitors to TripAdvisor's mobile site or app become paying customers at about a third the rate that they do on desktop, Kaufer said on a conference call Wednesday.

Alphabet Inc.'s Google is also pressing into TripAdvisor's territory, both in referral fees for hotel booking and in the core business of reviews. The internet giant unveiled a new app last year that helps travelers plan and navigate their trips, a space TripAdvisor says is core to its strategy as well.

TripAdvisor reported revenue of \$372 million in the first quarter, less than the average analyst estimate of \$376.2 million. Earnings excluding some costs were 24 cents a share, also missing the average projection of 26 cents.

Bloomberg

Auto loan fraud soars in parallel to housing bubble

Matt Scully

BORROWER fraud in U.S. auto loans is surging, and may approach levels seen in mortgages during last decade's housing bubble, according to a startup firm that helps lenders sniff out bogus borrowers.

As many as 1 percent of U.S. car loan applications include some type of material misrepresentation, executives at data analytics firm Point Predictive estimated based on reports from banks, finance companies and others. Lenders' losses from deception may double this year to USD6 billion from 2015, the firm forecast.

Those fraud rates are coming closer to the over-1-percent level for mortgages in 2009, when the financial crisis was boiling and more lenders started reporting incidents to one another, Frank McKenna, chief fraud strategist at the firm, said in an interview. While those losses will sting lenders, the impact on the overall economy will likely be much more muted than with the housing crisis, just because there's less car debt outstanding.

Even so, "We see an extraordinary amount of parallels between the auto and mortgage industries, in terms of the rising levels of hidden fraud," McKenna said. For home loans, it's hard to know how widespread the deception was before 2009, because lenders often didn't report information to one another, McKenna said.

Point Predictive has put together a consortium of lenders to share data about dealers and loans. The group, now 13 strong, met at the headquarters of Santander Consumer USA in Dallas last month. Common types of fraud include borrowers lying about their income and their jobs, including falsifying paystubs. Loan applications can also include bogus information about the type of car

being financed, or its value. The deception can be perpetrated by consumers, or car dealers, or both.

Auto lenders including banks and finance companies are concerned about consumer fraud, and they're often even more concerned about fraud among dealers, said Kimberly Sutherland, senior director for fraud and identity management strategy at LexisNexis Risk Solutions in Alpharetta, Georgia. Dealers have an incentive to complete sales, and may better know how to tweak paperwork to get bad loans funded than a regular consumer, said Sutherland, whose firm helps lenders identify risks in their portfolios.

About 3 percent of dealers can be responsible for all of a lender's fraudulent applications, Point Predictive said in a February report. Losses from auto loan fraud this year will likely be \$4 billion to \$6 billion, up from \$2 billion to \$3 billion in 2015, the firm said.

During the housing bubble, as few as 3 percent of mortgage brokers helped perpetrate most or all of the reported fraud, Point Predictive said. Loans that required little or no documentation allowed borrowers and brokers to lie about employment, salary, and other key facts about their financial condition. One borrower's application for a mortgage said she made \$6,900 a month, when she actually made about \$3,286.

Trouble is growing in auto loans. The total amount of the debt outstanding has risen more than 50 percent since the end of 2010, a rapid increase. Delinquencies among subprime auto loan borrowers are jumping, and in the fourth quarter of 2016, there was over \$1.1 billion of consumer car debt that lenders could not collect, Point Predictive said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits



G-DRAGON FIRST EVER SOLO CONCERT IN MACAU

G-DRAGON, leader of the Korean band BigBang, has announced his third solo world tour. The tour will come to Macau on June 17 at the Cotai Arena, marking the artist's first ever solo concert in Macau. Tickets go on sale tomorrow from 10 a.m. via Cotai Ticketing and HK Ticketing, with prices starting from HKD/MOP 588.

World-famous creative director Willo Perron will collaborate with G-DRAGON

on this much-anticipated tour. For over twenty years, Perron has been pushing culture forward, lending his creative touch to the most innovative artists, including Rihanna, Kanye West, and Drake. He has also contributed to the interior designs of various global brands.

The tour will kick off in Seoul on 10 June 2017 and visit 18 cities across Asia, North America and Oceania and others yet to be revealed.

MGM RESORTS APPOINTS NEW SENIOR VICE PRESIDENT

MGM Resorts International has announced the appointment of Mark Strawn as senior vice president and chief administration officer for MGM Resorts Design and Development.

Strawn will report directly to Bill Ham, president of MGM Resorts Design and Development.

As cited in a report issued by Innovate Gaming, the newly appointed

officer will be responsible for providing strategic leadership and financial oversight for the U.S. global hospitality and entertainment company's capital improvement projects.

MGM Resort's new senior vice president has nearly two decades of financial experience, and joined MGM Resorts from Wynn Resorts - a gaming

operator based in Nevada - where he served as vice president of corporate finance.

Strawn also served as executive director of equity research for Morgan Stanley in New York and as vice president of finance for Las Vegas Sands Corp.

Commenting on the appointment, Ham noted, "We are thrilled to have Mark join our team. As MGM Resorts continues to grow, our Company's attention to process and discipline remains critical."

Portugal considers financing itself in Chinese renminbi

PORTUGAL is analyzing the possibility of public debt denominated in Chinese currency, the renminbi, in order to broaden "the investor base and attract financing," Finance Minister Mario Centeno said in Beijing at the end of a three-day visit to China.

The Portuguese minister held meetings during his stay in the Chinese capital with officials from the People's Bank of China, the central bank, the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China and the China Postal Savings Bank.

Centeno told Portuguese news agency Lusa that Portugal could become the first European country to issue public debt in renminbi, a possibility that is however dependent on credit ratings attributed by the major credit rating agencies.

Moody's, Standard & Poor's and Fitch Ratings have rated Portugal's long-term sovereign debt as "junk", which means that the bonds issued are highly speculative and not investment quality.

Moody's said on Friday it had kept Portugal's sovereign debt rating at "Ba1" with a stable outlook, with the next assessment scheduled for 1 September.

On his trip to China Centeno was accompanied by the president of the Treasury and Public Debt Management Agency, Cristina Casalinho and the Secretary of State for the Treasury, Alvaro Costa Novo.

China has recently become a major foreign investor in Portugal having acquired important stakes in companies in the energy, insurance, health and banking sectors.

MDT/Macauhub



Mario Centeno

Taxes in Angola can be paid in foreign currency

TAX payments in Angola will be able to be made in foreign currency, under an amendment to the General Tax Code approved on Tuesday by the members of the Angolan parliament, Angolan news agency Angop reported.

The document, which was discussed at the meeting of parliamentary committees on Constitutional and Legal Affairs and the Economy and Finance, is a government initiative that is justified, according to the Minister of Finance, "due to geopolitical and cyclical factors (...) which forces emerging economies like Angola to renew their efforts."

Minister Archer Mangureira also said that it was a one-off amendment aimed at raising more resources in foreign currency, reducing pressure on the balance of payments and spending abroad.

The minister also said that the proposed amendment to the General Tax Code will also make it easier for taxpayers or state-owned credit companies to have tax relief when they pay their taxes.

The proposal will also facilitate the process of paying arrears of companies that are State creditors and have fiscal responsibilities, in part or in full, depending on what has been agreed upon.

MDT/Macauhub

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SPECIAL REPORT

Hong Kong shoebox, coffin homes a challenge for new leader

Text by Kelvin Chan
Photos by Kin Cheung

LI Suet-wen's dream home would have a bedroom and living room where her two children could play and study. The reality is a one-room "shoebox" cubicle, one of five partitioned out of a small apartment in an aging walkup in a working class Hong Kong neighborhood.

