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WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTHEAST ASIA
Jihadis who fought by the hundreds for the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria now have a different battle closer to home in the southern Philippines. It's a scenario raising significant alarm in Washington, where lawmakers want a bigger U.S. role, short of boots on the ground. They fear the area is becoming a new hub for Islamist fighters from Southeast Asia and beyond.
More on p12

PHILIPPINES The government said yesterday that it would suspend offensives against communist guerrillas, aiming to foster talks for a cease-fire accord and a peace pact with New People's Army rebels.

THAILAND The head of Thailand's military government has used his special powers to cut through regulations and launch work on a much-delayed 179 billion baht (USD5.27 billion) joint Thai-Chinese project for a new railway from Bangkok to the northeast. More on p13

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FINANCIAL TIMES

Russia
President offers no clue on 'Putin 4.0'

Goodridge appointed film festival director

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銀幕盛宴 戲象新

第二屆 澳門國際影展暨頒獎典禮
2nd International Film Festival & Awards · Macao
2^o Festival Internacional de Cinema e Cerimónia de Entrega de Prémios · Macau



'Failed in London, try Hong Kong' fades as China beckons

▲ P11

MIKE Goodridge will serve as the artistic director of the second edition of the International Film Festival & Awards – Macau (IFFAM), it was announced at a “kick-off ceremony” arranged by the IFFAM Organizing Committee, on Friday.

The 2nd IFFAM will be held from December 8 to 14 this year with the theme, “A New Avenue to the World of Films”.

The new artistic director will take the helm from Macau Government Tourism Office’s director Helena de Senna Fernandes, who stepped in last year after the sudden and controversial departure of renowned film director and festival planner Marco Müller.

“Our plan is to cook up a feast of world cinema in this unique destination,” said Goodridge, according to entertainment news website Deadline Hollywood. “We want to shine a bright spotlight on young first and second time filmmakers and really work hard to establish Macau as a meeting point for the industry from East to West.”

Goodridge has served as the chief executive officer of Protagonist Pictures, a film finance, production and sales company, for the past five years. Prior to that, he worked as a journalist for almost 20 years, including being the overall brand editor of Screen International from 2009 to 2012.

He has been behind the programming of the Kinoscope section at the Sarajevo Film Festival since 2011 and has also served as a jury member at more than 25 film festivals, including in Sundance, Istanbul, Jerusalem, Seattle and Los Angeles.

This year, pan-Asian film producer and festival consultant

INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL & AWARDS – MACAU

Goodridge announced as artistic director of fledgling festival



IFFAM artistic director Mike Goodridge (left) and talent ambassador Miriam Yeung attended Friday's event

Lorna Tee will return as the head of festival management. Hong Kong actress and singer, Miriam Yeung, has been appointed as the festival's ta-

lent ambassador.

“With a new, international professional team on board this year, the organizing committee hopes to deliver a high

We want to shine a bright spotlight on young first and second time filmmakers.

MIKE GOODRIDGE

quality and fresh new event through innovative means,” said Senna Fernandes, who is also the president of the IFFAM Organizing Committee.

The upcoming festival will feature an international advisory board comprised of five non-Macau film experts, namely Chinese film director Huang Jianxin, American film

producer Michael J. Werner, Korean producer Oh Jung wan, Hong Kong producer and distribution expert Nansun Shi and Portuguese producer Luís Urbano.

This year will see the introduction of several new features and “gastronomic elements,” according to a press release issued by the IFFAM Organizing Committee, with the aim of “elevating the recognition of the festival, as well as expanding the audience group.”

At the same time, several of last year's features are set to return, including Flying Daggers, a selection of six films “representing the latest style of genre cinema in Asia,” and Crossfire, six genre films selected by three Asian and three non-Asian master filmmakers. **DB**

Senna Fernandes: IFFAM was ‘widely recognized’

AT the event on Friday, the president of the International Film Festival & Awards – Macau Organizing Committee, Helena de Senna Fernandes, praised last year's inaugural edition and said that it was “widely recognized by the film industry from home and abroad.”

However, the festival, the first of its scale in the city, received mixed reviews from international media outlets.

A reporter from the The Indian Express attended the festival and described it as a “mixed bag,” acclaiming the film selection in general, but highlighting the lack of sub-

titles in some of the films and logistical issues to do with the venue and film scheduling.

In an interview with the Times in November last year, Senna Fernandes said that an external review of the festival, conducted by an unnamed, “independent third-party,” would be arranged.

“We are unable to offer the timeframe as to when it will be completed and we will continue to consider the appropriate way for sharing the report results,” the bureau informed the Times earlier this year, after a request for information.



Helena de Senna Fernandes

HEALTH

Clinic license suspended following inspection

FOLLOWING the investigations from the Health Bureau (SSM) of four private clinics on the suspicion that these clinical facilities have been offering assisted reproductive services in contravention of regulations, the bureau has ordered the suspension of all activities from Ai Wei Fu Medical Center.

The bureau informed

that the order is justified by the high number of illegally imported medicines found in the clinic during the September 19 investigation.

Apart from the suspicion of offences related to assisted reproduction, the medical center was also under investigation for suspected violations of foreign trade law regarding the importation of illegal

medicines, as well as Decree-Law no. 58/90/M.

Following a preliminary inspection, further investigation of the center found 17 medicines suspected of being illegally imported, including a vaccine, human blood product and five medicines for hospital-exclusive use. The SSM also advanced that of these 17 medical products, 12 were already

past their expiry date.

The infringements led the SSM to suspend all activities and seal all relevant clinic equipment until further notice, “in order to guarantee the protection of public health and public safety.”

In addition, the SSM reaffirmed that assisted reproductive techniques have always been regulated, and that in relation to the recently published

“Instructions for the Use of Medically Assisted Reproduction” they will provide guidance for the medical institutions regarding the procedures for submitting requests for authorization. The SSM again urges citizens that they should only consult medical institutions that are accredited to provide such services, in order to “safeguard their own health and of the next

generation,” reminding that any illegal provision of mentioned services by individuals or establishments will be sanctioned according to the law.

In Macau, assisted reproduction procedures have only been authorized at the Conde de S Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ) and there currently are no authorized private clinics in the region. **RM**

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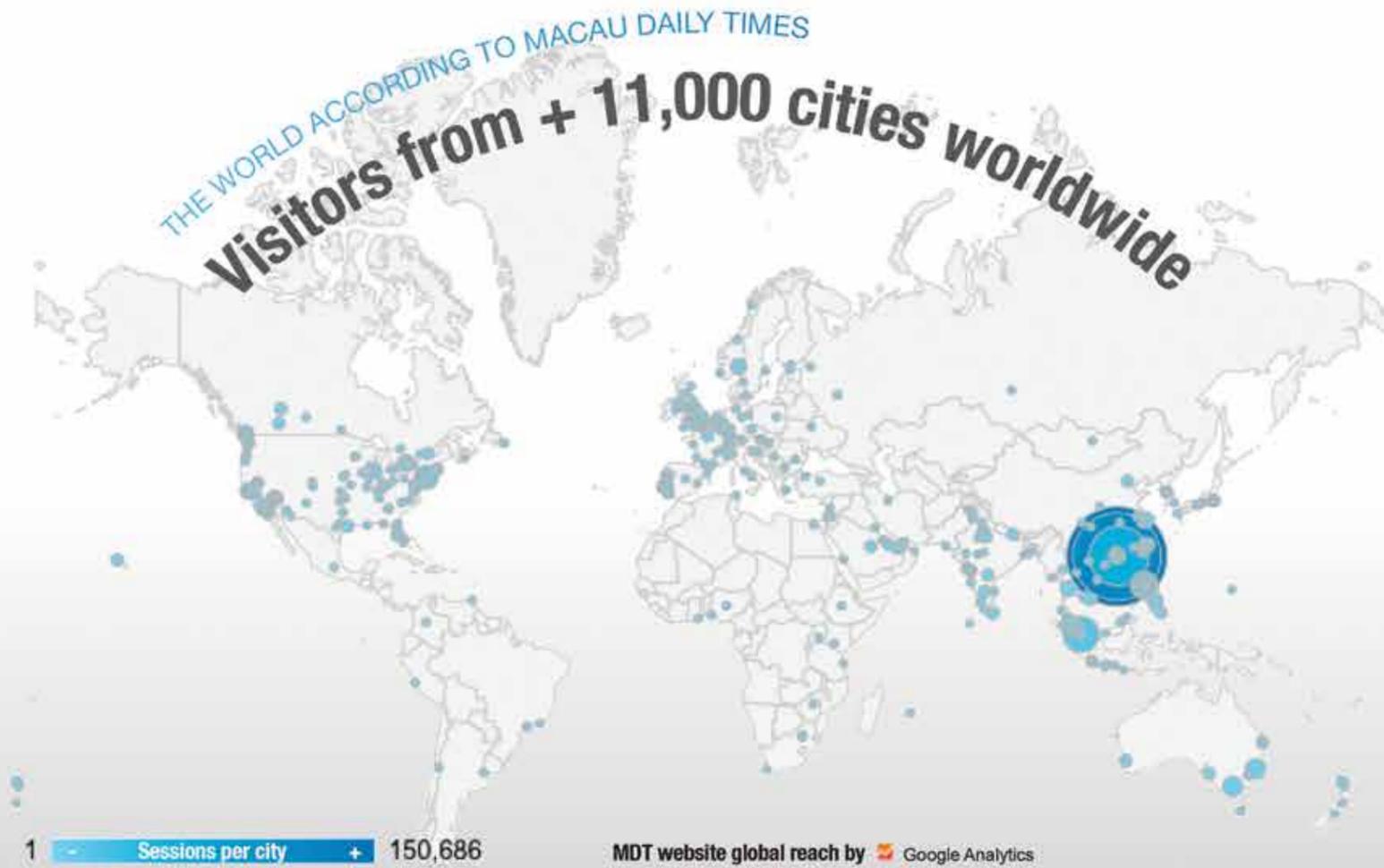
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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Deadly fall in Grand Lisboa Palace construction site

A male construction worker died yesterday following a fall from a height of about 10 meters at the construction site of the Grand Lisboa Palace, TDM reported. The accident occurred around 4 p.m. yesterday and its exact causes are reportedly under police investigation. The Fire Services transported the victim, identified as a nonresident worker, to the public hospital, where he passed away a few minutes after arrival.

OM hosts free concert next month

The Macao Orchestra (OM) is presenting a free admission concert "When Music Speaks" on July 8 at 8 p.m. at the Dom Pedro V Theatre, as part of the concert series "Music for All." Lü Jia, OM's music director and principal conductor, will perform excerpts of pieces by Mozart and Mendelssohn including Serenade No. 10 in B-flat Major and String Octet in E-flat Major respectively. The maestro will be sharing his conducting experiences, allowing the audience to have a better understanding of orchestras and classical music from different perspectives.

UM students meet Portuguese president in Lisbon

LAST Friday, 15 students and staff from the University of Macau met with the President of the Portuguese Republic, Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa, as part of the annual study mission to Europe held by the European Union Academic Programme in Macao (EUAP-M).

The delegation also involved three representatives from the Institute of European Studies of Macau (IEEM), including its president, José Luís de Sales Marques.

Rebelo de Sousa's speech on the significance of European studies in the current international context, delivered during the meeting, was the highlight of the visit to Europe, according to a statement from EUAP-M. At the end of the audience with the president, the group briefly greeted the Prime Minister of Portugal, António Costa, who was arriving at the Presidential Palace for a meeting with Rebelo de Sousa. The group also met the Secretary of State in Charge of European Affairs, Margarida Marques, and other politicians. On Friday, the delegation



Rebelo de Sousa (center) poses with students and EUAP-M representatives

visited the permanent exhibition of the National Museum of Ancient Art in Lisbon and attended an international conference about the "One Belt, One Road" initiative, held at the School of Economics and Management of the University of Lisbon.

