



PARALLELS WITH HONG KONG

International media are homing in on the suspension of lawmaker Sulu Sou, comparing it to the crackdown in HK

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FRINGE FESTIVAL RETURNS

Themed "Treasure Hunting", the 17th Macau City Fringe Festival will be held from January 12 to 21

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SPORTS BETTING GETS BOOST IN THE US

P9

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES

President Rodrigo Duterte has ordered the national police to rejoin anti-drug operations, the second time he has overturned previous decisions to remove the law enforcers from the brutal crackdown amid growing alarm over the deaths of thousands of suspects.

MYANMAR A top Myanmar diplomat has rejected allegations by the U.N. human rights chief that the country's government has taken action to "dehumanize" Rohingya Muslims.



JAPAN A memoir by Japanese Emperor Hirohito that offers his recollections of World War II is predicted to fetch between USD100,000 and \$150,000 at an auction in New York.

AUSTRALIA will ban foreign interference in its politics — either through espionage or financial donations — in a move motivated largely by Russia's alleged involvement in last year's U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape. *More on p12*

AFGHANISTAN The Afghan intelligence agency says scores of al-Qaida figures, including senior leader Omar Khetab, have been killed in joint operations with coalition forces in the country's eastern and southern provinces.

More on backpage

Macau included in EU tax haven blacklist

P2



Secretary for Transport and Public Works contradicts Alexis Tam

P5 POLICY ADDRESS

HK company to maintain Delta Bridge automatic checkpoints

The government awarded the contract for the provision of maintenance of the border crossing equipment on the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge to NEC Hong Kong Limited, Macau Branch. According to a notice published this week in the Official Gazette, the payment for the service, which pays attention to the automatic checkpoints, totals MOP160.3 million, and will be paid over ten years, starting from 2017, and ending in 2028. The biggest portion, MOP43.74 million, will be paid this year. In 2018, the government will pay the company an additional MOP 29.16 million, then for the remaining eight years, the company will receive MOP10.93 million per year.

Positive assessment on anti-money laundering measures

The Asia/Pacific Group on Money Laundering, the international organization on anti-money laundering and terrorist financing, recently published the Mutual Evaluation Report on the MSAR. According to the mutual evaluation results, among the 11 effectiveness outcomes assessed, Macau obtained six substantial effectiveness ratings, three moderate effectiveness ratings and two low effectiveness ratings. For the technical compliance assessment which deals with completeness of legal and institutional framework, out of the 40 recommendations, the MSAR has obtained 37 compliant and largely compliant ratings, and only two partially compliant ratings and one non-compliant rating.

C2 Magazine discusses media industry

The development of the traditional publishing industry is the main topic of the twenty-fourth issue of C2 Magazine, which will be launched tomorrow. In the section "Feature", representatives of three local publishing media, Phoenix Skyscape, SD MEDIA, and ZA Magazine, discuss the opportunities and transformation of the media and publishing industry by sharing their entrepreneurial experiences. C2 is a trilingual magazine (in Chinese, Portuguese and English) published by the Cultural Affairs Bureau.

Macau included in EU tax haven blacklist

THE European Union (EU) has released a blacklist of 17 countries which it says are tax havens. The countries and regions included could potentially face sanctions for failing to bring their standards in line with the bloc, as the EU seeks to further step up its fight against opaque practices that facilitate avoidance by multinationals and individuals.

The group of jurisdictions, which was rubber stamped by EU finance ministers at a meeting in Brussels yesterday, includes South Korea, Panama, Bahrain, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates, as well as Barbados, Samoa, American Samoa, Grenada, Guam, Macau, the Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Namibia, Palau, St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago, according to the EU.

The final list is the result of months of screening on dozens of countries and territories, and back-and-forths between the 28-country bloc and various jurisdictions around the world. It could still change depending on the ministers' political decisions. Ministers decided that 17 countries will be blacklis-



ted, while another 47 will be included in a separate gray list, to be monitored for their compliance with commitments undertaken.

It comes as the EU has stepped up its efforts in recent years to tackle tax avoidance and evasion around the world - plans that have received fresh impetus following leaks such as the recent Paradise papers, which exposed the large scale of tax avoidance and fed public backlash

against such practices.

Throughout the past year, experts from the bloc have been screening 92 jurisdictions to identify whether they met the EU's standards for transparency or whether they engaged in harmful tax practices.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong reacted saying that Macau is by no means a tax haven or a territory where tax evasion is allowed. According to Leong,

the MSAR authorities are enrolled in active cooperation with the international community to combat such practices and promote tax justice.

Leong reiterated that the MSAR Government has communicated and contacted the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the EU on tax matters and will continue to improve legislation in order to create new international rules.

Asked to comment on media reports that mentioned the inclusion of Macau in the EU's black list of tax haven countries and regions, Leong said that the government will follow the case.

The Secretary said that the government is working on the possible extension of the "Multilateral Convention on Mutual Assistance in Tax Matters" to Macau. According to Leong, after the convention is applied to Macau, the region could carry out automatic exchange of information with EU member states. In addition, he said that the government is also studying the review and finding ways to improve the tax system for offshore institutions.

The Government Spokesperson's Office issued a statement late last night saying the decision to include Macau in the list was "unilateral, partial and does not reflect the real situation in Macau." **MDT/Agencies**

HUMAN RESOURCES

Self-service renewal application for maids today

STARTING from 9 a.m. today, Macau residents can make renewal applications for their domestic helpers at over 40 locations, including the Border Checkpoint at the Border Gate, the Immigration Department Office Building, the China Plaza lobby and at all health centers.

Some locations are even open to the public around the clock. According to the government, over 24,000 employers

and their domestic helpers will benefit from the new measures.

The employers may submit their applications at the self-service kiosks within 11 to 60 days before the expiry of the domestic helper's 'Authorization to Stay for Non-resident Workers,' by verifying their identity with the Macau ID card and following the steps provided.

Following this, the domestic helper can com-

plete the follow-up procedure and be granted a new 'Authorization to Stay for Non-resident Worker' by approaching the Immigration Department Office Building at Pac On or the Centro de Serviços da RAEM at Areia Preta and producing the notification printed at the self-service kiosks and the necessary documents listed in the notification.

Employers can choose to make the renewal application by self-ser-

vice or at the two government buildings mentioned.

In accordance with the policy of the MSAR to develop electronic government administration, the Public Security Police Force (PSP), the Identification Services Bureau and other departments have been collaborating since 2015 to develop a series of electronic services.

In September 2015, the Immigration Department of the Public Se-

curity Police Force launched self-service applications for the "Certificate of Personal Movement Record" through the multi-functional self-service kiosks of the Identification Services Bureau. In addition, self-service kiosks for the "Certificate of Criminal Record" and multi-functional self-service kiosks were set up at the Immigration Department Office Building at Pac On, in April 2016 and November 2016 respectively.

In a press release issued yesterday, the PSP pledged to continue to develop more self-services for the public, as well as enhancing efficiency and optimizing internal administration.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephones: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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Int'l media compare Sulu Sou suspension to democrat crackdown in Hong Kong

Daniel Beittler

INTERNATIONAL media are homing in on Monday's suspension of legislator Sulu Sou, comparing it to the recent crackdown on democrat lawmakers and activists in neighboring Hong Kong.

On Monday afternoon, lawmakers in Macau's Legislative Assembly (AL) voted 28-4 in favor of suspending the young democrat so that his prosecutorial immunity could be waived and he could be investigated and possibly brought to court.

Sou stands accused of the crime of aggravated disobedience dating back to a demonstration last year that raised concerns over irregularities regarding a RMB100 million donation from the Macao Foundation to the mainland's Jinan University. During the demonstration, Sou allegedly violated police orders by walking on the road (instead of the sidewalk) and vandalized the grounds of the government's headquarters.

Democrats in the city – including the association to which Sou belongs, New Macau Association – have criticized his suspension as being political in nature, rather



RENATO MARQUES

than judicial.

This is a point expounded on in international and greater China-based media outlets, which have compared the case to the democrat crackdown in Hong Kong.

Reuters reported that many people in Macau believe that the decision mirrors cases in Hong Kong, where young democrat lawmakers were suspended last year following an oath-taking controversy. More recently, high-profile democracy activists including Joshua Wong and lawmaker Nathan Law were jailed for their involvement in organizing the Occupy movement that crippled Hong Kong in 2014.

Citing Macau lawmaker Pereira Coutinho - who steadfastly defended Sou on Monday - as well as local lawyer Jorge Menezes, Reuters reported that the case might signal a deterioration in Macau's rule of law.

"This may be the beginning of the death sentence to Macau's rule of law, and it will end up having an impact in the casino industry," said Menezes, as cited by the media outlet. "Sou was stripped of his rights to participate in the debate and vote in a clear violation of the assembly's rules."

Menezes told Reuters that he had concerns that further violations to the rule of law could impact the ca-

sino industry, possibly during the upcoming license renewal negotiations between 2020 and 2022.

Taiwan's Straits Times also highlighted similarities in the situations between Hong Kong and Macau, recalling Sou's involvement in one of the MSAR's largest anti-government protests in 2014, when 20,000 people protested a generous retirement and compensation package for outgoing government officials.

Several media outlets described Sou's election victory as 'a slap in the face to local officials'

It is not without a sense of irony that the 2014 'compensation bill' had also proposed to bestow the chief executive with prosecutorial immunity for any crimes committed during his tenure.

While noting that the pro-democracy movement in Macau is considerably smaller than in nearby Hong Kong, the Straits Times acknowledged that there have been "outbursts of frustration against the government," including earlier this year over the government's handling of the devastating Typhoon Hato.

Several media outlets described Sou's victory in the 2017 Legislative Assembly election as "a slap in the face to local officials over Typhoon Hato."

Meanwhile, the Hong Kong Free Press raised concerns about the legality of the decision and whether its punishment is proportionate to the alleged offense.

"During the meeting on Monday, he was not allowed to make a speech or vote. He was only allowed to give responses to lawmakers' questions," it noted, stressing that the case did not involve corruption, breach of duty, organized crime or any harm to the public interest.

China's official press agency, Xinhua, had little to say on the matter other than that Sou's suspension makes him the first lawmaker to have his mandate revoked since the founding of the MSAR.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Question for readers:

Where is the show being staged?

Please email the answers to: soundofmusic@macaudailytimes.com Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets - Giveaway

Three sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us the correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for five days, each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP488 for a total prize value of MOP3,000. Shows tickets (show session: Dec 25, 7:30pm) will be offered.

Tickets from MOP288 are now available through cotaiticketing.com or 2882 8818.

One of the world's most popular and successful musicals, THE SOUND OF MUSIC is coming to The Venetian@ Macao's Venetian Theatre from Dec. 20, 2017, to Jan. 7, 2018, to delight audiences over the Christmas and New Year period. Tickets go on sale Oct. 27 from 3p.m. at all Cotai Ticketing box offices.

