



### BAROQUE MUSIC FESTIVAL RETURNS

The event will return this year for its third edition, organizer Alliance Française de Macao said at a press conference

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### UN COURT CONVICTS MLADIC OF GENOCIDE

A United Nations court convicted sentenced Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic to life in prison

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# Times

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**INDONESIA** The military and police continue to perform abusive virginity tests on female recruits three years after the World Health Organization declared they had no scientific validity, an international human rights group said yesterday.

**AUSTRALIA** A senator who is British by descent yesterday became the ninth lawmaker to leave Parliament over a 116-year-old constitutional ban on dual nationals running for office that threatens to bring down the government.



**VIETNAM** A half century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of U.S. veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent bullet — test results show some men may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia. More on p14

**PAKISTAN** The military says security forces have raided a militant hideout, triggering a shootout that left an army major dead in the northwest near the Afghanistan border.

**SYRIA** Syria's notoriously fragmented opposition gathering yesterday in the Saudi capital is trying to close ranks and come up with a unified vision as international efforts appeared headed toward a resolution that would preserve the rule of President Bashar Assad.

More on backpage

# China: Personality cult around Xi widens

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## Study shows Macau is one of the most luminous cities in the world

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## Man arrested for sexually harassing daughter

A 47-year-old local man was arrested for having sexually harassing his 20-year-old daughter, the Judiciary Police reported yesterday. The man is currently unemployed and divorced his wife two years ago. Before his arrest, he lived with his three daughters in an apartment located in the northern district. According to the PJ, the man first harassed one of his daughters in their apartment, and later sent a video of himself naked to her. On the same day, the victim sought help from the Social Affairs Bureau. The man will now face a maximum sentence of ten years and eight months in jail.

## Supermarkets sold unquarantined canned food

Five supermarkets were detected selling unquarantined canned food, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) reported on Tuesday. On Monday, IACM carried out a surprise inspection at several food suppliers across all districts. During the inspection, five supermarkets, each from a different supermarket chain, including Goodmart, Taifung, Leefong, Royal Supermarket, and San Miu Supermarket, were found selling unquarantined canned food. In total, IACM seized 551 items, all from the same supplier. Authorities will impose a penalty ranging between MOP50,000 and MOP600,000 on the supplier.

## IAS to operate additional Rehabus vehicles to help disabled

Starting from December 15, the Social Affairs Bureau, together with Macau Caritas and Macau Red Cross, will launch more Rehabus vehicles to transport people with disabilities from their residences to medical centers. Currently, the three entities operate ten Rehabus vehicles, but the service requires an advanced appointment. In December, the number of buses will be increased to thirteen vehicles, running every hour from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m., without requiring a previous appointment. The bigger bus can accommodate a maximum of five passengers. The smaller bus can accommodate four passengers.

## CULTURE

# Baroque Music Festival returns for third edition

Daniel Beitler

**T**HE Baroque Music Festival will return this year for its third edition, organizer Alliance Française de Macao (AF) said at a press conference yesterday, inviting three ensembles to play four dates between November 26 and December 2.

The free admission festival aims to integrate Baroque classical music with Chinese and Western architectural heritage in Macau, while also fulfilling the AF's mission statement of bringing French language and culture abroad.

Macau is home to a number of Baroque-style, including St. Joseph's Seminary and



St. Dominic's Church, and the Macau Military Club.

"Macau is very unique in Asia with all of its 18th century [architectural] herita-

ge," said AF board member David Rouault. "It is probably the place in Asia with the biggest [signs] of 17th and 18th century [European] architecture."

Organizers had wanted to stage the concerts in Macau's Baroque-style churches in line with the festival's theme and purpose. However, a change of plan was warranted after Typhoon Hato damaged some of the properties and temporarily closed them to such events.

"Most of the concerts were supposed to be in churches [of the Baroque style], but since Typhoon Hato hit, some of them needed to be fixed and we couldn't use those spaces," said Rouault.

## NEW AF DIRECTOR COMING FROM SHANGHAI

**T**HE NEW director of Alliance Française de Macao (AF) is likely to be William Bascaule from the Shanghai affiliate, a board member of the local association disclosed at a press conference yesterday for an upcoming Baroque Music Festival. Quizzed on who was set to take over the leadership position after Xavier Garnier stepped down in May, board member David Rouault confirmed Bascaule is currently the frontrunner, but is still waiting on a bluecard permit from

the government. "We are very keen [on Bascaule] because he is very experienced, staying a long time in Shanghai," said Rouault. "He sounds very promising." Rouault said that there had been another candidate to become director, but that they had to pull out from the position in August for personal reasons. The former director, Garnier, stepped down in the summer after serving in the role for three years, citing "personal and family" reasons.

## HKZM Bridge set to finish major construction works by year's end

**T**HE Hong Kong government said on Tuesday that the construction of the Main Bridge of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HZMB) is progressing well and the three sides have agreed to finish the major works by the end of 2017.

Financed by the Chinese mainland, Hong Kong and Macau, and constructed by the HZMB Authority, construction

of the bridge is progressing well, with the bridge and subsea tunnel sections now connected, according to the HKSAR government's Transport and Housing Bureau (THB).

The bureau added that furnishing works for the tunnel interior and roads, buildings on the artificial islands, and traffic control works are in progress.

The HZMB Joint

Works Committee meeting on November 7 discussed the commissioning date of the HZMB in detail. The three sides have agreed to make their best efforts to overcome the difficulties and challenges of constructing the bridge to meet the target of completing the major construction works of the Main Bridge and ports by the end of 2017. They will also continue to improve the



clearance conditions of the ports.

The commissioning date of the HZMB will be determined by the Central Task Force and will be announced once confirmed, the THB said.

Spanning over Lingdingyang, the HKZMB is an unprecedented mega transport infrastructure project that will connect Hong Kong in the east, with Macau and Zhuhai in the west. **MDT/Xinhua**

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Times

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# News At Hand



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# Light Festival budget slightly over MOP18m

Julie Zhu

**T**HE “Macao Light Festival 2017 – Amor Macau” will be on stage from December 3 until 31 at various locations across the city, with a reduced budget this year of around MOP18 million. This year, the festival will be organized at eight locations including the Ruins of St. Paul and St. Anthony’s Church.

The festival is said to provide a journey which is designed and created by over a hundred local transmedia creators and is organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO).

In its third edition, the Macao Light Festival will present a program which includes protection mapping, light installations, interactive games and a series of other activities such as the Light Art Exhibition, Mini Concert, Outdoor Movie and Light Dinner.

Related cultural and creative products will be launched in tandem with the festival.

MGTO director, Helena de

Senna Fernandes, noted that the production team is composed entirely of Macau talent, such as creators specializing in animation, music, film and multimedia.

During the light festival, the city will also be enlivened by a string of events including the second International Film Festival & Awards, and the Macao Shopping Festival and the Macao International Parade, as well as celebrations for the 18th Anniversary of the Establishment of the Macau SAR.

According to the MGTO director, the lighting shows will only be on display from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m., to ensure life in neighborhoods does not get disturbed into the late hours.

The event will feature an array of light installations and games. Anim’Arte Nam Van will be transformed into the Playground of Lights.

Helena de Senna Fernandes said that six companies submitted bids for designing and planning the festival.

“We have something new

compared to previous years, [...] the satisfaction of visitors of both local residents and non-local tourists increased [in the second festival],” said Helena de Senna Fernandes. She added that 90 percent of the interviewees support the Macau government’s efforts in continuing to organize this festival.

“Based on the two previous years and on the festival’s new elements for this year, I believe that human traffic will increase. I hope it can increase by at least 50 percent,” anticipated Fernandes.

It was reported that over 200,000 visitors have visited the Macao Light Festival.

In the festival’s first edition, the government faced criticism that the festival’s lights were too bright.

Last year, the government dimmed the lighting in response, however, received criticism this time that the festival had been over-dimmed.

Regarding this year’s lighting, Helena de Senna Fernandes said, “We will balance it. We can all perceive that the



selected architectures this year have bigger areas, therefore requiring bigger lighting areas. I believe that the experience this year will be more astonishing than in previous editions.”

She noted that the lighting this year will be slightly stronger than last time.

The designers have also arranged between 150 to 160 volunteers to assist at the festival.

When asked whether the festival helped to increase local businesses, Helena de Senna Fernandes admitted that “we did not collect data regarding the exact number of businesses which saw an increase in

their revenue.”

However, the MGTO director noted that she indeed remembered some shops at Taipa saying that they registered more sales during the light festival, particularly during the festival held on Valentine’s Day.

“Even though we do not have meticulous data, we do hope that more people can learn about the Freguesia de São Lázaro district,” said Helena de Senna Fernandes. In addition, she hoped that more attention could be drawn to the local recreational industry through this festival.

AD

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Sonia Chan (center)



Sulu Sou

## POLICY ADDRESS | ADMINISTRATION AND JUSTICE

# Sonia Chan: Only Beijing's interpretation of Basic Law is acceptable

Renato Marques

**T**HE election of members to the future municipal body with no political power is an impossibility "due to impositions of the Basic Law," Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan said yesterday at the Legislative Assembly.

Replying to criticism from lawmaker Sulu Sou, who argues that the Basic Law does not disqualify the option of elections, Sonia Chan said: "That's your interpretation of the Basic Law and we have many different interpretations of the Basic Law in Macau, but... on that matter we are in the

hands of National People's Congress."

With her reply, Chan tried to halt the insistent questions on the matter coming from several lawmakers.

With reference to Sou, Chan said that the lawmaker was trying to mold the spirit of the law to his own will. "It's necessary to read all of article 95 [of the Macau Basic Law] and not only a part of it," she said.

During a heated debate on the matter of municipal elections, Sou displayed a big volume of papers in his hand claiming to be thousands of opinions that corroborate his interpretation.

The Secretary replied: "Things

aren't that simple as Sou says; we need to have a broader notion and we must make an interpretation of the full rule. These [municipal] bodies cannot be on the first level of governance and in Macau we have a government of one level only."

"I disagree. In what sense have these changes become adverse?" Sou queried. "Regarding the municipal bodies, nobody has ever asked to create a local assembly [constituting] a second level [of governance]. Very far from that."