The study mission to Europe also included a three-day trip to Brussels, where the group visited the European Commission as well as the European External Action Service. The

students also visited the Belvue Museum, which features exhibits about the history of the Kingdom of Belgium, and the recently opened House of the European History, established by an initiative of the European Parliament.

Students and staff also attended a conference held at the Institute for European Studies of the Free University of Brussels about the consequences of Brexit for Europe and China. The speakers were research-

ers of the host organization and Master of European Studies graduates, a qualification jointly awarded by the University of Macau and IEEM.

Yesterday, students went to Coimbra, where they visited the National Museum of Machado Castro. Visits to the University of Coimbra and to the Museum of Serralves are also scheduled.

The annual study mission to Europe is part of the EUAP-M's outreach activities. The delegation comprises undergraduate and postgraduate students from the programs in European studies, international relations, law and communication. Accompanying them are professors and lecturers from the Faculty of Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law.

Also included in the delegation are winners of competitions organized by the EUAP-M, including the Model European Union, a pedagogical simulation in which students play the role of heads of state of the 28 member-states to recreate the decision-making process of the European Council.

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Customs Service seized over 15,000 illegal cigarettes

THE Macao Customs Service (SA) has seized a total of 15,080 illegal cigarettes and tobacco products. A successful operation, held on June 16 by the SA with the support of the Health Bureau (SSM), was the result of a complaint indicating the sale of suspect products in such establishments.

According to the statement from the SSM, 6,980 units of tobacco products – with an approximate value of MOP5,200 – from two well-known Mainland brands, were being sold without any of the required health warnings. On the line are taxes amounting to a total of MOP10,400.

Following the questioning of two suspected shop owners, further investigation resulted in the confiscation of another 8,100 cigarettes due to suspected nonpayment of taxes amounting to MOP12,000.

The two shops, where the illegal products were found, were targeting visitors from mainland China as buyers of the products.

The SA intends to prosecute the establishment involved in the offence in accordance with the Foreign Trade Law, which may result in a fine between MOP5,000 and MOP100,000 as well as the permanent seizure of the goods. The goods will become property of the Macau Special Administrative Region.

It was also discovered in the investigation that the products were purchased in the Mainland, and subsequently smuggled into the region.

In the same statement, the SA reaffirms their continued efforts to fight illicit activities such as these, including strengthening their collection of information, which requests that the public report any suspicious sales of cigarettes. **RM**

Lotus Flower Festival attracted hundreds of visitors daily

Daniel Beitler

A green canvas peppered with pink specks was a sight to behold yesterday at the Praia de Nossa Senhora da Esperança, the wetlands area in the south of Taipa, where the 17th Macau Lotus Flower Festival has been on show for the last 10 days.

Thousands of lotus flowers have decorated the wetlands landscape since June 10, attracting as many as 300 visitors per day. Even the rain over the weekend could not deter the droves of visitors, whom arrived in groups of several dozens yesterday to snap pictures of this annual celebration.

Many visitors chose to survey the scene from the promenade alongside the Taipa Houses-Museum, overlooking the Cotai Strip, while others descended into the marshy ecological area for a closer look. More lotus flowers were arranged in an area adjacent to the waterlogged site, which usually features an assorted flower garden.

Security officials at the site, who



kept track of visitors with handheld counters, estimate that the event drew about 300 visitors to the site per day. At around 4 p.m. on Sunday, one official estimated that 200 people had entered the wetlands area that day, despite the incessant rain.

The byline of this year's festival was "The Scent of Lotus Perfumes - The City of Macau," and the themed specimen was the *Nelumbo nucifera* "Haojiang Bibo".

The Haojiang Bibo specimen is a relatively new species that was purposefully cultivated by the mainland's lotus flower study center to commemorate the Macau SAR's 10th anniversary in 2009.

Nelumbo nucifera, commonly cul-

tivated in water gardens, is a species native to tropical Asia and Queensland, Australia. It holds a special significance in various cultures: In Buddhist symbolism, the flower represents purity of the body and mind, and in some Asian cultures it serves as an icon of femininity.

The flower also has a close historical connection to Macau. The centerpiece of the territory's flag is a white lotus flower, and it is also embodied in parts of the city's architecture, including the large bronze statue in the Golden Lotus Square as well as serving as the inspiration behind the Grand Lisboa casino's unusual shape.

The 17th Macau Lotus Flower Festival officially concluded yesterday.

AD



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"Planeamento do Desenvolvimento da Região Metropolitana da Grande Baía de Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau"

Participação de Macau na Grande Baía Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau

Para mais informação, aceder à página electrónica

<https://www.gce.gov.mo/bayarea>

Em 2017, no relatório de trabalho do Governo aprovado durante a V Reunião do 12º Congresso da Assembleia Popular Nacional, o Primeiro-ministro, Li Keqiang, afirmou que "é necessário incrementar a cooperação aprofundada entre o interior da China, Hong Kong e Macau, analisar como elaborar um plano de desenvolvimento para a região metropolitana da Grande Baía Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau, em que as duas regiões especiais possam actuar conforme suas vantagens específicas, fomentando a sua importância e função para o desenvolvimento nacional e para a abertura da China ao exterior". Actualmente, a Comissão Nacional de Desenvolvimento e Reforma lidera e impulsiona os trabalhos de elaboração do "Planeamento do Desenvolvimento da Região Metropolitana da Grande Baía de Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau".

O Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau apoia activamente a elaboração do "Planeamento do Desenvolvimento da Região Metropolitana da Grande Baía de Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau", ou seja, participa, de forma pragmática e eficiente, na construção da Grande Baía, a fim de criar melhor ambiente interno e externo para o desenvolvimento de Macau.

A nossa interligação ao 13º Plano Quinquenal e à iniciativa nacional "Uma Faixa, Uma Rota", é necessário integrar e planear a implementação do "Plano Quinquenal de Desenvolvimento da RAEM (2016 - 2020)" e a participação na construção da Grande Baía Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau. A nossa equipa está a analisar e acompanhar activamente os vários trabalhos inerentes a esta matéria. As opiniões da sociedade sobre a participação de Macau na Grande Baía são bem-vindas.

Oito áreas prioritárias

- Criar uma plataforma de cooperação
- Diversificação adequada da Economia
- Qualidade de Vida/Bem-Estar Social
- Intercâmbio de pessoas e de cultura
- Cooperação bilateral
- Infra-estrutura
- Inovação tecnológica
- Promoção e divulgação

Dois papéis

- 1 Incentivar a compreensão correcta e execução integral de "Um País, Dois Sistemas".
- 2 Criar laços de cooperação para servir o desenvolvimento de "Uma Faixa, Uma Rota"

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- Centro Mundial de Turismo e Lazer
- Plataforma de Serviços para a Cooperação Comercial entre a China e os Países de Língua Portuguesa
- Base de cooperação e diálogo: "tendo a cultura chinesa como dominante, promover a coexistência de diversas culturas"



Grande Baía

Actividade de recolha de opiniões referente à participação da RAEM no "Plano do Desenvolvimento da Região Metropolitana da Grande Baía de Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau" realiza-se entre 13 e 28 de Junho de 2017.

Os interessados podem apresentar as suas opiniões através de:

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Fonte informativa: Gabinete do Porta-voz do Governo da Região Administrativa Especial de Macau



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AL PLENARY

'Residents-only' housing proposals criticized

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKER Ng Kuok Cheong's motion to debate public interests, in particular the housing issues on the region's reclamation land, was rejected by the majority of lawmakers at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting on Friday.

Ng proposed a motion whereby the government would ensure that Macau's reclamation lands will be used for Macau people, specifically for permanent residents.

While delivering his proposal, Ng said that the government should save part of the lands to build public and economical houses.

The lawmaker blamed the government's housing policies as residents are unable to afford to buy houses. His motion found its first opponent in Lau Veng Seng, who defended the government by saying that it, while ensuring the residence rights of residents, has reasonable housing policies which will not be opposed by anyone.

In Lau's opinion, using residency as one of the requirements to be eligible to purchase houses on reclamation lands is not necessary.

"This will not help solve the problems and it will cause a negative impact on



[Macau's] urban design and development," said Lau, pointing out that demanding a local ID will be equivalent to Macau disallowing non-locals from residing in Macau.

"It is equal to creating barriers around itself," said Lau, adding that "all it does is harm, and it is unconstructive [for Macau] for attracting talented human resources and investors."

Lawmaker Vong Hin Fai also opposed the motion. "Macau is a city of immigrants, an international city; people from everywhere in the country come to Macau," said Vong, adding that the notion of "Macau People, Macau Land" will make foreigners interpret

Macau as an exclusive and closed place. "It harms the long-term development."

Another opponent was Lam Heong Sang, who voted against the motion but presented different motives.

According to Lam, it is better for the AL to urge the government to complete the construction of public housing projects, which the government has been working on for many years.

Lam believes that all efforts will be in vain if the government is slow in building public houses.

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun and Ho Ion Sang both voiced that, currently, the government should prioritize the control of the continuously growing housing

prices.

Fong Chi Keong said that the housing policies indeed have problems, and added that the government is "lazy in terms of housing policies."

Fong stated that Macau has different classes of customers and, because of this, the local government should split the city's land resources into different parts in order to meet the needs of every single class.

Au Kam San, who is on the motion supporters' side, noted first that he supports all motions, and he considers that Ng's motion should be debated at the AL "exactly because it is very controversial." According to Ng, the idea of "Macau People, Macau Land" will not exclude non-residents.

Melinda Chan also expressed the idea that a controversial motion deserves AL debate.

Song Pek Kei, also supporting the motion, noted that the Macau public is strongly concerned about new lands available for housing.

After the motion was rejected, Ma Chi Seng remarked that the "Macau People, Macau Land" concept has already reached a consensus among all sectors.

Ma noted that land development should take economic factors into account, and should also meet the needs of all classes in the city.

Ma pointed out however that "it is fairly difficult for Macau to explore and utilize its limited resources" under the instruction of the "Macau People Macau land" idea.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

RECLAMATION Si Ka Lon suggested the government should reclaim 30 square kilometers of land from the 850 square kilometers that the central government granted to Macau. Si's inquiry indicated that Macau has an outstanding issue in what concerns the city's residences. The city's industrial development has been constrained due to the lack of land, which affects a myriad of industries. Si suggested the local government to create a large scale "fourth space" on reclamation land.

ELDERLY UNIVERSITY Angela Leong looks forward to the government establishing a university specifically for the elderly. She hopes that the school can produce life-long free education to the elderly. Courses such as using medicine safely, customer protection, and psychology regarding the elderly are suggested features. The university would help the elderly to plan their lives and to become re-acquainted with society. The Macau Polytechnic Institute currently has a quota of 480 vacancies for the elderly to enroll for study in the school's college, with Leong deeming that this quota cannot meet the reality of an aging population.

CIVIL SERVANTS **EVALUATION** Chan Meng Kam addressed the evaluation system of the local government's civil servants as a system where "students take exams, and their parents score the exams", indicating that higher government officials evaluate their subordinates and therefore the evaluation is not reliable. "I don't understand why governors cover for each other," complained Chan, pointing out that the system has secretaries evaluating bureau heads, and bureau heads evaluating department directors. Chan noted that civil servants working at the frontlines will be investigated once these employees are evaluated with bad grades. The lawmaker also said that the "closed and opaque civil servants" evaluation system would be "intact for 50 years."

