



INNOVATION FORUM KICKS OFF

Lionel Leong made a call yesterday on local companies to strengthen their own competitiveness through innovation

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MELINDA RECEPTIVE TO TAXI FARE INCREASE

Lawmaker Melinda Chan Mei Yi expressed her understanding regarding the appeal issued by taxi drivers to increase taxi fares

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SINGAPORE KEEPS HOME CURBS

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



XINJIANG A prefecture in China's far western Xinjiang region is requiring all vehicles to install satellite tracking systems as part of stepped-up measures against violent attacks. [More on p11](#)

CHINA A minister expresses hope that disputes with U.S. President Donald Trump's government can be settled amicably and warns a "trade war would benefit nobody." [More on p10](#)

PAKISTAN A group of suicide bombers with grenades and assault rifles strikes outside a courthouse in northwestern Pakistan, killing six people in an attack claimed by a Taliban splinter group. The attack was the latest in a wave of militant assaults across the troubled country that has killed over 100 people since last week.



THAILAND's prime minister Prayuth said the government will ensure that environmental and health impact studies for a coal power plant in Krabi province approved by its energy policy planning committee will be reconsidered, but made clear he expects the project to proceed.

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KIM JONG NAM | ONE WEEK AFTER THE MURDER

No positive identification or cause of death yet

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KOCO WIDYATNO | BARTENDER

'Macau still needs time to be advanced in the cocktail industry'

P6 MDT INTERVIEW



Macau Orchestra to hold concerts this weekend

The Macau Orchestra is set to present concerts at the region's cultural venues this weekend. The first concert "Music In Tap Seac Gallery" will be held this Friday at 6 p.m. at the Tap Seac Gallery, featuring two string quartets. Mozart's "Divertimento in F Major" and Haydn's "String Quartet in B flat Major" will be performed. On Sunday at 3 p.m., the orchestra will move to the Macau Museum of Art to present the concert "Music in the Macau Museum of Art", featuring Danzi's "Wind Quintet in A Major, Op. 68 No.1" and Ibert's "Three short pieces." According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the performances aim to integrate arts with music and promote a cultural ambience in the community. Admission to these two concerts is free and seats are available on a first-come first-served basis.

Inflation on the rise in January

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI), a key measure of inflation, increased by 1.76 percent year-on-year in January 2017, according to a statement released by the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC). The rise in CPI marked an increase of 0.32 percentage points from the 1.44 percent growth in December 2016. DSEC has attributed the rise partly to a "significant year-on-year increase in charges for package tours" due to the relative timings of the Chinese New Year this year and last. On a month-to-month basis, the Composite CPI for last month rose by 0.36 percent, with the individual price indexes for the categories of "Recreation" and "Culture and Transport" rising by about 7.5 percent and 1.1 percent respectively. Meanwhile, for the 12 months ending January 2017, the average Composite CPI was 2.2 percent higher than in the previous 12-month period, led by price hikes in alcohol, tobacco, education and transport.

Local heritage to be showcased in Goa

Photographs collected from the competition "Macau, Cultural Heritage" in 2016 will be shown at the Art Gallery of the Goa State Central Library in Panaji, Goa from March 7 to 9. Organized by the Lusophone Society of Goa, the exhibition will promote 45 photos captured by local artists and young students from the 2016 competition. The photographs have been chosen to portray the heritage legacy and cultural traditions of Macau, and the history of the intertwining of Chinese and Portuguese culture. The photo exhibition is an initiative of the International Institute of Macau with the support of Macau Foundation and the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO). The photo exhibit will be integrated into the program of the third "Lusofonia Festival Goa" that will be held later this year.

Lionel Leong says innovation fosters development

Julie Zhu

THE Cross Straits, Hong Kong and Macau Collaborative Innovation Forum kicked off yesterday at the Macau Science Center, with the participation of around 300 visitors. The two-day event has invited 16 speakers who are experts in various sectors, including university professors, telecommunication companies, investment firms and other companies.

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong was present at the forum's opening, claiming in his speech that Macau authorities "believe that innovation, including innovation in science and technology, constitutes one of the main paths for Macau's industrial sector to increase its own competitiveness and to accelerate develop-



ment."

According to Leong, the government is focused on training human resources as a pillar of innovation, striving to form an innovative network. He claimed that the city proposes to strengthen its own competitiveness through innovation and to boost sustainable social and economic development through the adoption of innovative

measures.

Wu Yi Sheng, CTO of Network Solution Sales Department Enterprises of Huawei spoke, yesterday, on innovation and promotion of industrial development.

Wu said that the innovation he was talking about is the kind that "can flow into the commodity circulation market and will be valuable to society."

As one of the leaders in the largest telecommunications equipment manufacturer in the world, Wu explained that there are multiple stages in product development. Convincing a large number of people of the validity of the product is one of the first stages. Besides looking for customers' for the products, the producers must obtain support for research and development and human resources, and the

approval from the company's leading officials.

"You must make sure that your product lasts longer and can be replicated," said Wu, adding that "unless it is an investment from the government aiming for a specific reputation, [in that circumstance] the products do not need to be replicated."

During the forum's opening ceremony, an inaugural ceremony for the Cross Straits, Hong Kong and Macau Collaborative Innovation Alliance was held, despite the fact that the Alliance was founded in September 2016.

Yesterday's speakers delivered speeches on topics varied from eco-environment to bio-medicine development.

During today's session, the forum will organize the "Cross-Straits, Hong Kong and Macau Collaborative Innovation Road Show" finals, and "Macau New Fortune Advanced and New Technologies Exchanges-Special Session for High-Tech Industrial Development Zone Project Matching."

Insurance firms to launch products adapted to travel alerts

Lynzy Valles

GIVEN the upcoming implementation of the region's new travel alert system, which will be enforced from March 7, the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) has announced that six to seven insurance companies are set to launch insurance products that are up-to-date with the system.

MGTO director, Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes, noted there is a need for the insurance industry to launch products that are designed to be congruent with the alert system's standards.

"There needs to be one to two weeks to allow the insurance industry to launch some new insurance products and there needs to be some time for the companies to see how they can cooperate with the new travel alert system," she told the press on the sidelines of the Social Welfare

Bureau's 50th anniversary celebrations.

In these two weeks, authorities would evaluate the 77 countries that could be listed in the three-level Outbound Travel Alert system (OTA).

If a destination was rated as Level 3, Fernandes admitted that it would not be possible to restrict Macau residents from visiting the region.

Following the implementation of the Travel Alert System, the Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) advises residents to purchase comprehensive travel insurance before traveling. Comprehensive coverage options will be insurance plans that have responded to the updated MSAR Travel Alert System and include international emergency medical evacuation coverage. GGCT advises travelers to verify with their insurers if they have any doubts regarding the terms and conditions of their insurance coverage.

MAINLAND, TAIWAN AND HONG KONG NOT INCLUDED

The travel alert system covers 77 countries or travel destinations which are considered the preferred travel destinations of Macau residents. Taiwan, mainland China and Hong Kong are not covered given the fact that they "are part of the People's Republic of China,"

the GGCT stated. Helena de Senna Fernandes stressed that Taiwan, mainland China and Hong Kong are not covered in the system given the fact that they are part of China. "After all it's the same country [...] it doesn't mean we don't care about these places."

GAMING

15 new tables for Legend Palace

MACAU Legend Development Ltd.'s latest casino property will open on February 27 (Monday), the company's chief executive, David Chow, has announced. The new property has been awarded just 15 new-to-market tables.

Legend Palace, the second property to open in the redeveloped area of Macau Fisherman's Wharf, will host more than 220 rooms and has been designed to include gaming tables as well.

As the company is not granted a table quota from the MSAR government, Macau Legend is required to cooperate with the existing concessionaires. Currently, it is under an agreement with SJM Holdings Ltd.

Chow said that he hoped that the local government would grant the property some 30 new-to-market gaming tables, down from the 66 live-dealer tables he had once sought, according to GGRAsia. However, the government has decided that just 15 new-to-market tables will be allowed to operate in the new hotel.

In response to this decision, Chow has indicated that the company will consider reallocating some gaming tables from his other Macau casinos, so that the total number of tables would "suffice" for Legend Palace's operations.

Currently, Macau Legend Development runs two other casinos in the MSAR, the Babylon Casino at Fisherman's Wharf and Pharaoh's Palace Casino at the Landmark Macau. It operates just under 180 gaming tables across its properties.

A third hotel, the 500-room Legendale Hotel, is being planned for the site, however Macau Legend is still awaiting government approval over the height of the property, the company stated in a report.

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DETERMINING whether poison killed the half brother of North Korea's leader in a busy airport is proving difficult for Malaysian officials, who said Tuesday that autopsy results are so far inconclusive.

More than a week has passed since Kim Jong Nam was approached by two women at a budget air terminal in Kuala Lumpur and apparently attacked in the face with an unknown substance. Kim did not suffer a heart attack and had no puncture wounds, such as those a needle would have left, Director General of Health Noor Hisham Abdullah told reporters. He did not dismiss poison as a potential cause.

"We have to confirm with the lab report before we can make any conclusive remark," he said. He added that medical specimens have been sent to experts for analysis.

Identifying a specific poison can be challenging, especially if a minute amount was used and it did not penetrate fat cells in the victim's tissue. If the toxin only entered the bloodstream, it could leave the body very quickly. And even if a substance is found, it would need to match the symptoms Kim Jong Nam experienced before death. The more unique the poison is, the harder it is to find.

Highly sophisticated facilities, such as in Japan or at the FBI's

Malaysia: No cause of death yet for Kim Jong Nam

crime lab in the U.S., are among those that have greater capabilities for discovering unusual toxic substances.

The case has perplexed leading forensic toxicologists who study murder by poison. They say the airport attack is one of the most bizarre cases in the books, and question how the two women could walk away unscathed after deploying an agent potent enough to kill Kim Jong Nam before he could even make it to the hospital.

Some type of nerve gas or ricin, a deadly substance found in castor beans, have been suggested as possible toxins used. A strong opioid compound could also have been liquidized, though that would likely have incapacitated the victim immediately. Surveillance footage instead shows Kim walking calmly downstairs to the airport's clinic.

The attack spiraled into diplomatic fury when Malaysia refused to hand over Kim Jong Nam's corpse to North Korean diplomats after his death, and proceeded with an autopsy over

the ambassador's objections. The two nations have made a series of increasingly angry statements since then, with Malaysia insisting it is simply following its legal protocols, and North Korea accusing Malaysia of working in collusion with its enemy South Korea. Seoul's spy agency believes North Korea was behind the killing, but has produced no evidence.

Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak told reporters yesterday that the North Korean ambassador's remarks were "diplomatically rude" and said Pyongyang "should help us to find out the truth."

Isolated North Korea has a long history of ordering killings of people it views as threats to its regime. Kim Jong Nam was not known to be seeking political power; he was best known for his penchants for drinking, gambling and expensive restaurants. But his position as eldest son of the family that has ruled North Korea since it was founded could have made him appear to be a danger. **AP**



Malaysia's Director General of Health Noor Hisham Abdullah (right) speaks during a press conference at Kuala Lumpur Hospital

FAMILY BELIEVES VIETNAMESE SUSPECT WAS DUPED

THE FAMILY of a Vietnamese woman arrested in the death of the half brother of North Korea's ruler in Malaysia has confirmed she is their relative, but believes she didn't knowingly participate in the killing. Speaking at their home in a farm-

ing village, Doan Van Thanh said he is the father of the suspect, Doan Thi Huong, but cannot believe she would do such an "Earth-shaking" thing. Her niece, Dinh Thi Quyen, said she believes Huong was duped into taking part.

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FDCT receives more applications for project funding



Julie Zhu

THE Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT) received a higher number of applications last year for financing than in previous years. The total number of applications was 158 with an overall requested sum of more than MOP335 million.

For popular science research projects last year, the institution considered 131, of which only 76 were accepted. Popular science research focuses primarily on Mathematics, Physics, Bio-

logy, Geography, Robotics, and Engineering. Traditional Chinese Medicine, Computer Science and IT are the institute's most supported disciplines.

During a press conference last week, FDCT announced that funding for the approved projects amounted to MOP100 million.

Last year, according to Ma Chi Ngai, president of the Administration Committee of FDCT, 190 annual scientific study reports obtained FDCT approval.

Two hundred and four masters and PhD graduates

benefited from the institute's financing. Those students published 792 papers in total.

Life sciences and medicine comprise the majority of approved projects, followed by natural sciences, and finally information and telecommunication technology.

In 2016, the institute along with another science and technology committee, organized five popular science summer camps and three teachers' popular science camps, with a total of 309 students and teachers attending the events.

According to Ma Chi Ngai, FDCT also approved 231 science projects, which involved MOP20.97 million, 8,796 students, 28 schools, and four associations.

