



DELTA BRIDGE TO OPEN ON 24-HOUR BASIS

The Delta Bridge should in principle be open on a 24-hour basis, Hong Kong officials said

P3



GASTRONOMY CITY TITLE NOT JUST A PLATFORM

'You must give back to the world,' warned UNESCO at the opening ceremony of the International Gastronomy Forum

P7



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P18 SPORTS



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

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Who is behind third cyber attack on Anima

P5

WORLD BRIEFS



ITALY Law enforcement has broken up a Chinese organized crime ring that used money from criminal activities to force its way into European trucking companies and control the movement of Chinese-made goods in much of Europe.

PHILIPPINES President Rodrigo Duterte threatened yesterday to impose a total ban on sending workers to Kuwait because of sexual abuses that have forced some Filipino women to kill themselves.



KOREA Public surveys show most South Koreans support the North's participation in the Olympics, a chance to create a tentative thaw in the Koreas' long-strained relations. But a poll released yesterday suggests that half of South Koreans oppose a joint flag. More on p12

More on backpage

RENATO MARQUES

乘車安全你要識
自覺讓座共分享

Ceda o seu lugar sentado a outros passageiros com necessidades especiais

ENGLISH IN THE CITY
Expats, tourists lost in translation

Extra times
weekend Guide
INSIDE

THE FIGHT AGAINST THE CHAMELEON VIRUS

P2-3 MDT REPORT

Renato Marques

ENGLISH IN MACAU

AS an international city with a centuries-old history of being frequented by people from the corners of the world and today's focus on the tourism industry, Macau has always been a cross-cultural place.

Throughout the world, the English language is considered one of the most valuable spoken languages when it comes to multicultural areas, as well as when traveling. However, the question must be asked, is there enough English in Macau, or is there space for improvement?

The Times sought to answer this question. Interviewed by the Times on this issue, Keith Buckley, the Chairman of the British Business Association of Macao (BBAM) said, "[Regarding English language signage] there is definitely room for improvement. As an international tourist destination as well as having non-resident workers, English signage in Macau would benefit those of us who don't speak Chinese or Portuguese."

Buckley went on to provide some examples. "[In the] New Taipa Ferry terminal - the building above ground level has good signage in three languages. However, upon entering the basement car park English language, for some reason, disappears."

He also noted, "recently a new style of parking meter is being installed in Macau. There are no English instructions on how to use the meter. When I first used one of these meters, I had to stop a passer-by to explain it to me in English."

Transportation signage in need of



However Buckley did not only point to examples in traffic and transportation, but also highlighted an apparent

lack of consistency across government departments. "There are government department notices posted in

buildings but there appears to be no consistency in the format. Some are in all three languages; others are only in

Chinese and Portuguese. A government department notice will usually convey information or rules to the public. The inclusion of English language to the notices would obviously be of benefit," he concluded.

English for new parking meters under consideration

RECENTLY there have been several voices of complaint in local communities regarding the fact that new parking meters do not provide any information or instructions in English. This complaint was echoed by Keith Buckley, Chairman of the British Business Association of Macao.

In the words of users, this "makes them very difficult to use without the help of someone that knows either Chinese or Portuguese."

The Times questioned the Transport Bureau who in a written reply said, "at present the new parking meters are in Chinese and Portuguese because they are the official languages of Macau. The Transport Bureau has

asked the company responsible for running the metered parking spaces to study adding English to the meters."

In the past, several government bureaus – one of the most notorious, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau – have been criticized for the total absence of information in English at their service counters, official websites, as well as the lack of update on whether information will be provided in English in the future.

At the moment, the majority of the government bureaus, departments and agencies already have an English language version of their online pages with a few exceptions. **RM**

There is an apparent lack of consistency across government departments

Issues regarding travel and transportation were also mentioned by another interviewee. Huang (22) from Indonesia is touring Hong Kong for a few days and deci-


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improvement, says public



ded to traverse the river delta to see Macau too. In her first experience in the region Huang said, "it's difficult to travel around," adding, "if you are coming in a tour group may be easy because [it is] all organized already but I like to travel free and explore so I came by myself." Regarding the provision of information in English, she pointed out a few problems that she discovered in only a few hours in the MSAR.

"Taxi [drivers] do not speak or understand any English, not even the name of hotel. I tried to pick up a taxi at

As an international tourist destination, English signage would benefit those of us who don't speak Chinese or Portuguese.

KEITH BUCKLEY
BBAM CHAIRMAN

Ferry port [Outer Harbor] but three refused to take me because they can't speak or understand me. Eventually, I took the bus by the suggestion of another tourist but it was very difficult to find my hotel on the list. I searched [a long time] for it."

Faith (30) is a Filipino non-resident worker in Macau. She told the Times that she generally does not encounter many problems in relation to the proliferation of English in either government departments or daily life, as, "we always find someone that is willing to help."

For her, there are more significant issues that she encounters in her work at a Service Information Counter. She explained, "well I feel like I'm useless sometimes. Because even if I know how to solve [a problem], I can't because I can't use English." She elaborated by saying "at work if I want to use the computer [to check something or solve a problem] I can't because I can't use it as it's in Chinese [and I can't read Chinese]. Even if I know a little [conversational] Cantonese, it's useless if I need to use the computer."

Red Market to undergo refurbishment in Sep

The refurbishment of Red Market will be carried out in September, José Tavares, President of the Civic and Municipal Affairs bureau (IACM), announced yesterday. The refurbishment process will target vendors and stalls both inside and outside the building. Air conditioners, elevators, and accessible facilities will be added inside the market's premises. The refurbishment work is scheduled to last for one year. Vendors currently inside the Red Market will temporarily move to the municipal market of Patane, and vendors from the municipal market of Patane will move to the new municipal market of Patane in the first quarter of 2018. The IACM president said that there will be no problems regarding the provisional relocation of the vendors, and that they will move to the municipal market of Patane before September to avoid posing an impact over vendors' operations and the public's shopping.

Guangdong CPPCC nominated 35 Macau delegates

The Guangdong Provincial Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) has selected 35 Macau delegates, according to a statement released through Guangdong CPPCC's official website. The meeting took place in Guangzhou on Wednesday, where 101 Hong Kong residents were also selected. In total, 789 new members form the 11th Guangdong CPPCC, including 303 China Communist Party members, a figure that accounts for 38.4 percent of the total number of members. Around 338 members remained the same, representing almost 43 percent of the total number of members and 451 new members were added this year.

Delta Bridge to open on 24-hour basis

THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), also informally known as the Delta Bridge, should in principle be open on a 24-hour basis, a Hong Kong official said on Wednesday. Chan Fan, the Secretary for Transport and Housing Bureau of the Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR), attended the meeting of the Legislative Council of the HKSAR and replied to the questions of the legislators.

Chan said that the governments of Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao have already reached a consensus that

24-hour clearance should be implemented from the date of the commissioning of the bridge, for which the "separate locations" mode of clearance arrangement will be adopted.

Chan said that the connection of the viaduct, tunnel and at-grade roads of the Hong Kong Link Road of HKZMB have been completed in May 2017, while road surfacing works and road facilities will be completed within this week.

The remaining works in progress mainly include the final installation and testing of the Traffic Control and



Surveillance System, as well as the final works of some ancillary facilities.

Chan said that the consultants engaged by the three sides estimated that the daily traffic volume of the HKZMB would be at around 29,100 and 42,000 vehicles in 2030 and

2037 respectively, while the daily passenger flow would be 126,000 and 175,000 passenger trips respectively.

The estimations, however, may vary with external factors such as the respective developments of the three places and new planning initiatives,

he said. Chan said that the HKZMB is an unprecedented project connecting Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macao, which will cut the travelling time between the HKSAR and the western Pearl River Delta (PRD) to just three hours' drive. **MDT/Xinhua**

UN human rights consultation ongoing

The SAR government is carrying out a consultation regarding a report on Macau's fulfillment of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. According to an article by Macao Daily News, this is the second report Macau will deliver to the United Nation's Human Rights Council. The report will explain which regulations and measures the city has adopted while implementing the covenant. The consultation period will last until February 12, with the report covering the progress that Macau has made from 2011 to June of 2017.

Consultation on Lai Chi Vun shipyards starts Monday

THE Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) will conclude a report on the evaluation of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards within 12 months. This was the announcement of the acting deputy-director of the IC, Leong Wai Man, at a press conference yesterday.

Leong believes that the IC will be able to finish the work earlier than the 12-month deadline.

The local government will also deliver a report on Macau's historical city protection to UNESCO.