Another of the topics raised by Sou, and later supported by Au Kam San, concerned the lack of evolution of the Macau political system, a topic that has been ad-

ressed by several times already in the previous legislature, namely by Au, Ng Kuok Cheong and Pereira Coutinho, and that led to the walkout of Ng during last year's policy address presentation.

**These [municipal] bodies cannot be on the first level of governance and in Macau we have a government of one level only.**

SONIA CHAN

Chan, as she had already mentioned on the first day of the presentation of the Policy Address for Administration and Justice, replied: "Back in 2012 we [took] a

step towards the democratization of the political system. Frequent changes in the political system aren't favorable to the economic development [of Macau]," adding, "that is why I said yesterday that we need to consolidate the results [from that change] first."

"We continue with the same rhetoric speech," retorted Au. "The economy wasn't affected in any way back in 2012, why should it be now? This argument has no grounds. You keep focusing on small things [secondary matters]. You talk about all-things 'one-stop', but in this case we are in a 'full-stop' situation."

According to Au, the Secretary needs only to set a real schedule for the topics and put the services under her authority to work together to find answers.

"To come here with this repetitive speech has no [purpose] at all," he concluded.

Chan said she disagrees with the idea that the government is not "evolving" the political system and notes as an example of such evolution "the changes [recently introduced] to the Electoral Law," adding, "if Au doesn't agree we are evolving in the procedures, that's your interpretation then."

## Training for civil servants raises questions

**T**HE process of selection, hiring and training of Macau civil servants was one of the topics that raised many concerns by several lawmakers yesterday during the second day of questions and answers over the policy address for administration and justice, with the presence of Secretary Sonia Chan and her team at the Legislative Assembly (AL).

Lawmaker Lei Chan U requested that Chan explain how she plans to put into practice the added training for civil servants announced by the Chief Executive (CE). Lei also wanted to know how the secretary expects to evaluate the results of such training.

According to the lawmaker, who cited a survey to which almost 1,300 civil servants answered back in 2015, "17 percent of the surveyed responded that [the training sessions] are not useful and over 70 percent said that they are totally useless." Lei claimed that there is an urgency to review the mechanism as it seems to be very far from the idea expressed by the CE of creating an academy for civil servants.

Replying to the lawmaker was the director of the Public Administration and Civil Service Bureau (SAFP), Eddie Kou, who noted "we have already

studied this situation in order to solve it. We have verified that, regarding training courses, there is some margin for improvement in terms of conception and capacity."

"We concluded that there are 12 factors we should focus on to raise the efficiency of the training," he added. "We want that in the future these training sessions are done accordingly to the real needs of the workers."

Kou also noted that it is the intention of the SAFP to review the performance evaluation method in a way that "workers with better classification get chances to access several [better] career paths."

Adding to Kou's reply was Chan, who stressed that the number of civil servants was problematic for Chui's academy.

"We have about 34,000 civil servants; in the security field alone we have 11,000 and these ones have their own [training] institute. Also, there are 2,000 that are included at IPM [Macau Polytechnic Institute] and UM [University of Macau], which are not [required] to participate in this training. If we remove those, the other [about] 20,000 are participating in the session promoted by SAFP. We have to take this in note on a creation of an academy of this size."

## ARBITRATION TO RECEIVE A BOOST BY RENTAL CONTRACTS

**QUESTIONED BY** lawmaker Chui Sai Cheong on the topic of the Arbitration and Conciliation and about the possibility of extending such works to a "broader horizon" i.e. to the Portuguese-speaking countries, Secretary Sonia Chan said, "we have already started to hear and we are preparing to listen the operators [in this field]. More than the re-

gime itself, [what is] important is the disclosure of information as until now the number of cases [that reach arbitration] is very few. We must seek [to examine the] effects [of the arbitration system] in order to promote it to the operators. We can introduce this [as a mandatory] clause on the rental contracts, in order to make use of this regime," she said.

EDUCATION

# Macau ranks eighth in global collaborative problem solving test

Lynzy Valles

MACAU students ranked eighth in group problem solving skills, according to the results of a Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) 2015 study that was published yesterday.

Among the 51 countries that took part, the region scored 534, while Singapore remained the leader with a mean score of 561 in the Collaborative Problem Solving (CPS) portion of PISA.

The triennial international benchmarking study disseminated results on its scientific, reading and mathematical literacy to the public in December last year. In these categories Macau ranked sixth, 12th and 3rd respectively.

This is the first CPS study conducted by PISA, which targets 15-year-olds in a comparative education perspective. PISA recently deemed the CPS one of the most pertinent skills in today's era.

The goal of CPS assessment is to find out how competently stu-



dents are able to collaborate and communicate with their peers to solve problems encountered in daily life.

More than 85 percent of local students had a CPS proficiency beyond the baseline level (=2).

The digital assessment is held through chat-based conversations with virtual agents in which the examinee communicates and cooperates with them in.

In a press conference held yesterday by the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), the bureau said that the results are indi-

cative of local students' high CPS ability within a global perspective.

The PISA 2015 findings reveal that in all participating countries and regions, females outperform males in CPS ability.

In Macau, females outperform males statistically by 38 score points.

However, the city's gender difference in CPS is relatively greater than most other regions.

Cheung Kwok Cheung, a professor from the Educational Testing and Assessment Research Center of the University of Macau, noted

that the PISA 2015 is significant for the region's education system as the results showed that the region's system has produced an enhanced student-learning experience.

"PISA 2015 is important to Macau in terms of enhancing Macau's education system because participants were born in 1999, after the handover. So they are nurtured under the education policy of the SAR government," Cheung explained.

"The results tell the education sector that in the first 15 years [students] have a great performance in literacy and we hope we can continue to progress and nurture other talents," he continued.

However, there is still a greater need to invest more efforts in improving the CPS abilities of local students.

Although CPS is not a skill taught in specific school subjects, it is generally integrated in student learning activities, or it is immersed in the workplace and living environment.

Hence, DSEJ Director Leong Lai

expressed that it is of paramount importance in the region's future education system to build up a platform for students to practice core skills of interpersonal relationships, rendering them opportunities to collaborate with teammates to solve problem

Leong said that the bureau needs to pay attention to student-teacher relationships and student-parent relationships to better students' team work skills.

"In enhancing these kinds of training for teachers, they need to have different teaching methods for students to enhance their ability in communication skills," she noted.

Leong recalled that DSEJ has also published some parent-child reading books and teaching materials, urging parents to regularly communicate with their children in relation to their schoolwork.

The director also added that following the PISA 2015 results, DSEJ would further work on encouraging parents to assist their children to develop the skills needed in workplaces, such as complex problem solving and critical thinking.

Leong finally revealed that the bureau has plans to visit Singapore's education department in early 2018 for experience-sharing.

Singapore ranked first among the four PISA 2015 fundamental literacies. The country also ranked first in PISA 2012.

AD

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Vivian Tam



The bright lights from a pawnshop

# Study shows Macau is one of the most luminous cities in the world

Lynzy Valles

A study being conducted by a Masters student shows that Macau is the most luminous city in the world, a matter that remains underrated by society.

Vivian Tam, currently studying Masters of Environmental Science and Management at the University of Saint Joseph's Institute of Science and Environment, set up three sky quality meters in Macau to monitor the city's brightness during the night.

Although Tam is still working through the preliminary results of her research, as the project only underwent four months of field analysis, the researcher said that the Macau peninsula's sky brightness is relatively higher than the natural or average value, as determined by the International Dark Sky Association.

Mag/arcsec used to measure the brightness of the night sky. The lower the value of the mag/arcsec measurement, the brighter the night sky is.

The International Dark Sky Association's standard of darkness measurement is 21.6 mag/arcsec, however according to Tam's data, the average data in Macau was recorded to be 12 to 15 mag/arcsec in January to April - 233 times brighter than international standards.

## Tam hopes her research will alert the public and the government to address the issue of light pollution

The researcher argued that Macau has low awareness on the city's serious light pollution, adding that it has accepted the city's night lights as part of its tourism appeal.

However, the region's dense population also remains a significant

factor of the pollution, along with Cotai Strip's bright lights.

"Macau is one of the most light polluted cities in the world because of its dense residential area and its entertainment [properties] especially in Cotai," said the researcher.

Although the data is still at its preliminary stage and will be concluded only when it has recorded the night sky brightness of all four seasons, Tam can only conclude for now that the city suffers from extreme light pollution - and the public remains unaware.

Exposure to excess lights may result in a decrease in one's quality of life and Tam argued that the region should come up with regulations as part of a long term solution to decrease the pollution.

The researcher listed that the negative effects of light pollution on humans included sleeping disorders and the effect on the production of melatonin, a hormone that regulates sleep and wakefulness.

"There is low awareness on light pollution and people may

think that it's not important and that they can solve this just by closing their curtains at home. However this is not a long term solution," the academic argued.

"The government has to make regulations [...] and set up a proper evaluation and policy for the city," Tam added.

She compared Macau with Taiwan, Australia, the United States and other regions, which have established regulations to protect their cities against excess light.

According to her, streetlights in the residential areas and cities in these regions are controlled by its municipalities and are adjusted accordingly. "At night time, lights are dimmer in city central. People are very aware on what they need to do to protect the city from light pollution," Tam said.

Questioned about whether she believed that Macau would be interested in focusing on the matter and setting up relevant regulations, the academic noted that integrated resorts play a significant role to promote light and energy conservation.

Although several integrated resorts are focusing on sustainability, Tam said there is a need to cooperate with gaming operator's team members, along with relevant government officials to carry out the initiative to conserve light.

"If hotels cooperate, I think it helps put more emphasis on social corporate responsibility and sustainability."

Tam acknowledged that it is still problematic to solve the matter, yet believed that residents can be more responsible in their use of lights at home.

Although hard to control as a significant number of residents are employed in shift work, promoting awareness on the issue is the first step in lowering the city's light pollution.

Macau's two ecological zones are also heavily affected by the light pollution as birds migrating in the area are disturbed.

Tam suggested that the government can help reduce light pollution by reducing the intensity of street lights and lights at the integrated resorts' façade past a certain hour in the night.

