



## COUTINHO THREATENS AL HEAD WITH LAWSUIT

The lawmaker sent a letter to Ho Iat Seng regarding the suspension of Sulu Sou's mandate

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## DRAMA IN VATICAN'S OVERTURE TO CHINA

The retired cardinal of Hong Kong has revealed the behind-the-scenes drama of the Vatican's efforts to improve relations with China

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## BECKHAM LAUNCHES MIAMI SOCCER TEAM

P19 SPORTS



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**THAILAND's** ruling military junta has filed charges against seven democracy activists for calling for elections and an end to military rule.

**CAMBODIA** Ten Westerners arrested in Cambodia for allegedly posting photos on social media showing themselves engaged in sexually suggestive dancing may have offended local standards of morality, but should be expelled from the country rather than jailed, one of their lawyers said yesterday.

**MALAYSIA** Another person has died in Malaysia after a faulty Takata air bag inflator exploded when the Honda it was installed in crashed. [More on p8](#)

AP PHOTO



**KOREA** South Korea yesterday expressed regret over North Korea's cancellation of one of the joint cooperation projects planned for next month's Winter Olympics, a development highlighting the delicate nature of ties between the rivals split for seven decades. [More on p12](#)

AP PHOTO



**INDIA** A senior cleric at an influential Islamic seminary in northern India has issued a religious decree saying that Muslim women should not watch men playing soccer. [More on p13](#)

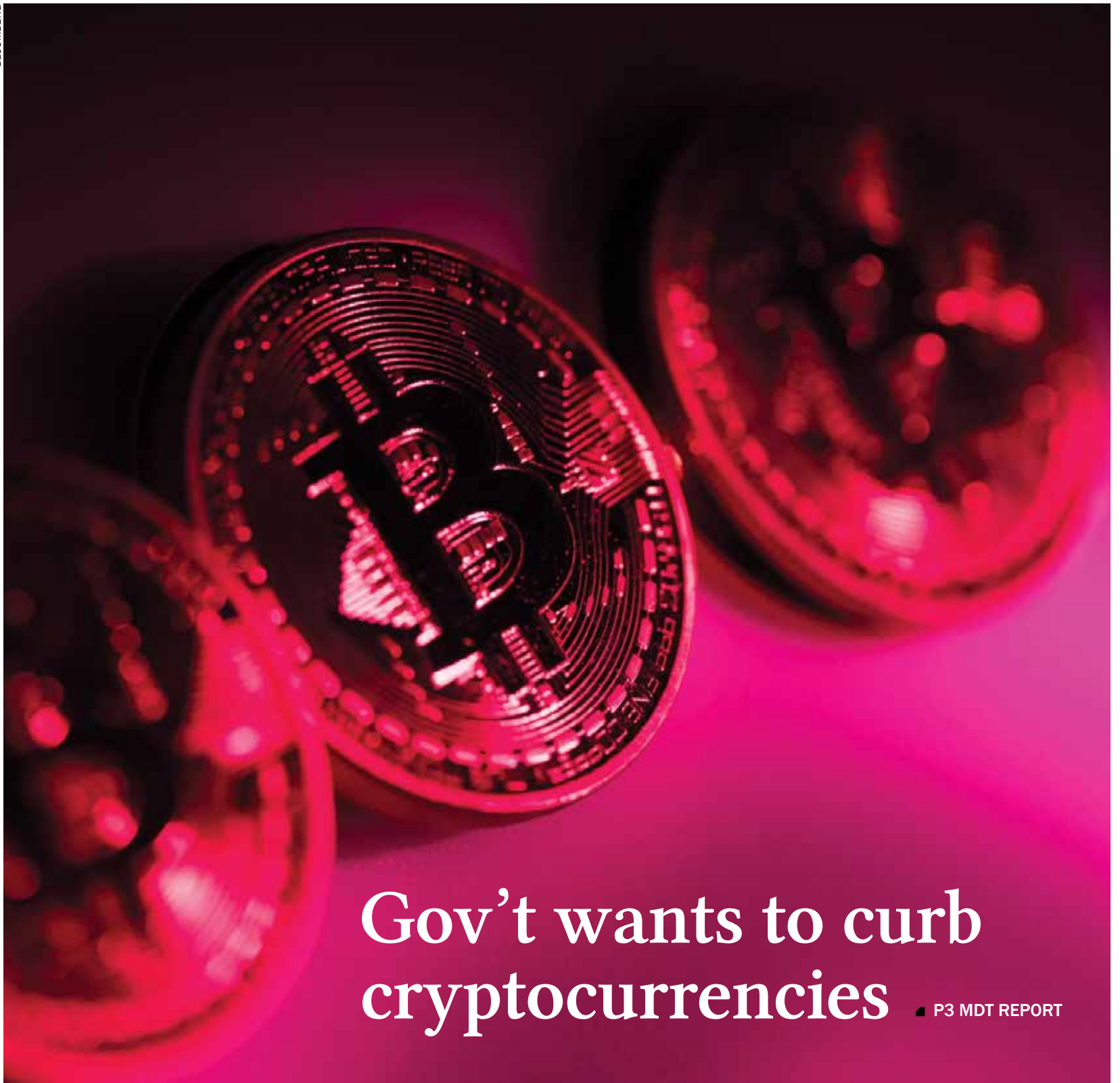
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## WYNN HARASSMENT CLAIMS

# Macau regulator voices concerns over scandal

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BLOOMBERG



## Gov't wants to curb cryptocurrencies

P3 MDT REPORT



**T**HE Court of First Instance has ruled that Pearl Horizon project developer Polytec Asset Holdings Ltd (Polytec) reimburse more than MOP2.02 million to an individual who purchased one of its flats.

The individual sued Polytec and requested the court terminate the contract for the purchase of a housing unit.

The court ruled that the termination of the contract is admissible.

Since the termination of the contract has the effect of nullifying or canceling the contract, money paid by the individual must be returned.

In total, Polytec is obliged to refund the buyer the entire amount of MOP2,025,804 plus interest.

The buyer paid for the housing unit in the November of 2012. Polytec pledged that the project would be delivered in 1,200 days, according to the court statement.

The court found that 1,200 days is an "extremely uncertain" timeframe

## COURTS

# One Pearl Horizon buyer to get refunds from Polytec

me for the project's completion.

"If we consider the indication of 1,200 days deducted from Sundays, holidays and rainy days, we can assume that this corresponds to about four years. Considering that it should take less than one year for the completion of the first floor, we consider it reasonable that the delivery of the project should be within five years of the establishment of the contract. In other words, the project should be completed by the end of 2017," the court statement reads.

In January of 2016, the Macau government announced the expiration of the developers' concessions prior to their fulfillment.

RENATO MARQUES



## TOURISM

## Group tours grow 14 percent in 2017

**VISITORS** on package tours rose by 27.8 percent year-on-year to 912,000 in December 2017, but edged down by 0.4 percent month-to-month. According to data released by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), package tour visitors from mainland China

(746,000), the Republic of Korea (45,000) and Taiwan (52,000) surged by 32.1 percent, 23.8 percent and 34.8 percent respectively year-on-year. For the whole year of 2017, visitors on package tours totaled 8,633,000, up by 14.3 percent year-on-year.

Outbound residen-

ts using the services of travel agencies increased by 7.9 percent year-on-year to 131,000 in December 2017. Among them, residents travelling on package tours grew by 7.5 percent to 56,000, with those going to mainland China (38,000) rising by 12.3 percent. In 2017,

outbound residents using the services of travel agencies totaled 1,391,000, up by 11.2 percent year-on-year.

DSEC listed 111 hotels & guesthouses operating at the end of 2017, an increase of 4 year-on-year. The number of guest rooms grew by 2.3 percent year-on-year to 37,000, with those of 5-star hotels (22,000) accounting for 60 percent of the total.

The number of guests at hotels and guesthouses in December rose by 2.5 percent year-on-year to 1,204,000. Guests coming from mainland China (798,000) and South Korea (42,000) increased by 10.7 percent and 23.8 percent respectively year-on-year, while those from Hong Kong (140,000) and Taiwan (40,000) dropped by 23 percent and 12.6 percent respectively.

## Pereira Coutinho threatens AL president with lawsuit

Renato Marques

**LAWMAKER** José Pereira Coutinho is threatening Legislative Assembly (AL) President Ho Iat Seng with a lawsuit in relation to the case which involves the suspension of lawmaker Sulu Sou's mandate. Coutinho sent a letter to Ho, to which the Times had access, following a previous request for access to the documents sent by the AL to the Court of Second Instance (TSI).

According to Coutinho, the TSI requested the relevant documents from the AL in order to justify the continued suspension of Sulu's mandate as a lawmaker. The AL sent the documents, but Coutinho claims many of the lawmakers, including himself, are unaware of their contents.

In the letter Coutinho wrote to Ho Iat Seng, he states to that he issued a first request to access the documents on January 18, but received no reply.

In the lawmaker's opinion, Ho

is acting as the "incumbent of the penal act" when in reality, he is simply a "representative" of the AL.

Given this, Coutinho argues that Ho has a duty as president of the AL to inform all lawmakers of every procedure undertaken by the body. If he fails to do this, Coutinho has threatened to appeal directly to courts.

"The petitioned [Pereira Coutinho] reserves the right to appeal to the courts to assert his rights," Coutinho states in the last section of his letter to the AL President, dated January 29.

In the letter's paragraphs the lawmaker reminds Ho that the AL and its administrative bodies are only the trustees of the public interest and representatives of the will of the lawmakers within the AL. As such, Coutinho suggests that Ho is acting beyond the scope of his own mandate by limiting access of the process surrounding Sulu to only a small group of people.

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Daniel Beittler

**T**HE Monetary Authority of Macao is trying to curb cryptocurrency-related activities in response to reports that Macau might become a regional hub for the financial instruments.

As reported earlier this month, Macau has been designated a jurisdiction to watch closely in regards to cryptocurrency activities, after mainland China and neighboring Hong Kong clamped down on the sector last year.

With more stringent regulations elsewhere, cryptocurrency operators are looking to jurisdictions like Macau, which has a history of sheltering shady businesses.

In a statement to the Times, the Monetary Authority of Macao said that it does not approve of such business and that it has reminded the financial services industry to avoid cryptocurrencies.

"Virtual currency is a virtual commodity which is neither legal tender nor a financial instrument subject to financial supervision," the authority wrote in a statement.

"This Authority has already sent a circular to remind all the banking and payment institutions in Macau not to participate in or provide, directly or indirectly, any financial services in relation to such trading, so as to curb the occurrence of the relevant activities in Macau."

The statement will be unwelcome news for Macau Dragon Group, a new company with plans to develop a Macau-based

# Monetary Authority wants to curb cryptocurrencies

floating casino using cryptocurrency-backed gaming chips.

It remains unclear whether the Macau Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau and the Monetary Authority of Macao will permit the casino to operate in the MSAR or its territorial waters.

The concern for regulators in Macau and elsewhere is that the cryptocurrency market is developing at a rapid and unpredictable pace, and that its volatility might threaten the overall economy.

"Trading of these commodities involves considerable risks, including but not limited to those relating to money laundering and terrorism financing," the statement continued.

Through a series of initiatives spearheaded by the central government in Beijing, the Macau government has made significant progress in curbing money laundering and terrorism financing in the territory.