Into the 120-square-foot room are crammed a bunk bed, small couch, fridge, washing machine and tiny table. On one side of the door is a combined toilet and shower stall, on the other a narrow counter with a hotplate and sink. Clothes drying overhead dim light from a bare fluorescent tube. It feels like a storage unit, not a home.

Li's 6-year-old son and 8-year-old daughter often ask, "Why do we always have to live in such small flats? Why can't we live in a bigger place?" Li said.

"I say it's because mommy doesn't have any money," said Li, a single mom whose HKD4,500 a month in rent and utilities eats up almost half the HKD10,000 she earns at a bakery decorating cakes.

Housing costs are among this wealthy Asian financial center's biggest problems.

Some 200,000 of Hong Kong's 7.3 million residents live in "subdivided units." That's up 18 percent from four years ago and includes 35,500 children 15 and under, government figures show. The figure doesn't include many thousands more living in other "inadequate housing" such as rooftop shacks, metal cages resembling rabbit hutches and "coffin homes" made of stacked wooden bunks.

It's a universe away from the lifestyles enjoyed by the rich living in lavish mountaintop mansions and luxury penthouses, or even those with middle-class accommodation in this former British colony.

Hong Kong regularly tops global property price surveys. Rents and home prices have steadily risen and are now at or near all-time highs.

The U.S.-based consultancy Demographia has ranked it the world's least affordable housing market for seven straight years, beating Sydney, Vancouver and 400 other cities. Median house prices are 19 times the median income.

Beijing-backed Carrie Lam, who was chosen in March to be Hong Kong's next chief executive, has vowed to tackle the housing crisis she is inheriting from her predecessor Leung Chun-ying.



Some 200,000 of Hong Kong's 7.3 million residents live in 'subdivided units'

Lam says that after she takes office in July she will help middle-class families afford starter homes and expand the amount of land the government makes available for development.

"As everyone knows, for some time housing has been a troubling problem for Hong Kong," she said in her victory speech. "I have pledged to assist Hong Kongers to attain home ownership and improve their living conditions. To do so we need more usable land. The key is to reach a consensus on how to increase the supply."

Prices have soared despite mul-

iple rounds of government cooling measures, as money floods in from mainland China. Widening inequality helped drive mass pro-democracy protests in 2014. Young people despair of ever owning homes of their own. They lack space even to have sex, one activist lawmaker said last fall, using a coarse Cantonese slang term that caused a stir.

"If we cannot solve the housing problem, there will be more social problems," said Sze Lai-shan, an organizer with social welfare group Society for Community Organization. "Social tensions will increase and people are (going to be) getting more annoyed with the government's policies."

Li says her children bicker nonstop. "They fight over this and fight over that. If there's a day off (from school), the two of them will argue," she said. "The bigger they get, the more crowded it gets. Sometimes there's not even any space to step," she said. "They don't even have space to do their homework."

Public housing is the best hope for most living on modest incomes. High-rise public housing estates house about 30 percent of Hong Kong's 7 million people. If homes bought with government subsidies are included, the number rises to nearly half.

Li applied two years ago, but with 282,300 people on the waiting list the average wait is 4.7 years.

Wong Tat-ming, 63, has occupied an even smaller "coffin home" for four years. He pays HKD2,400 a month for 1-meter by 2-meter compartment crammed with his meager possessions, including a sleeping bag, small color TV and electric fan.

His bunk sits beside grimy toilets and a single sink shared by two dozen residents, including a few single women.

On a per square foot basis, "it's not cheap here either," Wong jokes. "Would you say it's more expensive than living in a mansion?"

Leg pain from sclerosis forced

Wong to stop driving a taxi 10 years ago. He gets by on about HKD5,300 a month from welfare.

Wong is skeptical Lam can help.

"So she says she's going to take care of these problems, but that will take at least seven to eight years," he said.

Chan Geng-kau, who works here and there as a janitor, and his wife worry about being forced out of their hut in one of the city's "slums in the sky" atop a terrace of a Kowloon tenement bistrilling with TV antennas and crisscrossed by overhead wires.

The government plans to demolish the illegal concrete and corrugated metal huts.

"If they come to clear us out, my income isn't high, I don't earn very much and the apartments out there are very expensive so I can't afford it," said Chan, 58. With his unstable income, he's barely able to pay his HKD2,000 a month rent. "If I pay those rents, I can't afford to eat." AP

Katy Daigle &
Ashwini Bhatia, Dharmasala

US reps, Dalai Lama take aim at China sore spot Tibet

AS President Donald Trump appears to be warming to China, a bipartisan group from the U.S. House of Representatives took aim yesterday at one of Beijing's sore spots: Tibet.

Rep. Nancy Pelosi accused China of using economic leverage to crush Tibetan calls for autonomy. During a meeting with Tibetans and the Dalai Lama at his main temple in the Indian hill town of Dharmasala, she urged the community not to give up.

"You will not be silenced," said Pelosi, a California Democrat. "The brutal tactics of the Chinese government to erase race, culture and language of Tibetan people challenges the conscience of the world. We will meet that challenge."

The visit by Pelosi and seven other U.S. representatives irritated Beijing, where a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry reiterated China's stance that the Dalai Lama is a dangerous separatist.

"The visit by U.S. congressmen to Dharmasala and their meeting with the Dalai Lama has sent a very wrong signal to the outside world about supporting Tibetan independence, which violates the U.S. government's commitment not to support independence for Tibet," the spokesman, Geng Shuang, told reporters.

He said Beijing had complained to the U.S. government over the matter, and urged the American representatives "to stop any kind of contact with the Dalai Lama, and take immediate measures to eliminate the negative impact."

But Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner assured that the U.S. Congress stood in "solidarity with the cause of the Tibetan people to be free from the repression that has been put upon them for a very, very long time from Beijing."

"Without justice there is no freedom," said the Wisconsin Republican, noting that the U.S. Consti-



The Dalai Lama laughs with Republican Jim Sensenbrenner as the Minority Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives Nancy Pelosi, right, looks on at the Tsuglagkhang temple in Dharmasala

tion has prohibited government restrictions on the free exercise of religion for more than 220 years. "Today there is no justice in Tibet for Tibetans, for their religion, for their culture, for their language, and for His Holiness The Dalai Lama. ... This is a civil rights issue."

China says the Himalayan region has been part of the country for more than seven centuries. Many Tibetans insist they were essentially independent for most of that time. At least 148 Tibetans have set themselves on fire since 2009 to protest China's rule.

In many cases, China has offered aid packages to foreign governments on the condition that they support China's position on issues such as Tibet and Taiwan, the self-governing island that Beijing

has pledged to take control of, by force if necessary. Mongolia said in December that it would no longer allow visits by the Dalai Lama after a recent trip by the exiled Tibetan spiritual leader led China to suspend talks on a major loan.

"China uses its economic leverage to silence the voices of friends of Tibet," Pelosi said. "But if we don't speak out against repression in Tibet and the rest of China because of China's economic power, we lose all moral authority to talk about human rights anywhere else in the world."

Pelosi told the gathering that she would limit her comments on China's "brutal tactics" because the Dalai Lama had "prayed for me that I would rid myself of my negative attitude about dwelling on the negative too much."

The brutal tactics of the Chinese govt to erase race, culture and language of Tibetan people challenges the conscience of the world. We will meet that challenge.

NANCY PELOSI (D)
REP. MINORITY LEADER

The Dalai Lama, meanwhile, said Tibetans do not need weapons in their struggle for autonomy, and again prescribed a path of nonviolence and compassion. While he has devolved political power to an elected government, the Dalai Lama is still widely revered by Tibetans as their most influential leader.

