

LOCALS 'MORE DEMANDING ABOUT THEIR RIGHTS'

Locals are "more demanding about their rights," said Neto Valente during the Lawyers' Day celebrations



TAIWAN'S TSAI KEEPS DOMESTIC FOCUS

After a year in office, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen is focused on policy initiatives at home

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WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA denied U.S. accusations that its jets conducted an unprofessional intercept of an American radiationsniffing surveillance plane in the East China Sea and urged Washington to stop such activities.



CAMBODIA Tears were shed and the sounds of cries were heard from the families of four Cambodian soldiers who were killed by a Christian rebel group in the Central African Republic earlier this month as the bodies arrived home yesterday.

IRAN Tens of thousands of supporters of President Hassan Rouhani have poured into the streets of Tehran as night fell to celebrate the incumbent's relection. The impromptu rallies snarled traffic in the center of the capital, leaving many drivers to abandon their stuck cars in the middle of major roads.

More on backpage

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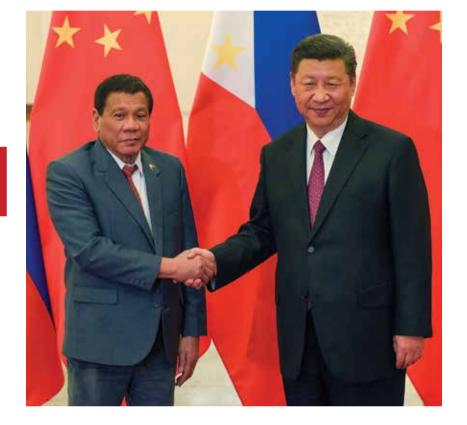


FINANCIAL TIMES

China takes project of the century to Pakistan

SOUTH CHINA SEA TENSIONS

Duterte: Xi threatened war over Sea row 2014







Ho denies accusations during closeddoor session

Former top prosecutor Ho Chio Meng denied accusations against him during Thursday's closeddoor trial, according to a report by Macao Daily News. During the trial, the court addressed a case in which Ho allegedly kept MOP_{5.6} million in special subsidies that belonged to the Prosecution Office. Ho's lawyer Oriana Pun said Ho had defended himself in this specific session. A total of ten witnesses were summoned, four of whom were called by the defense.

AIPIM approves journalism code of ethics

The Macau Portuguese and **English Press Association** (AIPIM) approved a "Code of Ethics" and a "Journalists' Statute" at a general meeting held on Saturday, informed the association in a press statement. The approval and adoption of both documents has been described by the association as a "watershed" moment; the outcome of a process that began a few year ago. The documents aim to set out key ethical guidelines for journalists in Macau. The 10 clauses of the English edition of the document cover areas such as journalistic integrity, accuracy in reporting, abiding by the law and the resisting of censorship.

IACM helps vendors install payment equipment

The Civil and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) plans to install electronic payment equipment across the region's traditional markets and vendors, according to a report by TDM. The Mutual Assistance Association of Vendor Affairs (AAMVM) announced the initiative during a recent ceremony to mark the association's anniversary. On April 17, AAMVM surveyed local vendors on their willingness to install electronic payment systems in their shops. The results of the survey have not yet been published. There are currently around 1,000 vendors operating inside local traditional markets in addition to 1,000 other types

Lawyers' Day: 'Residents more demanding about their rights'

Julie Zhu

THREE days of activities devoted to Lawyers' Day kicked off last Friday. The opening ceremony held at the Senado Square was attended by many of Macau's

The president of the Macau Lawyer Association (AAM), Jorge Neto Valente, said in his inaugural speech that the event invites the region's lawyers to reflect on their responsibilities in society, especially ensuring that the Basic Law is protected under Macau's legal system.

The celebrations, according to Jorge Neto Valente, deepen the public's understanding of the roles of lawyers in Macau, and aim to attract more Macau residents to the profession.



Neto Valente (right)

"Our society has already reached a relatively sophisticated level, and the residents have gradually become more conscious and demanding about their rights," said

He said Macau will soon need more lawyers, judges, and legal assistants, in addition to other types of legal professionals. This is a fundamental result of Macau's economy opening to the outside world and increasingly participating in wider regional environments.

He added that this is also due to Macau being the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries, at a time when China is implementing new Belt and Road policies.

Valente noted that Macau needs better arbitration to be a viable alternative in dispute resolution, especially between investors from mainland China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Currently, there are 354 registered lawyers and 127 intern lawyers in Macau, a 5 percent increase from last year.

While Valente believes that the

city can attract more legal professionals, he said ensuring their caliber is "more important than [the ir] numbers."

AAM recently accomplished two of its long-held goals: finishing discussions on the access regulations for lawyers in Macau, and passing final amendments to said regulations. Valente said the amended laws will be published in the city government's official gazette soon.

At the beginning of the year, AAM contributed to the establishment of the Macau branch of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators (CIArb).

AAM has supported the CIArb Macau branch in training arbitrators as well as other activities, according to Valente, and expects to continue backing the center's operations.

Economic incentives promised in exchange for patriotism

CONOMIC incenti-Eves such as business and job opportunities are being promised in exchange for youth in Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan developing national and cultural identities compatible with mainland ideology, it has emerged.

The incentives are being promised by the Chinese Community Party's youth wing as part of the group's long-term youth development plan which, according to the South China Morning Post, covers issues such as rights, education, marriage and social security.

The plan, intended to join together young people from across the greater China region under a common identity, comes in response to growing social unrest in Hong Kong and Taiwan. It also attempts to tackle the consequences of the social unrest, including youth political movements that emphasize stronger local identities and autonomy.

"[We will] help the youth in Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan shape their identity with the culture of the motherland and the correct knowledge of 'one country, two systems'," a statement from the group said.

The economic incentives are being supported by the Chinese Community Party and the government of mainland China and conform to recent statements made by PRC leaders on the future development of Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan.

Visiting Macau earlier this month, Zhang Dejiang, chairman of the National People's Congress, said that "the torch of patriotism" should be handed down to the younger generations by educating them on Chinese history and culture from a young age.

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

The leader of the Chinese Community Party's youth win, Qin Yizhi, said that exchanges within the greater China region are already occurring, but more can be done.

"We will try to include more and more Hong Kong and Macau young people in such exchanges. We will also improve the effectiveness of such exchanges based on the actual needs of the young people," said Qin, as cited by the SCMP.

However, Hong Kong Legislative Council member Nathan Law, denied that work opportunities would breed patriotism in the HKSAR, citing previous failed policies implemented by the local government. **DB**

NG LAP SENG

NY judge blocks evidence of payments

CCORDING to we-Absite Law 360, a New York federal judge has prevented prosecutors from presenting evidence of payments allegedly made by Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng to a former U.S. lawmaker.

The website claimed that the judge rejected the evidence on the basis that it might put the defendant, Ng, at risk of prejudice. He said that brining up the issue of foreign political financing

could be detrimental to the real estate mogul, given the accusations of Russian meddling in the U.S. presidential election.

Accordingly, the judge allegedly blocked prosecutors from mentioning payments to the family of ex-lawmaker Jesse Jackson Jr. In 2013, Jackson pled guilty to campaign finance fraud.

The local billionaire has been linked to other controversial campaigns involving U.S. politicians. He was famously involved in a fundraising scandal in the 1990s involving the Democratic presidential campaign of Bill Clinton.

Ng was suspected to be the alleged secret source of foreign money in Clinton's campaign scandal, though was not charged with a crime during the investigation.

Ng was arrested in September 2015 over several charges including attempting to bribe UN officials, money laundering and tax evasion.

Among other charges, he has been accused of paying USD500,000 in bribes to former UN General Assembly President John Ashe, who died last year under mysterious circumstances while awaiting trial.

The objective behind the alleged bribery was to secure Ashe's support for a U.N.-backed conference center in Macau,



Ng Lap Seng

which would be constructed by Ng's real estate company, Sun Kian Ip Group, and would allegedly serve as his legacy in the MSAR.

Times

Dragon Boat races draw more local youth to sports

Renato Marques

PREPARATIONS for the International Dragon Boat Races, which kick off on Saturday, are well underway

Saturday, are well underway at the Nam Van Nautical Center.

The activity was practiced informally until the 1980s, after which it was promoted as an annual international event. The government has invited teams from different countries and regions, such as Hong Kong, Japan, USA, Philippines, China, Thailand, Singapore, Indonesia, Korea, Australia and Europe.

Since 2001, the International University Student Dragon Boat Races have been included in the program in order to increase participation in the various categories.

The event is one of the highlights of the local sports calendar and has drawn significant support and interest from among Macau's youngsters.

The Times went to Nam Van Nautical Center to speak with the participants ahead of the races and during practice sessions, so as to learn about their motivations and interest in the event.

Nick Chan, aged 16, is a student from Xin Hua School who joined the event together with some of his schoolmates.

Chan, who told the Times he has been racing for about two years now, has high expectations for the weekend race.



Fok Long teammates On (left) and Seng (right)



Xin Hua School Team. Among others, Chan is wearing a white t-shirt

"I expect we can win the race," he said.

Nick and his schoolmates, who are all around the same age, have been training for the past couple of months. They practice for three hours a day and about five days a week. All of them said they were determined to win, but were also anxious about the "big day."

We are training three to four days a week.

BOBBY CHEONG

A competitor in another category, 33-year-old Bobby Cheong, will represent the "Dragon Heart" team. His team has also been "training hard" for the event.

"We are training three to four days a week," remarked Cheong, who was reluctant to predict the outcome of the race but described it as a "fun event to participate in."

As for ways to improve the event, Cheong suggested having "more races [throughout the year], not only one or two times a year" and expressed his hopes that Dragon Boat competitions could be held all year long.

Representing and supporting "Fok Long Macau Team" are teammates Weng, Seng and On. The three prefer spectating to participation.

Seng, aged 20, is nicknamed "Superman" and follows the sport with great interest. He told the Times he sometimes goes abroad to watch other races in Hong Kong, Korea and China.

"The training [sessions] are really hard and tiring. At the moment I have little time to dedicate to the practice and I'll just be helping the team [when needed]," Seng said, adding that he will devote more time to training sessions during the upcoming summer holidays.

At 16, Weng is one of the younger members of the group. He said the team participates in other events, mainly in China and Hong Kong, "at least three times a year."

On, aged 18, said that liking Dragon Boat Races and participating in the event is like "being part of a community." He cited this sense of belonging as one of his reasons for supporting "Fok Long".

The International Dragon Boat Races are organized by the Sports Bureau and the Dragon Boat Association of Macao, China. The event will take place at Nam Van on May 27, 28 and 30. There will be several other activities and forms of entertainment on site. Admission is free.



Macau and Hengqin to enhance cooperation

Chief Executive Chui Sai On met the director-general of the Hengqin New Area Administrative Committee, Niu Jing, last week to discuss cooperation between Hengqin and Macau. According to a government statement, Chui said in the meeting that cooperation between the two regions, particularly in the area of traditional Chinese medicine, has developed substantially. Niu Jing endorsed the words of the Chief Executive, thanking the Macau government for the many years it has supported the development of Henggin. Secretary for Finance and Economy Lionel Leong added that he will also promote the joint development between Macau and Hengqin.

Turkey-USA and China-Italy open Volley Grand Prix

The 2017 edition of the Galaxy
Entertainment Group - FIVB Volleyball
World Grand Prix, will take place in
Macau in between July 14 and 16. The
event will be held at the Macau Forum,
featuring national teams from China,
USA, Italy and Turkey. The Sports
Bureau (ID) announced that the event
will open on July 14, with the games:
Turkey-USA and China-Italy. The ID
also noted that the tickets for the final
day have sold-out already with tickets
still on sale for the first two days of the
tournament.