However, Macau's regulatory environment remains far from watertight, as evidenced by recent European Union threats to include it on a tax 'blacklist'.

The threat was ultimately withdrawn after the MSAR government agreed to strive for further financial transparency.



## Warnings issued over 'risky' asset

**D**EUTSCHE Bank AG's Wealth Management currently does not advise to invest in cryptocurrencies, according to Markus Mueller, Global Head of Chief Investment Office. Problematic issues include high volatility, possible price manipulation and data loss or data theft.

"We do not recommend that. It's only for investors who invest speculatively," he said. "There is a realistic risk of total loss."

According to Mueller, recent price increases reflect a lot of imagination, driven by the current situation in the market. There is hardly any return

scope left in other asset classes such as fixed income, he said.

Mueller is not the only person warning against crypto-currencies. Bank of Spain Governor Luis Maria Linde said crypto-currencies are an asset that carries enormous risks. And Austria's Financial Planners Association compared bitcoin investments with a "casino visit".

Bitcoin, the world's most popular cryptocurrency, is currently trading nearly 50 percent lower than its December 16, 2017 high, recorded after a 10-day streak of rapid gains.

## CRIME

# Phone scams 5.6 times more prevalent in 2017

**T**HE number of phone scams in 2017 was 5.6 times higher than 2016, the Judiciary Police stated yesterday during a press conference.

In 2017, 146 individual investigations were processed concerning phone scams, with total losses reported to be more than MOP40 million.

Some 59.5 percent of phone scams' victims were women, and the most-common age demographic of victims was 25 to 34 years of age at 33.1 percent. The second highest age bracket of victims was those aged between 18 and 24 years, at 30.4 percent.

Moreover, 72.3 percent of victims were Macau residents, 17.6 percent were from mainland China, 2 percent were from Hong Kong, 2 percent were from Taiwan, 3.4 percent were from Vietnam, 2 percent were from Malaysia, and 0.7 percent were from

Portugal.

In 81.5 percent of all phone scams (119 cases), criminals pretended to be from governmental departments. Some 63.9 percent of victims falling for this type of scam were currently-employed young people and 27.7 percent were students (of which 87.9 percent were university bachelor students, 6.1 percent were secondary school students, and 6.1 percent were postgraduate students).

"Honestly, I am really concerned," admitted Sit Chong Meng, acting director of the Judiciary Police (PJ), when talking about the increase in the number of phone scam victims.

Regarding gaming-related crimes, 4,714 cases were filed in 2017, representing a 2.4 percent growth year-on-year.

The number of usury and illegal imprisonment cases decreased by 3 and 7.8

percent respectively.

More gambling related criminals (2,171 suspects, 8.4 percent increase) were forwarded to the Prosecution Office in 2017 than in 2016. Indeed, in 2017, the PJ initiated more procedures for all types of criminal cases, an increase of 2.34 percent year-on-year.

In total, 12,629 cases were filed in 2017, while in 2016 the number was 12,340. More than 12,000 of all the cases of 2017 have already been concluded, whereas the number of concluded cases in 2016 was 11,713 at the same time last year (a 3.63 percent increase).

Some 3,925 suspects were sent to the prosecution authority, representing a 3.1 percent growth (an increase of 120).

In 2017, 181 criminals of non-Chinese nationality were transferred to the prosecution office, which represents 14.6 percent



less than in 2016. However, an additional 2.3 percent of mainland Chinese criminals were sent to the prosecution authority.

Filipinos, Vietnamese and Malaysians were the top three foreign criminal nationalities that were detained.

Computer crimes decreased 5.8 percent year

-on-year, with 439 cases recorded.

Juvenile crime continued to decrease, with seven cases recorded in 2017, one case less than in 2016, and 14 less than in 2015. 21 blackmailing cases related to nude images were registered in 2017, 28 less than in 2016.

In 2017, the price

for smuggling a person to Macau was between MOP20,000 and MOP25,000, whereas in 2015, it was around MOP4,000. That means the difficulty for a criminal to smuggle people into Macau has been exacerbated," said Sit, when discussing the decrease in the number of smugglers. **JZ**

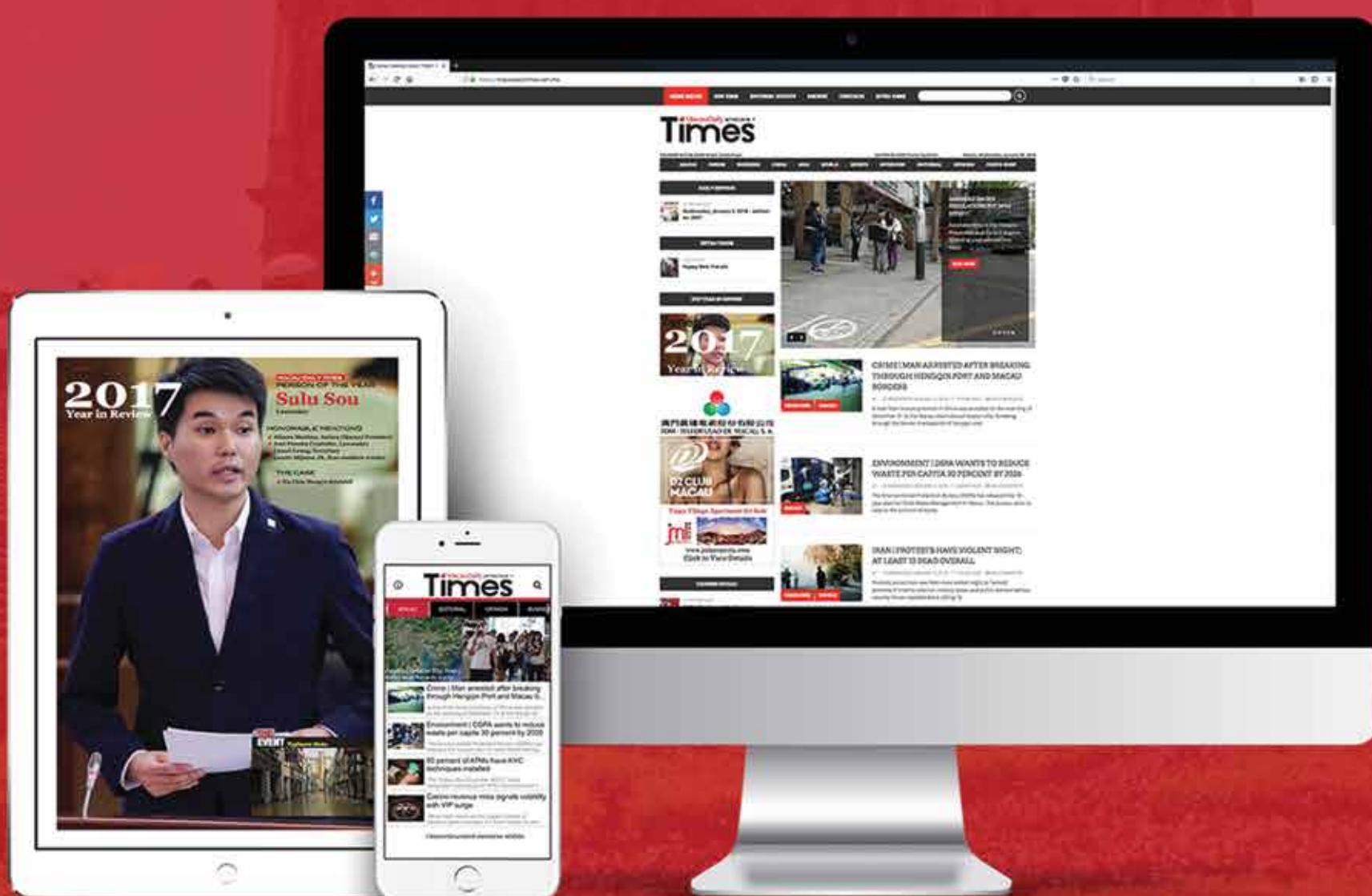


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# News At Hand



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



Christopher Palmeri, Valerie Miller

**F**OR years she was the Queen of Las Vegas, the billionaire First Lady of the Strip. Elaine Wynn lost that title after her 2010 divorce from casino mogul Steve Wynn, but has now been pushed back into the spotlight because of her ex-husband.

Accused of sexual misconduct going back decades, Steve Wynn pointed a finger right at his ex-wife, saying she was the source of a newspaper story that may end his career. Through a spokeswoman, Elaine Wynn declined to comment. On Monday, lawyers for the 75-year-old philanthropist denied in a Las Vegas court that she was behind the Jan. 26 story in the Wall Street Journal that accused her ex-husband of pressuring employees for sex and reported that he paid USD7.5 million to settle allegations from an employee.

"They're just trying to take the focus off of what is really going on," Mark Ferrario, her attorney, told Nevada District Court Judge Elizabeth Gonzalez.

In a statement, the company said "sufficient evidence exists to show that Elaine Wynn, personally and/or through her agents, instigated and facilitated the Wall Street Journal article. Elaine Wynn has threatened to 'destroy' Mr. Wynn and in that quest 'did not care if the stock went to zero.' We believe that the Wall Street Journal article was in furtherance of that effort."

The Journal has said it contacted 150 people for its story, none of whom reached out to the newspaper on their own. The report, which has prompted investigations by casino regulators from Massachusetts to Macau, could hand Elaine a victory in her six-year battle to win back voting rights to a 9.4 percent stake in Wynn Resorts Ltd. that she signed over to her husband years ago. Steve Wynn counts on those shares to maintain his grip on the company, which owns luxury resorts in Las Vegas and Macau. Without them, his company could be takeover bait.

"It's a game-changer," Devin McRae, a litigator with Early Sullivan Wright Gizer & McRae in Los Angeles, said of the accusations. "These allegations paint a picture of serious predation."

#### DANCING AT FONTAINEBLEAU

It began as a love story, according to "Running Scared: The Life and Treacherous Times of Las Vegas King Steve Wynn" by John L. Smith. Wynn and the former Elaine Pascal were introduced by their parents and danced together at the famous Fontainebleau Miami Beach, with family looking on. He was an English major at the University of Pennsylvania. She was a beauty queen who would get her political science degree from George Washington University.

# Elaine Wynn back in spotlight as ex-husband battles allegations

AP PHOTO



Elaine Wynn

Beginning with a heavily indebted bingo parlor business that Steve Wynn inherited from his father, the pair built two major casino companies, Mirage Resorts and Wynn Resorts, that changed the face of their adopted hometown, Las Vegas.

"We're dealing with the best of the best, you don't get any higher than these people," said William Thompson, a professor emeritus at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, who has studied and written about the casino industry. "This is a blow to Vegas."

With Steve Wynn taking big risks on casinos such as the Bellagio, now owned by MGM Resorts International, and the copper-tinted Wynn Las Vegas that he still runs, Elaine was often at his side, sharing her thoughts on everything from the design of hotel uniforms to the food at the restaurants.

#### I, CO-FOUNDER

"I was co-founder, my role spanned all kinds of things," Elaine said in a 2015 interview

with Bloomberg News. "Architecture and design, the amenities. I created all the opening events, New Year's Eve. A lot of creative work."