From January 20 to March 20, the IC will carry out two public consultations: one regarding the protection and management plan of Macau's historical city and one about the property evaluation regarding the Lai Chi Vun shipyards.

The evaluation of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards will also include the harbor in front of the shipyards, as well as the roads on the other side of the shipyards.

According to Leong, to as-



This 2017 image shows a part of the abandoned Lai Chi Vun shipyards

sess their value, the Lai Chi Vun shipyards will be sorted into three categories: buildings, architectures and memorials.

The Lai Chi Vun shipyards are being evaluated to determine whether they meet the MSAR's legal definition of cultural relics. The site is potentially significant because Macau's shipbuilding industry began at the shipyards and because of the formation of a historical

village near the area.

When addressing the evaluation, Leong pointed out that Lai Chi Vun, like other facilities, will be evaluated to assess whether it is a human creation with important cultural value or a joint creation made by both humans and nature.

"The most important is their landscape value," stressed Leong.

There were originally 14 shipyards; two have already

been demolished, and three will be transferred to the IC for management.

During the passage of typhoon Hato, the shipyards were damaged.

"Last year, we reinforced the Lai Chi Vun shipyards," Leong said. "After Hato, we did another reinforcement work. Later, we will increase the number of our inspections."

When commenting on whether the government will deliver a report to the United Nations, regarding the evaluation of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards, Leong said the MSAR does not intend to, because, "regardless of the results, evaluations which do not concern the historical city do not need to have a report delivered to the UN."

According to Leong's explanation, the Lai Chi Vun shipyards valuable because of their relationship with the mountain and water and their role as a witness of Macau's former shipbuilding industry. **JZ**

EU urged to publish agreements with suspected tax havens

THE European Union's top tax official is urging member states to make public any commitments given by non-EU countries wanting to get off the bloc's blacklist of suspected tax havens.

In December, 17 countries were put on an EU blacklist accused of offering unfair tax avoidance schemes. Barbados, Grenada, Macau, Mongolia, Panama, South Korea, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates are now set to come off after agreeing to tighten their tax laws. However, the specific agreements have not been disclosed.

The Times reported on Wednesday that although there was no indication as to what the jurisdictions improved or changed in order to comply with the EU regulations, it is implied that a significant advance was made.

EU Taxation Commissioner Pierre Moscovici is calling for the publication of those commitments to be made public next week, before or when the bloc's economy ministers are set to discuss taxation issues.

"This is the way to be credible" and ensure the blacklist process is working, he said, according to the Associated Press. **MDT/AP**

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CRIME

PJ denies
weapon used
in casino heist

THE Macau Judiciary Police (PJ) has denied media reports claiming that there was any weapon or violence involved during the heist early Tuesday morning in a casino VIP room located in the NAPE area. The PJ has reaffirmed that the information provided in the press conference on Wednesday is accurate, denying the stories reported by several media outlets that the croupier, a male (49) identified by the last name Lei, had used a knife and had threatened one of his female colleagues in the process of stealing the casino gaming chips, worth approximately HKD48 million.

Media reports, from yesterday, claimed that the man had a knife in his possession, which he managed to pass through security, and used it to avoid being stopped by co-workers while carrying out the theft.

The reports also claim that the man had a bag, which he used to keep the chips hidden under his uniform, and that after the theft he changed his uniform and exited from the room using a guest entrance.

Some of these reports suggest that Lei had specific knowledge of how to evade security since he had worked in that field for years before becoming a croupier. **RM**

Anima victim to third cyber
attack in two months

LOCAL animal rights group Anima (Macau) said it was this week victim to the third cyber attack in two months, suspecting that the Macau (Yat Yuen) Canidrome or its affiliated parties were behind the foul play.

An adoption application form on the group's website is believed to have been targeted by internet robots with the aim of cluttering the inbox of the rights group or overloading the server.

According to Anima (Macau) president Albano Martins, the non-profit organization had its inbox flooded with about 850 emails between midday on January 17 to midnight January 18, all containing incoherent, auto-generated answers to the adoption form.

"We were spammed with 850 emails using an [email form] on our website. The attacker proba-



bly wanted to bring down our servers and prevent us from receiving [genuine] adoption forms, but fortunately they were not able to. Now, we just have to go through each email to check if there are any real forms [hidden among the fake ones]," he told the Times yesterday.

Martins suspects that the Canidrome was behind the attack.

"I cannot tell who the at-

tack came from... but I can tell that this always happens whenever our fight [against the Canidrome] intensifies or whenever we release new information about the [greyhound] racing track," he said. "It is just another way that they [the Canidrome] are trying to stop us."

Wednesday's cyber attack was the third such incident in the past two months, though it did

not compare in seriousness to a targeted Trojan virus that unexpectedly infected the animal rights group's back-office website in December.

"We are making a report to the Judiciary Police and they will investigate [the matter]," Martins said, adding that a security field will now be added to the form to prevent similar robot attacks in the future.

Martins has been instrumental for several years in leading the international campaign to cut the Canidrome's links with the outside world, and lobbying the Macau SAR government to force its closure.

The Canidrome's concession is now widely expected to terminate in 2018, however the terms of its exit and the fate of the hundreds of greyhounds currently housed at the facility are yet to be finalized. **DB**

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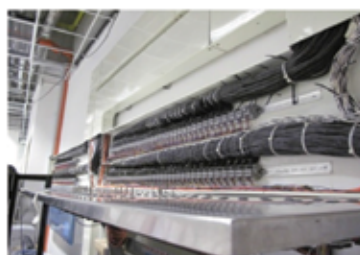
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Renato Marques

'YOU MUST GIVE BACK TO THE WORLD'

THE International Gastronomy Forum, Macao 2018 kicked off yesterday morning at the Macau Tower Convention and Entertainment Center. The annual event was attended by many specialists from the industry sector, and will be held in Macau for the next four years, as announced by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

The opening ceremony was presided over by Tam and featured a speech delivered by UNESCO's Deputy Director-General Getachew Engida. During his address in the opening ceremony the Coordinator of the UNESCO Cities of Gastronomy Group, Dag Hartman, gave his insights on the responsibilities that come with being designated as a Creative Gastronomy City by UNESCO and the challenges that could arise from the designation and inclusion in the Creative Cities Network (UCCN).

As mentioned by Hartman, "this isn't just a platform to promote your own cities, it's also a compromise. You must give back [something] to the world," he counseled, reminding all 17 members representing the designated cities worldwide in the room, that the idea behind such group is both an honest sharing of knowledge and ideas and to develop together and side-by-side in a non-competitive way.



Secretary Alexis Tam

In his opening speech, Secretary Tam mentioned, as he has before, that Macau is set to comply with such rules.

"As a newly designated Creative City of Gastronomy, we are launching our action plan for the next four years, based on Macau's unique characteristics and the goals of the network."

He added, "gastronomic crea-

tivity is entirely independent of the size and population of a city. We have seen many fellow UCCN members emerging as small but influential creative capitals." He continued by reaffirming that Macau will be "taking inspiration and guidance" from the other 16 members.

Addressing the main goals of Macau as a member of UCCN,

Tam said, "with the advantage of our tourism infrastructure, our experience in organizing major events, and the attraction of our unique 'east-meets-west' heritage, we aim to transform the 'International Gastronomy Forum' into a new gastronomy-related milestone event in the calendar network."

Furthermore, Tam said that the

Macao government's goal is to "organize and incorporate elements of gastronomy in major events, to create more understanding on the gastronomic-cultural context of our city."

Tam said the government will include a "gastronomic element" in other fields, specifically the film and design industries.

Separately, Engida explained that the designation of Macau as a Creative City of Gastronomy is deeply connected with its "rich culinary traditions and vibrant contemporary gastronomic scene". He noted that, "food is one of the central and widely shared cultural practices of any given society. This is particularly true in the city of Macau, which has always stood at the crossroads of cultures, people and ideas," which in his opinion, has nurtured a unique culinary culture, "one that is both local and international."

Engida also noted that "UNESCO is convinced that culture [including gastronomy] will play a critical role in making our cities more economically vibrant and people-centered."

Macau one of 35 'smart city' agreements last year

ROBOT driven taxis and computers eliminating traffic jams may appear sooner than you think after some of the biggest technology companies picked up the pace of dealmaking to bring about "smart cities" of the future.

Thirty-five agreements were signed between technology companies and major metropolises to jointly work on projects in 2017 - including one arranged between the Macau government and Alibaba - up from eight the previous

year, according to a report from Bloomberg New Energy Finance released this week.

As smartphones and computers seep deeper into the fabric of everyday life, governments are looking at how they can use techno-

logy to improve life in cities while companies seek new ways to make money.