USJ students organize social work forum

For this year's World Social Work Day, students at the University of Saint Joseph (USJ) organized a forum of Saturday at the Auditorium of St. Paul's School in Macau. The activity was organized by students from the bachelor course of social work at USJ, with the aim of raising public awareness of community mental health. The forum, which was organized in collaboration with Caritas Macau and sponsored by the Social Welfare Bureau, was attended by some 160 participants who shared their concerns over community and environmental sustainability. According to a statement from USJ, participants were "reminded that social workers need to continue studying, renewing their knowledge and enhancing their professional skills in order to provide better service to the community." During the forum, the rector of USJ, Professor Peter Stilwell, said that the event had reminded audiences of some existing resources in Macau and had provided advice on handling certain situations in

TOURISM

Q1 visitor spending slides quarter-to-quarter despite CNY

Total visitor spending (excluding gaming expenses) amounted to MOP13.46 billion during the first quarter of 2017, according to information published by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC). This represented an increase of 16.6 percent year-onyear and a decline of 9 percent compared to the fourth quarter of 2016.

The Chinese Lunar New Year, one of the busiest periods for tourism in Macau, falls during the first quarter of each year, while Golden Week falls during the fourth.

Analyzed by type of tourist, total spending of overnight visitors (MOP10.6 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP2.86 billion) increased by 19.6 percent and 6.7 percent year-on-year, respectively, during the first quarter of 2017.

During the first quarter, per-capita spending of visitors was MOP1,709, up by 10.5 percent year-on-year but down by 6.6 percent quarter-to-quarter.

DSEC said in a statement that the per-capita

spending of visitors from mainland China rose by 13.6 percent year-on-year to MOP2,002, with those from Guangdong Province and Fujian Province spending on average MOP1,630 and MOP1,291.

Per-capita spending of visitors from Singapore (MOP1,825), Malaysia (MOP1,625) and Taiwan (MOP1,607) grew by 11.6 percent, 0.4 percent and 1.8 percent year-on-year, respectively.

On the other hand, per-capita spending of visitors from Australia (MOP1,373), the United States (MOP1,211) and the United Kingdom (MOP1,118) declined.

Visitors spent mainly on shopping (43.7 percent), accommodation (26.9 percent) and food and beverage (21.3 percent). Per-capita shopping spending increased by 10.4 percent yearon-year to MOP747, of which spending on local food products (MOP233) and cosmetics and fragrances (MOP201) rose by 4.5 percent and 36.9 percent respectively.

of visit, those coming to Macau for MICE events had the highest per-capita spending at MOP3,286, up by 4.9 percent year-on-year, followed by shopping (MOP2,468), up by 19 percent. The former category accounted for 0.5 percent of total visitors, while the latter constituted 10.8 percent.

Analyzed by purpose

Separately, the results of the Visitors' Comments Survey showed a decrease in visitor satisfaction with all aspects of services and facilities in Macau during the first quarter of 2017. Most notably, the proportion of visitors who were satisfied with public transport services dropped 1 percentage point quarter-to-quarter to 68.2 percent. **DB**

IACM pledges to assist employers in the poultry trade

THE Civic and Municipal ▲ Affairs Bureau (IACM), after meeting representatives of the poultry trade about a "withdrawal assistance plan", met with employees of the sector on Friday afternoon. Another meeting is scheduled for today.

IACM said in a statement that the meeting was focused on the kinds of support available from the government. These include measures such as counseling services for career changes and redundancy compensation for employees.

IACM said around 120 employees of the poultry trade attended the meeting.

The live poultry market was banned in Macau following three avian influenza scares earlier this year. An IACM representative said earlier this month that the ban was "due to the consideration of public hygiene and the actual needs of epidemic prevention."

AD 🖿

Next month, a total of MOP6.2 million in compensation will be granted to operators and practitioners who were suspended from work due to the avian influenza outbreaks. Included in this amount is a daily subsidy for the suspension of business, which comes to MOP200 per

According to the "Labor Relations Law", if an employer makes an employee redundant, compensation must be paid to the employee - with the government's assistance if needed. IACM estimates that if all employees are made redundant, the amount involved will exceed MOP14 million.

The bureau said it will maintain communication with those affected by the ban and "will seriously consider and analyze their other requests, offering assistance in accordance with the law."



Property owners to face penalties for outstanding condo fees

PROPERTY owners with outstanding balances on condominium fees will soon have to face their responsibilities, Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan said on Saturday.

According to Chan, this is the main issue on the table for the current revision of the "legal regime of the common condominiums' area management."

Speaking to the media on the sidelines of a public event, Chan said that "regardless of whether or not the unit is for sale, the owners are obliged to pay the condominium administration fees," according to a statement from the Government Information Bureau (GCS).

The secretary recalled that the review now under discussion at the Second Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly is intended to "solve the problems of the late payments of condominium fees, as well as to allow buyers of a unit to know in advance if such a unit has any debts involving condominium fees.

Chan said the proposed regime may "require that the lawyer or notary in charge of the deal would have the duty to provide such information to both seller and buyer at the time of the transaction."

She said work on the revision was "proceeding at a good pace."

At the same event, Chan also commented on the ban in the sale of live poultry in the region, which has been replaced with frozen meat from the mainland.

Questioned on how the poultry could be transported to Macau quickly, Chan explained that "such procedures constitute a market activity" but added that "if there are any companies that want to run such a business, the government of Macau is available to help in the negotiation in order to [ensure a fast] inspection and quarantine [procedure]."

Chan said the government has a vested interest in this issue as it is keen to ensure that the products can be sold in the region in a state that is "as fresh as possible."

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SUCCESSFUL contracts with Sands China have paved the way for a micro company to access larger amounts of credit from local banks, allowing the firm to accept more projects from local clients.

VastCom Technology is an IT solutions company that opened in 2010 aiming to provide IT products, services and solutions to local businesses.

The company also outsources their employees to clients such as integrated resorts for up to two months.

Seeing potential for these kinds of IT services in Macau, Crystal Ieong, general manager of VastCom Technology, founded the business together with a partner.

Although there were some large IT companies in the region back then, Ieong recalled that there were several competitors in the micro and Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) category.

Yet due to the lack of human resources, particularly in the IT industry, Ieong admitted that acquiring high-tech engineers was problematic, adding that cash flow was also a major issue.

"So when getting large deals from those casinos and international corporations, we need to have some support from banks and other financial institutions [and] that is one of the difficulties for us," Ieong noted.

Accessing credit from local banks remains a challenge for micro companies, particularly if the firm fails to ensure its return on investment.

The general manager admitted that banks have refused their application for loans, yet their collaboration with Sands China has turned things around.

"So after we dealt with Sands China, we had those projects and contracts in hand and we used them to show to the bank we had on-going projects. So they approved [the loan application]," said Ieong.

Ieong revealed that she currently has one labor import quota available, which would allow her to employ a foreign worker. Yet she refused to take one on board as she mentioned that the employment of local workers remains a priority for the firm – just as Sands China supports local young entrepreneurs and made-in-Macau products.

VastCom started its collaboration with the gaming operator in 2014 and is providing aftersales support to its clients.

From minor transactions to extensive ones, the firm has kept its relationship with Sands China growing, noting that its sales volume to them has tripled.

In 2014, the micro company provided hardware to Sands China on a competitive basis.

VastCom was also encouraged to participate in the SME program initiated by Sands China

Contracts with Sands China benefit micro-firms





Electronic panel supplied by VastCom



2016 Sands Supplier Excellence Awards ceremony

which gave the firm access to further cooperate with the large company.

After a year of collaboration with the gaming operator, Ieong affirmed, "they [the bank] have approved more credit amount for us [as our] contract with Sands [showed we] have higher credibility," she said.

Although the 10-employee firm is facing a human resource setback, Sands China has also offered support in terms of assisting them in its service provision.

Supporting the growth of local enterprises has remained a key focus for Sands China.

With the gaming operator's support for the local government's initiative to "buy local," Sands China has demonstrated its commitment to supporting enterprises in the region as part of its corporate social responsibility program.

Sands China views local enterprises as its strategic partners, and Ieong is confident in

its continuous support of her small firm.

"In the past three years, our business with Sands China had tripled [and] we'd like to keep on doing business with them," Ieong reiterated.

The general manager also mentioned that Sands Supplier Excellence Awards, held annually, inspires micro-firms and its fellow SMEs, and has been encouraging firms to provide outstanding services and cooperation with the gaming operator.

As the awards are a global initiative of Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp, Ieong implied that such awards would be beneficial to the company's ongoing growth and success.

Ieong agreed that Sands China's procurement from not only large companies but of SMEs and micro-firms have boosted creative partnership opportunities and growth of Macau companies.

Just recently, Sands China has

again launched another scheme to support local SME suppliers called the "F.I.T." program.

The program aims to continually drive business between the gaming operator and its suppliers, targeting both new and existing relationships with Sands China.

F.I.T. is comprised of three pillars: Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development.

The Sands China Young Entrepreneur Advance Payment Program is being created to help local young entrepreneurs with limited financial capacity run their businesses. Its target is local young entrepreneurs with a staff of 15 or less, prepaying them 30 percent of contracted purchase orders.

In a bid to broaden local SMEs contacts beyond potential Sands China buyers, the gaming operator is hosting targeted trade shows.

These invitational matching sessions, starting last month, provide a platform for local

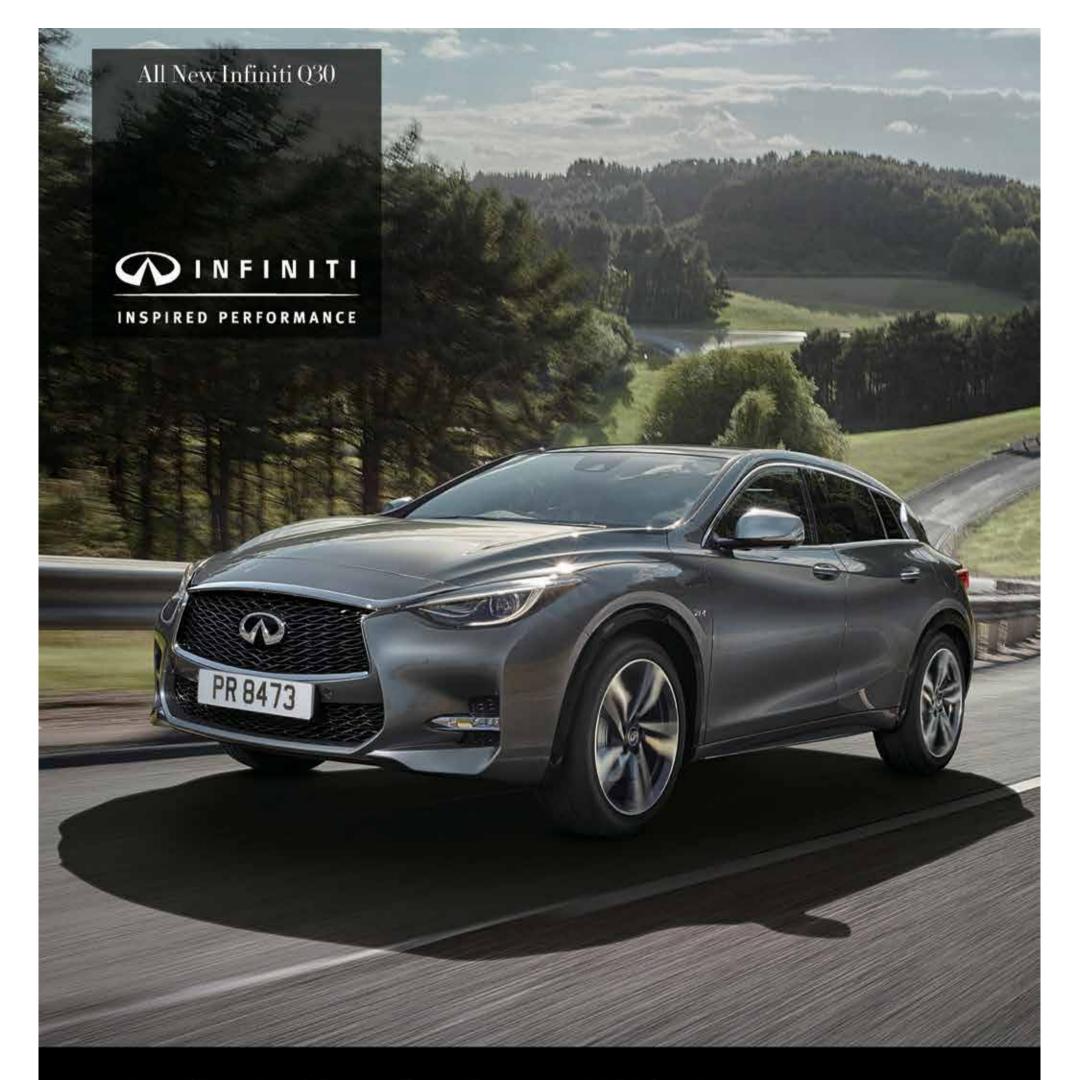
SMEs to present and demonstrate their products and services to potential users and buyers at Sands China properties with the company's complete support.