Tougher laws to prevent sex crimes

THE amendment of Macau's laws relating to sexual harassment and sexual activities with minors was passed by the Legislative Assembly (AL) on Friday.

Melinda Chan questioned whether, in case that the victim of sexual harassment is a minor under 14 years old, the prosecution office (besides the victim's guardian) can take the initiative to sue the suspect.

Mak Soi Kun said that minors mature early in modern times. He questioned the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, about how he authority would handle cases of rape where both involved parties are minors.

A legal affairs representative explained that it would be considered on a case-by-case basis, and that final judgement will depend on judiciary authorities.

After the amendment was passed, several lawmakers made a few remarks regarding the law.

Wong Kit Cheng commented that the law

still needs to be amended, as verbal sexual harassment is currently unaddressed by the law.

"It is the first step," said Wong, adding that it is still vital for front workers to enhance their abilities in handling related cases. She hopes that the government will be able to pass laws more effective for preventing sexual harassment.

She further suggested the government to implement administrative punishment for suspects.

Zheng Anting and Mak admitted that the amendment was proposed in response to the appeals of society, thus securing its stability, as well as for the protection of minors.

However, Chan pointed out that the law still has flaws. "It [the amended law] does not wholly protect children," remarked Chan, adding that "the government can be more considerate, and the law can be amended later. I will keep fighting for it."

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



Soi Cheung, Taipa Village

(Ref: 15090530)
700sq. ft. HKD 13,800

Cute one bedroom apartment situated in the centre of Taipa village only 15 minute from Cotai. Wonderful private terrace furnished with modern outdoor furniture, built in store and outdoor washing machine. Lovely living area with a largebespoke TV cabinet and 2 metre sofa. Open plan kitchen with sleek white cabinets incorporating a built in cooktop and small oven, good size free standing fridge/freezer. Separate shower room with plenty of built in storage.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 16120629)
2000sq. ft. HKD 19,800

LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Adjacent to the dining area there is a wonderful outside area perfect for barbecuing and al fresco dining.

For Sale



Sakura Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 17065521)
2,063sq. ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,574sq ft

This medium size apartment in the complex of Hellene Gardens, is spacious, bright, with every room enjoying a beautiful leafy green view of the surrounding mountains and countryside. Nicely renovated throughout the living rooms balcony is built in with floor to ceiling windows making the room feel even larger. Two of the three bedrooms are doubles with the third generally used as a single roomer home office.



Hellene Gardens, Buttercup Court, G Unit

(Ref: 17055520)
1,663sq. ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 4,798sq ft

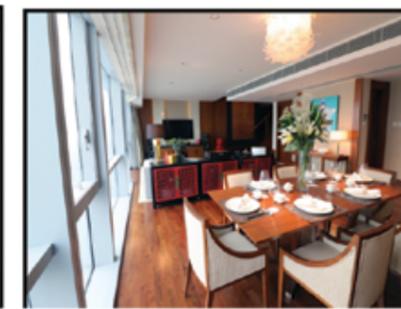
Stunning apartment with open view across towards the back of Hac Sa Beach. Renovated five years ago to a very high standard. The owner opened up the kitchen making a wonderful entertainment area for both living and dining, off the living room is a great size balcony for Al Fresco dining. Further renovations not required.



The Manhattan - Taipa

(Ref: 17035515)
2,305sq. ft. HKD 18.209M
Rate: HKD 7,900sq ft

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



Mandarin Residences Serviced Duplex

(Ref: 17065522)
3,487sq. ft. HKD 88M
Rate: HKD 25,236sq ft

The property comes tastefully designed with elegant, high-grade furnishing and floor-to-ceiling windows that provides a breath-taking panoramic view of the sea and Macau. The modern galley kitchen on the first floor comes fully-fitted with high-grade and stylish appliances from Miele and plenty of space, and the private study room offers the quiet that you need to complete your business affairs



Kam Lai Kuok

(Ref: 17035512)
1,380sq. ft. HKD 8.88M
Rate: HKD 6,434sq 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.

Carpark available separately at HKD1.8M.

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 accompanying Car Park is also for sale, and may be purchased together with the property.

Email: Info@JMLProperty.com



Roof Top Apartment, Macau

(Ref: 15055441)
799sq. ft. HKD3.98M
Rate: HKD4,981sq ft

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

To view call us now on 2835 2699.



Wan Yu Villa, D Unit, Macau

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

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

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

Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon
(English Speaker)
T: (853) 6680 9804
Juliet@JMLProperty.com

Disney's Iger says Shanghai resort close to breaking even

WALT Disney Co.'s ambitious USD5.5 billion Shanghai theme park is close to breaking even after its first full year of operations - a mark none of its resorts have been able to hit in the last 30 years, said Chief Executive Officer Bob Iger.

"That's an extraordinary achievement. I'm not sure we've ever done that," said Iger in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Tom Mackenzie on Friday as the Shanghai Disney Resort celebrated its first anniversary. "After the first year, I'm pleased to say that prospects are really strong for continued success and continued growth."

The park logged more than 11 million visitors earlier this week, Iger said. The Shanghai development, Disney's first in mainland China and its largest foreign investment, throws the Burbank, California-based giant into the race to dominate the country's \$204 billion media and entertainment industry.

In China, there's potential for Disney to build a second park in the long run, Iger said, adding it would focus on the Shanghai resort first. A Toy Story themed land opening is planned for next year.



"Before we really look to the horizon geographically, we will focus on expanding this park," Iger said. "Might we build in another city over time? Yes. There's a great likelihood that we will. But it's way too early."

Half the resort's visitors are from Shanghai and adjacent areas, with the remainder coming from other Chinese cities, Iger said. Park attendance is higher than expected, with "extremely high" occupancy rates at its hotel.

The food and beverage business, as well as merchandising, has faced some challenges, he said.

The resort's attendance for the 12 months after its opening puts it in the top seven of theme parks worldwide, ahead of Disney's Hong Kong and Paris parks but behind its most popular parks in Florida, California and Japan.

Tokyo Disneyland logged 16.5 million visitors last year, while the company's most popular park, Magic Kingdom in Florida

boasted more than 20 million visitors, according to data from the Themed Entertainment Association and consulting firm Aecom. It is also China's most-visited park, ahead of rival Chimelong Ocean Kingdom in Hengqin, which saw 7.5 million visitors in 2016, according to the data.

Disney's international parks, with the exception of the Tokyo resorts, which it does not own or operate, have struggled with attendance. The Hong Kong park

clocked 6.1 million visitors in fiscal 2016, a 11 percent decline from a year earlier, and it reported a second consecutive year of net loss. Disney said this week that it would delist Euro Disney S.C.A after 27 years as an independent company. Still, profit for its parks and resorts segment grew 9 percent to \$3.3 billion for fiscal 2016.

■ The resort's attendance for the 12 months after its opening puts it in the top seven of theme parks worldwide

Iger said the company's priorities in China are its theme park and expanding the footprint of its movie business in China. "The movie market is important. This is second largest market in the world," he said.

Iger said that an online-only version of the company's sports offerings will be introduced toward the end of this year. Disney's largest business, TV programming, last month reported lower-than-expected sales revenue and slipping profits as more viewers watch video online while sports leagues keep demanding more money. Ratings and subscribers have dropped for its ESPN and ABC networks. **Bloomberg**

Chinese businessman Guo sued in New York for slander, libel

David Voreacos,
Andrew Harris

CHINESE real estate businessman Guo Wengui, who has feuded with China's ruling Communist Party, faces at least three U.S. lawsuits by companies and people in China claiming he made defamatory statements tying them to corruption.

Guo, who chose in 2015 to live in exile in a lavish New York apartment, has used social media platforms like Facebook and YouTube to launch blistering attacks on many of China's elite, accusing them of graft amid a national anti-corruption campaign. Some of his targets are firing back in New York state court.

HNA Group Co., a Chinese conglomerate, sued Thursday, claiming Guo made defamatory and libelous

statements, including that Chinese Communist party officials are undisclosed shareholders in the company.

Guo has also falsely claimed government officials and relatives used company "aircraft for purely personal reasons, including to engage in illicit sexual activity," according to a legal notice in New York state Supreme Court. The complaint wasn't immediately available. HNA, Deutsche Bank AG's largest shareholder, owns commercial real estate in the U.S. It seeks unspecified money damages.

An attorney who represents Guo on the Caixin Media and Soho China cases defended his statements.

"He stands by the veracity of the comments that he's been making," said attorney Duncan Levin. "The

complaints against him are baseless. As a matter of law, their complaints are simply wrong."

Guo, who also goes by the name Miles Kwok, has a strong social media presence with more than 250,000 followers on Twitter and slickly produced videos on Facebook and YouTube that garner tens of thousands of views.

In April, Caixin Media Co. Ltd and its editor-in-chief, Hu Shuli, sued Guo for libel. Hu claimed Guo launched a barrage of defamatory claims after she published a report examining his business dealings and asserting he conspired to oust Beijing's deputy mayor. A furious Guo responded with a campaign of public lies, according to the complaint by Caixin and Hu.

Guo falsely claimed Hu had an extramarital affair,

bore an illegitimate child, participated in sex games, abused drugs, extorted opponents, published false stories and defrauded companies, according to the filing. Caixin and Hu

are seeking unspecified compensatory and punitive damages. Guo has asked for the suit to be dismissed, saying in court that his statements weren't defamatory and that translations of the comments into English may be incorrect.

A real estate development firm, Soho China Ltd., and its co-founder, Pan Shiyi, sued for slander on June 2. Guo, they claim,

falsely accused Soho and Pan of illegally colluding with government officials, manipulating information about company ownership and improperly procuring favorable zoning changes.

Guo also falsely stated that Pan's wife, the company's chief executive officer, had an extramarital affair with the son of a high-ranking government official, according to the complaint. **Bloomberg**

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Anbang's deal spree leaves it with these assets around globe



Anbang's Chairman Wu Xiaohui was detained in China

ANBANG Insurance Group Co. notched up more than USD10 billion of foreign acquisitions during a three-year global takeover binge, a campaign that brought Chairman Wu Xiaohui into the orbit of Wall Street and Washington elites before coming to a halt as Chinese authorities moved to rein in acquisitive insurers.

Wu's responsibilities have now been handed over to other senior executives, and Chinese authorities have asked banks to suspend some business dealings with the insurer after the chairman was detained. The move makes Wu the latest of several tycoons to run afoul of officials

cracking down on financial risk-taking.

None flew higher than Anbang's Wu, or crashed so precipitously. He burst onto the U.S. scene in October 2014, with the record \$1.95-billion agreement to buy New York's landmark Waldorf Astoria hotel. Five months later, he took on Marriott International Inc. with an 11th-hour rival bid for Starwood Hotels & Resorts Worldwide, before walking away a few weeks later. Wu bought real estate and financial services companies in Asia, Europe and North America, including the purchase of Strategic Hotels & Resorts as well as an office building in midtown Manhattan to house Anbang's

U.S. headquarters.