Tibetans who remain in the closely guarded region "are living in fear and anxiety. Their life is at risk, but they are still preserving our traditions," said the Dalai Lama, who fled Tibet to India in 1959 during an abortive uprising.

"We all are dedicated to the Tibetan cause, but should not think of harming the Chinese people as such. We need to befriend them" and work through compassion to resolve the Tibetan issue, he said.

The timing of the U.S. congressional visit may irk Trump, who just weeks ago boasted of enjoying cozy conversations and chocolate cake with Chinese President Xi Jinping at Trump's Florida resort. During Xi's official visit last month, Beijing also provisionally approved several trademark applications for Ivanka

Trump, the president's daughter.

President Trump's rhetoric on China has warmed considerably since the U.S. presidential campaign, when he repeatedly called the Asian giant a currency manipulator and an economic adversary of the United States.

Many in the crowd at yesterday's gathering in Dharmasala said they were delighted, and relieved, to see a bipartisan U.S. delegation address the Tibetan issue.

"It perhaps shows that there is huge support for Tibet in the U.S. Congress. With Trump at the helm, things are uncertain," said internet security analyst Lobsang Gyatso, 34.

Rinchen, a 27-year-old antiques dealer who fled Tibet as a teenager in 2006, said the visit had burnished the Tibetan cause and sent a strong message to China.

"The mere fact that this delegation is visiting Dharmasala gives importance to Tibet and the Dalai Lama," said Rinchen, who uses only one name, as is common in the region. When people inside Tibet hear of the visit, "they will know that the support is real," he said. **AP**

XIE YANG AND LI HEPING

Court releases two prominent rights lawyers after 22 months

CHINA has released two prominent human rights lawyers detained nearly two years ago, after they allegedly confessed in court to collaborating with foreign organizations and media to smear and subvert Communist Party rule.

The two men's release narrows the list of human rights campaigners who are still being held as part of China's "7-09 crackdown," in which authorities on July 9, 2015, detained hundreds in a coordinated nationwide sweep that sent a chill

through the country's activist movement.

The cases of Xie Yang and Li Heping, suddenly freed after two-year ordeals, follow an established pattern of the Chinese government exerting enormous pressure on human rights advocates, their family members and colleagues, seemingly with the goal of forcing public displays of submission rather than meaningful convictions in a court of law.

An attorney representing Xie said yesterday that the

activist lawyer was freed and at home celebrating his mother's birthday. Xie's release came shortly after he pleaded guilty in a cursory trial to inciting subversion of state power and read from a prepared statement denouncing his past activism and warning other human rights lawyers against pursuing such work. He also recanted previous allegations of torture which had gained international attention. It's not clear whether he had been sentenced.

Supporters of Li said the Beijing-based lawyer was also driven home and released videos of him emotionally embracing his wife, Wang Qiaoling. A northern Chinese court announced in late April that Li had confessed during a secret trial to attacking and discrediting China's political and legal systems. He received a suspended three-year sentence.

Li's wife, who has been highly outspoken about her husband's detention, did not immediately offer com-

ment after his release.

Among those still held as part of the "7-09" saga are Jiang Tianyong, an activist who worked to publicize the plight of the lawyers' families but then found himself caught in the government dragnet last November, and Wu Gan, a well-known blogger.

The resolution of Xie's and Li's cases carries echoes of last August, when leaders of the civic rights movement suddenly reappeared on state television after nearly a year in detention. In filmed interviews, they disavowed their previous work and apologized for working with foreign civil society groups and media to shine a light on China's domestic problems. Some, like the lawyer Wang Yu, were released shortly

after giving televised confessions, the government apparently uninterested in further pursuing its charges.

Frances Eve, a researcher at Chinese Human Rights Defenders, a private organization that has closely tracked the "7-09" crackdown, said it was difficult to believe "wooden confessions that parrot the party line after months of incommunicado detention."

"Televised confessions reinforce that the CCP is clearly not interested in rule of law," she said. "It's part of the elaborate propaganda machinery to scare domestic audiences by saying defending human rights is a crime, and tries to unsuccessfully deflect international criticism." **AP**

opinion

Eric Talmadge, AP

MOON FLOATS SUMMIT;
WILL NORTH BITE?

First it was an off-the-cuff offer from then-candidate Donald Trump to have hamburgers in Washington. Now, South Korea's new president says he is willing to meet with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — if, of course, the conditions are right.

The problem is, they pretty much never are.

Relations between the two Koreas have deteriorated dramatically in recent years, and Pyongyang is almost certain to take whatever positions newly elected President Moon Jae-in may assume toward increased engagement with a good deal of caution.

North Korea had yet to comment officially on the election of Moon, a liberal who was deeply involved in Seoul's "sunshine policy" of increased engagement and cooperation with the North back in the 2000s. He even helped arrange a summit between his mentor, former President Roh Moo-hyun, and then-North Korean leader Kim Jong Il in 2007.

That was the second Korean summit. South Korea's late President Kim Dae-jung won a Nobel Peace Prize for setting up the first one, in 2000. It was later alleged that he paid \$500 million to make it happen.

"I will quickly move to solve the crisis in national security," Moon said in his acceptance speech. "I am willing to go anywhere for the peace of the Korean Peninsula — if needed, I will fly immediately to Washington. I will go to Beijing and I will go to Tokyo. If the conditions shape up, I will go to Pyongyang."

A lot has happened since the sunshine days, however.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un — Kim Jong Il's son — is closer than ever to having a credible nuclear deterrent to what it sees as an existential threat from Washington. And Pyongyang is buried much deeper than before in sanctions and international isolation. Those factors would cloud Moon's ability to unilaterally mend fences, if that is his intention.

Moon has been a critic of the hard-line stances that conservative governments in Seoul maintained against North Korea over the past decade and has called for sanctions and pressure against Pyongyang to be balanced with engagement efforts.

Along with suggesting the summit, he says he's open to the idea of holding talks with Kim Jong Un over the nuclear issue, which would mark a sharp departure from recent South Korean policy.

He also has said he supports the reopening of an industrial park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong that was jointly run by the two Koreas. The government of his impeached predecessor, who is in jail awaiting a corruption trial, closed it last year following a nuclear test and satellite launch by the North.

Some of what Moon is pitching could indeed ease tensions and potentially create the leeway both sides need to start talking to each other again.

But while North Korea may welcome a controlled boost in economic ties and maybe a bilateral summit in its capital, its primary concern is always national security, or more precisely the assurance of regime survival. And on that front, Moon's options to generate big changes could be severely limited.

For one thing, Seoul has to consider its alliance with the U.S. and whatever position toward the North President Donald Trump decides to take.

SOUTH KOREA

Moon's rise to power causes worries, hopes abroad

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

WHICH of South Korea's neighbors and allies stand to benefit most from liberal Moon Jae-in's ascension to the presidency this week?

It might be North Korea, which sees Moon as an advocate of a softer approach to ridding the North of nuclear weapons. This in turn could set off alarms in a more conservative Washington. Beijing, meanwhile, likely hopes to win big concessions from Moon, and Tokyo worries he'll upset a delicate arrangement meant to settle the two countries' difficult past.

Here's a look at how South Korea's neighbors see Moon, Seoul's first liberal leader in a decade, as he seeks to put an ambitious, possibly jarring foreign policy into play.

NORTH KOREA

North Korea, as of yesterday afternoon, had yet to comment officially on Moon's election, but experts say there's no reason for it to dislike his win.

Even so, North Korea's relations with Moon's conservative predecessor, Park Geun-hye, were extremely bad, so it is almost certain to be cautious about any Moon proposals for increased engagement.