Married and divorced twice over almost 50 years, the Wynns broke up for good in 2010. It was amicable at first, with Elaine and Steve splitting their 20

**Evidence exists to show that Elaine Wynn, personally and/or through her agents, instigated and facilitated the Wall Street Journal article.**

WYNN RESORTS STATEMENT

percent stake in the company. She gave him voting control over the shares and agreed to limit her stock sales, just as another Wynn co-founder, Japanese businessman Kazuo Okada, had done. Wynn had lost Mirage Resorts to billionaire Kirk Kerkorian because he lacked the votes to block a takeover.

"It all began with our partner Okada," Elaine Wynn recalled. "So Steve would be protected."

The relationship began to change after Steve remarried in 2011. In what would be a difficult position for anyone, Elaine Wynn would attend company meetings with Steve and his new, much younger wife, Andrea Hissom.

#### SAYONARA OKADA

The following year Okada was forced out of Wynn Resorts and his stake repurchased in exchange for a USD1.9 billion note after a company investigation accused him of trying to bribe foreign casino regulators. Okada denied the claims and sued.

Elaine joined Okada's lawsuit

that year, saying she wanted out of the shareholder agreement. In 2015, she was booted from the board and lost a bid to regain her seat. Then in 2016, she alleged in the suit that Steve Wynn had paid a multimillion-dollar settlement to a former employee and had endangered the company with his "reckless" behavior.

In court filings and in the 2015 interview, Elaine has maintained her only goal is to regain control of her shares to focus on philanthropy. She serves on the board of the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington and is heavily involved in school programs in Las Vegas. In Los Angeles, where she also has a home, Wynn co-chairs the board of the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Her \$50 million gift kicked off a \$650 million remodeling campaign.

"She's a strong person that has built a business," Michael Govan, the museum's director, said in an interview. "She's been building a second career in philanthropic leadership, and I get the sense that's her primary mission."

#### INVESTOR LOSSES

Investors are taking the accusations against Steve Wynn seriously. The shares have tumbled 19 percent in two days, a loss of market value approaching \$4 billion. Casino regulators in Massachusetts, where the company is building a new multibillion-dollar resort, plan to hold a special hearing Wednesday.

"The worst-case scenario for the stock would mean these accusations are proven to be true, Mr. Wynn is forced to resign and maybe even sell down his 12 percent position in the company," Jared Shojanian, an analyst at Wolfe Research, wrote in a note to investors. "The brand could become tarnished."

At Monday's hearing in Las Vegas, the latest in the long-running Wynn-Okada-Wynn litigation, Judge Gonzales weighed whether prospective jurors could be questioned about their political leanings. Steve Wynn, who resigned as the fundraising chairman of the Republican National Committee on Saturday, has been a big supporter of President Donald Trump. The judge mused about media coverage of the case, set to go to trial in April, and the possible difficulties in finding impartial jurors in Las Vegas.

"What should I do," Gonzalez asked, "have it at the Winnebucca courthouse?" **Bloomberg**



Daniela Wei, Bruce Einhorn

WYNN

WYNN Macau Ltd. said it will cooperate with regulators after the government of the Chinese territory voiced concern over sexual harassment allegations swirling around casino magnate Steve Wynn.

Macau regulators talked with Wynn management and want to make sure major shareholders, directors and key employees meet suitable qualifications, the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau said in an email late Monday. Shares of Wynn Macau dropped 4.8 percent in Hong Kong yesterday, giving it the biggest two-day loss since 2014 on a closing basis.

Wynn Macau said in a statement it will cooperate fully with any requests from the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau.

The scandal threatens to complicate Wynn's plans for the world's largest gambling hub, since regulators in Macau are set to outline the process for casino-license bidding later this year, with permits up for renewal beginning in 2020. The Asian gaming enclave now accounts for more than three-quarters of Wynn's earnings, and the casino operator has big plans for a further expansion after opening the Wynn Palace there in August 2016.

Wynn's billionaire chairman stepped down as Republican Natio-

nal Committee finance chair over the weekend following reports that he had engaged in multiple instances of sexual harassment. The impact of the claims have reverberated in Macau and Las Vegas. Wynn Resorts Ltd. shares have had the biggest two-day loss in about eight years.

## Possible successors to the 76-year-old casino magnate include Linda Chen, chief operating officer of Wynn Macau

### MACAU RESURGENCE

Business is booming in Macau as high rollers have returned to the territory after a government crackdown. Wynn gained the most

BLOOMBERG



market share last year among casino operators with the resurgence of the elite gamblers, according to gaming data. Total gambling takings rose 19 percent in 2017, the first full-year of growth since 2013, and analysts are optimistic about the market this year with the opening of new resorts.

### INCREASED SCRUTINY

Any fallout from the allegations could have a major impact on Macau. Gaming regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts are looking into the accusations, and punitive actions in the U.S. could prompt

Macau watchdogs to ramp up their scrutiny, said Wang Changbin, director of the Gaming Teaching & Research Centre at the Macau Polytechnic Institute. Upsetting the market by ousting an existing casino operator may be difficult, Wang added. Macau's gaming law stipulates that the reputation of the operator and its controlling shareholder is considered in the bidding process for licenses.

Macau legislator Pereira Coutinho said Wynn's situation shouldn't create difficulty with its operating license, as the personal allegations don't hurt the

enclave's image as much as more damaging industry scandals in the past that didn't spur changes in the laws. "The former Portuguese colony is not responsive enough to solve problems that have caused negative impact to the society," he said.

### FOUNDER'S FATE

Some investors are calling for the company to oust Steve Wynn, raising the prospect of a volatile transition period. Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang says possible successors to the 76-year-old casino magnate include Linda Chen, chief operating officer of Wynn Macau. Wynn cited Chen as one of the company's executives fit to take over when asked about a potential replacement in 2011.

The repercussions could be felt beyond Macau. Japan is opening up to casino resorts, and government officials are already sensitive to negative perceptions about the industry as they consider regulations and licenses for casino operators. **Bloomberg**

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We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

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Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.

- B.** For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

- C.** For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

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# Faulty Takata air bag kills sixth person in Malaysia

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

**A**NOTHER person has died in Malaysia after a faulty Takata air bag inflator exploded when the Honda it was installed in crashed, raising the known death toll linked to the defect in the Southeast Asian country to six.

The driver was killed when the 2004 Honda City car crashed on New Year's Day in central Selangor state, Honda Malaysia said in a statement yesterday. It said the car was included in a 2015 recall to replace flawed air bags on the driver and passenger side but several letters sent to the original owner didn't reach the new owner after the car was sold because the company's database had not been updated.

"Our records indicate that the recall replacement was never completed," Honda said.

The Japanese automaker said the passenger air bag inflator deployed during the crash and



functioned properly. No further details were immediately available.

Massive recalls affecting millions of vehicles have been issued around the world because of faulty air bag inflator and propellant devices that may deploy improperly in an accident, shooting out metal fragments that can injure or kill. Last year, Takata pleaded guilty to fraud in a U.S. court and agreed to pay more than \$1 billion in penalties for concealing the defect, which has been implicated in 22 deaths and more than 180 injuries worldwide.

As of Jan. 25, Honda Malaysia had replaced more than 221,000 front air bag inflators, or 84 percent of those needing to be changed.

The company appealed to owners of affected Honda vehicles to get their inflators repaired and to update any changes in ownership so that recall letters can reach current owners.

The current lineup of Honda cars is not affected as they do not have the same type of Takata air bag inflators as previous models affected for the recall, the company said. **AP**



## China ousted as Asia's top buyer of US commercial property

**SINGAPORE** ousted China to become the biggest Asian investor in U.S. commercial property last year.

It was the first time since 2012 that the city outspent China, according to data from Real Capital Analytics and Cushman & Wakefield Inc. Deals by Chinese investors plunged 66 percent to USD5.9 billion as regulators cracked down on capital outflows.

"We expect Singapore to continue to be the single largest source of Asian investments in the U.S. real estate markets," said Priyaranjan Kumar, Cushman's regional executive director of capital markets for Asia Pacific, adding that money may flow into data centers, student accommodation and logistics.

Sovereign wealth fund GIC Pte ac-

counted for almost three-quarters of the \$9.5 billion of Singaporean purchases, investing in properties including 60 Wall Street in Manhattan, which houses the U.S. headquarters of Deutsche Bank AG, and a portfolio of student accommodation.

Real estate firm CBRE Group Inc. anticipates similar trends in 2018, with Singapore's institutional investors diversifying abroad and China maintaining capital controls, said Yvonne Siew, executive director for capital advisory, Asia Pacific.

Singapore's investments in commercial property globally rose by about 40 percent to \$28.4 billion last year, beating a record set in 2015, according to the data, which include land as well as developed properties. **Bloomberg**



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Shelly Banjo, Mark Bergen

**G**OOGLE officially closed its USD1.1 billion deal with HTC Corp., adding more than 2,000 smartphone specialists in Taiwan to help the search giant chase Apple Inc. in the cut-throat premium handset market.

The deal will help Google design more of its own consumer hardware and could set it up to wade deeper into special-purpose chips - like Apple. Google's most recent Pixel model came with a new image processor to improve the device's camera. More of this "custom silicon" will come in the future, Google's hardware chief Rick Osterloh said in an interview.

Osterloh brought in HTC engineers and designers to help Google control more of the design and production of its products, including working more closely with suppliers. Google previously focused on software and let manufacturers including Samsung Electronics Co. and HTC handle the hardware. But modern phones offer features like augmented reality and artificial intelligence-based services that require close integration of software and hardware.

"You have to be vertical in some cases to really push the envelope for consumers," Osterloh said. "Our intention is to invest in this for the long term. You'll see a steady increase in investment from us."

HTC said in a separate statement that it plans to proceed with its next flagship smartphone and will focus its efforts in the segment. "Today marks the beginning of an exciting new chapter at HTC as we continue to drive innovation in our branded smartphone and VIVE virtual reality businesses," Cher Wang, chairwoman at HTC said in the statement.

For Google, a bigger step

# Google bets USD1.1b more brains can help take on Apple

AP PHOTO



would be to create its own "system-on-a-chip" - the main processors inside phones that Apple now inserts into its devices. Qualcomm Inc. provides the bulk of these chips to Android phone makers, and Osterloh said Google will keep working with the supplier for the foreseeable future.

Still, by designing more silicon itself, Google could cut business for other suppliers. Apple released its first system-on-a-chip in 2010, and has added special chips to store fingerprint and payment data, track motion, crunch graphics and run AI algorithms on mobile devices.

Google's Pixel sales have been a fraction of Apple's, but another phone maker designing more of its own components is a bad sign for suppliers. Dialog Semiconductor

Plc slumped last month after telling investors that Apple, its biggest customer, could design its own power-management chips. Imagination Technologies Group Plc suffered a similar fate last year after Apple stopped buying the U.K. company's graphics chips in favor of in-house designs.

The HTC deal is also bad news for manufacturers of phones based on Google's An-

**Google pulled its services from mainland China in 2010 after refusing to censor its search results**

droid operating system. Most of these companies have struggled to make money selling premium handsets that compete with the iPhone, while Google benefited from distributing search and other lucrative software services on those devices. Now Google is making its own high-end smartphones. The Pixel phone sold 1.5 million phones in 2017, up from 1 million the year before, according to Counterpoint Research. By contrast, Samsung is estimated to have shipped more than 300 million smartphone units last year.

