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# News At Hand



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”



**MGM  
COTAI  
PREVIEW**

P5 MDT REPORT



**EDUCATION MEETS  
INNOVATION**

Alejandro Salcedo talks on the challenges to make long-term teachers change the way they deliver lessons

P7



**SMILING SISTER EXPLOITS  
TRUMP-MOON RIFT**

Kim Jong Un deployed a new weapon at the Olympics to fight back against the Trump administration's sanctions

P12,13,19 KOREA



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AD

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the vaccination

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# DSAT against public bus fleet expansion

P4

AP PHOTO



# Las Vegas is a tough town for women working in the casino industry

P9 FEATURE

## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**INDONESIA** A court sentenced the leader of an Islamic State group-affiliated militant network in Indonesia to seven years in prison yesterday for involvement in smuggling guns from the southern Philippines.

**MALAYSIA** Three members of a Malaysian family have been detained in the death of their Indonesian maid, who suffered injuries and was forced to sleep outside on a porch with the family's dog.

AP PHOTO



**MALDIVES** As a political crisis plays out in the Maldives, a quiet tug of war is taking place around it, with heavyweights China and India vying for strategic dominance in the picturesque Indian Ocean nation. More on p11

More on backpage

## Sulu Sou appeals to Court of Final Appeal

Suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou confirmed to TDM he will appeal to Macau's top court after the Second Instance Court ruled earlier this month "it does not have the jurisdiction to hear the appeal." Sou's defense claim that several irregularities leading up to the December 4 suspension vote at the Legislative Assembly "violated the rules of procedure and fundamental rights of the appellant," and that this should annul the suspension. However, the TSI has refused to consider the appeal on the basis that it does not think it has the authority to rule on affairs of the legislature. The young lawmaker is accused of civil disobedience in a lawsuit related to a protest last year against a controversial donation from the Macao Foundation to Jinan University. He was ousted in a secret ballot vote at the Legislative Assembly, with 28 legislators voting in favor and just four against.



**T**HE Transport Bureau (DSAT) wants bus companies to improve their efficiency, but is not willing to allow the expansion of the public bus fleet. DSAT director Lam Hin San made this comment yesterday on the sidelines of a meeting while also pointing out that 2016 was a record-breaking year in terms of the number of passengers and buses.

The number of public buses now stands at 900, a 4 percent increase compared to 2016. In 2017, the number of passengers also increased by 4 percent, according to DSAT figures.

"Our first priority is to improve the efficiency of the buses in order for them to be always on time. [...] I don't want too many buses running on our roads," said Lam Hin San.

The DSAT head also addressed the controversy surrounding the public bid for 100 electric taxis. A taxi drivers association

## TRANSPORTATION

# DSAT does not want more public buses

said earlier this week that the bid was not timely given the fact that there are not many charging stations installed in Macau. Lam Hin San said that it is up to the taxi drivers to decide if they want to join the public tender. "They need to evaluate all the factors that they need to assess before they join the bid," Lam argued. He added that there are not many electric cars in Macau yet and the number of charging stations has increased consistently. "If there's a need from the public and citizens, of course we will try to meet what they want."



## Suspect sprays flammable liquids on Old Court Building

A person sprayed a pile of papers with flammable liquids at the entrance of the Old Court Building around 4 p.m. yesterday. The police rushed to the scene shortly after the incident. Upon evaluation, it was concluded that the building had not suffered any damage. The police are handling the case as an attempted arson.

## Ophthalmologist José Batalha has passed away

Ophthalmologist José Batalha died last Friday at the age of 96, TDM radio reported. The physician, a prominent figure within the Macanese community, worked for several decades in the Macau Health Bureau and was also the clinical director of the public hospital between 1983 and 1986. In the mid 1950s, he served as vice-president of the administrative committee of the Leal Senado. Batalha, whose name is almost synonymous with ophthalmology in the region, was also one of the founding members of the Association for Macanese Education (APIM). One of the things which APIM runs is the D Jose da Costa Nunes Kindergarten in addition to significant participation in Macau's Portuguese School. Batalha was given two honors from both the Macau and Portuguese government during the 1980s.

## CRIME

# Robbed while giving information to alleged tourist

Renato Marques

**A** female resident of Macau had her mobile phone stolen while providing assistance to an allegedly lost tourist, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson said yesterday during a press conference.

The incident occurred last Friday while the woman was waiting to cross the street near the Ponte 16 area.

According to her complaint, she was waiting for the pedestrian traffic sign to change when a person bumped into her, causing her to turn and see a man asking her for information about how to get to St Paul's Ruins.

After providing assistance to the tourist, he left. She later reached

to her pockets and realized that her mobile phone had been stolen.

The complainant believes that the man who asked her for directions robbed her during the interaction. She claimed to the PJ that the phone was worth about MOP5,300. The police are investigating the case.

In a separate case raised at the same press conference by the PSP, the PJ said they caught a woman from the mainland with a fake entry-exit permit form in her possession.

