



**CCAC:
PLOT
BUYERS
MAY BE
'VICTIMS'**

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**IC TO FOCUS ON
HERITAGE PROTECTION**

The new president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Mok Ian Ian, took her oath of office yesterday

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**STAMP DUTY LAW
AMENDMENTS PASSED**

The Legislative Assembly passed amendments proposed to enforce stamp duty in instances of second home acquisition

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



NORTH KOREA leader Kim Jong Un's sister, an increasingly prominent figure in the country's leadership, will be part of the North's delegation to the South Korean Winter Olympics, officials said yesterday. *More on p12, 13, 19*

PHILIPPINES Drugmaker Sanofi insists there's no evidence of a link between the world's first dengue vaccine and children's deaths in the Philippines.



INDONESIA A male orangutan on the Indonesian portion of Borneo died after being shot at least 130 times with an air gun and apparently being stabbed and clubbed, in the second known killing of a critically endangered orangutan this year.

**PAKISTAN-
AFGHANISTAN**
Afghanistan's former president lashed out at both the United States and Pakistan yesterday, accusing them of using the Afghan war to further their own interests.



SOUTH AFRICA President Jacob Zuma's (left) exit from power because of scandals appeared to be getting closer yesterday as his deputy, who is expected to replace him, said he anticipated a "speedy resolution" to transition talks he is holding with the president.

More on backpage



SEX SCANDAL

An era gone with Wynn

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Death, chaos in Taiwan aftershocks

P11



Janet McNab featured in Macau Inc

Janet McNab, winner of the General Manager of the Year, Greater China, was the headline story in this month's edition of Macau Inc, published late last week. McNab oversees two resorts on the Cotai Strip, the Sheraton Grand Macao and the St. Regis Macao. In her interview, McNab shares her thoughts on the development of the local hotelier industry, and the role of women. This is an important issue for the award-winning hospitality executive, who says that women are able to introduce a fresh perspective to decision-making processes. Any organization may benefit from a balanced leadership team of both genders, argues McNab.

MGM Cotai to open next Tuesday

MGM Cotai will open to the public on February 13 (Tuesday), the same day that a grand opening ceremony is due to be held at the operator's second Macau property. Jim Murren, CEO of parent company MGM Resorts International, is reportedly traveling to the MSAR for the opening. The opening will allow the casino operator to tap into the Chinese Lunar New Year holiday, one of the most lucrative weeks in Macau's gaming calendar. The property's opening has been delayed on five occasions, most recently just last month on account of difficulties obtaining certain licenses. The property has been awarded a total of 125 new-to-market tables, with 100 of them available for immediate deployment.

GGCT receives no assistance request

The Tourism Crisis Management Office (GGCT) has received one request for information and no request for assistance regarding the 6.4 magnitude earthquake that struck Hualien, Taiwan. GGCT announced in a statement that it is paying close attention and is maintaining close contact with the Macau Economic and Cultural Office in Taiwan for further developments. As of yesterday, the office in Taiwan has not received any requests for information or assistance. From the information gathered through the local travel industry, there is currently no indication that any Macau resident has been affected. At least four people are missing or injured - including tourists - after the earthquake struck just off the east coast of Taiwan late Tuesday.

Wynn quits amid harassment

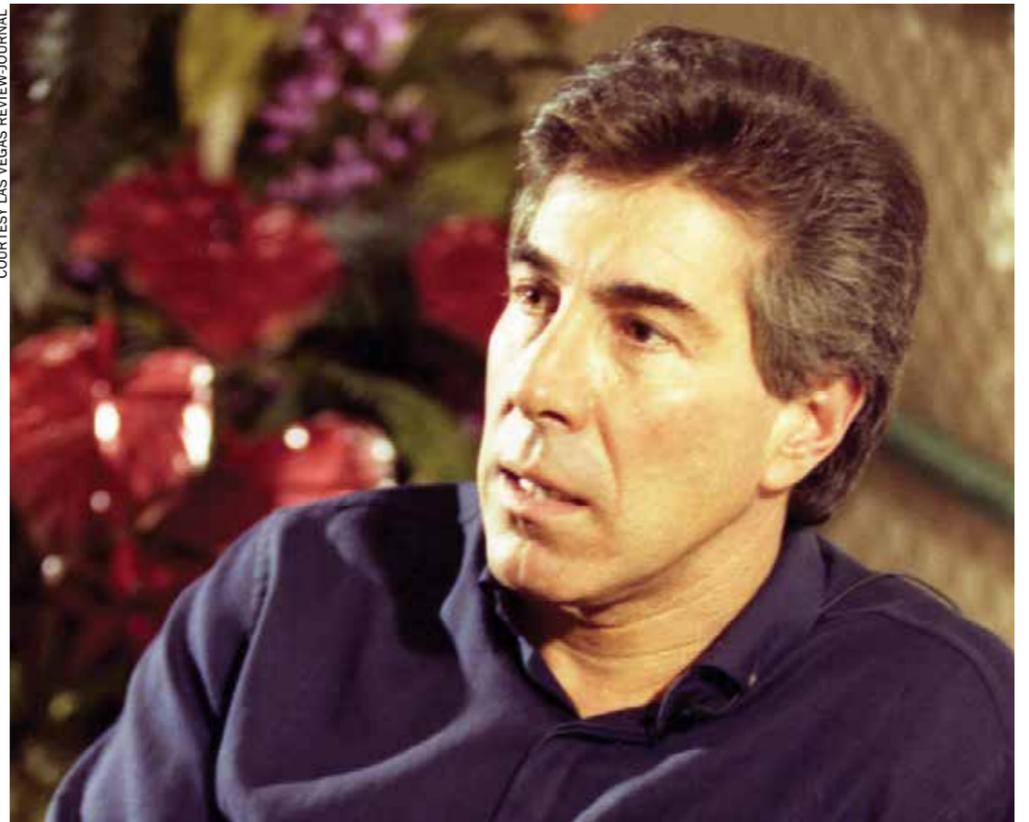
HE was the undisputed King of Las Vegas. His signature graced the side of the city's fanciest casino and his gravelly voice greeted callers to the hotel. But now Wynn Resorts Ltd. will have to get used to life without Steve Wynn as CEO.

The 76-year-old casino mogul, caught amid a deluge of sexual harassment allegations, stepped down yesterday [Macau time] as chairman and chief executive officer of the company he founded, which operates opulent resorts in Las Vegas and Macau and is building another near Boston.

In announcing Wynn's resignation, the company's board of directors made clear it had done so "reluctantly." "It is with a collective heavy heart, that the board of directors of Wynn Resorts today accepted the resignation of our founder, CEO and friend Steve Wynn," said Boone Wayson, who was named non-executive chairman of the board. Matthew Maddox, the company's president since 2013, was named CEO effective immediately. He is aged 42.

Steve Wynn joins the list of powerful men who have been toppled by the allegations of sexual misconduct sweeping America's boardrooms. Just over a week ago, Wynn was in many ways the face of the U.S. casino business after dominating it for five decades. But after a swift and crushing downfall, he's now being mentioned in the same breath as disgraced Hollywood mogul Harvey Weinstein and has been forced to step down as the Republican National Committee's finance chair. What's more, his company has lost nearly a fifth of its market value in that time.

The stock regained some of the lost ground yesterday, rallying as much as 8.8 percent in New York trading. Meanwhile, analysts disagreed about whether the departure of the gambling titan would help or hurt the company. JPMorgan Chase & Co. upgraded its rating on the stock, while Roth Capital's David Bain



Wynn in 1993

slashed his recommendation, saying that the "Steve Wynn valuation premium" will take years to recoup. The resignation "removes a visionary, not an overhang," Bain wrote in a note.

■ Matt Maddox, the company's president since 2013, was named CEO effective immediately

Though a new CEO was swiftly named, many questions remain. At the top of the list is whether regulators from Macau to Massachusetts will still pursue investigations into the company and the harassment allegations against Wynn. The fate of the two new hotels he's proposed for Las Vegas may face scrutiny.

"The skyline of Las Vegas is Steve Wynn," said William Thompson, a professor emeritus of public administration at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and a longtime obser-

ver of the casino business.

Indeed in his hometown, Wynn is credited with taking the city's casinos from the era of gin joints and saloons into modern luxury resorts, with suites and art galleries and high-end dining. Among his most famous properties are the Bellagio, with its musical-fountain show, and the Mirage, with its street side volcano and resident Cirque du Soleil show. Both properties are now owned by MGM Resorts International.

The seeds of Wynn's downfall began when his ex-wife, Elaine Wynn, in 2016 revealed in legal proceedings that he had secretly paid a multi-million dollar settlement to a female employee of the company in 2005.

Then on Jan. 26, the Wall Street Journal reported that the payment involved allegations that the executive had forced himself upon a company manicurist and that the incident fit a pattern of Wynn pressuring employees to have sex with him. Wynn has denied any wrongdoing, but he resigned the following day from his post as finance chair of the Republican National Committee. Regulators in Nevada, Massachusetts and Macau began probing the allegations.

On Monday, the Las Vegas

Review-Journal reported details of a 1998 lawsuit by cocktail waitresses at Wynn's previous company, Mirage Resorts. The newspaper spoke to one former server who said she felt Wynn forced her to have sex with her to keep her job. Wynn declined to comment on the report Monday, but by Tuesday the drumbeat was too much for him.

"In the last couple of weeks, I have found myself the focus of an avalanche of negative publicity," Wynn said in a statement, announcing his resignation as chairman and chief executive. "As I have reflected upon the environment this has created — one in which a rush to judgment takes precedence over everything else, including the facts — I have reached the conclusion I cannot continue to be effective in my current roles."

Wynn's resignation may not be enough to satisfy regulators in Macau, according to Wang Changbin, director of the Gaming Teaching & Research Center at Macao Polytechnic Institute, since the gaming law's suitability clause applies to major shareholders as well as executives and directors.

"If Steve Wynn is considered not suitable, according to the law he should give up his shares," Wang said. The Macau government is likely to watch

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claims, ending era of casino legend

Confidence Lost

Value of Wynn's operations have fallen since misconduct allegations arose



pport them.

His departure certainly creates a lot of work for Maddox, who joined Wynn Resorts in 2002 and worked his way up to becoming president in 2013.

In the last couple of weeks, I have found myself the focus of an avalanche of negative publicity.

STEVE WYNN STATEMENT

He was seen as Wynn's right-hand man, often at the casino magnate's side at public events. In his 16-year career at Wynn, Maddox served as chief financial officer, and held a range of management roles at Wynn Macau. Maddox worked at Caesars Entertainment and as an investment banker before joining Wynn.

"With Matt, Wynn Resorts is in good hands," Wynn said. **MDT/Agencies**

for developments in the U.S., he said.

Elaine Wynn, his ex-wife, declined to comment on where the resignation left her and her now six-year-old lawsuit to win back control of the 9 percent stake in Wynn Resorts which she had signed over to him. That case is ex-

pected to go to trial in April.