If Android partners aren't alienated by Google's entrance, they are at least uneasy. After the Pixel arrived, some major Android manufacturers, like Samsung and Huawei Technologies Co., began to roll out more of their own services

on their phones.

Other Android manufacturers "know why we're doing this," Osterloh said. "Quite honestly, Apple is doing really well in developed markets."

After the HTC deal, Google plans to expand research and marketing, cut deals with more phone carriers and retailers, and move into new markets. Sales remain limited to nine countries, including the U.S., Germany and Singapore.

"China is obviously a very attractive smartphone market and we're certainly interested in going back to China in the future, but we don't have any plans to discuss and frankly it's complicated for the company," he said. Google pulled its services from mainland China in 2010 after refusing to censor its search results.

If Google's push into smartphones sounds familiar, that's because the latest deal echoes Google's \$12.5 billion acquisition of Motorola Mobility in 2012. That experiment flopped. Google never integrated the business and sold most of it to Lenovo Group Ltd. for \$2.91 billion. In a blog post, Alphabet CEO Larry Page said Motorola would be better off with a company that's "all-in when it comes to making mobile devices."

Osterloh knows the history well. He was at Motorola after the purchase and stayed on to run it for the Chinese company.

So what makes things different this time around? "The context, the time, it's a different world than it was during the PC-era," said Osterloh. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### WYNN UNVEILS FESTIVE GOURMET SELECTION FOR CNY



The dining establishments at Wynn Macau and Wynn Palace Cotai will feature an exquisite selection of gourmet offerings to assist guests

in celebrating and welcoming the lunar New Year.

At Wynn Palace Cotai, Wing Lei Palace will present a variety of Chinese New

Year specialty dishes, including a selection of over 50 kinds of teas, many of which are designed to be paired with the delicacies.

The Chinese New Year Specialties menu new to Andrea's will feature traditional New Year dishes from different Chinese regions.

If they are not in the mood for traditional Chinese New Year dishes, guests can savor the seasonal menu at Mizumi during the Chinese New Year period for a taste of authentic Japanese cuisine.

At Wynn Macau, Golden Flower, Red 8 and 99 Noodles will also be offering a series of traditional Chinese New Year dishes from the Northern and Southern regions of mainland China, and Wing Lei will be presenting à la carte items and dim sum.

### MACAO WATER HOSTS ANNUAL DINNER



Macao Water hosted the 2018 Annual Dinner last week at the Grand Ballroom of the JW Marriott Hotel Macau, located in Galaxy Macau Phase II. The dinner's purpose was to extend sincere thanks for the hard work and contribu-

tions from its staff.

Kuan Sio Peng, executive director of Macao Water, recalled the company's main achievements of 2017, including reaching consensus on the building of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant,

winning the competition of the Shenzhen-Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Water Supply Conference, and winning the Innovation Award from The France China Committee with their smart network system.

As cited in a statement issued by the company, key projects for 2018 were revealed at the dinner. They include accelerating construction works of the Seac Pai Van Water Treatment Plant, as well as the Macau pipeline segment of the fourth raw water pipe from Zhuhai to Macau, implementation of Smart Meters pilot project at Cotai, and the development of more customer-friendly services.

Long Service Awards were also presented to recognize workers who have contributed to Macau's water supply business for several years.



AP PHOTO



AP INTERVIEW

# Chinese editor Hu Shuli steps aside, not down

Gerry Shih, Beijing

**SOME** say China's most prominent journalist is finished.

Far from it, says Hu Shuli, founder of the financial magazine Caixin.

Hu listened one recent afternoon to the theories floating in China's chattering class about why she was handing over the editorial reins at Caixin, the only newsroom known for hard-hitting, investigative reporting in China — and dismissed them.

"Laughable rumors," Hu snapped. "I'm not stepping back or stepping down. You could say I'm stepping up."

In a rare interview with the Associated Press, Hu spoke bullishly about transitioning this month into a publisher role at the newsmagazine she co-founded in 2009, and about the prospects of the "Me Too" movement in China. She spoke more guardedly about censorship and declared Caixin as free as ever to conduct its signature muckraking reporting. China watchers say the space for independent journalism in the country, already one of the world's most censored news environments, is fast vanishing under President Xi Jinping.

"We always think there are stories to do and we don't think, 'maybe this environment should be better,'" said Hu. "We've always felt we could do anything we wanted. It was just based on what our priorities are."

Hu said she was handing the operation over to her long-time deputy Wang Shuo because of

her age — she turns 65 this year. She will occasionally conduct major interviews and remain involved in major editorial decisions as an adviser to Wang, who she hired as a 25-year-old two decades ago.

Known for her political savvy, for 30 years Hu has published scoops that uncovered corporate malfeasance and government corruption without repercussions while other journalists fell afoul of authorities and landed in jail. Her publication blew open the government cover-up of the SARS epidemic in 2003 and has questioned countless deals among powerful companies, including state-backed enterprises.

## ■ Hu denied that political factors were behind her move

Caixin's reshuffle comes shortly after Wang Qishan, an official widely seen as Hu's longtime ally, stepped down from the Communist Party's top leadership body, said Willy Lam, a political analyst at the Chinese University in Hong Kong.

"Ms. Hu is famous for being supercharged, full of energy," Lam said. "It's difficult to believe she's stepping aside because of age. It has to do with politics."

Hu declined to discuss her relationship with Wang and denied that political factors were behind

her move. In any case, Wang appears to retain significant influence: he joined a parliamentary delegation this week amid speculation that Xi might soon name him vice president.

Still, at a time when Xi demands strict ideological discipline across Chinese society, particularly in sensitive industries like media, it remains to be seen if Caixin can continue to push the envelope. A liberal historical journal, Yanhuang Chunqiu, has been shuttered and influential online commentators silenced. Caixin made international headlines in 2016 when it published an interview with a Shanghai professor who criticized China's tightening censorship, and, when censors moved to block the interview, Caixin disclosed the takedown order in an unusual show of defiance.

Pressed nearly two years later, Hu shook her head, saying she doesn't remember the incident.

Even though she has not directed coverage recently, Hu said she is proud of her staff's reporting on sexual harassment and the #MeToo movement in China. Discussion of the subject has sometimes been censored on Chinese social media or branded as a destabilizing foreign movement. But the story has gained some domestic traction, including reports by state-run outlets like the official Xinhua news agency, which Hu praised.

"China also has this kind of problem [...] China had the 'women hold up half the sky' revolutionary slogan — but the actual situation, the actual status of wo-

men — I think is a very profound issue," said Hu, adding that she wanted to do more to promote #MeToo.

Hu said most of her energy will be focused on developing Caixin's business model.

In October the company became the first Chinese news company to erect a paywall, a decision Hu made based on the success of leading western newspapers. She declined to discuss subscription or revenue numbers, but acknowledged that online revenues are not yet considered "substantial."

Wei Wuhui, a lecturer of new media at Shanghai Jiaotong University who was asked by Hu to consult on Caixin's paywall model last year, said the increasingly restrictive political atmosphere will affect Caixin. Apart from direct censorship, it will be hurt by the scarcity of young people willing to pursue journalism.

"Even students studying journalism don't want to do journalism now," Wei said. "In a few years, the market for investigative journalism may not exist at all."

Never mind the naysayers, said Hu.

Caixin has more fertile (and safe) areas than ever to investigate in China, she said.

Wang ticked off financial crimes and environmental protection as beats where he plans to beef up staffing.

A month after she officially relinquished the editor position, Hu still sat in her same corner office, her books and pictures untouched. Wang still works on a long narrow table with other editors in Caixin's main newsroom of 400 people.

Her advice for Wang was that "the opportunity is his to take now," she said, adding: "And I'm still here." AP



Staffers work at the Caixin Media offices in Beijing



Nicole Winfield, Vatican City

## RELIGION

# Cardinal critic reveals drama in Vatican's overture to China

**T**HE retired cardinal of Hong Kong has revealed the behind-the-scenes drama of the Vatican's efforts to improve relations with China, including its request for a legitimate bishop to retire in favor of an excommunicated one who is recognized by Beijing.

Cardinal Joseph Zen, the most vocal opponent of Pope Francis' opening to China, bitterly criticized the proposed changing of the guard in Shantou diocese and revealed in a Facebook post Monday that he had traveled to the Vatican this month to personally raise it with the pope.

Zen confirmed reports by the AsiaNews missionary news agency that the Vatican had asked Shantou Bishop Peter Zhuang Jianjian, 88, to step down in favor of Bishop Joseph Huang Bingzhang. Huang was excommunicated by the Vatican in 2011 after he was consecrated without papal approval.

Zen said that he was exposing the "confidential" information — including the contents of his Jan. 14 audience with Francis — so that the Chinese faithful "may know the truth to which they are entitled."

"My conscience tells me that in this case, the right to truth should override any such duty of confidentiality," he wrote.

The issue of bishop nominations is the key stumbling block in Vatican-Chinese relations that were officially severed when Beijing ordered Chinese Catholics to

cut ties with the Holy See soon after the foundation of the Communist state in 1949.

The Vatican insists only the pope can nominate successors to Christ's apostles. China views the Vatican's insistence as interference in its sovereignty.

Popes from John Paul II onward have expressed hope for restoring diplomatic ties, with Pope Benedict XVI taking the boldest step in 2007 by urging the millions of Chinese Catholics worshipping in both the state-controlled aboveground and the oft-persecuted clandestine underground churches to unite under his jurisdiction.

Francis is taking that overture further to try to reach a deal with the state-backed Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association.

"Do I think that the Vatican is selling out the Catholic Church in China?" Zen asked in his post. "Yes, definitely, if they go in the direction which is obvious from all what they are doing in recent years and months."

The Vatican spokesman, Greg Burke, declined to comment, or to confirm or deny the AsiaNews report.

The news agency, which follows

AP PHOTO



Cardinal Joseph Zen prays in St. Peter's Basilica, Vatican City

the Catholic Church closely in China, reported earlier this month that a Vatican delegation was in Beijing in December to negotiate Zhuang's retirement and Huang's nomination in Shantou.

In addition, the Vatican asked the legitimate bishop of Mindong, Monsignor Joseph Guo Xijin, to accept a demotion to become an auxiliary bishop to Bishop Vincent Zhan Silu, who isn't recognized by the Vatican, the agency said.

But Zen wrote that when he raised the cases with Francis during a Jan. 14 private audience, the pope said he had told his aides "not to create another Mindszen-

ty case" with regards to the Chinese bishops.

The reference was to the Hungarian Cardinal Josef Mindszenty, who was imprisoned by Hungary's communist rulers and, during a brief spell of freedom during the revolution of 1956, took refuge in the U.S. Embassy in Budapest. Pope Paul VI eventually stripped him of his titles under pressure from the Hungarian government.

Zen said he felt encouraged by Francis' refusal to allow a similar fate to befall China's underground churchmen. "His words should be rightly understood as of consolation and encouragement

more for them than for me," he said.

The government-recognized bishop of Mindong, Vincent Zhan Silu said he didn't know about the changes.

"What I know is that China and Vatican remain in contact and are negotiating on some relevant issues. As for how far the negotiations have gone and how to carry out personnel exchanges, I am not sure about that," he told The Associated Press.