It may welcome a controlled boost in economic ties — or even a bilateral summit in its capital under the right conditions, an idea Moon has already floated — but its primary worry is likely to remain national security.

On that front, Moon's options to generate major change could be severely limited by South Korea's alliance with the United States and whatever position toward North Korea that President Donald Trump decides to take.

Park's decision to allow the United States to base a state-of-the-art missile defense system known by the acronym THAAD in South Korea's territory to cope with North Korean nuclear threats is a major irritant.

There's widespread opposition in South Korea to the THAAD deployment and loud protests from China, which also sees the system as a security threat. But challenging Washington over THAAD might be difficult for Moon.

UNITED STATES

Trump administration officials may worry about Moon's



South Korea's new President Moon Jae-in

softer approach to North Korea, but they also likely know he won't push for any radical policies on the North or any other issues that would hurt the decades-long alliance.

During his campaign, many conservatives worried that Moon's election would cause problems with Washington, Seoul's most important ally, because of his engagement policy on North Korea would clash with Trump's push to maximize pressures on the country. Moon also said he would review the THAAD deployment.

But North Korea's nuclear weapons program has made remarkable progress since Moon worked for a liberal government that engaged the North with big aid shipments and economic cooperation projects 10 years ago. It's highly unlikely that Moon will pursue the same level of rapprochement that past liberal governments took.

Earlier this month, South Korean officials said the THAAD system was already operating, and experts say it will be extremely difficult now for Moon to ask Washington to withdraw it.

Taking the oath of office in Seoul yesterday, Moon said he will further bolster the alliance and "immediately fly to Washington if necessary" for the sake of peace on the Korean Peninsula.

CHINA

Beijing will be hoping for concessions from Moon to get relations back on track after months of Chinese fury over South Korea's decision to deploy THAAD.

China maintained an unyielding stance even after the deployment went ahead, apparently hoping that Moon would

JAPAN

After the obligatory congratulations, Japan is cautiously watching to see how relations with South Korea evolve under Moon, known for his tough stance on wartime history and territorial issues.

Moon's more conciliatory approach to North Korea adds to uncertainty in bilateral and trilateral cooperation with the United States, given Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's vocal support for Trump's increased pressure on the North.

Japan is particularly concerned about the "comfort women" issue, a legacy of Japanese atrocities during the war that still haunts relations between the two sides. Moon opposes a 2015 agreement signed by Park that was heralded as a final settlement for Korean women who were among many sexually enslaved in Japanese military brothels before and during World War II. Moon has called for a renegotiation of the pact.

The two countries are also at odds over a "comfort woman" statue that was built outside the Japanese consulate in the southern South Korean city of Busan after the agreement was signed.

Moon has also raised skepticism over closer security cooperation with Japan, such as a bilateral military information sharing agreement, and emphasized Seoul's territorial claim on a disputed island between the two countries.

"Will Mr. Moon pursue a 'pro-North, anti-Japan' stance?" the conservative Yomiuri newspaper said in an editorial yesterday. South Korea plays a crucial role in regional stability, it said. "We hope the new administration values cooperation with Japan and the U.S. and develops realistic security and foreign policies." AP



VIETNAM

Ministry puts pork on menus as farmers face glut, low prices

Tran Van Minh, Xuan Son

PORK may be hogging menus in Vietnam's factories and army canteens for some time to come, as the country tries to keep pig farmers stricken by a glut in supply from going under.

Millions of farmers are struggling after China began blocking imports from Vietnam in November. The crisis has highlighted the risks of depending on a single foreign market, especially such a big one: half of all pork the world eats is consumed in China.

Pork prices fell to as low as USD1 per kilogram in early May, less than half the price a year earlier. So far, a surplus of 300,000 tons to 400,000 tons has accumulated, according to state media.

To help farmers weather the crisis, the military, police



and trade unions are boosting pork portions in meals served in their canteens.

At a recent Cabinet meeting, Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc told officials to review planning of farm production and distribution to prevent future gluts in pork supplies.

The agriculture ministry, meanwhile, is lobbying to increase exports to China and other markets.

The rescue effort may have come too late for farmers like Do Huu Thuyen, who lost all his savings when pork prices recently crashed to record lows.

"The price of pork has never been cheaper," said Thuyen after feeding his herd at his farm in Xuan Son, a village about 55 kilometers (34 miles) northwest of Hanoi.

Vietnam is the world's sixth-largest pork producer with about 3 million households raising pigs, mostly in small, backyard farms. Such small scale farming usually earns them badly needed cash income, but it's relatively inefficient and difficult to regulate.

"If farmers see a chance for profits they will do as they like, as they have done many times before despite cautions from the government," said Nguyen Anh Dung, another pig farmer.

China's crackdown on the border trade was a harsh blow: Vietnamese sold 600,000 tons of pork to Chinese buyers in 2016 through such channels.

It also came at an especially bad time, since many farmers had expanded their herds two years earlier when prices spiked. Pork output in 2016 was 3.9 million tons, triple the output of 15 years earlier, according to the Agriculture Ministry.

Thuyen, 42, says his farm was worth tens of billions of dong (hundreds of thousands of dollars), when he mortgaged his home to expand his herd to 170 breeding pigs and 400 pigs for slaughter. He hasn't sold a single piglet in the last three months because with pork prices so low, nobody wants to raise them.

In six months he lost 2 billion dong (\$88,000) or 10 years' worth of savings, he says.

"I could go bankrupt, if the price stays the same," he said.

Vietnam's farm ministry is lobbying Beijing to resume imports, and Agriculture Minister Nguyen Xuan Cuong hopes to meet with his Chinese counterpart on the sidelines of a regional forum to be held in Vietnam in November, state-controlled media have reported.

Thuyen said he is losing 1.5 million dong (\$66) for every pig he sells, while traders make that much or more. **AP**

AD

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Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

Eric Tucker, Eileen Sullivan & Julie Pace, Washington

USA

Trump defends Comey firing, says both parties will thank him

PRESIDENT Donald Trump defended his firing of FBI Director James Comey, asserting in a flurry of tweets yesterday that Republicans and Democrats “will be thanking me.” Trump did not mention any effect the firing might have on the probe into contacts between his 2016 campaign and Russia.

Instead, Trump tweeted that he’ll name a replacement “who will do a far better job, bringing back the spirit and prestige of the FBI.”

Nevertheless, the abrupt firing throws into question the future of the investigation into the Trump campaign’s possible connections to Russia and immediately raised suspicions of an underhanded effort to stymie a probe that has shadowed the administration from the outset. Trump has ridiculed the investigations as “a hoax” and denied any campaign involvement with the Russians.

Democrats likened Comey’s ouster to President Richard Nixon’s “Saturday Night Massacre” and renewed calls for the appointment of a special prosecutor, and some Republicans also questioned the move.

In a flurry of tweets, Trump said Comey had “lost the confidence of almost everyone in Washington,” adding: “When things calm down, they will be thanking me!”

In his brief letter to Comey, Trump said the firing was necessary to restore “public trust and confidence” in the FBI. The administration paired the letter with a scathing review by Deputy Attorney General Rod Rosenstein of how Comey handled the investigation into Democrat Hillary Clinton’s email practices, including his decision to hold a news conference announcing its findings and releasing “derogatory information” about Clinton.

While Comey has drawn anger from Democrats since he reopened the email investigation in the closing days of last year’s campaign, they didn’t buy that justification for his firing. Several Republicans joined them in raising alarms of how it could affect probes into possible coordination between Trump associates and Russia to influence the 2016 presidential election.

In one of the strongest statements by Republicans, Sen. Richard Burr of North Carolina, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, said, “I am troubled by the timing and reasoning of Director Comey’s termination.”

“His dismissal further confuses an already difficult investigation by the committee,” Burr said.