This highly-acclaimed production comes from the home of West End musical theatre – the famous London Palladium – where it celebrated a record-breaking 954 performances and was seen by over two million people. To add to the excitement, THE SOUND OF MUSIC will feature 18 talented youngsters from Macao and Hong Kong playing the Von Trapp family

children. THE SOUND OF MUSIC tells the uplifting true story of Maria, the fun-loving governess who changes the lives of the widowed Captain Von Trapp and his seven children by re-introducing them to music, culminating in the family's escape across the Austrian mountains as tensions rise prior to the outbreak of World War II. Presented by Chessman and The Venetian Macao, THE SOUND OF MUSIC includes some of the most memorable songs ever performed on the stage, including "My Favorite Things", "Do-Re-Mi", "Climb Ev'ry Mountain", "The Lonely Goatherd", "Sixteen Going on Seventeen", and wonderful title song "The Sound of Music". The original Broadway

production of THE SOUND OF MUSIC has won five Tony Awards, including Best Musical, and was Rodgers and Hammerstein's biggest success. The 1965 movie starring Julie Andrews as Maria also won five Oscars, including Best Picture, and remains one of the most popular movies of all time. Auditions for the roles of the Von Trapp children were held at The Venetian Macao and Hong Kong Academy for Performing Arts, with 18 talented Macao and Hong Kong youngsters chosen to play in the show. Don't miss this opportunity to experience this dazzling show, widely regarded as the world's greatest musicals, THE SOUND OF MUSIC at The Venetian Macao from Dec. 20, 2017 to Jan. 7, 2018.



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List of Winning Restaurants and Eateries of 2017 “Star Merchant Award” and “Service Star Award”:

Deluxe Restaurant

Service Star Award : YING (Hotel Altira)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------|
| 1. 456 XANGAI (Hotel Lisboa) | 3. FADO (Hotel Royal) | 5. YING (Hotel Altira) |
| 2. CATALPA GARDEN (Hotel Royal) | 4. SPOTLIGHT (Hotel Studio City) | |

First Class Restaurant

Service Star Award : TENMASA (Hotel Altira)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | | |
|--|---|--|
| 1. 456 MODERN SHANGHAI CUISINE (The Venetian Macao) | 15. MADEIRA PORTUGUESE RESTAURANT (The Venetian Macao) | 28. SHUN HIN SEAFOOD RESTAURANT (Ascott Macau) |
| 2. BA SHAN SPICY NOODLES (Hotel Broadway) | 16. MAN HO CHINESE RESTAURANT (Hotel JW Marriott Macau) | 29. SPICE ROAD (Hotel Studio City) |
| 3. BEIJING KITCHEN (Grand Hyatt Macau) | 17. MEZZA 9 MACAU (Grand Hyatt Macau) | 30. TENMASA (Hotel Altira) |
| 4. DU HSIAO YUEH (Hotel Broadway) | 18. NAN XIANG STEAMED BUN RESTAURANT (Hotel Broadway) | 31. THE MANOR (St. Regis Macau, COTA Central) |
| 5. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (City of Dreams) | 19. PAK LOH CHIU CHOW RESTAURANT (Galaxy Hotel) | 32. THE MIX (Ascott Macau) |
| 6. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (Conrad Macau) | 20. PEPPER LUNCH (Hotel Broadway) | 33. THE NOODLE KITCHEN (Galaxy Hotel) |
| 7. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (Mandarin Oriental Macau) | 21. POUSSADA DE COLOANE (Cheoc Van) | 34. THE WIN JAPANESE CUISINE (Ascott Macau) |
| 8. EDO JAPANESE RESTAURANT (Venetian Shop) | 22. PRAHA RESTAURANT (Hotel Harbourview) | 35. TW TSUI WAH RESTAURANT (Hotel Broadway) |
| 9. EMPEROR COURT (Emperor Hotel) | 23. RIO COFFEE SHOP (Hotel Rio) | 36. URBAN KITCHEN (Hotel JW Marriott Macau) |
| 10. GOSTO (Galaxy Hotel) | 24. ROTUNDA (Metropark) | 37. VERGNANO'S ITALIAN RESTAURANT (The Venetian Macao) |
| 11. HUNG'S DELICACIES (Hotel Broadway) | 25. SHANGHAI MAGIC (Studio City) | 38. VIC'S (Hotel Rocks) |
| 12. JADE ORCHID (Hotel Harbourview) | 26. SHIKI HOT POT RESTAURANT (Hotel Lisboa) | 39. WENG KEI TAO FU MIN SEK (Hotel Broadway) |
| 13. KATONG CORNER (Hotel Broadway) | 27. SHIKI HOT POT RESTAURANT (Studio City) | 40. WONG KUN SIO KUNG (Hotel Broadway) |

Second Class Restaurant

Service Star Award : VINHA 2 (Macau Fisherman 's Wharf)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|
| 1. A LORCHA (Rua do Almirante Sérgio) | 2. VINHA (Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção) | 3. VINHA 2 (Macau Fisherman 's Wharf) |
|---------------------------------------|---|---------------------------------------|

Food and Beverage Establishments

Service Star Award : PORTUGÁLIA (Rua dos Mercadores, Taipa)

Star Merchant Award:

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. CAFÉ LEON (Rua do Regedor, Taipa) | 15. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS DRAGÃO (FOK LUN SEK KOON) - Rua da Felicidade |
| 2. CAFÉ PACÍFICO (Sands Cotai Central) | 16. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS EDO JAPANESE (Hotel Lisboa) |
| 3. CAFÉ VOYAGE (Rua do Padre António Roliz) | 17. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS KAU DIM (Rua Cidade de Santarém) |
| 4. COMIDA JAPONESA TOEI (The Venetian Macao) | 18. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS SAM'S CURRY (Pátio da Papaia) |
| 5. COZINHA BOA FORTUNA (Aeroporto Internacional de Macau) | 19. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TIN TIN FO WO (Avenida Dr. Sun Yat Sen, Taipa) |
| 6. ESTABELECIMENTO DE BEBIDAS HAAGEN DAZS (Rua do Regedor, Taipa) | 20. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS TURTLE ESSENCE SHOP (Hotel Lisboa) |
| 7. ESTABELECIMENTO DE BEBIDAS HAAGEN DAZS (Travessa do Roquete) | 21. MOMENTO MAGNIFICO (Avenida Marginal do Lam Mau) |
| 8. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CAFE SUPER MARIO (Rua Sul do Patane) | 22. PARAÍSO DE COMIDAS (Aeroporto Internacional de Macau) |
| 9. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS "JAPAS" (Rua do Padre Eugénio Taverna) | 23. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE DE MARISCO (Rua de Pequim, Central Comercial Kuong Fat) |
| 10. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS "TAI CHEONG" B.B.Q. (Rua do Comandante João Belo) | 24. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE MARISCO (Rua do Padre António Roliz) |
| 11. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS BOA FORTUNA (Avenida do Infante D. Henrique) | 25. PONTE 16 TAK HENG (MACAU) FONDUE MARISCO (Rua de Pequim, I Chan Kok) |
| 12. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CAFE DE NOVO TOMATO (Travessa de D. Quixote) | 26. PORTUGÁLIA (Rua dos Mercadores, Taipa) |
| 13. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CENTO SABORES (The Venetian Macao) | |
| 14. ESTABELECIMENTO DE COMIDAS CRYSTAL PALACE SEAFOOD HOT POT (Rua do Regedor, Taipa) | |

List of Winning Travel Agencies of 2017 “Star Merchant Award” and “Service Star Award”:

Travel Agency Industry

Service Star Award - Inbound Service : CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE (MACAO), LIMITED (Avenida da Praia Grande)

Service Star Award - Outbound Service : SINCERITY (Rua de S. Domingos)

Star Merchant Award:

- CHINA INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICE (MACAO), LIMITED (Avenida da Praia Grande)
- EGL TOURS (Avenida da Praia Grande)
- HOU WAN TRAVEL AGENCY LIMITED (Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção)
- KINGSTAR INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL SERVICES COMPANY LIMITED (Avenida de Artur Tamagnini Barbosa)
- MACAU EASY INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL AGENCY CO. LTD. (Rua de Pequim)
- MACAU EXPRESS TRAVEL LIMITED (Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção)
- SAM TONG INTERNATIONAL TOURIST COMPANY LIMITED (Alameda Dr. Carlos D'Assumpção)
- SINCERITY (Rua de S. Domingos)
- WESTMINSTER TRAVEL LIMITED (Rua do Dr. Pedro José Lobo)



POLICY ADDRESS | TRANSPORT AND PUBLIC WORKS

Border Gate bus terminal works to be expedited

Renato Marques

THE government will speed up the works that aim to renew and put back into operation the Border Gate underground bus terminal that suffered severe damage after the passage of Typhoon Hato in late August, the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, informed to the solicitation of several lawmakers.

Rosario was speaking at the Legislative Assembly (AL) where he was subject to the first of two days of questioning from lawmakers regarding the government's policy address for his secretariat.

At the plenary session Rosário advanced that the government was doing everything possible

to conclude as early as possible the, clarifying, "we have already [received] authorization to perform the works seven days a week in between 8 a.m. and 10 p.m."

"I think that the duration period of the works will be shortened," he added, without detailing how many days might be saved.

Adding to the explanation of the Secretary was a representative of the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) who said they "have been accelerating the works [to reduce their length by] about two or three months and for the third phase we will also do a tender in an accelerated way in order to open the terminus to the population as soon as possible."

In another of the hot topics of

the debate - the status and delays of several public constructions, namely the Islands District Medical Complex (Islands Hospital) - Rosário explained that he cannot provide a schedule for the works to be developed, nor a budget because, "We still don't have the conception plan [from the Health Bureau] and if we don't have the conception plan we can't open the public tender."

"If we do not open the public tender I can't tell how long it will take and how much it will cost," he continued, referring to the problem that occurs with many other projects, namely the Infectious Diseases Building. He said that the delays of the projects are not the responsibility of his secretariat but instead of the Secretariat of Social Affairs and

Culture, led by Alexis Tam.

Angela Leong said she was "very worried" with the future of the land plot that is currently occupied by the Canidrome, and inquired about the future of the plot and if it will be used to build houses for the younger generation. She acknowledged the announcement from Tam last week that proposed to the Chief Executive the use of such resources to build a total of four schools, including one dedicated to special education.

On the topic, Raimundo do Rosário said, "We are currently studying the use of such land and collecting opinions and comments [from several organizations, departments and entities]. I believe that we can conclude that work in the third quarter [of 2018]. I don't think that this is the right moment to express incomplete opinions. After [the work is done], it will be announced by the chief executive and then we will do that."

"To talk about this now would create groundless expectations,"

he concluded, once again hinting that the previously announced date from Tam might not be met.

Rosário explained that he cannot provide a schedule for the works to be developed at the future hospital

Commenting on other topics related to public transportation, the Secretary noted the bill for the transport of passengers in light rental vehicles (taxi law) has been concluded and will soon reach the AL. "Don't worry we will have time to discuss all this regulation here [at the AL], article by article."