Calls to the ethnic and religious authorities in the two dioceses went unanswered. There was also no answer at the China Patriotic Catholic Association. **AP**

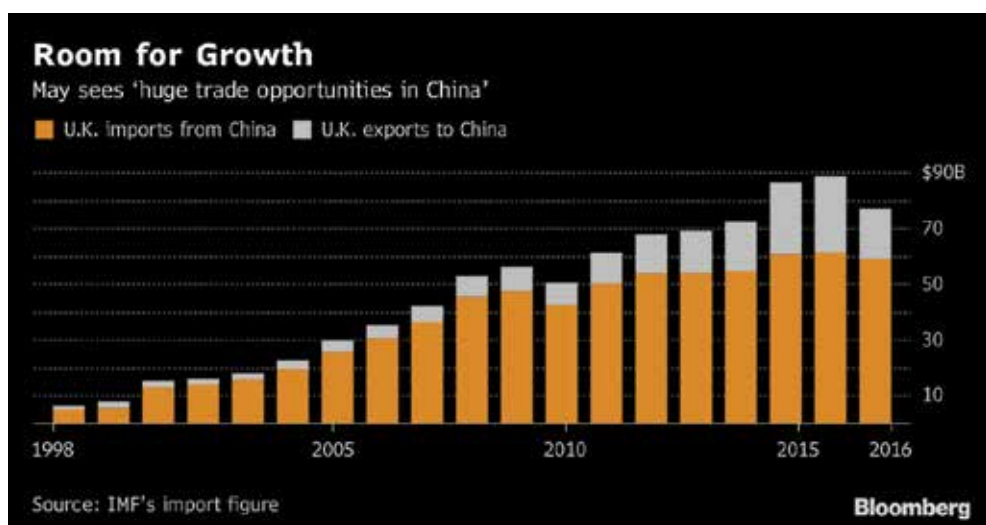
## TRADE

## UK's May flies 50 businesses on Brexit mission

**P**RIME Minister Theresa May is leading the largest business delegation her government has ever taken overseas as she flies to China this week, seeking to put her Brexit troubles aside and make progress on boosting U.K. trade.

May is taking 50 business leaders - from sectors including financial services, healthcare, energy and infrastructure - on the three-day trip to Wuhan, Beijing and Shanghai.

The trip comes against a backdrop of tension between May's government and the Chinese, a record she's keen to improve upon as the U.K. looks for trade partners around the world as it prepares to leave the European Union next year. The prime minister is also battling to contain divisions within her governing Conservative party over the direction of her Brexit policy, amid reports some lawmakers are plotting to oust her.



After May took over from David Cameron as Tory leader in 2016, she paused China's involvement in the Hinkley Point nuclear reactor development, amid concern over involving the Chinese government in critical, security-sensitive infrastructure. May eventually approved the project after China's ambassador in London warned the decision represented a "critical historical junction" in

the bilateral relationship.

"My visit will intensify the 'Golden Era' in U.K.-China relations," May said ahead of her visit. "The depth of our relationship means we can have frank discussions on all issues."

On the trip, May will be accompanied by her husband, Philip May, which her office said shows the premier's commitment to strengthening ties with China. The Mays will watch

some traditional opera and President Xi Jinping and his wife, Madame Peng Liyuan, will host the couple for a tea ceremony during their trip.

"There are huge trade opportunities in China that we want to help British businesses take advantage of," May said. "That is why I'm taking a large multi-sector business delegation with me, representing all corners of the U.K. and

sectors in which the U.K. excels."

May's trip is the second time she's visited China since becoming prime minister. The International Trade Secretary Liam Fox is formally heading up the business delegation.

### The China Foreign Ministry expressed a cautious tone on the trip

May's office said that she'll be able to raise issues such as security concerns over North Korea's nuclear program, and human rights issues, during meetings with the Chinese government.

In a statement, the China Foreign Ministry expres-

sed a cautious tone on the trip.

It said it expected to improve political trust between two countries during May's visit. May's meetings will show whether the U.K. has achieved its previously stated goal of becoming China's closest partner among Western countries, the ministry said. While China is willing to discuss human rights with other countries, the conversations must be based on equality and mutual respect, the ministry said in response to the question.

There are reported to have been tensions over the U.K.'s refusal publicly to endorse the Belt and Road Initiative, China's major international infrastructure investment plan. May's office said it was "vital" that the "impressive" project meets international standards, adding that she looked forward to discussing it with the Chinese government. **MDT/Bloomberg**



**S**OUTH Korea yesterday expressed regret over North Korea's cancellation of one of the joint cooperation projects planned for next month's Winter Olympics, a development highlighting the delicate nature of ties between the rivals split for seven decades.

In a message sent over a cross-border communication channel, South Korea demanded the North to fulfill mutual agreements over a set of conciliatory gestures to mark the Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang, South Korea, Seoul's Unification Ministry said.

North Korea on Monday night sent a message saying it won't hold a joint cultural event at the North's Diamond Mountain on Feb. 4, which was one of two pre-Olympic events in North Korea the countries had agreed to. Ministry officials said they expect a joint training session between the countries' non-Olympic skiers at a North Korean ski resort to go on as planned this week.

The ministry cited North Korea as saying it has no other option but to cancel the cultural event because of South Korean media reports that it says defamed its "sincere" measures for the Olympics. The North also accused South Korean media of picking a fight over an unspecified domestic festival in North Korea, according to the ministry statement.

## KOREA

# Pyongyang cancels pre-Olympic joint cultural event



The North didn't say which media reports were at issue. But some reports had criticized the North's plan to stage a major event to mark the 70th anniversary of the founding of its military on Feb. 8, just one day before the Olympics' opening ceremony. South Korean officials have said the North plans a massive military parade on the anniversary.

North Korea's army has scaled

back annual winter military exercises this year, the Wall Street Journal reported Monday, citing unidentified U.S. officials familiar with intelligence reports. North Korean maneuvers, which typically run from December through March, were slow in getting started and are less extensive than usual, the people said.

The U.S. and South Korea will conduct joint military drills as

"normal" after the Winter Olympics and Paralympics in Pyeongchang end in March, Defense Ministry spokeswoman Choi Hyun-soo said last week. The exercises are a major source of tensions on the peninsula, with North Korea using them to justify its push to develop nuclear weapons capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

It's not clear how the latest development would affect other plan-

ned Olympics-related cooperation projects between the Koreas. They agreed to field a joint women's hockey team and have their athletes parade together under a single flag during the Feb. 9 opening ceremony. A dozen North Korean hockey players arrived in South Korea last week to practice with their South Korean teammates.

North Korea has a history of last-minute cancellations and unexplained reversals, and some experts say it might have sought to gain concessions from the South. The visit earlier this month of a prominent band leader to inspect artistic venues in the South was delayed by North Korea but eventually took place.

The Koreas' current reconciliation mood followed a year of heightened animosities over North Korea's nuclear program. Many analysts say the North may want to use improved ties with South Korea to weaken U.S.-led international pressure and sanctions on the country. **MDT/Agencies**

## PHILIPPINES

## Significant ash falls near erupting volcano

Joeal Calupitan, Legazpi

**A** significant amount of ash has fallen on towns near the Philippines' most active volcano after energetic eruptions of lava from the crater.

Mount Mayon in northeastern Albay province has been erupting more than two weeks, and 84,000 people who fled the danger zone are staying in schools and other crowded shelters.

The Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said one large lava eruption lasted more than an hour and a half late Monday. The ash plume reached 1.5 kilometers above the crater and caused significant ashfall in the towns of Camalig and Guinobatan.

Mayon has been belching red-hot lava fountains, huge columns of ash and molten rocks into the sky and plunging communities into darkness with falling ash since Jan. 14. It has remained at alert level four on a scale of five, indicating a more violent eruption could be imminent.

Scientists have warned that despite the repeated



eruptions of lava, Mayon is still swollen with magma below the surface and could erupt explosively.

No injuries have been reported in the current eruption, but authorities have struggled to keep people out of the danger zone 8 kilometers from the crater. They are worried the eruption may last months, disrupting the lives and livelihoods of people in Mayon's shadow.

Provincial leaders say disaster funds are running low and have said supplies like facemasks will be depleted if the eruption lasts.

The government has raised the possibility of creating a permanent "no man's land" around Mayon, a sensitive and complicated pro-

posal that would affect tens and thousands of people living in the fertile farmlands nearby. One possibility is expanding a national park around the base of the volcano, where trees could grow and become a buffer against volcanic flows endangering villages and towns.

Mayon has erupted about 50 times in the last 500 years, sometimes violently. In 2013, an ash eruption killed five climbers who had ventured near the summit despite warnings.

The Philippines has about 22 active volcanoes. The explosion of Mount Pinatubo in 1991 was one of the biggest volcanic eruptions of the 20th century, killing hundreds. **AP**

## CAMBODIA

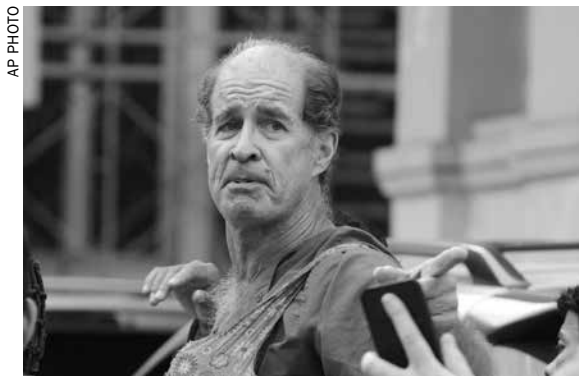
## Court denies bail for Australian who filmed rally

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

**C**AMBODIA'S Supreme Court yesterday rejected an application for bail for an Australian filmmaker who was charged with endangering national security last year for flying a camera-loaded drone over an opposition party campaign rally.

James Ricketson, 68, was arrested in the capital Phnom Penh on June 3 after filming the last day of campaigning for local elections a day earlier. The government of Prime Minister Hun Sen has been critical of media it considers sympathetic to the opposition, and Ricketson often filmed the activities of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party, which late last year was dissolved by a court ruling.

He has been charged with collecting information prejudicial to national defense, which is punishable by five to 10 years in prison.



A Supreme Court statement said the decision was made by a lower court according to the law. It added that Ricketson should not be freed on bail because his case is still under investigation by the court.

The decision was announced in Ricketson's absence, as he was transported late to the court.

According to Alexandra Kennet, who was present at the court on behalf of Ricketson's family, the filmmaker is being detained in a 6-by-16-meter cell along with 140 other prisoners, but his health is holding up during Cambodia's current cool season.

Kennet said Ricketson's family was very disappointed by the Supreme Court decision, but hope that they will see the case move forward with transparency and swiftly as possible.

"The Ricketson family has asked me to say that they are obviously very, very disappointed by the outcome of today's proceedings and in particular that the verdict, the denial of bail, was handed down in absentia," she said. "We were very hopeful that today might lead to James being able to wait out the investigation period in conditions that were more appropriate to his age." **AP**





## INDIA

# 63m girls 'missing' due to preference for boys

A deeply felt preference for boys has left more than 63 million women statistically "missing" across India, and more than 21 million girls unwanted by their families, go-

vernment officials say.

The skewed ratio of men to women is largely the result of sex-selective abortions, and better nutrition and medical care for boys, according to the government's annual economic survey,

which was released Monday. In addition, the survey found that "families where a son is born are more likely to stop having children than families where a girl is born."