Although she acknowledges that the city's skylines remain a sightseeing attraction in Macau, she suggested that Macau should also focus on its environmental initiatives to further attract visitors. "If Macau can do pretty well on environmental efforts, they can use their environmental friendly image to attract more tourists to come in instead of using its hotels and entertainment offerings to attract tourists," the researcher proposed.

Tam also considered the effect of the neon lights from Zhuhai, which are heavily evident in the ecological zones in Taipa, Coloane and in Sai Van area.

Further, while the study is still ongoing, with an indefinite time on when her research will conclude, Tam hopes that the current data will alert the public and the government to address the issue of light pollution.

## corporate bits

### WYNN MACAU RECEIVES ACCOLADE FROM ASIAPSPA AWARDS



Wynn Macau's "The Spa" at Encore has been awarded the "Spa of the Year (North & West Asia)" accolade at the AsiaSpa Awards ceremony held in Hong Kong on November 16, the gaming operator

announced in a statement yesterday. "The award is a tribute to the ongoing commitment made by Wynn Macau spa team members to delivering exceptional spa experiences

to our guests," said Jennifer Simms, executive director of Spa Operation of Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace.

Every one of the spa's eight Private Spa Relaxation Suites features its own steam room, sauna, hydrotherapy aroma bath and relaxation lounge.

The Spa at Encore is renowned for its luxurious signature treatments including its "1-6-8" treatment, during which six therapist hands deliver a series of treatments over a leisurely time of 168 minutes.

The pampering begins with a full-body Himalayan salt scrub and aromatherapy steam experience, including a four-hand massage and revitalizing facial, a hydrating paraffin treatment for hands, and a reflexology foot massage.

### IRIDIUM SPA ANNOUNCES NEW SKINCARE OFFERINGS



To mark the holiday season, Iridium Spa at The St. Regis Macao is presenting an all-new package of the exclusive 'Diamond Anti-Aging Care' at Iridium Spa by Gemology. The treatment features re-

ned micro-powder particles of diamonds, together with adenosine and orchid extract, to brighten skin tone, activate skin cell renewal and circulation as well as refine facial contours.

The course begins with purifying and peeling sessions to allow maximum absorption, according to a press release issued by St. Regis Macao.

What follows is a signature Gemstone Facial Massage and Eye Revitalising Treatment, both designed to promote circulation and boost collagen production. A Youth Diamond Mask with anti-aging properties is then applied to diminish the appearance of wrinkles and create a luminous glow.

As a finishing touch, the therapist will apply products from the coveted Anti-Aging Diamond Care, all readily available for purchase at the spa.

Guests will also receive a complimentary "My Beauty Box" exclusively included as part of this package.



### The all-new Maserati Levante. The Maserati of SUVs.

The practicality and versatility of an SUV or the power and panache of a Maserati? Now you can enjoy both, courtesy of the new Levante. Featuring potent 3.0 V6 diesel (Variable Geometry Turbo) engine, Q4 intelligent all-wheel drive system, an 8-speed ZF transmission and sophisticated air suspension, the Levante is every inch a refined SUV. Meanwhile, its exclusive Italian styling, luxurious interior and unique exhaust note affirm its Maserati DNA. So that's one less difficult decision to make.



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ONE country, two systems has come to the world's largest steel industry. As China's great environmental cleanup takes effect during the winter months, the stringent curbs being implemented across the north are hurting mills' output, while giving free rein to producers in the south.

"Southern steel mills unaffected by the output restrictions are generally running at full speed," brokerage Nanhua Futures Co. said in a note. "They're seeing better demand for their products as order volumes spike. Inventories are rapidly shrinking."

Mills, miners and investors have been tracking China's bid to rein in pollution this winter by imposing restrictions on steel supply, in addition to curbs on other industrial activity such as construction. The policy makers' efforts are targeted at mills in the colder north, zeroing in on the so-called 2+26 cities, which refers to Beijing and Tianjin plus other centers. As well as skewing production, the drive is impacting raw materials, especially iron ore.

"You could say it is one country, two systems," said Hong Hao, chief China strategist at Bocom International Holdings Co. in Hong Kong, using the phrase applied to China after the for-

# One country, two systems roils China's mills as curbs bite

mer British colony of Hong Kong was returned to mainland rule in 1997, yet was allowed to retain its autonomy.

There's been stronger demand for iron ore "from the southern Chinese steel mills, offset by weaker demand from the northern mills due to environmental restrictions," RBC Capital Markets said in a Nov. 15 report. The country's mills are the largest buyers of seaborne ore, taking cargoes from miners including Brazil's Vale SA and Australia's BHP Billiton Ltd. and Rio Tinto Group.

The green push in China comes toward the end of a year when steel prices have rallied, with gains sustained by better-than-expected demand as well as efforts by the government to tackle overcapacity. Spot reinforcement bar rose to 4,391 yuan (USD662) a ton on Tuesday, near the high of 4,396 yuan on Sept. 4, which was the most since 2011. That's sent profits soaring at Baoshan Iron & Steel

Co. and Hesteel Co., the listed units of the country's top mills.

Wood Mackenzie Ltd. charted the policy's uneven impact. The curbs will probably cut so-called hot-metal supplies by about 34 million tons this winter, with a reduction of 14.2 million tons this quarter and 20.2 million tons in the first three months of 2018. Still, "the loss will be partly offset by production hikes from capacity outside the 2+26 region," it said in a note this month. The net decline this quarter may be just 4 million tons, it said.

Nationwide production has started to slow, official figures show. In August, China mills churned out a record 74.6 million tons. The next month it dropped to 71.8 million, and the total was little changed in October at 72.4 million.

"Output in the north is already declining, demand for iron ore will be affected," said Bocom's Hong, who estimated steel production may drop by 30 million to



50 million tons. "The south tends not to have restrictions normally due to weather conditions and less concentration of production."

In a sign of that trend, inventories of iron ore at ports in northern China climbed to a record

100.1 million tons this month, according to Shanghai Steelhome E-Commerce Co. At the same time, stockpiles in the south are near a one-year low after bottoming at 8.6 million tons in October. **Bloomberg**

## GAMING

# State gives initial OK for USD5.6m to help Icahn raze casino

Wayne Parry,  
Atlantic City, N.J.

A New Jersey redevelopment agency has given preliminary approval to a USD5.6 million payment to billionaire investor Carl Icahn to help pay for the demolition of part of Atlantic City's former Trump Plaza casino.

The Casino Reinvestment Development Authority on Tuesday determined that a request by Icahn to use funds from state-mandated casino investment alternative taxes toward the \$13.2 million demolition cost would qualify for assistance, pending a final determination.

A lawyer for Icahn said one of two hotel towers and a bridge would be razed. Authority officials say the demolition will make way for new development at the heart of the resort city, although no specific proposals have been offered.

"You're taking down a building seen as a potential impediment for future development," said attorney Nick Talvacchia.



At issue is the so-called investment alternative tax, a 1.25 percent levy that all Atlantic City casinos must pay in addition to their 8 percent state tax on gambling revenue. The funds were intended to fund redevelopment projects in Atlantic City, but for decades they were used on projects throughout the state.

A change in state law last year mandated that these funds go to Atlantic City to help pay down its massive debt. But funds paid by the casinos before the change are still eligible to be used for projects deemed beneficial to the city.

Trump Plaza, opened by now-President Donald Trump in 1984 and shut down in 2014, sits on pri-

me Boardwalk land at the end of the Atlantic City Expressway, the city's main entranceway. As a casino owner, Trump marketed the casinos as being at "The center of it all."

Robert Mulcahy III, chairman of the state agency, said the request is worthwhile because it could help facilitate millions of dollars in new development while removing an unproductive eyesore.

"We all feel the demolition of this tower is in the best interest of Atlantic City," he said. "It's part of the gateway into the city. That land could be very valuable."

Mayor Don Guardian lost a re-election bid this month after a first term

in which five casinos shut down, including Trump Plaza. A member of the agency's 17-person board, he voted against the refund to Icahn, as did Caesars Entertainment executive Kevin Ortzman.

"I agree this project needs to come down," said the mayor, who leaves office in January. "But why are they asking us for \$5.6 million? You're already responsible for the project closing and the loss of jobs and the suffering the city has gone through."

Trump Plaza closed in September 2014, while its parent company, Trump Entertainment Resorts, was still owned by successors to Donald Trump. Icahn acquired the company out of bankruptcy in February 2016 and closed the Trump Taj Majal eight months later.

Icahn had no immediate comment on the decision or the mayor's comments.

The agency still has to hold a hearing to examine benefits of the request and decide on whether to ultimately grant it. **AP**

# Billionaire Lao is said to weigh Cirsa Gaming options

CIRSA Gaming Corp. CSA, the Spanish casino and bingo-hall operator owned by billionaire Manuel Lao Hernandez, is exploring options including an initial public offering or the sale of a minority stake amid interest from investors, according to people familiar with the matter.

Other options could include an outright sale or merger of the business, the people said, asking not to be identified because the deliberations are private. Cirsa could fetch about 2 billion euros (USD2.3 billion) in a potential sale, they said.

The company is working with financial advisory firm Lazard Ltd. on the review of options, the people said. No final decision has been made and Lao Hernandez could still decide against a transaction, they said. A sale could attract other companies in the betting industry, they said.

Founded in 1978 and based in the Catalan city of Terrassa, just outside of Barcelona, Cirsa is Spain's biggest casino and bingo-

hall operator, according to its website. It counts about 134 casinos, more than 41,500 recreational machines, 68 bingo halls, 171 arcades, 2,000 sports betting outlets and more than 3,000 lottery terminals in Spain, Italy and in Latin America.

## ■ Cirsa is Spain's biggest casino and bingo-hall operator

The global gambling industry has seen a wave of deals this year including Golden Entertainment Inc.'s \$850 million cash-and-stock purchase of American Casino & Entertainment Properties LLC to expand in key markets such as Las Vegas. In September, gaming and lottery company Scientific Games Corp. agreed to acquire NYX Gaming Group Ltd. for \$631 million to bolster its global sports betting business. **Bloomberg**



President Xi Jinping (center) talks with local villagers and cadres at a village in Hunan Province (November 2013)

# China widens personality cult around 'unrivaled helmsman' Xi

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**T**HE village where he labored as a teen has become a shrine, a tree he planted an icon. State media applaud him endlessly, private businessmen praise his speeches and universities are devoting new departments to his theories.