Surprisingly, the questions were mostly centered on topics that avoided mention of Typhoon Hato and the response and measures from the government in its aftermath. Still, lawmaker Lei Chan U was one of the few that asked about a "calamity prevention plan" to prevent the disruption of the water and electricity supply. Lei also questioned what the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) was doing to improve its weather alerts to the population.

"We have plans for those [water and power supply]," the Secretary replied. "We are all working on that," adding that the damage to buildings were superficial and that "Hato was not a normal storm." He also referred to the opinion of specialists who think that, due to climate change, situations like these might happen more often in the future. The Bureau is working on what is possible to do to prevent "major damage."

As for the SMG, the acting director Raymond Tam said: "We are going to reinforce our human resources and equipment to ensure the operations of the SMG during [severe] typhoons," namely acquiring new equipment that allows for the work even if there is a shortage in the power supply.

Raimundo acknowledges lack of understanding between gov't departments

ON several occasions during yesterday's plenary session at the AL, Raimundo do Rosário hinted at the existence of some disagreements in the delay of public works projects due to the responsibilities of "other departments." At one point he clearly acknowledged a lack of understanding between government departments.

"As the Chief Executive said when he came here, we have two problems: one the juridical regime; the other is the [lack of] coordination between public services. I agree with that. I agree that there is a communication problem between the public services and that is why we need so much time to exchange ideas and opinions from different public departments. This

isn't easy," the Secretary for Transport and Public Works said, without mentioning specific departments.

Nevertheless, in the examples widely cited during his speech it was clear that such problems are occurring with departments such as the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Health Bureau and the Education and Youth Affairs, all under the secretariat led by Tam.

Rosário suggested that the Master Plan - which he said won't be concluded until 2019 - could solve most of the problems.

"This plan is very important for the major constructions and it's also related with the 85 square kilometers of Maritime Area [granted to Macau by the Central Government]."

LAWMAKER SOU AT THE AL AS CITIZEN

ONE DAY after his mandate as lawmaker was suspended, Sulu Sou attended the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary session yesterday as a citizen. Seated on the back row, Sou was at the AL listening to the questions and answers from the other lawmakers to the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário. Unable to intervene in the debate, Sou dedicated the time to taking notes of what



was being said in the AL plenary. In the meanwhile he still had time to reply to solicitations from the media taking part in interviews conducted outside the AL building.

Lynzy Valles

AIRASIA has partnered with AJ Hackett for the seventh edition of the "Crazy Jump Day" themed "AirAsia Destinations," held at the Macau Tower.

The costumed bungee jump event saw 23 participants from across the Asia Pacific including Malaysia, Singapore, Philippines, Indonesia, Australia and China who were selected by AirAsia and AJ Hackett via a social media contest held last month.

Winners of the contest were awarded return flights to destinations including Auckland and Singapore, as well as AJ Hackett activities in AJ Hackett Auckland and Singapore's Sentosa Resort.

Speaking to the press, AJ Hackett CEO Alan John Hackett revealed that the group is working on plans to expand its offers and services.

Hackett noted that 60 percent of its customers are from mainland China.

The company is considering opening another bungee jump at the Macau Tower that is less extreme, targeting families. Hackett's suggestion indicated that he is seeking to make this a reality within the next two to four years.

Hackett also shared plans to operate jet boats in the region. He described his vision for this as harbor-cruise style, however he noted that he still needed to open dialogues with local authorities about this idea.

"We have other activities that we will be developing here in the future. Just to add to the fun for Macau," said Hackett.

In response to questions about when the public would see these new operations, the CEO said, "We'd really love to have the operation by next year. It's been four years in the making."

AirAsia and AJ Hackett consider further collaboration



Celia Lao (left) and Alan John Hackett



Participants in the "Crazy Jump Day"

Meanwhile, AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau CEO Celia Lao stressed that the budget airline is working hard on advertising the region, as it aims to expand its routes in Macau. "AirAsia sees it as a mission to showcase Macau's best in the region. We see Macau as a rapidly expanding regional aviation hub," Lao told the press on the sidelines of the event.

Lao also shared that the airline looks forward to connecting Macau to 130 of Air Asia's destinations in the future.

"We are actively promoting the market to both sides, including the Pearl River Delta and destinations in Southeast Asia to make sure that people are aware of what is happening in Macau," Lao assured.

Although she declined to disclose new routes for next year, Lao affirmed that the airline also aims to promote the historical and cultural landscape of the region.

The two companies expressed their commitment to the continuation of their partnership through offering promotions to their customers.

"I like the idea of [...] customers producing a boarding pass being treated preferentially with discounted products," said Hackett.

"We're working on ideas that are cool and innovative and allow people to explore, which both companies are doing," he added.

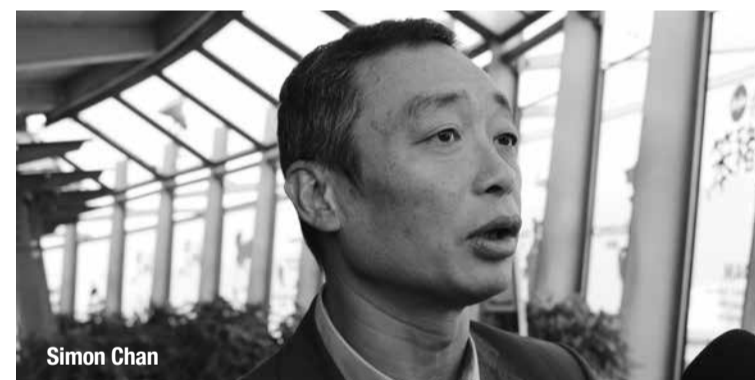
New routes for this festive season

PRESIDENT of the Civil Aviation Authority (AACM) Simon Chan announced that several airlines are set to open new routes to Macau for this month's festive season.

In the middle of the month, Macau's airport will have routes from Macau to Changzhou, among several other regions.

Speaking on the sidelines of the Crazy Jump Day, Chan noted that the airport's runway does not have sufficient space to park planes, as well as facilities on the ground.

Commenting on the number of passengers the airport can take, the president said, "regarding our overall design, if



Simon Chan

we calculate it with the number of passengers, [I] hope that at the first stage, there can be seven million passengers, and 10 million at the second stage, and 15 million at the third stage."

Chan also noted that airlines are willing to open more routes when the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge opens, adding that the move is an advantage to the development of the local airport and several airlines.

HEALTH

SSM carries out public consultation on assisted procreation

THE Health Bureau's public consultation on techniques of medically assisted procreation began on Monday and will run until January 12. The consultation aims at creating a specific law for the complete regulation and strict supervision of offenses regarding medically assisted procreation.

According to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM), the health sector and the general

public can use this consultation to learn about the content of the proposed law, and in particular, the public can discuss ethical and moral issues surrounding assisted procreation.

Between today and December 13, six special public consultation sessions will be held.

In May, SSM published some guidelines for the use of medically assisted procreation techniques. They regulate the basic

requirements for health professionals who intend to perform such medical services.

"However, the respective regulations are unable to solve the problems caused regarding procreation techniques," the SSM statement reads, "such as donation of gametes, pre-implantation, genetic conservation and diagnosis, among others; in addition to the deterrent effect implemented through

the criminalization of infringements."

Since June, SSM has detected seven cases of infractions involving situations related to providing medically assisted procreation techniques.

"Since there is not a specific law, SSM only applied administrative sanctions [over medical service providers] such as the suspension of activity and fines, among others. It is thus necessary to re-

gulate all irregularities through a specific law," SSM writes.

The content of the consultation consists of the applicable scope of medically assisted procreation techniques, prohibitions, rights and duties of the doctors and beneficiaries, as well as technical and operational requirements of those who wish to operate such services.

The following are "expressly prohibited: reproductive cloning, sex selection with the exception of the special circumstances of high risk of genetic disease linked to sex, chimeras or hybrids, replacement maternity, embryo creation for scientific re-

search and experimentation, purchase or sale of ova, semen or embryos, among others," as mentioned in SSM's statement.

The consultation will also cover the supervisory powers of SSM, further endorsing SSM to reinforce sanctions against infractions. Moreover, it suggests the format of administrative sanctions (a maximum fine of MOP120,000), that criminal liability and imprisonment might result, and suggests ancillary or accessory penalties such as prohibiting offending practices to perform such procedures, and the closure of the establishments.

ARTS

Fringe Festival to kick off on January 12

THEMED “Treasure Hunting”, the 17th Macau City Fringe Festival will be held from January 12 to 21.

The new edition of the festival will feature a total of 23 programs, as well as 10 activities including workshops, talks and art critique.

The event was introduced yesterday during a press conference promoted by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), who is the organizer of the event.

The festival will be held across venues such as Senado Square, Jorge Álvares Square, the Ruins of St. Paul's, Hac Sa Beach and the Old Court Building.

One focus of this edition is “Baby Theatres,” which are specially designed for newborn babies and toddlers. The festival brings “Interactive Talk: Know more about Theatre for Babies,” a seminar presented by Polyglot Theatre from Australia, to broaden participants’ imagination with regards to the concept of theaters for babies. Sue Gi-

les, artistic director of Polyglot Theatre from Australia, will be conducting the discussion.

The Polyglot Theatre will also host a “Creative Production Workshop on Theatre for Babies”, where participants can make their own props and explore ways to use the body and facial expressions in order to give babies a perceptual experience.

Hong Kong dance group Unlock Dancing Plaza, a recurring winner at the Hong Kong Dance Awards, joins hands with the Japanese Namstrops to present three different programs in this edition of the festival.

This edition of the Fringe Festival also includes Fringe Reviews, where art critics hailing from different regions, who have varied backgrounds and experiences, will offer their different points of view on the Fringe Festival to the public.

This year, the Fringe Intelligence Division is specially established to train Fringe reporters who, under the guidance of

instructors from Macau, Hong Kong and Taiwan, will be able to learn about the different methods of cultural and art production and explore the possibility of creating local media dedicated to arts and culture.

This edition of the festival will continue to hold “Art Festivals in the Cities 2.0”, inviting curators of performing arts events from all over the world to share experiences on local festivals and the cultural environment in their hometowns.