A range of solutions are emerging, from reducing the number of drivers on the roads with ride sharing to making cleaner electric vehicles.

Smart cities are frequently multi-billion-dollar ventures. Saudi Arabia recently announced a plan to build an entirely new city it will call NEOM, which it said will be fully powered by renewable energy and have self-driving vehicles and drones at a cost of USD500 billion.

Meanwhile, Alibaba is focusing on digital infrastructure for its partnership with the government of Macau, a Chinese city

known for its glitzy casinos and shopping malls. It's building a smart transportation network that will link road, water and air traffic and installing cloud computing programs for the municipal government.

About half the world's population now lives in urban areas, a total of 4 billion people, and that proportion is likely to rise to 60 percent by 2030, according to the World Health Organization. **MDT/Bloomberg**

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When you invest in property, you expect to collect money, mostly in the form of rent, and spend money to pay for the operating expenses and the loans against the property in the form of mortgage. Ultimately you are aiming for positive cash flow, and to keep as much money in our pockets while minimizing tax expenditure in a legal way. Perhaps someday you can also sell the property at a handsome profit. In other words, you're looking for cash flow, appreciation, amortization and tax shelter – the four basic ways to make Money that we've already spoken about. Today we will take a look at a basic income-and-expense statement for real estate, commonly called the Annual Property Operating Data (APOD).

SOME BASIC DEFINITIONS:

Gross scheduled income: The total annual rent value. If the unit is vacant, the potential annual rent value.

Vacancy allowance: Usually expressed as a percentage of the gross scheduled income. It

is an estimate of the amount of potential income that will be lost due to vacancy. This is almost always an estimate. Usually vacancy rates are relatively low in Macau.

Gross operating income (GOI): The gross scheduled income less the vacancy allowance. In short, it's the money that you actually collect.

Operating expenses: items such as property insurance and taxes, repairs, and management fees if any. Includes any costs that are necessary to keep the revenue stream flowing. Mortgage payments, depreciation and capital improvements not included.

Net operating income (NOI): Gross operating income less the operating expenses. It's what's left of your total potential income after all vacancy and expense items are subtracted.

Let's take these definitions and see how they might fit into an actual property analysis. Say that you are looking at a two-

bedroom apartment at One Oasis renting for HKD 14,000/month and the owner is telling you that the operating expenses came to about HKD 15,000 last year. Estimating a 2 percent vacancy allowance, you'll come to:

Gross scheduled income:	168,000
Less vacancy allowance (2%):	3360
Gross Operating Income:	164,640
Less operating expenses:	15,000
Net Operating Income:	149,640

The NOI is what you would take home if there is 0 percent debt in the property. But usually depending on your mortgage rate and structure you may or may not have cash leftover in the end. But as mentioned in the last article, most investors are not looking for positive cash flow in Macau unless they are veterans and got started a very long time ago. In the next article we will discuss the 'time-value of money' and how that will affect your real estate investment decisions.

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Daniela Wei, Corinne Gretler

CHOW Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd. plans to embark on its biggest effort in decades to add new brands as the world's largest jeweler seeks to diversify its aging staple of customers.

The company will look to acquire competing brands or create new ones, Managing Director Kent Wong said in an interview in Hong Kong. Chow Tai Fook will also bolster the reach of its namesake brand by adding stores in lower-tier Chinese cities as it looks to grow beyond the top urban centers there, he said.

Almost nine decades after its founding, the Chinese jewelry retailer's flagship brand wants to shift from an older generation of shoppers to attract hip, millennial customers. Chow Tai Fook has introduced two marques in the past two years to widen its appeal among the young and their popularity has given the company confidence to explore possibilities beyond its core brand, Wong said.

"It's a new age of Chinese customers. They are open-minded, well educated and electronic-savvy, and they travel around the world - it's different from decades ago," Wong said. "That's why Chow Tai Fook needs more brands, more culture, more design-driven products."

World's top jeweler diversifies with new brands for niches

The move will be a part of a wider restructuring that will take place in the financial year starting April. Teams will be deployed to help the jeweler target customers from different age and income groups by bringing diversification in product designs, he said.

Chow Tai Fook in 2016 launched Monologue and last year introduced the wedding-themed Soinlove. As much as 70 percent of the sales for these two marques come from online channels, compared with about six percent for the flagship brand, Wong said. That shows the company's strategy to target the young is spot on, Wong said.

"Investing in new brands is our sustainability strategy," said Wong.

The company plans to open 500 to 1,000 new stores in mainland China within five years in lower-tier cities and rural areas, depending on market conditions, said Wong. That will take the proportion of the flagship brand's stores in those areas to half of the total, from about 35 percent currently, he said.

BLOOMBERG



Consumption of luxury products in China will record "high single digit" growth in 2018, led by leather goods and jewelry, Mario Ortelli, an analyst at Sanford C. Bernstein, wrote in a note this month.

Shares of Chow Tai Fook fell 3.5 percent, their biggest decline since July 31, on Thursday in Hong Kong. Smaller rival Luk Fook Holdings International Ltd. slumped 11 percent, steepest drop since January 2014, after reporting same-store sales

in China for the three months ended Dec. 31 fell 4 percent. The benchmark Hang Seng Index advanced 0.4 percent.

The jewelry retailer in November said the next financial year will be a "turning point for our business given the nascent jewelry market recovery."

Chow Tai Fook's profit climbed for a second straight six-month period signaling the continued recovery in demand for luxury goods in China after a two-year slump that was ushered in with

a corruption crackdown. Sales at its stores are picking up and more customers are also purchasing its products online as the world's second-largest economy is on track for its first full-year acceleration since 2010.

China's improving economy and policy environment will give consumers the confidence to more aggressively spend, Wong said.

"We are optimistic for the new year, even though we have a high base already," he said. **Bloomberg**

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AP PHOTO



ECONOMY

Exports, consumers drive China's 6.9 percent growth in 2017

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINA'S economy gained steam in 2017, expanding at a 6.9 percent pace in 2017 in its first annual increase in seven years, according to data released yesterday that exceeded economists' forecasts and the government's target.

Buoyant consumer spending and robust exports helped drive the faster expansion, as the economy defied expectations of weaker growth in the latter half of the year due to curbs on bank lending.

The data show China's communist leaders have some extra

wiggle room as they strive to wean the economy away from reliance on wasteful and polluting industries and exports in favor of slower but more sustainable consumer spending. The rebalancing has been complicated by Beijing's repeated infusions of credit to prevent activity from slowing too much, which has pushed up debt that analysts say is the biggest threat to economic stability.

The government had set a target of 6.5 percent growth after the economy expanded at a 6.7 percent annual pace in 2016, its slowest in 26 years.

Growth in the fourth quarter

held steady at 6.8 percent, though that was a tick slower than the 6.9 percent pace of growth in the first half of the year, the report said.

Retail sales rose 10.2 percent in 2017 while exports jumped 10.8 percent from a year earlier despite heightened trade tensions during U.S. President Donald Trump's first year in office.

"The national economy has maintained the momentum of stable and sound development and exceeded expectations," said the report released by the National Bureau of Statistics.

Continued strong demand should help support China's ex-

ports, said Louis Kuijs of Oxford Economics.

"While domestic demand should cool on tighter financial policy, China's policymakers want the slowdown in credit and the economy to be gradual. We project GDP growth to slow to 6.4 percent this year," he said in a commentary.

The upbeat data underscored debate over the veracity of official figures, following a recent spate of reports about local Chinese governments reporting fake or inaccurate economic data.

Earlier this week, Chen Qiufa, the governor of Liaoning provin-

ce in China's rust-belt northeast region, admitted that economic figures were padded out from 2011 to 2014, the official Xinhua news agency reported. Similar cases have been reported recently by the port city of Tianjin and Inner Mongolia province.

Such practices have gone on for decades in China. But by understating the severity of the slowdown in the past five years, officials now may be understating the scale of the rebound, some economists say.

"We have doubts about the accuracy of the official figures given how implausibly stable they have been in recent years," Julian Evans-Pritchard of Capital Economics said in a report, adding that his group's unofficial measure of activity showed a slower pace of growth but a more pronounced recovery.

"Admittedly, the monthly data for December, also published today, suggest that the economy had a relatively strong end to the year," he added.

The statistics bureau's commissioner, Ning Jizhe, vowed to fix the problem, though he said the recent cases of fake data were too small to affect the overall data.

"The accuracy of China's statistical figures and statistical system would not be affected by the problems of some individual local [government], region, enterprise, or unit," he told reporters.