At the start of his second five-year term as leader of China's ruling Communist Party, Xi Jinping is at the center of China's most colorful efforts to build a cult of personality since the death of the founder of the People's Republic, Mao Zedong, in 1976.

Efforts range from the trivial to the borderline hysterical, such as when state broadcaster China Central Television led its evening national news bulletin Friday with more than four minutes of uninterrupted clapping for Xi as he met with adoring citizens.

"I am a servant of the people," Xi is described as telling an illiterate villager in a profile last week by the official Xinhua News Agency that ran several thousand words and also hailed him as an "unrivaled helmsman." It said Xi led over 60 million people out of poverty in his first term, a statistic repeated ad nauseam

in state media.

A Russian translator was so engrossed with reading a recent speech by Xi, Xinhua said, that he skipped lunch and dinner just to finish studying it.

"We're now in a new round of the god-creation movement, similar to the Mao era," said Zhang Lifan, a Beijing-based political commentator. But access to the internet and other information sources undermines the party's efforts, resulting in mostly hollow proclamations intended to show loyalty at a time when dissent has serious consequences, he added.

"During the Mao era, many people believed in Mao from the bottom of their hearts," Zhang said. "But now, this is mainly for effect, to show the leaders their loyalty and protect themselves. It is more of a performance."

President Donald Trump's Beijing visit this month also offered an opportunity to cast Xi as a leader of global standing representing an ancient culture reclaiming its place at the top table. Xi and his glamorous songstress wife, Peng Liyuan, hosted the first couple at the ancient Forbidden City palace complex as part of what China described

as a "state visit-plus," topped by the signing of a quarter-trillion dollars in economic arrangements.

Xi's reappointment as Communist Party general secretary at last month's twice-a-decade party congress represented an apotheosis of sorts. He was written into the party constitution alongside Mao and Deng Xiaoping, who launched economic reforms in 1979 — cementing his status as China's most powerful leader since Mao.

**“We're now in a new round of the god-creation movement, similar to the Mao era.”**

ZHANG LIFAN  
POLITICAL COMMENTATOR

Provincial officials wasted no time finding creative ways to hail his leadership. A group visited a paulownia, or empress, tree planted by Xi eight years ago in Henan province's

Lankao county.

"Like a bright red flag, it instructs the masses of party members to not forget the mission, to stay the path and forge ahead," a local news report said.

Some Chinese provincial news outlets have even begun pushing the margins of state-sanctioned praise by bestowing additional accolades on Xi: A newspaper in the southern province of Guizhou referred to the president as "The Great Leader Xi Jinping," in another throwback to the Mao era.

Many of China's wealthiest tycoons and private conglomerates have also chimed in with praise. Wang Jianlin, head of real estate and leisure conglomerate Dalian Wanda Group, was quoted by a Beijing newspaper as saying that he was "overwhelmed by emotions" listening to Xi's speech at the party congress.

Chen Feng, co-founder and Communist Party secretary of HNA Group, a private airline and real estate conglomerate, led a recent gathering of thousands of employees in celebrating Xi and the party's leadership.

"The most important and crucial reason for achieving world-renowned achieve-

ments is that our party has at its core General Secretary Xi Jinping," Chen said. HNA Group has drawn scrutiny over a series of eye-catching global acquisitions and for its murky ownership structure.

The government of Zhejiang province, where Xi served as party secretary for five years, has launched a public outreach campaign called "What's My Favorite Xi Jinping Quote," arousing memories of Mao and his "Little Red Book" of revolutionary quotations. The Zhejiang village of Yedian has renamed its cultural center the "Xi Language Hall of Honor," boasting a permanent exhibition of his speeches and writings along with a pictorial representation of the "China Dream," a central motif of Xi's first term in office that envisions growing national prosperity and global clout.

Xi's personality cult stems from his family background as the son of one of Mao's comrades in arms, Xi Zhongxun, who rose to the position of vice premier and was admired among the party faithful. During his teens and early 20s, however, when his father was purged by Mao, Xi spent six years as a "sent down youth" living in a cave and doing hard labor in Shaanxi province.

Today, the village in which he worked, Liangjiahe, has become a place of pilgrimage for party members.

Such reverence is not unusual within China's political culture, which has long placed special importance on places of significance to the lives of its leaders and the revolution they led.

Xi's true popularity is impossible to determine due to the absence of objective polling data. But the domination of his image in official propaganda evokes, for some, the painful memories of the upheaval of the 1960s and '70s, when Mao was accorded the status of a near deity.

"The cult of personality did great harm to the Chinese nation. Many people retain deep lessons from it," said Hu Xingdou, a Beijing-based political commentator.

Not to be left out, universities and colleges across the country have established research centers for "Xi Jinping Thought."

Such moves are driven more by competition for research funding than genuine regard for Xi's political consciousness, said Hu. Yet, they still pose a danger in promoting vested interests above society as a whole, he said.

"If going forward this is for only personal interests or the interests of certain groups, then this kind of personality cult is meaningless and harmful," Hu said. **AP**

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

A Chinese energy company has denied it had anything to do with a multimillion dollar bribery scheme that U.S. prosecutors say was organized by two businessmen to secure an edge with African officials on its behalf.

In a statement, CEFC China Energy Co. sought to distance itself from the corruption, money laundering and conspiracy charges filed against former Hong Kong home secretary Patrick Ho and Cheik Gadio, a former Senegal foreign minister.

CEFC said it “conducts its business activities in strict accordance with the law.” “Any activities that go against the law and discipline are strictly prohibited by the company,” it said.

Details of the case in court papers provide rare insights into China’s ambitions in Africa, highlighted also in the ties exposed by political tumult now unfolding in Zimbabwe.

Prosecutors say Ho and Gadio arranged bribes disguised as donations to secure business advantages in Chad and Uganda for an unnamed Shanghai-headquartered company in violation of the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

The complaint’s details indicate it was CEFC, a privately owned enterprise that in just a few years has risen to prominence in the state-dominated Chinese oil and gas sector.

The complaint described Ho as the head of a non-governmental organization funded by an energy company. He’s listed as deputy chairman of the China Energy Fund Committee on its website. It describes itself as a non-profit think tank funded by CEFC China Energy.

CEFC said the fund has “no commercial authorization re-



Patrick Ho, former Hong Kong home secretary and deputy chairman of a non-governmental organization funded by CEFC China Energy

## CEFC denies links to alleged Africa bribery plot

lationship whatsoever with the company.”

The company reported about USD39 billion in revenue for 2015 and has attracted attention with a flurry of recent high-profile acquisitions, only some of which are directly related to energy assets.

In September CEFC agreed to buy a 14 percent stake in Russian state-owned energy company Rosneft from commodity trader Glencore and the Qatar Investment Authority.

It bought a \$680 million stake in a joint venture with Kazakhstan’s national oil company, Kaz-MunaiGas, that owns refiners and gas stations in Eastern Europe, and also owns part of an oil

concession in the United Arab Emirates.

In the Czech Republic, CEFC has spent \$1.8 billion buying control of assets including a soccer team, the airline CSA, a TV and radio station, a brewer, a travel agency, and historic buildings in downtown Prague. It plans to use one of the buildings as headquarters for its European expansion, according to a Czech state media report.

The company’s plans to expand in Africa put it on U.S. authorities’ radar.

Prosecutors allege Ho and Gadio were involved in efforts to bribe officials in Chad and Uganda.

The court papers submitted

to the Southern District of New York court say allegedly was involved in offering a \$2 million bribe to Chad’s President Idriss Deby to obtain oil rights without facing international competition. Prosecutors say Ho enlisted Gadio to gain access to Deby because the two were friends.

**■ The Chinese company’s plans to expand in Africa put it on US authorities’ radar**

The company wanted to get a foothold in Chad by teaming up with a Chinese state-owned oil producer, which was facing a \$1.2 billion fine over environmental violations there.

The investment didn’t end up going through and CEFC instead later acquired a stake in Taiwan producer CPC Corp.’s Chad oil project.

Prosecutors obtained emails that outlined the plotting and related details like Ho’s payment of a \$400,000 commission to Gadio.

“I have to agree with you that the fees of \$100,000 for their introduction to the President is ridiculous,” Gadio wrote in one message to his son, who was not charged, in a discussion about Ho’s initial offer.

In a second scheme that started around the same time, prosecutors allege Ho was involved in a \$500,000 bribe to Uganda’s Minister of Foreign Affairs Sam Kutesa to secure business advantages in the financial and energy sectors.

Ho cultivated a relationship with Kutesa after he was elected to a one-year term as president of the United Nations General Assembly. During Kutesa’s tenure, CEFC Chairman Ye Jianming was appointed as special honorary advisory to the body.

Prosecutors say that after Kutesa’s term ended and he resumed duties as foreign minister, he and Ho discussed payment of a campaign donation that was in reality a bribe.

The court papers say emails sent by Ho promised to bring an entourage of CEOs to Uganda to consider major projects in energy, farming, finance and banking.

CEFC denied investment activities in Uganda except for its stake in the CPC project and said it did not have an “interest relationship” with Chad’s government. **AP**

## US, Chinese soldiers find common ground in disaster drills

A man lay on the grass, shivering beneath his bloodstained T-shirt as Chinese military doctors and U.S. Army medics hovered over him, applying a splint and an IV. Troops nearby prepared to evacuate the injured.

On a pine-studded base along the Oregon coast, military units from two seemingly unlikely partners were carrying out a joint response to a natural disaster. It was only a drill, but the roughly 100 soldiers from China and the U.S. and their top commanders are ready to use what they learned in a

real disaster, no matter the state of relations between the nations.

“The tensions that happen really don’t impact this, because we’ve found an area of common interest: that’s saving lives and disaster response and humanitarian assistance,” Gen. Robert Brown, commander of Hawaii-based U.S. Army Pacific, told reporters this week, the closing day of the exercise.

Washington and Beijing are striving to foster military ties to avoid a confrontation and potentially work together where their interests don’t collide.

That’s despite a growing strategic rivalry between the two world powers and frictions over North Korea and China’s island building in the disputed South China Sea.