Senate Democratic Leader Chuck Schumer told Trump in a phone call he thought dumping Comey was a mistake. Yesterday, Trump labeled the Senate minority leader “Cryin’ Chuck Schumer.”

Trump will now appoint a successor at the FBI, which has been investigating since late July, and who will almost certainly have an

impact on how the investigation moves forward and whether the public will accept its outcome.

It was only the second firing of an FBI director in history. President Bill Clinton dismissed William Sessions amid allegations of ethical lapses in 1993.

Democrats compared the ouster to Nixon’s decision to fire the independent special prosecutor overseeing the Watergate investigation in 1973, which prompted the resignations of the Justice Department’s top two officials.

“This is Nixonian,” Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pa., declared on Twitter. “Outrageous,” said Oregon Sen. Ron Wyden, calling for Comey to immediately be summoned to testify to Congress about the status of the Trump-Russia investigation. Rep. Adam Schiff of California, top Democrat on the House intelligence committee, said the White House was “brazenly interfering” in the probe.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Congress must form a special committee to investigate Russia’s interference in the election.

■ In a flurry of tweets, Trump said Comey had ‘lost the confidence of almost everyone in Washington’

Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell, R-Ky., said only: “Once the Senate receives a nomination, we look forward to a full, fair and timely confirmation process to fill the director position. This is a critical role that is especially important as America faces serious threats at home and abroad.”

Comey was speaking to agents at the FBI’s field office in Los Angeles when the news broke. Television screens in the office began flashing the news, and Comey initially chuckled, according to a law enforcement official who was present and spoke on condition of anonymity. But Comey finished his speech before heading into an office and did not reappear in the main room. He later left Los Angeles on a plane to return to Washington.

In his letter to Comey, Trump thanked him for telling him three times “that I am not under investigation.” The FBI has not confirmed that Comey ever made those



Fired FBI Director James Comey

assurances to the president. In public hearings, Comey has declined to answer when asked if Trump is under investigation, urging lawmakers not to read anything into that statement.

Comey, 56, was nominated by President Barack Obama for the FBI post in 2013 to a 10-year term, though that appointment does not ensure a director will serve the full term.

Praised frequently by both parties for his independence and integrity, he spent three decades in law enforcement. Before the past months’ controversies, the former deputy attorney general in the George W. Bush administration was perhaps best known for a remarkable 2004 standoff with top officials over a federal domestic surveillance program. In March of that year, Comey rushed to the hospital bed of Attorney General John Ashcroft to physically stop White House officials in their bid to get his ailing boss to reauthorize a secret no-warrant wiretapping program.

But his prominent role in the 2016 presidential campaign raised questions about his judgment and impartiality. Though the FBI did not recommend charges against Clinton for mishandling classified information, Comey was blisteringly critical of her decision to use a personal email account and private internet server during her four years as secretary of state. Comey strongly defended his decisions during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing last week. He said he was “mildly nauseous” at the thought of having swayed the election but also said he would do the same again.

Clinton has partially blamed her loss on Comey’s disclosure to Congress less than two weeks before Election Day that the email investigation would be revisited. Comey later said the FBI, again, had found no reason to bring any charges. **AP**

REACTION TO THE FIRING

SOME TWITTER reaction to President Donald Trump’s firing of FBI Director James Comey amid the bureau’s investigation into allegations his campaign had ties to Russia.

“Comey should be immediately called to testify in an open hearing about the status of Russia/Trump investigation at the time he was fired.”
— U.S. Ron Wyden, D-Oregon

“Given the recent controversies surrounding the Director, I believe a fresh start will serve the FBI and the nation well.”
— U.S. Lindsey Graham, R-South Carolina

“If we don’t get a special prosecutor, every American will rightfully suspect that the decision to fire #Comey was part of a cover-up.”
— U.S. Sen. Chuck Schumer, D-New York, Senate minority leader

“@realDonaldTrump Didn’t you know you’re supposed to wait til Saturday night to massacre people investigating you?”
— John Podesta, Hillary Clinton’s former campaign chairman

“Bipartisan Congressional investigations will continue. Actively seeking additional info on President’s decision before commenting further.”
— U.S. Rep. Frank LoBiondo, R-New Jersey

“This is Nixonian. Deputy AG Rod Rosenstein must immediately appoint a special prosecutor to continue the Trump/Russia investigation.”
— U.S. Sen. Bob Casey, D-Pennsylvania

“FUN FACT: President Nixon never fired the Director of the FBI #FBI Director #notNixonian”
— Richard Nixon Presidential Library and Museum

“It’s time for Congress to get their heads out of the sand. @realDonaldTrump cannot pick the person to continue this critical investigation.”
— U.S. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, D-Massachusetts

“I am troubled by the timing and reasoning of Director Comey’s termination.”
— U.S. Sen. Richard Burr, R-North Carolina

“Congressional Republicans cannot possibly disagree now: the only fix to this mess is an independent commission with subpoena power.”
— Brian Fallon, former press secretary for Hillary Clinton presidential campaign

“While the case for removal of Federal Bureau of Investigation Director James Comey laid out by Deputy Attorney General Rod J. Rosenstein was thorough, his removal at this particular time will raise questions. It is essential that ongoing investigations are fulsome and free of political interference until their completion, and it is imperative that President Trump nominate a well-respected and qualified individual to lead the bureau at this critical time.”
— U.S. Sen. Bob Corker, R-Tennessee

“Dem response should be easy—call for independent investigation, remind voters of the last POTUS to fire someone while under investigation.”
— Christina Reynolds, former communications staffer for Hillary Clinton presidential campaign.

Kelly and Christie top picks for new FBI chief

WITH James Comey ousted as FBI director, President Donald Trump will have an opportunity to select a replacement for a new 10-year term. The FBI in the interim will be led by Comey's top deputy, Andrew McCabe. But Trump is likely to reach outside the bureau to find someone to run the storied law enforcement agency.

"The FBI is one of our nation's most cherished and respected institutions, and today will mark a new beginning for our crown jewel of law enforcement," Trump said in a statement issued by the White House.

Here are some possible candidates:

RAY KELLY: The longest-serving police commissioner in New York City, Kelly oversaw the force in the years following the Sept. 11 attacks when terror threats were routine. His tough-on-crime stance, including support for provocative tactics like stop-and-frisk, could make him a natural ally of Attorney General Jeff Sessions and a go-to-guy for a fellow New Yorker like Trump. Kelly as commissio-

ner defended a police operation, exposed by The Associated Press, that conducted secret surveillance of Muslims. He could partner with Trump and Sessions on anti-terrorism efforts.

CHRIS CHRISTIE: Though his relationship with Trump has been topsy-turvy, the governor of New Jersey has known the president for years and could bring law enforcement bona fides to the job. Christie is a former Republican-appointed United States attorney in New Jersey, and he cited that background time and again during his 2016 presidential campaign. His legacy as governor took a hit, however, with a Bridgewater scandal that was investigated by the FBI and prosecuted and brought down some of his allies.

DAVID CLARKE: A wild-card, but the outspoken and polarizing Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, sheriff has been a fierce supporter of Trump and even landed a speaking spot at last summer's Republican National Convention. A conservative firebrand known for his cowboy hat, Clarke has called himself "one of those bare-knuckles fighters" and has been

critical of what he called the "hateful ideology" of the Black Lives Matters movement. But he'd be a long shot given that a county jury recently recommended criminal charges against seven Milwaukee County jail staffers in the dehydration death of an inmate who went without water for seven days.