The fall of Wynn could make his company a takeover target for another casino operator like Caesars Entertainment Corp., which has long coveted a casino in Boston and Macau. It could also draw interest from a private-equity investor, who could leve-

rage the company's considerable cash flow, or from an Asian leisure company looking to grab a piece of the world's largest gambling market, Macau.

While he'll no longer run the company, Wynn remains in control of about 21 percent of Wynn Resorts through his own holdin-

gs and the stake held by Elaine Wynn. That means he'll remain the single most influential shareholder at Wynn, and regulators will still have cause to examine his behavior. The stake isn't big enough to fend off a takeover or other major corporate changes if a majority of shareholders su-

Resignations tendered for Wynn Macau posts



STEVE Wynn has stepped down from his positions at Wynn Macau in addition to leaving his posts at the Las Vegas-based parent company, Wynn Resorts, the subsidiary company announced

yesterday in a filing to the Hong Kong Stock Exchange.

According to the filing, the same senior executives who will take up the mantle at Wynn Resorts, namely Allan Zeman and Matthew

Maddox, will also step into Wynn's former roles at Wynn Macau. Maddox will become the new executive director and CEO.

Maddox has served as president of Wynn Resorts and as a non-executive

director of Wynn Macau since 2013.

The resignations come after numerous sexual harassment allegations against Wynn, leading to negative publicity for the company.

According to the official communication from Wynn Resorts, Steve Wynn decided that "as a result of recent publicity, he could not continue to be effective in his current roles."

Wynn Resorts was trading 1.37 percent lower at Monday's close on the New York Stock Exchange, adding to more than 17 percent which has been wiped off the stock's value since the scandal broke.

Trading of Wynn Macau stock was suspended on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange in anticipation of a snap market reaction. Wynn Macau is down a comparable 16.6 percent since its peak on January 26.

Wynn Macau says it has applied for trade resumption starting this morning.

Steve Wynn made his entry into Macau with a successful bid for one of the first three licenses of the

MSAR in 2002 under former Chief Executive Edmund Ho. The company later signed a sub-concession agreement with Melco, following Galaxy's similar agreement with the predecessor company to Sands China.

Wynn's first eponymous Macau property had its stone-laying ceremony in June 2004 and opened in September 2006, and the year after it had a small-scale expansion which added extra gaming space and additional food and beverage and retail outlets.

In 2010, the company opened Encore at Wynn

Macau, adjacent to and integrated with its first property.

Then in 2012, Wynn Macau received approval from the Macau government for its Cotai land concession, leading to Wynn Palace, which opened in August 2016.

The company's focus on the VIP gaming market seemed to pay off last year in the context of Macau's casino recovery. Wynn Resorts revenue soared almost 44 percent during a year when Macau VIP on aggregate grew just 26 percent and total gaming growth reached 19 percent.

GAMING INSPECTION INFORMED

WYNN MACAU has informed the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) about Steve Wynn's resignation from the posts of president and CEO of Wynn Resorts (Macau), Wynn Macau Limited (which trades in the Hong Kong stock exchange) and US-based Wynn Resorts Limited. A statement issued yesterday by DICJ reveals that the Secretary

for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, and the DICJ head, Paulo Martins Chan, met separately with Linda Chen, chief operating officer of Wynn Macau, regarding the accusations of sexual misconduct involving Steve Wynn. These meetings had a purpose of "asking the Wynn Macau representative clarifications about the case [...] including ongoing investigations."

HK announces early holiday for kindergartens

The Hong Kong government announced an early Chinese New Year holiday for kindergartens and primary schools yesterday, according to a statement released by the Hong Kong government. To prevent the spread of influenza in schools, the Education Bureau (EDB), with the advice of the Centre for Health Protection announced that all kindergartens and primary schools and special schools (excluding other schools) started their holidays yesterday. In Macau, the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture said the MSAR does not need to advance schools' CNY holidays.

Fernandes expects over 85pct CNY hotel occupancy rate

The director of Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena de Senna Fernandes, expects the average rate of hotel room occupancy to exceed 85 percent during the Chinese New Year (CNY). According to Fernandes, the third and fourth days of CNY were the two days when the hotel room occupancy rate reached its peak during the last CNY holidays. The MGTO director expects a higher rate to be recorded this year on these two same days. While attending the opening ceremony of an economy hotel, Fernandes said that these kinds of hotels can supplement Macau's low-star hotel offerings.

CCAC head says Coloane land buyers may be 'victims'

Julie Zhu

THE Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) will not disclose whether the construction project at Alto de Coloane is related to any crime, the Commissioner of the CCAC, André Cheong, announced in a press conference yesterday.

On Tuesday, the CCAC released their investigation report on the construction project at Alto de Coloane, listing many irregularities and claiming that the Macau government should recover the land plots of more than 50,000 square meters, which is involved in the project.

In 1992, the court ruled that two residents would inherit the title of the plots. In 1994, both residents sold their land plots to Chong Fai Limited.

In 2004, Win Loyal Limited and Chong Fai Limited entered a sale and purchase deed in Macau. The plots was purchased for a price of HKD88,000,000 and, in March of 2009, Win Loyal Limited applied for a new street alignment plan.

According to a preliminary development proposal for the land



André Cheong (left)

plots submitted by Win Loyal Limited, the company planned to construct nine 22-metre high independent villas and nine 115-metre high residential buildings of 37 stories.

Recently, Win Loyal Limited published a notice on Macao Daily News "emphasizing that it acquired the relevant land through lawful methods."

"All circumstances were legal and reasonable, however [...] the CCAC report [claims] that the obtained private land should be recovered [by the Macau government]. This, obviously, cannot protect the legitimate rights of the company and results

in a great loss for the investors. At the same time, a report from a related investigation may also affect the public's misunderstanding of the company," the statement reads.

According to Win Loyal Limited, the company's major shareholder is Poly Property Group, which is the sole overseas-listed real estate company of China Poly Group, the large-scale state-owned enterprise under the supervision of the State-owned Assets Supervision and Administration Commission ("SASAC") of the State Council of the PRC.

Yesterday, Cheong commen-

ted that the CCAC "did not care about the company's background" during its investigation procedures.

He also said that according to the current investigation, Win Loyal Limited is not involved in the fraud case which surrounds the acquisition of the land plots by the two Macau residents.

"Win Loyal Limited might be a victim of this issue, [because] it bought the wrong [land]," said Cheong, adding that Win Loyal Limited "knows nothing" about the land's history.

According to Cheong, Win Loyal Limited's leadership consists only of Macau residents.

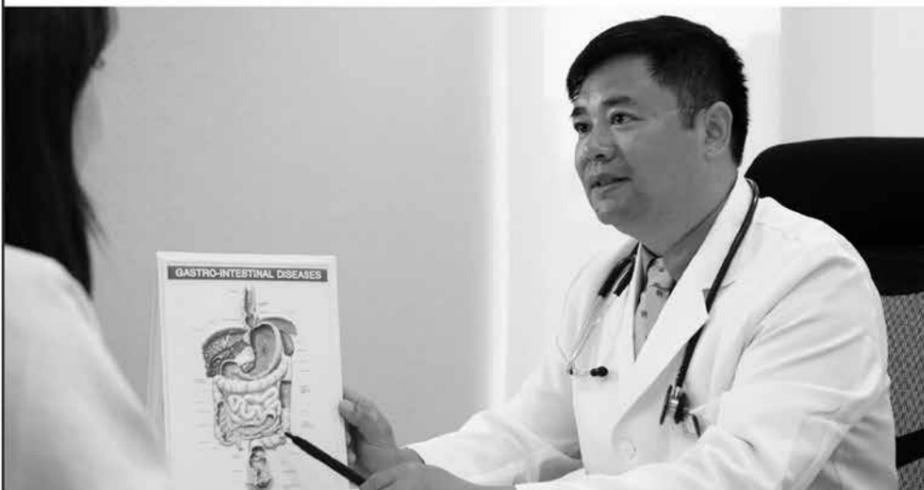
As to whether this case involves crimes, no information whatsoever has been revealed to the media at the current stage. If the case involves crimes which are within the CCAC's jurisdiction, the CCAC will follow up with an investigation.

Cheong "believes that there exists" misconduct in the administration of related government departments, but he repeatedly noted that the related supervision bodies should pursue the case.

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IC to focus on heritage protection

Julie Zhu

THE new president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Mok Ian Ian, took her oath of office yesterday. An inauguration ceremony of Mok's leadership was held at the Macao Cultural Center.

On the sidelines of yesterday's event, Mok told the media "I have more than 20 years of experience in public service works. I used to undertake leadership works and I know that the work of a leader is faced with pressure and challenges."

During the ceremony, Mok pledged to contribute to cultural works in addition to projects in other fields.

In particular, Mok mentioned that she will continue to organize Macau's brand events, such as the Macau International Parade, as well as to train talented workers within the art and education sectors.

"One of the important works this year is the building-up of [Macau as] the communication center between China and



Mok Ian Ian (center)

Portuguese-speaking countries," declared Mok.

In mid July, there will be an art festival for China and Portuguese-speaking countries, which according to Mok will simply be one of several other events.

Mok is succeeding Cecilia Tse, who resigned after just over a month as the head of IC.

In turn, Tse had succeeded Leung Hio Ming, who had served as vice president of IC under former president Ung Vai Meng.

Mok's presidency comes af-

ter both Leung and Ung stepped down following allegations of malpractice, and after Tse resigned due to personal health issues.

When asked for a comment

about this post, Mok expressed confidence in her future as the IC head. She then said "I was in touch with IC colleagues at different times. I believe that, based on this good cooperation [her past connection with IC], I can lead my IC colleagues towards working and contributing together for our cultural development."

Regarding whether IC will hire more people, Mok claimed that she will answer this question after she learns about IC's current operational situation.

As she remarked, some of IC's future focuses under her leadership will concern the cultural heritage protection, building Macau into a cultural platform, training of talented workers within the cultural recreational industry.

Mok is a local writer who has been a civil servant since 1994. She previously led the planning department of the IC in 2000.

100 special taxis to be electric vehicles

The announcement of the public tender for the licenses of 100 taxis was published in the government's Official Gazette yesterday. From yesterday until March 8, interested parties can submit their bids to the Transport Bureau (DSAT). The minimum opening price is MOP200,000. In order to respond to environmental protection needs, the bidding requires the vehicles to be four-seat electric vehicles. According to DSAT, there are 119 electric vehicle charging stations across Macau's public parking lots. On Tuesday, the first electric taxi in Macau went on the roads.

Appeal of defendants in Ho Chio Meng case dismissed

The appeal of two defendants who were involved in the case of the city's former top prosecutor general, Ho Chio Meng, was dismissed by the Court of Second Instance (TSI), according to a statement released by the Office of the President of the Court of Final Appeal. The two defendants, Wong Kuok Wai and Mak Im Tai, had both appealed the convictions of having formed criminal groups, conducted frauds, and laundered money. However, the TSI dismissed their appeal against the original sentence.