Through this platform, not only would communication between vendors and users be enhanced but the procurement success rate would improve – allowing local SMEs to further expand their product and service offerings.

Meanwhile the new Sands China Procurement Academy aims to develop local SME suppliers by sharing business knowledge and skills, helping them gain experience and capacity for working with large international customers like Sands China. It will provide tailor-made practical training modules to local SMEs, presenting them with a certificate upon graduating from the academy.

This article is sponsored by Sands China Ltd.





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Times

Apprentices of gastronomy chase dream in Macau

FTER more than three years of study and training in the Institute for Tourism Studies, Wen Tingxuan feels he is now a step closer to his dream of opening a Michelin-starred restaurant back in the Chinese mainland.

"Thanks to almost four years in Macau, I now know how to pursue my dream in future," said Wen, a young man from Beijing, who has participated in the BA Culinary Arts Program of the Institute for Tourism Studies after graduation from a high school in Beijing.

Macau boasts over 30 five-star hotels, 68 restaurants recommended by Michelin Guide, plus diversified food styles from Japan, South Korea, Vietnam, Thailand and Myanmar, among others.

"The program [the BA Culinary Arts Program] has an international faculty, and besides all the high level training I received here, I now can speak fluent Cantonese and English," he said.



Students at the IFT campus

Wen just finished his half-year internship in a kitchen of a local five-star hotel and he looks really like a chef now.

He has got used to the life here, getting along well with his classmates, exchanging jokes in local dialect, and from time to time going out to try well-known snacks sold in small stands.

"Macau is a part of China and it is very easy for me to get used to its local culture and tradition. In addition, I can find rich cultural elements from outside the Chinese society, such as Portuguese traditions and food, or yummy snacks from Southeast Asia, which give me inspiration on

my culinary study," he said.

In his last year in the institute, Wen plans to apply for postgraduate program abroad, for the experience of study and internship in Macau have showed him a larger world to explore and pursue his dream.

"My dream is to open a Michelin-starred restaurant back home, but I know it is too early right now. Thanks to the four years in Macau, I now know how to pursue my dream in the future," Wen said.

Abdul Basit Qureshi, a Pakistani student, has been in the same program as Wen for almost one year. Unlike Wen, this young man had faced more challenges in his freshman year, such as food tradition, dress code, and especially the food material and ingredients in the class.

And thanks to the efforts of the teachers and classmates, he smoothly passed the period of "culture shock."

"They have provided me with Halal ingredients to cook and eat, which is an extraordinary help for me," he said.

Abdul has now also got used to his life in Macau, and his study is well recognized by his classmates. In a charity activity organized by culinary arts students, he was appointed as master of ceremony.

"My future plan is when I graduate from here, I would like to work in a Michelin-starred Halal restaurant," he added.

The Institute for Tourism Studies takes about 20 students every year in the BA Culinary Arts Program. In 2017, the institute was named in "QS World University Rankings by Subject" as second best higher education institution in Asia for hospitality and leisure management, and world's 18th best.

President of the institute Fanny Vong told Xinhua that the institute designed the courses for the program with the best industry standards, proven lecturers and skilled craft technicians.

"Macau has a rich history and culture mixed with East and West. It also has many topclass hotels and restaurants for students to learn and practice [...] I believe we can play an important role in tourism industry development in Macau and Pearl River Delta region," Fanny Vong said. MDT/Xinhua

AD





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World's best casino stock is buoyed by Duterte's China love

Ian Sayson

MELCO Crown Philippines Resorts Corp. is the best-performing casino stock in the world this year. To punters playing baccarat at the company's City of Dreams venue in Manila, that's no surprise.

BUSINESS

"Foreign players have multiplied and they're mostly Chinese," said Fernando, 49, a Filipino supply manager who has been gambling at City of Dreams - which boasts gold-tinted windows and a children's theme park - since it opened officially in 2015. He didn't want to give his surname. "There are times that you need to wait to get a seat at the tables and when there's a thick crowd it's not rare that you're playing with a Chinese tourist."

China is key to this year's 125 percent surge in shares of Melco Crown Philippines, a subsidiary of Hong Kong gaming behemoth Melco Resorts & Entertainment Ltd. The close connection with Macau puts Melco Crown Philippines in the box seat to benefit from President Rodrigo Duterte's bid to ease tensions with Beijing. At the same time, an anti-corruption drive in the former Portuguese colony is sending gamblers south to Manila.

Ironically, the company's link to the Chinese betting enclave -Melco Resorts owns four casinos in Macau - has been a factor in its stock's success. The Philippines' embrace of phone gambling, banned in Macau last year, is also a big plus for Chinese punters.

Since the end of 2015, Melco Crown Philippines has returned almost eight times more than a Bloomberg Intelligence index of global casino stocks. The company is posting the steepest gains among casino operators with a market value of at least USD500 million this year - and it only just started turning a profit.



City of Dreams Manila

Among Philippine casinos, "City of Dreams Manila has the strongest Macau connection, so the expectation is at some point its gaming revenue will grow faster and become the biggest in the industry," said Noel Reyes, who helps manage \$1.2 billion as chief investment officer at Security Bank Corp. in Manila. Melco Crown Philippines "is getting revalued on prospects it will soon become profitable because of the renewal of ties between Beijing and Manila.'

Duterte, who's attracted controversy over his anti-U.S. rhetoric and a bloody drug war, announced a pivot to China and Russia last October. He's repeatedly touted the benefits of warmer ties with Asia's largest economy.

The rhetoric appears to be paying off, with Chinese tourists to the Philippines up 25 percent in the first two months of 2017, accounting for about 14 percent of total visits, government data show. China overtook Japan as the Philippines' third-biggest source of tourists last year.

Gross gaming revenue, meanwhile, rose 20 percent in the first nine months of 2016, from the same period a year earlier, according to the latest data available from the Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp. The Southeast Asian nation - which relies on remittances from workers overseas for about 10 percent of its economy - could ultimately surpass Singapore on gaming, Universal Entertainment Corp. Chairman Kazuo Okada said in December.

Melco Crown Philippines has trod a rocky road to casino-stock supremacy. The shares slumped 83 percent in 2015 as Beijing's crackdown on graft and official excess sparked concern the nascent flow of Chinese gamblers could ebb. While the anti-corruption drive remains in place, that pullback lured investors like BDO Unibank Inc., which began buying Melco Crown Philippines stock last year.

"We were seeing signs of a recovery based on the inflow of

tourists and growth in industry gaming revenue," said Frederico Ocampo, BDO Unibank's chief investment officer. "There's more room for stock appreciation once investors realize that prospects have changed."

The equity gains reflect the strength of the Philippine gaming market and the success of City of Dreams Manila, Melco Resorts Chairman Lawrence Ho said in an e-mailed response to questions from Bloomberg News. "Our successful investment in Manila reinforces our confidence in identifying and investing in new markets."

Shares of Melco Crown Philippines rose 3.7 percent Friday, versus a 0.1 percent gain in the Philippine Stock Exchange In-

The Philippines has jumped on phone betting amid the Macau ban, with punters able to place bets at City of Dreams Manila via phone while watching the game play out through a live video stream. Casino gambling by phone is also banned in Singapore.

Having a parent active in Macau has helped Melco Crown Philippines gain momentum, according to Richard Laneda, an analyst at COL Financial Group Inc. City of Dreams Manila's hold rate for high rollers - the portion of a VIP's buy-in held by a casino - is about 20 percent above the industry's long-term average, Laneda said. But the link to Melco Resorts could also be a liability.

The **Philippines** has jumped on phone betting amid the Macau ban, with punters able to place bets at City of Dreams Manila via phone

"City of Dreams, because it is highly exposed to the Chinese market, will be more sensitive to the state of politics between Manila and Beijing," said Security Bank's Reyes.

Looser visa requirements agreed to last year are expected to boost Chinese visitor arrivals to the Philippines in 2017, and Citigroup Inc. is predicting growth for all casino operators. At the same time, a revival in VIP gaming and a pivot toward catering to casual punters and tourists is underpinning a recovery in Ma-

That shouldn't worry the Philippines, says Fernando, the supply manager playing baccarat at City of Dreams Manila.

"I haven't been to Macau but the Chinese are coming here to Manila to play so the casinos here must be the same to what they have there," he said, while cashing in his chips. "My friends who have been to Macau say the service and atmosphere here in Manila is friendlier." **Bloomberg**

Volkswagen has fix for more cars in cheating scandal

J.S. and California regulators approved a fix for more Volkswagen cars caught up in the company's emissions cheating scandal, giving their owners an option to keep the vehicles instead of having the automaker buy them back, regulators announced Friday.

The modification to bring the vehicles into compliance with U.S. emissions standards applies to about 84,000 Passats with automatic transmission from model years 2012 to 2014, according to Volkswagen. Regulators previously approved a fix for another 67,000 2-liter Volkswagens. More than 550,000 vehicles in the U.S. were implicated in the scandal.

"Today's approval is another important step in efforts to repair the environmental harm caused by these vehicles," said Richard Corey, executive officer of the California Air Resources Board.

The automaker has acknowledged that the vehicles were programmed to turn on emissions controls during government lab tests and turn them off while on the road. The EPA alleged the scheme let the cars spew up to 40 times the allowable limit of nitrogen oxide, which can cause respiratory problems in humans.

The affected vehicles fall into two classes — 2 liters and 3 liters.

The company reached a deal worth up to USD15 billion for 475,000 2-liter diesel cars that offered owners the option of repairs or a buyback

and additional compensation of \$5,100 to \$10,000 each. Regulators are evaluating a possible fix for another 49,000 of these vehicles, according to the California Air Resources Board.

A federal judge in San Francisco this week signed off on a separate, \$1.2 billion deal with owners of 88,500 Volkswagens with 3-liter diesel engines rigged to cheat on emissions tests. Volkswagen is offering buybacks to some of those owners, but believes it can repair newer models. AP



A truck load of gasoline-engine Volkswagens is offloaded outside New Century Volkswagen dealership in Glendale, California

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Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

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

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



Macau, One Central Residences

(Ref: 16050589) 1,819.79sq. ft. HKD 29,000

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Office Space, Centro Commercial, Macau

(Ref: 17040646)

4,003sq. ft. HKD200,000 Office Space available in central Macau, great location. This high floor office is light and bright with great views looking over the park towards Sanado Square. Unit F is currently one large open planned space with a small office and storage room. The office will be painted with a new ceiling and carpets throughout, Management fees of \$1,883 per month



Coloane, Hellene Garden

(Ref: 17040647) 1,663sq. ft. HKD 13,800

Top floor 3 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment with uninterrupted sea and hillside views. The apartment has great potential and overlooks Hac Sa Beach on the quiet island of Coloane, close to the sea, walking & running trails as well as other facilities such as swimming pools, restaurants and the sailing club. Hellene Garden is popular amongst ex-pats, and is located approximately 10 minutes from Macau's busy 'Cotai Strip'.