This occurred on the evening of February 8 when the woman was intercepted by an officer on patrol at the crossroads between Rua de Coimbra and Avenida de Sir An-

ders Ljungstedt in the NAPE area, in front of the PSP's Police Station.

The officer asked for her identification and she gave him what appeared to be a forged permit.

Further investigation and examination of the records showed that the form was a forgery and that the woman had been overstaying her permit in Macau since August 2017.

She then admitted to obtaining the fake document through a man from the mainland, whom she contacted via the Internet.

The police also found that the passport she handed to the police had expired.

According to the PSP spokesperson, she is being charged with document forgery.

## Children used to smuggle items into mainland China

**T**HE Macao Customs Service and Gongbei Customs recently conducted a joint operation between February 7 and 9 to combat smuggling. Several people were found smuggling items to mainland China using school-aged children and equipment for children such as infant strollers.

According to a Customs statement, the Macau and Zhuhai customs authorities deployed a total of 340 people during the joint operation. The two departments recorded 58 violations of customs law, including cases of people transporting fresh food between Macau and mainland China.

The Customs statement reads that smugglers paid intermediaries to bring items from Macau to mainland

China. Those items include electronic devices, cigarettes and alcohol.

In total, eight cases involved school-aged children and three cases involved the use of infant strollers to smuggle items to mainland China. These cases combined represent 19 percent of all smuggling cases.

In September last year, the Macau government joined the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora.

For the first time as part of the joint initiative, Customs authorities seized species listed on the convention.

According to the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's identification, the seized items consisted of 26 crocodile and one ostrich leather product.

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Times

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PREVIEW

# MGM Cotai opens today with sensory trio of food, art and entertainment

Daniel Beittler

**T**HE latest addition to Macau's Cotai Strip will thrust open its doors to the public this evening and in doing so set a precedent for resort-embedded culture and technology.

The long-awaited MGM Cotai was worth the wait.

With its emphasis on a sensory trio of food, art and entertainment, MGM's second Macau property has married impressive feats of technology to an art collection that appears as integral to the building as its steel roof mesh or its colored marble floors.

At the heart of the USD3.4-billion integrated resort is Spectacle, an indoor, natural-light environment that serves as both a callback and an elaboration of the Grande Praça at MGM Macau.

Described by the casino operator as an "innovative, multi-dimensional sensory experience," this not-so-micro-environment is enclosed by large digital displays featuring scenic landscapes one minute and works of art another.

It also features what is penned to become the world's largest indoor art garden. Dubbed Nature's Art, the garden will house more than 100,000 plants and over 2,000 plant species, including many extinct species dating from the 19th and 20th centuries that were resurrected from botanical garden seed banks.

Representatives of MGM China say the resort's epicenter will continue to evolve over time, responding to external changes such as the weather and seasons, the time of day, and even the behavior of visitors.

Dotted elsewhere around the resort are more than 300 artworks from what is described by the company as one of the largest permanent art collections in Macau. The collection includes modern and contemporary Asian paintings and sculptures, as well as commissioned works by local artists, including celebrated mapmaker Eric Fok.

The world's largest permanent indoor LED screen will feature at the new MGM Theater, a multi-purpose entertainment venue with five enormous screens that crea-

te a panorama experience some 12 meters high by 66 meters wide.

Dubbed "Asia's first dynamic theater" with movable screens and seating, the 2,000-seat venue will be used for a variety of entertainment purposes, including screenings, performances, and gaming and nightclub activities.

Food forms the third leg of the sensory trio at MGM Cotai, with its climax being the company's four celebrity chef partnerships.

Award-winning chef Mauro Colagreco will head up Mediterranean-styled Grill 58, and Graham Elliot, a television personality best known for his role in the MasterChef and MasterChef Jr. franchises, has opened Coast. They are joined by master pastry chef Janice Wong, dubbed "Singapore's dessert queen", and Mitsuharu "Chef Micha" Tsumura, who at Aji combines the traditional cuisine of his native Peru with the Japanese techniques of his ethnic origin.