Earlier yesterday, China's foreign exchange regulator said the country's cross-border capital flows hit a turning point in 2017 as foreign currency reserve levels stabilized after two years of declines, the country's foreign exchange regulator.

Wang Chungying, a spokeswoman for China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, told reporters in Beijing that the supply and demand of foreign exchange "have shifted to a basic equilibrium."

China's foreign exchange reserves rose for 11 straight months from January-December, expanding by a total of USD129.4 billion last year to \$3.1 trillion dollars, Wang said at an annual briefing. AP

Cross-border cash flows hit turning point last year

CHINA'S cross-border capital flows hit a turning point in 2017 as foreign currency reserve levels stabilized after two years of declines, the country's foreign exchange regulator said yesterday.

The supply and demand of foreign exchange "have shifted to a basic equilibrium" thanks to calmer domestic and global market conditions, Wang Chungying, a spokeswo-

man for China's State Administration of Foreign Exchange, told reporters in Beijing.

China's foreign exchange reserves rose for 11 straight months from January-December, expanding by a total of USD129.4 billion last year to \$3.1 trillion dollars, Wang said at an annual briefing.

The reserves fell in 2015 and 2016 as the central bank spent other currencies trying to keep the

yuan aligned with the dollar. Worries that the Chinese currency would decline had prompted investors to shift money out of the country.

Beijing keeps a big chunk of its foreign currency reserves in U.S. Treasury debt, which is considered safe and easy to trade. Global markets were rattled earlier this month by a report that Chinese authorities were mulling slowing or halting their

purchases of Treasuries, citing trade tensions with the U.S.

Reiterating comments by other officials, Wang said that China's purchases were guided by market forces.

China's "investment of foreign exchange reserves in U.S. Treasury bonds is actually market behavior and is professionally managed according to market conditions and investment needs," she said. AP



AP PHOTO



FAKE GOODS

Beijing criticizes US moves on intellectual property, telecoms

CHINA yesterday criticized recent moves by the U.S. targeting the sale of fake goods and Chinese telecoms equipment, saying Washington lacks "objectivity" in its approach to Chinese businesses.

Separately, the foreign ministry sought to deflect accusations that China is requiring foreign firms to hand over intellectual property into order to gain market access — the basis of an ongoing U.S. trade investigation.

Commerce Ministry spokesman Gao Feng told reporters the U.S. Trade Representative lacked direct conclusive evidence and supporting data for listing three Chinese online commerce platforms and six physical bazaars within China as "notorious markets" engaging in commercial-scale copyright piracy and trademark counterfeiting.

"We have to question the objectivity and credibility of the relevant U.S. department in issuing its report," Gao told reporters at a news conference. "The Chinese government has always attached great importance to the protection of intellectual property, the results of which are obvious to all."

The USTR's Notorious Markets List issued this month said the offending platforms and markets based in China and elsewhere caused financial losses for U.S. businesses and copyright holders and could pose safety risks. It does not involve penalties but the list aims to motivate private businesses to reduce piracy and counterfeiting.

Among the online platforms listed was e-commerce giant Alibaba's online marketplace Taobao, which has struggled for years to shed its reputation as an Internet emporium for fake

goods. Physical outlets included Beijing's famed Silk and Hongqiao markets popular with tourists.

Alibaba Group President Michael Evans said in a statement the company has worked above and beyond on each of the list's concerns to protect brands and copyright holders.

"In light of all this, it's clear that no matter how much action we take and progress we make, the USTR is not actually interested in seeing tangible results," Evans said, adding that the company had "no other choice but to conclude that this is a deeply flawed, biased and politicized process."

At the news conference, Gao also criticized a U.S. House bill introduced on Jan. 9 that would prohibit government purchases of telecoms equipment from Huawei Technologies Company and smaller rival ZTE Corporation, citing their ties to the Chinese military and backing from the ruling Communist Party.

He said the bill would harm U.S.-China cooperation in telecommunications and shake the confidence of Chinese enterprises in the U.S.

Huawei's U.S. business suffered a setback when a congressional panel recommended in 2013 that phone carriers avoid doing business with it or ZTE. Beijing rejected the report as false and an effort to keep Chinese companies out of the U.S. market.

Earlier this month U.S. carrier AT&T dropped plans to sell Huawei's smartphones in the U.S.

On the issue of forced transfer of intellectual property and proprietary technology, foreign ministry spokesman Lu Kang said China had no law mandating such practices. AP

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AP PHOTO



Visitors hang ribbons and unification flags wishing for reunification of the two Koreas on a border wire fence at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, near the border with North Korea

KOREAN CRISIS

Joint Olympic flag deal angers conservatives in the South

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

WHEN athletes from the rival Koreas paraded together behind a single flag for the first time at the opening ceremony of the 2000 Sydney Olympics, it was a highly emotional event that came on a wave of hope for reconciliation following their leaders' first-ever summit talks.

Eighteen years later, the Koreans are planning to do the same at next month's Pyeongchang Olympics in South Korea. But the plan hasn't generated as much enthusiasm among South

Koreans, with many conservatives asking why their athletes cannot carry their own national flag during the first Winter Olympics on their soil.

"We are turning the Pyeongchang Olympics that we've got into the Pyongyang Olympics," said Hong Joon-pyo, leader of South Korea's main conservative opposition party, referring to North Korea's capital. "We are dancing to the tune of (North Korean leader) Kim Jong Un's disguised peace offensive."

A day earlier, the two Koreas reached a package of Olympics-related rapprochement deals,

including marching together at the opening ceremony and fielding their first joint Olympic team, in women's ice hockey. The agreements came after three rounds of talks which began after Kim said in a New Year's speech that he was willing to send a delegation to the Feb. 5-29 Pyeongchang Games.

Many critics are skeptical of Kim's abrupt overture, believing he may be trying to use the Olympics to weaken U.S.-led international pressure and sanctions toughened after North Korea's sixth and biggest nuclear test and a series of missile

launches last year.

Public surveys show most South Koreans support the North's participation in the Olympics, a chance to create a tentative thaw in the Koreas' long-strained relations. But a poll released yesterday suggests that half of South Koreans oppose a joint flag.

The survey by the private polling group Realmeter indicates how much South Koreans' view of their northern neighbor has changed because of its expanding nuclear and missile programs since the two countries' athletes marched together at sporting events during the era

of detente in the 2000s.

At those events, North and South Korean athletes in the same uniforms entered stadiums behind a "unification flag," a blue image of the Korean Peninsula on a white background, to the tune of the Korean traditional folk song "Arirang" instead of their individual national anthems. The name displayed during the marches was "Korea," although the North and South competed separately for medals. During their march at the Sydney Olympics they drew a standing ovation, with many spectators shedding tears and the applause continuing until the Koreans finished circling the track.

This week's agreements on the flag and others still require approval from the International Olympic Committee, which is to meet officials from the two Koreas and the Pyeongchang organizing committee at IOC headquarters in Switzerland on Saturday.

If approved, the two Koreas are expected to decide whether they will use the same "unification flag" as in the past, who will carry the flag, what uniforms their athletes will wear, and whether they will use the same folk song.

Despite conservative skepticism, South Korea's government led by liberal President Moon Jae-in says it hopes the Olympics will provide the Koreas with a chance to improve their frosty relations. Government officials say the South Korean national flag will appear at the start of the opening ceremony, regardless of the joint march, and appear again whenever South Korean athletes win medals.

North Korean Olympic participation "will serve as a chance to warm solidly frozen South-North ties," Moon said during a visit with South Korean Olympic athletes on Wednesday. "But if we march together or field a single team, I think that can be a further step in developing South-North relations." **AP**

THREE Australians have been arrested in Serbia over the second-largest cocaine haul in Australian law enforcement history, police said yesterday.

Serbian police alleged the men arrested in a Belgrade hotel foyer this week "are linked to" the discovery of 1.28 metric tons of cocaine that were seized last April on a Chinese freighter docked in Sydney. The drug haul was worth 500 million Australian dollars (USD400 million), police said.

Police said the arrests were made during a "money handover." A Lebanese citizen was detained and charged with

Serbian police arrest three Australians over USD400m cocaine haul

having forged identity documents.

The drug was concealed in pre-fabricated steel in more than 2,500 individual blocks and was the second largest cocaine seizure in Australia, Australian Federal Police and the Australian Border Force said in a statement.

"This was a sophisticated concealment, but thanks to our highly trained officers and world-class screening technology, we were able to locate the cocaine and

ultimately disrupt a significant international drug operation," Border Force Assistant Commissioner Tim Fitzgerald said.

The largest Australian haul of the illicit drug was 1.4 metric tons found in February last year in a yacht that had allegedly smuggled it from the South Pacific. Six people were charged and face potential life prison sentences.