FDCT approved 263 popular science reports and deemed the majority of the projects to have areas for improvement.

Overall, the institute approved MOP37.3 million for Macau's State Key Laboratories. Ma said that this year,

FDCT will visit Portugal to sign agreements with the Foundation for Science and Technology of Portugal (FCT) in order to conduct joint programs to finance scientific studies.

In 2016, FDCT studied the feasibility of Macau becoming a smart city. Ma said the study will be completed by the end of this year.

Ma added that FDCT is discussing potential improvements to finance projects for enterprises, which he suggested will be launched soon.

In the year ahead, FDCT will launch new programs and evaluate the newly established State Key laboratories.

At the press conference, FDCT released reports regarding its expenses and revenue incomes from 2013 until 2016, during which FDCT expenses increased nearly threefold from MOP126 million to MOP360 million.

Its income in 2016 was MOP400 million, nearly double that of the MOP234 million in 2013.

Le French May celebrates 25th anniversary

LE French May Arts Festival will be celebrating its 25th Anniversary under the theme "Celebrating Art and Life the French Way."

The event organizers are calling on the public to join the celebration which will be held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary of the establishment of Hong Kong.

According to a press release, audience members may now reserve their seats in advance in the event's first-ever early bird program.

Until March 9 at 12 p.m., arts and culture lovers can enjoy a 5 percent discount on Category A and B tickets for selected programs by purchasing tickets through the TicketFlap website.

Le French May will feature different genres of performances for this promotion, covering classical music, ballet, jazz and hip-hop.

Programs include the festival's opening concert - "The Birth of the Sun King," a blend of a lost masterpiece written for King Louis XIV and new media forms, as well as the debut performance of "Orchestre Philharmonique de Radio France" in Hong Kong.

Audiences will also have the opportunity to enjoy a Paris Ballet Legend performance by three star dancers of Paris National Opera, three French Jazz nights in tribute to legendary jazz voices and hip-hop performances.

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Melinda Chan says she is receptive to taxi fare hike

LAWMAKER Melinda Chan expressed her understanding regarding the appeal issued by the city's taxi drivers to increase taxi fares, according to a report by Macao Daily News.

Chan pointed out that the last time the government increased taxi fares was in 2014. She said she could understand the industry's proposal as the government has increased other fees during this time.

However, the lawmaker expects taxi professionals to improve their service quality if they want residents to feel that increasing the fare is reasonable.

Chan noted that there are only a few drivers out there providing poor services and making people feel unhappy about the service provided by Macau's taxis, and emphasized that the industry should



Melinda Chan

not be defined by these particular drivers.

Chan also commented on the projected 10 patacas fee that will be added to all fares during the first three days of the Chinese New Year.

In her words, many restaurants, during

the said period, also charged extra service fees. "Do residents think it's reasonable or not that restaurants propose to increase the fee a little bit?" she asked.

Moreover, the lawmaker suggested the taxi operators to follow the city's taxi instructions.

On Monday, the Macau Taxi Driver Mutual Association visited the Transport Bureau (DSAT) proposing to increase taxi fares, including increasing the initial fare from MOP17 to MOP20. In addition, it suggests maintaining the MOP2 increase each time the meter changes, although by shortening the distance each time the meter changes from 260 meters to 200 meters. During the first three days of the Chinese New year holiday, the group suggested to charge MOP10 as an additional fee. **JZ**



Chan pledges to improve spokesperson mechanism

The Government Information Bureau and the Government Spokesperson Office held a meeting with representatives of local media outlets yesterday. During the event, the head of both departments, Victor Chan, said that he intends to improve the Government Spokesperson mechanism in order to respond more quickly to journalists' queries. Chan also said that the government will take advantage of new media in order to better explain its policies.

IAS budget increases threefold



Speaking on the sidelines of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, recalled that the bureau's budget has increased threefold over the past 10 years. Tam also noted the increase in the number of service facilities and associations IAS is supporting, mentioning that it had increased by more than half to 236. The secretary expressed his wishes that the institute would further enhance and respond to its responsibilities and mission to provide assistance and quality services to the disadvantaged.

Mong Ha public housing resumes construction

The government will pay MOP1.78 billion to resume the construction of the Mong Ha public social housing and the Mong Ha pavilion, according to a notice signed by the Chief Executive which was published in the government Official Gazette earlier this week. Two companies, Zhen Hwa Harbour Construction Co. Ltd, and Companhia de Construção & Engenharia Shing Lung, Limitada, were awarded the contract. The government will make the payment through installments over the course of six years, with the first installment amounting to MOP230 million. Upon completion, 768 residence units, a sports complex, and other facilities will be available. The projects had been awarded to construction companies back in 2011, but works were paused in 2015.

GAMING

Govertsen: Macau recovery will hold in Q1

MACAUI-BASED gaming analyst Grant Govertsen told the Times this week that speculation over another dip in Macau's gross gaming revenues is not something he foresees for the first quarter of 2017.

According to Bloomberg, the gauge of Macau's six casino stocks is now valued at 24 times the projected earnings for the next 12 months, exceeding its peak of 22 in 2014. With conditions reminiscent of those in 2014, some options traders are beginning to wonder whether the recent gaming revival will be short-lived.

However, the managing director at Union Gaming Securities Asia still expects year-on-year gross gaming revenue growth to hold in the "mid- to high-single digits for the first quarter."

"The reality is that these stocks are still about half of what

they were in 2014," argued Govertsen. "What we are seeing makes sense for a market [seeing] growth again."

In his view, the mass-market segment is holding strong, having posted steady gains in the past half-year. On the other hand, there are justifiable doubts over the VIP sector.

Gross gaming revenue in Macau grew by 3.1 percent in January to MOP19.3 billion (USD2.4 billion), following an 8 percent year-on-year increase in December. The change was significantly below the median estimate of an 8.5 percent expansion in January by analysts surveyed by Bloomberg.

Due for release next week, February's figures will compare with last year when the busy period of the Chinese New Year fell entirely in February, while this year's was split between the first two months of 2017. **DB**

Portuguese tourism congress in Macau

MACAUI will host the 43rd National Congress of the Portuguese Association of Travel and Tourism Agencies (APAVT) from November 23 to 27, with the support of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

The organizers estimate that around 500 tourism professionals from the Portuguese market, mainly tour operators and travel agents, will attend the event.

MGTO director Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes said the event would reinforce the Office's promotional strategy and increase international visitor arrivals.

According to a statement released by the MGTO, Fernandes said that the bureau would cooperate with the APAVT to organize an

event that is more enhanced than previous editions held in the region.

APAVT president Pedro Costa Ferreira is pleased that they had the option of holding the Congress outside of Portugal. "The announcement of this decision is a great joy to all of us, with a fundamental implication – the fact that the economic landscape and the momentum of demand in Portugal is now more positive and confident," said Ferreira.

"The choice of Macau [...] improves conditions for drawing the interest of our tour operators and travel agents, and through them our national clients."

MGTO and APAVT have a close and long-running relationship. Macau has hosted four of the association's congresses in the past, most recently in 2008.

corporate bits

CTM LAUNCHES APPLE CARE+



CTM has launched AppleCare+, becoming the first telecom service provider to launch AppleCare+ in Macau.

The introduction of AppleCare+ will mean that iPhone, iPad and Apple Watch users will be able to enjoy the product protection plan from AppleCare+. CTM announced in a statement.

From now on, customers choosing to purchase the iPhone 7 will be eligible for a special new subscription offer called "CTM Buddy". Customers will

also be able to enjoy a 20 percent discount for purchasing AppleCare+, and in addition 12 months' interest-free installments will be offered when payment is made through specific credit cards.

Most of the products in the Apple range come with one year of hardware repair coverage through its limited warranty and up to 90 days of complimentary support.

Customers who choose to buy AppleCare+ will be able to extend coverage and enjoy comprehensive and immediate one-stop service and support from Apple experts.

Hogo Digital has been announced as the official marketing partner of the Japan Gaming Congress, which will be held from May 10 to 12 in Tokyo.

The event is expected to draw over 430 delegates from the global gaming industry including local attendance from both the government and the private sectors of Japan.

With the recent announcement of Japan's intentions to soon legalize gaming in the country, interest amongst international operators has soared with consideration being shown by some of the world's largest gaming organizations.

HOGO OFFICIAL MARKETING PARTNER OF JAPAN GAMING CONGRESS

The conference will focus on a variety of topics, from legislation and regulatory matters to inbound tourism, problem gaming and much more, as cited in a statement issued by the creative marketing and strategy company.

The congress is a three-day educational forum that aims to offer clear, practical insight and understanding into the implementation of casino legislation in Japan and the rippling effects it may cause.

Held at the Grand Hyatt

in Roppongi, the congress is expected to draw strong participation from both domestic and international firms interested in the development of integrated resorts in Japan.

Chris Wieners, managing partner of HOGO, stated in a press release issued yesterday: "We're excited to be working alongside Clarion Events on the Japan Gaming Congress. With the recent regulatory update, all eyes have been on the country; it was a major factor in our decision to launch operations in Japan."

Q&A KOCO WIDYATNO
BARTENDER

'Macau still needs time to be advanced in the cocktail industry'



LYNZY VALLES



Lynzy Valles

INDONESIAN bartender Koco Widyatno represented Macau in the finals of the Bacardi Legacy regional competition, which was held in Taipei on Monday.

The competition kicked off in November 2016, attracting some 20 Macau-based bartenders. Yet only Widyatno, bar captain at Ritz-Carlton Macau, was selected among the top eight competitors, the remainder hailing from Hong Kong and Taiwan.

In the competition, three bartenders represented Hong Kong and four were from Taiwan.

The Indonesian bartender has previously participated in similar competitions, such as Bols Around The World, Absolut Elyx HK and Beefeater HK amongst others.

The wine and cocktail expert is set to hold a talk today in Indonesia where he will conduct a master class for some 100 young bartenders.

The winner of the Bacardi Legacy regional finals, Grace Tsai from Taiwan, will be sent to Berlin, Germany to represent the three regions in May.

Macau Daily Times (MDT) - What is the recipe of Catalan, the cocktail you submitted in the

Bacardi Legacy competition?

Koco Widyatno (KW) - My Bacardi Legacy cocktail recipe consists of rum, coffee, cinnamon stick, sugar, Aztec chocolate bitters and Drambuie, which is a forgotten honey whiskey liquor. Not many people use it nowadays.

MDT - You're the only competitor chosen to represent Macau - does that give you a sense of pride as a non-local worker?

KW - I've only been here for eight months [but] I know the competition very well because I have been involved in competitions in Dubai as well. I've been to semi-finals. I know very well how the competition works but since I'm new here, I don't see the cocktail scene is too big here so I have no pressure. I know it's an [opportunity] because they choose me to move forward so I hope I can do something for the bar community in Macau. I aim to make people understand more about Macau's bar scene and attract more visitors to come to Macau. That is the best thing I can do for the territory.

MDT - So you see this as your contribution to the local bar scene?

KW - Yes, my contribution as a bartender in Macau is to promote Macau more in the world because unlike in Hong

Kong - everybody knows that Hong Kong has a big bar scene - not many people talk about Macau as their first choice if they want to have a good drink or a good cocktail.

MDT - What differences do you see between the region and the HKSAR's cocktail and wine scenes?

KW - We need more talented people here in Macau and we also need [better] customers. You can't separate both. We need employees who want to serve the people, then the people who love the industry. We need people who like to be served good food and good drinks. With that, we can grow together. That's what I think.

MDT - Do you see that possibility for Macau?

KW - There is [a chance]. Especially with the upcoming opening of the Hong Kong-Macau-Zhuhai Bridge, there will be a bigger chance. There will be no more Macau and Hong Kong. It will be the same level in the next few years. [...] Macau still needs time to be advanced in the cocktail industry. We are still in the early stages.

MDT - What would it take to assist the region's progression in this sector?

KW - It should attract more talented bartenders from abroad and create more rele-

quality people with a quality attitude and good product knowledge.

MDT - What are the most challenging situations you have experienced as a bartender?

KW - [Developing] patience, dedication and work ethic. Because those three items are very important if you want to move forward; those are the three key ingredients.

Not many people talk about Macau as their first choice if they want to have a good drink or a good cocktail.

MDT - Do you see that in mixologists in the territory?

KW - Well, a few. It's less than what we need to have. Maybe certain people understand really well what it takes to grow but for [others] it's just bar and work. But for us, without the bar life, we have no life because this is what we love. It takes passion. It's a long way to go to be a good bartender.

MDT - What does one need to make it as a professional bartender?

KW - Bartending is all about the connection with your guests. It's all about that. Not many people have the knowledge to engage with the guests. You can be a knowledgeable bartender but if you can't treat your guests the way they want, then forget about it.