Statistics indicate that India has

63 million fewer women than it should have, scientists say, a "missing" population explained by sex-selective abortions and a range of other issues.

The birth of a son is often a cause for celebration and family pride, while the birth of a daughter can be a time of embarrassment and even mourning as parents look toward the immense debts they'll need to take on to pay for marriage dowries. Studies have long shown that Indian girls are less educated than boys, have poorer nutrition and get less medical attention. Many women — including educated, wealthy women — say they face intense pressure, most often from mothers-in-law, to have sons.

By analyzing birth rates and the gender of last-born children, the report also estimated that more than 21 million Indian girls are

not wanted by their families.

"The challenge of gender is long-standing, probably going back millennia," wrote the report's author, chief economic adviser Arvind Subramanian, noting that India must "confront the societal preference for boys."

The report also noted that increasing wealth does not mean an end to male preferences among families, with some comparatively wealthy areas, including New Delhi, faring worse over the years.

Many of the best scores for women's development, the report noted, were in India's northeast — "a model for the rest of the country" — a cluster of states that hang off the country's edge where most people are ethnically closer to China and Myanmar, and where some people don't even see themselves as Indian. **AP**

## MUSLIM CLERIC SAYS WOMEN WATCHING FOOTBALL UN-ISLAMIC

A SENIOR cleric at an influential Islamic seminary in northern India has issued a religious decree saying that Muslim women should not watch men playing soccer. Mufti Athar Kasmī said that watching men "playing with bare knees" violated the tenets of Islam and was forbidden for women. Kasmī is cleric at Darul Uloom, Asia's largest Sunni Muslim seminary in the northern town of Deoband.

The cleric also lashed out at the men who allow their wives to watch football even on television. "Do you have no shame? Do you not fear God? You let her watch these kinds of things," he said in his sermon Friday. About 13 percent of India's 1.3 billion people are Muslim and the majority of them are Sunni but the country's secular constitution ensures that decrees such as Kasmī's have no legal force.

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**T**HE Trump administration has released a long-awaited list of 114 Russian politicians and 96 “oligarchs” who have flourished under President Vladimir Putin, fulfilling a demand by Congress that the U.S. punish Moscow for interfering in the 2016 U.S. election.

The political list is the entire presidential administration, as listed on the Kremlin website, and the Russian Cabinet, while the oligarchs list is a carbon copy of the top of the Forbes magazine’s Russian billionaires’ list. The publication of the so-called “Putin list” angered and dismayed many in Moscow.

Yet the administration paired that move with a surprising announcement that it had decided not to punish anybody — for now — under new sanctions retaliating for the election-meddling. Some U.S. lawmakers accused President Donald Trump of giving Russia a free pass, fueling further questions about whether the president is unwilling to confront Moscow.

The idea of the seven-page unclassified document, as envisioned by Congress, is to name-and-shame those believed to be benefiting from Putin’s tenure, just as the United States works to isolate his government diplomatically and economically.

Being on the list doesn’t trigger any U.S. sanctions on the individuals, although more than a dozen are already targeted under earlier sanctions.

Prime Minister Dmitry Medvedev is among the 114 senior political figures in Russia’s government who made the list, along with 42 of Putin’s aides, Cabinet ministers such as Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov, and top officials in Russia’s leading spy agencies, the FSB and GRU. The CEOs of major state-owned companies, including energy

# US issues ‘Putin list’ of Russian politicians, oligarchs



Russian President Vladimir Putin (left)

giant Rosneft and Sberbank, are also on the list.

So are 96 wealthy Russians deemed “oligarchs” by the Treasury Department, which said each is believed to have assets totaling USD1 billion or more. Some are the most famous of wealthy Russians, among them tycoons Roman Abramovich and Mikhail Prokhorov, who challenged Putin in the 2012

election. Aluminum magnate Oleg Deripaska, a figure in the Russia investigation over his ties to former Trump campaign chairman Paul Manafort, is included.

Russian politicians have expressed dismay at finding that the list included the entire Russian government.

Deputy Prime Minister Arkady Dvorkovich told Russian news

agencies yesterday that he was not surprised to find his name on the list, too, saying that it “looks like a ‘who’s who’ book.” Dvorkovich stopped short of saying how Russia would react to it, saying that the government would “monitor the situation.”

In a Facebook post, Konstantin Kosachev, chairman of the Federation Council’s foreign affairs committee, said U.S. in-

telligence failed to find compromising material on Russian politicians and “ended up copying the Kremlin phone book.”

Kosachev criticized the U.S. government for harming Russia-U.S. relations, saying that “the consequences will be toxic and undermine prospects for cooperation for years ahead,” adding that the list displays “political paranoia” of the U.S. establishment.

Russian opposition leader Alexei Navalny, who came to prominence thanks to his investigations into official corruption, tweeted yesterday that he was “glad that these [people] have been officially recognized on the international level as crooks and thieves.” Navalny in his investigations has exposed what he described as close ties between government officials and some of the billionaires on the list.

In the weeks for months, the list has induced fear among rich Russians who are concerned that it could lead to U.S. sanctions or to being informally blacklisted in the global financial system. It triggered a fierce lobbying campaign, with Russia hawks in Congress pushing the administration to include certain names and lobbyists hired by Russian businessmen urging the administration to keep their clients off.

State Department officials said the threat of sanctions had been deterrent enough, and that “sanctions on specific entities or individuals will not need to be imposed.” **MDT/AP**

## Africa’s leaders choose diplomacy to Trump’s toilet remarks

Elias Meseret, Addis Ababa

**T**HE 55-nation African Union appears to have decided to react diplomatically and strategically to President Donald Trump’s alleged vulgar remarks about the continent.

Rather than issuing an angry condemnation of Trump’s reported comments in which he likened Africa to a filthy toilet, the African Union may decide to follow the advice of its new chairman, Rwandan President Paul Kagame, to deal with the U.S. president as the leader of a country elected by his

people.

Kagame made the remarks Monday as the annual summit, which was attended by more than 40 African leaders, drew to a close. Kagame spoke at the African Union after meeting Trump last Friday in Davos, Switzerland at the World Economic Forum.

“I’ve met the President of the United States, but the President of the United States is Trump,” Kagame told reporters in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa. “For me the most value is to meet the President of the United States. When

the United States decides to give us Trump as their president, we will deal with that president.”

Many African leaders were outraged by Trump’s alleged rude comment about the continent. Trump has said he didn’t use such language, while others present say he did.

But the fury appears to have been muted by a letter sent by Trump to African leaders in the past week in which he said he “deeply respects” the people of Africa. Trump also pledged that U.S. Secretary of State Rex Tillerson

will make an “extended visit” to the continent in March, his first in that role.

“President Trump wrote a letter through the [AU] Commission and to the Chairperson addressing the heads of state of Africa wishing them every success and stating how he is ready to collaborate with Africa,” said Kagame.

Trump called Kagame a “friend” when they met at the World Economic Forum.

Many in Africa were taken aback by Trump’s rude toilet comment after nearly a year of little

attention to Africa by the U.S. president’s administration.

U.S. diplomats have scrambled for days to address the shock and condemnation after the reports of Trump’s remarks. Trump’s letter and Kagame’s careful response seem to have calmed things down. Chairman of the African Union Commission, Moussa Faki Mahamat, toned down his stance in a press conference with journalists on Monday. The previous week he said “Africa cannot keep quiet” about Trump’s “shocking” remarks. But Monday he would only say African leaders had received a “letter of correspondence” from Trump and “we’ve taken due note of it.”

Another controversy at

the African Union summit was over the report in the French newspaper, Le Monde, that China spied on the organization’s headquarters from 2012 to 2017. Chinese officials quickly rejected the report.

“It’s a sensational and total preposterous accusation. It’s so absurd,” said Kuang Weilin, China’s representative to the African Union, who said he suspects the report was intended to harm China’s relations with Africa.

The African Union’s headquarter in Ethiopia’s capital, Addis Ababa, was built as a gift by China to Africa at a cost of more than USD200 million. The main building is 100 metres high and is currently the tallest building in Addis Ababa. **AP**



## what's ON



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UNTIL: February 25, 2018

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ADMISSION: MOP25

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THE GOLDEN PARADE –IMPERIAL WEAPONRY FROM THE PALACE MUSEUM

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

UNTIL: March 11, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

LANGUAGE & THE ART OF XU BING

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

UNTIL: March 4, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

MONKEY KING

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IMAGINARY BEINGS – ILLUSTRATIONS BY ANA ARAGÃO

TIME: 12pm-8pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 21, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

THE MEMORABLE TIME – THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES OF MACAU

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays; open on public holidays)

UNTIL: February 25, 2108

VENUE: Macau Museum

ADMISSION: MOP15

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## Offbeat

## GERMAN POLICE HUNT THIEVES WHO STOLE 44 TONS OF CHOCOLATE

Police say two truck trailers loaded with 44 tons of chocolate were stolen in southern Germany and there's no sign of the sticky-fingered perpetrators.

Police said Monday the trailers packed with 400,000 euros (USD496,100) worth of chocolate were stolen from an industrial park in Freiburg on Friday night.

One was found Saturday hauled by a Polish truck that had stopped at a rest area near the German-French border. The driver fled on foot and the trailer was still full of the stolen chocolate.

The second trailer was found in Lahr, also near the border with France. Two thirds of the chocolate – and the thief – were gone.

Police say they've launched a search for the thieves and are appealing for any witnesses to come forward.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:35	Zig Zag
17:30	AB Science
18:00	Miscellaneous
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:30	You, Me and the Apocalypse Sr. 1
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



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## MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

ROOM 1

(2D) 02:15, 04:45, 9:345pm

(3D) 07:15pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: Rosa Salazar, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 142 min



## DOWNSIZING

ROOM 2

02:15, 04:45, 7:15, 9:45pm

Director: Alexander Payne

Starring: Matt Damon, Christoph Waltz, Hong Chau

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



## FATE/STAY NIGHT: HEAVEN'S FEEL - I. PRESAGE FLOWER

ROOM 3

02:30, 5:00, 9:30pm

Director: Tomonori Sudô

Starring: Ayako Kawasumi, Jôji Nakata, Noriaki Sugiyama

Language: Japanese (Chinese)

Duration: 120 min



## 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



## 1996: FIFTY DEAD IN SRI LANKA SUICIDE BOMBING

At least 53 people have been killed and another 1,400 injured in a suicide attack in the capital of Sri Lanka.

A lorry loaded with explosives crashed into the central bank in the heart of Colombo's financial district.

The authorities said the explosion, which ripped through the business district at 1100 local time was the work of the separatist Tamil Tigers.

The group's fight for an independent homeland has resulted in the deaths of nearly 40,000 people over the last 12 years.

It is believed that the intended target was the neighbouring navy headquarters.

Brigadier Sarath Munasinghe, a Sri Lankan military spokesman, said: "It had to be the Tamil Tigers. Who else would have done such a thing like this?"

The blast is thought to be in response to the army's claim on the main Tiger guerrilla base at Jaffna, on the north of the island, during a long and bloody campaign that ended last December.

Witnesses said a lorry stopped near the bank at about 1045 local time and the driver was confronted by security staff.