Maj. Gen. Zhang Jian, a senior commander who visited Oregon, said U.S. President Donald Trump and Chinese President Xi Jinping expressed hope during Trump’s visit to China this month that military relations can be a stabilizing factor. Zhang said the disaster exercises, which the U.S. and China host in alternate years, evolved from academic

discussions to boots on the ground in the last few years.

“I think it is very positive in the fact that it can enhance mutual understanding, it can reduce the risk of miscalculation and misperception, and will definitely help to build a more secure and stable regional situation,” Zhang said through an interpreter, as Brown nodded.

U.S. and Chinese forces have not collaborated yet on disaster response, but Brown said he expects them to.

In the recent drill, the soldiers practiced respon-



Soldiers from the U.S. Army and People’s Liberation Army carry out a joint rescue response to a natural disaster in an exercise at Camp Rilea Armed Forces Training Center near Warrenton, Oregon, over the weekend

ding to a massive flood. The skills also could help in an earthquake as they used a large drill to practice extricating survivors from a collapsed building, or in a tsunami.

It was the first time in the

United States for most of the Chinese soldiers, who wore red flag shoulder patches on their uniforms. The Americans tried to make the Chinese feel at home as they carried out their mission. **AP**

## KOREAN PENINSULA

# Cold War drama caught on video as soldier escapes to the South

Foster Klug, Seoul

**I**T'S 3:11 p.m. on a cold, gray day on the North Korean side of the most heavily armed border in the world, and a lone soldier is racing toward freedom.

His dark olive-green jeep speeds down a straight, tree-lined road, past drab, barren fields and, headlights shining, across the replacement for the Bridge of No Return, which was used for prisoner exchanges during the Korean War. The shock of soldiers watching the jeep rush by is palpable from the video released yesterday, and no wonder: They're beginning to realize that one of their comrades is defecting to the South.

They sprint after him.

The jeep slows and turns at a monument to North Korean founder Kim Il Sung, the staging point for North Korean tours of the area.

The border is near, South Korea just beyond it.

Four North Korean soldiers, weapons in their hands, race by the blue huts that straddle the line and are familiar to anyone who has toured the only spot on the border where North and South Korean soldiers face off within spitting distance of each other. There are no tourists this day.

Right at the line that divides North from South, the defector crashes the jeep into a ditch. Seconds pass as he tries in vain to gun the vehicle out of the gully before leaping out and sprinting into the South. He kicks up leaves, ducking below a tree branch just as the North Korean soldiers skid into view.

Muzzles flash. The North Korean soldiers, one of whom drops flat into the leaves, fire at the defector at close range with handguns and AK-47 assault rifles — about 40



This combination of images made from Nov. 13 surveillance video shows the soldier running from a jeep and then shot by North Korean guards in Panmunjom, North Korea, before collapsing across the border in South Korea

rounds, the South says.

Suddenly, two of the North Koreans run away while the soldier in the leaves jumps up and dashes across the dividing line into South Korean territory before stopping, turning on his heels and sprinting back to the northern side after his comrades. The defector falls stretched out and unmoving in a pile of leaves against a small wall on the South Korean side.

The entire sequence, from the first appearance of the jeep to the soldier's frenzied crossing, lasts four minutes.

It unfolded Nov. 13 in the Joint

Security Area, which is overseen by both the American-led U.N. Command and North Korea and lies inside the 4-kilometer-wide Demilitarized Zone that has been the de facto border between the Koreas since the war.

Forty minutes later, the video has switched to infrared to show the heat signatures of two South Korean soldiers as they crawl on their hands and knees, using a wall as cover, toward the prone defector. They grab hold of the defector and drag him to safety. Not far away, heavily armed North Korean troops begin to gather near

the Kim Il Sung monument.

For the moment, the border is quiet again.

Surprisingly, North and South Korean soldiers didn't exchange fire during the shooting, the first in the area in more than three decades. The bullets went in only one direction.

The defection, subsequent surgeries and slow recovery of the soldier have riveted South Korea. But his escape is a huge embarrassment for the North, which claims all defections are the result of rival Seoul kidnapping or enticing North Koreans. Pyongyang has said

nothing about the defection so far.

North Korea's actions during the defector's escape at the Panmunjom border village violated the armistice agreement ending the Korean War because North Korean soldiers fired across and physically crossed the border in pursuit of the soldier, U.S. Col. Chad Carroll, a spokesman for the U.N. command, told reporters in a live TV briefing yesterday. A U.N. Command statement said a meeting had been requested with the North's military to discuss the violations.

## Surprisingly, North and South Korean soldiers didn't exchange fire during the shooting

After undergoing two surgeries last week to repair internal organ damage and other injuries, the soldier has now regained consciousness and is no longer relying on a breathing machine, according to hospital official Shin Mi-jeong. While his condition is improving, doctors plan to keep him at an intensive care unit for at least several more days to guard against possible infection.

While treating the wounds, surgeons removed dozens of parasites from the soldier's ruptured small intestine, including presumed roundworms that were as long as 27 centimeters, which may reflect poor nutrition and health in North Korea's military. The soldier is 1.7 meters tall but weighs just 60 kilograms.

About 30,000 North Koreans have fled to South Korea, mostly across the porous border with China, since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Now add one more to that tally — a man in uniform, fleeing gunfire toward a new life one overcast afternoon across the world's most uneasy border. **AP**

## JAPAN

# US Navy plane with 11 crashes into Pacific; eight survived

**E**IGHT people aboard a Navy plane that crashed yesterday in the Pacific were recovered in good condition and a search continues for three other missing personnel, the Navy said.

The Navy said in a tweet that the eight were brought aboard the USS Ronald Reagan. Their C-2 "Greyhound" transport aircraft crashed while on its way to the carrier about 150 kilometers northwest of Okinotorishima, a Japanese atoll.

The Navy said the ship was operating in the Philippine Sea, which is east of the Philippines, when the crash occurred at 2:45 p.m. Japan time. The names of the crew and passengers are being withheld pending next of kin notification.

The cause of the crash was not immediately clear, the Navy said.

The plane was taking part in an ongoing joint U.S.-Japan naval exercise in waters surrounding Okinawa from Nov. 16-26. The Navy called it the "premier

training event" between the two navies, designed to increase defensive readiness and interoperability in air and sea operations.

The 7th Fleet has had two fatal accidents in Asian waters this year, leaving 17 sailors dead and prompting the removal of eight top Navy officers from their posts, including the 7th Fleet commander.

The USS John S. McCain and an oil tanker collided near Singapore in August, leaving 10 U.S. sailors dead. Seven sailors died in

June when the USS Fitzgerald and a container ship collided off Japan.

The Navy has concluded that the collisions were avoidable and resulted from widespread failures by the crews and commanders, who didn't quickly recognize and respond to unfolding emergencies. A Navy report recommended numerous changes to address the problems, ranging from improved training to increasing sleep and stress management for sailors. **AP**



A US Navy C-2 Greyhound

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AUSTRALIA

# Victoria state reaches brink of legalizing euthanasia

**A**N Australian state parliament yesterday stepped closer to passing a voluntary euthanasia bill, 20 years after the country repealed the world's first mercy-killing law for the terminally ill.

The Victorian Legislative Council passed the bill on doctor-assisted suicide 22 votes to 18, after hours of passionate debate that ended with several lawmakers in tears. The vote was the last significant hurdle to euthanasia becoming legal in Australia's second-most populous state from 2019.

The Legislative Council insisted on amending a bill passed by parliament's lower chamber, the Legislative Assembly, last month, 47 votes to 37. The amendments reduce the maximum life expectancy of an eligible patient from 12 to six months, increases the minimum age from 18 to 25 years and demands that a patient reside in Victoria for at least a year. The draft bill only required that a patient reside in Victoria, in a bid to avoid other Australians and foreigners traveling to the state to die.

The Legislative Assembly is likely to endorse the amended bill next week.

"This is a momentous day in the parliament of Victoria," government lawmaker Gavin Jennings told the Legislative Council after the vote.

Anti-euthanasia campaigner Frances Beaumont yelled from the public gallery: "You've made a terrible mistake."

"This legislation just doesn't stack up. I mean, this is sloppy; really, really sloppy and we are talking about people living and dying," opposition lawmaker Bernie Finn said.

Australian Christian Lobby managing director Lyle Shelton accused the state government of sanctioning assisted suicide as an alternative to properly funding palliative care for the terminally ill in Victoria.

"Euthanasia is an easy, cheap and dangerous way out of addressing palliative care funding while risking the lives of vulnerable people," Shelton said in a



The Victorian Legislative Council in session earlier this year

statement that urged other states not to follow Victoria's lead.

The parliament of Australian's most populous state, New South Wales, last week rejected a doctor-assisted suicide bill by a single vote, 20 to 19.

Australia's sparsely populated Northern Territory in 1995 became the first jurisdiction in the world to legalize doctor-assisted suicide for terminally ill patients. But the Australian Parliament overturned that law in

1997 after four people had been helped to die.

The Australian Parliament does not have the same power to repeal the laws of states such as Victoria.

Victorian Premier Daniel Andrews, who became a euthanasia advocate after his father died of cancer last year, has described the proposed state laws as the most conservative in the world.

Laws to legalize mercy killings have been narrowly rejected by three of Australia's six states.

A euthanasia bill was defeated by a single vote in the South Australian House of Assembly a year ago and similar legislation was rejected by two votes in Tasmania's House of Assembly in 2013.

Under the Victorian bill, a doctor would be permitted to administer a lethal injection only in cases where patients were physically incapable of doing so themselves. **AP**

AD



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This combination of file photos provided by their families shows some of the hundreds of U.S. veterans of the Vietnam War who suffered from cholangiocarcinoma, a rare bile duct cancer believed to be linked to liver fluke parasites in raw or poorly cooked river fish

USA

# Study shows parasite from Vietnam may be killing vets

Margie Mason & Robin McDowell

A half century after serving in Vietnam, hundreds of veterans have a new reason to believe they may be dying from a silent bullet — test results show some men may have been infected by a slow-killing parasite while fighting in the jungles of Southeast Asia.

The Department of Veterans Affairs this spring commissioned a small pilot study to look into the

link between liver flukes ingested through raw or undercooked fish and a rare bile duct cancer. It can take decades for symptoms to appear. By then, patients are often in tremendous pain, with just a few months to live.