DSEJ DIRECTOR TAKES OATH

THE NEW director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ), Lou Pak Sang, took his oath of office yesterday in a ceremony presided over by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam. In his speech, Lou

stressed his experience in the educational sector (he was previously DSEJ's deputy director) and pledged to strive toward its development. Lou succeeds the former DSEJ director, Leong Lei, as the head of the education authority.



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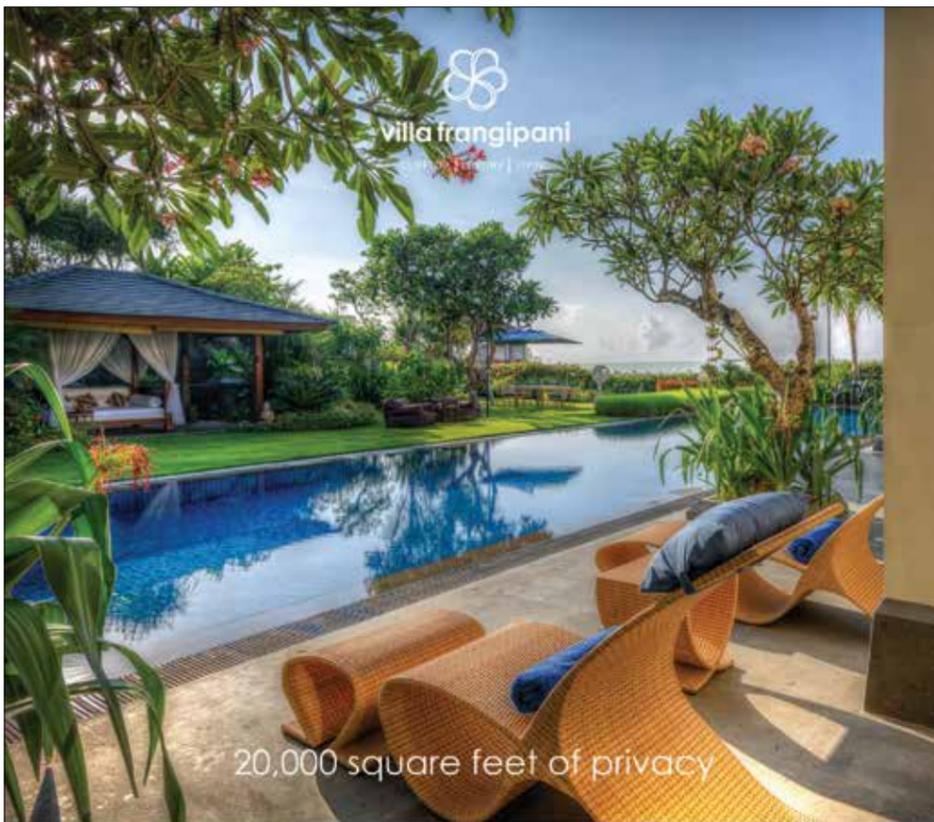
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Vong Hin Fai contested many aspects of the proposal

AL PLENARY

All stamp duty law amendments passed bar one

Renato Marques

YESTERDAY, the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed amendments proposed to enforce the stamp duty in instances of the acquisition of second (and subsequent) housing units. These amendments are among the measures considered by the government to cool down the real estate market and avoid speculation.

Several lawmakers expressed doubts about the effectiveness of the amendments and abstained or voted against most of its articles.

Criticism was centered around article 5 of the proposal, where the government aimed to consider for taxation purposes any member of a couple as individuals rather than a married entity.

This generated a broad discussion started by lawmaker Vong Hin Fai, who claimed that the

proposal from the government to disregard the marital status and regime between couples on taxation matters clashed with Macau's Civil Code.

Vong also addressed several other issues, including the wording of the law, especially in the Portuguese version, as he claimed that some concepts did not align between the Chinese and Portuguese versions. For example, he requested the change of wording from "possession" to "entitlement." The article was voted down.

On the government side, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong tried to explain that the government "had little time to produce this bill" and that further amendments could be made in the future to match the Chinese and Portuguese versions.

Lawmakers Ip Sio Kai and Mak Soi Kun followed Vong to criticize the manner in which the government was "disregarding" the Civil Code and the marital

regimes, with Mak questioning the application of such a law in the cases of non-marital partnerships.

Si Ka Lon was another lawmaker expressing clear opposition to the norm, eventually proposing a separate vote of the mentioned article, leading to its defeat.

Leong tried without success to make use of his legal advisor to explain that there is no intention to clash with the Civil Code, which was repeated on the government side, as the explanation was forthcoming and this was an exception only for the purpose of the tax law. Ultimately the distinction was drawn to be clear that "this is a political matter, not a legal one," and in cases of the law, legislators should not focus on particular instances but society as a whole.

The representative of the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) contributed that, "the norm won't affect the marital regime.

It only aims to avoid a great volume of work [to its services] to confirm all the situations and all the marital regimes of people every time someone is buying a house." He warned, "if this [article] is removed from the law, some people might use this legal loophole not to pay taxes by alternating their marital regime." Vong continued to disagree and cited his experience as a university teacher of law to support his view, which many others shared.

In relation to other parts of the bill, Ip again spoke, noting that the model chosen for this bill "lacks in precision" and "does not take into account the size of the housing units, the age or any other factors." He claimed that, "the government wants the elderly to live within the families but disregards the fact that those families might need another housing unit or a bigger one in order to achieve that, making them pay more taxes for that." Mak agreed with Ip and request-

ed an exemption for those cases so that families can live together, or near to one another. In a flat and dull speech, Leong continued to reaffirm the bill's intention to "discourage people from buying a second house to speculate," saying, "we really want to reduce or to finish with the speculation." He further noted that if a second house is bought "to replace another one, a refund [of the stamp duty paid] will be made within a one-year period."

"We hope that our scarce resources [on housing] can be better utilized," Leong concluded.

Kou Hoi In also expressed his disagreement with the measure, saying: "This is a sanction for Macau people! Why the government does not make a substantive change to the Stamp Duty law [instead]?" adding, "If I want to acquire a unit for my parents or to my descendants, why do I need to pay more for that?"

In response, the Secretary for Economy and Finance replied that tax evasion may occur when, "second and third houses could be acquired in the name of other family members." Pro-democrats Au Kam San and Ng Kuok Cheong claimed, "if before it was already difficult to move into a bigger house, from now on it will be impossible. We are doing the opposite. We are discouraging."

Ng has noted a "clear gap between the initial idea and the outcome," adding, "we are not addressing [measures to prevent] speculation but instead we are addressing daily household issues. Houses to live in do not cause speculation. We cannot understand the logic of the government. It seems that the intention is not to fight speculation, but to prevent families from buying houses to live in. This makes no sense and has no logic."

The deadlock created then led Leong to call for a "break time," which AL president Ho Iat Seng accepted. After the break, the voting on the remaining articles of the bill proceeded. The large majority of votes were in favor, aside for Au and Ng who voted against, and Kou who continued to abstain.

Wong seeks to anticipate cybersecurity law

THE government hopes the legislative process for a cybersecurity law will be initiated in the second half of 2018, said the Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, yesterday.

Wong added that opinions and suggestions gathered during a public consultation held between December 11 of last year and January 24 of this year are currently being analyzed. He expects a revision

of the government-proposed bill on the topic to be completed in the first half of this year.

During the 45-day public consultation period, a total of 716 opinions and suggestions were received.

Speaking to reporters yesterday morning, Wong said the majority of opinions were expressing support for a mandatory requirement for purchasers of telephone SIM

cards in Macau to provide details from a personal identification document. A statement issued by the Government Information Bureau acknowledged that some comments expressed concern about the protection of personal information and the procedures for government departments to carry out their respective duties under the envisaged law.

The Macao Post and Te-

lecommunications Bureau is currently analyzing what methods of sharing personal information – which may occur during the purchase of a SIM card or when activating a SIM card – would provide greatest convenience to consumers in Macau while also protecting their personal information. The bureau has not ruled out the possibility of asking for personal registration both

at point of sale and at the time of card activation.

The Secretary reiterated that the cybersecurity bill aimed to maintain the security of the city's "critical infrastructure" relating to information technology, and to protect the public's safety when using the Internet.

Monitoring functions envisaged under the future law would be for the purposes of detecting any irre-

gularity in the flow of data; it would not involve access to any personal information, said Wong.

To obtain security-encrypted content posted online – such as in situations where a criminal act was suspected – public departments will be required to obtain approval from the judiciary before decoding such online material for investigation, the secretary added.



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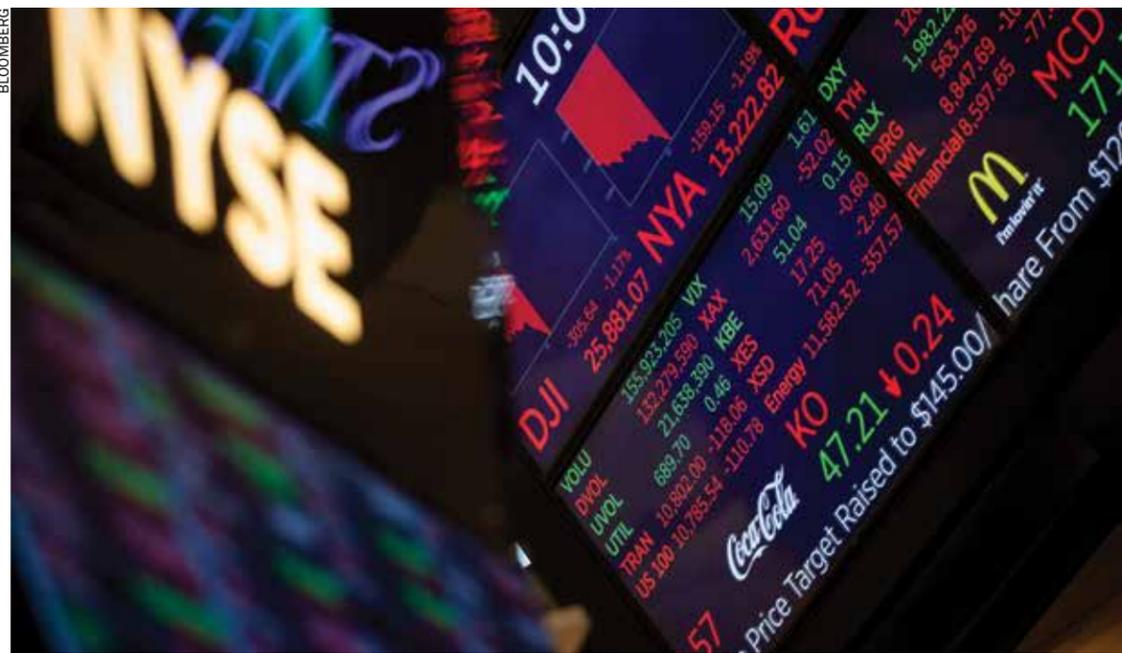
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US stocks rise as Wall Street grows calmer after big swings

U.S. stocks climbed, with most industry sectors showing gains, as investors looked past concerns that a strong economy may accelerate the removal of monetary stimulus.