The list of deals Anbang didn't complete is about as long. Besides Starwood Hotels, Anbang failed to complete a purchase of Fidelity & Guaranty Life last April and talks for a potential investment in a Manhattan office building co-owned by the family of President Trump's son-in-law Jared Kushner broke off in March. In Europe, deals involving Anbang that didn't go ahead include Portugal's Novo Banco, Hypo Real Estate AG in Germany and Heron Tower in London. China's cross-border purchases overall plunged 67 percent during the first four months of this year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

SOME OF ANBANG'S LARGEST PURCHASES

U.S. AND CANADA

- Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York - 100% owned - Paid \$1.95 billion - Acquired February 2015 - Condo conversion started in March will take about three years
- 717 Fifth Avenue in New York, Anbang's U.S. headquarters - Office portion 100% owned - Paid about \$415 million - Acquired around May 2015
- Strategic Hotels & Resorts Inc., based in Chicago - 100% owned - Deal valued at about \$6.5 billion at time of agreement - Acquired September 2016 - Owns about 15 hotels, including marquee assets like San Francisco's Westin St. Francis (valued at \$1 billion by Real Capital Analytics Inc.), JW Marriott Essex House in New York (\$705 million) and the InterContinental Chicago (\$508 million)
- Bental Centre in Vancouver - 100% owned, bought in two stages - Terms not disclosed - Agreed in May 2016 to buy remaining 33 percent in a deal valuing the complex at more than CAD1 billion (\$754 million), according to people familiar with the matter
- InnVest Real Estate Investment Trust, one of Canada's largest hotel owners - Stated acquirer was Bluesky Hotels & Resorts Inc., which may have ties to Anbang, people with knowledge of the matter said at the time - Paid CAD2.1 billion (\$1.6 billion) - Acquired May 2016
- 70 York Street in Toronto, 17-story office building - 100% owned - Paid CAD110 million - Acquired September 2015

EUROPE, MIDDLE EAST AND AFRICA

- Fidea NV, Antwerp, Belgium - Paid 369 million euros - Acquired May 2015
- Delta Lloyd Bank, Brussels, Belgium - Paid 206 million euros - Acquired July 2015, now known as Nagelmackers
- Vivat NV, Utrecht, Netherlands - Paid 1 euro for initial acquisition, agreed to invest 1.35 billion euros to recapitalize company - Acquired July 2015
- Other European assets - Anbang used Vivat to purchase more than 500 million euros of office properties in cities including Amsterdam and Utrecht from Blackstone Group LP, people with knowledge of the matter said in October 2016 - The Dutch unit also acquired \$1.1 billion of residential mortgages from Rabobank in deal announced in March 2016

ASIA PACIFIC

- Tongyang Life Insurance Co. in South Korea - Paid more than 1.1 trillion won (\$969 million) for controlling stake - Acquired in September 2015
- Allianz SE's insurance operations in South Korea - Paid 1.6 million euros - Acquired in December 2016

HONG KONG

Diversity in focus at same-sex visa appeal hearing

Alfred Liu, Darren Boey

A Hong Kong appeals court has started hearing arguments over a case that has raised questions over the city's allure as a diversity-friendly employment destination.

Lawyers for a British lesbian - named in court documents only as QT - are seeking to overturn a March 2016 ruling supporting the government's rejection of her application to reside in Hong Kong as a dependent of her partner. Two years earlier, the immigration department had knocked back QT's application essentially because it didn't recognize same-sex marriages.

The case has drawn interest from multinational companies as it hinders the ability of international firms to offer gay professionals residency permits for their partners - a privilege available to married hetero-

sexual couples. Leading up to the hearings, 12 financial firms including Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Morgan Stanley had unsuccessfully applied as a group to support QT in her appeal.

The immigration department's existing policy "deters gay people from coming to Hong Kong," Dinah Rose, one of QT's lawyers, said Thursday, the first day of the hearings. Twelve "household names" were prepared to say "this policy is detrimental" in recruiting talent, said Rose, a prominent U.K. barrister.

QT's case and a separate one involving a Hong Kong civil servant have thrown the focus recently on rights for gay spouses in the city, which doesn't recognize same-sex marriage. In April, a gay immigration officer won his court battle to have his partner granted the same spou-

sal benefits as his heterosexual colleagues. The government is appealing that decision, the South China Morning Post reported last month.

QT's saga began when her partner was offered a job in Hong Kong, prompting the couple to move to the city in late 2011, court documents show. The pair entered into a civil partnership in the U.K. in May 2011, which gave them the same rights and responsibilities as a married couple under British law. QT unsuccessfully applied for her own dependent and employment visas at least three times.

The final rejection was in June 2014. Underpinning the immigration department's decision was its definition of "spouse," which was "based on monogamy and the concept of a married couple consisting of one male and one female," the court

documents show.

QT challenged that decision in court in May 2015, saying the decision had discriminated against her sexual orientation, and also infringed upon articles in Hong Kong's constitution. That challenge was knocked back by High Court Judge Thomas Au in March 2016.

QT is seeking the ability and benefits as a married couple. They are actually unmarried.

MONICA CARSS-FRISK
GOVERNMENT'S DEFENSE

Speaking in the government's defense, lawyer Monica Carss-Frisk said on Friday - the final day of the appeal hearings - that QT's civil partnership isn't recognized by Hong Kong law. "QT is seeking the ability and benefits as a married couple," said Carss-Frisk. "They are actually unmarried."

The previous day, QT's lawyer Rose cited a separate government policy introduced last June by which same-sex spouses and civil partners of consulate officials would now be permitted to stay as dependents, the SCMP reported on Friday.

"It illustrates there is no practical or legal difficulty at all in extending" recognition to all same-sex dependents," the newspaper quoted her as saying. Rose has previously represented News Corp. and Julian Assange, the founder of the WikiLeaks website. **Bloomberg**

'Failed in London, try Hong Kong' fades as China beckons

Darren Boey, Keri Geiger

ANDREW Sullivan remembers the days when a young Brit could hustle his way into a job in Hong Kong finance. He ought to know: He did it.

It was 1996, the twilight of British Hong Kong, when Sullivan arrived with a resume that couldn't get him into a bank in the City of London. The former fighter pilot and chartered surveyor was soon hired as a stock analyst.

"You didn't need a CV that was perfect," said Sullivan, now 55. What you needed, he said, was gumption - and the will to chase business.

But like the Union Jack and other trappings of empire, those days are long gone. Two decades after Britain returned its last major colony, the balance of power in this city, and its financial industry, has tilted decidedly toward all things China.

More and more, even experienced bankers are struggling to find and keep jobs if they don't speak Mandarin, the lingua franca of the mainland. The same goes for those without a mastery of China's business culture, or, more, connections across the border.

Granted, this shift was underway long before the fireworks popped over Victoria Harbor on July 1, 1997, marking the end of more than 150 years of British rule. Colonial privilege - the perks of one's passport and kinship with the home office - could never withstand globalization. China's economic rise, and the world's rush to capitalize on it, only speeded the change.

And so it is that another British tradition is going the way of



Andrew Sullivan, former managing director of sales trading at Haitong International Securities Group

"God Save the Queen" in Hong Kong.

For years, the territory's Chinese, and even its China-savvy expatriates, derisively called indulged Brits FILTH, which stands for Failed In London, Try Hong Kong. Expats who might have never worked in the City, Europe's financial hub, could walk into good jobs and cut deals in the soft-carpeted confines of the Hong Kong Club or over a pint at the Captain's Bar in the Mandarin Oriental.

Now FILTH is in terminal decline, its fate seemingly sealed by cost-cutting throughout the financial industry.

John Mullally, an executive recruiter, said that as recently as 2010, expatriates from Britain and the rest of Europe, plus those from the U.S. and Australia, landed 40 percent of his finance job placements. Today, that figure is 15 percent.

"On a weekly basis I get quite a few senior bankers that 15 years ago would have picked up a job straightaway, but today they're really struggling," said Mullally, who runs Robert Walters Plc's banking practice in Hong Kong.

At Citigroup Inc., Chinese students will account for the majority of university graduates the firm intends to hire full time in Hong Kong next year, according to James Mendes, the U.S. bank's Asia-Pacific head of recruitment. For the past two years, JPMorgan Chase & Co. has hired more than 40 percent of its full-time graduates and interns for Hong Kong from local universities, a number the bank expects to increase as it ramps up business in the region.

Private banks are also looking for China-skilled staff to help them capture a slice of the country's burgeoning wealth. Bank of Singapore Ltd., a unit of Over-

sea-Chinese Banking Corp., for example, hired 20 Mandarin-speaking relationship managers in Hong Kong this year.

Scarce, too, for expats are perks like generous housing allowances and memberships to such elite clubs as the Royal Hong Kong Yacht Club, which, unlike most Hong Kong institutions, has retained its "royal" association - or, for Americans, the American Club. The value of a typical expatriate middle-manager package in Hong Kong fell to a five-year low in 2016, according to a recent survey by consultancy firm ECA International. Still, that's USD265,500.

Now FILTH is in terminal decline, its fate seemingly sealed by cost-cutting throughout the financial industry

Ben Quinlan hardly qualifies as FILTH. But he's felt the walls close in. Born in Hong Kong and educated in Australia, he doesn't speak Mandarin.

When he returned to Hong Kong, in 2007, he hoped to land a job in investment banking. Instead, he had to settle for one in internal strategy at UBS Group AG, where speaking Chinese wasn't a requirement.

"Young junior bankers without language skills are so rare the-

se days," said Quinlan, 33, who now runs his own financial consulting firm.

Most global banks have tried to bring in Chinese power brokers. Many of these bankers are not only bilingual but also bicultural - products of elite Western universities who can move seamlessly between China and the global Wall Street. Many also bring deep connections to China's leadership and state-owned enterprises. Now mostly in their 40s and 50s, they include Morgan Stanley's Wei Sun Christianson and Credit Suisse Group AG's Janice Hu.

For the most part, divisional and regional leadership roles in Hong Kong are still held mostly by expatriates. But a new generation of Chinese financial pros, most with language skills and many with top degrees, have filled the lower ranks - and seem destined to rise. That's bad news for all expats, FILTH or otherwise.

"People here are very pragmatic, and they will adjust their line of sight to where it allows them to make the most money," said Mullally, the recruiter.

Two decades ago, Sullivan broke into Hong Kong finance as a 35-year-old Royal Air Force veteran with no experience in the industry. He moved on from equity research into a successful career in sales trading, albeit one outside the big leagues of the Goldmans or Morgan Stanleys.

Now his career has taken another turn. After two years working for the Chinese, overseeing sales trading at securities firm Haitong International Securities Group Ltd., on May 31 he was given his marching orders. His position had been made redundant.

He's looking for a new job in Hong Kong and says he's had some promising conversations with recruiters. After 20 years, Asia is what he knows.

"I've got nothing in common with the U.K. now," he said.

Bloomberg

US accuses Chinese company of transferring N. Korean money

CHINA said Friday it doesn't want governments to extend their laws to cover other countries after Washington asked a court to seize USD1.9 million from a Chinese company accused of helping North Korea evade financial sanctions.

The U.S. complaint Thursday comes as the administration of President Donald Trump tries to step up pressure on North Korea to give up nuclear weapons development.

The Justice Department accused Mingzheng International Trading Ltd., in the northeastern city of Shenyang, of conducting transactions for North Korea's state-owned Foreign Trade Bank. Their complaint said the bank is barred from the U.S. financial system under sanctions imposed in response to the North's nuclear weapons development.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said he had no details about the

company but said Beijing "has been strictly and precisely implementing" U.N. sanctions.

However, Lu said the Foreign Trade Bank is not on the Security Council sanctions list.

"China opposes any country extending its long-arm jurisdiction over other countries based on so-called domestic law," he said.

Despite sanctions, experts say North Korea uses covert operations to obtain foreign currency

and materials that can be used by its weapons program.

Beijing is the North's main source of aid and diplomatic support but has shown growing frustration with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Chinese officials told U.S. diplomats in May they had tightened inspections and policing along the border with North Korea, according to Acting Assistant Secretary of State Susan Thornton.

Thursday's announcement said Mingzheng International Trading is accused of making transactions in October and November of 2015 on behalf of Foreign Trade Bank.