The 10-day long Fringe Festival includes several other shows: “Jin-Tang,” the name of Taiwanese creator Ma Wei Yuan’s grandfather, lets the audience take a peek at the most intimate anatomy of an individual’s life experiences through body language and instant synthetic images; the show “Idiot - Syncrasy,” presented by Igor and Moreno from the United Kingdom, who believe they can change the world by presenting a performance, uses rhythmic body movements and common



“Art Festivals in the Cities 2.0”: Curators of performing arts events are invited to share experiences

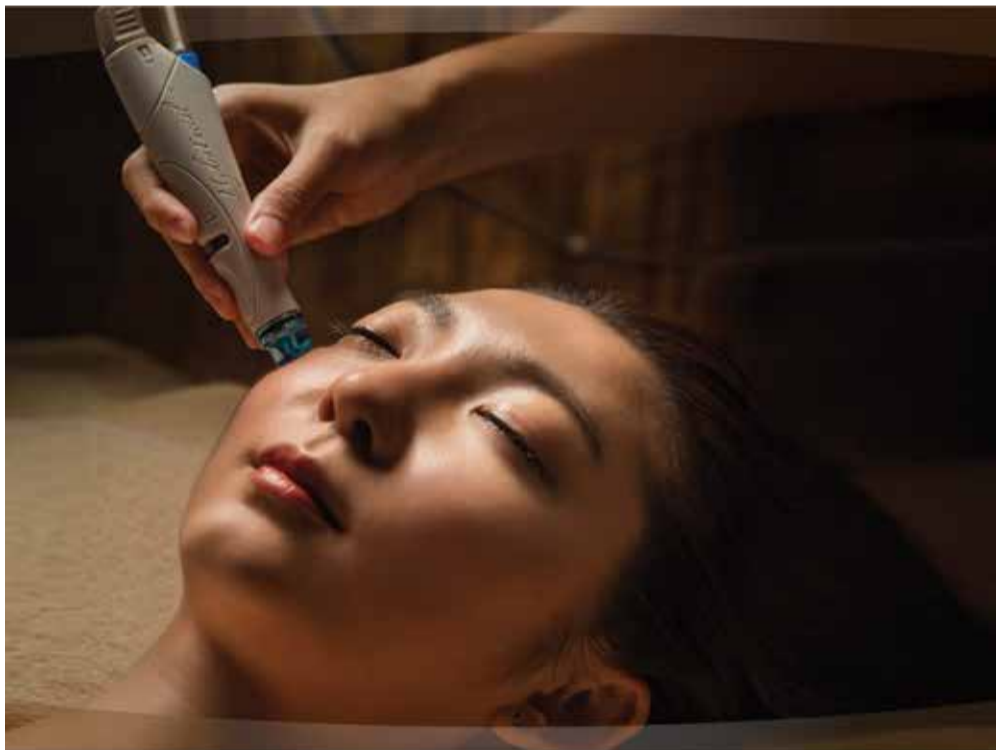
elements of two ethnic dances to express a yearning for the purest human nature; and “My Old Man is a Bus Driver”, presented by the Dream Theater Association, which takes the audience on a two-hour drive with a retired bus driver, wandering around areas of Macau that have likely been forgotten.

Other programs include “The Auction of Love Stories,” a performance inviting the public to submit items and love stories for auction, allowing the audience to give each one a value; “Niyaro: Yearning for Homeland”, which showcases the recognition of identity bu-

ried deep within each person through chanting, dancing and ritual ceremonies held at Hac Sa Beach; “You Can Sleep Here”, which converts streets into beds and invites the public to gather in a mysterious place (known as abandoned public places), thereby tearing down the barriers between private and public spaces; and “Bear with Us,” where three giant bears stroll around the city.

Keng Yeong Chi Kin, vice-president of the IC, told the media that the budget for this edition of the festival is MOP2.9 million, roughly the same as the previous edition. **JZ**

AD



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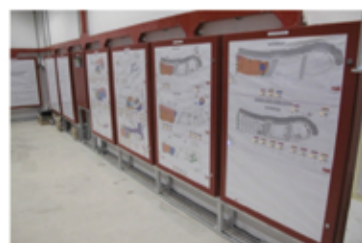
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GAMING

Sports betting gets boost as US federal ban doubts arise

Greg Stohr

U.S. Supreme Court justices suggested they may uphold New Jersey's legalization of sports gambling, in a move that could ripple quickly across the country and let other states grab some of the billions of dollars now bet illegally.

In an hour-long argument in Washington Monday, a majority of the justices voiced doubts about a 1992 federal law that bars wagering on individual sporting events in every state except Nevada. New Jersey, which is attempting to repeal its prohibition on sports gambling, contends the federal law violates states' rights.

Justice Anthony Kennedy, often the court's swing vote, said the federal law "leaves in place a state law that the state does not want." Should the high court strike down the federal law, other states could move quickly to take part of the USD150 billion the casino-backed American Gaming Association says is wagered illegally every year. By some estimates, more than a dozen states could have legal sports gambling by the end of next year.

New Jersey Governor Chris Christie, who sat in the front row for the argument, told reporters afterward that his state is ready to begin sports betting within two weeks if it prevails. The court will rule by June.

Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg suggested she would vote to uphold the federal law, the Professional and Amateur Sports Protection Act, also known as PASPA. She questioned New Jersey's contention that the federal government was violating the Constitution's 10th Amendment by saying the state can't repeal its ban.

"Isn't that what the government



does whenever it pre-empts state laws?" she asked Ted Olson, the lawyer representing New Jersey. "It says, 'You can't regulate.'"

But Justice Stephen Breyer said the sports betting ban was different from typical pre-emption examples, such as federal laws that create a comprehensive national policy by restricting state regulation of transportation standards or workplace safety. PASPA bans sports gambling indirectly, barring states from authorizing it rather than directly banning it under federal law.

The PASPA provisions "are addressing themselves to what kind of law a state may have without a clear federal policy," he said. The nation's largest pro sports leagues and the National Collegiate Athletic Association are challenging the New Jersey law along with the Trump administration. The leagues' lawyer, Paul Clement, said the federal measure was a "comprehensive scheme."

Even as they challenge the New Jersey law, some of the leagues are inching closer to embracing gambling themselves. National Basketball Association Commissioner Adam Silver has said that

Congress should let states authorize wagering, subject to strict regulation and technical safeguards.

New Jersey has been trying to legalize sports gambling in its casinos for years, starting with a 2012 law that explicitly authorized wagering. Federal courts struck down that measure as violating PASPA, which says states other than Nevada may not "sponsor, operate, advertise, promote, license or authorize by law or compact" a single-game sports-gambling system.

New Jersey then took a less direct approach by exempting racetracks and Atlantic City casinos from its gambling prohibition but not explicitly authorizing wagering or setting up a new regulatory system. A Philadelphia-based federal appeals court voted 10-2 to strike down that law as well, siding with the leagues and the federal government, then controlled by the Obama administration.

In their appeal, Christie and other New Jersey officials point to Supreme Court decisions barring the federal government from "commandeering" a state's re-

gulatory power. New Jersey says those rulings, which invoke the 10th Amendment, mean the state can't be required to maintain its prohibition on gambling.

Justice Elena Kagan questioned whether those decisions cast doubt on PASPA, saying they merely prevent the federal government from forcing states to be "our little assistants."

"How is New Jersey being put in that position with respect to this statute?" she asked Olson. But Chief Justice John Roberts likened PASPA to a hypothetical law that tells states they can't spend more than 20 percent of their budgets on employee pensions. "They're commandeering the state to achieve that result," he said. "Can they do that?"

Justice Samuel Alito said Congress itself could have directly prohibited businesses from engaging in sports gambling. "What policy does this statute serve that that would not?" he asked Clement.

Christie, who is leaving office in January, watched the argument after being sworn in to the Supreme Court bar. "This is the fear of every governor - that we'll be at the mercy of the federal government and they'll make us pay for it," Christie told reporters after the argument. In addition to Nevada, Delaware now offers some sports gambling, but limits it to multigame, or parlay, betting.

Should the justices throw out PASPA, 12 to 15 states might authorize sports betting by the end of 2018, according to Daniel Wallach, an expert on sports and gaming law at Becker & Poliakoff in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Mississippi and Connecticut have already passed legislation that would let them offer sports gambling almost immediately. **Bloomberg**

Facebook launches Messenger app for kids

FACEBOOK is coming for your kids. The social media giant is launching a messaging app for children to chat with their parents and with friends approved by their parents.

The free app is aimed at kids under 13, who can't yet have their own accounts under Facebook's rules, though they often do.

Messenger Kids comes with a slew of controls for parents. The service won't let children add their own friends or delete messages — only parents can do that. Kids don't get a separate Facebook or Messenger account; rather, it's an extension of a parent's account. Messenger Kids came out Monday in the U.S. as an app for Apple devices — the iPhone, iPad and iPod Touch. Versions for Android and Amazon's tablets are coming later.

While children do use messaging and social media apps designed for teenagers and adults, those services aren't built for them, said Kristelle Lavalley, a children's psychology expert who advised Facebook on designing the service.

"The risk of exposure to things they were not developmentally prepared for is huge," she said.

Messenger Kids, meanwhile, "is a result of seeing what kids like," which is images, emoji and the like. Face filters and playful masks can be distracting for adults, Lavalley said, but for kids who are just learning how to form relationships and stay in touch with parents digitally, they are ways to express themselves. **AP**

corporate bits

MEG-STAR LIAN SHENG VIP CLUB NOW OPEN AT WYNN MACAU



Meg-Star International unveiled its fifth VIP club, the Meg-Star Lian Sheng VIP Club, to the world at Wynn Macau Resort last week, after its fourth VIP club was opened at Wynn Palace in April. According to a press release

issued by the junket operator, "the opening marks the company's vigorous expansion in Macau, adding another success to its thriving business."

During the club's opening ceremony, Thomas Pang,

CEO of Meg-Star International said: "The company is honored to have successfully entered Wynn Macau. The opening of Meg-Star Lian Sheng VIP Club is a brand new milestone for the company's business development. Our team has always been respectful of customers and [we are] convinced that the new VIP Club will continue our spirit to provide memorable and premium service for our customers."

Meg-Star International's main business covers VIP entertainment services and high-end travel, with other investments in food and beverages, red wine distribution, and more. The international operation of Meg-Star International covers Singapore, South Korea, Australia, the United States and the Philippines.

CTM'S NEW TARIFF REDUCTION ON IDD SERVICE EFFECTIVE FROM DEC 8



Following their earlier announcement, CTM's new tariff of International Direct Dialing (IDD) service will be effective from December 8.

Under the new scheme, all

IDD countries and regions are divided into five different price ranges, specifically, 1 dollar, 2 dollars, 3 dollars, 5 dollars and 9 dollars. Most of the popular IDD destinations such as

mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Australia, the United States, Canada, England, Portugal and the Philippines, are in the 1 dollar or 2 dollars price ranges; most of the Portuguese Speaking countries and One Belt One Road countries are grouped into ranges under 5 dollars. According to CTM, the average reduction in price is around 45 percent.

Under the new scheme, a 30 percent discount will be applied to IDD050 services. The new scheme will allow customers to enjoy a better price when connecting with family and friends worldwide, while also reducing the operating cost of businesses developing commercial activities in other regions, especially the Portuguese speaking and One Belt One Road covered countries and regions.

PANDA DIPLOMACY

First cub born in France gets name from China, first lady

Sylvie Corbet, Beauval

FRANCE'S first baby panda has a name four months after his birth: Chinese dignitaries and French first lady Brigitte Macron chose Yuan Meng, which fittingly means "the realization of a wish" or "accomplishment of a dream."