That larger haul was valued at over AUD300 million because of its

lower purity than the second-largest haul.

After the Serbian arrests, Australian police executed five search warrants in the national capital Canberra and three towns in New South Wales state. No arrests have been made in Australia, but investigations continue, police said.

Illicit drugs command relatively high prices in Australia, making it an attractive market for international drug networks despite its remoteness. **AP**

AP PHOTO



In this undated photo provided by Australian Federal Police, packages holding blocks of cocaine are seen, part of a discovery of 1.28 tonnes of the drug that was seized

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

AUSTRALIAN Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull said yesterday he welcomed the recent dialogue between North and South Korea but marching together at the Winter Olympics won't denuclearize the Korean Peninsula.

Turnbull, visiting Japan to talk with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe about regional security, trade and other issues, cautioned against optimism.

"We have to be very clear-eyed about this," he told reporters. "History tells us a very bitter lesson about North Korea. They have a long habit of ratcheting up their militarization and then, you know, going into a lull for a while trying to persuade people that they're changing their ways, changing nothing and then ratcheting up again."

North and South Korea held rare talks in a border village this week where they agreed to form their first unified Olympic team and that their athletes would parade together during the opening ceremony of next month's Winter Olympics in South Korea. They'll present the plan to the International Olympic Committee this weekend in Switzerland.

Australia PM says Olympic unity won't denuclearize N. Korea



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull (center) walks with Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (right)

Turnbull said the pressure and the sanctions against North Korea over its weapons pro-

grams must be maintained. Japan and Australia have been deepening their defense

cooperation amid the tensions over North Korea's nuclear and missile development and Chi-

na's expansion in the Pacific.

Turnbull spoke while he and Abe visited a Japanese military training camp just outside Tokyo, where they viewed a PAC-3 missile interceptor and got inside a Bushmaster armored vehicle, which was developed in Australia and adopted by Japan's military in 2014.

Turnbull said the visit to the Narashino training camp was a reminder of the big threats in the region, "terrorism on the one hand, and, of course, the reckless regime in North Korea on the other." He added that his country and Japan work for open markets and free trade, which "is underpinned by security."

The two countries are also considering a visiting forces agreement to further expand their military cooperation.

Turnbull is scheduled to attend a special session of Japan's national security council, speak to business leaders and have dinner with Abe before leaving Japan. **AP**

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Nicole Winfield
& Peter Prengaman, Santiago

CHILE

Pope wraps up Chile stop with visit to migrants, on to Peru

POPE Francis wraps up his Chile visit today [Macau time] by meeting with members of the South American nation's booming immigrant community, who are flocking to the region's strongest and most stable economy but are increasingly the focus of political and social discontent.

After an emotional meeting with Chile's Mapuche indigenous in the south yesterday [Macau time], Francis is going to the northern city of Iquique, which is home to nearly two dozen migrant slums. He plans to celebrate Mass there before heading to Peru for the final leg of his two-nation trip.

Francis has long called for countries to welcome migrants and refugees fleeing war, drought or hardship — a message that often falls on deaf ears in Europe, where the migrant crisis has been a driving factor on politics for years.

Upon his arrival in Chile, Francis said the country's future lies in its ability to listen, including "to the migrants who knock on the doors of this country in search of a better life, but also with the strength and the hope of helping to build a better life for all."

Even though the numbers are comparatively small, Chile had the fastest annual rate of migrant growth of any country in Latin American between 2010 and 2015, according to U.N. and church statistics.

Most of the newcomers are Haitians, who often face language barriers that limit their job prospects. While Chile hasn't experienced the anti-immigrant backlash seen in the U.S. and Europe, the incoming conservative government of President Sebastian Pinera is looking to crack down.

Pinera, who previously was president in 2010-14, said during his election campaign that Chile would remain welcoming to migrants who follow

AP PHOTO



the law and aim to be productive members of society.

"We want to shut the doors to drug trafficking, contraband that is often associated with it and, above all, we want people who come to Chile to respect our law," Pinera told local ADN radio in October.

Immigration groups say they fear a big change will follow when Pinera takes power in March from President Michelle Bachelet.

On Wednesday, Francis engaged in one of his most anticipated events: celebrating Mass for Mapuche amid a spate of unprecedented violence timed to his visit. Nearly a dozen churches and three helicopters were torched recently.

In his homily in the heart of Chile's restive Araucania region, Francis took both Mapuche radicals responsible for the violence and the government to task. He said violence must end and the government must do more than just negotiate "elegant" but ultimately meaningless agreements with the indigenous.

"You cannot assert yourselves by destroying others, because this only leads to more violence and division," he admonished. "Violence begets violence, destruction increases fragmentation and separation. Violence eventually makes a most just cause into a lie."

After the Mass, Francisca Linconao, a Mapuche leader who has been implicated in the bur-

ning deaths of a farm couple in 2013, tried to approach Francis as he passed by in his popemobile, but police kept her away. She said she wanted to give him a letter asking him to intervene in the long-standing conflict and proclaiming her innocence.

"The pope could speak, could mediate in the Araucania region about the situation of the Mapuche who are being incarcerated," Linconao told The Associated Press.

The Argentine pope is particularly attuned to indigenous issues and their campaigns for recognition of their land, culture and traditions. He hopes to use his weeklong trip to Chile and Peru to put the issue on the global agenda and set the stage for

a church meeting next year on the Amazon and native peoples who live there.

The outdoor Mass at the Maquehue Air Base was steeped in symbolism because of its own history: The land was taken from the Mapuche in the early 20th century and the location was also used as a detention and torture facility in the early years of Gen. Augusto Pinochet's military dictatorship.

Leading some 150,000 people in a moment of silent prayer, Francis said the fertile green fields and snow-capped mountains of the Mapuche heartland were blessed by God and cursed by man as the site of "grave human rights violations" during the 1973-1990 dictatorship. AP

UK

Terminally ill Briton's bid for assisted death can proceed

AP PHOTO



Noel Conway, a 68-year-old retired lecturer from Shrewsbury, England

A terminally ill British man has been granted permission to challenge the country's law on assisted dying, after an earlier decision that rejected his case.

Noel Conway, 68, has motor neuron disease. He applied to the High Court last July, asking for a declaration that Britain's outlawing of suicide is incompatible with the European Convention on Human Rights. The court rejected his bid in October.

But two British judges in an appeal ruled yesterday

that Conway's case should proceed.

Conway, a retired college lecturer, said he brought the case "not only for myself but [for] all terminally ill people who believe they should have the right to die."

Conway does not plan to die immediately, but wants the option of an assisted death when he is in his final months.

"Why should I have to endure unbearable suffering and the possibility of a traumatic, drawn-out death when there is an

alternative that has been proven to work elsewhere?" he said in a statement.

A previous challenge to Britain's ban on assisted dying was refused in 2014 after the Supreme Court ruled that Parliament should debate the issue before any legal decision.

"Noel's case has confirmed that the courts do have the authority to declare the law incompatible with human rights legislation," said Sarah Wootton, chief executive of Dignity in Dying, which is supporting Conway's case.

"This is a significant step forward."

Wootton said the proposed change to the law is based on legislation first adopted by the U.S. state of Oregon, which restricts assisted dying to people with a fatal illness who have about six months to live.

Assisted dying, when doctors provide patients with the means to kill themselves, like a lethal drink, is legal in five other American states, as well as in Switzerland and Germany. AP

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FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Zig Zag
15:55	Enforcement Awards Ceremony and Honorary Title of the Year 2017 (Live)
18:20	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:10	TDM Talk Show (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:20	Portuguese Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:10	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Portuguese Serie (Resume)
16:30	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Drama (PT)
21:45	Portuguese Serie
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Detectives
16:15	Pop Lusa Sr 2
17:10	Brainstorm
17:55	Got Talent Portugal
19:30	Portuguese Serie Sr 3
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Bocage
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

Offbeat

UK CITIZENS ASK DUTCH COURT TO PROTECT POST-BREXIT EU RIGHTS

A group of British citizens who live in the Netherlands went to a Dutch court this week in a bid to retain their EU citizenship rights after Britain completes its divorce from the bloc, but lawyers for the Dutch state dismissed their case as a legal fiction.

In a case that could have far-reaching consequences for some 1 million Britons currently living in European Union countries outside the United Kingdom, lawyer Christiaan Alberdingk Thijm launched summary proceedings before a judge at Amsterdam District Court, asking judge Floris Bakels to put so-called "prejudicial questions" about the status of U.K. nationals post-Brexit to the European Court of Justice, the Luxembourg-based court that rules on EU law.