FINISHING FOURTH

THE SOLE Macau participant in the Bacardi Legacy regional finals, Koco Widyatno, won fourth place in the competition held in Taipei. "It's a pretty tough decision because everybody was so good. [...] It's hard and a bit tricky. It's an unusual bartending competition," he told the Times yesterday. However, despite finishing fourth, Widyatno noted that he obtained the highest mark for the promotional program, a component of the judging cri-

teria. Furthermore, his performance, which was broadcast live on the "Bacardi Legacy Cocktail Competition TW" Facebook page, garnered the highest number of reactions, comments and views - reaching some 4,000 viewers. Grace Tsai from The Place Tainan Bar 21 secured first place beating out the other seven finalists. She will now go on to represent Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan in the world competition finals later this year.

HK developers advance ahead of city's budget speech

HONG Kong property stocks extended gains ahead of the city's annual budget speech today, as some analysts anticipated announcements that would benefit developers.

Property companies were the biggest gainers on the Hang Seng Index, with Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. climbing almost 3 percent and Henderson Land Development Co. advancing 1.4 percent.

"People have gotten slightly more optimistic on sales - prices have been ticking up and we saw 22 bidders for a redevelopment project in Central," said David Millhouse, China head at Forsyth Barr Asia Ltd. There is speculation land supply unveiled in today's budget will be less than expected, which "would be positive for the major developers, who have strong project pipelines."

The budget speech will be delivered by Financial Secretary Paul Chan, who took the position last month after John Tsang resigned to run for the position of Hong Kong's next chief executive. The government may reveal plans to offer 25 sites this year for the construction of about 19,000 private residential units, the Hong Kong Economic Times reported yesterday, without saying where it got the information.

FOOD & BEVERAGE

Hungry Singaporeans make eating profitable as restaurants rally

Livia Yap

AS Singapore's stock market continues to rally, an often overlooked sector is getting a boost. The city-state's listed restaurants have outperformed regional and global peers as dining out drives shares higher.

These companies may be steady defensive businesses with consistent margins, said Gregory Yap, an analyst at Maybank. The Straits Times Index has surged 7.9 percent this year to become the second best performing developed market in the world after record tourist spending in 2016 and strong fourth-quarter gross domestic product.

An equal-weighted index of Singapore companies that derive at least 70 percent of their revenue from restaurants has climbed a similar 7.5 percent. Singapore's economy will only expand between 1 to 3 percent in 2017, policy makers said after



fourth-quarter growth came in at an annualized 12.3 percent, which was the fastest pace in more than five years.

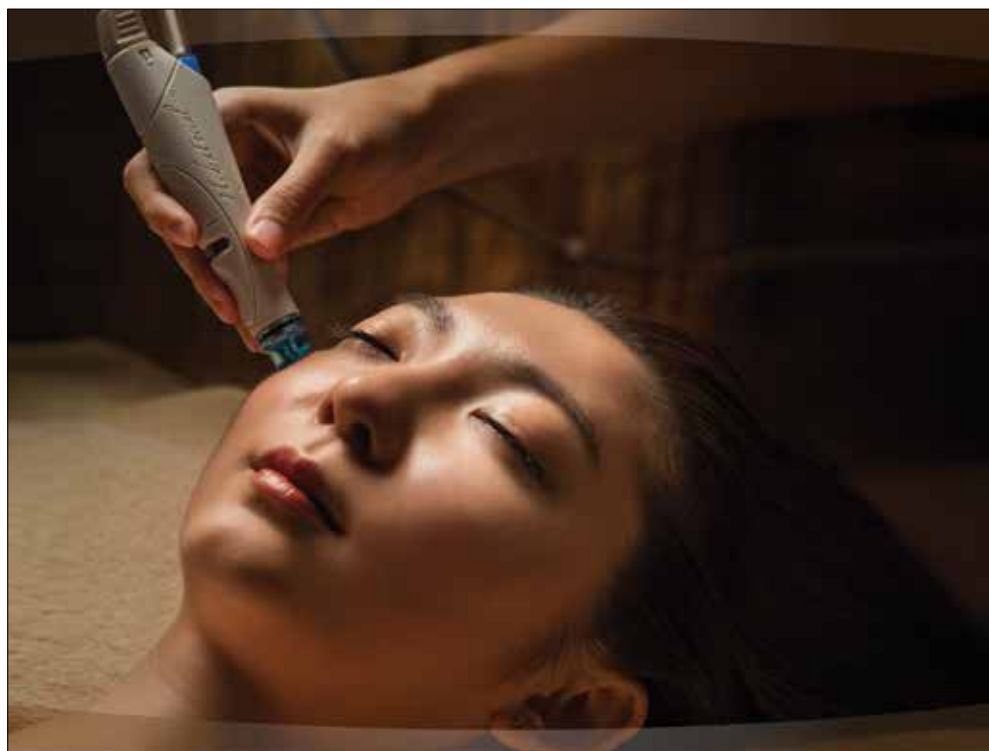
Chili crab restaurant Jumbo Group Ltd. is one of the sector's biggest gainers as shares are up 9.2 percent year-to-date even after a 63 percent rally in the past 12 months. "Franchise will be our new growth path," Group CEO Ang Kiam Meng said in an interview in Singapore. Negotiations in Thai-

land are "in the final stage" and it will look to other nearby locations such as Indonesia, Vietnam, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Macau in the next two to three years. In China, it intends to open at least one new outlet in Shanghai, Beijing and Shenzhen between 2017 and 2019. Jumbo has the best potential among Singapore's listed restaurants to expand into bigger consumer markets due to its "well-established

name" and its product offering is suitable for the Chinese market, said Alan Richardson, investment manager at Samsung Asset Management that holds a stake in the company.

Other restaurants, such as Japan Foods Holdings Ltd., the company that runs Ajisen Ramen, and Chinese restaurant chain, Tung Lok Restaurants (2000) Ltd. are expanding at a slower pace amid a slowdown in the inflow of foreign workers since 2010.

"My strategy is to place importance on profit," said Takahashi Kenichi, CEO of Japan Foods said in an interview in Singapore. A few years ago, the company focused on increasing numbers but now it has 51 stores and it "won't open more aggressively" Aside from Jumbo, other Singapore restaurant companies are more fast food concepts which have little competitive advantage, Richardson said. **Bloomberg**



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For enquiries, please contact the Monetary Authority of Macao during office hours at telephone hotlines 83952265/83952221/83952236, or during holidays at 66518453 (9:00 - 13:00 and 14:30 - 17:45). For more information about the "Compulsory Professional Liability Insurance for Healthcare Providers", please browse through our Internet website at www.amcm.gov.mo.

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HSBC warns of risks to world economic growth as profit dives

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

LONDON-BASED bank HSBC reported yesterday that its annual profit slumped following a year it said would be remembered for “unexpected economic and political events” and warned of risks in 2017 to the global economy’s continuing recovery.

Europe’s biggest bank said net profit for 2016 tumbled 82 percent to USD2.5 billion from \$13.5 billion a year ago as annual revenue fell 18.5 percent to \$48 billion.

In the most recent quarter, HSBC’s net loss widened to \$4.2 billion from \$1.3 billion in the same period the previous year.

In a statement, Chairman Douglas Flint said uncertainties from last year’s events “temporarily influenced investment activity and contributed to volatile financial market conditions,” though he added that HSBC’s performance was satisfactory. While he didn’t mention any specifics, it was likely a reference to,



AP PHOTO

among other things, Britain’s unexpected vote to leave the European Union and Donald Trump’s U.S. election victory.

Flint said the bank recently raised its forecast for global economic growth, based on the increasing chances that the U.S. will make changes to fiscal policy to boost the economy as well as growth in emerging markets.

“Risks to this central scenario, however, remain high,” Flint said, including the effect of rising populism on policy

in upcoming European elections, the threat of global trade protection measures from Trump’s administration and uncertainty over Britain’s negotiations to leave the European Union.

Flint said the bank has all the “licenses and infrastructure” it needs to continue working with customers once Britain does leave the EU. He also repeated previous projections from the bank that 1,000 staff might need to move from London to Paris

over the next two years, depending on how exit negotiations go.

HSBC’s profits were partly hit by its decision to write off the remaining \$3.2 billion in its European private banking business, stemming from its 1999 purchase of Saffra Republic Holdings. The write-off accounted for part of the \$6.8 billion pre-tax loss at its European business in 2016.

Business at its Asian unit, meanwhile, remained fairly steady, with pretax profit dipping 12.5 percent to \$13.8 billion pre-tax, mainly because of the effect of one-time items. HSBC is in the middle of trimming back its global operations as it carries out a sweeping reorganization to focus on faster-growing Asia, where it expects the region’s growing affluence to drive profits.

The bank said it would buy back an additional \$1 billion worth of shares in the first half of the year, following a \$2.5 billion buyback last year. **AP**

Yahoo salvages Verizon deal with USD350m discount

Yahoo is taking a USD350 million hit on its previously announced \$4.8 billion sale to Verizon in a concession for security lapses that exposed personal information stored in more than 1 billion Yahoo user accounts. The revised agreement announced yesterday eases investor worries that Verizon Communications Inc. would demand a discount of at least \$1 billion or cancel the deal entirely. The hacking bombshells, disclosed after the two companies agreed on a sale, represent the two biggest security breaches in internet history. Under the amended deal, Yahoo will be responsible for 50 percent of any cash liabilities incurred following the closing related to government investigations and lawsuits related to the breaches. Liabilities arising from shareholder lawsuits and SEC investigations will continue to be the responsibility of Yahoo. “The amended terms of the agreement provide a fair and favorable outcome for shareholders,” said Marni Walden, Verizon executive vice president and president of product innovation and new businesses.

Intercontinental Hotels surges on special dividend

Intercontinental Hotels Group Plc rose to the highest since 2003 after the company announced it would pay a special dividend of USD400 million and reported operating profit that came in at the high end of analyst estimates. The payout, which will be made in May, comes on top of an 11 percent increase in the total dividend for 2016 after profit rose by 4 percent in 2016, the Denham, England-based company said in a statement yesterday.

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Part 12
 第十二部份
 Parte 12

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Dollar loses ground to the euro in Angola



THE US dollar has lost ground to the euro in Angola due to the fact that commercial banks have stopped making transactions in US currency after correspondent foreign banks that put dollars in Angolan partner banks stopped doing so, said the governor of the National Bank of Angola.

Valter Filipe, taking stock of a working visit to France, said that the only entities that still favor Angola in foreign exchange transactions are European, through the euro.

The governor also said it was necessary to inform the European authorities about the work that is being done in the Angolan financial system, in particular the measures that are being implemented to get it in line with international standards and best practices.

In relation to meetings held in France, Filipe stressed

the meeting with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), an informal international institution whose action focuses on making recommendations for the prevention and repression of money laundering, terrorist financing, confiscation of proceeds of crime and international cooperation on these issues.

“Despite Angola having been removed from the grey list of the FATF work must continue to ensure that the country will remain so,” said the governor, cited by newspaper Jornal de Angola.

Filipe arrived in Paris last week, heading up a delegation to restore the confidence of French institutions in the Angolan banking system, to allow Angola to be on the banking supervision equivalence list of the European Central Bank.

MDT/Macauhub

BRAZIL

China Grid launches takeover bid for CPFL Energia

THE China State Grid group plans to launch a tender offer for the remaining capital of Brazilian company CPFL Energia that it does not yet control, under a plan to remove shares from the stock market, CPFL Energia said in a statement to the market.

The Chinese group, which in January increased its stake to 54.64 percent of CPFL Energia and its subsidiary CPFL Energias Renováveis, having paid 17.36 billion reais (USD5.68 billion), announced it was offering 25.51 reais per share that it does not yet own.

China State Grid’s plan will lead shares of CPFL Energia to no longer be listed on the

New York and Sao Paulo stock exchanges, the Brazilian company said in its statement.

CPFL Energia is the main non-state producer of electricity in Brazil and the third largest in the country, with a 14.3 percent market share, supplying electricity to millions of people and being particularly active in energy production from renewable sources.

In turn, the Chinese group, which in Brazil already controls a power transmission network of about 10,000 kilometers, entered the Brazilian market in 2010. In 2016 its local subsidiary won an auction to manage two new transmission lines.