"Mingzheng acts as a front company for a covert Chinese branch of the Foreign Trade Bank," the announcement said. "This branch is operated by a Chinese national who has historically been tied to the Foreign Trade Bank."

It said the case would represent one of the largest U.S. seizures of North Korean funds. It gave no details of which U.S. financial institutions were used by Mingzheng International Trading.

There is no phone listing in Shenyang for Mingzheng International Trading. People who answered the phone at another company in Shenyang with a somewhat similar name, Mingchang Century Trading Ltd., hung up when asked about the U.S. accusation.

Chinese authorities announced in September they were investigating another company, Hongxiang Industrial Development Co., which foreign researchers said sold the North materials that can be used by its nuclear weapons program. The results have not been announced. **AP**

IS threat in Southeast Asia raises alarm in Washington

SOUTHEAST Asia's jihadis who fought by the hundreds for the Islamic State group in Iraq and Syria now have a different battle closer to home in the southern Philippines. It's a scenario raising significant alarm in Washington.

The recent assault by IS-aligned fighters on the Philippine city of Marawi has left more than 300 people dead, exposing the shortcomings of local security forces and the extremist group's spreading reach in a region where counterterrorism gains are coming undone.

Defense Secretary Jim Mattis told Congress last week a long-running U.S. military operation to help Philippine forces contain extremist fighters was canceled prematurely three years ago. Small numbers of U.S. special forces remain in an "advise and assist" role, and the U.S. is providing aerial surveillance to help the Philippines retake Marawi, an inland city of more than 200,000 people.

But lawmakers, including from President Donald Trump's Republican Party, want a bigger U.S. role, short of boots on the ground.



Debris and smoke rises after a Philippine Air Force fighter jets bombed suspected locations of Muslim militants in Marawi city

They fear the area is becoming a new hub for Islamist fighters from Southeast Asia and beyond.

"I don't know that ISIS are directing operations there but they are certainly trying to get fighters into that region," said Republican Sen. Joni Ernst of Iowa, using another acronym for the group. "We need to address the situation. It should not get out of control."

U.S. intelligence and counterterrorism officials note that IS has publicly accepted pledges from various groups in the Philippines. In a June 2016 video, it called on followers in Southeast Asia to go to the Philippines if they cannot reach Syria.

About 40 foreigners, mostly

from neighboring Indonesia and Malaysia, have been among 500 involved in fighting in Marawi, the Philippine military says. Reports indicate at least one Saudi, a Chechen and a Yemeni killed. In all, more than 200 militants have died in the standoff, now in its fourth week.

Video obtained by The Associated Press from the Philippine military indicates an alliance of local Muslim fighters, aligned with IS, are coordinating complex attacks. They include the Islamic State's purported leader in Southeast Asia: Isnilon Hapilon, a Filipino on Washington's list of most-wanted terrorists, with a USD5 million bounty on his head.

U.S. officials are assessing whether any of the estimated 1,000 Southeast Asians who traveled to Iraq and Syria in recent years are fighting in Catholic-majority Philippines. They fear ungoverned areas in the mostly Muslim region around Marawi could make the area a terror hub as in the 1990s.

Then, the Philippines was a base of operations for al-Qaida leaders like Khalid Sheikh Mohammed and Ramzi Yousef, who plotted in 1994-95 to blow up airliners over the Pacific. The plot was foiled. But the same men were instrumental in the 9/11 attacks on the United States.

Other nations share the fear. Singapore recently warned of IS exerting a radicalizing influence "well beyond" what that of al-Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah ever mustered. Jemaah Islamiyah carried out major terror attacks around the region in the 2000s. IS already has been linked to attacks in Indonesia and Malaysia, and foiled plots in Singapore, this past year.

This month, Mattis told the region's defense chiefs that "together we must act now to prevent

this threat from growing." In Congress this past week, he stressed intelligence sharing and nations like Singapore sharing the burden, rather than deploying U.S. troops.

More than 500 U.S. special forces were based in the Mindanao region from 2002 to 2014, advising and training Filipino forces against the Abu Sayyaf, a group notorious for bombings and kidnappings. When it ended, Philippine and U.S. officials voiced concern the U.S. withdrawal "could lead to a resurgence of a renewed terrorist threat," the RAND Corp. later reported. Months before the withdrawal, Abu Sayyaf pledged support to IS.

Supporting the Philippines isn't straightforward in Washington. President Rodrigo Duterte is accused of overlooking and even condoning indiscriminate killings by his forces in a war on drugs. Thousands have died. But that campaign has involved mainly police and anti-narcotic forces, not the military leading the anti-IS fight.

Still, the Philippine government is partly to blame for Marawi's violence, said Zachary Abuza, a Southeast Asia expert at the National War College. He said the root cause was the government's failure to fulfill a 2014 peace agreement with the nation's largest Muslim insurgency, which fueled recruitment for IS-inspired groups. **AP**



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Navy stops search for 7 missing sailors after bodies found

Mari Yamaguchi, Yokosuka

THE search for seven U.S. Navy sailors missing after their destroyer collided with a container ship off Japan was called off yesterday after several bodies were found in the ship's flooded compartments, including sleeping quarters.

Vice Adm. Joseph Aucoin, the commander of the Navy's 7th Fleet, described the damage and flooding as extensive, including a big puncture under the waterline. The crew had to fight to keep the ship afloat, he said, and the ship's captain is lucky to have survived.

"The damage was significant, this was not a small collision," he said.

Navy divers found "a number of" bodies in the ship yesterday, a day after it returned to the 7th Fleet's home base in Yokosuka, Japan, with the help of tug boats. Aucoin, speaking at a news conference at the base, wouldn't say how many



Journalists observe the damaged USS Fitzgerald at the U.S. Naval base in Yokosuka

bodies were recovered, pending notification of next of kin.

He said much of the crew of about 300 was asleep when the collision happened at 2:20 a.m. Saturday, and that one machinery room and two berthing areas for 116 crew members were

severely damaged.

"You can't see most of the damage, the damage is mostly underneath the waterline, and it's a large gash near the keel of the ship," he said. "So the water flow was tremendous, and so there wasn't a lot of time in those spaces that were

open to the sea. And as you can see now the ship is still listing, so they had to fight the ship to keep it above the surface. It was traumatic."

The Fitzgerald's captain, Cmdr. Bryce Benson, was airlifted from the ship's deck after daybreak Saturday to the U.S. Naval Hospital in Yokosuka with a head injury. Two other crew members suffered cuts and bruises and were also flown out by helicopter.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though the area is particularly busy with sea traffic

"His cabin was destroyed, he is lucky to be alive," Aucoin said of Benson.

The container ship ACX Crystal weighs 29,060 tons and is 222 meters long, much larger than the 8,315-ton Navy destroyer. The container ship's left bow was dented and scraped, but it did not appear to have sustained any major structural damage.

All of the ACX Crystal's 20-member Filipino crew were safe, said Japanese shipping company Nippon Yusen K.K., which operates the Philippine-flagged ship. The Japanese coast guard questioned crew members of the ACX Crystal, and is treating the incident as a case of possible professional negligence, said Masayuki Obara, a regional coast guard official.

Conditions were clear at the time of the collision, though the area is particularly busy with sea traffic.

The victims might have been killed by the impact of the crash or drowned in the flooding, said Navy spokesman Lt. Paul Newell, who led news media on a visit to get a first-hand look at the mangled vessel.

Aucoin wouldn't speculate on the cause of the collision. He said he would order a full and thorough investigation. **AP**

MALAYSIA

400 kilograms of pangolin scales from Ghana seized

MALAYSIAN customs officials said Friday they have seized nearly 400 kilograms of pangolin scales worth 5 million ringgit (USD1.2 million) from Ghana.

The seizure brings the total amount of confiscated pangolin scales to 1.4 tons in two months.

Kuala Lumpur airport customs director Hamzah Sundang said officials found the scales in 16 boxes labeled oyster shells at the airport cargo warehouse on Thursday based on a tip. He said the boxes arrived on a Turkish Airlines flight from Ghana and that no one had been arrested.

Eight species of pangolin, or scaly anteater, live in Asia and Africa and are targeted for their scales and meat. More than one million have been poached in the past decade, threatening the creature with extinction, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature.

In Vietnam and some parts of China, pangolin meat is considered a delicacy, while its scales of keratin, the protein also found in fingernails and



Royal Malaysian Customs Department officials show pangolin scales recently seized at Kuala Lumpur International Airport

rhino horn, are widely used in traditional Chinese medicine.

Last Friday, officials seized 288 kilograms (635 pounds) of pangolin scales at the airport cargo warehouse in 12 boxes also labeled oyster shells and flown in from Ghana. Those scales were worth about 3.7 million ringgit (\$870,000), officials said. In May, officials made two hauls totaling 712 kilograms and estimated to be worth more than 9 million ringgit (\$2.1 million).

Custom officials also have seized 18 rhino horns and 330 exotic tortoises at the airport wa-

rehouse since May.

Wildlife trade monitoring group TRAFFIC hailed Malaysia's seizures but voiced concern over the alarming volume of wildlife contraband from Africa.

"Multiple shipments comprising of rhino horns, pangolin scales and live critically endangered tortoises [...] entering Malaysia signifies a very worrying pattern; that traffickers feel they can continuously move their contraband through the country," Kanitha Krishnasamy, an official with TRAFFIC Southeast Asia, said in a statement this week. **AP**

Thai PM gives order to fast-track Chinese-backed railway

Kankanit Wiriyasajja, Bangkok

THE head of Thailand's military government has used his special powers to cut through regulations and launch work on a much-delayed 179 billion baht (USD5.27 billion) joint Thai-Chinese project for a new railway from Bangkok to the northeast.

Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha utilized Article 44 of the constitution imposed by the military after it seized power in May 2014. It allows him to issue orders overriding any other branch of government to promote public order and unity. Rights groups say it is essentially martial law in all but name.

The order, published late Thursday, covers construction of 252 kilometers to Nakhon Ratchasima. Extensions would eventually link Thailand's northern and southern borders, upgrading an antiquated system.

The rail project is part of China's "One Belt, One Road" project allowing cross-border development and con-



Thailand's coup leader Gen. Prayuth Chan-ocha

nectivity among Asian countries, Africa, China and Europe.

Rail links are an important element of the concept, with China promoting expensive rail projects in Asia and Africa.

Prayuth said Thursday that his order will allow Chinese architects and engineers to begin work on the project without the need to meet Thai licensing restrictions.

The order also overrides a rule mandating that projects of over 5 billion baht (\$147 million) be overseen by a committee and bypasses regulations about building in protected forest land, among other issues.

Transport Minister Arkhom Tempittayapaisith said last week that once the order was is-

sued, Thailand and China would be able to sign an agreement to begin construction by July.

The junta has been criticized for its frequent usage of Article 44, which was supposed to be for situations endangering public order.

Dr. Aksornsri Phanisharn, director of the Thai Chinese Strategic Research Center, said she supports the railway construction project because it will be a good opportunity for Thailand to improve its railway system. However, she strongly disagreed with the government's use of Article 44.

"I do not agree with any attempts to invoke the absolute power of the current Thai government under Article 44 for whatever reasons," she said. **AP**

Tougher Trump line toward Cuba delights hardliners on island

Michael Weissenstein, Havana

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's announcement of a tougher line toward Cuba has delighted hardliners on the island, who say it reveals the long-held U.S. aim of imposing American will on Cuba and justifies their wariness toward Washington.

The president's speech to Cuban exiles in Miami has also dismayed moderates who were working with pro-engagement Americans but now fear association with a policy of open hostility toward the communist system could make them targets for repression.