According to the Treaty on the Functioning of the EU, any person who is a citizen of an EU nation automatically is also an EU citizen. EU citizenship grants rights including to move and live freely within the bloc.

Brexit negotiators have made progress on the protection of rights of EU citizens living in Britain and U.K. citizens living on the continent, but no full agreement has been reached yet on the issue and lawyers for the plaintiffs said the progress so far left their fate up in the air.

British lawyer Jolyon Maugham, who is funding the case, said that if the Dutch judge puts questions to the Luxembourg court, "The answer the Court of Justice gives will be an answer that applies to U.K. passport holders wherever they live."

cinema



CINETEATRO

18 JAN - 24 JAN



THE COMMUTER

ROOM 1

02:30, 04:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jaume Collet-Serra

Starring: Liam Neeson, Vera Farmiga, Patrick Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104 min



PITCH PERFECT 3

ROOM 2

02:30, 04:15, 6:00, 9:45pm

Director: Trish Sie

Starring: Anna Kendrick, Rebel Wilson, Hailee Steinfeld

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 93min



INSIDIOUS: CHAPTER 4

ROOM 2

07:45pm

Director: Adam Robitel

Starring: Lin Shaye, Angus Sampson, Leigh Whannell, Josh Stewart

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min



NAMIYA

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 9:30pm

Director: Han Jie

Starring: Kary Wang, Dilraba, Dong Zijian, Lee Hong Chi

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 118min



COCO

ROOM 3

7:15pm

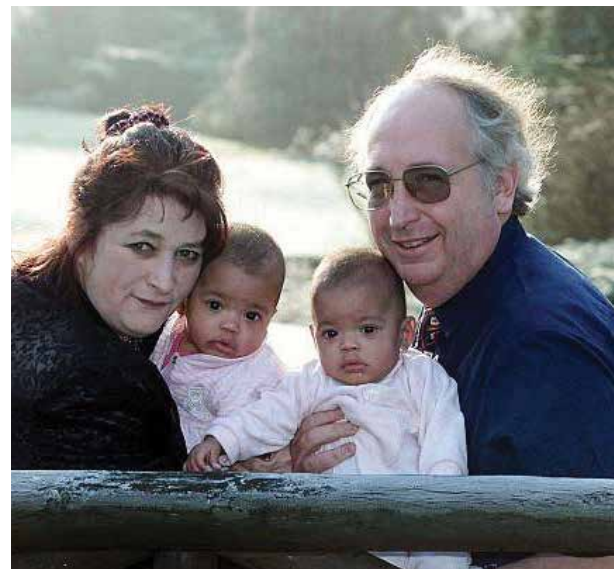
Director: Lee Unkrich

Starring: Anthony Gonzalez, Gael García Bernal, Benjamin Bratt

Language: Cantonese (English)

Duration: 105 min

this day in history



2001 'INTERNET TWINS' TAKEN INTO CARE

The American twin girls at the centre of an internet adoption scandal have been seized from a hotel in north Wales and taken into care.

The girls were staying with British couple Alan and Judith Kilshaw who say they paid £8,000 to adopt the girls over the internet. The Kilshaws now plan to fight for custody of the babies through the courts.

Belinda and Kymberley, who are six-months-old, have been the subject of a tug of love between two would-be sets of adoptive parents, on both sides of the Atlantic.

The scandal first erupted when American couple Vickie and Richard Allen complained the twins were taken from them as they were finalising an internet deal to adopt the girls for £4,000.

After two months caring for the twins at their home in California, the Allens say the girls' natural mother asked to say one last goodbye and snatched them back.

Social services were alerted once the babies arrived in Britain.

They applied for an emergency protection order and last night, social services workers and police officers went to the Beaufort Park Hotel in Mold where the girls have been staying with the Kilshaws.

Flintshire social services say the girls have been taken into care for their own safety.

Judith Kilshaw said: "I thought if there was a problem it would be dealt with sensitively.

"They would come at a reasonable time, talk to me and Alan and say this is what we are thinking of doing."

Gloria Allred, legal adviser for the girls' natural mother, Tranda Wecker, says she just wants what is best for the twins.

Richard and Vickie Allen say they are praying for the twins' return - and they have set up a shrine to them in their home.

Mr Allen has appealed to the girls' natural mother not to go through the courts.

He said: "I am asking as a human being to please send me my babies back."

The case will go to the High Court next week.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The case of the internet adoption twins caused huge controversy and led to the tightening of the adoption law in the United Kingdom.

An American judge ruled in March 2001 the girls should be returned to the United States for their future to be decided there.

The court ruled neither set of would-be parents met the legal requirements for adoption.

The Allens later withdrew their claim after Mr Allen was accused of molesting two teenage babysitters - charges he denied.

The Kilshaws ran up legal bills of more than £60,000 in the custody battle.

They were declared bankrupt in March 2002, and four months later Mr Kilshaw was struck off as a solicitor for financial malpractice.

The twins' estranged natural parents failed to win custody.

A judge ruled in May 2002 that the best interests of twins Kiara and Keyara would be served by keeping them under the care of the Missouri Division of Family Services.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Things are definitely not exactly as they seem, and someone may be showing off an exterior that's quite a bit prettier than what's really going on inside. You're correct to be as suspicious as you are.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
Take a romantic risk today - but not one of your patented insane, go-for-broke, Vegas-type gambles. Try something a little more thoughtful, taking a risk with your deep emotions and true ideals.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Your ideals grind against the real world today in a difficult way, but the reality check is much needed. Your magnanimity and optimistic outlook are traits that work for you.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
Whether you're going through your email backlog, speaking delicately with a friend or coworker or just sweeping that filthy floor, something you've been meaning to do for a while just doesn't seem all that scary.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
You may feel like you've got your territory marked, whether on the job, at home, or even in your love life - but the stakes are easily pulled up right now. You need to expand your domain, as soon as possible.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
A social event you've been looking forward to suddenly has almost no allure when compared to your compulsion to hop into bed. Running out of steam may be a drag (both for you and for the rest of the world).

Taurus
April 20-May 20
Try to let go of whatever it is you're hanging onto or worrying about - at least a tiny bit! When you can finally pull yourself away from your expectations, things start to happen naturally.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Letting a big secret out is a huge relief, but you might want to ensure that you don't get any backlash while you're at it. It could be that there's some way to leak it in pieces before going through with the big reveal.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Everything is going more or less your way right now, and if you take a good look around you, everything seems to be swimming along nicely. If you take off the rose-colored glasses for a minute.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
You're the paragon of multitasking today, and with a bit of care, you can make amazing progress on any number of projects at once. Your resourceful energy means you know when to step back.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your attention stretched thin for now, and many different demands are coming your way. Of course, this is stressful, but if you don't let it surprise you, you ought to be able to handle it.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
There's some potent, active energy coming your way today, so seize the day. You may want to seize the night as well, for that matter! You don't have to do anything huge or take any life-changing risks.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

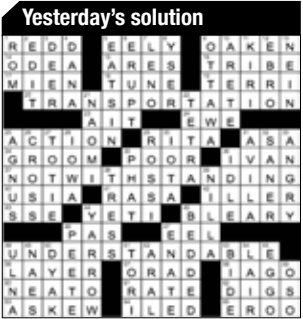
WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	-6	7	clear
Harbin	-21	-9	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	-4	7	clear
Urumqi	-17	-11	clear
Xi'an	-3	7	cloudy
Lhasa	-7	14	clear
Chengdu	4	13	cloudy
Chongqing	8	10	overcast
Kunming	5	18	clear
Nanjing	3	10	cloudy
Shanghai	7	11	overcast
Wuhan	4	10	drizzle/overcast
Hangzhou	6	11	overcast/cloudy
Taipei	19	21	drizzle
Guangzhou	16	21	overcast/drizzle
Hong Kong	17	20	drizzle
WORLD			
Moscow	-7	-5	flurry
Frankfurt	2	4	drizzle/moderate rain
Paris	2	4	drizzle
London	3	6	drizzle/clear
New York	-5	2	clear/sleet

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Conclude by; 6- Actress Ward; 10- Fast fliers; 14- Roman goddess of the moon; 15- Walked; 16- Coagulate; 17- Bugs bugs him; 18- Peter Fonda title role; 19- For ___ Jolly Good Fellow; 20- Apostates; 22- Scoff; 23- Ricky's portrayer; 24- Orator; 26- Shoebox letters; 29- General ___ chicken; 31- Clairvoyant's claim; 32- Bud; 33- Flabbergast; 34- Meal; 38- SDI concern; 40- Droop; 42- Japanese rice wine; 43- Curd stuff; 46- Cabbagelike plant; 49- Small batteries; 50- The fruit of a hen; 51- Pianist Gilels; 52- Ave. crossers; 53- Writing space; 57- Notable times; 59- Not odds; 60- Affirmative; 65- Wait; 66- Word processing error; 67- Spud; 68- Western Indians; 69- Thing; 70- Knot again; 71- Sailors; 72- Write software; 73- As a companion;