Villa de Mer – Tower 1

(Ref: 17040645) 935sq. ft. HKD 12,000

Family-friendly 2 bedroom unit with full modern furnishing. Master bedroom fitted with full-size wardrobe and extra storage capacity under queensized bed. Fully fitted kitchen with high quality appliances.

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Kingsville, Taipa (I Unit)

(Ref: 17010631)

1,200q. ft. HKD 16,800

Popular building in Central Taipa this apartment is fantastic with great views across Taipa village, West facing. The apartment has two double bedrooms one bedroom with en suite the second double bedroom shares a separate shower room with the third single bedroom. Lovely spacious living dining room with good size balcony. Recently redecorated; painted throughout, caulking of bathrooms, new mattress and bed frame in master bedroom, large two metre sliding door wardrobe, polished floors, air condoners serviced and deep cleaned





Kam Lai Kuok

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

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

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

Office: (853) 2835 2699



Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens, Taipa

(Ref: 16095497) 1,503sq. ft. HKD 10.78M Rate: HKD7,172sq ft

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

be purchased together with the property. Email: Info@JMLProperty.com

accompanying Car Park is also for sale, and may



Roof Top Apartment, Macau

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leads to the second floor open area which could be great to use as a second bedroom, or office, yoga studio or entertainment area. The roof top terrace is wonderful; a great place to entertain friends and family with its open view across the roof tops of the Chief Executives office and beautifully manicured gardens towards Taipa. This property is unique with a view that unlike most in Macau will

not change for many years to come. To view call us now on 2835 2699.



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Taiwan's Tsai keeps domestic focus amid China's isolation

Johnson Lai, Christopher Bodeen, Taipei

AFTER a year in office, Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen's administration is shunned by an angry China and facing even greater international isolation.

Yet, the island's first female president seems focused on policy initiatives at home as well as maintaining robust relations with the United States, Taiwan's most important source of arms and political support.

"I am expecting the leaders on the other side of the Taiwan Strait to accurately interpret the meaning of last year's presidential elections, and the good intentions that Taiwan tirelessly showed," she said in a speech to overseas Chinese media representatives on Friday. "This is a new era, because the Taiwanese people say so."

China cut contacts with Taiwan on June 25 to protest Tsai's refusal to endorse Beijing's view that the two sides are part of a single Chinese nation. President Donald Trump's administration, at least initially, seemed poised to offer new support.

The then-president elect astonished many by talking directly on the phone with Tsai in December, a conversation not held between leaders of the two sides since Washington switched diplomatic recognition to Beijing in 1979. He then further stirred the pot by questioning the need to hold to the "One China" policy under which Washington maintains only unofficial ties with Taipei.

afterward, however, Soon he reasserted his support for "One China," resulting in Chinese President Xi Jinping flying to Trump's Mar-a-lago resort for an informal summit in April and last week's announcement of a trade deal under which China will again allow imports of American beef and purchase natural gas from the U.S. China says it cannot resume normal interactions unless Tsai endorsed the "One China" principle, also known as "'92 consensus."

The sides split amid civil war in 1949 and China continues to regard Taiwan as part of its territory, to be recovered by force if necessary. Tsai's Democratic Progressive Party advocates Taiwan's formal independence as an island nation.

Taiwanese officials say their Chinese counterparts no longer answer their calls, emails or faxes and steady momentum toward increased contacts — highlighted by an unprecedented meeting between Chinese Presi-



In this 2016 file photo, Tsai Ing-wen (left) and Taiwan's Vice President Chen Chien-jen wave during their inauguration ceremonies in Taipei

dent Xi Jinping and Tsai's predecessor Ma Ying-jeou in 2015 — has ground to a halt.

Beijing's silent treatment has been accompanied by moves to increase Taiwan's diplomatic isolation, including blocking its participation in international gatherings such as this month's World Health Assembly in Geneva. Taiwan is already excluded from the United Nations and other international organizations at Beijing's behest, and maintains diplomatic relations with only a handful of nations.

■ The only serious political pressure Tsai faces comes from the opposition Nationalist Party

Beijing has also sought to exert economic pressure, particularly by discouraging Chinese tourists from visiting the island. That's brought about a 10 percent decline in overall visitor numbers in the first quarter of the year, although an increase in numbers of big-spending Japanese and South Koreans has helped partly make up the difference.

But rather than increase pressure on Tsai, such moves "only make Taiwanese more resentful," said Shelley Rigger, a political scientist and longtime observer of Taiwanese politics at Davidson College in North Carolina.

"People need to understand: Taiwanese have been living under this threat for decades. I don't think she will be compelled to make concessions. The focus is very much on domestic issues right now," Rigger said.

Gary Lin, a 78-year-old Taipei businessman echoed such sentiments.

"If you have a neighbor who only thinks of bombing you or eating you up, then you can't do anything about it," Lin said. "And you want president Tsai Ing-wen to kneel to (China) and beg? That's impossible. I would not agree to that."

At home, Tsai has been grappling with matters ranging from social justice to public welfare. She issued a formal apology on behalf of the government to Taiwan's indigenous people for the discrimination and neglect inflicted on them over the

past 400 years, and has pushed for legalization of gay marriage. Tsai also announced that Taiwan will build its own jet aircraft and submarines, in part to revive local industries but also to counter the intense pressure China exerts on foreign nations not to sell weapons to Taiwan.

Taiwan has also moved to position itself as an attractive partner for Trump's push to promote domestic manufacturing, with the island's Cabinet saying earlier this month Taiwan plans to continue to buy U.S. semiconductor machines, aircraft, services and military hardware and expects Taiwanese investment in the U.S. to reach USD34 billion.

"Notwithstanding the flux of international affairs, maintaining and deepening U.S.-Taiwan relations remains Taiwan's top priority," the Cabinet said in a report made as part of a public comment process for a U.S. trade review.

Meanwhile, Tsai's government has been struggling to reinvigorate the island's high-tech economy, raise wages for young workers and push through reductions to highly lucrative public pensions that have elicited protests from retired senior servants. She's also been pushing a "New Southbound Policy" to encourage closer economic ties with the 10 nations of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and countries as diverse as Bhutan and New Zealand as a way of reducing dependency on China's vast market.

Although the stock market remains strong and the economy is tracking modest growth, Tsai has seen her job approval rating fall to 41.3 percent in a survey released this week, while 52.9 percent were dissatisfied, even while she remains the front runner for the next presidential election in 2020.

The only serious political pressure Tsai faces comes from the opposition Nationalist Party, which remains largely in disarray since losing both the presidency and its legislative in last year's elections.

"Certainly, President Tsai Ingwen will not return to Beijing's demands, so I consider this stalemate, miscalculation, misunderstanding, lack of communication will continue throughout the year. Which is not good for the security and stability in the Taiwan Strait area," said Andrew Yang, who encouraged greater flexibility from both sides. AP

Kuomintang elects Wu Den-yih as chairman

TAIWAN'S main opposition Kuomintang elected Wu Den-yih as chairman, and the former vice president immediately pledged to lead the century-old party back to power and called for peaceful relations with China.

"We have to be united in this difficult time," Wu, 69, said Saturday in a victory speech. "There won't be any chance for us if we are not united."

His election was welcomed by China's President Xi Jinping, who said in a letter to Wu that he hoped the two parties will keep in mind the wellbeing of people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait, adhere to the 1992 Consensus and firmly oppose "Taiwan independence."

The winner received 52.24 percent of the vote, avoiding a runoff in defeating incumbent Hung Hsiu-chu, former Taipei City Mayor Hau Lung-bin and three other candidates. Tur-

nout was 58.05 percent of eligible voters, election committee head Hsu Shui-teh said. Wu's four year term will begin Aug. 20, KMT spokesman Tang Te-ming said.

Wu, first premier then vice president in former President Ma Ying-jeou's administration, aims to create a peaceful and stable relationship with the Beijing government based on the so-called 1992 Consensus, in which both sides across the Taiwan Strait agreed there is one China while allowing each its own interpretation of what that means.

"We have to prepare in order to seek opportunities to win legislature and presidential elections in 2020," Wu said. He said he will build youth confidence and trust in the party.

Current Chairwoman Hung Hsiu-chu, who backed signing a peace treaty with China, finished second with 19.2 percent. Hung was the first woman elected party chief, in March 2016, after the more China-friendly party lost its legislative majority when Tsai Ing-wen's independence-leaning Democratic Progressive Party won the presidency in a landslide.

Wu faces a demoralized membership after the election loss last year along with internal splits among party leaders. The party's finances also could weigh on the new leader as Tsai's administration seeks to confiscate more than \$500 million from KMT. The DPP-led legislature last year passed a law seeking the return of Kuomintang-held state assets.

"I thank fellow members for being willing to shoulder responsibilities at this difficult time," Hung said after the election results. "The new chief will lead our party to reform in the coming years in order to return to power." **Bloomberg**



Karl Lester M. Yap, Andreo Calonzo

HILIPPINE President Rodrigo Duterte said China threatened to go to war after he asserted the Southeast Asian nation's sovereignty over disputed territory.

In an unspecified meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, Duterte said he will drill for oil in the South China Sea, citing an international arbitration tribunal ruling upholding the Philippines' claim. That prompted a retort from Xi, according to Duterte.

"Well, if you force this, we'll be forced to tell you the truth. We will go to war. We will fight you," Duterte on Friday quoted Xi as saying.

Duterte didn't say when and where the conversation took place. Calls and an email seeking comment from China's foreign ministry outside of regular office hours weren't immediately answered.

Since Duterte took office in June, the tough-talking 72-year-old leader had repaired fractured ties with China, touting the economic benefits including USD24 billion of

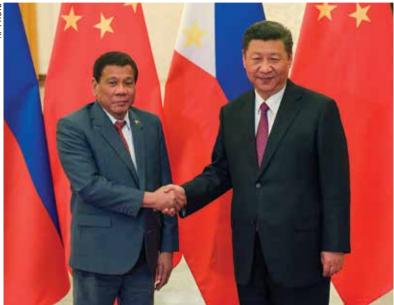
Duterte says Xi threatened war if he pushed sea dispute

loans and investment. China's efforts to assert its dominance over the South China Sea, where more than \$5 trillion in annual trade is ferried, have in the past angered Southeast Asian nations with competing claims, such as Vietnam and the Philippines.

The Philippines won a ruling by the Permanent Court of Arbitration in The Hague last July that rejected China's assertion to the territory. China has said the tribunal has no jurisdiction over sovereignty disputes.

China's claim is "far away," Duterte said in the southern city of Davao, recalling what he told Xi. "It's almost alien to us to hear those words because we were never under Chinese jurisdiction," he said.

Duterte's comments come just after China and the 10-member Association of



Duterte (left) and Xi Jinping pose for photographers prior to their bilateral meeting held on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing

Southeast Asian Nations agreed on a draft framework for a code of conduct gover-

ning actions in the region. Separately, officials from

the two countries agreed to discuss "mutually acceptable approaches" to South China Sea issues during a bilateral consultation in the Chinese

city of Guiyang on Friday, according to a joint statement released by the Philippines' Department of Foreign Affairs. Handling incidents and disputes in an appropriate manner is important, they

Well, if you force this, we'll be forced to tell you the truth. We will go to war. We will fight you.

DUTERTE, QUOTING XI

The next discussion will be held in the Philippines in the second half of the year. **Bloomberg**

Draft a sign of progress on South China Sea code of conduct

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

framework agree-Ament between China and the Association of Southeast Asia Nations on a code of conduct in the South China Sea marks a potentially significant step toward cooling tensions in the strategic waterway, analysts said Friday.

While details of the agreement reached last week weren't disclosed, it is a definite sign of progress on reaching a final code of conduct that the parties committed to 15 years ago, the experts said.

Until recently, progress has been slow amid disputes over the body of water that China claims virtually in its entirety.

For China, the code of conduct is a means to achieving its goal of keeping the U.S. and its allies from intervening in the matter in the name of freedom of navigation or maintaining regional stability, said Huang Jing, an expert on the region at National University of Singapore's Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy.