Trump and the Cuban-American Congress members who helped design the new policy pledged on Friday that it would block the flow of U.S. cash toward military-linked enterprises and direct it toward independent businesses, with the long-term aim of overturning President Raul Castro's government.

Members of Cuba's small but vibrant independent civil society say they fear the new policy will do more harm than good.

"Trump's become the independent business people's new enemy because — even though he's said he wants to help entrepreneurs — this new policy alienates entrepreneurs from the government," said Angel Rodriguez, a 27-year-old



A street sweeper cleans the sidewalk under a mural painting depicting U.S. President Donald Trump in Havana

sociologist who works with the Catholic Church in entrepreneurship-training programs. "That could bring them under fire now, and they could find themselves much weaker."

Trump's new policy retains key aspects of Obama's reforms, leaving full embassies in Washington and Havana and letting U.S. cruise and airlines continue service to Cuba, although it will make travel harder by requiring most Americans to come in groups and banning payments to military-linked businesses.

Former President Barack Obama's 2014 declaration of detente with Cuba prompted hundreds of islanders to launch media, entrepreneurship and cultural projects that were outside control of the

state but within the bounds of law, unlike the directly confrontational tactics of Cuba's small dissident groups.

Some of those new groups came under intense pressure during detente, particularly after Obama's May 2016 visit to the island. Despite bitter criticism and personal attacks, most have continued to operate, many with a degree of support from U.S. individuals and foundations that would have been impossible before the reestablishment of diplomatic relations.

Many government officials and their supporters saw the Obama policy as an attempt to lull Cuba into complacency and undermine the foundations of a communist system based in part of near-total control of virtually

every aspect of society, from animal-rights groups to the film industry.

Trump's hostile language toward the Castro government and his literal onstage embrace of Cuban-American exiles and Cuban dissidents has unmasked the United States' true intentions toward Cuba and made it easier for the government to instill unity across Cuban society, pro-government figures said Saturday.

"Faced with your words, the Cuban people stand up and, their flag held high, sing their war anthem!" said a Facebook post by Jennifer Bello Martinez, the head of Cuba's official Federation of University Students and, at 25, the youngest member of the powerful Council of State.

"If I were the Cuban government I'd put Trump's speech up in schools. I'd transcribe it in the history books. I'd print a copy for every Cuban," said Iroel Sanchez, a pro-government columnist and blogger who was fiercely critical of Obama. "In less than an hour he showed Cubans how U.S. policy works [...] The effect of this new policy will be strengthening the revolutionary leadership and seeing that it's right. This will galvanize things."

Among the few Cubans on the island who praised Trump was

Berta Soler, a leader of the dissident group Ladies in White who said she was prevented by the government from flying to Miami to attend the speech in person.

"The Cuban regime will always find an excuse to blame the U.S. government," she said. "After detente the people felt hopeful but there were no changes. The relationship must have conditions."

One of the most criticized, though tolerated, projects that have flourished since the declaration of detente is Cuba Possible, a think tank and online magazine dedicated to creating space for amicable dialogue about the future of Cuba. Its founders frequently travel overseas, including to conferences in the U.S.

"President Trump's policy makes itself, once again, part of the old policy of pressure and strangulation of the Cuban people," founders Lenier Gonzalez and Roberto Veiga wrote Saturday. "It's a continuation of old dynamics of confrontation that are immoral, unjust and illegitimate."

The Cuban government has given Trump's speech extensive coverage on official media. A young state journalist who described himself as loyal to the government but eager to see faster, broader reforms told The Associated Press that the government saw the speech as "the best course in anti-imperialism that could be given."

"This is the dream of the hard-line here," the journalist said on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak with the foreign press. "It's managed to unite the left and the center in Cuba." AP

Rout by Macron's party expected in French parliament vote

FRENCH voters are still casting ballots early today [Macau time] in the final round of parliamentary elections that could clinch President Emmanuel Macron's hold on power, as his fledgling party appears set to rout mainstream rivals and turn politics as usual on its head.

Pollsters say that after its dominant performance in last week's first-round vote, Macron's Republic on the Move! party could win up to 450 seats in the 577-seat National Assembly, the powerful lower chamber.

If the steamroller effect continues for Macron's party, half of whose candidates are women and the other half new to politics, France will have a chamber of representatives like few others, fulfilling the president's wish to renew a political class dominated by career politicians, peppered with corruption and losing credibility.

The strong mandate would also give the 39-year-old president a free hand to move fast with promised legislation, notably on changing labor laws to make hiring and firing easier.

That prospect worries both rivals and some voters, and makes the turnout rate critical. A healthy participation rate might dampen the expected victory of Macron's party.

At midday, turnout appeared to be lagging. The Interior Ministry said just 17.8 percent of voters had cast ballots, down from 19.2 percent at the same time during the first round, and 21.4 percent at the same time during the second-round voting in the last parliamentary elections in 2012.

Less than half the 47.5 million-strong electorate turned out to vote last Sunday, a record low that especially punished the on-

ce-feared far-right National Front party of Marine Le Pen, runner-up to Macron for the presidency.

Candidates from the conservative party, The Republicans, are expected to form the largest opposition group, with 70-110 seats, according to pollsters, with other parties sharing the rest.

The Socialists, who dominated the outgoing Assembly with 314 seats, but were flattened under the unpopularity of former President Francois Hollande, could win as few as 20 seats.

Macron's party has 513 candidates vying for 573 seats. Four seats were won outright in last Sunday's first round.

Concern that opposition voices might be silenced, and pluralism allegedly diminished, by a massive pro-Macron legislature were reflected in a poll published Thursday by Elabo for BFM-TV suggesting that more

than half of respondents hoped the second round would "rectify the first round with a less large majority than expected."

"This is France, not Russia," far-left candidate Jean-Luc Melenchon said Friday on Europe 1 radio. "We're going to find ourselves with fewer opposition representatives than there are in Russia." While Melenchon is known for bold talk, his words underscored worry about an eventual all-powerful Macron who, Melenchon said, "is going to end up believing he walks on water."

While French voters have handed past presidents large majorities in parliament, what's different this time is that Macron's party is splitting — and therefore weakening — the opposition.

Some voters seemed excited by a victory for Macron's party, while others were frustrated.



Emmanuel Macron (left) shakes hands with a polling station official after casting his ballot in the second round of the French parliamentary elections

Parisian voter Olivier Paltate said the success of Macron's party was like a "tidal wave. Now I think that for the second round we no longer have too much choice."

The party of Melenchon, a candidate in a Marseille district facing off a Macron candidate, was also hit hard by the low turnout rate. But his alliance with the French Communist Party could end up giving them more seats than Le Pen's National Front — even if her party gets more votes.

The voting system punishes parties outside the mainstream, or with no mainstream allies, like Le Pen's National Front.

The party is expected to

win only a handful of seats despite its third-place showing in the first round. The populist Le Pen, running for a parliamentary seat to represent her northern bastion around Henin-Beaumont, appears likely to win after scoring 46 percent of the vote in the first round.

The National Front had two seats in the outgoing parliament and the only lawmaker seeking to renew his mandate, Gilbert Collard running in the southern Gard region, could lose. His opponent, a former bullfighter representing Macron's party got a public boost this week from visiting Prime Minister Edouard Philippe. AP

61 dead in central Portugal wildfires; many killed in cars

RAGING forest fires in central Portugal killed at least 61 people, many of them trapped in their cars as flames swept over a road, in what the prime minister yesterday called "the biggest tragedy of human life that we have known in years."

Nearly 60 other people were injured, including four firefighters and a seriously injured minor, Interior Ministry official Jorge Gomes told state broadcaster RTP.

A lightning strike is believed to have sparked the blaze in the Pedrogao Grande area after investigators found a tree that was hit during a "dry thunderstorm," the head of the national judicial police told Portuguese media.

Dry thunderstorms are frequent when falling water evaporates before reaching the ground because of high temperatures. Portugal, like most southern European countries, is prone to forest fires in the dry summer months.

"This is a region that has had fires because of its forests, but we cannot remember a tragedy of these proportions," said Valdemar Alves, mayor of Pedrogao



Grande. "I am completely stunned by the number of deaths."

Authorities had previously said that 40 C heat in recent days might have played a part in the inferno about 150 kilometers northeast of Lisbon. About 700 firefighters have been trying to put out the fires since Saturday, Gomes said.

A huge wall of thick smoke and bright red flames towered over the top of trees near houses in the wooded region.

Local resident Isabel Brandao told The Associated Press that she had feared for her life. "Yesterday we saw the fire but thought it was very far. I never thought it would come to this side," she said. "At 3:30 a.m., my mother-in-law woke me up quickly and we never went to sleep again. We were afraid the fire would reach us."

RTP showed terrifying images of several people on a road trying to escape the intense smoke that had reduced visibility to a ques-

tion of a few meters. A young man shared a bottle of water with a distraught woman as she stumbled down the road.

Gomes said that at least 30 people were killed when their vehicles were engulfed by flames on a road between the towns of Figueiro dos Vinhos and Castanheira de Pera, and three others died from smoke inhalation in Figueiro dos Vinhos. The rest of the bodies were found outside of the cars or in the forest, the official said.

At least 30 people were killed when their vehicles were engulfed by flames

The official also said that firefighting crews were having difficulties in battling the fire, which was "very violent" in at least two of its four fronts.

The European Union said it had

activated its civil protection efforts responding to a call for assistance by Portuguese authorities. EU Commissioner for Humanitarian Aid and Crisis Management Christos Stylianides expressed his condolences for the victims in a statement, saying the "EU is fully ready to help."

As a result, a Spanish firefighting aircraft was already assisting on Sunday morning and another one was expected to arrive later in the day. France was also sending three aircraft.

Prime Minister Antonio Costa said that firefighting crews were having difficulties in approaching the area because the fire was "very intense."

On Sunday, Costa also tweeted his "deepest regret for the victims... and a word of encouragement and strength for all who help combat this scourge."

The loss of life due to forest fire was the biggest in memory in Portugal. It has been over 50 years since 25 Portuguese soldiers perished fighting wildfires in 1966.

Last August, an outbreak of fires across Portugal killed four people, including three on the island of Madeira, and destroyed huge areas of forest.

Portugal's civil protection agency, which coordinates firefighting efforts, issued a warning of the increased risk for forest fires in Friday. Citing the high temperatures, it said that all outdoor fires were prohibited. AP

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what's ON



CONSTELLATION – WORKS BY NICOLAS
TIME: 10am-9pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: October 8, 2017
VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

DEBRIS – WORKS BY ALEXANDRE FARTO AKA
VHILS
TIME: 10am-7pm
UNTIL: November 5, 2017
VENUE: Navy Yard No. 1
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8399 6699

AN EXHIBITION OF MEMBERS' ARTWORKS OF
YU UN CHINESE CALLIGRAPHERS AND PAINTERS
ASSOCIATION
TIME: 9am-7pm (Open on public holidays)
UNTIL: June 25, 2017
VENUE: Chun Chou Tong Pavilion of Lou Lim Ioc
Garden, No. 10, Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

FOLLOWING THE CHANGES IN HENGQI-
PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: June 25, 2017
VENUE: 2F Gallery of Ox Warehouse
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

OUR BELLE ÉPOQUE – THE WORKS OF LEO FAN
TIME: 12pm-7pm (Closed on Tuesdays)
UNTIL: June 25, 2017
VENUE: 2F Gallery of Ox Warehouse
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2853 0026

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



Christina Wagner poses in her snack bar next to the Autobahn near the town of Rodaborn

IN WURST CASE, GERMAN SAUSAGE
SELLER PREPARED TO GO TO JAIL

A German snack bar owner is preparing for the worst — or is it worst — in a spat with authorities over the sale of sausages at a highway rest stop.