Of the 50 blood samples submitted, more than 20 percent came back positive or bordering positive for liver fluke antibodies, said Sung-Tae Hong, the tropical medicine specialist who carried out the tests at Seoul National University

in South Korea.

“It was surprising,” he said, stressing the preliminary results could include false positives and that the research is ongoing.

Northport VA Medical Center spokesman Christopher Goodman confirmed the New York facility collected the samples and sent them to the lab. He would not comment on the findings, but said everyone who tested positive was notified.

Gerry Wiggins, who served in Vietnam from 1968

to 1969, has already lost friends to the disease. He was among those who got the call.

“I was in a state of shock,” he said. “I didn’t think it would be me.”

**■ Of the 50 blood samples submitted, over 20pct came back positive for liver fluke antibodies**

The 69-year-old, who lives in Port Jefferson Station, New York, didn’t have any symptoms when he agreed to take part in the study, but hoped his participation could help save lives. He immediately scheduled further tests, discovering he had two cysts on his bile duct, which had the potential to develop into the cancer, known as cholangiocarcinoma. They have since been removed and — for now — he’s doing well.

Though rarely found in Americans, the parasites infect an estimated 25 million people worldwide, mostly in Asia.

Endemic in the rivers of Vietnam, the worms can easily be wiped out with a handful of pills early on, but left untreated they can live for decades without making their hosts sick. Over time, swelling and inflammation of the bile duct can lead to cancer. Jaundice, itchy skin, weight loss and other symptoms appear only when the disease is in its final stages.

The VA study, along with a call by Senate Minority Leader Charles Schumer of New York for broader research into liver flukes and cancer-stricken veterans, began after The Associated Press raised the issue in a story last year. The reporting found that about 700 veterans with cholangiocarcinoma have been seen by the VA in the past 15 years. Less than half of them submitted claims for service-related benefits, mostly because they were not aware of a possible connection to Vietnam. The VA rejected 80 percent of the requests, but decisions often appear-

red to be haphazard or contradictory, depending on what desks they landed on, the AP found.

The number of claims submitted reached 60 in 2017, up from 41 last year. Nearly three out of four of those cases were also denied, even though the government posted a warning on its website this year saying veterans who ate raw or undercooked freshwater fish while in Vietnam might be at risk. It stopped short of urging them to get ultrasounds or other tests, saying there was currently no evidence the vets had higher infection rates than the general population.

“We are taking this seriously,” said Curt Cashour, a spokesman with the Department of Veterans Affairs. “But until further research, a recommendation cannot be made either way.”

Veteran Mike Baughman, 65, who was featured in the previous AP article, said his claim was granted early this year after being denied three times. He said the approval came right after his doctor wrote a letter saying his bile duct cancer was “more likely than not” caused by liver flukes from the uncooked fish he and his unit in Vietnam ate when they ran out of rations in the jungle. He now gets about USD3,100 a month and says he’s relieved to know his wife will continue to receive benefits after he dies. But he remains angry that other veterans’ last days are consumed by fighting the same government they went to war for as young men.

“In the best of all worlds, if you came down with cholangiocarcinoma, just like Agent Orange, you automatically were in,” he said, referring to benefits granted to veterans exposed to the toxic defoliant sprayed in Vietnam. “You didn’t have to go fighting.”

Baughman, who is thin and weak, recently plucked out “Country Roads” on a bass during a jam session at his cabin in West Virginia. He wishes the VA would do more to raise awareness about liver flukes and to encourage Vietnam veterans to get an ultrasound that can detect inflammation.

“Personally, I got what I needed, but if you look at the bigger picture with all these other veterans, they don’t know what necessarily to do,” he said. “None of them have even heard of it before. A lot of them give me that blank stare like, ‘You’ve got what?’” AP

AD

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BALKANS WAR

# UN court convicts Mladic of genocide over Bosnia's horrors

**T**HE United Nations' Yugoslav war crimes tribunal convicted Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic yesterday of genocide and crimes against humanity, and sentenced him to life in prison for atrocities during Bosnia's 1992-1995 war.

Mladic, 75, was found guilty of commanding forces responsible for crimes including the worst atrocities of the war — the deadly three-year siege of the Bosnian capital, Sarajevo, and the 1995 massacre of some 8,000 Muslim men and boys in the eastern enclave of Srebrenica, which was Europe's worst mass killing since World War II.

A three-judge panel at the court formally known as the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia convicted Mladic of 10 of 11 counts in a dramatic climax to a groundbreaking effort to seek justice for the wars in the former Yugoslavia.

Presiding Judge Alphons Orie read out the judgment yesterday after ordering Mladic out of the courtroom for the final verdict over an angry outburst.

"The crimes committed rank among the most heinous known to humankind," he said.

Mothers of Srebrenica's victims clapped when the convic-

tions were read out. Mladic's son Darko said: "I'm not surprised. The court was totally biased from the start."

Bosniaks and Serbs watched from near and far as the long-awaited climax approached. Yesterday's judgment marks the end of the final trial at the tribunal, which was set up in 1993, while fierce fighting was still raging in Bosnia.

Emotions ran high outside the courtroom, with a small skirmish reflecting lingering tensions between Serbs and Bosniaks over the trial and the war.

Despite ailing health, Mladic looked relaxed, greeting lawyers and giving a thumbs-up to photographers in court. He nodded regularly as presiding Judge Alphons Orie read out descriptions of atrocities by Bosnian Serb forces, one by one.

Then Mladic's lawyer asked for a delay because the general was suffering high blood pressure. The judge refused, and Mladic

burst out with criticism and was ordered to leave the room.

Prosecutors had sought a life sentence, while Mladic's defense lawyers said he should be acquitted on all counts.

Orie said the court confirmed that "genocide, persecution, extermination, murder and the inhuman act of forcible transfer were committed in or around Srebrenica" in 1995. Previous judgments have said it was genocide. However, Orie said the court is "not convinced" of genocidal intent in six other municipalities, in line with previous judgments.

The conflict in the former Yugoslavia erupted after the breakup of the former multi-ethnic federation in the early 1990s, with the worst crimes taking place in Bosnia. More than 100,000 people died and millions lost their homes before a peace agreement was signed in 1995. Mladic went into hiding for around ten years before his ar-



Bosnian women react upon hearing the sentence at the end of former Bosnian Serb military chief Gen. Ratko Mladic's trial

rest in Serbia in May 2011.

Mladic's political master during the war, former Bosnian Serb President Radovan Karadzic was also convicted last year for genocide and sentenced to 40 years. He has appealed the ruling.

The man widely blamed for fomenting wars across the Balkans, former Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, died in his UN cell in 2006 before tribunal judges could reach verdicts in his trial. AP

AD

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## what's ON



## 17TH MACAU FOOD FESTIVAL

TIME: 5pm-11pm (Mondays to Thursdays)  
3pm-12am (Fridays to Sundays)

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

VENUE: Sai Van Lake Square, Largo da Torre de Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 5765

## LONELY TONES - WORKS BY FORTES PAKEONG SEQUEIRA

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: November 26, 2017

VENUE: 1/F, Macau Art Garden, No. 265, Av. do Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

## A SCULPTURE - YANG XIAO HUA REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION - 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## AFFECTION FOR LOTUS - EXHIBITION OF PAINTING AND CALLIGRAPHY FOR THE 100TH BIRTHDAY OF JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (Last admission at 17:30; closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)

UNTIL: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

## Offbeat

## BARON COHEN TO PAY FINE FOR CZECHS SPORTING BORAT MANKINIS



A group of Czech tourists dressed in swimsuits similar to the character made famous by TV and film character Borat in Astana, Kazakhstan

Comic actor Sacha Baron Cohen has offered to pay the fines for six Czech tourists who were reportedly detained by authorities in Kazakhstan's capital Astana for dressing up as his character Borat.

Sporting lime green "mankinis" and black wigs, the men had hoped to take a picture in front of the "I Love Astana" sign earlier this month.

But local police fined them some USD68 each for committing minor hooliganism, according to local media.

In a Facebook post this week, Baron Cohen says: "To my Czech mates who were arrested. Send me your details and proof that it was you, and I'll pay your fine."

The swimsuit became popular after Baron Cohen sported it in the 2006 movie "Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan."

That film offended many Kazakhs by portraying the country as backward and degenerate.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
14:55	Discussion of the Policy Address for 2018: Economy and Finance Area (Live)
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Yes, Chef! Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Champions League: CSKA Moscow x Benfica (Repeated)
01:35	Champions League: Sporting x Olymпиac (Repeated)
03:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
04:05	European League: Braga x Hoffenheim (Live)
06:10	RTPi Live

## Cinema



## CINETEATRO

23 Nov - 24 Nov



## JUSTICE LEAGUE

ROOM 1

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

Director: Zack Snyder

Starring: Ben Affleck, Raymond Fisher, Jason Momoa

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



## MANHUNT

ROOM 2

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

Director: John Woo

Starring: Zhang Hanyu, Masaharu Fukuyama, Qi Wei, Ha Jiwon

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 106min



## HAPPY DEATH DAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Ruby Modine, Charles Aitken

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

## this day in history



## 1978 NIGHTCLUB ORDERED TO LIFT RACE BAN

A Birmingham nightclub has been ordered to open its doors to black and Chinese people.

The year-long investigation into popular nightclub Pollyanna's was held after two separate complaints alleging the club had a racist entry policy.

It is the first non-discrimination notice issued by the Commission for Racial Equality (CRE) since the non-governmental body was formed to tackle racial discrimination by the 1976 Race Relations Act.

The owners, Genture Restaurants, now have to provide evidence they are complying with the order over the next two years, or face prosecution.

The first complaint was from the sales manager of a local cosmetics company who tried to book Pollyanna's for a Christmas party.

But the reservation was refused by Genture Chairman John Weston-Edwards when he discovered a large proportion of the group were black.

In the second case, the nightclub owner told a university lecturer she could not bring a group of students to Pollyanna's because they were Chinese.

The club's management said they barred both white and black people if it disapproved of their attitude or the way they were dressed.

But Mr Weston-Edwards said he would ignore the CRE notice.