MDT/Macauhub

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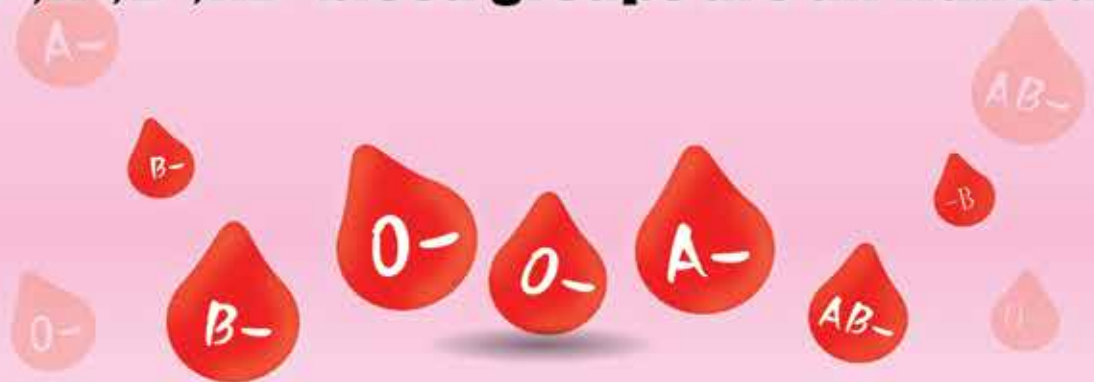
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CHINA'S financial regulators are working together to draft sweeping new rules for the country's rapidly-expanding asset-management products that aim to make it clear there's no government guarantees on such investments, according to people familiar with the matter.

The draft rules would apply to products issued by banks, insurers, brokerages and other financial institutions, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the discussions are private. The rules would be phased in after existing products mature, and would only apply to new issues, they added.

Households and companies have poured into asset management products, seeking higher returns than bank deposits can offer. On the other side, banks have created off-balance sheet vehicles to provide such offerings, then channeled funds to riskier borrowers who pay higher interest rates. Most recently, financial institutions have invested in each other's products, leading to a potential chain reaction in the event of a default.

An industry managing assets worth more than three-quarters of China's USD11 trillion gross domestic product has thus blossomed, underpinned by assumptions on all sides that the government would prevent failures should investments sour. Changing that mindset is seen as key to reining in financial risks and curbing excessive credit growth.

"Regulators are trying to defuse a bomb," said Xia Le, Hong Kong-based economist at Banco Bilbao Vizcaya Argentaria SA. "Shadow banking is an important source of financing to small and private companies and property developers, and the tightening measures will weigh on economic growth in the short term."

The cost of one-year interest-rate swaps, a gauge of market expectation of money rates, rose six basis points, the most in three weeks, to 3.4 percent, data compiled by Bloomberg showed. The yield on 10-year government notes due November 2026 climbed three basis points after 4 p.m. to 3.38 percent, versus 3.35 percent on Monday, data showed.

FINANCE

Regulators drafting rules to rein in asset management risks



Beijing's financial district

The move will lead to tighter liquidity and higher funding costs for borrowers, analysts said.

President Xi Jinping and his top economic deputies have vowed to make control of financial risks their top priority in 2017. They're better positioned to do so after fiscal and monetary stimulus successfully put a floor under the government's growth goal of at least 6.5 percent.

Regulators are trying to defuse a bomb.

XIA LE
HK-BASED ECONOMIST

China's asset-management products totaled about 60 trillion yuan (\$8.7 trillion) as of June 30, according to a recent estimate by an official at the China Securities Regulatory Commission. Many of the products aren't recorded on institutions' balance sheets. As of en-

d-December, off-balance sheet wealth-management products issued by banks amounted to 26 trillion yuan, according to the central bank.

The new rules are being drafted by the central bank and the CSRC, together with the regulators for the banking and insurance sectors, the people said.

Under the draft rules, financial institutions would be banned from investing the proceeds of asset-management products in non-standard credit assets, mostly loans, or in beneficiary rights linked to such assets, the people said. Financial institutions would be required to set aside 10 percent of fees from managing clients' assets as reserves for potential risks.

The draft is still being discussed and is subject to changes, the people said.

The People's Bank of China, the CSRC and the banking and insurance regulators didn't immediately respond to requests for comment.

China's capital markets aren't as developed as their western peers, meaning the banking sys-

tem accounts for most financial assets. Besides regular deposits and loans, banks collect money from investors by selling wealth management products. Money is then often channeled to companies or projects that otherwise have little access to formal lending.

Such off-balance sheet financing swelled in the past decade. Warning lights flashed in 2014 when some of those asset management plans were on the verge of default, spurring increased ef-

orts by regulators to get a handle on such practices.

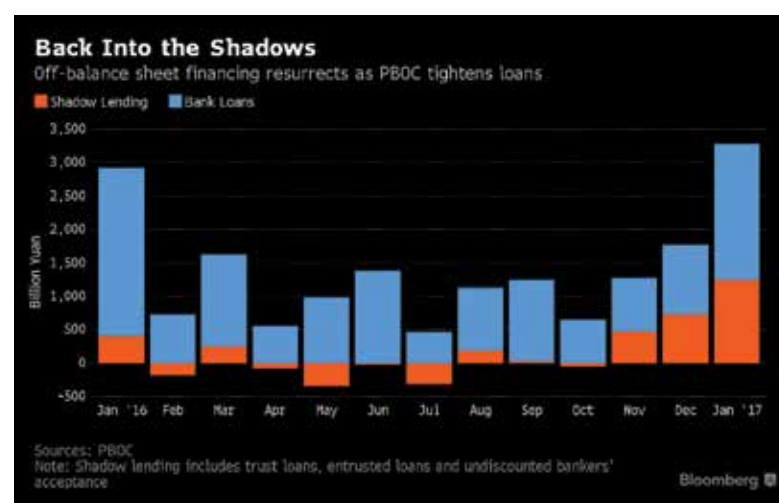
Credit data in January suggested banks were again boosting shadow lending as the broadest measure of new credit surged to a record while new loans trailed estimates.

If adopted, the draft regulations may mark a renewed push to curb such growth. The coordinated move also signals increased cooperation among China's regulators, following reports that officials have considered a revamp to financial supervision by merging some regulators while offering the central bank more power on economic policy.

Other than banks' wealth management products, trust firms had 15.3 trillion yuan of products outstanding at the end of June, according to the CSRC official. Mutual funds had issued 16.5 trillion and brokerage firms 14.8 trillion yuan of asset management products.

"Asset management is in every single sector of the financial system," according to Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist at Mizuho Securities Asia Ltd. in Hong Kong. "Regulators have realized that they have to cooperate to regulate it. Many loopholes are there exactly because regulators are not coordinating"

Bloomberg



Chinese minister appeals to Washington to avoid 'trade war'



Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng

CHINA'S commerce minister appealed to Washington yesterday to negotiate disputes and avoid a "trade war" that he warned would hurt both sides.

The two governments should work together to promote trade and a global recovery, Gao Hucheng said at a news conference in res-

ponse to a question about U.S. President Donald Trump's promise to raise taxes on Chinese imports.

Trump pledged during his election campaign to raise import duties on Chinese goods to 40 percent but has yet to take formal action. He also promised to declare that Beijing is improperly manipulating the exchange

rate of its yuan to give its exporters a price advantage, which would open the way to other sanctions.

Gao appealed to Washington to "properly solve" disputes through "dialogue and cooperation."

He argued that both sides have benefited from what has grown into the world's biggest trading re-

lationship.

"A trade war should not become an option," Gao said. "If the two sides fight, all will be hurt."

Trump argues that the existing order has short-changed Americans by exposing them to unfair competition with low-wage foreign laborers and to unjust trade practices by Chi-

na and others.

Gao never mentioned Trump by name but responded to questions about his comments by saying Beijing was waiting to see what Washington does.

"We noticed various remarks made by presidential candidates during the election but didn't want to comment too much because we wanted to see what stance the new government would take toward trade relations with China," he said. AP

ANALYSIS

Beijing can do more than stop buying coal to squeeze Pyongyang

IF China really wanted to pressure North Korea, it could go a lot further than a ban on buying the isolated country's coal.

Fuel and commodity exports to North Korea, worth at least about USD450 million last year, may be more vital to Kim Jong Un's regime than the cash it will lose after Beijing pledged on Saturday to halt coal imports. Despite pressure from the U.S., it's unlikely China will clamp down on the trade it views as livelihood assistance because that would risk destabilizing its neighbor, according to Jonathan Berkshire Miller, a fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations.

"The Chinese have no interest in really applying the type of pressure that some are expecting," said Miller, who is based in Tokyo. "When you are talking about a lifeline - what is the sustenance that is keeping the regime going - it's the aid and livelihood assistance. It's the support from China, rather than the money that North Korea gets from selling coal."

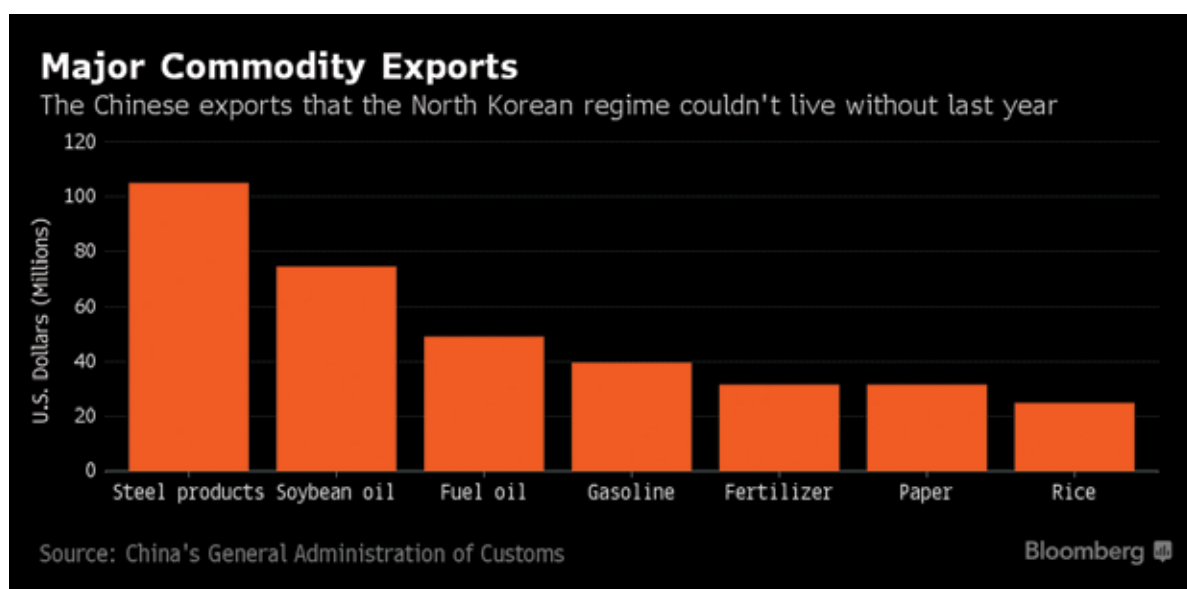
China, North Korea's main ally and trading partner, called last weekend for a renewed round of talks with the U.S. over its neighbor's nuclear program. While President Donald Trump has urged on China to apply more pressure on North Korea, Beijing is wary of triggering the

regime's collapse - in part to prevent having a U.S.-backed unified Korea on its border.

China sent North Korea about \$2.8 billion in exports last year, Chinese customs data show, and Beijing provides up to 90 percent of the country's energy supplies, according to a December report from the Cato Institute. The shipments included more than \$100 million in steel, almost \$50 million of fuel oil and tens of millions of dollars worth of rice and fertilizer, according to data from China's General Administration of Customs.

"The Chinese government and the Western countries have different understandings on how to pressure the North," said Yang Xiyu, who oversaw China's North Korean policies at the foreign ministry in 2004 and 2005. "For China and North Korea, economic sanctions are not as important as political sanctions. The lack of leadership meetings and high-level dialogues are how China exerts political pressure."

Chinese President Xi Jinping has yet to travel to Pyongyang or allow North Korea's leader to visit Beijing since the two came to power. After Liu Yunshan, a member of China's Politburo Standing Committee, attended a Workers' Party celebration in North Korea in October 2015, no other Chinese



official that senior has visited Pyongyang.

Authorities in Beijing announced Saturday that China would halt all coal purchases from North Korea until the end of the year in compliance with UN Security Council resolutions over the north's nuclear program.

China, the world's biggest producer and consumer of coal, previously bought the fuel under exemptions that allowed trade for "livelihood" purposes. The sales accounted for more than 50 percent of North Korea's exports to China last year and about a fifth of its total trade, according to Yang Moo-jin, a professor at the University of North Korean

Studies in Seoul.

"About 85 percent of North Korea's external trade is with China these days," Victor Cha, senior adviser and Korea chair at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies said in an e-mail. "Never has the trade composition been so lopsided in China's direction."

China will continue to take effective measures based on the requests of the UN Security Council, China's Commerce Minister Gao Hucheng said yesterday at a briefing in Beijing when asked if the country would further restrict trade with North Korea.