"China can say, 'Look we have already reached agreements, are behaving ourselves, so no need for you Americans or others to come in and get in our business," Huang said in a telephone interview.

The agreement suits China's goal of managing rather than solving the disputes, with Beijing still certain that it will eventually reach solutions through bilateral talks, Huang said.

For the 10 ASEAN member states, meanwhile, the agreement offers a chance to freeze further Chinese advances in the region at a time when the Trump administration has turned its focus away from the region with the abandonment of the Trans-Pacific Partnership and other developments, Huang said.

Chinese Vice Foreign Mi-

nister Liu Zhenmin said the text of the framework would remain secret for now, and Philippine officials said it would be submitted to foreign ministers for consideration in August.

Huang said it likely contains clauses barring the use of force or unilateral changes to facts on the ground, such as the construction of man-made islands by China that it has equipped with airfields and military installations.

"The ASEAN countries know they can't fight the Chinese or count on America so it's best to work with China to stabilize the status quo," Huang said.

While Huang called the agreement "very significant progress," Ian Storey, senior fellow at the Institute of Southeast Asian Studies, a Singapore-based think tank, described it as more of a "small step forward," based on a draft of the document agreed to in March.

"What's new are the references to incident prevention and management, and establishing mechanisms to monitor the COC's implementation," Storey said.

That draft does not call for a legally binding code of conduct as some ASEAN countries had called for, Storey said, potentially weakening its

"No matter what the final draft agreement looks like, the devil will be in working out the details," said Storey, foreseeing a long, difficult negotiation on the final document.

Asked whether the agreement would be binding, Chinese Vice Foreign Minister Liu Zhenmin told reporters: "I cannot give you a definite answer now."

However, Liu said the agreement laid a "solid foundation" for further negotiations.

"All parties have vowed to continue to construc-



Chinese structures and an airstrip on the man-made Subi Reef at the Spratly group of islands in the South China Sea are seen from a Philippine Air Force C-130

tively advance the negotiations" toward the early conclusion of the code of conduct, Liu said following last week's meeting in the southern Chinese city of Guiyang.

The Philippines welcomed the finalization of the draft of the framework. It contains elements that the parties agreed upon and will be presented to Chinese and ASEAN foreign ministers in August for consideration, the statement from the Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs said.

Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs Permanent Secretary Chee Wee Kiong said the sides hoped that would produce needed "political support"

from the ministers.

The participants have not mentioned dates for the adoption of a full code of conduct, and while Huang said he thought the sides could act as early as this year to seize the positive momentum, Storey said a final agreement was likely "some years off."

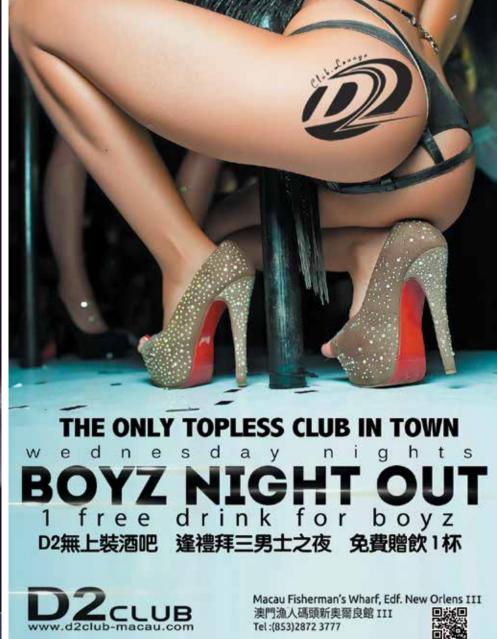
Before that happens, China and the ASEAN countries said they will continue following a separate document called the Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea, or DOC, which among other provisions, commits the parties to "exploring ways for building trust and confidence ... on the basis of equality and mutual respect." AP

The ASEAN countries know they can't fight the Chinese or count on America so it's best to work with China to stabilize the status quo.

> **HUANG JING** NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF SINGAPORE







Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

ORTH Korea fired a medium-range missile yesterday, U.S. and South Korean officials said, the latest ballistics test for a country speeding up its development of nuclear weapons and missiles.

The rocket was fired from an area near the North Korean county of Pukchang, in South Phyongan Province, and flew eastward about 500 kilometers, said South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff. The U.S. Pacific Command said it tracked the missile before it landed into the sea.

White House officials traveling in Saudi Arabia with President Donald Trump said the system, which was last tested in February, has a shorter range than the missiles launched in North Korea's most recent tests.

An official from South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff also said the missile appeared to be similar in range and apogee to the midrange missile that North Korea test-fired in February. The missile launched yesterday reached a maximum altitude of 560 kilometers, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, citing office rules.

In February, North Korea used a launcher truck to fire a solid-fuel missile that it calls the Pukguksong (Polaris)-2, a land-based version of a submarine-launched missile the country revealed earlier. That missile traveled about 500 kilometers before crashing into the sea, according to South Korean and U.S. officials.

The February launch, the North's first missile test after Trump took office, alarmed neighbors because solid-fuel missiles can be fired more quickly than liquid-fuel missiles, which need to be fueled before launch and require a larger number of vehicles, including fuel trucks, that could be spotted by satellites.

South Korea's new president, Moon Jae-in, held a National Security Council meeting to discuss yesterday's launch, which came hours after he named his new foreign minister nominee and top advisers for security

North Korea fires midrange missile in its latest test



and foreign policy. He did not make a public statement after the meeting.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe called the launch a "challenge to the world" that tramples international efforts to resolve the North Korean nuclear and missile problems peacefully, and vowed to bring up the issue as the "main agenda" of this week's G-7 summit in Italy.

The launch came a week after North Korea successfully tested a new midrange missile that it said could carry a heavy nuclear warhead. Experts said that rocket flew higher and for a longer time than any other missile previously tested by North Korea, and that it could one day reach targets as far away as Hawaii and Alaska.

Under the watch of third-ge-

neration dictator Kim Jong Un, North Korea has been aggressively pursuing a decadeslong goal of putting a nuclear warhead on an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of reaching the U.S. mainland.

North Korea conducted two nuclear tests last year alone, possibly improving its ability to make nuclear weapons small enough to fit on long-range missiles. The country has also conducted a slew of rocket launches as it continues to advance its arsenal of ballistic weapons, which also include midrange solidfuel missiles that could be fired from land mobile launchers or submarines.

If North Korea did indeed fire the Pukguksong-2 again, it might be part of attempts to stabilize the system's functions before it operationally deploys the missiles, said Kim Dong-yub, an analyst at Seoul's Institute for Far Eastern Studies.

Kim said there's also a possibility that the North is conducting engine tests and other experiments as it pushes for the development of a solid-fuel intercontinental ballistic missile that could potentially reach the U.S. mainland. If the North ever obtains a solid-fuel ICBM, it would likely be a rocket powered by a cluster of several Pukguksong-2 engines, Kim said.

In a massive military parade in Pyongyang last month honoring state founder Kim Il Sung, the late grandfather of the current leader, North Korea unveiled previously unseen large rocket canisters and launcher trucks. Experts said this hinted at efforts to create solid-fuel ICBMs and also technologies to "cold launch" such rockets, ejecting them from the launch tubes before they ignite in midair, which would prevent its limited number of ICBM-capable launcher trucks from being damaged and also allow the missile to be fired from silos.

Missile tests such as yesterday's present a difficult challenge to Moon, a liberal who took over as South Korea's president on May 10 and has expressed a desire to reach out to the North. Pyongyang's aggressive push to boost its weapons program also makes it one of the most urgent foreign policy concerns for the Trump administration, though Washington has struggled to settle on a policy.

The launch came a week after North Korea successfully tested a new midrange missile that it said could carry a heavy nuclear warhead

South Korea's Foreign Ministry said in a statement that the North's latest launch "throws cold water" on the expectations by Moon's government to "stabilize peace and denuclearize the Korean Peninsula."

"Our government is open to the possibility of dialogue with North Korea, but will also maintain a stance of firmly responding to provocations," the ministry said. AP

Philippines arrests 25 Koreans over alleged fraud, gambling

WENTY-FIVE Sou-**▲** th Koreans have been arrested in metropolitan Manila on suspicion of internet fraud or illegal online gambling, Philippine authorities said Friday.

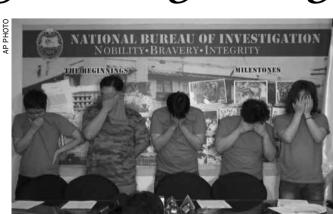
Twelve of the suspects are wanted back home for allegedly duping their compatriots into investing money in bogus real estate projects in the Philippines, Bureau of Immigration Commissioner Jaime Morente said.

Their arrests Wednesday in a posh condominium followed the bureau's apprehension on Monday of four other South Koreans for alleged fraud and voice phishing. They're accused of duping hundreds of their compatriots who lost money after revealing private information to callers impersonating legitimate companies.

The National Bureau of Investigation also presented to the media on Friday five South Korean nationals arrested for running a website for illegal online sports betting and casino gambling in an upscale subdivision.

The arrested men, wearing orange T-shirts, tried to cover their faces with their hands or shirt as they faced the cameras during the news conference. They are facing illegal gambling complaints, said NBI Deputy Director Ferdinand Lavin, adding the activity also facilitated money laundering.

The five were apprehended Tuesday, a day after the NBI also arrested four South Korean women for allegedly operating an illegal online casino inside a mall. AP



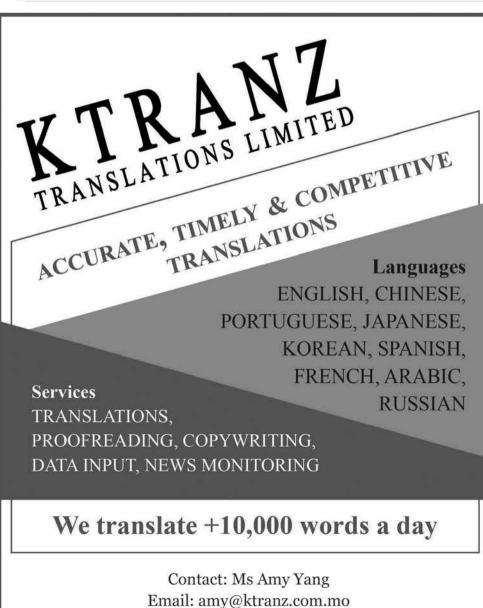
Five South Korean men cover their faces as they are presented to reporters in Manila



Pacific ministers commit to move ahead with pact without US



Vietnamese Prime Minister Nguyen Xuan Phuc (center right) shakes hands with Chinese Minister of Commerce Zhong Shan, as other trade ministers watch



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Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

THE Pacific Rim tra-The racine racing de ministers meeting in Vietnam committed yesterday to move ahead with the Trans Pacific Partnership trade pact after the United States pulled out.

New Zealand Trade Minister Todd McClay said the remaining 11 TPP countries are open to others joining provided they accept the trade agreement's high standards on labor and environmental protection. He said the door remains open to the U.S., even after President Donald Trump withdrew from the pact in January, saying he prefers bilateral free trade deals.

"It's clear that each country is having to consider both economic values and strategic importance of this agreement, but in the end there are a lot of unity among all of the countries and a great desire to work together to come up with an agreement among 11 that not only delivers for all of our economies and the people of our countries, it's also open to others countries in the world to join if they can meet the high standards in the TPP agreement," McClay told reporters.

Since the U.S withdrawal, Japan and New Zealand have been spearheading efforts to revive the deal. In its current form, the TPP requires U.S. participation before it can go into effect. That means the remaining countries would need to change the rules for any deal to go ahead, and it would be significantly smaller without the involvement of the world's largest economy.

The 11 countries represent roughly 13.5 percent of the global economy, according to the World Bank.

In a statement, the trade ministers said they agreed to launch a process to assess options to bring the agreement into force "expeditiously, including how to facilitate membership for the original signatories."