He told the BBC he had to limit the numbers of ethnic minorities in his nightclub to preserve a "happy situation" and avoid aggressive confrontations.

"We'll operate as we have done for the last 10 years - I think we have to limit all sorts of people and coloured people fit into that category," he said.

CRE director Dr Peter Sanders said if Pollyanna's did not observe the law the commission would pursue a prosecution of the club.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

After monitoring the club's race equality record for another year, the CRE finally took the owners of Pollyanna's to court in 1979.

The court imposed injunctions stopping them from practising discrimination, and also ordered them to produce information to the CRE proving they had complied.

After the judgement, it emerged that there was also a no-headgear rule at the restaurant which effectively excluded Sikhs as well.

This was not covered by the original non-discrimination notice, so the CRE had to go back to court to get the notice re-worded.

An injunction was finally issued against this rule too.

Pollyanna's closed in 1987 when the company which owned it, Genture Restaurants Ltd, was dissolved.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You take care of your finances and your possessions, so why not treat your health like a valuable investment, too? It's important to floss, exercise, eat right and get plenty of sleep.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your energy has highlighted love and romance - it feels like it's all for you, so go for it! Whether a relationship needs a little zing or you're still on the lookout for the right mate

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 It's the perfect time to have a cozy night at home and a long conversation with someone close. Range from harmless gossip to fully taking stock of your lives.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You're quite good at taking care of others, but it's about time you put yourself first! Make a point of it today - otherwise, it's too easy to assume the position of martyr.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You should be practically hypnotized today - someone close to you has all the right moves and is dead-set on getting your full attention. You have no problem being an appreciative audience.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You may have felt emotionally zeroed out recently, but you're just about ready to poke your head out and notice what a vibrant and rich world it really is. That change in attitude might feel like it needs a new look to accompany it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Improving your financial position shouldn't be hard for you right now - because if anyone can play that game and win, it's you. Climbing up the ladder comes especially easy to you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You're feeling somewhat vulnerable and may want to protect yourself from things (or people) you perceive as dangerous. This is an important instinct, but you need to remember not to shut things down completely.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A recent achievement at work is a huge mood lifter, and your good mood should carry over into the home and romantic life as well. That sense of accomplishment works wonders for you and your attitude.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Step back from any unrealistic expectations and just seek shelter where you know your feelings are safe. You need the space to ensure that that upcoming, life-changing decision is really what you want.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Big workplace rewards are in store for you, so try not to fret about what might go wrong - you may just get so tied up in knots that you can't move at a time when action is absolutely crucial to success.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You have a deep capacity for intimacy - too much for some (wrong) people - but you need to make sure that you're not sacrificing too much of yourself today.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 6, 7, 8, 4, 1, 8, 5, 4, 9, 6, 9, 5, 3, 5, 8, 9, 2, 1, 6, 3, 6, 9, 2.

Easy+ Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 6, 5, 7, 8, 5, 2, 7, 9, 1, 3, 2, 9, 6, 8, 4, 7, 3, 8, 9, 4, 2, 3, 8, 6, 4, 1, 3.

Medium Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 2, 5, 3, 8, 1, 9, 3, 9, 6, 7, 7, 9, 8, 9, 6, 4, 7, 4, 9, 7, 2, 4, 9, 1, 5, 3, 6, 8, 5.

Hard Sudoku puzzle grid with numbers 4, 8, 1, 5, 9, 4, 6, 2, 7, 3, 5, 8, 1, 3, 4, 2.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Revue segment; 5- ... man \_\_\_ mouse?; 8- Cosecant's reciprocal; 12- Helper; 13- Snoop; 15- Indigo source; 16- Clairvoyant; 17- Mall unit; 18- Eyeball; 19- Eternal; 22- Accelerate; 23- Petroleum; 24- Otherwise; 26- Layers; 29- Like a professor's jacket; 31- Lamb's lament; 32- Oscar de la \_\_\_; 34- Great Lakes tribesmen; 36- Subsidies; 38- Comic O'Donnell; 40- Cong. meeting; 41- Dole out; 43- Gift recipient; 45- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 46- Pal of Pooh; 48- Characteristics; 50- Sensible; 51- Apr. addressee; 52- Bottle lid; 54- Pottery of hardened clay; 61- Scent; 63- Sanctimonious; 64- Enthusiastic liveliness; 65- Long time; 66- Hound's trail; 67- Put \_\_\_ on it!; 68- Eye piece; 69- Snaky curve; 70- X-ray units; DOWN: 1- Freelancer's encl.; 2- Capital of the Ukraine; 3- Nice notion; 4- Abject fear; 5- Scraps; 6- Civil disturbance; 7- Ethereal; Prefix; 8- \_\_\_ Paulo; 9- Component part; 10- Khartoum's river; 11- Mtn. stat; 13- Book of hymns; 14- Continue a subscription; 20- Perjurer; 21- Exultation; 25- Sun. speeches; 26- Fine fur; 27- Next largest scoop after tea; 28- Battery terminal; 29- Spoil; 30- Approvals; 31- Actress Arthur; 33- General on Chinese menus; 35- Opposite of NNW; 37- Protein bean; 39- Most strange; 42- Color quality; 44- Deserve; 47- Harvests; 49- Honest!; 52- Carbonized fuel; 53- Zip-\_\_\_-Doo-Dah; 55- Starchy food grain; 56- Some digits; 57- Vandals; 58- \_\_\_ breve; 59- Sudden assault; 60- Breaks off; 62- Hosp. workers;

Yesterday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words like CHIA, AMEN, SAID, OUNCE, METE, ALTA, AMATI, OLDE, NEST, TET, TNUIT, DHARMA, THOR, OLEATE, HEBREWS, BEA, ARDAR, RESTLESS, LOOP, OKAYS, TLKB, FORSAKEN, BLEAT, ACHESLY, BALLETS, SMOOCH, PLOW, VAY, HOST, ONES, TIRENE, ERIE, MESA, TATER, DENS, ATOM, TOWN.

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## FOOTBALL

# Real Madrid, Besiktas advance in Champions League

Daniella Matar

**D**EFENDING champion Real Madrid advanced again to the Champions League knockout stages after beating APOEL 6-0 and Tottenham piled the misery on Borussia Dortmund 2-1 on Tuesday.

Besiktas also progressed, drawing with Porto 1-1 to reach the last 16 for the first time.

Also in Group G, last season's semifinalist, Monaco, crashed out after losing to Leipzig 4-1.

Liverpool looked set to join the list of last 16 teams as it led Sevilla 3-0 at halftime but the Spanish side pulled off a remarkable comeback to draw 3-3.

Napoli beat Shakhtar Donetsk 3-0 and both sides will have to wait until the final matchday to see which one joins Group F winner Manchester City in the next round.

Here is a look at what happened in yesterday's [Macau time] games.

**GROUP E**

Guido Pizarro's stoppage-time equalizer for Sevilla means Liverpool will have to wait two more weeks to see if it can re-



Real Madrid's Cristiano Ronaldo celebrates

turn to the knockout stages after an eight-year absence.

Roberto Firmino scored twice for Liverpool and set up Sadio Mane's goal in the first half-hour. But the hosts rallied with a pair by Wissam Ben Yedder in the second half, and Pizarro's late equalizer off a corner kick.

Liverpool can't afford to lose to Spartak Moscow at Anfield next month. Spartak, held by last-place Maribor to 1-1, leads

Spartak by only three points.

Sevilla plays its final game at already eliminated Maribor.

**GROUP F**

Lorenzo Insigne showed again what Italy missed in its World Cup playoff as he scored a stunning goal to help Napoli keep alive its chances of qualifying for the knockout stages.

Insigne ran down the left before cutting inside and curling

into the top right corner from 30 yards in the 56th minute.

Italy coach Gian Piero Ventura, who was fired last week, was roundly criticized after using Insigne for just 15 minutes of the two-leg playoff against Sweden — and out of position. Italy lost 1-0 and failed to qualify for the World Cup for the first time in 60 years.

Piotr Zielinski and Dries Mertens netted late as Napoli moved within three points of second-place Shakhtar.

Manchester City secured top spot by beating Feyenoord 1-0, thanks to Raheem Sterling's late winner.

Napoli will qualify for the round of 16, courtesy of a better head-to-head record over Shakhtar, if it wins at Feyenoord in the final round and Shakhtar loses to City.

**GROUP G**

Leipzig capitalized on a comedy of errors in a first-half horror show to send Monaco crashing out of the Champions League.

The visiting German side led 2-0 after just nine minutes, with Monaco's Jemerson at fault in both goals. The Bra-

zilian defender beat his own 'keeper with an own goal and set up Leipzig's second with a feeble pass from the back that Kevin Kampl pounced on to set up Timo Werner.

Monaco captain Radamel Falcao conceded a penalty that Werner converted for 3-0 after 31 minutes.

Falcao made amends with a headed goal in the closing minutes of the half but Naby Keita restored Leipzig's three-goal advantage moments later.

Leipzig and Porto are level on points, with the German side leading on head-to-head. Besiktas travels to Leipzig on Dec. 6, and Porto hosts Monaco.

Besiktas became the first Turkish team ever to top its group after Talisca's 41st-minute equalizer cancelled out Felipe's opener.

**GROUP H**

Karim Benzema scored twice in the first half and Cristiano Ronaldo added two goals in the second as Real Madrid thrashed Cypriot team APOEL.

Luka Modric and Nacho Fernandez also scored for the defending champions, who have made it past the group stage for 22 straight seasons.

The result eliminated Borussia Dortmund, which lost to Tottenham 2-1 in Germany.

Harry Kane and Son Heung-min cancelled out Pierre-Emerick Aubameyang's strike for Dortmund to ensure already-qualified Tottenham wrapped up the group win. **AP**

## TENNIS

## Grand Slams planning to cut seeds from 32 back to 16 in 2019

Howard Fendrich

**G**RAND Slam tournaments are planning to return to seeding only 16 players, instead of 32, as of 2019, and now will give a player who is a late withdrawal because of an injury 50 percent of the first-round prize money.

Also among the announcements by the Grand Slam Board on Tuesday after two days of meetings in London last week:

— A player who retires from a first-round match or "performs below professional standards" could face a fine as high as the entire prize money due a loser in that round.