The Dow Jones Industrial Average and S&P 500 Index both rose yesterday, following the previous session's late surge. Technology shares were among the few laggards, as chipmakers weighed on the Nasdaq 100 Index. Treasuries rose, pinning the 10-year yield below 2.80 percent, while the dollar advanced.

A lingering issue for bulls is the wisdom of doing what they always do - buy the dip - when more selling by speculators may be imminent after Monday's break in volatility markets. Accounts of losses and liquidations at hedge funds specializing in the asset class were rife Wednesday morning even as Wall Street strategists urged investors to consider the market's solid underpinning in economic growth and earnings. The Cboe Volatility Index, a measure of market anxiety, dropped 25 percent but remained higher than it was before the recent



selloff.

"Even a little bit of volatility is fine as long as we don't start suddenly taking bigger swings," said Peter Jankovskis, co-chief investment officer of Oakbrook Investments LLC. "The key thing to me is that the wave is dampening relative to where we were a couple days ago. It obviously takes a while for everybody's nerves to calm down at once, but we're moving

in the right direction."

The S&P 500 is coming off its best day in 15 months, as buyers picked over the wreckage from Monday's 4.1 percent rout. European equities halted a seven-day slide to join the rebound, rising the most in six weeks. Asia's bid for a recovery faltered late in that session, with the MSCI Asia Pacific Index almost completely erasing a gain of as much as 2.4 percent.

While markets have calmed somewhat, investors are still far more nervous than they were just a few days ago. The VIX index, which is called Wall Street's "fear gauge" because it measures how much volatility investors expect in the future, is currently at 21, about double where it was two weeks ago. It spiked above 50 early Tuesday.

The current bull market is set to turn nine years old in about a

month. As of Jan. 26, the date of the last market record, the S&P 500 had more than quadrupled over that time. The market had made big gains over the last year, and many experts felt stocks were overdue for a slump.

Stocks began to fall Friday after U.S. jobs data showed wages growing more than anticipated. If that continues, it could stoke inflation and prompt the Federal Reserve to raise interest rates more and more quickly than previously expected.

There were few signs investors were avoiding stocks entirely. Bond prices did tick higher. The yield on the 10-year Treasury note fell to 2.79 percent after it surged to 2.81 percent on Tuesday. However, the price of gold has hardly budged the last few days.

The global economy continues to grow strongly and corporate earnings are largely good. Under normal circumstances, that backdrop would see interest rates rise quickly, but in many parts of the world they are still at levels not uncommon to a recession or even a depression. That's true even in the U.S., where the Fed is gradually raising its rates from historically low levels.

Benchmark U.S. crude added 49 cents to USD63.88 a barrel in New York while Brent crude, the international standard, gained 86 cents, or 1.3 percent, to \$67.72 a barrel in London.

The dollar fell to 109.22 yen from 109.33 yen. The euro fell to \$1.2340 from \$1.2392. **MDT/Agencies**

Los Angeles Times sold to local billionaire for USD500 million

THE Los Angeles Times is being sold to a local billionaire for USD500 million, opening a new chapter for the 136-year-old newspaper's staff after an outright rebellion against the current owner.

Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong is a major shareholder of Chicago's Tronc Inc., one of the richest men in Los Angeles and, according to Forbes, the nation's wealthiest doctor, with a net worth of USD7.8 billion.

The deal includes The San Diego Union-Tribune, various titles in the California News Group and the assumption of \$90 million in pension liabilities.



Pharmaceuticals billionaire Dr. Patrick Soon-Shiong

The transaction could solve two problems for Tronc, which also owns the Chicago Tribune and the New York Daily News. A new owner could appease the Times' editorial workers, who voted last month to unionize and pressured Tronc into replacing editor-in-chief Lewis D'Vorkin. And a

deal could end a standoff with Soon-Shiong, who had a public falling-out with Tronc Chairman Michael Ferro.

Shares of Chicago-based Tronc surged as much as 37 percent to \$24.74, their highest since July 2014.

The sale puts another major metropolitan paper in the hands of a

billionaire who may be willing to stomach the industry's advertising freefall to support local journalism. Jeff Bezos acquired the Washington Post in 2013, and John Henry agreed to buy the Boston Globe the same year.

The sale of the Times, one of the largest newspapers in Tronc's portfolio, is a setback in the media company's plan to develop a national network of multimedia production built on the foundation of some of the country's most storied media brands.

Soon-Shiong, 65, made his \$8.6 billion fortune with the sale of two drug companies and owns part of the Los Angeles Lakers. **MDT/Agencies**

Mozambique approves Anadarko's USD20 billion natural gas plan

Matthew Hill, Borges Nhamire

MOZAMBIQUE'S council of ministers approved the development plan for Anadarko Petroleum Corp.'s liquefied natural-gas project in the north of the nation, an investment estimated at about USD20 billion.

The government announced the decision in a statement on Tuesday. The next major requirement that the Anadarko-led consortium has to meet before reaching a final investment decision on the Area 1 project is to sign enough sales and purchase agreements, according to the company. Anadarko and its



Pedestrians walk past parked vehicles outside a gas station in Maputo

partners have agreed the price and volumes for 5.1 million metric tons a year of gas production, out of the 8.5 million tons required to reach financial close, the company said in a statement Tuesday. During the last quarter of 2017, it signed an agreement with Tohoku Electric Power Co. of Japan to sell it gas.

Anadarko said it's already started rese-

ttling communities from the land where it plans to build its liquefied natural-gas plant.

Exxon Mobil Corp. and Eni SpA are developing another gas project near Anadarko's. The development of Mozambique's gas deposits could make the southeastern African nation the world's fourth-biggest natural gas exporter. **Bloomberg**

Retired cardinal Zen hits back at Vatican over deal with China

Gerry Shih, Beijing

THE retired archbishop of Hong Kong has slammed the Holy See's negotiations with Beijing as a "catastrophe" that would bring suffering to millions of worshippers, as a bitter dispute inside the Roman Catholic Church over its future in China escalates in a dramatic fashion.

Cardinal Joseph Zen warned in a blog post this week that some Chinese Catholics who follow so-called underground churches are at risk of arrest even while the Catholic Church pushes for a historic breakthrough in relations with China's ruling Communist Party.

Zen, a leading critic of the Vatican's outreach to China, revealed in a statement last month that the Vatican had asked a legitimate "underground" bishop to stand down in favor of an excommunicated one favored by Beijing — a reshuffle that he suggested was orchestrated by church officials without the pope's full knowledge.

Zen, 86, doubled down earlier this week and denounced church officials for betraying Chinese worshippers in what amounted to a highly unusual attack from a clergyman against the Holy See.

"Mainland brothers and sisters fear not losing all they have, the prison cell or shedding their blood," Zen wrote. "Their greatest suffering is being sold out by their 'loved ones.'"

In an extraordinary escalation, Zen also criticized Secretary of State Pietro Parolin, the official charged with negotiations with Beijing, as a "man of little faith" who did not understand the "true suffering" of persecuted Chinese Catholics.

The proposed changing of

AP PHOTO



Cardinal Joseph Zen during a press conference in Hong Kong in 2009

the bishops was the clearest evidence yet of the Vatican's effort to reach a deal with China, a country with an estimated 12 million Catholics. Of those, about half worship in "underground" churches that recognize only Rome as their highest authority while the rest belong to state-authorized churches with clergy named by Beijing.

The Vatican, particularly under Pope Francis, has been keen to reach a deal with the Chinese government and unite the churches. A sticking point in secret negotiations over at least the past year has concerned whe-

ther Rome or Beijing has final say over bishop appointments. China's Foreign Ministry has said the government supports dialogue and advancing ties with the Vatican on the basis of "relevant principles" — a likely reference to Beijing holding final say over appointments.

Zen said the Vatican had "given in" to the Communist Party by seeking to replace Shantou Bishop Peter Zhuang Jianjian with Bishop Joseph Huang Bingzhang, who is backed by the state. Last month, he disclosed the behind-the-scenes discussions to replace bishops and

said he had been so upset that he traveled to Rome to raise objections with Francis.

"Priests and congregants will have many long nights of suffering over the prospect of obeying and respecting those priests who were illegitimate today but will be legitimized by the Holy See tomorrow, having been approved by the government," Zen wrote.

A pro-democracy advocate and longtime critic of the Chinese government, Zen appeared to suggest that China would crack down more on unauthorized congregations after

reaching agreements with the Vatican over authorized congregations. He wrote that the government will "strictly enforce regulations on religion" beginning this month and that priests in Shanghai have warned their congregations "not to attend Mass on pain of arrest."

An official from the Chinese Patriotic Catholic Association, a government body supervising state-authorized Catholic congregations, said he could not respond to Zen's claim that Shanghai priests have warned their followers against attending Mass.

The Vatican had no immediate comment on Zen's latest blog post. But it said last week it was "surprising and regrettable" that some members of the church were fostering "confusion and controversy."

Mainland brothers and sisters fear not losing all they have, the prison cell or shedding their blood.

CARDINAL ZEN

In an editorial Tuesday, China's state-run Global Times newspaper said Beijing and the Vatican would establish diplomatic relations "sooner or later" and that a deal would be "tremendously beneficial to Catholics." Without directly naming Zen, the paper also rebuked "a few radical religious groups who have no right to intervene in bishop appointments."

"Pope Francis has a positive image with the Chinese public," the editorial concluded. "It is expected he will push China-Vatican ties forward and solve related problems with his wisdom." AP

JERRY CHUN

Lawyer for ex-CIA man: My client is not a Chinese spy

THE lawyer for a former CIA officer accused of illegally retaining classified records is defending his client against accusations he was a Chinese spy.

Jerry Chun Shing Lee, 53, a resident of Hong Kong, made an initial appearance yesterday [Macau time] in federal court in Alexandria after his arrest last month at JFK International Airport.

"Mr. Lee is not a Chinese

spy," his lawyer, Edward MacMahon, said after Tuesday's brief court hearing. "He's a loyal American who loves his country" and served in the military and CIA.

Lee is charged with illegally retaining classified documents, including names and numbers of covert CIA employees and locations of covert facilities. But some news reports, citing anonymous sources, have suggested

Lee's actions went much deeper, and that he was in fact was a mole responsible for exposing a network of U.S. assets working in China.

Asked about those reports, MacMahon said, "You'd have to ask the people who make those claims and then don't put their names behind them."

Court records indicate Lee had been under investigation for more than five

years. He served in the CIA from 1994 to 2007 as a case officer. He worked in a variety of overseas offices and was trained in surveillance detection, recruiting and handling assets and handling classified material, among other duties.

A court affidavit states that in 2012, after Lee had left the CIA, he traveled from Hong Kong with his family to northern Virginia, where he lived from

2012 to 2013. When he flew to Virginia, the FBI obtained a warrant to search Lee's luggage and hotel room. Agents found two small books with handwritten notes containing names and numbers of covert CIA employees and locations of covert facilities, according to the affidavit.