The ministers have tasked their trade officials to present the assessment to their leaders when they meet for an annual the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Vietnam in November, which will also include Trump, Russian President Vladimir Putin

and Chinese President Xi Jinping.

They also underlined their vision for the TPP to expand to include other economies, saying these efforts would address concerns about protectionism, contribute to maintaining open markets, strengthening the rules-based international trading system, increasing world trade and raising living stan-

Vietnam and Malaysia had been expected to be beneficiaries from the original TPP with greater access to U.S. markets and investments. The TPP was championed by former President Barack Obama and was seen as a counterbalance to China's growing influence in the region.

U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer, making his international debut since taking office a week ago, defended Trump's decision to pull out of the TPP.

"We expect to engage with members here in many cases on bilateral basis," he told reporters. "The president made the decision, which I certainly agree with, that bilateral negotiation is better for the United States than multilateral negotiations."

He added: "But we certainly expect to stay engaged and I believe that at some point that there'll be series of bilateral agreements with willing partners in this part of the world."

He rejected criticism that the Trump administration was embracing protectionism. "Our view is that we want free trade, we want fair trade, we want a system that leads to greater market efficiencies in the world," he said.

Today, the China-led 16-member Regional Comprehensive nomic Partnership will meet in Hanoi to further their discussions on a separate deal seen as an alternative to TPP. It is expected to be finalized by the end of this year.

"I think confidence we have shown in this meeting for the multilateral trading system for regional economic cooperation within APEC can be a very good and strong signal that we are united and we are steadfast in fighting trade protectionism and reducing trade risks," said Chinese Deputy Trade Minister Wang Shouwen. AP

Trump: Fight against terror a 'battle between good and evil'

RESIDENT Donald Trump called on Middle Eastern leaders to combat a "crisis of Islamic extremism" emanating from the region, casting the fight against terrorism as a "battle between good and evil," not a clash between the West and Islam.

Trump's address yesterday was the centerpiece of his two-day visit to Saudi Arabia, his first stop overseas as president. During a meeting of more than 50 Arab and Muslim leaders, he sought to chart a new course for America's role in the region, one aimed squarely on rooting out terrorism, with less focus on promoting human rights and democratic reforms.

"We are not here to lecture - we are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship," Trump said, speaking in an ornate, multi-chandeliered room. "Instead, we are here to offer partnership - based on



Trump delivers a speech to the Arab Islamic American Summit in Riyadh

shared interests and values — to pursue a better future for us all."

Even as the president pledged to work alongside Middle Eastern nations, he put the onus for combatting terrorism on the region. Bellowing into the microphone, he implored Muslim leaders to aggressively fight extremists: "Drive them out of your places of worship. Drive them out of your communities."

The president has been enthusiastically embraced in Riyadh, where the ruling royal family has welcomed his tougher stance on Iran, its regional foe. Sitting alongside Trump, Saudi King Salman declared, "The Iranian regime has been the spearhead of global terrorism."

For Trump, the visit has been a welcome escape from the crush of controversies that have consumed his administration in recent weeks. He's been besieged by a series of revelations about the ongoing federal investigation into his campaign's possible ties to Russia and his decision to fire FBI Director James Comey, who had been overseeing the Russia probe.

We are not here to tell other people how to live, what to do, who to be, or how to worship.

DONALD TRUMP

Trump's trip to Saudi Arabia also served as something of a reset with the region following his presidential campaign, which was frequently punctured by bouts of anti-Islamic rhetoric. He once mused that he thought "Islam hates us."

And only a week after taking office, he signed an executive order to ban immigrants from seven countries — Iraq, Iran, Syria, Sudan, Libya, Somalia, and Yemen — from entering the United States, a decision that sparked widespread protests at the nation's airports and demonstrations outside the White House.

That ban was blocked by the courts. A second order, which dropped Iraq from the list, is tied up in federal court and the federal government is appealing.

But yesterday, Trump was full of praise for Muslim world's history and culture. He declared Islam "one of the world's great faiths."

White House officials said they considered Trump's address to be a counterweight to President Barack Obama's debut speech to the Muslim world in 2009 in Cairo.

Obama called for understanding and acknowledged some of America's missteps in the region. That speech was denounced by many Republicans and criticized by a number of the United States' Middle East allies as being a sort of apology. **AP**

BRAZIL

Pressure mounts on Temer as lawyers vote for impeachment

BRAZIL President Michel Temer suffered a setback in trying to fend off allegations of corruption and cover-up after the country's influential bar association voted in favor of his impeachment.

The council of Brazil's Order of Lawyers, or OAB by its Brazilian acronym, voted 25 to 1 in favor of an impeachment hearing for Temer, and will file its request in the lower house of Congress in coming days, it said yesterday. The OAB says Temer failed to denounce criminal activities, broke with presidential decorum, and promised undo favors to indivi-

Temer's press office didn't immediately reply to requests for comment.

"We are going to ask for the impeachment of another president of the republic, the second in a year and four months," OAB president Claudio Lamachia said in a statement posted on the group's website. Temer's predecessor, Dilma Rousseff, was impeached in 2016.

Temer attempted in a publicly televised speech on Saturday to discredit evidence the Prosecu-



Michel Temer

tor General Rodrigo Janot says shows the president engaging in a cover-up and possibly passive corruption. Janot earlier this month obtained Supreme Court authorization to investigate Temer, according to court documents made public on Friday.

Underlying the probe is a recording made by JBS chairman Joesley Batista in March in which he and Temer allegedly discuss payoffs and influence-trafficking. Temer says he met with Batista but denies wrongdoing, saying the evidence was doctored.

Several parties from Temer's ruling coalition will meet later to discuss whether they will leave the government. On Saturday, the Brazilian Socialist Party announced it was switching to join the opposition. **Bloomberg**

3 vie for top WHO post in UN health agency election

British physi-**A**cian, an Ethiopian former health minister and a Pakistani expert in non-communicable diseases are the three finalists vying for the top job at the World Health Organization in an election tomorrow, aspiring to land a key U.N. post that confers great power to set worldwide medical priorities — and great responsibility as the world's go-to person when emergencies like Ebola, Zika and SARS strike.

For the first time, governing body made up of 194 member states will choose from three candidates — not one pre-selected by its executive board, as in past years. The closed-door vote is perhaps the highlight event of the 10-day World Health Assembly, which will also lay out strategies on issues like the fight against polio, preparedness for pandemic flu, and antimicrobial resistance.



Many are looking for further reform at WHO after the decade-long tenure of Dr. Margaret Chan, a politically savvy native of Hong Kong whose tenure nonetheless has been blighted by a flawed response to the Ebola outbreak in three west African countries that killed more than 11,000 people.

Politics, as much as policy prescriptions, will be in the minds of many government envoys as voting begins tomorrow afternoon.

Here's a look at the candidates for the next five-year term starting July 1:

David Nabarro: The

British physician led the U.N. response to some of the biggest health crises in recent years, including bird flu and Ebola. Although he has years of experience dealing with outbreaks, critics say his decades of work at WHO make him too much of an insider and that he may be unable to introduce the radical change needed to overhaul the agency.

Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus: A former health minister from Ethiopia, he would be the first WHO director-general from Africa and is believed to have wide support

from many African member states. Ghebrevesus is credited with expanding Ethiopia's health system and helping introduce initiatives that cut malaria deaths. The only nonmedical doctor in the running, he has also been dogged by allegations that he covered up cholera outbreaks during his administration, despite international regulations requiring countries to report outbreaks of the bacterial disease.

Sania Nishtar: A Pakistani doctor, she has worked on non-communicable diseases for years and once served as a government minister responsible for issues including health, science and information technology. Unlike her competitors, Nishtar has little experience with outbreaks. During her campaign, she issued 10 pledges for action, including "transparency and accountability in all areas of its work" and a promise that the WHO leadership "will not be subject to special interests." AP



what's ON



Kung Fu Panda Adventure Ice World -ICE WORLD EXHIBITION

TIME: 11am -8pm (Last admission at 7:30pm)

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

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

ADMISSION: MOP120 (for one adult and one

child aged 3 to 12),

MOP312 (for three family members

and one child aged 3 or above) ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

IV canal macau

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:10	Revenge Sr 2
17:50	Now Generation (Repeated)
18:40	Non-Daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Now Generation
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live



1972 President Nixon Arrives IN Moscow

America's President Richard Nixon has arrived in Moscow for talks with Soviet leaders. He was given a modest welcome as he stepped off the plane at Vnukovo airport with his wife earlier today.

The welcome party consisted of Soviet president Nikolai Podgorny, Prime Minister Alexei Kosygin and Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko. A twenty-minute ceremony, during which the president briefly inspected a guard of honor, was held and broadcast live by Moscow television.

The national anthems of both countries were played and a carefully selected group of Soviet citizens dutifully, but silently, waved American and Soviet flags. President Nixon, the first US president to visit Moscow, was said to be surprised that Leonid Brezhnev, general secretary of the Communist Party, was not at the airport. But Soviet officials said Mr Brezhnev's absence was according to protocol, as he does not hold a government position.

However, following a high-speed motorcade through Moscow, President Nixon was invited to unscheduled talks with Mr Brezhnev at the Kremlin. The meeting lasted 105 minutes and, although US officials would not give details, Ronald Ziegler, the White House press secretary, said the two men discussed "international issues".

Many observers were hoping the war in Vietnam and the nuclear arms race would be high on the agenda. For the first time in history the stars and stripes flag of America flew over the Grand Palace of the Kremlin to mark the visit.

This evening President Nixon and his wife attended a banquet at the Kremlin. The couple walked along a red carpet and up a 60-step staircase into the Granovit banqueting hall, where the two presidents drank toasts to

There are known differences between the two men on such issues as the war in Vietnam and the Middle East.

President Nixon spoke about the need for co-operation and reciprocation between the two countries in their efforts to conquer disease, improve the environment, and to expand bilateral trade and economic links. He said he was eager to make the summit a memorable one for its substance.

During his speech he alluded to Vietnam: "We should recognise that it is the responsibility of great powers to influence other nations in conflict or crisis to moderate

He also spoke of a possible arms agreement which, he said "could begin to turn our countries away from a wasteful and dangerous arms race and towards more production for peace".

President Podgorny said the Soviet Union wanted not just good but friendly relations with the US.

The US president is due to remain in the Soviet Union until 29 May.

Courtesy BBC News

Offbeat

EXHIBIT EXPLORES HEYDAY OF ATLANTIC OCEAN LUXURY LINERS



This was the golden era for ocean travel: when ladies wore floor-length ball gowns, sometimes with parasols in hand, and gents donned flared frock-coats that gave them an hour-glass figure, a style inspired by Prince Albert.

Opulence and beauty were paramount for the cruise liner. Fans can now relive this bygone era through some telltale relics on display at a new exhibit opening Saturday at the Peabody Essex Museum. The museum, in Salem, Massachusetts, partnered

with London's Victoria and Albert museum for the show. The exhibit, called "Ocean Liners: Glamor, Speed, and Style," tells a narrative of society's love of ocean travel and how these ships evolved over the 100 years they ruled the seas.

"Ocean liners conveyed ideas, they were this special place where anything was possible," said Daniel Finamore, a curator for the museum's exhibit.

Indeed, glamour, speed and style were ideas with which ocean liners were associated. The public was most fascinated by speed. "The latest ship had to be the fastest," Finamore said.

There are more than 200 works from the 19th and 20th centuries on display, including textiles, furniture, models, photographs and fashion.

Of course, any visual story about ocean liners wouldn't be complete without some artifacts from the "unsinkable" Titanic, which broke apart and sank in 1912 after the ship's captain ignored warnings and steered the boat into an iceberg at speeds meant to impress passengers.

From the Titanic, there is a framed advertisement for secondand third-class bunks available on the voyage from New York back to London. Tickets started at \$36.25 for the voyage on April 20, 1912, a trip that never happened.