China last year imported

from North Korea 22.4 million metric tons of anthracite coal, compared with total inbound shipments for all varieties at 255 million tons, according to customs data. The shipments were worth almost \$1.2 billion, the data show.

Imports make up a fraction of total coal supplies in China, which is targeting production of 3.65 billion tons this year, the National Energy Administration said Friday. The restrictions also come as China's peak winter demand season begins winding down and regulators weigh reinstating domestic mining output limits to avoid the reemergence of a supply glut. **AP**

A prefecture in China's far western Xinjiang region is requiring all vehicles to install satellite tracking systems as part of stepped-up measures against violent attacks.

Traffic police in Bayingolin Mongol Autonomous Prefecture announced the regulation on Sunday, shortly after thousands of heavily armed police paraded in the Xinjiang capital and ruling Communist Party officials vowed to ramp up their campaign against separatists and Islamic militants.

The vehicle-tracking program in Bayingolin will utilize China's homegrown Beidou satellite system, launched in recent years to reduce China's reliance on U.S.-based GPS providers for

Prefecture in Xinjiang to track cars by satellite



Urumqi, capital of northwest Xinjiang Uygur Autonomous Region

sensitive applications. Authorities said they will also track cars using RFID technology embedded in license plates.

"In recent years, the terrorist situation arou-

nd the world has become severe, and cars are the main means of transport for terrorists," said prefectural authorities in an online statement. Authorities aimed to re-

gister and track up to 20,000 vehicles, the statement said.

Gas stations will only serve cars equipped with the tracking system, according to a separate local news report. Police officials in the prefecture confirmed the tracking program to the AP yesterday but declined to answer questions.

Xinjiang officials have sharply increased surveillance, street searches and police patrols in recent years amid bombings, vehicle and knife attacks blamed on separatist militants from the native ethnic Uighur minority. Uighur activists say economic marginalization

and a repressive government presence — including restrictions on Muslim religious and cultural practices — have fueled resentment and feed a vicious cycle of radicalization and violence.

Xinjiang shares a border with Afghanistan, Pakistan and several unstable Central Asian states.

The Chinese government denies religious discrimination and says its policies are needed to maintain stability in a region targeted by militant Islamic radicals.

Despite the constant state of police lockdown, three knife-wielding attackers killed five and

injured five others in Xinjiang's far western Pishan county last week, while several clashes between police forces and militants have been reported in recent months in the region's southern towns.

At a Saturday rally in the regional capital of Urumqi, Xinjiang party official Zhu Hailun exhorted rows of rifle-toting soldiers and police in tactical anti-riot uniforms to use their "hot blood and loyalty" to defend the people and deal a "crushing, obliterating blow" against separatist and radical Islamic forces from Central Asia. **AP**

SINGAPORE

Home curbs may stay for some time, minister says



Pooja Thakur

SINGAPORE'S residential property curbs are expected to stay for some time as the city-state's economy remains stable and demand is still "very resilient," National Development Minister Lawrence Wong said. Singapore home prices fell 3 percent in 2016, with prices declining for the 13th straight quarter in the last three months of the year for the longest streak since data was first published in 1975. Still, Singapore house sales last year topped 2015's tally as a third straight year of price declines stoked pent-up demand from homebuyers.

The cooling measures "have helped to achieve a soft landing in the property market," Wong, who's also the second finance minister, said in a Bloomberg Television interview with Haslinda Amin. "If you look at the market today, demand remains very resilient."

Singapore's government has been steadfast in its commitment to cool the housing market, maintaining real estate curbs rolled out since 2009, with some of the strictest measures implemented in 2013. The government has repeatedly signaled it is reluctant to ease property curbs, including capping debt repayments at 60 percent of a borrower's income and higher stamp duties, as it wants to avoid overheating the market again.

Singapore's residential property curbs are set to stay in place for at least another year amid signs the city's

housing market is stabilizing, the chief executive officer of CapitaLand Ltd., Southeast Asia's biggest developer said in an interview earlier this month.

"We see volume picking up and the price declines have slowed," Lim Ming Yan, the president and CEO of CapitaLand, said on Feb. 15. "We see this trend continuing for 2017. There is no compelling reason for the government at this point to make major changes" to property curbs, he said.

CapitaLand has pared its exposure to Singapore residential developments. Its inventory units were valued at SGD1.7 billion (USD1.2 billion) at the end of 2016, or 4 percent of estimated total assets, according to a Bloomberg Intelligence report led by senior industry analyst Patrick Wong.

CapitaLand rose 0.9 percent to SGD3.53 at 10:32 a.m. in Singapore trading. City Developments Ltd., the country's second-largest developer, slid 0.9 percent to SGD9.14 and Wing Tai Holdings Ltd. declined 0.3 percent.

Singapore, which outlined its annual budget Monday, is studying measures to boost revenue, including higher taxes, to help ease pressure on the budget as spending increases, Wong said in the interview. Wong also said that he doesn't anticipate a China-U.S. trade war, but the risk of one is "real" and Singapore should be prepared for the eventuality and its aftermath.

"The impact would be very significant, not just for us but for countries around Asia," he said. Trade accounts for more than three times Singapore's gross domestic product. **Bloomberg**

JAPAN

Money-losing Toshiba selling medical leasing unit to Canon

EMBATTLED Japanese electronics maker Toshiba Corp. is selling its stake in a medical equipment leasing company to Canon Inc. for 31.4 billion yen (USD277 million).

Toshiba said Tuesday it is selling its entire 65 percent stake in Toshiba Medical Finance Co. to Canon, a Japanese camera maker, effective March 31. Tokyo-based Toshiba has been in talks with Canon since late last year on the sale.

Toshiba, which owns U.S. nuclear company Westinghouse, is in deep trouble after suffering massive losses in its nuclear business. It has been selling off lucrative businesses such as its computer-chip operations.

It is projecting a 712.5 billion yen (\$6.3 billion) loss for its nuclear business, and has been unable to report April-December financial re-



sults. Its chairman has resigned to take responsibility for the mess.

Toshiba has already sold part of its chip business, and its president has said it is thinking about selling all of it to get out of the massive red ink.

It has also sold its household appliance unit to Midea of China, which is maintaining the Toshiba

brand name.

The company has said it will no longer take on new reactor construction projects and will focus on maintaining the reactors it already has.

Toshiba is also involved in the decommissioning of Japan's Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear plant, which suffered multiple meltdowns after a massive March 2011 earth-

quake and tsunami.

Its costs have risen because of growing safety concerns and regulations after the Fukushima accident, adding to Toshiba's woes.

Its reputation has also been tarnished in recent years by a scandal over the doctoring of accounting books to meet unrealistic profit targets. **AP**

Prosecutors seek 8-year terms for tourists in Bali death

INDONESIAN prosecutors sought eight-year prison sentences yesterday for a British man and an Australian woman accused of killing a police officer on the tourist island of Bali.

David James Taylor and his Australian girlfriend Sara Connor were arrested last August in the death of traffic police officer Wayan Sudarsa, whose bloodied body was found on the beach outside the Pullman Hotel in the popular tourist area of Kuta.

They were charged with committing violence leading to death, which carries a maximum 12-year prison term under Indonesia's criminal code.

The pair had been drinking beer on the beach in the hours before the late-night incident. Taylor admitted getting into a fight with Sudarsa, who was on duty, after Connor realized she had lost her handbag and accused Sudar-



Australian national Sara Connor

sa of being a fake police officer and stealing it.

Taylor admitted to hitting the Indonesian repeatedly with a cellphone, binoculars and a broken beer bottle, leaving him face down and unconscious. But he said he didn't realize Sudarsa would die.

Connor, a mother of two, seemed upset and angry after the Tuesday hearing.

Her lawyer, Erwin Siregar, said she could not accept the sentencing demand, which she regarded as too heavy.

The hearings are to resume next week. **AP**

Joel Calupitan, Boracay

PHILIPPINES

Framework of South China Sea pact possible soon

THE Philippines' top diplomat said yesterday it remains to be seen whether China will cooperate fully in ongoing efforts to craft a legally binding pact designed to prevent aggressive behavior in the disputed South China Sea.

Despite the likelihood of tough negotiations ahead, Foreign Secretary Perfecto Yasay Jr. expressed confidence that the 10-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China could at least complete a framework for such a pact, called a code of conduct, as early as June.

Efforts to forge such a regional nonaggression pact have dragged on for years without any concrete sign of when it might be completed. Asian and Western governments led by the United States have called for the rapid conclusion of such an accord as territorial disputes in the South China Sea escalated in recent years.

China, however, has opposed a legally binding agreement that could block its actions to assert its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea, a senior Southeast Asian diplomat involved in the negotiations for the nonaggression pact told The Associated Press.

Yasay said he was confident a framework for the agreement could be finalized by mid-year "on the basis of the fact that everyone, including all of the ASEAN member states and China are pushing hard for this."

"Whether, in fact, China will be able to cooperate along the way is something that we cannot say for now," Yasay said, without elaborating, after hosting a closed-door meeting of ASEAN foreign ministers on the central Philippine resort island of Boracay.

AP PHOTO



Foreign ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations link arms during the ASEAN's Retreat in Boracay

"China will not agree to anything that will tie its hands," said Jay Batongbacal, who heads the Institute for Maritime Affairs and Law of the Sea at the state-run University of the Philippines.

China's cooperation is crucial, Yasay said. While Southeast Asian governments generally want a strong pact, Yasay suggested the regional group would not want to craft a framework that is unacceptable to Beijing and would simply be "a piece of paper that will just further prolong discussions on the matter without getting any tangible results."

When China seized Philippine-claimed Mischief Reef in 1995,

the Manila government strongly protested and took steps that led to the start of negotiations for a regional accord with China to discourage actions that might spark armed confrontations.

Beijing's opposition to a legally binding pact then, however, led to the signing in 2002 of a non-binding declaration to encourage China, Brunei, Malaysia, the Philippines, Taiwan and Vietnam to avoid aggressive actions in one of Asia's potential flashpoints.

China and rival claimant countries, however, have traded accusations of violating the 2002 pact, which urged them to "exercise self-restraint in the conduct

of activities" and refrain "from action of inhabiting on the presently uninhabited islands, reefs, shoals, cays, and other features."

In the last three years, China has turned seven mostly submerged reefs, including Mischief Reef, into man-made islands, including at least three with runways. It also reportedly installed defense missile systems on the new islands, sparking alarm and protests from rival claimants.

The Philippines used to be the most vocal Southeast Asian critic of China's actions in the disputed waters, successfully questioning the legal basis of Beijing's claims in an arbitration case Manila won

in July last year. Current President Rodrigo Duterte, however, has taken steps to reach out to China and has prioritized improved economic engagement.

Whether, in fact, China will be able to cooperate along the way is something that we cannot say for now.

PERFECTO YASAY JR.
FOREIGN SECRETARY, PHILIPPINES

That has helped deescalate tensions in the disputed waters, a key waterway for Asian commerce and security, but removed a key player that had defiantly stood against China's territorial ambitions along with the United States. That raises a question about how far the ASEAN bloc can push against China's assertiveness now, Batongbacal said.

"If the Philippines won't push, Vietnam and the others won't do it alone," he said. "There will be no pressure to come up with anything really substantial." AP

AUSTRALIA

Four American tourists and pilot killed in plane crash

AN Australian pilot and four American tourists on a golfing vacation were killed when a light plane crashed in flames into a shopping mall yesterday shortly after takeoff in the Australian city of Melbourne, officials said.

The five were on a twin-engine Beechcraft Super King Air that crashed about 45 minutes before the Direct Factory Outlet mall in suburban Essendon was to open, Police Minister Lisa Neville said.

The U.S. Embassy in Canberra confirmed that four victims were U.S. citizens. Texans Greg

Reynolds De Haven and Russell Munsch have been identified by their families on social media as two of the victims.

De Haven's sister Danelle Wicht posted on Facebook that her 70-year-old brother had been killed "on a once in a lifetime trip to Australia" with friends.

The pilot was Max Quartermain, owner of the charter company Corporate and Leisure Travel.

The plane had taken off from Melbourne's second-biggest airport at Essendon for a golfing trip to King Island, 255 kilometers (160 miles) to

the south, officials said.

The mall adjoins the airport.

Police Assistant Commissioner Stephen Leane said no one outside the plane was injured.

"Looking at the fireball, it is incredibly lucky that no one was at the back of those stores or in the car park of the stores, that no one was even hurt," Leane said.

The pilot reported a "catastrophic engine failure" moments before the plane crashed into a storage area at the rear of the mall, police said.

Police and paramedics rushed to the crash site, where firefighters dou-

sed the flames.

A witness who gave his name as Jason told Australian Broadcasting Corp. he was passing the mall in a taxi when the plane crashed.

"I saw this plane coming in really low and fast. I couldn't see the impact but when it hit the building there was a massive fireball," he said.