At the hearing, which lasted only a few minutes, a judge ordered Lee remain jailed pending a prelimi-

nary hearing scheduled for March 19. The preliminary hearing was delayed at MacMahon's request, who said he needs time to review classified evidence in the case. MacMahon said he may seek to have Lee released pending trial once he can find an appropriate living situation in the U.S. for his client.

Prosecutor Neil Hammerstrom said Lee faces a maximum sentence of 10 years in prison. AP

Taijing Wu, Hualien

RESCUERS were working yesterday to try to reach people who were trapped after a strong earthquake near Taiwan's east coast caused several buildings to cave in and tilt dangerously. At least six people were killed and 88 missing in the quake.

Video footage and photos showed several mid-sized buildings in worst-hit Hualien county leaning at sharp angles, their lowest floors crushed into mangled heaps of concrete, shattered glass, bent iron beams and other debris. Firefighters could be seen climbing ladders hoisted against windows as they sought to reach residents inside apartments.

The shallow, magnitude 6.4 quake that struck late Tuesday night caused at least four buildings to cave in and tilt dangerously.

A maintenance worker who was rescued after being trapped in the basement of the Marshal Hotel, whose ground floor had caved in, said the force of the earthquake was unusual.

"At first it wasn't that big [...] we get this sort of thing all the time and it's really nothing. But then it got really terrifying," the worker, Chen Ming-hui, told Taiwan's official Central News Agency after he was reunited with his son and grandson following the quake. "It was really scary."

Two employees of the hotel were killed in the disaster, CNA said. Taiwan's National Fire Agency said rescuers freed another employee from the rubble.

Other buildings shifted on their foundations and rescuers used ladders, ropes and cranes to get residents to safety.

Six people were killed in the quake, while 256 others were injured and 88 left unaccounted for, according to the fire agency. CNA reported that seven had been killed.

The force of the tremor buckled roads and disrupted electricity and water supplies to thousands of households, the fire agency said.

Japan's Foreign Ministry said nine Japanese were among the injured. Six mainland Chinese were also injured, the Chinese Communist Party-run People's Daily reported.

Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen moved to reassure the Taiwanese public that every effort would be made to look for survivors. In a post on her official Facebook page, Tsai said she arrived in Hualien yesterday to review rescue efforts.



Rescuers are seen entering a building that collapsed onto its side from an early morning 6.4 magnitude earthquake in Hualien County, eastern Taiwan

TAIWAN

Six dead, 88 missing after strong quake hits island

Tsai said she "ordered search and rescue workers not to give up on any opportunity to save people, while keeping their own safety in mind."

"This is when the Taiwanese people show their calm, resilience and love," she wrote. "The government will work with everyone to guard their homeland."

China's official Xinhua News Agency reported that the director of China's Taiwan Affairs office, Zhang Zhijun, said China was "willing to send a rescue team to Taiwan" to help with relief efforts, adding that he was aware of a shortage of rescue workers in the disaster area.

China Central Television reported that more than 40 of the missing people were trapped in the Yunmen Cuiti building, a 12-story apartment building. Rescue efforts at the building were suspended because the structure was sliding, according to Taiwan's Central Emergency Operation Center.

Taiwanese media reported that the Beautiful Life Hotel also was tilting. CNA posted photos showing a road frac-

tured in several parts.

Bridges and some highways were closed pending inspections.

With aftershocks continuing to hit after the quake, residents were directed to shelters, including a newly built baseball stadium, where beds and hot food were provided.

Speaking from a crisis center in Taipei, Cabinet spokesman Hsu Kuo-yung said rail links appeared to be unaffected and the runway of Hualien airport was intact.

"We're putting a priority on Hualien people being able to return home to check on their loved ones," Hsu said.

The U.S. Geological Survey said the quake struck just before midnight Tuesday about 21 kilometers northeast of Hualien at a relatively shallow depth of about 10.6 kilometers.

Taiwan has frequent earthquakes due to its position along the "Ring of Fire," the seismic faults encircling the Pacific Ocean where most of the world's earthquakes occur.

Exactly two years earlier, a magnitude 6.4 quake col-

lapsed an apartment complex in southern Taiwan, killing 115 people. Five people involved in the construction of the complex were later found

guilty of negligence and given prison sentences.

A magnitude 7.6 quake in central Taiwan killed more than 2,300 people in 1999. AP



SPORTS DIPLOMACY

Sister of Kim Jong Un to come to South for Games

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister, an increasingly prominent figure in the country's leadership, will be part of the North's delegation to the South Korean Winter Olympics, officials said yesterday.

Kim Yo Jong, believed to be around 30, will be the first member of North Korea's ruling family to visit South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Analysts say her inclusion in the Olympic delegation shows North Korea's ambition to use the Olympics to break out from diplomatic isolation by improving relations with the South, which it could use as a bridge for approaching the United States.

By sending a youthful, photogenic person who will undoubtedly attract international attention during the Olympics, North Korea is also trying to construct a fresher and warmer public image and defuse potential U.S. efforts to use the Pyeongchang Games to highlight the North's brutal human rights record, experts say.

Kim Jong Un might also have seen that U.S. President Donald Trump was sending his daughter, Ivanka, to the Olympics ceremony and decided to match the move by sending his sister, said Hong Min, an analyst at Seoul's Korea Institute for National Unification.

By sending a relative, "Kim Jong Un may be trying to present himself as an equal to Donald Trump," Hong said.

South Korea's Unification Ministry said North Korea informed it that Kim Yo Jong, first vice director of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, would be part of the delegation led by the country's nominal head of state, Kim Jong Nam.

The ministry said Kim Yo Jong's schedule in the South has yet to be determined, and it wasn't immediately clear whether she will meet with President Moon Jae-in, a liberal who has expressed a desire to reach out to the North.

Moon's office welcomed the decision to send Kim Yo Jong, which it said showed the North's willingness to cooperate in efforts to ease tensions in the Korean Peninsula.

"First Vice Director Kim Yo Jong is Chairman Kim Jong Un's sister who has an important role in the Workers'



File photo provided by the North Korean government shows North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his sister Kim Yo Jong

Party, [so her visit] is that much more meaningful," presidential spokesman Kim Eui-kyeom said in a statement read on television.

Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University, said Kim Yo Jong, as Kim Jong Un's relative and apparently one of the few people who has earned his absolute trust, carries more weight as a dialogue partner for the South than any other official the North could send.

■ **By sending a relative, Kim Jong Un 'may be trying to present himself as an equal to Trump [who's sending Ivanka]'**

It's unclear whether any member of the North Korean government delegation will hold talks with U.S. officials during the Olympics. But Kim Yo Jong's presence would give North Korea a better opportunity to win South Korean help in reaching out to the United States, Hong said. He also said Washington may see Kim

Yo Jong as an avenue to deliver messages to Kim Jong Un.

"With any other North Korean official, even the so-called No. 2 Choe Ryong Hae, you are getting a person who's

just parroting orders given by Kim Jong Un," Hong said. "But with Kim Yo Jong, you are getting a person who's chiefly involved in designing Kim Jong Un's rule, a person

POPE Francis is praising the decision of North and South Korea to compete alongside each other at the Winter Olympics, saying it shows that conflicts can be resolved peacefully through dialogue and mutual respect.

Francis sent a special greeting and blessing to athletes and organizers of the Pyeongchang Olympics at the end of his weekly general audience. He says the traditional Olympic truce "takes on special importance this year" with the decision by the two Koreas, which will compete together in women's hockey and march together at the opening ceremony.

The pope says the move shows that sports can promote peace.

Francis has frequently warned about the threat posed by the nuclear standoff on the Korean peninsula, and has demanded complete nuclear disarmament. He said the Holy See would support any initiative that favors peace and encounter

whom the leader actually listens to."

North Korea said the delegation will also include Choe Hwi, chairman of the country's National Sports Guidance Committee, and Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the North's agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs.

Seoul previously said the delegation would arrive tomorrow, but yesterday's statement was the first confirmation that a member of the North's ruling family will be included.

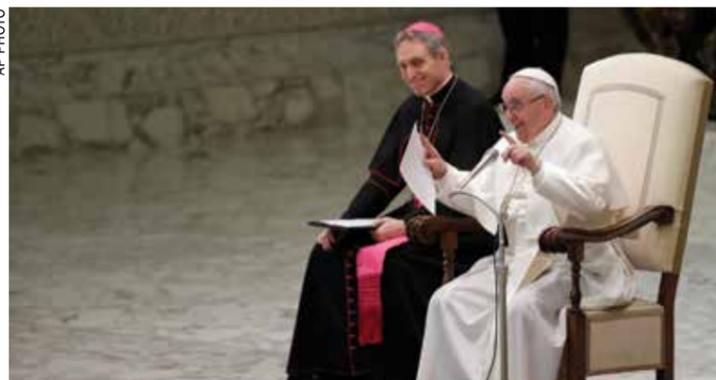
Kim Yo Jong and Kim Jong Un were born to the same mother, Ko Yong Hui. They had a half brother, Kim Jong Nam, who was murdered last year at a Malaysian airport.

Kim Yo Jong was promoted by her brother last year to be an alternate member of the decision-making political bureau of the ruling party's central committee, which analysts said showed that her activities are more substantive than previously thought.

The war-separated Koreas are cooperating on a series of conciliatory measures during the Olympics, which the South sees as an opportunity to ease tensions with the North following an extended period of animosity over its nuclear weapon and missile programs. Skeptics think North Korea is trying to use the Olympics to weaken U.S.-led sanctions and pressure against it and buy time to advance its weapons programs.

North Korea has 22 athletes competing in the Winter Olympics but also has sent performing artists and a large cheering group. **AP**

Pope Francis praises Koreas' Olympic cooperation



among peoples.

Meanwhile, IOC President Thomas Bach is hoping for a repeat of the 2000 Olympics, when North and South Korean athletes made an emotional entry together into Sydney's Olympic stadium.

As an International Olympic Committee member, Bach says he traveled to North Korea prior to the 2000 Games. He described how talks there were bogged

down by protocol, details, and large doses of tedium.

"Some moments were terrible," he says.

As he tells the story, Bach perks up as he recalls how — at the last moment — South and North Koreans "took each other by the hands and marched into the stadium. This is the Olympic Games. I guess you will see the same here on Friday." **MDT/AP**

VICE President Mike Pence said the U.S. is preparing to announce the "toughest and most aggressive" economic sanctions against North Korea in the coming days, boosting pressure on the bellicose government during the Winter Olympics.

Pence, who is set to lead the U.S. delegation to the opening ceremonies tomorrow, made the announcement in Japan yesterday, following meetings with Prime Minister Shinzo Abe.

"The United States of America will soon unveil the toughest and most aggressive round of economic sanctions on North Korea ever - and we will continue to isolate North Korea until it abandons its nuclear and ballistic missile programs once and for all," Pence said.

U.S. officials declined to detail the expected sanctions beyond Pence's comments, citing concerns that any additional information could be used by those trying to skirt the new measures. They are expected to be implemented before the conclusion of the games.

On a six-day trip to Japan and South Korea, Pence is seeking to reassure and refocus American allies on the growing nuclear threat from North Korea.