A naming ceremony held at the Beauval Zoo south of Paris was an important diplomatic moment, but the young male panda had other priorities. Yuan Meng growled and jumped when zoo director Rodolphe Delord reached over his glass-walled enclosure to offer a pet.

The first lady, who was standing next to Delord, recoiled slightly, but with a smile.

Yuan Meng's parents are on loan to Beauval from China, and the cub will be sent to a Chinese panda reserve when he is weaned.

Tradition holds that China retains the right to name panda cubs born in captivity. Brigitte Macron — considered the panda's "godmother" — officially announced the name. Over 100 reporters attended the ceremony.

"Yuan Meng and his parents represent the bond between the countries which have a lot to share," Macron said, who was making her first official remarks since President Emmanuel Macron took office.

The pandas "are the illustration of an always productive dialogue



French First lady Brigitte Macron attends a naming ceremony of the panda born at the Beauval Zoo in Saint-Aignan-sur-Cher, France

between our two people, who for centuries have looked at each other, listened to each other and understood each other," the first lady said.

Chinese Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs Zhang Yesui read a message from China's first lady, Peng Liyuan.

"The birth of the baby panda is a symbol of the bright prospects of the Franco-Chinese relationship. I express the sincere hope that little Yuan Meng grows up in the best conditions, that he brings happiness to the French people, especially to the French children," the message said.

There are about 1,800 pandas living in the wild in China and about 400 in captivity worldwide.

Baptiste Mulet, chief veterinarian at the Beauval Zoo, said Yuan Meng has learned to move on all fours and "he's starting to behave really like a child, so he tries to escape from where he's supposed to be."

The cub was pink and hairless when he was born, weighing just 142 grams (5 ounces.) He spent much of his first month in an incubator. Now, he weighs 8 kilograms (almost 18 pounds) and his fur has the black and white coloring for which patches are known.

Yuan Meng's mother, 9-year-old Huan Huan, was artificially inseminated with sperm from partner Yuan Zi this spring. Both are at Beauval on a 10-year loan from China, and their offspring officially belong to the Chinese government.

The birth of the baby panda is a symbol of the bright prospects of the Franco-Chinese relationship.

PENG LIYUAN
CHINA'S FIRST LADY

Indifferent to the excitement at the zoo on Monday, they slept during their child's naming ceremony.

Yuan Zi will probably never meet his son, since the zoo tries to respect the habits of animals in the wild.

China for decades gifted friendly nations with its unofficial national mascot in what was known as "panda diplomacy." More recently the country has loaned pandas to zoos on commercial terms. **AP**

CHINESE exports of environmental goods and services surged ahead of Germany and the U.S., according to a report that shows how the climate change fight is shifting international trade.

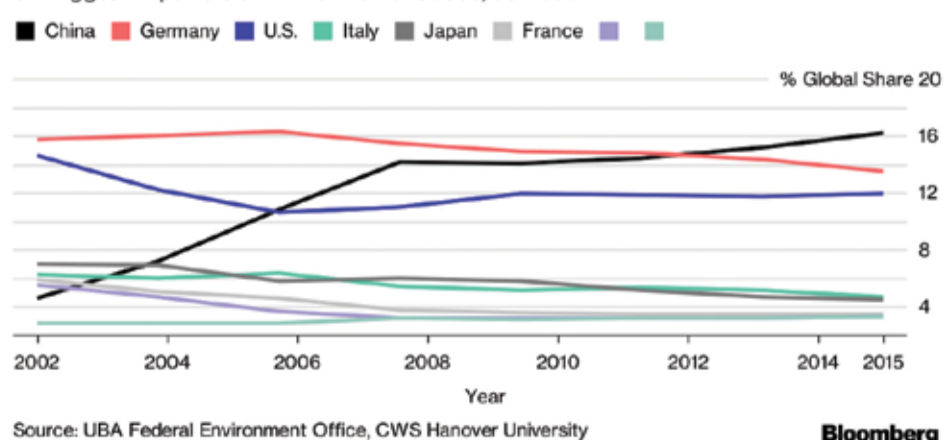
China's share of the global market for protection against climate change more than tripled over the 13 years leading to 2015, according to the report commissioned by the German government and published by the Federal Environment Office. Germany fell to second place and the U.S. finished third.

The report underscores how global warming is reshaping trade patterns. European executives have already flagged how they expect China's new silk road to spur more deliveries of climate-friendly technologies like batteries and electric cars. The trade route known in Beijing as the Belt and Road Initia-

China assumes green power mantle, leaving Germany, US behind

China Leaving Rivals in Environment Exports Behind

Six Biggest Exporters of Environmental Goods, Services



tive has already exported some USD8 billion of solar equipment, according to Bloomberg New Energy Research.

China commanded about

16 percent, equivalent to about \$71 billion of exports in 2015, according to the German study, which used the most recent publicly-available trade data.

Products ranged from wind turbines to water purifiers, LED bulbs and ancillary services. Exports from Germany and the U.S., pioneers of clean te-

chnology, stagnated at \$59 billion and \$52 billion euros respectively.

"Germany is still in a good position," Federal Environment Office President Maria Krautzberger in an interview in Dessau, Germany. "Its companies were confronted with fulfilling high environmental business standards early on."

Scores of advisers from Germany and the European Union are working with officials in China to help transform hundreds of cities into oases of green power. Cleaning up China's cities has become a test for whether President Xi Jinping's government can hit pollution targets in

the 2015 Paris agreement while spurring economic growth tied to its new silk road.

The German government can live with its share of the environmental export market, seeing China's growing lead as a logical consequence of its bid to combat climate change at home, said Krautzberger.

"There's a risk of slippage if all we do here in Europe is try to meet the minimum standards set by the European Union," she said. Insufficient global data on environment exports has been compiled since the Paris Climate accord was agreed in December 2015, according to Germany. **Bloomberg**

Canada's Trudeau says no rushing into trade talks with Beijing

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CANADA has high hopes for a trade agreement with China but won't rush into negotiations that could affect their economies for generations to come, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said yesterday.

On the second day of a visit to Beijing, Trudeau told reporters that Canada was "constantly engaged" on trade issues with China as part of exploratory talks on a trade pact launched two years ago that have tackled issues such as agricultural exports.

Despite hopes that formal talks on an agreement would be announced during Trudeau's visit, it appeared that wasn't going to happen.

"For the past two years, we've been working on deepening our trade ties, our opportunities for small businesses, for Canadians to benefit from better access to the Chinese market while standing up for our interests and jobs back home," Trudeau said.

"This is something that is an ongoing process that we take very seriously and of course we are going to continue to talk about opportunities to benefit Canadians every moment that we have" in both China and back in Canada, he said.

Rather than announcing trade talks, Trudeau instead touted an agreement with China on the importance of dealing with climate change and upholding the 2015 Paris agreement, despite President Donald Trump's aim to withdraw the United States



Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau shakes hands with President Xi Jinping prior to a meeting at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

from the accord to cap greenhouse gases.

"Our shared concern for our environment will continue to be featured prominently in everything we do," Trudeau said. "Climate change is without a doubt one of the greatest challenges of our time, one we cannot and one we will not ignore."

Trudeau met with Chinese President Xi Jinping later.

"I'm sure this visit will be a success and inject new vitality into China-Canada relations," Xi told Trudeau.

The lack of a concrete agreement on trade talks drew questions from some in Canada.

"Prime ministers usually don't go on trips like that without so-

mething to announce," John Manley, CEO of the Business Council of Canada, was quoted as saying by the public Canadian Broadcasting Corp.

China has positioned itself as a leading advocate of free trade, particularly since Trump pulled the U.S. out of the Trans-Pacific Partnership, a pan-Pacific trade deal. Yet foreign businesses often complain that China closes many key areas to foreign investment, and Xi is known to favor a centralized economic model with special support for state-owned industries.

Canadian businesses have also been unsettled by Trump's threat to renegotiate or even withdraw from the North Ame-

rican Free Trade Agreement. Trudeau said it was important to oppose economic nationalism, but said he was also looking for ways to "improve NAFTA for the 21st century."

After meeting with Premier Li Keqiang on Monday, Trudeau said Canada hopes a trade agreement with China will reflect "Canadian values" in the areas of labor rights, environmental protection and gender equality. That approach runs against China's inclination to keep such issues separate and avoid links to human rights or civil liberties.

Yesterday, he reaffirmed Canada's approach of seeking a durable agreement, despite the

lengthy timeframe demanded.

"We are going to work very hard, very responsibly to make sure that as we move forward, we move forward in the right way," he said. "Once we get to the stage of negotiating a trade agreement, that's going to take years as well."

■ The lack of a concrete agreement on trade talks drew questions from some in Canada

In addition to seeking a trade pact with China, Canada has remained part of the Trans-Pacific Partnership. During recent talks in Vietnam, Trudeau lobbied for strong provisions for environmental protection, labor rights, and gender issues, and the name of the initiative was altered to be the Comprehensive and Progressive Agreement for Trans-Pacific Partnership.

China largely imports wood and agricultural products, ore, fuels and seafood from Canada, while Canada imports machinery, furniture and sporting goods and textiles from China. The trade imbalance has narrowed, but China still ran a surplus of about \$17 billion with Canada during the first half of this year, according to the Canadian government. **AP**

TRADE

Kentucky hopes to benefit from renewed horse sales to China

AFTER a two-year standstill, Kentucky's renowned horse industry is back in the race to develop a market in China, the world's most populous country.

State Agriculture Commissioner Ryan Quarles yesterday [Macau time] touted a new trade accord lifting a ban on U.S. equine exports to China. The deal was signed by U.S. and Chinese officials last month.

The racing industry remains in its infancy in China, where betting is not allowed on horse races, Quarles said. But

with the market now reopened, he predicted buyers will attend equine sales in Kentucky with an eye toward boosting racing and breeding operations in China.

"The Chinese racing industry, like other countries, wants the best, and they know Kentucky as the Lamborghinis of horses," Quarles said in a phone interview.

Kentucky accounts for nearly two-thirds of overall U.S. horse exports, he said. The Bluegrass state exports about USD200 million worth of horses each year.

China has the potential to become a lucrative market, Quarles said.

"Imagine one planeload of thoroughbreds leaving central Kentucky after a sale headed toward China," he said. "That's going to be a multi-million-dollar economic impact off the bat."

Quarles joined some of Kentucky's equine leaders for an event this week at Keeneland in Lexington to applaud the new trade accord.

Quarles predicted multiple breeds of Kentucky horses will be sold to China. Horses rank as Ken-

tucky's second-leading ag enterprise, with equine cash receipts projected at about \$1 billion in 2017, according to University of Kentucky ag economist Kenny Burdine.

In 2015, the Chinese placed a hold on importing horses from the United States due to concerns about a potentially fatal equine viral disease.

Kentucky played an active role in U.S. efforts to resolve Chinese concerns. A Chinese delegation visited the Bluegrass state to visit horse farms and an equine research center.