Three people jumped out of the vehicle with guns blazing and detonated two bombs.

Meanwhile, the lorry reversed into the central bank and blew up.

The police said the driver of the truck died in the blast.

Two youths wearing jackets filled with explosives were later arrested at the Fort railway station nearby.

The blast caused the first two floors of the 10-storey central bank to collapse and it shattered the windows of a 39-storey trade centre that was still under construction.

Office workers trapped on the upper floors of burning buildings nearby were lifted to safety by helicopters.

The Intercontinental Hotel, one of several luxury hotels in the area, was evacuated.

Most of the dead and wounded were in the Central Bank building, where Sri Lanka's gold reserves are held and the country's financial policy is made.

The director of the National Hospital's trauma unit, Hector Weerasinghe, said 53 people had died so far.

Around 1,060 people were admitted to two hospitals nearby while hundreds of others were released after treatment.

The blast comes as the government prepares an ambitious political offensive to end more than a decade of fighting.

It also follows a major government victory last month, when the Sri Lankan Army seized the city of Jaffna, a former stronghold of the Tamil Tiger rebels.

Anuruddha Ratwatte, the deputy defence minister, said on state television: "If Velupillai Prabhakaran [the Tamil Tiger chief] thinks that by these acts he can stop our military offensive, he is dreaming.

"We say quite clearly that these acts will make us even more determined to destroy terrorism."

The economic consequences of the blast for Sri Lanka will be catastrophic, both through direct losses and because of lost tourism and foreign investment.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A total of 91 people died following the suicide bomb blast in Colombo's central bank.

The attacks by the Tamil Tigers continued with the deaths of a further 78 people in a bomb attack on a crowded train in the city during the summer.

By then the number of tourists visiting Sri Lanka had dropped by 40% while hotels laid off hundreds of workers and cut rates in a desperate effort to attract local holidaymakers.

The conflict between the ruling Sinhalese government and the minority Tamil rebels, who want a separate state, began in the 1970s and continued throughout the rest of the 1990s.

A ceasefire and a political agreement reached between the government and rebels in late 2002 raised hopes for a lasting settlement. But Norwegian-brokered peace talks have stalled and rising levels of violence have threatened the truce.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your financial accounts have become rather tangled recently, so don't pretend to yourself that everything is just peachy. Blindly ignoring the issues just makes things worse for you.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Focus on yourself - it's almost always the case that any time you feel that you mustn't take any time off is exactly when you need that break the most. Don't work yourself to the point of exhaustion.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're on fire now - angry dogs quiet down and relax, your worst critics start to see the truth and good luck practically lights your way. It's all quite dramatic, and you should feel no shame in enjoying it thoroughly.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Could you be ignoring your primary relationships in favor of your career? A few of your people certainly think so! It's way too easy to get snagged by key projects, but it's called the rat race for a reason.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Don't save pennies if it just means wasting dollars! Making your own lunch all week doesn't mean anything if you end up blowing your cash on one huge, fancy dinner.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Relations centered around a deep core of trust are impossible to beat. You and someone close have been through a tough (maybe traumatic) emotional event together.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

You know you've still got it - but did you ever really doubt it? It's actually possible that you might have been doing just that because some recent flare-up has left you feeling that your charm might be in decline.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You need to jump right in and take on any major tasks at work or at home that you've been putting off for too long, because when you feel the need to socialize - like you do tonight.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Someone who was barely visible until now triggers an intense wave of interest in you. Who could have known that they were so talented - or that they could complement your own strengths and weaknesses so well?

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

If your people are spinning off on crazy tangents? You need to give up trying to drag them back to reality - it's like trying to herd cats. Let them indulge in erratic behavior and just tend to your own business.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Changes are coming soon, and you may feel as if you're just about to start a new chapter in your life. You should be excited, but you might also feel a bit queasy. Transitions are hard for you.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Some inspiring and wonderful times lie just ahead, so keep smiling, even if you feel like Eeyore right now. Take a break from stressing out, no matter how big the stress is, and let yourself wallow in something you love.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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	5						7	
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				3	9	4		
7				1				6
6	1				3			

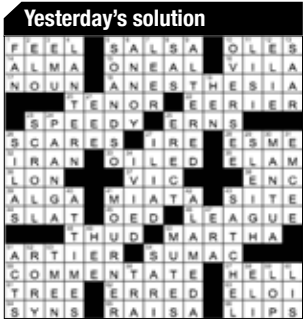
Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Univ. recruiting group; 5- Tickle pink; 10- Engrave with acid; 14- Monetary unit of Finland; 15- Smidgens; 16- Strong wind; 17- Like some vaccines; 18- Viscounts' superiors; 19- Port of Algeria; 20- List of particulars; 23- Sneaker or loafer; 24- Decade divs.; 25- Actress Palmer; 28- Slugger's stat; 31- Pisa place; 35- Standards of perfection; 37- PIN requester; 39- Never, in Nuremberg; 40- In spite of; 44- Half of MCII; 45- Where It.'s at; 46- Curvature of the legs; 47- Moore's TV boss; 50- Noise made by a sheep; 52- Ages between 13 and 19; 53- Dorm overseers, for short; 55- Environmental sci.; 57- Wife of one's son; 63- Genie's home; 64- Really bother; 65- Spillane's "\_\_\_ Jury"; 67- Edinburgh native; 68- Having wings; 69- Modernists; 70- Mrs. Dick Tracy; 71- Ascends; 72- Precious stones;

DOWN: 1- Stutz contemporary; 2- Belonging to us; 3- Snare; 4- Cabbage salad; 5- Refrain in a children's song; 6- Lazy person; 7- Longfellow's bell town; 8- Apply powder to oneself; 9- Blue book filler; 10- Self-centered person; 11- Poi source; 12- Scottish social unit; 13- Coop denizen; 21- Hot stuff; 22- Part of TNT; 25- Blair of "The Exorcist"; 26- Graven images; 27- Admit; 29- Iraqi port; 30- Addams family cousin; 32- Old-womanish; 33- Fabric woven from flax yarns; 34- Safe-crackers; 36- \_\_\_-Foy, Quebec; 38- Fairy queen; 41- Center of activity; 42- \_\_\_ your life; 43- Abode; 48- Blows one's top; 49- Piece of cloth, tabloid newspaper; 51- Add fizz; 54- Clip wool; 56- Quotes; 57- Fresh-water fish; 58- Old Testament book; 59- Anklebones; 60- JFK postings; 61- To \_\_\_ (exactly); 62- To \_\_\_ it may concern; 63- D-Day craft; 66- Slalom curve;



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## RUGBY

# England bids for historic 'three-peat' in Six Nations

IT'S a feat that has been beyond some of rugby's greatest teams.

The exhilarating Welsh side of the 1970s couldn't do it. Neither could the Philippe Sella-inspired French in their golden age of the mid-to-late 1980s. Clive Woodward's England came close at the start of the 21st century but again fell short.

On 20 occasions, a country has won back-to-back titles in the northern hemisphere's top international championship — its name has ranged from the Home Nations, the Five Nations and, currently, the Six Nations — but none have managed three in a row outright.

Heading into the 120th edition, England's class of 2018 is the latest team aiming to reach that elusive milestone.

"We want a 'three-peat,'" England coach Eddie Jones says.

The English have already made history in Jones' two

years in charge, winning 18 straight tests to break the national record and match a world-record streak set by New Zealand.

Throw in two straight Six Nations titles and a rise to No. 2 in the world ranking, no wonder the Rugby Football Union recently tied Jones down to an extra two years, keeping the Australian at the helm until 2021.

The hard work might just be starting for Jones, though.

After the honeymoon period, he says England has entered Phase 2 of his tenure. All roads point to Japan for the 2019 Rugby World Cup and Jones wants to be sure England has the necessary strength in depth to sustain a genuine challenge for the trophy.

The next seven weeks might answer that.

This edition of the Six Nations could just as well be dubbed "Survival of the Fittest," given the injury problems that

are wreaking havoc across European rugby.

England says it has 18 players out of contention for various injuries. Wales has fewer players sidelined but they'll arguably have bigger names missing, including Liam Williams, Sam Warburton, Dan Biggar, Rhys Webb, and Taulupe Faletau.

Morgan Parra and Brice Dulin have just joined France's lengthy injury list.

Ireland coach Joe Schmidt has said he has "13 guys that were selectable who may or may not get back during the championship."

Putting aside the longer-term questions about player welfare in this brutal age of rugby, the short-term effect is potentially a more competitive Six Nations.

Ireland won consecutive titles before Jones arrived on the scene, and looks to be the biggest danger to England, on the back of a November series



AP PHOTO

in which Schmidt's side beat South Africa — by a record 38-3 — and Argentina in a clean sweep. It was the Irish who ended England's hopes of consecutive Grand Slams with a 13-9 win in Dublin in March.

Scotland's 53-24 win over Australia in November, dented with a narrow loss to New Zealand a week earlier, suggested a team that has developed its attack in recent years could be even more of a threat under new coach Gregor Townsend.

France is also under a recent hire in Jacques Brunel, and has 10 players in its squad un-

der the age of 23, making Les Tricolores as hard to predict as ever.

Its injury crisis, as well as away matches against England and Ireland in the first three rounds, will likely see Wales fall short.

So don't discount England's chance of making more history under Jones.

Such is his diligence that England's coaching team said last week that it is using a tactic utilized by the U.S. military in the Cold War to help prepare the side for unlikely eventualities in the Six Nations. **MDT/AP**

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Tim Reynolds, Miami

## FOOTBALL

## At long last: Beckham's MLS team in Miami is born

**D**AVID Beckham had a speech prepared and well-rehearsed for the event four years in the making, then abandoned his script shortly after taking the confetti-covered stage.

Fitting, since nothing in his quest went as planned.

"Bringing an MLS club to Miami," Beckham said, "has been a hell of a journey."

The journey is now complete, in some respects: Beckham has his team, and Miami is back in Major League Soccer.

Beckham and MLS announced that the long-awaited franchise is now born. It took Beckham nearly four years just to get this far with Miami, and there are a slew of details still to come — such as the team name, logo, when it will start play and when the stadium will open.

The biggest hurdle, it seems, has now been cleared.

"Welcome, Miami," MLS Commissioner Don Garber said.

"Hola, Miami," Beckham said, a nod to the multicultural makeup of the city.

The team will play in a 25,000-seat, privately funded stadium, though it remains unclear when that will open — a very possible scenario is that the team begins play in 2020, and moves into its permanent home in time for the 2021 season. Part of the deal also is

AP PHOTO



that Beckham's group will build a training center and an academy focused on developing local players.

"Our pledge to our fans in Miami and around the world is simple: your team will always strive to make you proud on the pitch, our stadium will be a place that you cherish visiting, and our impact in the community and on South Florida's youth will run deep," Beckham said.

Beckham is a global icon — in the soccer world, the entertainment world, even the fashion world. He started his career with Manchester United and also played for Real Madrid, Los Angeles Galaxy, AC Milan and Paris Saint-Germain. He was a fixture in international matches for England for years, and won four championships in four different leagues around the globe.

He told a story of how as a 12-year-old, a coach told him that he wouldn't play professionally or for England. He persevered anyway, became perhaps the biggest name in the game when his playing career was at its peak — and the same doggedness was necessary to get a deal done in Miami, after the quest for a franchise nearly failed several times along the way.