In meetings with government leaders, military officials and

Pence says US to unveil 'toughest' sanctions on North Korea

U.S. service members, Pence said he wants to make sure the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics don't distract from the bellicose North Korean human rights abuses and nuclear program. He met with Abe at his official residence to discuss increasing pressure on the North.

"The United States is with you in this challenge," Pence told Abe as they began their bilateral talks. "And we will continue to stand shoulder to shoulder with the people of Japan, the people of South Korea, and our allies and partners across the region until we achieve the global objective of denuclearization of the Korean peninsula."

Pence watched Japanese troops demonstrate the simulated deployment of Japan's surface-to-air missile defense system, which would attempt to intercept a North Korean missile. He also participated in a briefing at Japan's Ministry of Defense on the threat.

"The people of Japan can be assured: The full range of the



U.S. Vice President Mike Pence (second from right) speaks with an officer of the Japan's Ground Self-Defense Force

Armed Forces of the United States will continue to be dedicated to the protection of Japan," Pence said, promising again that "all options are on the table" to address the North Korean threat.

Pence will travel on to South

Korea Thursday for meetings with President Moon Jae-in, where he will promote the Trump administration's campaign of "maximum pressure" against the North, as the South pursues a diplomatic opening

around the Winter Olympics.

As North Korea's march toward obtaining a functional nuclear-tipped missile capable of reaching the U.S. has exceeded the American government's estimates, the Trump administration has worked to rally the international community to embrace tougher economic sanctions and isolation of the North.

At the same time, Pence has not ruled out a potential meeting with North Korean officials at the Olympics, telling reporters, "we'll see what happens." But he pledged that his message in any potential interaction would include the same message he has been delivering publicly: that the North renounce its nuclear weapon and missile programs.

As his personal guest to the opening games, Pence invited Fred Warmbier, the father of Otto Warmbier, an American who died last year days after his release from captivity in North Korea. **AP**

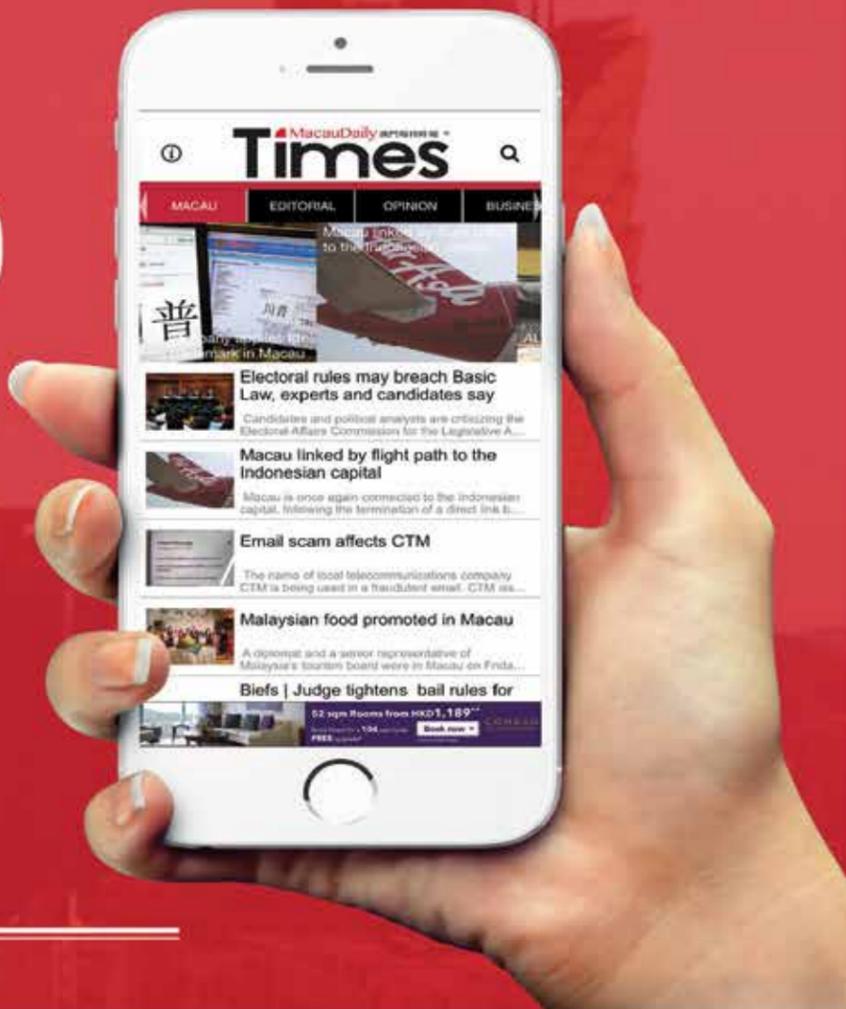
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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "



USA

Trump continues to paint immigrants as criminals

Jill Colvin, Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump is continuing his habit of painting immigrants as criminals, highlighting gang connections, calling family reunification a national security threat and bemoaning the death of a pro football player involved in a car accident with a man living in the country illegally.

Speaking to law enforcement officials at the White House yesterday [Macau time], Trump singled out the MS-13 gang, which is believed to be behind 25 killings on New York's Long Island in the past two years, and has become a prime target of the Trump administration.

"We've really never seen anything quite like this, the level of ferocity, the level of violence, and the reforms we need from Congress to defeat it," Trump told law enforcement officials and lawmakers, eventually

threatening another federal government shutdown if Democrats don't agree to pass an immigration package he said would help keep gang members out.

"If we don't get rid of these loopholes where killers are allowed to come into our country and continue to kill [...] if we don't change it, let's have a shutdown," Trump suggested. "I'd love to see a shutdown if we don't get this stuff taken care of."

Trump's latest threat is part of a pressure campaign he has been waging to try to get Democrats to sign onto a sweeping immigration plan that they've rejected. The president wants billions for a southern border wall, major cuts to legal immigration, and more money for interior enforcement and other changes in exchange for granting a pathway to citizenship for up to 1.8 million young immigrants living in the country

illegally.

Earlier, Trump called on Democrats to "get tough" on immigration, citing the death of Indianapolis Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson, who was killed in a suspected drunken-driving crash involving a Guatemalan citizen living illegally in the U.S.

"So disgraceful that a person illegally in our country killed @Colts linebacker Edwin Jackson," Trump tweeted. "This is just one of many such preventable tragedies. We must get the Dems to get tough on the Border, and with illegal immigration, FAST!"

Trump has also continued to criticize the nation's legal immigration system, insisting that limiting immigrants' ability to sponsor their family members to join them in the country, and ending a visa lottery aimed at promoting diversity, will make the country safer.

"In the age of terrorism, these

programs present risks we can no longer afford," he said in his State of the Union speech.

It's an issue that has been near and dear to the president's heart — and his base — since the day he launched his campaign and accused Mexico of sending its rapists across the border. Since his inauguration, Trump has marshalled government resources to try to portray immigration as a threat, despite several studies that have shown immigrants are actually less likely to commit crimes than people born in the United States.

Indeed, critics have repeatedly accused the administration of using faulty data and cherry-picked examples to make its case.

On Tuesday, Trump zeroed in on MS-13, or the Mara Salvatrucha, a gang established in the 1980s in Los Angeles by Central American refugees fleeing violence in their countries.

■ ■
We must get the Dems to get tough on the Border, and with illegal immigration, FAST!

TRUMP TWEET

Federal prosecutors believe MS-13 now has thousands of members across the country, though statistics show they account for just a tiny fraction — less than 1 percent — of total U.S. gang membership. And while Trump administration officials have tried to portray the gang as comprised of a never-ending flow of illegal immigrants, some

figures suggest most members are U.S. citizens.

Trump complained that thousands of gang members are arrested and deported from the U.S. only to return to the country. "Not another country in the world has the stupidity of laws that we do," he complained.

Trump has given Democrats until March 5 to agree to an immigration deal, though it's unclear exactly what will happen on that date.

White House chief of staff John Kelly spent much of the day on Capitol Hill, meeting with congressional leaders about immigration. But he also drew criticism when he suggested some young immigrants were "too lazy" to sign up for the Obama-era program that offered protection from deportation and renewable work permits.

Kelly said Trump's recent offer to provide a path to citizenship for up to 1.8 million immigrants went "beyond what anyone could have imagined." A bipartisan offer by six senators that Trump rejected would have made citizenship possible for the 690,000 "Dreamers" registered under the program, known by its acronym DACA.

"There are 690,000 official DACA registrants and the president sent over what amounts to be two and a half times that number, to 1.8 million," Kelly said. "The difference between [690,000] and 1.8 million were the people that some would say were too afraid to sign up, others would say were too lazy to get off their asses, but they didn't sign up."

Immigration experts cite various reasons as to why people eligible for DACA's protections never applied, including fears that participating would expose them to immigration authorities. **AP**

GERMANY

Parties reach coalition gov't deal after long talks

CHANCELLOR Angela Merkel's conservatives and Germany's main center-left party reached a deal yesterday to form a new coalition government after a final session of talks that dragged on for 24 hours.

The two sides still face a major hurdle — getting approval from the center-left Social Democrats' members — before the new administration can take office.

"We have a coalition agreement that means positive things for many, many citizens," Merkel's chief of staff, Peter Altmaier, said as he left the talks. "And now we all want a shower, because

we have negotiated long and hard over the last few hours."

The deal between Merkel's Christian Democratic Union, its Bavaria-only sister party, the Christian Social Union, and the Social Democrats won't bring an immediate end to the political limbo following Germany's Sept. 24 election. The country has already broken its post-World War II record for the longest time from an election to the swearing-in of a new government.

The accord will be put to a ballot of the Social Democrats' more than 460,000 members, a process that will take a few weeks. Many members are

skeptical after the party's disastrous election result, which followed four years of being a "grand coalition" as a junior partner to Merkel's conservatives.

On the conservative side, Merkel needs only the approval of a party congress of her CDU, a far lower hurdle.

The Social Democrats were set to get the foreign, labor and finance ministries — the latter a major prize, held by Merkel's CDU for the past eight years and an influential position given Germany's status as the eurozone's biggest economy. The interior ministry, also previously held by the CDU, would go to the CSU, which

has pushed to curb the number of migrants entering Germany.

Merkel's party would keep the defense ministry and get the economy and energy ministry, held by the Social Democrats in the outgoing government.

"I think this is an excellent result, in terms of content as well as with regards to the ministries, senior Social Democrat lawmaker Hubertus Heil said. "We can be very satisfied."

Alexander Dobrindt, the CSU's top federal lawmaker, said it had been time for negotiators to come out of their "trenches" and "we succeeded." "It was time to have the



prospect of a government in Germany," Dobrindt told reporters. "So it's a good morning."

Merkel has been running a caretaker government since late October.