DOWN: 1- Fulda tributary; 2- Egypt's river; 3- Ruin; 4- On ___-to-know basis; 5- Goals; 6- Bookish; 7- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 8- Silt deposit; 9- Citrus cooler; 10- Intoxicating liquor; 11- Streamlined; 12- We're off ___ the Wizard; 13- Belle or Bart; 21- Mgr.'s helper; 22- Zaire's Mobutu ___ Seko; 25- For each; 26- Monumental; 27- "From ___ according to his abilities"; 28- Hamburg's river; 30- Reptile; 35- Small batteries; 36- Old card game; 37- Mrs. Dick Tracy; 39- Humility; 41- Playful; 44- Cpls.' superiors; 45- Sense of self; 47- Italian bread?; 48- Hyundai model; 53- Coming-out; 54- Madonna role; 55- Passover feast; 56- Check words; 58- Madame de ___; 61- Rushed, drove too fast; 62- Sock ___ mel; 63- Dresden denial; 64- Golfer Norman; 66- Spasm;



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PJ (Open line) 993	Telephone – Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775	Electricity – Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333	Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944	
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731	
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333	
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300	
IACM 28 387 333	
Tourism 28 333 000	
Airport 59 888 88	



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TENNIS

WTA signs lucrative 10-year deal to move finals to Shenzhen

Justin Bergman, Melbourne

THE WTA has signed a long-term deal to move its season-ending WTA Finals to Shenzhen, China, in 2019 and will increase total prize money to USD14 million, double the previous purse.

The move represents a significant investment in the China market at a time when the sport is aggressively expanding its reach in the country, with the addition of a number of new tournaments in recent years. The WTA signed a 10-year deal to stage the finals in Shenzhen — double the length of the current commitment in Singapore, the host since 2014.

The prize money for the top eight singles players and top eight doubles teams is also a major upgrade from the current purse of \$7 million and is nearly double the \$8 million in total prize money on offer at the ATP Finals in London.



Romania's Simona Halep yesterday at the Australia Open

The WTA said the Chinese real estate developer Gemdale Corporation submitted the winning bid and will build a 12,000-seat stadium in downtown Shenzhen. "We are very excited about the

opportunity I think that Shenzhen brings," Steve Simon, the CEO of the WTA Tour, said at the Australian Open yesterday. "With the new arena that's being built, it will be built in the down-

town district, which hasn't been done. Most of the time it's on the outskirts, and now it's there."

Attendance has been a concern at ATP and WTA events in China in recent years, particularly at tournaments in cities such as Wuhan and Tianjin, but Simon believes the WTA Finals will attract a sizable audience in a major metropolitan region like the Pearl River Delta.

"When you have 20 million people in that downtown district, plus 68 million in the entire delta region," he said, "we feel confident we're going to be able to fill [the arena]."

The 10-year commitment is also far longer than the WTA has signed in previous host cities, a cause for possible concern if attendance figures don't reach initial expectations.

Simon said, however, that time is needed to build a successful event in a new market. He spoke in 2016 of finding a more permanent home for the finals, saying

at the time that Singapore was a city "we'd be very proud to call home."

In a statement on Wednesday, the Singapore Tourism Board said it had evaluated a possible extension of the WTA Finals hosting agreement with the national agency Sport Singapore and "decided not to pursue this." It did not elaborate on the reasons.

Simon said the WTA would evaluate whether it could bring another tournament to Singapore in the future.

"We have created a good market down there, and I would hate to see it get vacated," he said. "I don't have one to put there today, but it's something we will certainly look at."

Shenzhen already hosts a WTA tournament in early January, one of the tune-up tournaments for the Australian Open.

Maria Sharapova, who played in the Shenzhen Open at the start of this season, said the WTA was making a good strategic move to partner with "a place that's willing to invest in women's tennis."

"They were the ones that put the money on the line," Sharapova said. "They are willing to grow our sport. They're willing to build a stadium, willing to accept the game and its level and the players." **AP**

AD

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Driver Danica Patrick greets fans as she is introduced before the start of the Daytona 500 NASCAR Sprint Cup series auto race

AUTO RACING

GoDaddy to sponsor Patrick in 'Danica Double'

Jenna Fryer

DANICA Patrick is going back to green. GoDaddy Green, to be exact — a fitting color for her farewell tour.

The company will sponsor Patrick in the upcoming "Danica Double" that will close out her racing career. The Associated Press has learned. Patrick has no ride yet for next month's Daytona 500 or the Indianapolis 500 in May, but she now has the financial backing to pull it off.

This time around, the original GoDaddy Girl will symbolize the new core mission of the company that helped make her one of the world's most recognizable athletes.

"There's this great story: I left IndyCar with GoDaddy on my car, I started NASCAR with GoDaddy on my car, I'm most recognized as the GoDaddy green car and driver, and so to finish up my career that way feels appropriate," Patrick told the AP from Scottsdale, Arizona.

Her final race will be the Indy 500, an appropriate choice because it was "The Greatest Spectacle in Racing" that rocketed Patrick and GoDaddy into pop culture notoriety.

GoDaddy and Patrick grew up together. The company switched series with her and marketed her as a strong, sexy wo-

man in 13 Super Bowl commercials — a record appearance for celebrities. Now, the company is most interested in Patrick the budding businesswoman who is firmly closing the door on her racing career and rebranding herself as an entrepreneur. She has a book out, an apparel line, a wine label and confirmed to AP this week that she's dating Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers.

GoDaddy and Patrick grew up together [...] and they marketed her as a strong, sexy woman in 13 Super Bowl ads

"Our goals are so well-aligned," Barb Rechterman, the chief marketing officer of GoDaddy, told AP. "She's passionate, tenacious and creative just like so many of our customers who are also looking to leverage the power of the internet and turn their 'side hustle' into a full-time business. Danica absolute-

ly epitomizes the heart of our GoDaddy customers."

Prepare to hear a lot about the "side hustle" as GoDaddy climbs aboard the so-far fledgling "Danica Double."

Patrick announced in November she would end her driving career with the Daytona 500 and Indy 500, but didn't have a deal completed for either race. Still doesn't. Yet somehow, Patrick always figures a way to get what she wants. Talks ended with Chip Ganassi Racing about a possible ride, and late last month, Patrick said, she called former GoDaddy founder Bob Parsons and asked about a reunion.

GoDaddy has rebranded since it last teamed with Patrick. The company now touts itself as "the world's largest cloud platform dedicated to small, independent ventures," and there's no better spokeswoman than Patrick, who is in the next chapter of her life and her brand.

GoDaddy pulled out of racing after the 2015 season, and Patrick hasn't had the same level of funding and marketing support since. Patrick has slowly reshaped her image, first into a Instagram model and is now a full-blown lifestyle guru. She realized — at the age of 35 — she was on her own.

She and GoDaddy aligned for a splashy move into NASCAR, where she was glamorous off the tra-

ck but only mediocre on it. Through all of this, she was married, divorced,

spent five years dating fellow driver and competitor Ricky Stenhouse Jr., and then seemed to find herself through a tailored diet, exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

She is cutting the cord on racing after Indy, and her focus is on a sense of well-being far away from the track.

"Their business is so perfectly paired to what

is going on with mine, so when we sat down and met, it was like, 'Let's talk about our business. Let's talk about the messaging. How does this work?'" Patrick said. "And this is undeniably perfect for both of us. Not only is it a huge two races and the biggest two races of the year, but on top of that, you have so much 'side hustle' going on, and all the messaging and our brands, and where we are going is so perfectly paired."w

GoDaddy can help Patrick move on to whatever it is for racing's former "It Girl." The company will help her streamline her online presence. Patrick, for the company, is back as a neon green-and-yellow symbol to all the wannabe entrepreneurs chasing dreams.

She'll get those rides, too. Patrick said she knows she will because she believes she will.