There's also a wooden deckchair with broken caning and a piece of hand carved wooded archway, the largest surviving piece of woodwork from the Titanic. Both the deckchair and archway piece were found floating in the water near the ship.

For ocean liners, luxury was largely on display during meals. Lunch on the sunken Lusitania, a British ocean liner that was torpedoed by a German submarine in 1915, might include green turtle soup and hindquarters of lamb on fine china with shiny silver cutlery.

In the exhibit, there also is a 1950 photograph of the famous Hollywood actress Marlene Dietrich, wearing a Christian Dior buttoned-up skirt suit and waiting to board the Queen Elizabeth, operated by the Cunard Line. Dietrich was an experienced trans-Atlantic tourist; she had a favorite room with a wooden piano that is part of the exhibit.

Ocean Liners captures the museum-goer's imagination and highlights a contrast between ocean travel now and yesteryear, said Richard Griffin, of Salem, Massachusetts, who was viewing the exhibit with his wife Cynthia.

"It's transporting," he said. "It is a feeling of being rather than doing, then as opposed to now, when people would just be and luxuriate instead of doing so many things."

Ocean Liners: Glamor, Speed, and Style runs through Oct. 9, 2017 at the Peabody Essex Museum.

cinema

CINETEATRO

18 - 24 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, 9:30pm

Director: Guy Ritchie Starring: Charlie Hunnam, Jude Law, Berges-Frisbey

Language: English (Chinese) **Duration: 126min**

GIFTED

гоом 2 7:30pm

Director: Marc Webb

Starring: Chris Evans, Octavia Spencer, Mckenna Grace

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 101min

THE CIRCLE **гоом 3**

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

Director: James Ponsoldt

Starring: Tom Hanks, Emma Watson, John Boyega

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 110min

29 **коом 3**

7:30pm

Director: Kearen Pang

Starring: Chrissie Chau, Joyce Cheng, Ben Yeung Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

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

IN CONTEXT

During the week-long summit several agreements between the two countries were reached.

On 26 May a treaty to halt the nuclear arms race, known as the Strategic Arms Limitation Talks (Salt), was signed in the Kremlin by President Nixon and Mr Brezhnev.

The agreement, which was the culmination of nearly three years of talks between the two superpowers limited each superpower to 200 defensive nuclear missiles and froze the number of intercontinental ballistic missiles for the next five years.

An agreement designed to establish more favourable conditions for developing commercial and other economic ties between the USA and the USSR was also reached.

The two countries also agreed to make their first joint manned venture into space in June 1975.

Other agreements relating to incidents at sea, science and technology, health and the environment were also made.

Little progress was made on the Middle East or Vietnam although the two

sides did agree to further negotiations on both subjects.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

If you're asked to make a donation, buy something whose proceeds will benefit a nonprofit or contribute your time to a charity, you'll be only too happy to do it. Just be sure the person who sees your soft heart.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Time has a funny way of taking the pain out of agonizing events. So before you get too swept up in the sentimentality of the day, be sure you're remembering everything correctly - with your mind.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

There are ways of saying what's on your mind without offending anyone, and you're familiar with them all. Your feelings about a certain situation, probably involving a family member, must be expressed right now.



Someone is angling to take advantage of your soft heart and compassion for others, so be super careful with your money right now. Before you sign anything anything at all.



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Authority figures will be especially helpful to you now - but it won't seem that way at first. In fact, you probably won't know what they're talking about when they first bring



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Get out your pen and pick up a brand-new journal. This wouldn't be a bad time to start a dream log. Your dreams will be especially prophetic now, so try to remember them when you wake up.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

This is your day to be lucky. If you've been thinking about getting to know someone new, and you're feeling a bit on the sheepish side about starting up a conversation, think about that luck



Cancer

and use it to your advantage.

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If you're not sure that you're authorized to discuss this classified piece of information, you may want to double check before you spill the beans - or you can just opt not to say anything at all.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Being sure of what you say before you say it is a good thing - same goes for making sure you don't hurt anyone's feelings. You'd never mean to do that intentionally. Keep this in mind today.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21



Libra

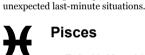
Sep.23-Oct. 22

Keep doing what you've been doing. The family members you've been trying to help will finally realize what you've been up to, and believe it or not, you may even hear a thank you



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Don't expect your schedule to stick to any sort of itinerary. Your daily routine will keep you quite busy, no doubt about that, but you'll



Pisces

also be dealing with pleasant and

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Stick with the winners right now you know who they are. The folks you've been associating with for months are only too happy to back you up, no matter what you need or when you need it.



ALLOW ME TO INTERRUPT YOUR TRIBUTE TO ME, KINDLY TAKE TEN STEPS BACK, THEN YOU MAY CONTINUE



CONDITION

SUDOKU

Easy

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

Medium

5 1 4

2 7

8

7

6 3 8

3 4

2 9

3

Easy+

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

Hard

2

1 8

5

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

NEATHER

MIN

	IVIIIV	IVIAA	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	18	21	shower/drizzle
Harbin	8	14	shower
Tianjin	21	25	overcast/moderate rain
Urumqi	13	22	clear/cloudy
Xi'an	19	25	drizzle
Lhasa	10	22	shower
Chengdu	19	26	drizzle/overcast
Chongqing	21	24	moderate rain/shower
Kunming	14	28	clear/cloudy
Nanjing	20	30	cloudy
Shanghai	20	28	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	22	27	shower
Hangzhou	20	30	cloudy
Taipei	24	30	overcast/cloudy
Guangzhou	23	28	moderate rain
Hong Kong	23	27	heavy rain

MAX

WORLD

Moscow	6	14	clear/cloudy
Frankfurt	12	21	overcast/cloudy
Paris	9	21	cloudy/overcast
London	10	16	cloudy
New York	14	19	cloudy/drizzle

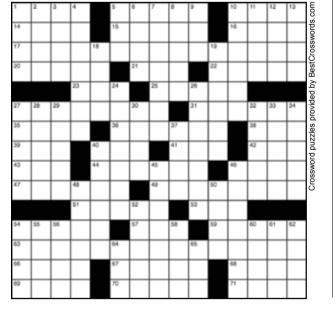
CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Zoologist Fossey; 5- Eurasian juniper; 10- X-ray units; 14- Comedian Johnson; 15- Part of an act; 16- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 17- In spite of; 20-With ___ of thousands!; 21- End for Siam; 22- Grammarian's concern; 23- Fannie follower; 25- Overjoy; 27- Never converging or diverging; 31- Explosions; 35- Arabian gulf; 36- Timmy's dog; 38- Reason for overtime; 39- D.C. pol; 40- Place for ordering alcoholic drinks; 41- CD earnings; 42- Off-road wheels, for short; 43- Boater or bowler; 44- Collision; 46- Heap; 47- The Last Frontier; 49- Coheir; 51- Mislead; 53- Swiss river; 54- Betelgeuse's constellation; 57- "____ Beso" (1962 hit); 59- Grow to maturity; 63- Direct; 66- High schooler; 67- Some are kosher; 68- Hipbones; 69quam videri" (North Carolina's motto); 70- Take care of; 71- Nerd;

DOWN: 1- Comic Carvey; 2- Camaro model; 3boy!; 4- Reporter; 5- Fast flier; 6-Dull pain, often in the head or back; 7- Ships; 8- Chip maker; 9- PBS supporter; 10- It had a part in the Bible; 11- Inter ___; 12-

Fender flaw; 13- Wise one; 18- Romance lang.; 19- Squirrel food; 24- "Cow Cow Boogie" singer Morse; 26- From within; 27- Ottoman title; 28- Let's Make ___; 29- Oscar de la ___; 30- Lawman Wyatt 32- Stigma: 33- Championship: 34- Cut off: 37- Director Vittorio De _ bathing suit; 45- Peter or Paul. but not Mary; 46- Peruke; 48- Everett of "Citizen Kane"; 50- Singer Vikki; 52- Little laugh; 54- Bone: Prefix; 55- Numbered rds.; 56-Angers; 58- Think nothing ___; 60- Lacking color; 61- Buffalo's county; 62- Mont. neighbor; 64- Mdse.; 65- Barcelona bear;





ÚSEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731 Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000 Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Telephone - Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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Cattleya Court, Ocean Gardens

Taipa 1,503 sq ft / HKD 7,172 sq ft HKD 10.78M Ocean Gardens complex Ref: 16095497

Kingsville, Taipa (I Unit) Taipa

3 Bedroom Apartment **Parking Upon Request** HKD 16,800 / 1,200 sq ft Ref: 17010631



Juventus clinches record 6th straight Serie A title



Paulo Dybala (right) scores a goal during the match between Juventus and Crotone

Andrew Dampf, Rome

UVENTUS clinched a re-**J** cord sixth straight Serie A title with a 3-0 win over relegation-threatened Crotone in the penultimate round yesterday.

Mario Mandzukic gave Juventus the lead 12 minutes in by redirecting a cross from Juan Cuadrado, Paulo Dybala scored with a precise free kick shortly before the break and Alex Sandro added another with a header near the end.

Juventus moved four points

clear of second-placed Roma, which last Sunday handed the Bianconeri their first Serie A loss since January.

Since Serie A was founded in 1929, no club had previously won more than five straight titles.

Torino won five consecutive titles from 1943-49 (including a season that was canceled due to World War II), Inter Milan took five straight from 2006-10 and Juventus claimed a handful from 1931-35.

"We've written one of the greatest pages in the book of football history," said Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon, who also won the 2002 and 2003 Serie A titles with Juventus.

"Winning is never easy," Buffon added. "Beyond what people say, staying at the top is synonymous with sacrifice on everyone's part. [...] If you want to always win matches, you've got to always have your head in focus and your legs prepared."

It's the second title in five days for Juventus after a 2-0 win over Lazio in the Italian Cup final on Wednesday.

The Bianconeri has a chance to complete the treble with a victory over Real Madrid and Cristiano Ronaldo in the Champions League final on June 3.

Juventus also added to its record number of Serie A titles, with its 33rd.

Players dumped shaving cream over the head of manager Massimiliano Allegri at the final whistle, then put on celebratory T-shirts with a '6' on them. AP

Peru organizes 2019 Pan Am Games in wake of deadly flooding

Stephen Wade

TONSTRUCTION for ∕the 2019 Pan American Games is way behind schedule. But that's a secondary problem.

The quadrennial event in Lima, Peru, has no sponsors, no marketing and is relying on a USD1.2 billion budget financed by the national government.

"This is the biggest challenge I have today the sponsors," Neven Ilic, the president of the Pan American Sports Organization, told The Associated Press. "Now we have to go to the market to find sponsors."

Peru is organizing the largest sports event in its history — in the wake of the

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People play ball inside of the venue that will host baseball, softball, archery and other sports during the 2019 Pan American Games

worst flooding in recent memory.

Flooding earlier this year in the north of the country, and in Lima, killed more than 100 and displaced thousands. President Pedro Pablo Kuczysnki has put reconstruction costs at up to \$9 billion, raising questions about the propriety of big spending on a two-week sports event.

Supporters like Kuczys-

nki say the country can afford both, while critics point out that last year's Olympics in Rio de Janeiro generated as much bad news as good.

Nine months after the games ended, Rio organizers still owe creditors about \$30 million. Many venues are abandoned, searching for events and money for maintenance.

"Peru has accepted being the host of the Pan American Games," Kuczysnki told reporters. "It would be a real tragedy not to keep our pledge and dedicate all the needed resources to the reconstruction, and to the Pan American Games."

Elected last month as president of the regional sports body PASO, Ilic has been lobbying in Lima for several weeks to get everyone behind the project. Lima Mayor Luis Castaneda said the games should be cancelled when the floods hit in March. Since then, he's

about all the problems

said they should go ahead. "We know everything

they have, but today I think they are ready," said Ilic, a Chilean and grandson of Croatian immigrants. He termed the construction schedule "tight, very short" and said all venue and related construction needed to start in September.