While that poses no problems for day-to-day business, it means that

Germany — the European Union's most populous member with its biggest economy — hasn't been in a position to launch major initiatives or play any significant role in the debate on the EU's future, led so far by French President Emmanuel Macron. **AP**

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what's ON



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TIME: 2pm-9pm (last admission 8:30pm)

UNTIL: February 14, 2018

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ADMISSION: From MOP128, available at Kong Seng Ticketing Service

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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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

A CONTRIBUTION TO THE HISTORY OF MACAU – EXHIBITION

TIME: 10:30am-5:30pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

VENUE: Gallery of Carmo Post Office in Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2837 8138

11TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL (HGM)

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

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

WOMAN SAYS STORE-BOUGHT LETTUCE HAD A 3-INCH LIZARD IN IT



A Maine woman who prepared a salad says she realized after a couple of bites that her fork was stuck in a 3-inch lizard, minus the tail.

After vomiting and getting over her shock, Michelle Carr, a nurse from Kittery, said she feared she could have ingested harmful bacteria. A biologist friend believes she found a blue-bellied lizard from California.

Carr said she bought a bag of store-brand romaine lettuce at a supermarket in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, on Jan. 26. The lettuce was distributed by a California company. A supermarket spokeswoman said it notified the supplier.

Carr also called the state Health Department. A spokesman said because the lettuce was packaged and shipped from another state, any investigation would be conducted by the Food and Drug Administration.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:25	Zig Zag
18:15	Miscellaneous
18:40	What's Up
19:05	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Talk Show
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Yes, Chef! Sr 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:35	Talking About Macau
23:55	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:30	RTPi Live

cinema



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MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

ROOM 1
(2D) 02:15, 04:45, 9:34:5pm
(3D) 07:15pm

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: Rosa Salazar, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 142 min



THE POST

ROOM 2
02:30, 04:45, 7:15, 9:30pm
Director: Steven Spielberg
Starring: Tom Hanks, Meryl Streep, Sarah Paulson
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 116min

CODE GEASS LELOUCH OF THE REBELLION - EPISODE 1

ROOM 3
2:30, 9:30pm
Director: Goro Taniguchi
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)
Duration: 135 min

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

ROOM 3
5:00, 7:15pm
Director: Tomonori Sudô
Starring: Ayako Kawasumi, Jôji Nakata, Noriaki Sugiyama
Language: Japanese (Chinese)
Duration: 120 min

this day in history



1952 NEW QUEEN PROCLAIMED FOR UK

Princess Elizabeth has formally proclaimed herself Queen and Head of the Commonwealth and Defender of the Faith.

Lords of the Council - numbering 150 - representatives from the Commonwealth, officials from the City of London - including the Lord Mayor - and other dignitaries witnessed the accession of the deceased king's eldest daughter this morning.

The new monarch read an official Proclamation - also ordered to be published - declaring her reign as Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth the Second.

Queen Elizabeth II read: "By the sudden death of my dear father I am called to assume the duties and responsibilities of sovereignty."

"My heart is too full for me to say more to you today than I shall always work, as my father did throughout his reign, to advance the happiness and prosperity of my peoples, spread as they are all the world over."

Her husband, Prince Philip of Greece, the Duke of Edinburgh, was also present at the 20 minute meeting at St James's Palace.

The couple returned to the UK yesterday after cutting short a tour of the Commonwealth - beginning in Kenya a week ago - because of King George VI's sudden death on 6 February.

After the Accession Declaration, at 1000 GMT, the new Queen held her first Privy Council meeting and her Proclamation was signed by the Lord Chancellor, the prime minister, and many other privy counsellors along with representatives of the Commonwealth and the City and the Lord Mayor of London.

During the ceremonies the 25-year-old Queen also took an oath to assure the security of the Church of Scotland and approved several other Orders in Council.

Other dignitaries formally announced the new sovereign across the UK and Commonwealth.

In a statement this evening the Home Secretary, Sir David Fyfe, asked the nation for two minutes' silence on 15 February when the late King will be buried at St George's Chapel, Windsor.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

King George VI's body lay in state in the Great Hall in Westminster from 11 February until the funeral. Many thousands of people queued for hours to pay their respects.

His funeral was held on 15 February 1952.

Queen Elizabeth II's coronation was held in Westminster Abbey on 2 June 1953.

In 2002 the Queen enjoyed a year of celebrations and special visits to commemorate 50 years on the British throne.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You need some time alone to plan your next few weeks...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your ego gets a well-deserved boost from a confidence-building success...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Have courage and go ahead with what you believe to be the best choice for the long-term...

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You and someone close are all about the repartee and the winking one-liners...

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 When it comes to love, be open to anything. Recent developments have convinced you that you're better off alone...

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Thanks to the calming influences affecting your personal energy, you're one of the few people you know who is able to think clearly for now...

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You might want to change your cell number or email address in order to get a little privacy and relaxation...

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Are you feeling somewhat underappreciated recently? That's perfectly understandable - you've been working yourself to death...

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If communication has hit some kind of wall, it's not all that surprising - it's been looming for a while...

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Your big brain is showered with a huge dose of assertive energy as the universe helps you focus on work and responsibilities...

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 When thinking of future opportunities, practice deep respect without giving in to alien ways of thinking...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Try not to take that loved one's criticisms too personally - see if you can ignore the words and look only at actions...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



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7 1 2
3 8 7 6

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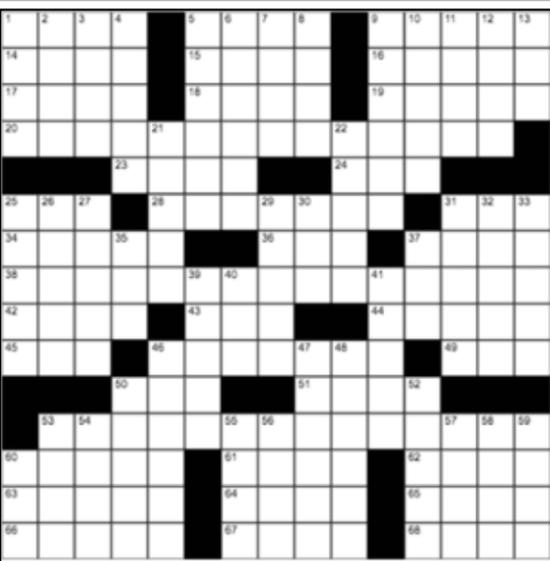
WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows for CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Final Four org.; 5- 401(k) cousins; 9- Pianist Claudio; 14- Hurler Hershtiser; 15- State bird of Hawaii; 16- Silk cotton; 17- Actress Spelling; 18- Read quickly; 19- One on track?; 20- Widespread environmental disaster; 23- Airline to Israel; 24- Donkey; 25- Asian language; 28- Ailment; 31- Freddy Krueger's street; 34- Take ___ at (try); 36- Bran source; 37- Intestinal sections; 38- In spite of; 42- Leg joint; 43- Yes, to Yves; 44- Red fluorescent dye; 45- Cabinet dept.; 46- Greek goddess of justice; 49- Bambi's aunt; 50- Opposite of post-; 51- Sailors; 53- County in central England; 60- State Farm rival; 61- Bank offering; 62- Irish island group; 63- Massenet opera; 64- Scottish Gaelic; 65- Title for Agatha Christie; 66- Glide along smoothly; 67- Doe or fawn; 68- 365 days;

DOWN: 1- E or G, e.g.; 2- Gator's kin; 3- Dynamic leader?; 4- Wonderland girl; 5- Position, in Britain; 6- Remember; 7- Collections of anecdotes; 8- Transmitted; 9- Beyond; 10- Harvests; 11- Having wealth; 12- Have ___ in one's bonnet; 13- Nasser's org.; 21- "The dog ate my homework," e.g.; 22- Dreadlocks wearer; 25- Sri ___; 26- For ___ (cheap); 27- Brown-furred aquatic carnivorous mammal; 29- Polite refusal; 30- Grab a bite; 31- Beethoven dedicatee; 32- Bolshevik leader; 33- ___ Carta; 35- Feeling of being overwhelmed; 37- Wedding words; 39- We're Off ___ the Wizard; 40- Humble dwelling; 41- Approaches; 46- Obscure; 47- Comfortable; 48- Breadwinner; 50- Burgundy grape; 52- Covered; 53- Escaping fluid; 54- View from Catania; 55- Dog-powered snow vehicle; 56- Got ripped; 57- Dies ___; 58- ___ Lama Ding Dong; 59- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 60- Mornings, for short;



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Rugby Academy

Over 100 players and supporters in Hong Kong festival, U6 team shine

Donald Shaw, Hong Kong
Special to MDT

THE Macau Bats took six teams to the latest Hong Kong rugby festival hosted by Tai-Po Rugby Club at King's Park last weekend. A group of more than 100 players and supporters left Macau on a chilly Sunday morning. The festival was to be the debut of the under-6 team and would see the under 9s and 10s playing in Hong Kong's top division for the first time this season. The U6 team took to the competition like naturals gaining three wins and a draw in what was an impressive first festival performance. The Bats beat hosts Tai-Po 4-1, South China 3-1, Sandy Bay 3-1 and then 2-2 against Hong Kong Football Club.

The U7s began their games with a 3-2 win over Valley Fort, followed by three narrow defeats against Tsuen Wan Rhinos (3-4), HKFC (2-3) and Sai Kung Stingrays (2-4).

The U8s returned with two wins, 6-2 against Tin Shui Wan Eagles Wan and 5-1 over Sandy Bay; two defeats, 2-4 against South Lantau Buffaloes and a narrow 4-5 loss with Tsuen Wan Rhinos.

The U9s were playing four of Hong Kong's top teams and lost narrowly against Valley Fort (1-2) and Sai Kung Stingrays (1-2) before going down 1-6 (HKFC) and 3-6 (Sandy Bay). According to their coach "the games were a big step up and the team played well. We now understand the extra effort that we need to bring in order to compete against these higher level teams. We learnt a lot from today and will use it to improve in the next tournament".

Similarly the U10s found the going a lot tougher in the top league and saw their 100 percent win record come to an end this time round. Two tough defeats from Valley Fort (1-6) and Sandy Bay (1-5) was followed by a 2-2 draw against HKFC before a final 0-6 loss against a very strong Discovery Bay Pirates. Again the Bats coaches were keen to accentuate the positives of the performances and look for improvements in the next round of games.

The U12s continued their run in the Richard Hawkes Cup and started with a very good 2-1 win over Tung Chung. This was a feisty game and saw the Bats recover from losing an early try to comeback and win the game. Next was a similarly tough match against a strong USRC Tigers but this time the Bats lost 1-2. The third game saw Flying Kukris win 3-1 against the Bats in what was another very competitive game. Injuries took their toll on the Bats and the final game against HKFC saw them lose 0-2. The Bats finished a very creditable third in their group and look forward to the final round in March.



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WINTER GAMES

Athletes, organizers contend with icy weather in Pyeongchang

Jake Seiner, Pyeongchang

WHEN many athletes and officials woke up yesterday, the temperature at Pyeongchang Olympic Stadium was minus 16 Celsius. Sidewalks in the nearby mountain cluster were sparsely populated all day, save for some athletes, officials and media scurrying from building to building.