Christina Wagner has been battling to sell bratwursts by the Autobahn near the town of Rodaborn for years.

Authorities refused to give Wagner a permit to operate at the site, so she passes sausages to her customers through a fence from an adjacent lot.

The case has made her a local celebrity and thousands of people have signed a petition in her support.

German news agency dpa reported Thursday that authorities in Thuringia state are now threatening to issue Wagner with fines until she stops selling sausages.

But Wagner says she'd rather go to prison than pay.

TV 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)
18:20	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	World Cup 2018
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

8-14 JUN



THE MUMMY

ROOM 1

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

Director: Alex Kurtzman

Starring: Tom Cruise, Sofia Boutella, Annabelle Walls

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min



RESIDENT EVIL: VENDETTA

ROOM 2

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

Director: Takahiro Tsujimoto

Starring: Orion Acaba, Erin Cahill, Darin De Paul

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

WHO KILLED COCK ROBIN

ROOM 3

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

Director: Cheng Wei-Hao

Starring: Wei-ning Hsu, Chia-yen Ko, Kaiser Chuang

Language: Putonghua (Chinese, English)

Duration: 116min

MACAU TOWER

30 MAY - 21 JUNE



WONDER WOMAN

(3D) 2:00, 4:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Patty Jenkins

Starring: Chris Pine, Connie Nielsen, Robin Wright

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 141min

this day in history

1997 VICTORY FOR McDONALD'S
- AT A COST

Fast food chain McDonald's has won a partial victory in its epic libel trial against two environmental campaigners.

The pair, Helen Steel and Dave Morris, had published a leaflet accusing the corporation of a series of unethical and environmentally destructive activities.

At the end of the longest trial in English legal history, the judge, Mr Justice Bell, agreed with the fast food giant that some of the claims made in the leaflet were unjustified.

These included allegations that the chain was responsible for destroying rain forests, causing starvation in the developing world, and serving unhealthy food.

But in a serious blow to the company's efforts to present itself as socially responsible, the judge decided it was true that McDonald's targeted its advertising at children, who pestered their parents into visiting company's restaurants.

He also backed claims that the company had treated animals cruelly, and that its workers' low pay had helped to depress wages in the catering trade.

Ms Steel and Mr Morris were ordered to pay McDonald's £60,000. But Ms Steel said: "McDonald's don't deserve a penny and in any event we haven't got any money."

The activists remained defiant despite their partial defeat and urged people to make up their own minds about the arguments.

The pair, who had represented themselves throughout the 314-day trial, complained it was unfair that legal aid was not available for libel cases.

McDonald's said it had gone to court to protect its reputation. Chairman of McDonald's UK, Paul Preston, said: "For the sake of our employees and our customers we wanted to show these serious allegations to be false and I'm pleased we've done so."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Despite winning the courtroom battle, McDonald's attempt to clear its name was widely regarded by commentators as a public relations disaster. The lawsuit cost the company £10m.

In March 1999 the Court of Appeal reduced the amount of damages awarded to McDonald's from £60,000 to £40,000, although it received nothing from the unemployed activists, known as the McLibel Two.

In July 2000, Scotland Yard awarded the two £10,000 after they had accused the Metropolitan Police of disclosing confidential information to investigators working for the hamburger chain during the epic trial.

McDonald's fortunes have since declined due to public fears over "mad cow" disease and fierce competition from rivals such as Burger King, Wendy's and Taco Bell.

It reported its first ever loss in January 2003 after closing hundreds of restaurants around the world.

In February 2005 the European Court of Human Rights ruled the couple should have been awarded legal aid in the epic trial. The lack of such aid effectively denied the pair the right to a fair trial, the court ruled.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Right now, you are able to command with exceptional skill, and this allows you to move ahead with confidence.

Taurus April 20-May 20 While you may be forced to concede that everyone can't be exactly like you, that certainly doesn't stop you from expecting better behavior from the people you are spending the majority of your time with.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 There's nothing wrong with making room for other people's opinions, but you should take steps to guard yourself from being taken advantage of or being led astray

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Do your best to remain unemotional, even if you get some less than desirable feedback. Everything seems to be in the right spot, but you need to take a closer look

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 It might be difficult to let go of old ideas and comfortable situations, but if you're going to succeed in a leadership role, you have to be willing to be adaptable.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 This is the time to drop your inhibitions and your reservations and really be willing to experiment! If given the choice between something old and something new, it's always more exciting to pick the latter.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You aren't about to let anyone else spoil your good mood, are you? You'll get along swimmingly with all kinds of people today, and you don't necessarily have to know everyone to enjoy their company.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you have a chance, take a step back from the person or thing that is irritating you long enough to calm down and reassess your position. There might actually be a way out of this jam.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Other people are sure to be envious of your superior public speaking talents, so enjoy the attention while you have it. Saying exactly what you mean diplomatically comes quite naturally to you.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Some good deals are out there right now but beware of false advertising and exaggerated product claims. You've heard it before, why aren't you paying attention this time.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 It always helps to have a plan, but right now you have the ability to come up with ingenious solutions even on the spur of the moment. Make an effort toward your goals, and you'll be rewarded

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can't fight what's happening around you, so why not try to take an active part of the events as they unfold? Your best chance at happiness is to be open to change right now.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty.

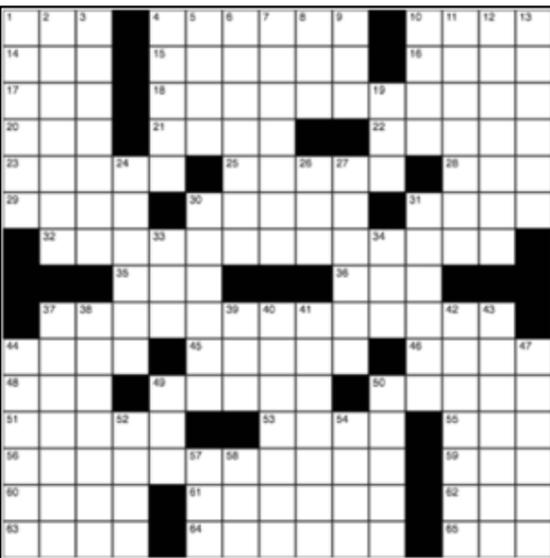
WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Clean air org.; 4- Simple shed; 10- Blind as ___; 14- Chou En-___; 15- Maestro Toscanini; 16- ___ La Douce; 17- Part of ETA; 18- Forming salts of calcium; 20- Sidekick; 21- And others, for short; 22- Fewest; 23- Bridges; 25- Peachy!; 28- Conk out; 29- Start of a counting rhyme; 30- Secret supply; 31- Tear; 32- Advertising by telephone; 35- Corrida cry; 36- Hosp. staffers; 37- Destructive fire; 44- Some pens; 45- Strum; 46- Tenn. neighbor; 48- ABA member; 49- Personal quality of material belonging; 50- Playing marble; 51- Civil rights org.; 53- ___ impasse; 55- Flee; 56- Advertisements; 59- Intense anger; 60- Singer Young; 61- Bikini tryouts; 62- Slangy negative; 63- ____, poor Yorick; 64- Linux variety; 65- Gore and more;

DOWN: 1- Go by; 2- Defensive wall; 3- Skyway; 4- Shoe ties; 5- Part of QED; 6- Capital of Georgia; 7- Kind of medicine; 8- Part of TNT; 9- Gut reaction?; 10- Suffix with concession; 11- Widen; 12- Causing laughter; 13- Sampled; 19- "Evil Woman" band; 24- Hose; 26- Inquire; 27- Aries; 30- Separates metal from ore; 31- Ascending; 33- Pole worker; 34- Big bang cause; 37- Stronghold; 38- Wife of Mark Antony; 39- Signs of relief; 40- Lubricated; 41- Lustful; 42- Musical wind instrument; 43- Chemical-free; 44- Tropical fruit; 47- Continues a subscription; 49- Spring mo.; 50- Emo anxiety; 52- Collectible frames; 54- Architectural pier; 57- Cigarette ingredient; 58- Suffix with meteor;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
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Q30# BORNTOCHALLENGE

High-altitude runner Kilian Jornet conquers Everest, twice

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

THEIR bodies and brains ravaged by the oxygen-scarce heights of the Himalayas, even the hardest few who scale the treacherous slopes of Mount Everest cut short celebrations for some well-deserved rest.

Not Kilian Jornet. Somehow, he still had some legs left. "My plan was to go up one time," Jornet told The Associated Press in a recent interview in Barcelona, just south of his native Pyrenees. "When I was going down, I was like, 'Hmm, we could have some days before we leave' [...] I wanted to try to go back up again."

So the man who has helped nurture high-altitude running from obscurity into the forefront of extreme mountain sports set out for a second solo ascent in a six-day span of the tallest peak in the world.

Not that Jornet had anything left to prove. Despite being slowed by a stomach bug that caused him to vomit and cramp while climbing, Jornet made his first ascent up Everest's north face from the base camp near the Rongbuk monastery in Tibet at 5,100 meters, crowning the 8,848-meter summit around midnight of May 21 in 26 hours after one continued push. That was the fastest known time for the route without the use of supplemental oxygen, according to the International Skyrunning Federation, which governs high-altitude racing.

By May 27, Jornet had recovered quickly enough to make a second ascent from an advanced



Kilian Jornet from Spain climbs Mount Everest in 2016



Jornet poses for a photo in Barcelona

base camp, at 6,400 meters. He reached the summit in 17 hours, only 15 minutes slower than the record set by Hans Kammerlander in 1996.

The 29-year-old Spaniard did both ascents without the help of other climbers, fixed ropes, or supplemental oxygen to counter the brain-withering effects of the "death zone" above 8,000 meters.

Only about 200 climbers have ever made it up Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen. Before Reinhold Messner and Peter Habeler did it in 1978, it was thought to be a guaranteed death. Only about 20 have ever done it twice.

With or without supplemental oxygen, Everest remains one of the most perilous places on the planet. Nearly 300 people are known to have died on the

mountain. This year is proving particularly deadly, with 10 lives lost through May.

Experienced American mountaineer Adrian Ballinger was climbing Everest for the first time without supplemental oxygen when he crossed paths with Jornet on his descent on May 22.

"I could see the pride and exhaustion in his eyes after the first climb," Ballinger, who has climbed Everest six times with oxygen, told the AP by telephone. "The big thing is really to do it twice in one week. I have climbed it with oxygen twice in one week and found it incredibly challenging. This time [without supplemental oxygen] it was devastating."

Jornet, who carries minimal gear, has years of experience running long-distance races in

the mountains. He tried it in Everest's thin air.

"I went walking until 8,000 meters and I tried a sprint," Jornet said. "I went up running, and after 50 meters I just threw myself on the ground to recover. But that was just for fun."

Long before Everest, Jornet had established himself as one of the premier athletes in extreme mountain sports. He has broken speed records for ascents of Kilimanjaro, Matterhorn, Mont Blanc, Aconcagua and Denali, among other mountains. He has won the Skyrunning world championship six times.

Graced with a small, wiry build that helps him scamper up rocks and dart along narrow mountain paths, Jornet said his main advantage is the ability to recover quickly by checking his pace. Jornet grew up in a mountain

refuge in Catalonia's Pyrenees near the Spanish border with Andorra. As a kid he would ski, run and bike the 10 kilometers back and forth to school each day.

"I climbed my first 3,000-meter peak when I was 3, my first 4,000-meter peak when I was 5," Jornet said. "I have been training since I was 13 every day."