"That's just the way the universe works," she said. "You have to ask for what you want. Things have taken a long time with this, but you just have to go with the flow on these things. The universe is not on your time schedule." AP



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THE CHALLENGES OF FAME:
*Transformations in Place Identity and Public Space
through Tourism and Heritage Preservation
in Macau and Penang*

This presentation critiques some of the cross-purpose effects that can occur when heritage preservation is pursued primarily for the purpose of tourist development. Two case studies are compared and contrasted: Macau and the city of George Town, on the island of Penang in Malaysia. Both include UNESCO designated World Heritage sites. Despite UNESCO's recent efforts to provide guidance on the protection of intangible heritage, both popular and governmental attention remains fixated on the tangible aesthetics of material structure above all else. Efforts to preserve heritage can thus work against the goal of keeping history alive.

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opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautédé



(No) SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

The serialized “Sulu case”, full of twists and turns ever since the New Macau Association figurehead was rightfully elected via universal suffrage to the Legislative Assembly as the youngest ever legislator in Macao, just reached a new high when it comes to its most farcical — and yet saddening — dimensions.

Not only is Sulu Sou prosecuted for throwing paper planes in the empty garden of a purely ceremonial colonial villa and walking in the middle of a trafficless street — dura lex, sed lex; not only has he been suspended from his seat for such devious and criminal acts by his own peers in a highly controversial expedited process; moreover, he has to bear with a level of vicious absurdity rarely observed in our community since 1999!

And unfortunately, the ones who tarnish the very ideas of respect, responsibility and accountability in politics are to be found at the highest echelon of the administration! At the helm of the Assembly for sure — if Ho Iat Seng was ever considered as a possible replacement for Mr Chui, he should by now be disqualified — but also, indirectly, at the very top of the executive branch of power — who are Vong Hin Fai and Kou Hoi In taking their instructions from? After the deadly Hato disaster, the very least one could have expected is some kind of self-restraint and deference for the wishes of the majority.

By sponsoring a resolution project aiming at excluding the right to appeal of Sulu Sou before a court of law regarding claimed irregularities affecting the process that led to his suspension as lawmaker, Vong Hin Fai is not only sapping fundamental tenets of the separation of powers enshrined in the Basic Law, he is also using the law for vengeful private interests to cover his possible shortcomings while presiding over the Committee of Rules and Mandates that ultimately defaulted on its obligation to make a recommendation regarding Mr Sou’s case.

The farcical move was immediately denounced by several prominent lawyers and former legislators, including the president of the Macao Lawyers’ Association, but all this seems even more dismaying when considering that Mr Vong is himself a lawyer, and that he was up to 2013 an appointed legislator as well as the candidacy representative of Chui Sai On both in 2009 and 2014. How can one not suspect some form of collusion of interests? And if so, how can this not be construed as an additional proof of downright disrespect for the independence of justice coming not only from a subservient legislature but also from the executive itself?

The same line of thinking goes for Mr Ho Iat Seng: how come the President of the Assembly would accept such a resolution without a doubt and why on earth would he decide to put it on the legislature’s agenda for voting within a week time? Lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho has already flagged this unusual haste in slating the resolution, especially when compared to akin motions sponsored by pan-democrats, but there again the issue goes beyond a not so “gentleman agreement”: Mr Ho is also a member of the standing committee of China’s National People’s Congress, and by blindly siding with Vong, he is actually staining the very idea of a “high degree of autonomy” for Macao. Could he have turned to his second in command — the Vice-president of the Assembly — for advice? And even if he did, can the brother of the Chief Executive be trusted to demonstrate an absolute sense of impartiality? Again, this can only reinforce suspicions of power meddling.

And by ultimately withdrawing the resolution, to supposedly clarify misunderstandings, what has Mr Vong demonstrated? Courage when confronted with adversity? A capacity to be attuned with the community he is supposed to represent? The wisdom of his craft now that he is a non-competitively elected professional lawmaker?

For all these reasons, and because it will take at least a year for Mr Sou to be actually tried for “aggravated disobedience”, Mr Vong should sponsor a resolution re-instating in full Mr Sou as a lawmaker!

THE FOUR MACAU GAMING TYCOONS IN HONG KONG FORBES’ LIST

Lui Che Woo, founder and chairman of Galaxy Entertainment, continues to be the richest gaming tycoon in the list. His net worth jumped nearly 70 percent from an USD11.2 billion in January 2017 to \$19 billion in January 2018. Lui climbed three positions to third place overall on Hong Kong Forbes’ list.

The next gaming billionaires on Forbes’ list are two siblings of Stanley Ho, Pansy and Lawrence. Pansy Ho, co-chairperson of MGM China, saw

her personal fortune increase by 27.9 percent, to \$5.5 billion, according to Forbes. Ho climbed one position to 15th place in January 2018. Lawrence Ho, chairman and chief executive of Melco Resorts, saw his net worth jump 85 percent year-on-year, to \$2.6 billion.

On a fall is Angela Leong’s fortune. The fourth consort of Stanley Ho, and executive director of SJM, saw her net worth slip 7.5 percent to \$3.7 billion this year, from \$4 billion.

Country stars from Vegas festival to perform Grammy tribute



Country music singer Eric Church

Kristin M. Hall, Nashville (Tenn.)

THREE performers at last year’s Route 91 Harvest Festival where a gunman opened fire on fans will perform a tribute at this year’s Grammy Awards to honor victims killed at live music events this past year.

Eric Church, Maren Morris and Brothers Osborne, who performed at the three-day country festival prior to the mass shooting last October, will collaborate on a special performance at the 60th annual Grammy Awards, airing live on CBS from New York on Jan. 28.

The shooting in Las Vegas was the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. modern history. It came in a year when 22 people were killed in a bombing outside an Ariana Grande concert in Manchester, England, in May.

Church headlined the first night of the festival, which was the last night of his tour. A gunman perched in a window of a hotel-casino overlooking the outdoor festival opened fire on the crowd during the final night of the festival as Jason Aldean was performing, killing 58 people and injuring hundreds more.

“In all honesty, there’s

not a day that goes by since that day that I have not thought of it and thought of the people and the victims,” Church told The Associated Press. “That being our last show of the year, I took it in differently than I have maybe taken in other shows. I savored it. I remember everything about it.”

Church, who wrote a song called “Why Not Me” immediately after the shooting, said he knew some of the victims because they were members of his tightknit fan club and said he appreciates that the Grammy producers wanted to reserve time in the show to remember those music fans who had been lost.

“Mass shootings, they happen every year, unfortunately,” Church said. “But this year was a little bit unique in that you had two happen at music events and one of those was the largest mass shooting in U.S. history. It’s been a tragic year.”

Ken Ehrlich, executive producer of the Grammys, said the country artists will perform a classic Grammy-winning song, which hasn’t been announced. “We considered a number of songs. We wanted something that is universal. We wan-

ted something that spoke to the subject, which certainly this song does,” he said. “When you listen to the lyric, this one certainly stood out.”

Morris, a nominee for best country solo performance, performed the night before the shooting. She said she’s heard directly from fans that the attacks have left them scared to go to shows, and said that it has affected artists as well.

“As an artist and a performer, I don’t want to be afraid to walk out on a stage each night,” Morris said. “I know that we’ve all been reckoning with that for the last several months.”

Morris said it felt right to have performers from that festival lead the tribute. “It reinforces even more the strength of music and the community that we all share together, artists and fans alike.”

Church said the attacks shattered the sense of safety and comfort that music can sometimes bring. He said that’s been the hardest thing for him as an artist to deal with, but added that those attacks can’t stop musicians or their fans.

“You don’t let it kill the music and you don’t let it destroy the moment,” Church said. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	65-95 Moderate	
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	

SOURCE: D5SMG

WORLD BRIEFS



KAZAKHSTAN A bus fire in Kazakhstan killed 52 people yesterday in a vast snow-covered steppe, officials said. Authorities said that only five people on the bus managed to escape the blaze and are now being treated for injuries.

SYRIA said yesterday its air defense would shoot down any Turkish jets that carry out attacks within Syria, a stark warning as tensions soar over apparent preparations by the Turkish military to invade a northern Syrian Kurdish enclave.

UKRAINE’s parliament yesterday passed a bill to reintegrate the country’s eastern territories that are currently controlled by Russia-backed separatists, even supporting taking them back by military force if necessary.



SERBIA’s prime minister, government officials and hundreds of others attended the funeral yesterday of a moderate Serb politician who was gunned down in Kosovo this week in an attack that has fueled concerns for Balkan stability.

COLOMBIA Two ex-combatants with Colombia’s once-largest rebel group have been shot to death while participating in a campaign event for the guerrilla’s new political party.



US-MEXICO U.S. President Donald Trump insisted yesterday his views on a border wall with Mexico have not evolved, pushing back against his own chief of staff’s comments to lawmakers. Trump said on Twitter: “The Wall is the Wall, it has never changed or evolved from the first day I conceived of it.”