"I could feel the heat through the window of the taxi, and then a wheel — it looked like a plane wheel — bounced on the road and hit the front of the taxi as we were driving along," he said. AP

AP PHOTO



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IKEA General Manager Hong Kong and Macau

"Creating a better everyday life for Macau home-lovers"

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IKEA in Macau today
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Creating a better everyday life for the many people in Macau

Venue: Salon I & II, Level 1
MGM, Macau

12.30: Registration
1 pm: Lunch
1.20 pm: Presentation by Patrick Lindvall
1.45: Q&A Session
2 pm: Close

Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event

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Jill Lawless,
Associated Press

Amid protests, UK lawmakers debate downgrading Trump visit

THOUSANDS of protesters against U.S. President Donald Trump rallied outside Britain's Parliament, while lawmakers inside urged the government to rescind its offer to the president of a state visit stamped with pomp, pageantry and royal approval.

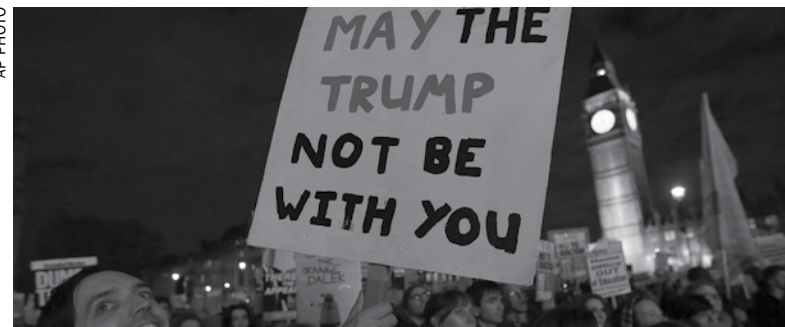
In a passionate debate yesterday [Macau time] that's unlikely to change the British government's position, Trump was labeled a misogynist, a bigot and a "petulant child" by opposition legislators. They argued that a state visit planned for later this year will demean the U.K. and Queen Elizabeth II, the president's official host.

Conservative lawmakers, however, said revoking the invitation would do far more harm. Tory lawmaker Edward Leigh said canceling the state visit would be "catastrophic" to the trans-Atlantic relationship.

"He is the duly elected president of the United States. [...] It would be a disaster if this invitation is rescinded," Leigh said.

The debate was called after more than 1.8 million people signed an online petition calling for the state visit to be downgraded.

All petitions on the government's website that receive more than 100,000 signatures are eligible for debate in Parliament, though not a binding vote. Lawmakers on Monday also considered an opposing petition, with



Amid protests, UK lawmakers debate downgrading Trump visit

more than 300,000 signatures, backing the state visit.

No formal vote was held at the end of the three-hour debate, which took place in a side-room of Parliament rather than the House of Commons chamber. The chants of protesters outside could be heard as lawmakers spoke.

Labour Party legislator Tulip Siddiq said Trump should not be allowed to spread "his bigotry, his misogyny, his division" in Britain. Another Labour lawmaker, Daniel Zeichner, called the president "a disgusting, immoral man."

"We do not welcome bigots," he said.

Labour's Paul Flynn pointed out that a state visit was a "rare privilege" given to only two other U.S.

presidents since the 1950s — George W. Bush and Barack Obama.

State visits are distinct from official visits, and see foreign leaders welcomed with royal pomp and military ceremony. Most stay at Buckingham Palace as guests of the monarch, and Flynn said a state visit would make it appear as if the queen were "approving the acts of Donald J. Trump" — a man Flynn said had behaved "like a petulant child."

Both Bush and Obama made their state visits several years into their tenures. Prime Minister Theresa May invited Trump a week after his Jan. 20 inauguration.

Some lawmakers said May's haste to bolster the trans-Atlantic "special relationship" as the U.K.

prepares to leave the European Union had an edge of desperation.

"We didn't do this for Kennedy," Labour lawmaker David Lammy said. "We didn't do this for Truman. We didn't do this for Reagan. But for this man, after seven days, we say 'Please come and we will lay on everything because we are so desperate for your company?' [...] I am ashamed that it has come to this."

During her 65-year reign, Elizabeth has welcomed many leaders with less-than-spotless records, including Russian President Vladimir Putin and the late Romanian dictator Nicolae Ceausescu. A 2015 state visit by Chinese President Xi Jinping drew protests from Tibetan groups and human rights activists.

Conservative lawmaker Jacob Rees-Mogg said critics of Trump's pending visit were being hypocritical.

"What complaint did the honorable member make when Emperor Hirohito came here?" he asked Flynn.

The Japanese emperor's 1971 state visit was highly controversial at the time. But Trump's invitation has sparked unprecedented oppo-

sition, especially after he issued an executive order temporarily barring citizens of seven majority-Muslim nations from entering the United States. The order has since been suspended by U.S. courts.

Thousands of people demonstrated against the order in British towns and cities, and London Mayor Sadiq Khan urged the government to reconsider its invitation in light of Trump's "cruel" migrant ban.

House of Commons Speaker John Bercow set aside his customary political neutrality to say that Trump should not be invited to address Parliament when he comes to Britain.

The government insists Trump's visit will take place, though dates have not been announced.

"We believe it is absolutely right that we should use all the tools at our disposal to build common ground with President Trump," Foreign Office Minister Alan Duncan told lawmakers.

"The visit should happen, the visit will happen," he added. "And when it does I trust the United Kingdom will extend a polite and generous welcome to President Donald Trump." AP

USA-EU

VP Pence tries to reassure European leaders shaken by Trump



Mike Pence (left) and Donald Tusk at the European Council building

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence vowed to stand with the European Union and the NATO military alliance, but was met with some skepticism from leaders shaken by President Donald Trump's more critical comments.

European Union Council President Donald Tusk said he had "open and frank talks" with Pence and that the bloc would watch closely to ensure the U.S. acts on its words of support.

"I heard words which are

promising for the future, words which explain a lot about the new approach in Washington," Tusk said.

"Too many new and sometimes surprising opinions have been voiced over this time about our relations — and our common security — for us to pretend that everything is as it used to be," he said, adding that Europe was counting on the United States' "wholehearted and unequivocal" support.

Tusk added, "Both Europeans and Americans must

simply practice what they preach."

Trump's benevolence toward Russian President Vladimir Putin and campaign rhetoric that included branding NATO obsolete and vowing to undo a series of multinational trade deals has sparked anxiety in Europe. Trump was also supportive of Britain's vote last year to leave the 28-nation EU, a withdrawal known as Brexit. And he has suggested that the EU itself could soon fall apart.

In a visit Brussels, Pence said Trump had asked him "to express the strong commitment of the United States to continued cooperation and partnership with the European Union."

After talks with NATO Secretary General Jens Stoltenberg, Pence reiterated the administration's strong support for the alliance, but warned that Trump wants to see "real progress" by the

end of the year on boosting defense spending.

NATO leaders agreed in 2014 that alliance members needed to start spending at least 2 percent of their gross domestic product by 2024. Only five nations currently do so: the United States, Britain, Poland, Estonia and Greece.

"The truth is many others, including some of our largest allies, still lack a clear and credible path to meet this minimum goal," Pence said.

Asked what the administration would do if allies failed to meet the defense spending target, Pence said, "I don't know what the answer is to 'or else,' but I know that the patience of the American people will not endure forever."

Pence's meetings in Brussels were aimed at assuring European leaders that his words reflected the views of Trump and would not easily

be swept away at the whim of the U.S. president or undermined by statements issued on Twitter.

Pence, as he did in an address Saturday at the Munich Security Conference, also said Trump would demand that Russia honor its commitments to end the fighting in Ukraine.

"In the interest of peace and in the interest of innocent human lives, we hope and pray that this

cease-fire takes hold," he said.

The vice president also noted the "heartbreaking" suicide bombings at the Brussels airport and subway system in March 2016, and said the U.S. would continue to collaborate with EU partners to address safety and combat terrorism.

"The United States' commitment to the European Union is steadfast and enduring," he said. AP

NEW NATIONAL SECURITY ADVISER A SOLDIER-SCHOLAR



DONALD TRUMP has chosen as his national security adviser a soldier-scholar who fought in both Iraq wars and wrote an influential book that called out the U.S. government for "lies" that led to the Vietnam War. Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster would remain on active military duty while leading the National Security

Council, White House officials said. He joined two retired generals — Defense Secretary Jim Mattis and Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly — already in Trump's inner circle, adding to the impression that the president prefers military men in top roles. McMaster replaced retired Gen. Michael Flynn.

what's ON



THE VOICE OF DESIGN – WORKS EXHIBITION BY STUDENTS AND TEACHERS OF THE BACHELOR OF ARTS IN DESIGN OF MACAU POLYTECHNIC INSTITUTE

TIME: 11am-10pm

UNTIL: April 15, 2017

VENUE: IFT Café, Anim'Arte NAM VAN

ADMISSION: Free

MONKEY KING

TIME: 7:30pm

UNTIL: February 28, 2017

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP420, MOP520, MOP780,

MOP1080, MOP1580

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818

LOVE OF MACAU – PHOTOGRAPHS BY LEE KUNG KIM

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

UNTIL: July 9, 2017

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

AD LIB- RECENT WORKS BY KONSTANTIN BESSMERTNY

TIME: 10am-7pm (no admission after 6:30 pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: May 28, 2017

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

ADMISSION: MOP5 (free on Sundays and public holidays)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

THE STAMP FESTIVAL

TIME: 9am-5:30pm (no admission after 5pm, closed on public holidays)

UNTIL: April 7, 2017

VENUE: Communication Museum of Macao / Estrada D. Maria II, No. 7

ADMISSION: MOP10

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2871 8063 / 2871 8570

SAILING FOR DREAMS - WORKS BY KWOK WOON

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 23, 2017

VENUE: Navy Yard No.1, Rua de S. Tiago da Barra

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

Offbeat

SINGLE MOM DRESSES THE PART AT 'DADS AND DONUTS' EVENT

A single mom is generating attention online after she donned a mustache, dressed up like a dad for a school breakfast event and posed for photos with her son.

KSL-TV reports (bit.ly/2lzXYZY) Whitney Kittrell wore the costume after deciding to fulfill her son's request that she accompany him to a "Dads and Donuts" event.

Kittrell is divorced with full custody of her children and says some days have been better than others for the family.

She said her son was all happiness as he introduced her to his classmates as both parents.

Kittrell said Lucas told her he wanted her to go since she's his dad too.

The St. George mom posted the photos online and received a surprisingly strong response.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
14:50	RTPi Live
17:00	Criminal Minds S.8
18:20	Next in Line (Repeated) - End
19:10	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:40	Soap Opera
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-Daily Portuguese News
21:40	Medicine's Big Breakthrough - Editing your Genes
22:10	Labirint
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:40	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:15	RTPi Live
03:45	Champions League: Porto - Juventus (Live)
05:45	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

16 FEB -22 FEB

LOVE CONTRACTUALLY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Liu Guonan

Starring: Sammi Cheng, Joseph Chang

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 98min

RESIDENT EVIL: FINAL CHAPTER

ROOM 1

7:45pm

Director: Paul W. S. Anderson

Starring: Milla Jovovich, Ali Larter, Shawn Roberts, Ruby Rose

Language: English

Duration: 103min

JOHN WICK: CHAPTER TWO

ROOM 2

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

Director: Chad Stahelski

Starring: Keanu Reeves, Ian McShane, Ruby Rose

Language: English (Chinese)



LA LA LAND

ROOM 2

7:15pm

Director: Damien Chazelle

Starring: Ryan Gosling, Emma Stone

Language: English

Duration: 128min

A CURE FOR WELLNESS

ROOM 3

2:30, 9:15pm

Director: Gore Verbinski

Starring: Dane DeHaan, Jason Isaacs, Mia Goth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 146min

THE LEGO BATMAN MOVIE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chris McKay

Starring: Jenny Slate, Will Arnett, Ralph Fiennes

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 104min

MACAU TOWER

16 FEB - 22 FEB

KUNG-FU YOGA

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

Director: Stanley Tong

Starring: Jackie Chan, Disha Patani, Amyra Dastur

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

this day in history

1986 FILIPINO COUP LEADERS
TELL MARCOS TO GO

Two senior members of the Philippines government have taken refuge in the defence ministry building in the capital, Manila, after denouncing President Ferdinand Marcos.

Yesterday, Defence Minister Juan Ponce Enrile and chief of staff Lieutenant-General Fidel Ramos accused the president of planning to arrest leaders of the opposition.

They called on ministers and army officers to help them topple Marcos and then took over Camp Aguinaldo, the defence ministry.

Speaking from Camp Aguinaldo, Mr Enrile told the press Mrs Aquino had won the election and Marcos should step down.