The biggest project is an athletes' village composed of seven 20-story towers. A metro line is also just 15 percent completed. The country's comptroller said last month that 40 percent should be done at this sta-

Ilic said he'll look to some of the IOC's big sponsors like Coca-Cola as potential clients. "First, we have to have a good proposal to present," he said.

Seeking expertise, the Peruvian government signed an agreement with Britain to line up British companies to help deliver security, construction, and event management.

Ilic has promised "no "We white elephants." have asked them to please build [venues] in accordance with your reality, your culture," Ilic said. "They don't have big stadiums, big construction."

The continental championships open July 26, 2019, and will attract 7,000 athletes from Alaska to Argentina. For many it's a qualifying event for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

The last two Pan Am Games were in Toronto in 2015, and Guadalajara, Mexico, in 2011. Rio hosted the 2007 edition, which it used to lobby for the Olympics.

Rolando Arellano, the president of Lima-based Arellano Marketing, said most Peruvians were unaware the games were coming, and few "know what that means."

He said the commitment to the Pan Am Games has put the government in a bind. "If the government spends on this, they can be seen as insensitive to other problems," Arellano told AP. "But if they don't, they will lose their image. Either way, they are not in a very comfortable position."

The Peruvian capital is also host in September to the International Olympic Committee, which will meet to pick either Paris or Los Angeles as the venue for the 2024 Olympics. There was also pressure to cancel that event.

These meetings take place with scandal hovering over Peru's national Olympic committee.

Jose Quinones was disqualified last year by a government Peruvian body as president of the local Olympic committee with reports suggesting he misappropriated \$3.3 million. Peru is to elect a new president in June.

Fransicso Boza, the secretary general of the Peruvian Olympic Committee, is also being investigated by a prosecutor on corruption charges. He was Peru's flagbearer in the Rio Olympics and an Olympic silver medalist in shooting in the 1984 Olympics.

"Peru has seen a lot of progress in the last 15 years, so we must show off our development," Arellano said. "This puts Lima and Peru in the international news. That could be a big win. Of course, you are not sure you are going to gain only goodwill." AP

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NBA player Kanter heading to US after detained in Romania

OKLAHOMA City Thunder center Enes Kanter is returning to the United States after being detained in a Romanian airport.

Romanian Border Police spokesman Fabian Badila confirmed to The Associated Press that the player left Romania for the United States via London.

Kanter, who is Turkish, said in a video Saturday morning on his Twitter account that the Turkish embassy canceled his passport and he'd been detained for several hours at a Romanian airport.

He later tweeted "All good baby!" and said he'd hold a news conference in New York.

Kanter said he believed he was held because of his political views. He's been a critic of Turkish president Recep Tayyip Erdogan. Kanter supports Turkish cleric Fethullah Gulen, who opposes Erdogan.

He was traveling in Europe and Indonesia with his Enes Kanter Light Foundation when he arrived in the Romanian capital of Bucharest.

Kanter posted photos of himself with officers in the



Oklahoma City Thunder's Enes Kanter

airport on Saturday, his 25th birthday. In the video, he called Erdogan a "bad, bad man" and a "dictator."

A Thunder spokesman said the team had been working with the NBA to gather information through appropriate channels.

The 6-foot-11 player, who moved to the U.S. in 2009, was the third overall pick by the Utah Jazz in the 2011 draft. He was traded to the Thunder in 2015.

Kanter has been one of the NBA's best reserves the past two years. This season, he averaged 14.3 points and 6.7 rebounds. AP

FRENCH LEAGUE

Monaco celebrates title with 12th straight win

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

ONACO celebrated its French league title by beating Rennes 3-2 for a 12th straight win on Saturday, finishing the season eight points clear of deposed champion Paris Saint-Germain.

Monaco sealed the title midweek and its players spraydyed their hair in the club's colors to celebrate.

Monaco scored in its last 32 league games to set a single-season record. It scored 107 league goals — five more than PSG's total last season — and 158 overall.

PSG conceded an injury-time equalizer in a 1-1 home draw with Caen. The result was priceless for the visitors, ensuring survival in a tense relegation fight. Bastia and Nancy were relegated and 18th-placed Lorient faces a playoff against the third-placed team from division two.

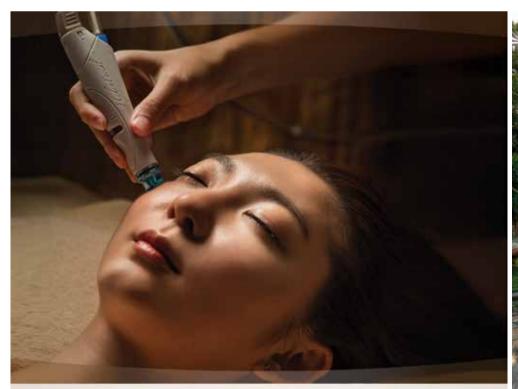


Monaco players celebrate their French League One title after beating Saint Etienne

Lorient was moments away from staying up until Ronny Rodelin swept in a 91st-minute equalizer for Caen, having earlier missed a penalty. Caen also had a goal controversially disallowed, and when Rodelin did finally score, his goal set off scenes of wild delight.

Marseille striker Bafetimbi Gomis scored his 20th league goal to ensure fifth place for Marseille and a spot in the Europa League, while relegating Bastia. AP

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opinion

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ONE BELT, ONE ROAD FASCINATION

The Silk Road Economic Belt and the 21st Century Maritime Silk Road - together The Initiative - attracted to Beijing nearly 70 countries and international organizations unable to ignore Xi Jinping's project of the century. In spite of conspicuous absences, such as India, or the under representation of the USA led by an NSC officer, the spin talks of a budget of five (5) trillion for infrastructure crossing more than 60 countries in Asia, Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Perhaps the strongest point of the One Belt, One Road is not the budget, but the value added by the narrative of China as the light beam of globalization against protectionist policies. Add to this its simplicity as well as vagueness that allows or paves the way to include anything at any time. The Initiative should be translated as China's ambitious economic and diplomatic plan to exchange hegemony for harmony... whatever we take harmony to be.*

One Belt, One Road is definitely an opportunity for 60% of the world's population, but for China it is a national challenge. Even the small sized MSAR will be called to take part and contribute to the initiative, but there should be a general warning against excessive largesse to avoid the presentation of inadequate projects and unacceptable ideas.

Among the messages, Chairman of the National People's Congress crafted to Macau was an indirect yellow card – in reference to the contradiction(s) brilliantly reviewed by fellow columnist Eric Sautedé - to local political and administrative apparatus: new talent is needed!

New talent has to bring new ideas. Fresh talent is already making a go in every sector of activity, but new ideas need time to sprout. Unfortunately, Zhang Dejiang seemed to put aside sources of new talent for the conservative camp, thus probably involuntarily limiting the pluralism and segmentation to conservative uber moderates, conservative moderates, conservative average, conservative medium and the conservative ordinary. So we ask what do liberals or democrats do, other than lay in a limbo of alienation, not in Marx (1844) definition, but exclusion tout court?

In the meanwhile, Macau has to proceed with the things it does better or exclusively, meaning the so-called industry of casinos has to go on with the so-called diversification of the IR concept and at the same time keep tabs on things going on inside and outside the gambling archipelago. At home, the industry faces the challenge of the renewal of the six licenses in an environment of eventual expedient legal challenges to the sub-concessionaires, credit distress (junket operators - individuals or subsidiary companies - provide credit to high-rollers to circumvent currency controls in the Mainland) and crime and misdemeanors.

Outside, the number one gaming player in the world faces the reconfiguration of the gambling archipelago in Asia, with Japan, the Philippines, and now even upon the Roof of the World in idyllic Nepal, 330 km to the North of Lucknow/Uttar Pradesh, and mostly a change in the mood related to money laundering.

*In contemplating the future, it is always important to remember that, despite all its rigidities and infirmities, the Chinese Communist Party has repeatedly surprised the world with its ability to change course and prevail, including its most recent feat of steering China into the twenty-first century as a nascent super-power. "Wealth and Power" by Orville Schell and J.

REPORT: CHINA CRIPPLES CIA OPERATIONS, KILLS INFORMANTS

The Chinese government "systematically dismantled" CIA spying operations in China starting in late 2010 and killed or imprisoned at least a dozen CIA sources over the next two years, The New York Times reported Saturday.

The newspaper cited 10 current and former U.S. officials, who described the intelligence breach as one of the worst in decades. They spoke on condition of anonymity.

The report said U.S. intelligence and law enforcement agencies scrambled to stem the damage, but were bitterly divided over the cause of the breach. Some investigators were convinced there was a mole within the CIA, while others believed the Chinese had hacked the covert system the CIA used to communicate with its foreign sources. The debate remains unresolved, the paper said.

Cape Verde vows to deepen cooperation with China

THE Cape Verde government has expressed its support for China's Belt and Road Initiative and pledged to deepen bilateral cooperation with China.

The country's leaders made these remarks during meetings with visiting Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in Praia City, the country's capital.

China has close ties with Cape Verde and has supported the island country since its independence, Cape Verde's President Jorge Carlos Fonseca said on Saturday during a meeting with Wang.

Fonseca added that Cape Verde is willing to support and join the Belt and Road Initiative to deepen mutual cooperation with China.

The Sao Vicente special economic zone, the safe city project and the community housing project are the top priorities in Cape Verde's national development agenda, Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva said on Saturday while meeting with Wang.

The Prime Minister said he hopes China can participate in these projects and contribute to the country's economic and social development.

Cape Verde regards China as the most reliable partner for African countries, and supports China in defending its legitimate rights and playing a greater role in international affairs, Silva said.

Cape Verde would also like to maintain communication and coordination with China



Cape Verde's Prime Minister Ulisses Correia e Silva (left) meets with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi

on issues such as the reform of the United Nations Security Council, he added, according to Xinhua.

Wang said China supports developing countries in their defense of their legitimate rights and common interests, and advocates that every nation – large or small – should respect others as equals.

Wang continued by saying that Cape Verde is one of China's key partners in Africa and that their bilateral traditional friendship, which is based on mutual respect and equal treatment, sets an example for large and small countries alike.

China is willing to deepen mutually beneficial cooperation with Cape Verde in the fields of agriculture, fishery, marine economy, development of special economic zones, tourism, infrastructure and human resources development, he added.

In another meeting with Cape Verde's Minister of Foreign Affairs, Communities and Defense, Luis Filipe Tavares, Wang said bilateral ties between the two countries have developed quickly in recent years.

Wang said both countries focused on reaching a consensus during the meetings. He added that China would like to work with Cape Verde to inject a new impetus into bilateral cooperation, and turn friendship and trust into mutual achievements. He cited initiatives such as the China-Africa Cooperation Forum and the Forum for Economic and Trade Cooperation Between China and Portuguese-Speaking Countries.

According to Xinhua, the Chinese Foreign Minister said that Beijing deeply appreciates Cape Verde's support on issues regarding China's core interests and major concerns, and will continue to defend the legitimate rights of developing countries, including Cape Verde, on the international stage. MDT/Xinhua

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Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA A search for survivors of a ferry that caught fire in the Java Sea, killing five people, has been suspended for the night, an Indonesian search and rescue official said Saturday. The national search and rescue agency's operations director, Ivan Ahmad Riski, said 193 people have been rescued. The number of missing was unclear.



SPAIN Thousands of Spaniards have rallied in Madrid to support a no-confidence vote against conservative Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy brought by the far-left Podemos party.



BRAZIL Opponents of President Michel Temer are taking to the streets in cities across Brazil to demand he step down following allegations of corruption. More on p15



VENEZUELA Masses of protesters with white shirts, homemade gas masks and flags draped around their shoulders shut down a main road in the Venezuelan capital on Saturday in a continuation of near-daily street protests.

FRANCE A bomb scare has caused the Cannes Film Festival to briefly evacuate the Debussy theater before the first screening of director Michel Hazanavicius' movie "Redoubtable," a film in competition for the Palme d'Or prize.