TREY GOWDY: The South Carolina Republican led the House committee investigation of former Secretary of State Hillary Clinton's actions surrounding the deaths of four Americans in Benghazi, Libya. Gowdy is also a former federal prosecutor who boasts of his work on drug trafficking, bank robberies and child pornography cases. He was among lawmakers critical of Comey's decision not to prosecute Clinton in the email server investigation, saying other government officials would have been prosecuted if they handled classified information like Clinton did, but federal officials disagree with that assessment. Gowdy said after Comey's firing that though he had differences with the former FBI director on some matters, he "never lost sight of the fact that he had a very difficult job." AP



Ray Kelly



Chris Christie



David Clarke



Trey Gowdy

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what's ON

A BONSAI OF MY DREAM — ON THE PATH TO THE INTERNATIONAL ART EXHIBITION - LA BIENNALE DI VENEZIA

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

UNTIL: December 12, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MACAO ARTIST SOCIETY YOUTH COMMITTEE MEMBER'S EXHIBITION 2017

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: June 25, 2107

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6866

MONKEY KING

TIME: 8pm daily (no performances on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780, MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

Offbeat**QANTAS BOSS GETS PIE IN FACE FROM GAY MARRIAGE OPPONENT**

Qantas Airways chief executive Alan Joyce

A man who squashed a lemon meringue pie into Qantas Airways chief executive Alan Joyce's face during a public address in Australia said Wednesday he was protesting Joyce's advocacy for same-sex marriage.

Joyce, a gay, Irish-born 50-year-old, was giving a speech to 500 people in a Perth hotel this week when Tony Overheu approached from behind, pressed the pie in his face then fled.

Overheu, a 67-year-old Christian and former sheep farmer, released a statement accusing Qantas and other companies that support marriage equality of "corporate bullying aimed at social engineering." He was charged with giving police a false name.

Joyce accused Overheu of "bullying" corporate leaders in an effort to suppress their views.

"I have every intention to continue to be vocal on these social and community issues," Joyce told reporters. "It's important for our shareholders, our employees, our customers — it's called good corporate social responsibility."

Joyce has been singled out for criticism by government ministers for joining 30 chief executives of high-profile Australian companies who wrote a letter to Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull in March calling for Parliament to legalize same-sex marriage.

Immigration Minister Peter Dutton, a gay marriage opponent, told the CEOs to "stick to their knitting" and keep out of the political debate.

Joyce said he had overwhelming shareholder support for his public stance.

Yesterday, Overheu told Perth Radio 6PR he hid behind a screen at the back of a stage for several hours before Joyce rose to give his speech to a business breakfast.

Overheu said he chose lemon meringue from a cake shop the night before because it "appeared to be the softest, least likely to do any injury." He later sent Joyce an email apologizing.

"Our family is outraged, my wife is down my throat, I didn't understand that I'd breached the state's Criminal Code and the police are dealing with it. Clearly I regret that," Overheu told 6PR.

Police said Overheu was charged with giving officers false details, and the investigation was continuing.

Joyce confirmed the apology, but added: "I'm not sure there's any regret at the issue that has occurred."

TV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
16:50	Revenge S1
18:20	Now Generation (Repeated)
19:10	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:30	Castle S6
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
23:50	Champions League Highlights
00:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

cinema**CINETEATRO**

11 - 17 MAY

ALIEN: COVENANT

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

**KING ARTHUR: LEGEND OF THE SWORD**

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Guy Ritchie

Starring: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Berges-Frisbey

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 126min

29 + 1

ROOM 3

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

Director: Kearen Pang

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Joyce Cheng, Ben Yeung

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

**GIFTED**

ROOM 3

7:30pm

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, Mckenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

MACAU TOWER

11 MAY - 29 MAY

**ALIEN: COVENANT**

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

Director: Ridley Scott

Starring: Michael Fassbender, Katherine Waterston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 122min

this day in history**1971 OLDEST TABLOID CLOSES**

The Daily Sketch newspaper which was founded in 1909 has been published for the last time.

Enclosed in today's souvenir issue was a copy of its sister paper the Daily Mail to which owners Harmsworth Publications hope former Sketch readers will now switch.

However, production of the last copies of the Sketch was held up by an industrial dispute over manning of the printing presses.

At its peak the Daily Sketch achieved a circulation of 1.3 million copies a day but in recent years readership of the paper has been in decline.

The Sketch's fate was sealed two months ago when Harmsworth Publications announced plans to shut down the paper, although the exact date was a closely-guarded secret until recently.

The closure has resulted in more than 800 people being made redundant - they are among 1,700 being laid off by Associated Newspapers, Harmsworth's parent company.

But the former editor of the Sketch, David English, remains with the company. He was appointed editor of the Daily Mail after the Sketch's closure was announced.

Associated Newspapers is now pinning its hopes on the revamped Daily Mail capturing the Sketch's market.

Earlier this month the Mail was transformed from a broadsheet into a tabloid and has taken on many of the Sketch's features such as the Peanuts cartoon strip.

The new Mail's success is even more crucial for Harmsworth's survival given that it also publishes the loss-making Evening News.

The Mail's main competitor for the Sketch's readers is widely regarded to be the Daily Express.

The Express' new editor, Ian McColl, is expected to take the paper further to the right and thus encroach on ground traditionally occupied by the Mail.

The latest developments are another twist in the on-going battle of the tabloids which began when Rupert Murdoch took over the Sun two years ago.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Under David English the new Daily Mail soared in popularity especially among the middle classes.

In 1992 after 20 years at the Mail, David English became editor-in-chief and chairman of Associated Newspapers.

He died in 1998.

Rivalry in the tabloid market intensified in 1984 when Robert Maxwell took over the Mirror Group.

In February 1987 he launched the London Daily News - in direct competition with Associated Newspaper's Evening Standard.

However, after fierce resistance from Associated Newspapers the London Daily News closed in July 1987 with losses in the region of £50m.

In 1986 a new tabloid entered the market when Eddy Shah launched Today - the first national newspaper to be printed in colour.

But in 1995 Today became the first national paper to close since the Daily Sketch.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 A new person on the scene is providing a great deal of entertainment...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Being overly emotional is not a productive frame of mind for you. You should seek out some sort of distraction...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You may find yourself moving into an introverted mood, but that's okay, especially under the circumstances...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 It's an excellent day for planning and fact-finding, so you might want to sit yourself in front of the computer for a while...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You have a few serious responsibilities to deal with before you cover yourself with chocolate sauce...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You will feel a strong energy to initiate something new, which is perfect -- because you are in a superb phase to begin new projects...

Libra Sep. 23-Oct. 22 Friendships are elective relationships - they don't always have to be lifelong commitments...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Step out and go somewhere you have never been before with a few of your favorite people...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Things are definitely changing for the better - the tide is starting to turn in your life...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you want more peace in your life, spend more time with altruistic people. Ignore the drama kings...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your eye for detail will help you notice things no one else pays attention to today - hold on to these little revelations...