"We had no plans to stage a coup d'etat. But we are going to defend ourselves from an imminent assault," Mr Enrile said.

Lt-Gen Ramos told American TV all 13 regional army commanders had pledged their support for a coup, while Marcos claimed he had control of "99% of the military".

Heavily armed troops have surrounded the building and President Marcos has said the situation is "under control".

He also accused the two men of conspiring to assassinate him and his wife, Imelda, and demanded their surrender.

In elections held on 7 February, the main opposition party, led by Corazon Aquino, and President Marcos both claimed victory.

The US has attempted to mediate by sending US special envoy Philip Habib who reports back to President Reagan later today.

Mrs Aquino, widow of Benigno Aquino assassinated on his return from exile three years ago by Marcos supporters, rejected Mr Habib's proposal last week for a power-sharing government.

Mrs Aquino has accused the president of stealing power and called for a one-day general strike next week and a boycott of businesses owned by the Marcos entourage.

The head of the Roman Catholic Church in the Philippines, Cardinal Jaime Sin, is also demanding an uprising.

He has called on the people to support Mr Enrile - despite the fact that he helped Marcos impose martial law in 1972 - and Lt-Gen Ramos.

"If such a government does not of itself freely correct the evil it has inflicted on the people then it is our serious moral obligation as a people to make it do so," he said.

"The way indicated to us now is the way of non-violent struggle for justice."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following day hundreds of thousands of civilians responded to calls for an uprising by surrounding troops at Camp Aguinaldo with barricades of buses, sandbags, logs and rubble.

The army put up little resistance to this "people power" and on 25 February Ferdinand Marcos and his wife were forced to flee to the United States. Marcos died in Hawaii in 1989.

Both were indicted by a US court on charges of fraud but Imelda was acquitted in 1990. In 1991 she was allowed home and ran for president but lost.

Two years later a Filipino court sentenced her to 18 years for corruption. She appealed and was acquitted.

Mrs Corazon Aquino was sworn in as the country's first woman president the day the Marcos' left.

She survived six coup attempts before she stepped down in 1992 to support her former Defence Minister Fidel Ramos as the next president.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Just when you though things absolutely couldn't get any more intense - well, here it is. One more situation you have no choice but to become totally and completely emotionally involved in.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You're ordinarily quite respectful of family members - especially your elders - and of friends, too. But no matter who it is, if you see them trying to interfere with your relationship, you just won't stand for it.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Well, a whole new workweek is nearly upon you, and this time out, you'll need to have your wits about you. Even if you have to force yourself, you really must put all your energy into the task at hand.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Today's astrological menu calls for a great, big helping of intrigue, mysteries, and secrets of only the most delicious kind. So if you're asked to keep quiet about a certain issue, you'll definitely do it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You wrote the book on loyalty - and that applies to anyone you care about, whether they're family, friends, or someone you met on the bus who asked for your advice.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Surprises are en route. Big ones. They'll be coming to you via your career and the people involved in it. This could mean the higher-ups you've been dealing with have been less than honest about your situation.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 The phone will probably start ringing bright and early this morning - and you really shouldn't ignore it. There's someone due to ring you up who has quite the news to share, and maybe even a romantic question to ask.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If you're in doubt about how to handle a financial situation - which means it's quite a tough situation, because you're a whiz at this type of thing. Contact the one person on this planet you trust most implicitly.

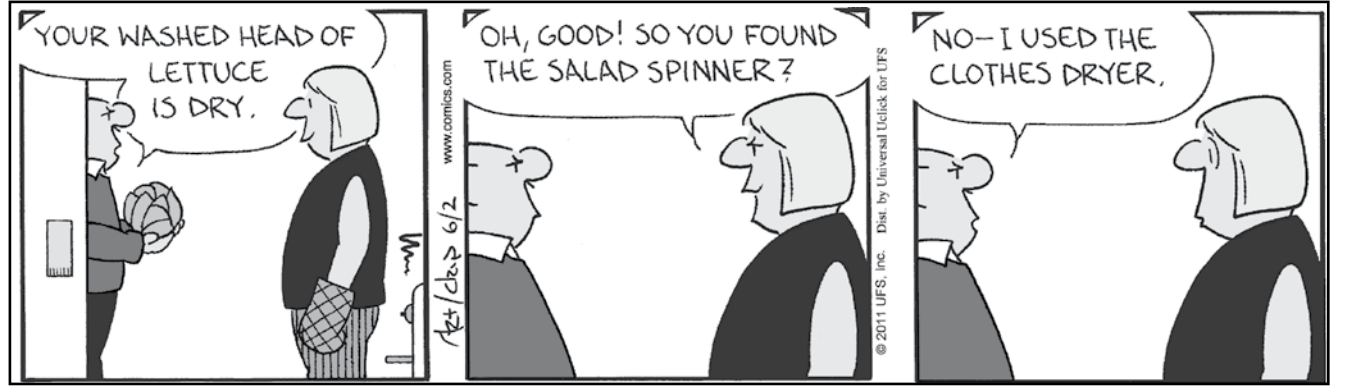
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's a little-known fact that you are an expert caretaker. It's not just because you can make anyone laugh at any time -- and laughter, after all, really is the best medicine.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If someone comes to you, asking that you help take charge of a difficult project that just isn't getting off the ground properly, you'll be more than happy to do it. But be sure what you're doing isn't interfering with your 'real' job.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone interesting - no, absolutely fascinating - is right around the corner, just dying to meet you. You, of course, are always game for different folks - especially the kinds who have brains.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're going to have to learn the delicate art of multitasking over the next couple of days, but you're as flexible as a sign could possibly be, so that won't be much of a problem.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

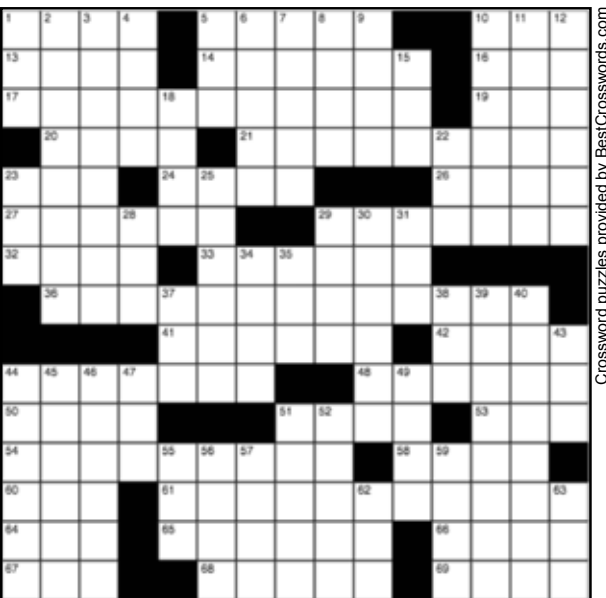
Sudoku puzzles categorized as Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Rapper born Tracy Marrow; 5- 1985 Kate Nelligan film; 10- Candle count; 13- Mistress; 14- Work of one who sews; 16- "Michael Collins" actor; 17- Lack of appetite; 19- Golf champ Ernie; 20- Let's go!; 21- Heavy overcoat; 23- Cinque follower; 24- NASDAQ debuts; 26- Chorus voice; 27- Verdi title bandit; 29- Skipper; 32- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 33- Kiss; 36- Not fully conscious; 41- Mend; 42- Architectural pier; 44- Free from confinement; 48- Raise; 50- Western Indians; 51- Extent of space; 53- Hill builder; 54- Absolve from blame; 58- Social misfit; 60- Dine; 61- Everlasting; 64- U-turn from SSW; 65- Deficient in pigmentation; 66- Blood fluids; 67- ___ Lingus; 68- Rest atop; 69- Swirl; DOWN: 1- Dictator Amin; 2- Interests; 3- One who takes a test; 4- Word processing error; 5- Legal ending; 6- Release; 7- Pitchers; 8- Baseball team; 9- Member of a great Peruvian people; 10- Ring of color; 11- Trattoria treats; 12- Singer Sheena; 15- Receive; 18- Nabokov novel; 22- House pet; 23- Spot; 25- 12th sign of the zodiac; 28- Human limb; 29- Mozart's "___ fan tute"; 30- Gather over time; 31- Beta Kappa; 34- Sulk; 35- ___ roll; 37- Lyricist Gershwin; 38- Lever for rowing; 39- Undeserved; 40- Norm; 43- Gallery offering; 44- Ivanhoe's love; 45- Flammable gas; 46- Linger aimlessly; 47- Superlative suffix; 49- Window piece; 51- Easy ___; 52- Thick-skinned charger; 55- Conductor ___-Pekka Salonen; 56- Commendably; 57- Prefix



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Barry Wilner

FIGURE SKATING

HERE'S a figure skating rarity: An American man, Nathan Chen, is pushing the envelope on jumps with an assortment of quads that will have the rest of the world's top skaters needing to expand their repertoires.

Quadruple jumps rarely have been a staple of U.S. men's programs. While Russian, Japanese and Chinese skaters were loading up on the four-rotation point grabbers, the top Americans generally stuck to triples and artistry. Evan Lysacek won the 2010 Olympic gold medal with a brilliantly choreographed and versatile free skate that was devoid of quads. Evgeny Plushenko, the 2006 Olympic champion, pointed that out after finishing second to Lysacek.

Now comes Chen, 17, whose victory at Four Continents over the weekend was a huge step up from his win at nationals in January. In beating Sochi gold medalist Yuzuru Hanyu, three-time world winner Patrick Chan and Chinese jumping jack Jin Boyang, Chen established himself as a force on the international scene.

He did so in Pyeongchang, South Korea, on the 2018 Olympic arena ice. He did so with a stunning program that included five quads; some American men would be happy to land that many in a season.

And he wasn't all that impressed with his performance, either.

"This is the first [international] championship event that I've won," Chen said Sunday. "I had a good lead coming out of the short program, which really benefited

me in the long program. I tried five quads today and I landed three of the five solidly. The other two were a little shaky, so that's something that I need to improve on for worlds."

Chen finished second to Hanyu in the free skate. So, yes, there is plenty to work on before heading to the world championships in late March in Helsinki, where Spain's Javier Fernandez, the two-time defending champ, will compete.

Still, what Chen has done is somewhat groundbreaking in U.S. skating. His artistry isn't at Lysacek's level — no American man has come close to that since 2010 — but his technical skills have raised the bar not only for his often-reluctant countrymen, but for every member of the men's field.

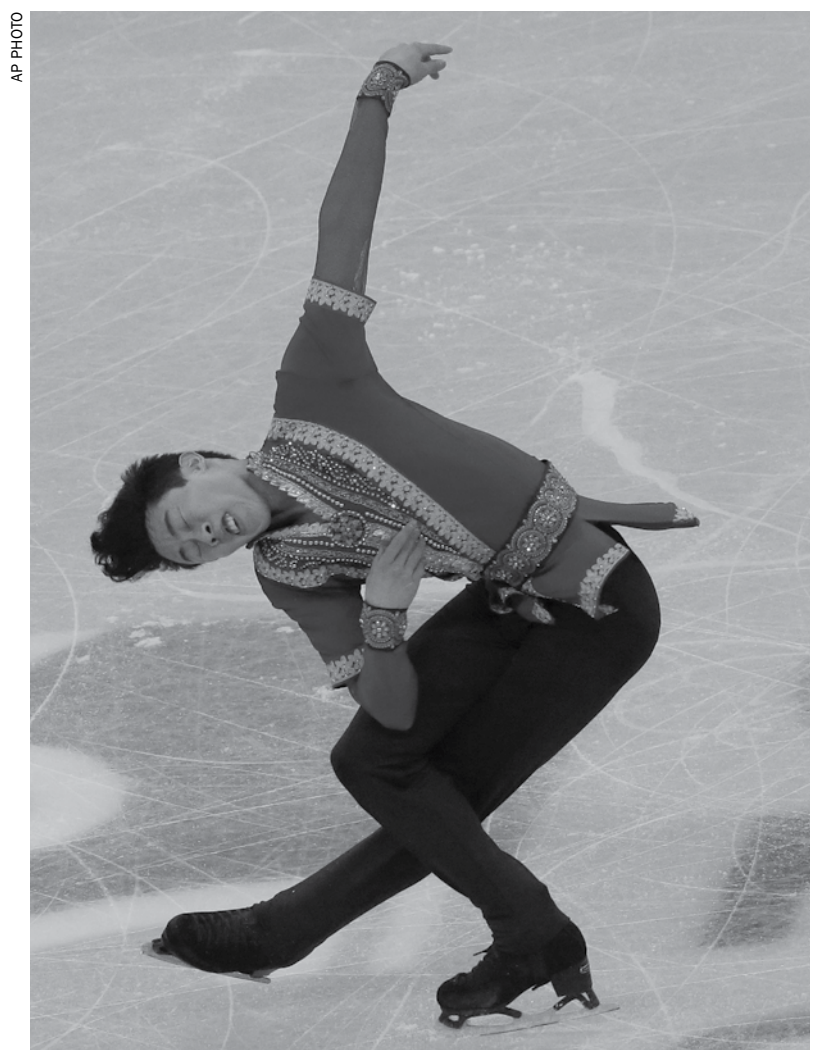
"The amount of quads I put into a program in a particular season is relative to how my body is adapting to training, how my body's adapting to competition and what the other skaters are doing," Chen said. "Yuzu [Hanyu] definitely pushed everything in terms of figure skating: the jumps, the artistry, everything together as a whole package. He really kind of started that when we were all junior skaters, including Shoma [Uno] and Boyang.