A 25-second serve clock will be tried out at the Australian Open in January, but like at this year's U.S. Open, not during main-

draw matches.

— Players could be fined up to USD20,000 for violating "strictly enforced" prematch timing, which will give them one minute to meet at the net after walking on the court, five minutes for warming up, followed by one minute to be ready for play to begin.

The four Grand Slam tournaments — the Australian Open, French Open, Wimbledon, U.S. Open — doubled the number of seeded players to

32 in June 2001. That decision was made partly in response to complaints from clay-court specialists that they wanted more draw protection at Wimbledon, the only major tournament played on grass.

Going back to 16 seeds in 2019 would, in theory anyway, make early upsets more likely. That's because if all of the highest-ranked players enter the field, whoever is No. 1 could wind up facing whoever

is No. 17 in the opening round.

With 32 seeds, none was forced to play someone ranked higher than No. 33 before the third round.

The changes with regard to first-round withdrawals, retirements and lack of full effort appear to be in response to what happened at Wimbledon this year. Novak Djokovic's first-round match at Centre Court lasted all of 40 minutes, and Roger Federer's went 43, before their opponents stopped playing because of pre-existing injuries. Two other men also stopped mid-match that day, bringing the first-round retirement total to seven and sparking discussion about whether spectators were being shortchanged.

The rule changes issued



Tuesday, and taking effect next year, let players collect half of the first-round prize money at a Grand Slam tournament if they are "unfit to play" and withdraw onsite after noon on Thursday but before the main draw begins. The person replacing them in the field — a "lucky loser" who failed to advance out of the qualifying rounds — will get the other half of that money, plus whatever they might accumulate by winning matches.

The reasoning: Injured

or ill players won't start a match simply to collect their prize money before quitting.

The 25-second serve clock gives players 5 more seconds than ATP rules currently allow on the men's tour. But Grand Slam Board Director Bill Babcock said the clock will be used at the 2018 Australian Open on a trial basis the way it was at the U.S. Open, which tested it only for events such as qualifying and junior matches. **AP**

opinion

**Made in Macao**  
 Jenny Lao-Phillips



**DRINKING CULTURE IN MACAO**

The drinking culture of a place shows a lot about the tradition and social life of that place. For the Portuguese, it is customary to have wine during dinner or even lunch, whether it be a social meal, a business meal, or a family meal. Wine is a part of a Portuguese meal, and the Portuguese drink slowly in a relaxed way, pairing the right wine with the right food, making the meal a time to enjoy and chat casually.

For the mainland Chinese, social dinners are often served with wine or beer too nowadays, or for business meals, the super strong Chinese white wine. During these meals, the hosts often clink glasses with their guests, and the meals turn into a drinking contest. One who doesn't drink loses face in this kind of situation. Whether drinking calmly or chugging down alcohol like water, both Portuguese and Chinese culture seem to include alcoholic drinks as part of a dinner.

For the Portuguese, having a cold refreshing beer in the late afternoon, or continuing conversations at dinner with drinks are usual. Though in the mainland, most people at the table are usually drunk after a social dinner, there is a practice of going to karaoke to continue drinking and singing or sometimes dancing. In a place where the tradition is a combination of Chinese and Portuguese, it may be surprising to find that most local citizens in Macao do not drink.

It is unusual to see local Chinese, especially from my generation, ordering wine or beer during meals. In fact, if someone invites you for a drink at night, they can mean going for a Taiwanese Pearl Milk Tea or a juice at the Fruitarian Café. I was surprised to learn from a few acquaintances during a pilgrimage trip to Fatima that they had never drank at meals before. In fact, they seldom drank on any occasion, and drank more than they ever did on the two-week trip to Portugal and Spain.

However, the drinking culture in Macao is changing a bit nowadays. With more exposure to different cultures through travel, and the increasing number of shops selling wines from different countries organizing wine tasting and other events, the social acceptability of drinking has increased. But what contributed most to the drinking culture in Macao is the Happy Hour tradition. In the last ten years, almost all bars have started offering special offers for drinks after work. This has caused large number of office workers to gather after work to socialize. In fact, I believe this Happy Hour tradition has had a direct effect on enhancing collegiality by bringing office discussion into a different venue. In some cases, unsolvable problems from the office are solved in a bar.

What is interesting observing the Macao drinking culture is that with years and years of influence from both Portuguese and Chinese traditions, we have not adopted the drinking culture from either. Not even with the very low-cost Portuguese wine we can buy in Macao thanks to tax free trade. Yet, in the short intervening years, Happy Hour has become part of our normal social life. What does this imply?

In all likelihood, we are not made for the relaxing lifestyle of food and entertainment like the Portuguese. And our stomach is not strong enough for the face-gaining culture of drinking like fish as our brothers from the mainland do. But, Happy Hour, a very Anglo-Saxon concept, quickly got us to adapt to drinking, perhaps because it is a more interesting continuation of the work time. Perhaps it is a sign that work is taking over our lives, and after work Happy Hour is just a happier way to continue work.

**THE PHILIPPINES TO EXTRADITE PRIEST ACCUSED OF MOLESTING US BOYS**

The Philippine government is preparing to extradite to the United States a recently arrested Filipino Catholic priest who faces charges of sexually molesting two boys in North Dakota churches in the 1990s, an official said yesterday. The State Counsel said Fernando Laude Sayasaya was arrested over the weekend by police in Calamba city in Laguna province south of Manila and will be flown back to the U.S., which sought his extradition under a treaty.

"The apprehension of Fernando Sayasaya once again shows that the long arm of the law would reach all criminals," the authorities said. "The suppression of crime is the concern not only of the state where it is committed but in any other state where the criminal may have escaped." The priest was charged in a North Dakota court over alleged sexual advances toward two underage siblings from 1995 to 1998.

**Zimbabwe incoming leader Mnangagwa jets in from South Africa**



Supporters of Emmerson Mnangagwa, the man expected to become Zimbabwe's new president and known as "The Crocodile"

ZIMBABWE'S incoming leader Emmerson Mnangagwa emerged from hiding yesterday, departing from neighboring South Africa to return home in preparation to take power after Robert Mugabe's stunning resignation.

The 75-year-old Mnangagwa fled Zimbabwe after Mugabe fired him earlier this month, leading the military to move in and kick off a series of extraordinary events ending in Mugabe stepping down early yesterday [Macao time] amid impeachment proceedings.

Mnangagwa met with South African President Jacob Zuma in a jovial "courtesy call" before taking a private jet from Johannesburg to Zimbabwe's capital, Harare. He was expected to arrive at Manyame Air Base, where cheering crowds gathered.

He will be sworn in as Zimbabwe's new president Friday morning, the speaker of parliament said, after the ruling ZANU-PF party notified him of its nomination of Mnangagwa to replace Mugabe until the end of the current term next year.

The privately run Newsday newspaper reported that Mnangagwa would be met on arrival by army commander Constantino Chiwenga and ruling party officials and then was expected "to meet Mugabe for a briefing."

Several hundred people gathered in anticipation of Mnangagwa's arrival. Some carried signs with images of him, suggesting a certain level of organization behind

the jubilant turnout. Signs read "Welcome back, our hero" and "True to your word, you're back. Welcome."

One man in the crowd, Godwin Nyarugwa, said he was "very ecstatic" and that "we need change in this country, change in everything" after years of economic crisis. Nyarugwa said he had several university degrees but no job, a common theme amid Zimbabwe's well-educated population.

"We have to try him and see," he said of Mnangagwa. "If he doesn't come up with something, we need to change him as well."

Zimbabweans were still reeling from Mugabe's resignation. They cheered and danced in the streets of Harare late into the night, thrilled to be rid of a leader whose early promise after the end of white minority rule in 1980 was overtaken by economic collapse, government dysfunction and human rights violations.

Now the focus turns to Mnangagwa, Mugabe's longtime deputy who was pushed aside as unpopular first lady Grace Mugabe positioned herself to replace him and succeed her husband. Mnangagwa fled the country, claiming threats against his life.

That led the military to step in a week ago, opening the door for the ruling party and the people to publicly turn against the president.

It was not clear what the 93-year-old Robert Mugabe and his wife would do next. Mugabe, who was the wor-

ld's oldest head of state, said in his resignation letter that legal procedures should be followed to install a new president "no later than tomorrow."

Zimbabweans woke up to the first day in 37 years without Mugabe in power. With some nursing hangovers, they looked over newspaper headlines such as "Adios Bob and Ta-ta President."

"I think this change of government is like a new breath of fresh air right across the country," said Patrick Musira on the streets of the capital. "Everyone was engulfed with excitement and they are looking for a better future, a brighter future with work."

Zimbabwe's new leaders are faced with a once-prosperous nation whose economy has collapsed, sending frustrated young people into desperate work as street vendors. Many have left the country altogether.

Mnangagwa is a former justice and defense minister who served for decades as Mugabe's enforcer, a role that earned him the nickname "Crocodile." Many opposition supporters believe he was instrumental in the army killings of thousands of people when Mugabe moved against a political rival in the 1980s.

So far in the current political turmoil Mnangagwa has used inclusive language, saying in a statement hours before Mugabe's resignation that all Zimbabweans should work together to advance their nation. AP

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

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**LEBANON** Prime Minister Saad Hariri announced yesterday that he was putting his resignation on hold to give way for more consultations. It was a quick reversal and a likely embarrassment to Saudi Arabia, which was widely seen as having orchestrated his resignation.

**GREECE** Twenty international and Greek rights groups and charities called on the Greek government yesterday to end the policy of keeping migrants and refugees arriving from Turkey stuck on Greek islands.



**GERMANY'S** center-left Social Democrats are under pressure to halt the country's drift toward a new election after ruling out a repeat of their outgoing coalition with Chancellor Angela Merkel. The Social Democrats said after a disastrous result in Germany's Sept. 24 election that it would go into opposition, and its leadership reiterated that stance after Merkel's coalition talks with two smaller parties collapsed.

**US** The U.S. Navy says eight people who were recovered from the crash of a transport aircraft in the Pacific are in good condition and the search continues for three other missing personnel. More on p12

**VENEZUELA** Authorities detained the acting president of Citgo, the state-owned oil company's U.S. subsidiary, and five other executives for their alleged involvement in a corruption scheme, officials said Tuesday.