The thoroughbred export market to China is estimated at about \$30 million, with most racehorses now coming from Australia, New Zealand and Ireland, said Chauncey Morris, executive director of the Kentucky Thoroughbred Owners and Breeders.

Keeneland, which hosts lucrative thoroughbred auctions in Lexington, also hailed the resumption of horse sales with China.

"As the world's largest thoroughbred auction house, we at Keeneland are excited by the significant expansion opportunities it offers Kentucky's entire horse industry, especially breeders and sellers," said Keeneland President and CEO Bill Thomason.

Morris predicted Ken-

tucky will reap the lion's share of U.S. horse exports to China. China's potential as a horse market would skyrocket if its ban on betting horse races ends, he said.

"Should wagering on horse racing ever become legal in China, it would become, overnight, probably the most important export market in the world," he said.

China has already become an important export market for Kentucky soybeans, pork and poultry, UK ag economist Will Snell said. The next goal is to develop a Chinese market for Kentucky beef, Quarles said.

"Opening new export markets are critical to the future growth in the Kentucky ag economy," Snell said. **AP**

Trevor Marshallsea, Sydney

AUSTRALIA

New laws to ban foreign interference in politics

AUSTRALIA will ban foreign interference in its politics — either through espionage or financial donations — in a move motivated largely by Russia's alleged involvement in last year's U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday that foreign interference in politics would be outlawed under updated treason and espionage laws. The announcement comes as a U.S. investigation into alleged election meddling by Russia continues, and follows Obama administration concerns about Chinese money and influence in Australian politics.

"Foreign powers are making unprecedented and increasingly sophisticated attempts to influence the political process, both here and abroad," Turnbull told reporters in Canberra, Australia's capital.

Under the new laws, it will be a crime for a person to engage in conduct on behalf of a foreign principal that will influence a political or governmental process, including opposition party policy, and is either covert or involves deception.

The foreign influence and interference package will be complemented by another bill on electoral reform that will ban foreign political donations, Turnbull said.

"We must ensure that our politics and our Parliament are strong enough to withstand attempts by foreign powers to interfere or influence," he added in a statement.

The laws would criminalize

AP PHOTO



Australia's Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

acts such as Labor Party Sen. Sam Dastyari's soliciting of a donation from a Chinese businessman, which got Dastyari demoted to the opposition backbench last week.

Dastyari has been dubbed "Shanghai Sam" for his dealings with Chinese Communist Party-linked businessman Huang Xiangmo. This included asking for a Huang-owned company to pay a USD1,250

travel bill and giving Huang counter-surveillance advice — saying he and Huang should leave their cellphones inside Huang's house during a meeting last year while walking and talking outside.

Attorney General George Brandis said the fact that Dastyari's conduct had not breached any laws showed a need for a review.

"That is why we are introdu-

cing, because of the gap in those laws, a new offense of unlawful foreign interference," Brandis told reporters.

Under the new laws, the offense of espionage will cover not only the passing on of information, but possessing and receiving it as well.

There will also be a new offense that will criminalize soliciting or procuring a person to engage in espionage,

and a new "preparation and planning" offense.

Espionage will carry a penalty of up to life in prison.

Turnbull said the reforms would "reshape the way our national security agencies investigate and disrupt" foreign interference and espionage and would protect the Australian way of life.

"They will strengthen our democracy and will ensure that decisions are made based on Australia's national interest, not anyone else's," he said in a statement.

■ Espionage will carry a penalty of up to life in prison

The reforms follow a recommendation from an Australian parliamentary committee last March for a ban on political donations from foreign companies and individuals.

Unlike the U.S. and many other countries that ban foreign donations, Australian law has never distinguished between donors from Australia and overseas.

Former President Obama's administration last year called for the Australian system to be reformed to remove the influence of political donations from China — Australia's largest trading partner and its biggest source of foreign political funds.

The then-U.S. Ambassador John Berry said the U.S. was surprised by the amount of Chinese money and influence in Australian politics and wanted Australia to resolve its foreign donation issue.

INDIA

Rahul Gandhi set to be opposition Congress party chief

RAHUL Gandhi, the scion of India's Nehru-Gandhi political dynasty, submitted nomination papers to succeed his mother as president of the main opposition Congress party, which previously governed the country for decades.

No other candidates registered by dateline, so Gandhi is likely to be declared the victor on Dec. 11 without a formal vote, a party spokesman said.

Gandhi faces a challenging task of reinvigorating the party, which was ousted from power by Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in 2014.

Modi is expected to seek re-election for a second five-year term in 2019 national elections.

The task is even more formidable with the Congress party suffering humiliating defeats in recent state elections, notably in Uttar Pradesh state, despite Gandhi's active campaigning to win back people's support.

Former Prime Minister Manmohan Singh announced Gandhi's nomination at party headquarters. "This is yet another step in quest for serving the people through the Congress party," he said.

Modi said Gandhi's proposed elevation showed

the Congress is a family-dominated party. "We don't want this Aurangzeb rule," he said at a public meeting in western Gujarat state, referring to Mughal emperors who chose their successors.

Gandhi, 47, entered politics in 2004, holding a parliamentary seat representing Uttar Pradesh state. The seat was held by his mother, Sonia Gandhi, until she shifted to a neighboring constituency. He was appointed party vice president, a position behind her, in 2013.

Sonia Gandhi has led the party for 19 years. She has had health problems but the family and party have

released little information about them. She had surgery in the United States for an undisclosed reason in 2011, and has returned to the U.S. for regular checkups since then.

Rahul Gandhi will be the sixth member of the Nehru-Gandhi family to lead Congress. His father Rajiv Gandhi, grandmother Indira Gandhi and great-grandfather Jawaharlal Nehru have served as prime ministers since India's independence from British colonialists in 1947.

Party workers have been demanding Rahul Gandhi's elevation since 2013 but he had not expressed

AP PHOTO



Congress party vice president Rahul Gandhi

interest before now.

His supporters argued he was rebuilding the party at the grassroots level and has taken a lead in Congress campaigns

in state elections in Uttar Pradesh and in Bihar in recent years. The party performed poorly in both states' elections last year. AP

A senior United Nations official arrived in Pyongyang yesterday for a rare, four-day visit at the invitation of the North Korean government.

Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman is scheduled to meet Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho, Vice Minister Pak Myong Guk, diplomats and U.N. staff during his stay. They are expected to discuss a wide range of issues.

Feltman, the highest-ranking American in the U.N. Secretariat, is the first person in that post to visit North Korea since February 2010.

Though Feltman previously worked for the State Department, he is not representing the U.S. government.

The most senior American to visit North Korea in an official capacity recently was James R. Clapper, who as director of national intelligence traveled to Pyongyang in late 2014 to secure the release of two American citizens. A delegation headed by State Department Special Representative Joseph Yun flew to Pyongyang to oversee the release of American college student Otto Warmbier in June this year.

Feltman's visit comes amid high tensions on the Korean Peninsula.

The U.S. and South Korean militaries are holding a major air force exercise and just last week Pyongyang test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that experts say could hit



U.N. Undersecretary-General for Political Affairs Jeffrey Feltman (center) walks upon arrival at the Pyongyang International Airport in Pyongyang yesterday

NORTH KOREA

Senior UN official in Pyongyang to meet top leaders

Washington.

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and U.S. President Donald Trump, meanwhile, have traded insults and engaged in escalating rhetoric in recent months.

Trump announced on Nov. 20

that the United States was returning North Korea to the list of state sponsors of terrorism and promised to intensify a campaign of "maximum pressure" and sanctions as part of a rolling effort to compel Kim's govern-

ment to negotiate over its nuclear program.

The visit by Feltman follows the dispatch last month by China of its highest-level envoy to North Korea in two years. It wasn't clear what progress, if any, was

made during that visit to ease a rift that has also been widening between Beijing and Pyongyang.

Six U.N. agencies, with approximately 50 international staff, are represented in North Korea. AP

North Korean national football teams in Japan for tournament

NORTH Korea's national football teams have arrived in Tokyo as an exception to Japanese sanctions against Pyongyang's missile and nuclear development.

North Korea is competing against Japan, Chi-

na and South Korea in the E-1 Football Championship, which starts Friday.

The arrival of North Korea's men's and women's teams comes amid growing tension in the region. Pyongyang test-

launched an intercontinental ballistic missile that landed within Japan's 200-nautical mile exclusive economic zone, which experts said could hit Washington if launched on a standard trajectory. The U.S. and

South Korean militaries are holding a major air force exercise.

Japan has banned North Korean nationals from entering the country as part of its sanctions against Pyongyang's nuclear and missile tests. AP



North Korean women's national soccer team members are welcomed with their national flags waved upon arrival at Haneda international airport in Tokyo yesterday

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ANIMATION 動畫	9-10 DECEMBER 12月9至10日
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BELGIUM

His job security questioned, Tillerson tours Europe anyway

WHAT do you do when you're America's top diplomat, fourth in line to the presidency, and the White House makes it publicly known you're living on borrowed time? If you're Secretary of State Rex Tillerson, you brush it off, pack a suitcase and hop a flight to Europe, as if nothing had happened.

Tillerson tours Europe this week under circumstances unparalleled in recent U.S. diplomatic memory. After months of public tensions with President Donald Trump and rumors about Tillerson's future, the White House signaled last week he could be fired — and possibly soon. White House officials told multiple news organizations a plan was afoot to oust Tillerson and replace him with CIA Director Mike Pompeo, a close Trump confidant.

"It's laughable," Tillerson quipped the next day, as aides insisted he was staying in his job.



US Secretary of State Rex Tillerson (right) meets with 2017 Kennedy Center Honoree Lionel Richie

"FAKE NEWS," tweeted the president, saying Tillerson was "not leaving."

Yet such damage to Tillerson's standing is not so easily erased — certainly not by a single tweet.

In Belgium, Austria and France this week, Tillerson will contend with European officials who now have more reason than ever to question whether he truly speaks for the president, how much cre-

dence to give his policies, and if he'll remain long enough to see them through. For foreign governments, it has created even more uncertainty over dealing with a mercurial administration in which the only voice that seems to matter is that of Trump himself.

Opening his first day in Brussels yesterday, Tillerson alluded to the growing doubt about his leadership of the State Department as he greeted diplomats at the U.S. embassy. He acknowledged that "we don't have any wins yet" and said he's getting "a little criticism" over the high number of vacancies in key roles — including, in Brussels, no U.S. ambassadors to either Belgium or the European Union.

Still, Tillerson insisted he was making progress on his top priority: a top-to-bottom overhaul of the State Department. He said there would be some "quick wins" coming shortly that he

would discuss at town hall meetings about the overhaul he said he'd hold before year's end.

"The State Department is not missing a beat," Tillerson said.

In the Belgian capital, Tillerson planned to meet with the EU's foreign policy chief and other regional diplomats before a conference of NATO foreign ministers. He'll then fly today [Macau time] to Vienna for a conference of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and a meeting with Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, whose talks with Tillerson are always closely watched.