"We'll be the best team," Beckham said. "When I was awarded the team, there was only one city for me. Only one city, and it was here."

The idea of the franchise coming to Miami began looking very real last spring, when Miami-Dade County commissioners approved a deal to sell Beckham nearly three acres of county land for USD9 million — the last parcel needed for the nine-acre site in the city's Overtown neighborhood, where the stadium is likely to be built. MLS officials said even then they hoped to announce the team's official inclusion into the league last summer.

It took a few more months, and there's still plenty of questions. But for one day, there was also plenty of celebrating.

"My fellow Miamians, finally, we are here," Miami-Dade County Mayor Carlos Gimenez said. "This announcement has been a long time coming."

The return of the Miami market to MLS is the latest chapter in the league's steady expansion.

In 2006, there were 12 MLS clubs and the expansion fee to enter the league was \$10 million. Miami becomes the 25th franchise after the addition last month of expansion Nashville — which paid a \$150 million entry fee. MLS' average attendance at matches has also risen nearly 43 percent over that 12-year span.

Beckham's group didn't pay anywhere near what Nashville did. As part of former English star's playing contract with the Los Angeles Galaxy, Beckham had the right to establish an MLS franchise for \$25 million. He formally announced Miami as his pick in February 2014. **AP**

## After failed election, Italian FA faces emergency measures

Andrew Dampf, Rome

**A**LREADY in serious crisis following the Azzurri's failure to qualify for the World Cup, the Italian football federation is facing emergency measures after four failed votes to elect a new president.

The election assembly fell apart on Monday when amateur leagues president Cosimo Sibilio ordered his supporters to leave their ballots empty in the final round.

"After having sought to reach an agreement in every manner possible, we can't proceed further," Sibilio told the nearly 300-person assembly near the end of the 10-hour election.

In the third round, Sibilio led with 39 percent of the votes, slightly ahead of Serie C president Gabriele Gravina with 38 percent. Players' Association president Damiano Tommasi, a reform candidate and former Roma player, was eliminated with 21 percent.

A majority was needed to win.

While there was no hope for a winner, a fourth vote was held that resulted in Gravina leading with 39 percent and Sibilio with 2 percent.

The Italian Olympic Committee, which oversees all sports in Italy, will likely impose an emergency leader for the federation.

"This is a loss for our system. [...] But it's fair that someone from outside gives us a hand," Tommasi said. "Maybe it's not a coincidence that we didn't qualify for the World Cup." After Tommasi was eliminated, the Players' Association's refusal to throw its weight behind Sibilio or Gravina ended any hope of a successful election.

"We needed change and we believed that neither of the two candidates seriously represented reform," Tommasi said. "One of the reasons we didn't qualify for the World Cup is due to our administrative struggles."

The federation was previously put under

emergency leadership in 2006, when ex-senator Guido Rossi took charge following the "Calciopoli" refereeing scandal.

"An emergency administration would be a loss for everyone," Torino president Urbano Cairo said. "It means refusing to find a solution for re-launching the sport. Having someone from outside take charge is something negative and I don't like it."

Sibilio, a supporter of previous president Carlo Tavecchio, also led the first two rounds of voting, when 75 percent and 66 percent of the votes were needed to win, respectively.

"It's not something to laugh at," former FIGC president Giancarlo Abete said of the failed votes. "It's something to cry over."

The election was called after Tavecchio resigned in November after Italy's playoff loss to Sweden meant the four-time champion missed out on the sport's showcase event for the first time in six decades.

"The fans needed someone to blame but we've done a lot of positive things in the FIGC and that should not be forgotten," Tavecchio said in his outgoing address, which was met by a standing ovation.

In the meantime, Italy's national team remains without a coach.

Gian Piero Ventura, the previous coach, was fired two days after the playoff loss.

AP PHOTO



From left: Napoli soccer club president Aurelio De Laurentiis, amateur leagues president Cosimo Sibilio and Italian players Association president Damiano Tommasi

Carlo Ancelotti, Antonio Conte, and Roberto Mancini are among the leading candidates to replace Ven-

tura. Italy's next match is on March 27, a friendly against England in London. **AP**

AD

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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



THE MPhil BY RESEARCH DEGREE

The Master of Philosophy by Research degree (the MPhil) is a first research based postgraduate degree that is offered in the English speaking academic tradition, but it is not currently offered in Macau. I would like to see the MPhil degree offered here, sooner rather than later.

The MPhil is training for researchers, like the PhD (the Doctor of Philosophy), but it is a smaller project and drops the requirement for a strong original contribution to knowledge. In a typical MPhil, the student works for around 2 years with a supervisor on a research project that often builds on and “fills out” the work of others. By contrast, PhD students work for 3-5 years with a supervisor on an original research project. In both cases, the student writes up the project as a thesis and usually defends it in an oral presentation. MPhil theses are often about 120 pages long, while PhD theses are often over 250 pages.

The MPhil has a long tradition in the English speaking world, and is offered by most universities in the UK, Hong Kong, Australia and elsewhere, but interestingly, it is quite rare in the USA. It pre-dates nearly all of the taught Master degrees that are so common nowadays. Now there are many different taught Master degrees focused on preparing students for careers in specific fields, eg the MBA (Master in Business Administration) is a very popular taught Master degree to develop business knowledge, skills and attitudes. To me, it is very reasonable that there should be an MPhil degree to initially prepare people for a career in research and academia.

The MPhil is not part of the continental European academic tradition, and so it is rarely offered in European universities. Because Macau follows Portuguese academic traditions we do not currently have the MPhil degree here but it is offered in Hong Kong. The MPhil is, however, recognized in the Bologna Process – the system for unifying higher education throughout Europe.

I have spent several years working in both academic and business environments and I can tell you that working in research and development and academia is very different to typical business situations, and I do not believe that most taught Master degrees are the best preparation for it. Taught Master degrees generally focus on what is known, what the current “state of the art” is for a given field, and being operationally effective and efficient. Research degrees, by contrast, focus on the unknown, what might be possible, and doing new things where effectiveness and efficiency are difficult to measure. I actually see them as complementary in many ways, and one cannot be substituted for the other.

An MPhil gives people a way to try out research/academia as a career path. If they like the life they can then go on to complete a PhD. If they do not, they still have a Master degree that has as much “currency value” as a taught Master degree. Also, there are many situations where researchers believe that an idea may work, but it is too risky to ask somebody to commit to completing a PhD for it because there is a possibility of total failure (in which case the student may have studied for 4+ years and get nothing for it). Much better to only risk 2 years. I actually started my own doctoral project as an MPhil and after 18 months of work my supervisor and I agreed that the project would be successful and so I converted my enrollment to PhD and completed the project over 5+ years.

When will a Macau university offer an MPhil degree?

THE BUZZ PRELIMINARY RESULTS SHOW NO ABNORMALITIES IN AIR QUALITY NEAR MAC

Preliminary results of air monitoring in the vicinity of Macau Anglican School (MAC) have indicated that air quality meets the criteria and that there were no abnormalities, the Environmental Protection Bureau (DSPA) announced in a statement yesterday.

The bureau noted that it held a meeting with experts and the contractor of illegal works yesterday, demanding that the latter take

definite preventative measures against pollution which may have been caused by the illegal works. DSPA stated that it commissioned a professional body to monitor the alleged existence of asbestos in the air around the school. It pledged that it would further extend the scope of monitoring to comprehensively measure the quality of the surrounding environment.

STUDY

E-cigarettes may lead to cancer and heart disease

Janine Wolf

E-CIGARETTE users are possibly putting themselves at risk for developing heart disease, lung and bladder cancers, according to a new report. The findings, though preliminary, indicate that the devices—which aerosolize nicotine and contain no tobacco—may not be as safe as previously assumed.

The study, conducted by researchers from the New York University School of Medicine, exposed mice to e-cigarette smoke (ECS) for 12 weeks at a dose and duration equivalent to light e-cigarette smoking for 10 years in humans. By the end of the trial, the smoke had caused DNA damage in the animal’s lungs, bladders and hearts, as well as limiting lung proteins and important DNA repair.

Evidence points to the “almost unambiguous” conclusion that nicotine can convert to a carcinogen once inside the human body, said study author Moon-shong Tang, a professor of environmental medicine and pathology at NYU School of Medicine. “Nicotine is not as innocent as conventional wisdom thinks,” he said.

Currently, 18 million Americans smoke e-cigarettes. Sixteen percent of those users are high school students, according to the report. Manu-



facturers have advertised the devices as a safer alternative to traditional tobacco products.

A slew of studies examining the long-term health consequences of vaping have been conducted, but the conclusions have been mixed.

In 2013, a trial found the practice to be as effective in helping smokers quit as using nicotine patches. Another study, published August 2017, compared cancer potencies of e-cigarettes and tobacco smoke and found most ECS to have a cancer risk of less than 1 percent of that from smoking.

Many are worried that the mild flavor of ECS will hook young people on nicotine, encouraging teenagers to smoke tobacco in the future. In 2016, the U.S. Surgeon General Vivek Murthy called e-cigarette use among American youth a “major public health

concern,” citing a 900 percent growth rate among high school students.

Tang wouldn’t recommend vaping to nonsmokers, in particular young people: “Don’t think a vapor is harmless.” As for cigarette smokers thinking about going electronic, Tang hesitates. “We don’t know which one is more harmful,” he said.

This latest study is not, by itself, conclusive. Tumors can’t develop in 12 weeks—the length of the study—and if tobacco smoke-induced cancer is indeed a model for e-cigarette smoking-induced cancer, then meaningful human evidence won’t be available for at least another decade.

In the meantime, scientists are turning to animal experiments, which may be able to provide further evidence as to the full-blown effects of e-cigarette smoking in about a year. **Bloomberg**

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



**JORDAN** About 8,500 Syrians are still locked up behind barbed wire in a no-go section of Jordan’s second-largest refugee camp — despite initial assurances in 2016 that the arrangement is temporary, a coalition of aid groups said.

**YEMEN**’s prime minister was preparing to flee the country yesterday for Saudi Arabia after separatists backed by the United Arab Emirates seized the area around the presidential palace in the southern city of Aden.



**SAUDI ARABIA** A wide-reaching anti-corruption campaign shrouded in secrecy and intrigue has netted more than USD106 billion in financial settlements with 56 people remaining in custody, Saudi Arabia said yesterday.

**ROMANIA**’s first female prime minister was sworn in yesterday as the country’s third head of government in a year amid ongoing anti-corruption protests.

**GERMANY** The prospective partners in Chancellor Angela Merkel’s next government broke an impasse yesterday over migrants’ right to bring close relatives to Germany, though reactions from both sides illustrated the challenges in finding common ground.



**CHILE** President Michelle Bachelet has signed decrees creating vast new national parks using lands donated by a U.S. conservation organization in what is believed to be the largest private donation of land ever from a private entity to a country.

**ARGENTINA** President Mauricio Macri said that government employees in Argentina won’t receive pay raises this year as part of a string of measures aimed at cutting spending.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Santi Palacios



329 refugees and migrants, mostly from Eritrea and Bangladesh, wait to be rescued by aid workers after leaving Libya trying to reach European soil aboard an overcrowded wooden boat, 45 miles north of Al-Khums, Libya.