Pisces Feb. 19-Mar. 20 Follow through will be your worst enemy today. You'll start things and work on things, but completion is a whole other matter...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

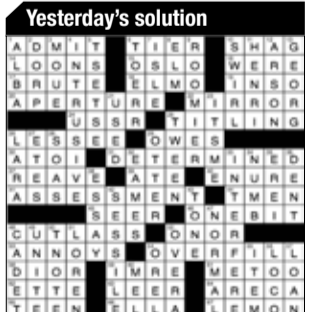
9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table for CHINA and WORLD, showing MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Greek portico; 5- Ballot choice; 9- British record label; 12- Dark cloud; 13- Proverb, saying; 15- Graceful horse; 16- Impulse to act; 17- Out; 18- Sandy tract; 19- Letter opener; 21- Gazing; 23- Soviet news service; 24- Jima; 25- Anew; 28- Easy chair; 33- West Yorkshire city; 34- Roll-call response; 35- Greenish blue; 36- Author Amy; 37- Units of computer memory; 38- Devoured; 39- Bone; Prefix; 41- Latin 101 word; 42- Slender gulls; 44- Piercing; 46- Some sculptures; 47- Canto; 48- Tender; 49- Greek goddess of health; 53- Culinary department; 57- Merit; 58- Fragile; 60- Mower brand; 61- Smelting waste; 62- Legend; 63- Send forth; 64- Paris possessive; 65- Germinated grain used in brewing; 66- He loved Lucy; DOWN: 1- Potato; 2- Shipping deduction; 3- Gymnast Korbut; 4- Warned; 5- Disappear; 6- Smells; 7- Make lace; 8- Sponsorship; 9- ... saw Elba; 10- Jazz flutist Herbie; 11- to differ; 14- Leads on; 15- Deft; 20- Back talk; 22- Shoe tool; 25- Choir section; 26- Sumptuous meal; 27- Oscar de la ...; 28- Label anew; 29- 'Tu' ('70s hit); 30- Approaches; 31- Jack Sprat could ... fat; 32- Like non-oyster months; 34- Song in praise of God; 37- Court attendant; 40- Reffluent; 42- Legal wrong; 43- Put up; 45- Nectar collector; 46- Washroom; 48- Dexterity; 49- Pianist Myra; 50- Ivy League school; 51- Mardi ...; 52- Composer Khachaturian; 54- Household; 55- Goddess of discord; 56- Don't look at me!; 59- Attorneys' org.;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

FOOTBALL

FIFA struggles to regain trust as judge decries new leaders

Rob Harris, Manama

EVEN after a year under new leadership, FIFA is still pleading with the world: Trust us.

The message is proving as hard to sell as sponsorship of the World Cup.

Especially when FIFA President Gianni Infantino has been accused of ousting the ethics leadership whose mission was to clean up soccer's scandal-tainted image.

German judge Hans-Joachim Eckert and Swiss prosecutor Cornel Borbely decried a "clearly politically motivated" decision by the Infantino-led council to prevent them remaining in their jobs.

"This will inevitably lead to a renewed loss of trust," Eckert and Borbely said in a statement after discovering they were being replaced, "and further hurt the already tarnished image of FIFA."

So much for the "new era" Infantino said he was ushering in after succeeding the discredited, banned president Sepp Blatter last year.

Eckert, who brought down Blatter in 2015, and Borbely said the new leadership has "accepted jeopardizing FIFA's integrity, and, hence, the future of the game."

The pair is clearly disgruntled at losing their jobs as watchdogs of world soccer, and FIFA is yet to respond to their damning critique.

But the outbursts from respected figures make Infantino's "crisis is over" declaration at last year's gathering of soccer's 211 nations looking remarkably outlandish.

Criminal investigations are still exposing shady transactions. The suitability of members of the ruling council remains in doubt. Reforms intended to curb the powers of the president and restore FIFA's credibility are being eroded.

Against this backdrop, FIFA has been trying to persuade commercial backers to sign up after so many were scared off by the corruption that plagued the Blatter's 17-year reign.

FIFA's leadership was able to start its congress week in Bahrain by trumpeting the arrival of Qatar Airways to fill the airline sponsorship category that has been vacant for more than two years. But the



FIFA President Gianni Infantino

deal was anticipated given it is the state-owned carrier of the 2022 World Cup hosts.

A true test of the confidence of FIFA's new hierarchy will come when major international corporations sign up that are not from China, Russia or Qatar — the source of all of FIFA's new World Cup deals in recent years.

■ A true test of the confidence of FIFA's new hierarchy will come when major int'l corporations sign up that are not from China, Russia or Qatar

New sponsors in traditional strongholds like Japan and the United States have yet to convince shareholders they should partner with a scandal-tainted organization. Many were scared off in 2015 when FIFA's reputation was shredded by widespread bribery

being exposed after high-ranking executives were arrested in Zurich hotel raids.

"We hope that more (sponsors) will come before the end of the year," FIFA secretary general Fatma Samoura told The Associated Press. "That was a strong signal from Qatar Airways to recognize the new leadership of FIFA is working toward restoring the image of FIFA and that there is climate of trust that is really here to push for more partnerships."

Trust, according to Samoura, also comes through a new generation of officials being elected to the FIFA Council.

"It's a strong demonstration that gender empowerment," Samoura said, pointing to Mahfuza Akhter of Bangladesh being elected on Tuesday as Asia's female representative at FIFA.

It was a surprise result. Moya Dodd, an outspoken critic of corruption and prominent champion of women's football, lost to Akhter, who couldn't name the Women's World Cup holder in a post-election interview. American soccer stars Alex Morgan and Carli Lloyd were among those to express surprise at the setback for Dodd, an Australian lawyer who is still on the Asian Football Confederation

executive committee.

"I've seen how passionate she is about changing the game and making it better," said American forward Carli Lloyd, the reigning women's FIFA Player of the Year. "You want people like that who are going to fight."

Samoura, who was hired last year as FIFA's first female secretary general, said FIFA could find a way to "make good use of her skills."

Those skills were used by a reform committee in 2015 that helped to reshape FIFA following the U.S. Department of Justice indictments of soccer officials.

But Eckert and Borbely said FIFA's failure to replace them "puts de facto an end to the reform efforts."

The progress of some reforms already appear to have stalled — despite Infantino helping to draft them in the FIFA-appointed advisory panel while he was a presidential candidate.

Power should have drained from the presidency to the CEO-like secretary general, but Infantino has retained a Blatter-like grip on executive authority. A new FIFA Bureau that was not on the reform program now has given more authority to Infantino and

the six regional confederation leaders, whose decisions need not be ratified by a 37-strong council that replaced the discredited executive committee.

"The bureau is there to act in between when the council meets," CONCACAF President Victor Montagliani said. "If there are decisions that are needed on a timely basis."

The most recent addition to the bureau and council is Ahmad Ahmad, who ended Issa Hayatou's 29-year grip on power in Africa in March.

But the FIFA vice president has unwelcome links to the tainted old regime. Email correspondence between Ahmad and an aide to disgraced former FIFA presidential candidate Mohamed bin Hammam of Qatar was published by British newspaper The Sunday Times in 2014. The emails from 2010 detailed Ahmad reminding Bin Hammam that he promised money to help Ahmad's re-election campaign to lead the Madagascar federation. The Bin Hammam aide who Ahmad was emailing was banned for life by the FIFA ethics committee in January for involvement in unethical payments made to soccer officials.

"If it's your idea, take it, give it," Ahmad responded vaguely when asked about the payments yesterday. "Ask him. Don't ask me."

FIFA has lost two officials recently following fresh American revelations about wrongdoing.

FIFA audit committee member Richard Lai, an American citizen from Guam, pleaded guilty to wire fraud conspiracy charges related to taking around USD1 million in bribes including at least \$850,000 from Kuwaiti officials. The cash was to buy influence and help recruit other Asian soccer officials prepared to take bribes, Lai said in court in New York.

Kuwaiti powerbroker Sheikh Ahmad Al Fahad Al Sabah was implicated in the investigation and, despite maintaining his innocence, he quit the election to regain his seat on the FIFA Council this week.

Now new investigators will be taking on those cases. Eckert and Borbely predicted "long delays in current investigations." They are set to be replaced by Greek judge Vasilios Skouris and Colombian lawyer Maria Claudia Rojas on Thursday.

Infantino is suspected of a personal motive to install new ethics leadership, although he didn't publicly criticize Eckert and Borbely. The Swiss-Italian former UEFA general secretary was frustrated that he faced an ethics investigation last year for his use of private jets early in his presidency.