"Boyang really started that huge quad craze when we were younger. We were all struggling to get all our triples and do triple-triples and he was out there doing four quads in a long [program]. I think that really motivated all of us junior skaters to start working on these quads and putting them into the programs. It's really showing up now that we're senior skaters."

The fear, of course, is what all those quads in daily practices, let alone under the intense pressure of competition, can do to a body. His coach, Rafael Arutunian, believes Chen is only touching the limits of his ability, but he also notes that keeping any skater healthy under that physical pounding is difficult.

But it's virtually impossible to pull the reins in on a rising star, especially someone who wants to soar into uncharted air.

"Initially, a few weeks ago, that [five quads] wasn't the plan," Chen said matter-of-factly, as if two or three quads is something easy to do. "But as time progressed and I saw what the other guys were doing, I decided I didn't want to be held back by myself. It played out well for me [...] so I'm glad that's the way things went. We'll see what happens at worlds." AP



Gold medalist Nathan Chen of the United States competes in the men free skating at the ISU Four Continents Figure Skating Championships in Gangneung, South Korea

Olympic organizers say winter sports set for boom in Asia



Lee Hee-beom, president and CEO of the Pyeongchang Organizing Committee for the Olympic and Paralympic Winter Games (POCOG)

LEE Hee-beom, the head of the Pyeongchang organizing committee, expects the 2018 Olympics to usher in a new era for winter sports in Asia.

While the region has traditionally lagged behind North America and Europe in terms of winter sports competition, staging the next two

Winter Olympics in Asia would significantly shift the balance, Lee said.

"With Pyeongchang 2018 and Beijing 2022, winter sports will move from Europe and North American to Asia," said Lee who is attending the Asian Winter Games in Sapporo. "We will have more sports fans

among Asians because of Pyeongchang 2018 and Beijing 2022."

The Pyeongchang Games will mark the second time the Olympics have been staged in South Korea, which hosted the 1988 Summer Games in Seoul.

Construction workers are putting the finishing touches on the 12 competition venues in Pyeongchang and Gangneung, including six new facilities that organizers say are about 96 percent complete on average.

The athletes and media villages, an international broadcasting center, and a pentagonal stadium that will host the opening and closing ceremonies are expected to be finished by September.

Lee said he didn't think a recent scandal at Olympic sponsor Samsung will impact the Games.

A South Korean court has approved the arrest of a billionaire heir to Samsung accused of bribery and other charges in connection to a massive corruption scandal that engulfed the president and riveted the nation.

"Samsung has already committed to sponsoring the IOC and the Pyeongchang organizing committee," Lee said.

"Even with the recent scandal, I don't think (the Olympic sponsorship) will be affected," Lee added. "We already have the agreements, and Samsung has already donated and has agreed to sponsor (the Olympics). So I don't think it will be affected."

Questioned over a lack of infrastructure at the site of alpine skiing in Jeongseon, Lee said improvements were being made.

"Two new hotels are being constructed and the road to Jeongseon is being expanded from two lanes to four lanes," Lee said. "By the Games time we will have some hotel rooms. The construction of venues is almost done so we will now focus on building roads, hotels, restaurants."

Lee also said North Korea deserved to participate in Pyeongchang if they maintained the Olympic principles.

"Sports are separate from politics," Lee said. "As I continually mention, we will keep the basic principle of IOC which says peace is one of the priorities. Those who like peace should participate

and can participate and North Korea is no exception, they still can participate if they maintain the Olympic spirit."

Relations between the two Koreas have worsened since North Korea conducted two nuclear tests and a string of rocket launches last year as it continues to expand its nuclear weapons and missile programs.

North Korea is taking part in the ongoing Asian Winter Games which Lee cited as a promising sign.

On NHL players taking part in Pyeongchang, Lee said he met recently with league officials in New York and said he expected the players to be in South Korea. AP

MACAU LOST TO TURKMENISTAN 16 TO 0

YESTERDAY, team Turkmenistan beat team Macau 16 to 0 in a match of ice hockey in the Men's Division II Preliminary Round, during the ongoing 2017 Sapporo Asian Winter Games (AWG). Ice hockey is the only competition that Macau is participating in in

the Asian's sports contest. In total, Macau sent 29 people representing the city to compete in the 8th AWG, including athletes, coaches and other people. Neighboring region Hong Kong also played yesterday in Ice Hockey Men's Division, and lost 8-2 against Thailand.

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



TEACHING KIDS CODING

I recently read with interest that from the beginning of 2017 eight year olds in Victoria Australia will be taught coding. Every senior primary student in Victoria will have courses where they will design robot vacuum cleaners to clean their classrooms. And junior secondary students will have classes where they learn to identify and fix security flaws in software. As part of the state's new compulsory digital curriculum students are expected to code, gather and interpret large datasets and design Websites, Apps and Games that solve real-world problems.

It all seems very ambitious and is consistent with similar trends occurring in many other developed countries which have been experiencing declining enrollments in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects for years.

Having worked as a computer programmer, systems analyst and computer software/hardware project team leader, and having taught programming to university engineering students for several years, I am quite dubious about these initiatives and do not believe that they will work as intended.

There is much more to effective computer hardware and software based product development than "coding". You need to understand markets and customer needs, technology and systems design, project management and especially how to develop and guide project teams. None of these knowledge areas and skills, including coding, are part of the education and training of school teachers. Anybody with the skill-sets needed to teach these "coding" courses can make a lot more money and have a much more interesting working life applying them, rather than teaching them to children. Without sufficient numbers of well trained teachers these initiatives are doomed.

Also, "Coding" is a relatively easy and short lived skill - during my working life I successively taught myself about eight of them, from Assembler to Fortran and C, and to SQL and HTML, and I learned to use several computer operating systems and software development systems. Much more difficult and important is understanding and analyzing working processes, systems thinking and the selection and development of algorithms and database structures. And then there is a broad spectrum of inter-related knowledge and skills for managing teams that are absolutely essential. All these are much more important and broadly useful than simple "coding".

It never ceases to amaze me how little school children learn about teams and effectively working in teams, and yet when they reach university and in their subsequent working lives team skills are core to their success. I have been involved in several research projects which concluded that teamwork is a fundamental skill for our modern world, and it is something that must be taught, and the earlier the better.

Thinking logically to understand problems and processes is also key to many life situations and yet it is rarely touched on in schools, and even in university studies. Teaching, misguidedly in my opinion, is far to often focused on stuffing people's heads full of useless facts. Because of their poor educational preparation, even good students, flounder as soon as they hit unstructured real-world problems.

I fully agree that the world needs many more good STEM graduates and that interest in these fields is best developed during primary and secondary schooling. I also agree that schools in Macau should be changing in this direction. But, for heaven's sake do not fall into the trap of thinking that teaching "coding" is the solution.

We need primary and secondary education to focus much more on developing young people's team skills, and we need them to learn how to deal with novel and unstructured real-world problems, not to simply learn how to calculate the time taken to fill a bucket when water is pouring into it at one speed and leaking from it at another, or teaching the meaning of `printf(stdout, "hello world");`

THE BUZZ HULK SHOOTS SHANGHAI TO WIN IN SEOUL IN ASIAN CHAMPS LEAGUE

A long-range second-half strike by Hulk helped Shanghai SIPG beat FC Seoul 1-0 in the Asian Champions League yesterday.

Hulk, who signed for over USD50 million in June 2016, made the difference for the Chinese Super League team eight minutes into the second half. "We had to work hard for the win," Hulk said.

Six minutes after Hulk's goal, Seoul was awarded a penalty after striker Dejan Damjanovic was fouled by Shanghai's He Guan, who was sent off. But Yan Junling saved Damjanovic's kick.

"We had a man sent off but we competed well until the end," Shanghai coach Andre Villas-Boas said.

Lawyer: Portugal to extradite ex-CIA agent to Italian jail

Barry Hatton, Lisbon

A Portuguese court has ordered police to extradite a former CIA agent to Italy, where she is due to serve a four-year prison sentence after being convicted of involvement in a U.S. program that kidnapped suspects for interrogation, her lawyer said yesterday.

Police took Sabrina de Sousa to a Portuguese jail where she is awaiting extradition, her Portuguese lawyer, Manuel Magalhaes e Silva, told the Associated Press. He said in an email that she was detained Monday and is expected to be sent to Italy within days.

De Sousa was among 26 Americans convicted for kidnapping suspect Osama Moustafa Hassan Nasr, also known as Abu Omar, from a Milan street on Feb. 17, 2003. She denied involvement in the abduction.

The U.S. rendition program, under which terror suspects were kidnapped and transferred to centers where they were interrogated and tortured, was part of the anti-terrorism strategy of the Bush administration following the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks. Former President Barack Obama ended the program years later.

DeSousa lost several appeals against extradition since her



Osama Hassan Mustafa Nasr, known as Abu Omar

arrest at Lisbon Airport in October 2015 on a European warrant. She had argued she was never officially informed of the Italian court conviction and couldn't use confidential U.S. government information to defend herself.

De Sousa is expected to be jailed immediately upon her arrival in Italy in a prison in either Rome or Milan, her Italian lawyer Dario Bolognesi told the AP. Once she is incarcerated, Bolognesi said he would make a formal request for her to be granted semi-freedom and serve her sentence doing social work.

However, the written ruling by the Lisbon judges, provided to the AP by the court, said that the verdict in Italy which provided the grounds for the European arrest warrant is "not final." The warrant, the judges note, recognizes that she has the right to a new trial or can file an appeal because she was judged in ab-

sentia and was not officially notified of the trial date or the sentence.

Furthermore, the judges make clear that if she is convicted in new proceedings, as a Portuguese citizen she is entitled to serve any prison time in Portugal.

Police took Sabrina de Sousa to a Portuguese jail where she is awaiting extradition, her lawyer, Magalhaes e Silva said

De Sousa, who was born in India and holds both U.S. and Portuguese passports, has said she had been living in Portugal and intended to settle there. She was on her way to visit her elderly mother in India with a roundtrip ticket when she was detained.

Her lawyer, Manuel Magalhaes e Silva, served as Secretary for Administration and Justice in pre-handover Macau. **MDT/AP**

DC panda fans bam-boo-hoo as US-born cub leaves for China

The National Zoo in Washington is saying a final goodbye to its panda cub Bao Bao.

The zoo is packing up the American-born panda for a one-way flight yesterday to China, where the 3-year-old will eventually join a panda breeding program.

The cub didn't have to worry about finding

overhead bin space or dealing with a talkative seatmate on the 16-hour, nonstop flight. She's the only panda on the plane, traveling with a keeper and a veterinarian.

In preparation for the trip, keepers have packed Bao Bao's favorite foods, including bamboo, apples and sweet potatoes.



AP PHOTO

Station	Air quality
Roadside	30-50 Good
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good
Ambient	40-60 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Torrential rains in Jakarta have overwhelmed drains and flooded roads and thousands of homes. The disaster mitigation agency said that more than 50 areas are flooded in the city, with waters up to 1.5 meters high in East Jakarta.



AUSTRALIA Four American tourists on a golfing vacation and an Australian pilot were killed when their light plane crashes in flames into a shopping mall shortly after takeoff in the city of Melbourne.

More on p13

RUSSIA-USA The Kremlin refrained from comment on the appointment of the new U.S. national security adviser, Army Lt. Gen. H.R. McMaster, but one lawmaker said he was likely to take a hawkish stance toward Russia.

More on p15



USA A college professor who has successfully predicted every presidential election since 1984, including Donald Trump's upset victory last year, is working on a book based on a possible future plot twist: Trump's removal from office. Allan J. Lichtman's "The Case for Impeachment" is to be released on April 18.



ISRAEL A military court sentenced Sgt. Elor Azaria to 18 months in prison for his deadly shooting of a Palestinian attacker who lay wounded on the ground, capping a nearly yearlong saga that has deeply divided the country. Palestinians dismissed the sentence as a "joke."

AP PHOTO

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