The former Exxon Mobil CEO will lastly go to Paris for a final round of meetings before returning to Washington. In each stop, key security issues related to Syria, North Korea, Lebanon and Iran are expected to be high on the agenda.

Though Trump insisted on Twitter that he and Tillerson "work well together," he allowed news stories about Tillerson's impending demise to percolate for more than 24 hours before pushing back. Trump's spokeswoman didn't explicitly dispute that a plan had been hatched to replace Tillerson. Nor did she declare outright Trump's confidence in the Texas oil man. **AP**

AD

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Jon Gambrell, Kuwait City

PERSIAN GULF

UAE, Saudi Arabia forming new group, separate from GCC

THE United Arab Emirates yesterday announced it has formed a new economic and partnership group with Saudi Arabia, separate from the Gulf Cooperation Council – a move that could undermine the council amid a diplomatic crisis with member state Qatar.

The Emirati Foreign Ministry announcement, just hours ahead of a GCC meeting in Kuwait, said the new “joint cooperation committee” was approved by the UAE’s ruler and president, Sheikh Khalifa bin Zayed Al Nahyan.

Saudi Arabia did not immediately report on the new partnership.

It wasn’t immediately clear how the development could affect the six-member GCC meeting, which is expected to focus on the Qatar issue. Half of the GCC members are boycotting Doha in a dispute that’s cleaved the Arabian Peninsula.

The Emirati ministry said the new “committee is assigned to cooperate and coordinate between the UAE and Saudi Arabia in all military, political, economic, trade

and cultural fields, as well as others, in the interest of the two countries.”

The UAE and Saudi Arabia have cultivated even-closer ties in recent years. Emirati troops are deeply involved in the Saudi-led war in Yemen. Abu Dhabi’s powerful crown prince, Mohammad bin Zayed Al Nahyan, also is believed to have a closer relationship with Saudi Arabia’s young Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman.

The Emirati announcement did not say whether any other Gulf Arab countries would be invited to join the new group but the development puts pressure the GCC, a group of American-allied Gulf Arab nations formed in part in 1981 as a counterbalance to Shiite power Iran.

The United States and its European allies all have told the council’s members that



Stage set up for the Gulf Cooperation Council meeting this week in Kuwait City

the region remains stronger with them working together as a whole, while the countries themselves still appear divided over their future.

The fact the GCC meeting in Kuwait was to take place at all is a bit of a surprise, given the unusually sharp criticism among the typically clubby

members of the GCC pointed at Doha.

“This is the most important annual summit the GCC has held for more than two decades,” said Kristian Coates Ulrichsen, a research fellow at the James A. Baker III Institute for Public Policy at Rice University. “The GCC needs to illustrate its relevance after having been bypassed at every stage of the Qatar crisis.”

The dispute began in June, following what Qatar described as a hack of its state-run news agency that saw incendiary comments attributed to its ruler, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. Soon after, GCC members Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates closed off their airspace and seaports to Qatar, as well as the small peninsular nation’s sole land border with Saudi Arabia. AP

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Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

Ann, and I've prepared enough cash, credit cards and took care of the travel insurance too!

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TIME: 11am-10pm

Until: December 31, 2017

VENUE: Lakeside Gallery, Anim'Arte

ADMISSION: Free

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TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (Except on Thursdays)

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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

VERMONT CITY THANKS FRENCH CITY FOR MISPELLED JERSEYS

Vermont's capital city said merci via Skype last week to a French city it's named after for some misspelled soccer jerseys that were sent its way.

Montpellier, France, ordered jerseys for its professional soccer team and fans but the jerseys came in misspelled, with just one L instead of two. The city in southern France decided to send the jerseys to Montpelier, Vermont, which is spelled with one L, not two.

Montpelier Mayor John Hollar thanked Montpelier Mayor Philippe Saurel by Skype from the city's high school gym, where students wore the donated jerseys for the event.

"If you could just send me a few jerseys every couple of weeks I could be the most popular mayor ever in Montpelier," Hollar said.

The jerseys will be auctioned off to benefit the athletic department and other charities. Noel Riby-Williams, a Montpelier High School senior and soccer player, said she hopes to raise money for a church in Ghana, where she was born.

"It's just great that out of a little kindness another little kindness happens. And if everybody in the world just spread kindness the world would be such a better place," she told WCAX-TV.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	RTPi News (Delayed Broadcast)
14:55	Discussion of the Policy Address for 2018: Area of Transport and Public Works (Live)
20:00	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:50	Champions League: Barcelona x Sporting (Live)
01:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live
03:45	Champions League: Porto x Monaco (Live)

cinema



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MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Kenneth Branagh

Starring: Penelope Cruz, Willem Dafoe, Judi Dench, Johnny Depp, Michelle Pfeiffer, Daisy Ridley and Josh Gad

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 114 min



WONDER

ROOM 2

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

Director: Stephen Chbosky

Starring: Julia Roberts, Owen Wilson, Jacob Tremblay

Language: Chinese (English)

Duration: 113min



HAPPY DEATH DAY

ROOM 3

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

Director: Christopher Landon

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

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 96min

this day in history



General Franco

1978 SPAIN SET TO VOTE FOR DEMOCRACY

Spaniards have been turning out in force today to cast a vote for democracy and end almost 40 years of dictatorial rule.

The majority of the 25 million Spaniards eligible to vote are expected to endorse a new constitution in the historic referendum.

It would strip the monarchy of much of its current powers, many of which were handed down by the late dictator General Franco, who died in 1975.

King Juan Carlos and Queen Sofia support the move and were among the first to cast their vote in a village school near Madrid.

Prime Minister Adolfo Suarez, leader of the Union of the Democratic Centre UCD, a moderate centre-right coalition, has drafted the new democratic constitution.

It could eventually put him out of a job if new elections are held as a result.

Last June saw Spain's first elections to the Cortes (parliament) since 1936 and in which Mr Suarez won 34% of the votes.

Tens of thousands of children, not able to vote, still had reason to celebrate as they have had the day off with schools converted into polling stations.

But there was still an air of tension in the country after a recent spell of murders and bombings, attributed to Basque separatists in the northern Basque region.

Riot police and soldiers are on high alert, guarding polling stations and communication centres.

The fear of violence is reported to have led an estimated 250,000 Spaniards to cast a postal vote.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The new constitution was overwhelmingly supported by voters with newspapers the following morning congratulating Spaniards with headlines such as "Good morning, democracy".

It established Spain as a parliamentary monarchy.

Spain continued to shake off the Franco years which had left the country alienated internationally.

It invested heavily to win European support and became a member of the EC, now the EU, in 1986.

This required it to open its economy, modernise its industrial base and improve infrastructure.

The country has been dogged by separatist violence in a long-running campaign by the Basque Fatherland and Liberty (ETA), founded in 1959 and dedicated to promoting Basque independence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've gone out of your way for your loved ones quite a bit lately, but you're willing to do even more for them now.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Everyone has qualities they're famous for, and integrity is right at the top of your list.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You've never loved keeping secrets, always preferring to say what's on your mind (and in your heart) as it occurs to you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Friends in need aren't anything new - you actually tend to attract them, and you don't mind so much.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 The one person you'd least expect to take your side is actually defending your actions to their superiors.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Every now and then, the universe sends along a nice surprise for no special reason, and you're just about due for your turn now.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You specialize in relationships, and you stop at nothing to let the right person know just how fond you are.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 You love your privacy, and everyone knows it - but every now and then, even you need to get out there and mingle.

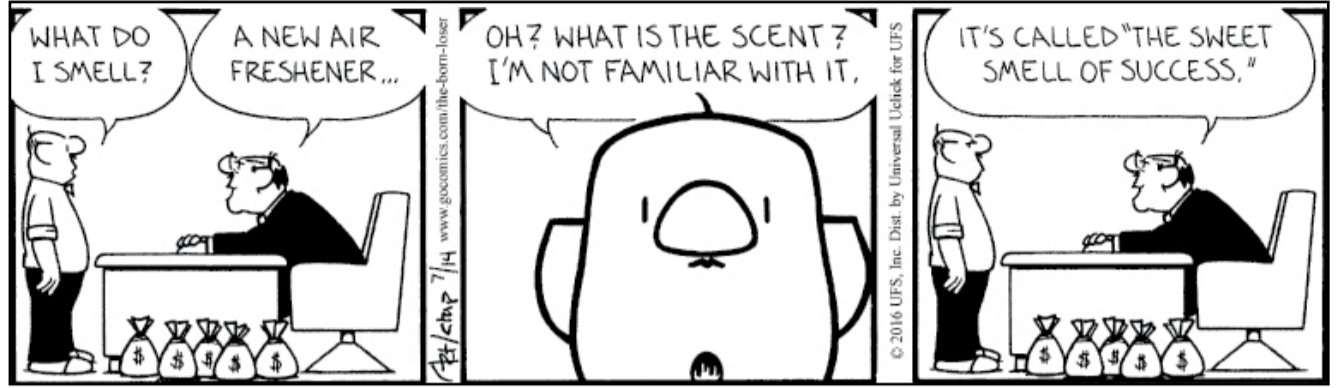
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You have little fondness for being meticulous, discreet or frugal - those traits bore you to tears.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You're not exactly known for indulging yourself - and that goes for any category.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Someone emotionally close but physically distant is about to make contact, and you should be delighted to spend some time with them.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You've got something of a dilemma now, and you're pretty torn by it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

FOOTBALL

Jo leads Brazilian league in scoring, eyes World Cup spot

THE player once known as "Lazy Jo" is no more.

Jo, who flopped at Manchester City as a youngster, became last weekend the top goal-scorer of the Brazilian championship. The former beer-drinking and now church-going 30-year-old Jo is in such form that Brazil coach Tite believes he could make the team for the World Cup.

Jo has 18 goals this season, the same as Fluminense forward Henrique Dourado. Brazilian media picked him as the best player of the national championship as his Corinthians team won its seventh title perhaps because some his goals were decisive in derbies against Palmeiras, Sao Paulo, and Santos.

The reason why Tite is observing Jo closely is how different he is from other Brazilian strikers. At 1.88 meters, Jo is taller than Manchester City's Gabriel Jesus (1.70) and Liverpool's Roberto Firmino (1.75). He is an inch taller than Sport Recife's Diego Souza (1.851) a midfielder improvised as a center forward by Tite.

The striker netted only two headers for Corinthians but his role as target man in front of the box created goals for the Sao Paulo-based team.

His experience is also attractive: Jo played in the 2014 World Cup and knows Russia from playing there for four years for CSKA Moscow.

"Tite is watching other alternatives [but] my characteristics can help me," Jo told The Associated Press last week at Corinthians' training ground.

"Besides, I am a different person now that I stopped drinking and going out. I became a leader. If I have an opportunity to be in the World Cup again I will not try to do all at once on the pitch like I did as a sub in 2014.

AP PHOTO



I have grown."

Tite said after the World Cup draw in Russia on Friday that Jo's strong season made him a recall contender.