Those who did venture outside layered clothing under bulky jackets and stepped over icy mounds of old snow in sturdy boots. Olympic volunteers stationed at bus stops crowded around patio heaters, and few tourists appear-

red willing to brave the elements.

Competitors and spectators can't stay inside through the entire Pyeongchang Games, though, and with the wind chill at the Olympic Stadium projected at -10 Celsius for the opening ceremony tomorrow night, there's concern about their well-being.

In November, at least six people were treated for hypothermia after a pop concert at the open-air Olympic Stadium, and organizers are taking steps to avoid further health issues related to the cold. Attendees will be given kits with a poncho, a blanket, a beanie hat and heat packs for their seat, hands and feet, and Korea Meteorological Administration offi-

cial Yoo Hee-Dong suggested via translator that "spectators need to wear their warm clothes."

Japan pulled athletes from a team welcome ceremony yesterday in the coastal town of Gangneung because of the cold, but most athletes don't seem concerned with temperatures for tomorrow night. Americans have been told they will have a warm waiting area before marching, and many plan to leave shortly after the U.S. delegation walks — not uncommon at the Olympics.

The Americans will also be wearing battery-powered heated jackets, something that's assuaged concerns about ill effects from a long, cold night standing outside.

"I think it will be a pretty warm outfit," cross-country skier Sadie Bjornsen said. "Being there with the rest of Team USA and representing your country and feeling that energy of all the sports and all the athletes coming together that have worked so hard, I'm hoping that will keep me warm."

Biathletes in particular are concerned about the cold and wind in competition. The sport is poorly suited to extreme cold, mostly because they can't fire their rifles if they're wearing bulky gloves.

"Trying to shoot precision rifle marksmanship when you can't feel your hands is fairly challenging," said American biathlete Lowell Bailey.

The biting wind may also be a factor. American biathlete Tim Burke still thinks hitting targets will be "doable," but says it will influence the results.

"You have to be on your toes throughout the race because the wind also changes direction, which is something you don't deal with all the time," he said.

Biathletes in particular are concerned about the cold and wind in competition

The frosty weather will also affect the course for cross-country skiing, with the first event set for Saturday. American Rosie Brennan is anticipating slower snow because of the cold and the amount of man-made snow on the track. Racers will use harder waxes on their skis to help with grip, and many will wear face masks to help with breathing.

"The biggest danger for us is our lungs because we're breathing hard in the cold," Brennan said. "Some of us have cold masks that kind of just create space so you can warm the air a little more as it comes in."

Still, most of the U.S. cross-country contingent was excited about the cold, especially after the warmer Sochi Games. Ida Sargent said, "it's nice to have it finally feel like winter," and Minnesota-raised Jessie Diggins thinks the near-zero temperatures are "awesome."

"I don't feel pain the same way when it's cold," Diggins said. "I feel like I can keep pushing and keep pushing, because when it's hot, I shut down. When it's cold, I feel like I can just go forever." **AP**

FOOTBALL

FA Cup: Swansea wins 8-1, Huddersfield sets up Man U match

WITH a club-record 8-1 win in the FA Cup, Swansea offered further evidence of its revival under new manager Carlos Carvalhal yesterday [Macau time].

Huddersfield was another winner in the fourth-round replays, beating second-tier Birmingham 4-1 after extra time to set up a last-16 meeting with Manchester United — three days after losing at Old Trafford in the Premier League.

Carvalhal has masterminded wins for Swansea over Liverpool and Arsenal in recent weeks to lift



Swansea City manager Carlos Carvalhal

the Welsh club out of the Premier League's relegation zone.

Notts County, a team

from England's fourth tier, provided a much easier test and Swansea took advantage by scoring four

goals in each half at Liberty Stadium. The teams drew 1-1 in the original match last month.

"It's important if it's the best result in the [club's] history, but the most important thing is the attitude of the players that made all the difference," Carvalhal said. "I spoke to them before the game that we had a challenge."

Carvalhal played a team filled largely with fringe players and two of them — Tammy Abraham and Nathan Dyer — scored twice in the first half. Kyle Naughton, Wayne Routledge, Tom Carroll and debutant Daniel James added more goals after halftime to complete Swansea's biggest FA Cup win.

"I don't think they deserved to win 8-1 but it is one of those games where their finishing was Premier League standard," said Notts County manager Kevin Nolan, who played in England's top

division for Bolton, Newcastle and West Ham.

The reward for Carvalhal is a meeting with the club that fired him in December, second-tier Sheffield Wednesday.

Huddersfield came from behind at St. Andrew's, needing an own-goal to take the game to extra time at 1-1. Steve Mounie, Rajiv van La Parra and Tom Ince scored in the extra 30 minutes as the northern club ultimately eased through.

Huddersfield may have lost at Old Trafford on Saturday, but David Wagner's side beat United at home in October.

In the other match, third-tier Rochdale beat second-tier Millwall 1-0 and will play either Tottenham or fourth-tier Newport in the fifth round. Their replay is today. **AP**

opinion

Made in Macao

Jenny Lao-Phillips



OUT WITH THE OLD

Next Tuesday, February 13, is a special day. No, it is not Chinese New Year yet, and no, it is not special because it is Valentine's Day's or Ash Wednesday's eve. It is the 28th day of the last month of the lunar year. So, what is so special about this day?

年廿八, 洗邋遢, nin ya baat, sai laat taat, is a well-known tradition in which the 28th is the time to clean away dirt. So this day is the day for thorough cleaning. Most people follow the practice and clean the whole apartment all day and into the night. But the day is about more than just cleaning. There is an "out with the old and in with the new" perspective behind this tradition. And our younger generation seems to have a few misunderstandings about this day.

Firstly, the day for "sai laat taat" (cleaning dirt) does not have to be the 28th day of the last month, before the new year. In ancient times, the 26th and 27th of the year's final month were for worship in the form of thanksgiving to the gods for what has been given throughout the year. The 30th is the day for reunion when the whole family welcomes the new year together in celebration. So, technically, cleaning should be done before the 30th, which leaves only the 28th and 29th for the job. Some say that people started cleaning on the 28th so that if they are not finished by the end of the day, they still have the 29th to finish. But in modern society, not many people live in large houses that cannot be thoroughly cleaned in one day. Hence, while "nin ya baat" (the 28th) became the special day, any day before the 30th is good for the comprehensive cleaning.

The second misconception is that cleaning should be undertaken not only so that the house looks good for the new year, but supposedly so that old things can be cleared out in order for new things to come in the new year. This does not mean we should ditch our iPhones in hope for a new one in the new year. It is specifically to clean out things that are old and holding us back both physically and spiritually. This is so that we can welcome a new life in the new year. So it may be a good time to throw or give away old clothes for a new look, ditch old photos of the ex to find new love, or even to throw away a failed test paper to strive for good grades in the new year. Of course, the cleaning of the apartment too, involves getting rid of dirt and dust which are in the way for a brand new healthy life.

Finally, it is worth noting that the "out with the old, in with the new" is a philosophy that relates to more than physical possessions. It is also spiritual. In ancient times, the practice of the day of "sai laat taat" is also a day for getting rid of old bad habits, making a day for people to set resolutions to make changes. So resolving to quit smoking may be a way to celebrate that day - not that I'm doing that this year. It is thus also a day for meditating on the wrongs one has done and to decide to change such behavior.

After a thorough cleansing of body, mind and soul, one awaits in a supposedly fully cleaned apartment for the coming of the new year, and with it, new luck like "good health", "prosperity", "youth and beauty", which are written on red papers that are stuck around the place. This is how we prepare for the Chinese New Year.

THE AMID CONTROVERSY, TARANTINO BUZZ EXPRESSES REGRET OVER THURMAN

Director Quentin Tarantino has responded to Uma Thurman's allegation that he put her life in danger with a dangerous car stunt on "Kill Bill," calling the incident "the biggest regret of my life."

But just as he was making amends for that incident the director was being excoriated on social media for remarks he made in a 2003 interview with Howard Stern that resurfaced online, seemingly defending Roman Polanski

for having sex with a 13-year-old girl, saying the victim "wanted to have it" and was "down to party" with Polanski.

The incident involving Thurman became public in a New York Times column in which the actress, while also making sexual misconduct allegations against Harvey Weinstein, recounted Tarantino persuading her to drive a car on the Mexico set that she had been warned might be faulty.

Snow causes major travel disruptions in France

HEAVY snowfall is causing major travel disruptions in the northern half of France and in Paris after the weather conditions caught authorities off guard.

Hundreds of people spent the night trapped in their vehicles or in improvised shelters outside Paris after French authorities failed to clear roads on time. The snowy episode — up to 15 centimeters in the Paris region — brought some excitement to Parisians, though, with some putting on their skis to tackle the Montmartre slopes, where the Sacre Coeur basilica is located.

Several flights from Paris airports were canceled or delayed, while the Paris police prefecture urged drivers to leave their cars at home to avoid creating more traffic jams yesterday. On subway services in Paris, commuters faced long journeys in packed carriages.

In Velizy, a small town in the suburbs of Paris, about 200 people unable to make it back home were put up for the night in a commercial mall and a sports hall. Some 1,500 others slept in 46 reception shelters opened in the French capital.



In anticipation of the cold, the "Grand Froid" plan — which translates as "Big Cold" — had been launched earlier this week in 22 departments in order to create about 1,000 extra housing places for homeless people.

Despite the huge traffic jams, Paris police chief Michel Delpuech praised the measures put in place, especially the decision to prevent trucks from entering the Paris region that was

enforced Tuesday.

Delpuech said 3,790 trucks were stopped, a move that contributed to decongesting roads. He added that only 47 people were injured across the region, and that no fatal car crash had been recorded.

"A total of 73 salting vehicles treated 700 kilometers of roads," Delpuech said, adding that the ban on trucks was lifted Wednesday to guarantee they could deliver their stocks. AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	55-75 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

KENYA The government said yesterday it had deported a politician arrested for witnessing the mock inauguration of opposition leader Raila Odinga as the "people's president," an event it calls treason.

IRAQ-SYRIA French foreign minister Jean-Yves Le Drian says some 100 French citizens who fought with the Islamic State group before being arrested in Syria or Iraq will be judged by local authorities.

ISRAEL-LEBANON Lebanon's top security body has instructed the country's military to confront any Israeli "aggression" on its land or maritime borders. The instruction comes amid escalating tensions between the two neighbors, who are technically at war.



GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives and Germany's main center-left party reached a deal yesterday to form a new coalition government after a final session of talks that dragged on for 24 hours. More on p14

EU The European Parliament voted yesterday to dismiss one of its vice presidents, Ryszard Czarnecki of Poland, after he compared a rival Polish parliament member to a Nazi collaborator.



BRAZIL Police and military forces have arrested 23 people in a series of raids two days into violence-plagued parts of Rio de Janeiro two days before the city's famed Carnival celebrations.

VENEZUELA Negotiations between the government and opposition were hanging by a thread after they failed to reach an agreement on a formula for upcoming presidential elections.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

MDT/Eva Bucho



CNY selfies. Tourists brave the cold weather for an opportunity for a selfie with the Leal Senado decorations in the background.