The old FIFA ways continue to seem hard to shake off. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao
 Jenny Lao-Phillips



GHOST TOUR OF MACAO

Being a city that never sleeps, it is normal for visitors to expect a variety of nightlife in Macao. We do, of course, already have a large number of 24-hour entertainment complexes for gaming-focused tourists, but what about visitors here for cultural tourism? Well, how about historical heritage tour by day and ghost tour by night?

The London Ghost Tour or Haunted Walks in Old London have long attracted tourists and lovers of vampire novels. Around the world, there are many tourist attractions that have evolved from eerie stories like the "Haunted Walk of Toronto," "Ghost Tour of Historic Haunted Philadelphia," and Australia's the "Rocks Ghost Tours," to name a few. At a gathering which became a sharing of childhood ghost stories, I realised there are a lot of ghost sightings and haunted spots in Macao. So why not develop a Haunted Historical Route of Macao for an evening walk?

I would suggest beginning the walk from our landmark, the Ruins of St. Paul. Behind the Ruins is a haunted alley, Calçada do Amparo, which was referred to as the "Cannibal Alley" in the old days. During the Anti-Japanese War, overweight people were seen entering the alley never to return. At that time, Macao was faced with a shortage of food, and rumor had it that a Macao version of a Sweeney Todd figure kidnapped fat people and sold their meat in the market to make money. Another rumor was that people were kidnapped and locked in a house in the alley which then burnt down in a large fire. Whichever story the rumor came from, people walking along this alley in the dark have been known to hear crying.

From behind the Ruins of St. Paul, via Camões Garden, you can get to Estrada do Repouso, one of the most haunted streets in Macao where the Kiang Wu hospital stands. Before the hospital was built, the land was filled with the bones of poor people whose families had no money to bury them. One story was that when the government approved the building of a hospital in the area, a large number of workers were recruited to dig up all the bones and put them in a coffin to relocate the graves. But the coffin could not be moved no matter how many men pulled their strength. Even now, the road is still believed to be roaming with spirits.

Next stop, Tap Sac Square. It may be hard to imagine by day that the bright open square is another haunted site. The area was believed to be another site filled with the bones of abandoned bodies. After the Second World War, the area was planned to be used for residential buildings. However, due to a large number of accidents and ghost sightings that scared away construction workers, the premises were never built. Because of the area's dark past, it had to be kept opened to absorb as much sunshine as possible in the day. But sometimes, around the hidden corners, one may still see a spirit or two trying to scare away intruders.

Finally, going uphill, the walk can take visitors to the most well-known haunted spot: Guia Hill. A night stroll around the dim lighted hill is chilling enough without mentioning that many people claim to have seen ghosts while jogging after sundown. It is said that if you go running at Guia Hill at night, never turn your head around, no matter what you hear from behind you. If you do, you may see a group of hungry ghosts chasing you. Well, there are more sites to add and perhaps a Ghost Tour may contribute to other cultural areas in Macao.

THE BUZZ ZHANG YIMOU SAYS 'GREAT WALL' STORY MAY HAVE BEEN TOO WEAK

Zhang Yimou says the disappointing U.S. performance of the biggest budget China-U.S. co-production to date, "The Great Wall," may have been down to a weak story, but he hopes other filmmakers won't be put off from attempting such ambitious Hollywood-Chinese collaboration.

"The actors are all very good; (star) Matt Damon and everyone was splendid," the acclai-

med director said. "Probably the story is a bit weak, or the timing of it wasn't right..."

Producers of "The Great Wall" had hoped the movie with a USD150 million production budget could buck the trend of China-U.S. co-productions failing to make a splash in both markets, at a time when movie makers wrestle with how to appeal to Chinese and Western audiences at the same time.

Prosecutors seek caning for gay couple in Indonesia's Aceh

SHARIAH prosecutors in Indonesia's Aceh province say two men on trial for gay sex should each be punished with 80 lashes, in another blow to the country's moderate image after a top Christian official was imprisoned for blasphemy.

The lead prosecutor, Gulmaini, who goes by one name, said yesterday the two men aged 20 and 23 had "confessed" to being in a gay relationship, which was supported by video footage and other evidence found in their rented room.

The men were led into the court handcuffed together and pulled their tops up to partially obscure their faces.

The couple was arrested in late March after neighborhood vigilantes in the provincial capital Banda Aceh suspected them of being gay and set out to catch them having sex. Mobile phone footage that circulated online and forms part of the evidence shows one of the men naked and visibly distressed as he apparently calls for help on his cellphone. The second man is repeatedly pushed by another man who is preventing the couple from leaving the room.

If found guilty, the men will be the first to be caned for gay



Two men accused of having gay sex are escorted to a holding cell to wait for the start of their trial at Shariah court in Banda Aceh

sex under a new Shariah code implemented in Aceh two years ago. Aceh is the only province in Muslim-majority Indonesia to practice Shariah law, which was a concession made by the national government in 2006 to end a years-long war with separatists.

Indonesia's reputation for practicing a moderate form of Islam has been battered in the past year due to attacks on religious minorities, a surge in persecution of gays and a polarizing election campaign for Jakarta governor that highlighted the growing strength of hard-line Islamic groups.

Earlier this week, the outgoing Jakarta governor, a minority Christian, was sentenced to two years prison for blaspheming the Quran.

In Aceh, the Shariah court's panel of three judges will an-

nounce its verdict next week.

Gulmaini told reporters that the men did not accept the court's offer to appoint a defense lawyer. He declined to elaborate but guilty verdicts are certain in most cases that reach the Shariah court.

The Shariah code allows up to 100 lashes for morality offenses including gay sex. Caning is also a punishment for adultery, gambling, drinking alcohol, women who wear tight clothes and men who skip Friday prayers.

Human Rights Watch has called for authorities to immediately release the two men. "These men had their privacy invaded in a frightening and humiliating manner and now face public torture for the 'crime' of their alleged sexual orientation," it said in a statement last month. **AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	95-125 Bad
High Density Residential Area	95-125 Bad
Ambient	110-140 Bad

WORLD BRIEFS



MYANMAR Police Yangon fired warning shots to break up a confrontation between Buddhists and Muslims that left at least one person injured. It was the latest manifestation of years of rising anti-Muslim sentiment in the predominantly Buddhist nation, where ultra-nationalist Buddhist monks and their supporters forced the closure of two Muslim schools last month.

AUSTRALIA A man who squashed a lemon meringue pie into Qantas Airways chief executive Alan Joyce's face during a public address says he was protesting Joyce's advocacy for same-sex marriage. **More on p16**



US-RUSSIA President Donald Trump welcomed Vladimir Putin's top diplomat to the White House for Trump's highest level face-to-face contact with a Russian official since he took office in January. Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov (pictured, above, left) entered through the West Executive entrance, out of range for reporters to ask questions.

UK Police say three teenage women who were suspected of involvement in terrorism have been released without charge. They said no further action will be taken against the two 18-year-olds and one 19-year-old, who were released yesterday. The three had been arrested May 1 on suspicion of the commission, preparation and instigation of terrorist acts.



SOUTH AFRICA A leading university says it is investigating Nazi-inspired posters that have appeared on campus notice boards, the BBC reported. Stellenbosch University condemned "racial superiority and any attempts to polarise" the campus, a spokesman said. The posters, reminiscent of Nazi propaganda to rally support for Hitler, called for a "Fight for Stellenbosch".

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Paulo Coutinho / MDT



With a little help... Mostly mainland workers fill Macau-bound bus after bus at the Taipa, Ocean Gardens stop - any working day at 6pm.