"I still have openings; we don't have a final list. Jo had a great season, other players had great seasons, too. We have to keep watching everyone closely," Tite said.

Few expected Jo to rediscover his best form.

Corinthians executives still had fresh memories from the day that Jo travelled to Brazil for Christmas despite having a match with Everton shortly after the festivities. Or the day he missed a trip with In-

ternacional because he was drinking and partying until sunrise. Or the day he was suspended by Atletico Mineiro after security personnel accused him of hosting women at the team's hotel.

■ The reason why Tite is observing Jo closely is how different he is from other strikers

"I only changed after my wife left me and Atletico fans that idolized me started forsaking me," Jo said. "My personal and my professional lives were sinking. I decided to change everything."

Corinthians signed him at no cost at the end of 2016 after the striker had a disappointing season in China. Corinthians' lack of confidence in Jo's future was evident by its attempts to sign 39-year-old striker Didier Drogba, who refused the offer.

"I've always been a fan of Drogba's, but I was the one who did what needed to be done here," Jo said.

Having earned the championship for his boyhood club,

he doesn't feel like leaving. But he doesn't rule out a return to European leagues.

Jo offered an anecdote about his new persona. After Fluminense was beaten 3-1 to clinch the Brazilian title in November, a team sponsor offered him a pint of beer on the pitch, but the offer was declined.

"I knew there was no alcohol in it, but I would look like a hypocrite if I drank it," Jo said. "God has given me a lot of wisdom to see the path in front of me. I regret that I didn't enjoy my opportunities in Europe as much as I should. So I am not running any risk of making those mistakes again." AP

CRICKET

India extends lead to 355 in third test vs Sri Lanka

VIRAT Kohli added an unbeaten 25 to his double-century in the first innings, helping India reach 192-4 at tea and extend its lead to 355 runs on the penultimate day of the third test against Sri Lanka.

India dismissed Sri Lanka for 373 in the morning session yesterday when Dinesh Chandimal, after batting all through day three in air pollution that reached hazardous levels to ensure his team avoided the follow-on, was finally dismissed for 164.

The Sri Lankan ski-

pper faced 361 deliveries, stroking 21 boundaries and a six, in a defiant innings in draining conditions to cut India's first-innings lead to 163 before hitting Ishant Sharma (3-98) to third man.

India's second innings got off to a bad start when Murali Vijay (9) was caught behind off Suranga Lakmal (1-19) with the total at 10.

Lakmal then vomited on the field and went off to get some medical assistance, again highlighting the issues of Delhi's on-going air pollution pro-

blems. He later came back on to the field to resume bowling.

Ajinkya Rahane (10) was promoted to bat at No. 3 but was caught at long on as tried to clear the ropes off Dilruwan Perera as India slipped to 51-2 at lunch.

Cheteshwar Pujara (49) and Shikhar Dhawan (67) accelerated after the break to extend their third-wicket partnership to 77 runs before Pujara was caught at slip off Dhananjay de Silva.

Dhawan then completed his fifth test half-century

off 83 balls and combined with Kohli in a 38-run partnership before he was stumped off Lakshan Sandakan (1-30).

Kohli continued with Rohit Sharma (28 not out) in an unbroken 48-run partnership to keep piling on the runs in a bid to take the game right away from Sri Lanka.

India leads the three-match series 1-0 and has dominated the third test since posting 536-7 declared in the first innings, when Kohli scored 243 for his sixth test double hundred. AP

AP PHOTO



India's captain Virat Kohli plays a shot during the fourth day of their third test cricket match against Sri Lanka

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE NEED FOR WATER CONSERVATION?

Around 70% of the world's fresh water is used for irrigation and other food production purposes. Currently, global water demand can be met from the existing natural and man-made fresh water infrastructure, but with current population (and wealth) growth projections, it is predicted that there will be a 40% global shortfall in fresh water availability by the 2030's.

Agricultural irrigation is generally very wasteful. Studies show that typically 50% of the water flowing through open irrigation channels "disappears" as evaporation and seepage into the nearby ground. Moreover, most farmers look at their plants to decide when to turn on the water flows, but again, studies show that more than half the time, measuring the soil moisture content proves that the water is not needed.

The Pearl River Delta has always been an important breadbasket for China but clearly much of the available farmland is being turned into factories, housing and roads. Rain falling on buildings and roads is not absorbed into the ground like it is in farmland, but is wasted into the sea through storm-water systems. And the local human population is greatly increasing and consuming more and more water. Thus, better water conservation is needed locally, and will become much more important in the future.

A study done for a Macau university that showed that collecting the rainfall over the campus could provide all the water we needed on-site without drawing from community water supplies as long as we had a large enough water storage capacity – the problem is that rainfall is not even throughout the year and we need to store rainwater during the wet season to use later in the dry season. This analysis leads me to believe that the local rainfall is adequate to support our population, but this is only true if we have adequate water storage reservoirs. In my wanderings around the Delta I have not seen many lakes and reservoirs and so I suspect that at a regional level we need much more investment in this kind of water infrastructure for the future.

Macau, like all cities, relies on its hinterland for water supplies and it is impossible to separate fresh water management in Macau from the rest of the region – the greater Pearl River Delta. I believe that we need to do a much better regional job of storing water, moving it around without wastage and using it effectively. A crucial element of this is making our water pricing realistic – now water in Macau is far, far too cheap. This imbalance means that investment to conserve water cannot be economically justified, but paying more for water could provide the money to invest in better infrastructure.

While better regional water infrastructure is crucial there are still things we can do in Macau. For example, I have always been pleased with the well planted roundabouts and road dividers in Macau, but then we waste the rainfall run-off from our roads. A case can be made to collect road rainwater run-off into tanks installed below roundabouts and road dividers and then use this water to subsequently irrigate the plantings. And, we should swap out the current sprinkler based watering systems and replace them with drip irrigation water soaking, with soil moisture sensors so that watering is only done when needed (and then, only in the evenings to minimize evaporation). Similar systems should be encouraged for our larger resorts and residential estates.

Come on Macau, let us significantly raise water prices and use the increased income to invest in improving our local and regional water conservation infrastructure, and make sure that our efforts are coordinated at a regional level.

THE SPANISH JUDGE WITHDRAWS ARREST WARRANT FOR CATALAN LEADERS

A Spanish judge yesterday withdrew the European arrest warrants for ousted Catalan leader Carles Puigdemont and four members of his former cabinet who have been fighting extradition from Belgium.

A Supreme Court spokesman said that the five could still be arrested if they go back to Spain, however, because they are still being sought for crimes related to the independence bid in northeastern Catalonia.

The spokesman asked not to be named in line

with court rules.

Supreme Court magistrate Pablo Llarena said that individual European warrants don't apply anymore because evidence has emerged that the alleged crimes were committed as part of a wider group.

He also said that the probed politicians have shown their "intention to return to Spain" in order to run for elections in Catalonia.

The five Catalans are facing rebellion, sedition and embezzlement among other charges.

Two kiwi birds are rare bright spot in grim extinction report



Two types of New Zealand kiwi birds are a rare bright spot in a mostly grim assessment of global species at risk of extinction.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature upgraded the Okarito kiwi and the Northern Brown kiwi from endangered to vulnerable thanks to New Zealand's progress in controlling predators like stoats and cats.

But the conservation group's latest update of its Red List of endangered species, issued yesterday, mostly reported grave threats to animals and plants due to loss of habitat and unsustainable farming and fisheries practices.

The group said the Irrawaddy dolphin and finless porpoise that roam coastlines of Southeast Asia are now designated as endangered, imperiled by entanglement in fishing nets and other human activities.

Gillnets used on the Mekong and in other major waterways "hang like curtains of death across the river and entrap everything in the stream," said Craig Hilton-Taylor, head of the Red List's global species program.

Some 91,523 out of nearly 1.9 million described species have been assessed for the Red List, of which 25,821 are threatened, 866 are extinct and 69 extinct in the wild. The IUCN descri-

bes 11,783 species as vulnerable, 8,455 as endangered and 5,583 critically endangered.

The IUCN is made up of government and non-government experts whose scientific assessments of the risks to species are subject to independent reviews and are provided to help guide decisions on conservation efforts. The Red List, which it calls a "Barometer of Life," identifies which local species are at risk of extinction.

The organization aims to increase the number of assessed species to 160,000, said Jane Smart, global director of its biodiversity conservation program.

The total number of species is unknown but is thought to be as many as 20 million, many of them microorganisms.

Behind the numbers are life-and-death struggles for survival as human populations grow and industrialize and habitats are transformed by global warming.

Australia's Western Ringtail possum has slipped from vulnerable to critically endangered, the IUCN said, as its population plunged by 80 percent over the past decade.

Once widespread in peppermint and eucalyptus forests of Western Australia, it now has only a few fragmented habitats and is prone to heat stress at tem-

peratures above 35 C (95 F) that are becoming increasingly common where it lives.

The group said three reptile species on Christmas Island, also in Australia, had gone extinct in the wild: the Whiptail skink, the Blue-tailed skink and Lister's gecko. The group said the as yet unexplained losses of reptiles could result from disease or infestations of the yellow crazy ant, which is listed by the IUCN and Global Invasive Species Database as one of the 100 worst invasive species. The creature has wreaked havoc on Christmas Island, devouring the famous endemic red crabs that were a key part of its ecosystem.

Apart from many animal species, the IUCN said many wild crops, such as wild wheat, rice and yam, face threats from overgrazing, use of herbicides and urbanization. Such wild plants are crucial food sources and also play a critical role in the genetic diversity of domesticated food crops.

Many conservationists view the current era as the "sixth extinction," after previous ones that wiped out the dinosaurs and other creatures. Much of today's losses of species stem from human factors, which also means that human efforts can help improve the situation. **AP**

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	60-80 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	60-80 Moderate	☹️
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



UNITED ARAB EMIRATES yesterday announced it has formed a new economic and partnership group with Saudi Arabia, separate from the Gulf Cooperation Council – a move that could undermine the council amid a diplomatic crisis with member state Qatar. **More on p15**

TURKEY A group of academics from universities in Istanbul are standing trial on charges of engaging in "terrorist propaganda" for signing a declaration calling for an end to hostilities against Kurdish rebels in Turkey's southeast.



ISRAEL President Donald Trump is set to speak with the leaders of Israel, Jordan and the Palestinian Authority as he deliberates over whether to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, or to move the U.S. Embassy from Tel Aviv to the contested city.

ROMANIA Former Romanian King Michael I, who was forced to abdicate by the communists in the aftermath of World War II, died yesterday at age 96.



ARGENTINA U.S. and Russian ships carrying remotely operated vehicles capable of deep seafloor searches are joining other vessels hunting for an Argentine submarine that went missing in the South Atlantic.

HONDURAS Some police in Honduras are choosing not to enforce a government-ordered curfew amid protests over a disputed vote count from the Nov. 26 presidential election. Thousands of people left their homes overnight to show their support for police.