Only about 200 climbers have ever made it up Everest without the use of supplemental oxygen

Jornet has also seen how quickly competition can turn tragic. His friend Stephane Brosse plummeted to his death while the two were skiing on Mont Blanc in 2012.

And in 2015, when an earthquake rocked Nepal, Jornet aborted his expedition to climb Everest. He decided to stay and help, however, hiking with two companions into cut-off villages to identify the dead and bring in desperately needed supplies.

A year later, Jornet returned to check on the rebuilding efforts in Nepal, and to take another shot at Everest. But the cool-tempered Jornet pulled the plug when the conditions turned ugly, with heavy snow and high winds producing a series of avalanches.

"We got covered three times," Jornet said, "one time the avalanche just passed over me, and at that moment I was like, yeah, it could be the last one." AP

Russian fans say dozens barred from Confederations Cup

James Ellingworth, Moscow

RUSSIAN fans say dozens — including a notorious fan leader — have been barred from going to Confederations Cup games after their identity documents were unexpectedly canceled.

Fans at the tournament require not only tickets but also a Russian government-issued "fan ID," in a measure designed to allow the state to filter out potential troublemakers.

A Moscow-based hotline providing legal support for fans says many Russians had IDs granted which

were canceled hours before Russia's opening game against New Zealand, making their tickets useless.

The Multilingual Fan Support Center says it has received "tens of messages from fans about the annulment of previously issued fan IDs."

No reasons were given, the center said, and appeals are planned. Russian law gives authorities sweeping jurisdiction to refuse fans permission to attend games at the Confederations Cup and next year's World Cup.

Fan leader Alexander

Shprygin, who was twice expelled from France last year following violence between Russian and English supporters in Marseille, says his ID was canceled and he has heard of around 50 similar cases.

Shprygin, who heads the Russian Fans' Union, told The Associated Press he had driven part of the way from Moscow to St. Petersburg when he was notified by e-mail that his ID was no longer valid.

"There's basically no reason for this," Shprygin. "I've never broken the law at a football game, never been arrested. I don't

know why this happened."

Members of various fan groups from top Russian clubs including Lokomotiv Moscow and Dynamo Moscow were also refused, he said.

Shprygin's organization once received support from the Russian government and football authorities, but was unceremoniously cut loose last year after two of its then-board members received prison sentences in France for their part in fan violence at the European Championship.

The mass annulment of IDs does not appear to be



connected to a separate blacklist of those convicted for hooliganism and firework use at games, which bars 191 fans from attending any sports events in Russia. Fans from that list who applied for Confederations Cup IDs were refused immediately, long before the tournament, the fan help center said.

The Russian Communications Ministry, which

oversees the fan ID program, and the Russian tournament organizing committee both did not reply to requests for comment.

Despite the apparent crackdown, some members of hardcore Russian fan groups attended Saturday's Russia-New Zealand game and scuffled among themselves and with stewards. AP

opinion

Rear Window
 Severo Portela



CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Once again, veteran lawmaker Pereira Coutinho is running for a directly elected seat in the Legislative Assembly (AL), heading the New Hope list, better known by the Portuguese designation "Nova Esperança". Seasoned by a successful 12 years as the so-called Portuguese voice in the Legislative House, Coutinho is more than ready to fight for each and every vote New Hope may earn in a gloomy political environment.

Demographic numbers and unsuccessful attempts of the (local) Portuguese to elect a representative, give quantitative proof that it is not possible to hold New Hope up as that cliché of the Portuguese voice, albeit Coutinho is the directly elected Portuguese legislator in the Legislative Assembly.

The Nova Esperança influence goes beyond the Portuguese niche as it anchors itself in the labour organization, ATFPM Civil Servants Association, and beyond that in the pro-trade union agenda Coutinho has relentlessly been trying to table over the last 12 years.

However, what we simply described as a gloomier electoral environment is blowing out the hope in the Nova Esperança headquarters, to the point Coutinho is despondent, not only about the chance to elect his running mate (Leong Veng Chai) but also regarding the odds of keeping his bench at the AL. Speaking to Macau Daily Times, Pereira Coutinho points his finger to the high number of lists contesting in the September 17 legislative elections leading to dilution of ballots and making it harder to elect even one lawmaker. Even if this is pure modified Hondt electoral arithmetic, we suggest it as a qualitative argument hanging over every list or split list: we await the electoral verdicts.

The quantitative easing argument New Hope, or rather Pereira Coutinho, did not hold back from, has to do with what is described as interference - alternatively a "lack of fairness" - from China's Liaison Office. According to PC, a dinner that the office organized had one of the candidates (Jorge Valente) address the community on behalf of the local Portuguese-speaking segment, even though the leader of the expatriate Portuguese-speaking community also attended: siphoning the Portuguese-speaking votes that Nova Esperança needs to keep Coutinho in the AL?!

The fact that neither Coutinho, nor New Hope trustee Rita Santos were invited to a dinner was stated by CAEAL chief, judge Tong Hio Tong as not being in violation of the Electoral Law. He did clarify that the law does not ban dinners, and such like. We presume this statement also presupposed the law will not allow patrons to engage in inappropriate electoral behavior.

On a lighter note, if the electoral law on campaign activities is so imprecise, or fuzzy, to say the least, a wise observer might recommend silent dinners, or a brunch of "meaningful sounds" (Hegel).

Perhaps to augment, Judge Tong, reiterated that CAEAL will watch closely for (unlawful?) pre-campaign activities. It is good to know he is watching, since he acknowledged that civil society is concerned about such activities. But we have to bear in mind that any alleged irregularities during the pre-campaign period and mode would be dealt only after CAEAL formally announces the official lists to the September 17 elections.

P.S.: Regarding the outcome of the elections, despite not knowing the final standing lists, Pereira Coutinho will retain his seat - to the credit and prestige of the AL and the system.

THE BUZZ PORSCHLE LEAVES IT LATE TO WIN 24 HOURS LE MANS FOR 3RD YEAR

Veteran German driver Timo Bernhard led Porsche to a dramatic third straight win at the 24 Hours Le Mans race to prevent a huge upset win for the lesser category Oreca team yesterday.

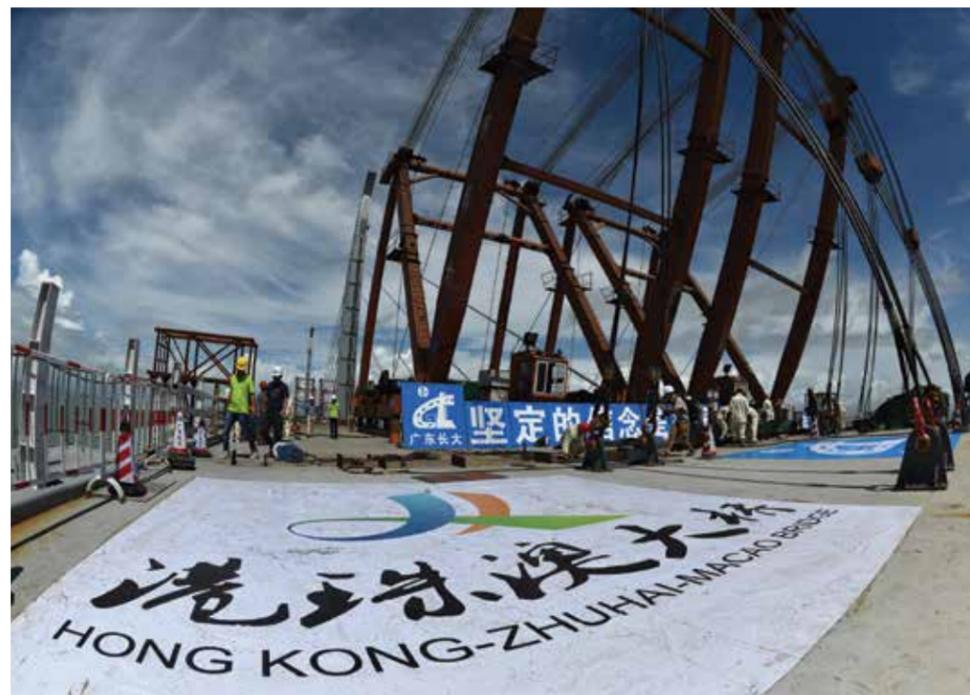
After a series of mishaps to pre-race favorites Porsche and Toyota, the LMP2 category Oreca suddenly found itself in the lead with 19-year-old Frenchman Thomas Laurent behind the wheel three hours from the end of the grueling

endurance race.

But the 36-year-old Bernhard, racing in the faster and more powerful LMP1 category Porsche 919 Hybrid, overtook the Oreca with about 1 hour remaining.

As the Porsche No. 2 crossed the finish line, there were scenes of relief in the Porsche garage as team members danced around holding up t-shirts with "Hat trick 2015, 2016, 2017" written on them.

HKZMB concrete scandal widens to 55 other projects



THE acting director of Hong Kong's Civil Engineering and Development Department, Norman Heung, said on Saturday that 116 additional concrete samples from the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) were found by the government to be "problematic." This brings the total number of problematic samples on the bridge project to 336.

In other areas, Heung said that the analysis had uncovered "130 problematic test results, which are probably related to 55 public works projects," but that these projects do not present a safety risk.

The affected public works entities include a tunnel in Causeway Bay and a children's hospital.

Heung said that a government-appointed lab had certified the samples through falsified evaluation reports. The company, Jacobs China, was previously accused of submitting 210 falsified reports of concrete cube tests starting from as early as 2015.

"We found from the original raw data that the test results are not exactly the same as those reported in the relevant test certificates," said Heung as cited by Radio Television Hong Kong. "We think it's of utmost importance to determine whether these problematic results will lead to inferior quality of concrete."

The results of the 116 "problematic" samples will

now be referred to the Highways Department for further testing. Heung said that testing will be carried out to determine whether the project is safe for the public.

Last month, the neighboring region's Independent Commission Against Corruption arrested two senior executive and 19 staff members at Jacobs China. The employees allegedly played a part in the scandal by altering time stamps and switching samples in order to meet compressive strength standards.

Macau's chief executive, Chui Sai On, has previously stated that MSAR residents should rest assured about the construction quality of the Macau section of the bridge.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Xinhua/Lui Siu Wai

Aerial view of Tin Shui Wai, Hong Kong

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-35 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

VANUATU President Baldwin Lonsdale, who had been the leader of the archipelago-nation since 2014, has died after a sudden heart attack at the age of 67.



AP PHOTO

INDIA Six police were killed Friday when rebels fighting against Indian rule ambushed a police vehicle in Indian-controlled Kashmir, while two civilians were killed and several others injured in clashes that erupted during a gunbattle between rebels and government forces in the disputed region.

TURKEY A prosecutor says 731 soldiers at a western base were sent to the hospital with food poisoning and 21 people from the company that provided the food have been detained.

ROMANIA's ruling party submitted a no-confidence vote against its own government yesterday after it withdrew its support for the prime minister.

GERMANY The head of the European Commission says he wants an official commemoration of former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the leader responsible for Germany's reunification, who died on Friday at his home in Ludwigshafen.



AP PHOTO

CUBA President Donald Trump's announcement of a tougher line toward Cuba has delighted hardliners on the island, who say it reveals the long-held U.S. aim of imposing American will on Cuba and justifies their wariness toward Washington. The president's speech to Cuban exiles in Miami has also dismayed moderates who were working with pro-engagement Americans.

More on p14

BRAZIL Embattled President Michel Temer exchanged furious denunciations of corruption Saturday with meatpacking billionaire Joesley Batista - himself under investigation for fraud - over bribes paid to politicians in exchange for political favors.