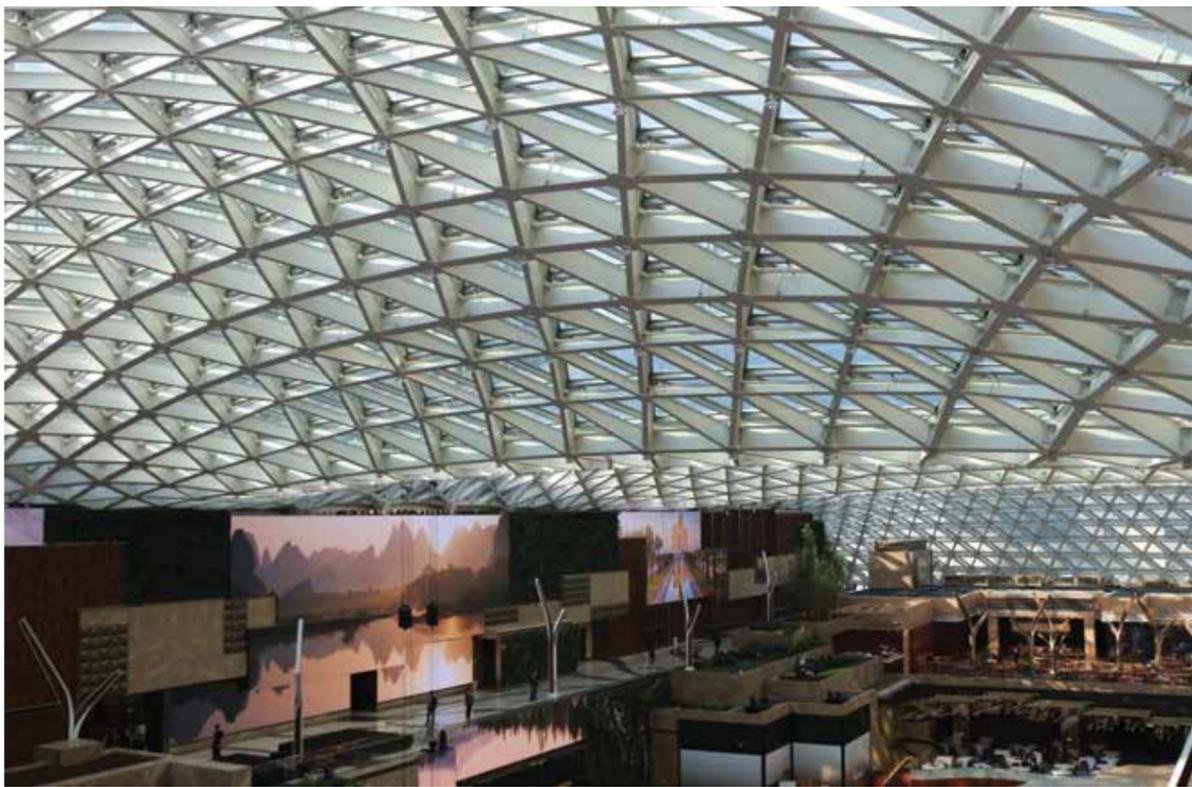
Colored in MGM's signature palette, the building is distinctive yet familiar enough for any frequent Macau visitor to unmistakably associate it with the casino operator. But it would not be complete without a towering golden lion that, at 11 meters in height and 38 tons in weight, guards one of its entrances.

Meanwhile, gaming activities occupy a now-standard 10 percent of the resort's floor space, in line with other recent integrated resorts in the MSAR. The message from MGM China yesterday was that gaming has been relegated to the back seat.

That is perhaps unsurprising after MGM China was granted a disappointing 100 new-to-market live dealer gaming tables last month, with just a further 25 to follow next year. According to company representatives, the Macau government has now approved the transfer of 77 additional gaming tables from MGM Macau to the new property in time for the Chinese New Year holidays.

But the representatives continue to emphasize the resort's other amenities - a strategy that might curry favor with the local government in the run-up to the casino license renegotiations in the coming years.

PHOTOS BY DANIEL BEITTLER





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Wednesday, 28/2/2018

### Macau: Ready for Digital Disruption and becoming a Smart City?

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**Introduction:** Digital disruption is real and happening now, and is fundamentally changing the way organizations will compete and create, capture and deliver value, as well as transform smart cities and regional ecosystems in decades ahead. Transform now, or quickly face mass extinction. This talk is about the new order.

Date: **Wednesday, 28 February 2018**

Time: **9:00 - 10:30am** (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: **Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16**

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A woman poses for a picture after voting in elections in Malaysia

# Democracy on the retreat

**D**EMOCRACY was on the retreat last year, according to data published in the Economist Intelligence Unit's Democracy Index, which found that more than half of the 167 countries included in the index saw their scores decline.

The index compiles metrics from 60 indicators measuring plurality and democratic institutions. It gives each jurisdiction a score on a scale from 0 to 10, with four major categories; authoritarian regime (score of 0 to 4), hybrid regime (4 to 6), flawed democracy (6

to 8) and full democracy (8 to 10). Countries in the authoritarian regime category were found in Asia, Africa and the Middle East. The only countries to qualify for the category outside of these three regions were Cuba and Venezuela.

In the face of a general decline in democratic scores, the Economist magazine has concluded, "democracy continues its disturbing retreat" in 2017.

Just nineteen jurisdictions qualified as full democracies, representing 11.4 percent of countries worldwide and accounting for

## Democracy continues its disturbing retreat.

ECONOMIST MAGAZINE

about 4.5 percent of world population. Fifty-seven countries, accounting for 44.8 percent of the world's population, qualified as flawed democracies – a category with figures inflated by the inclu-

sion of populous India.

Meanwhile, hybrid regimes and authoritarian regimes accounted for 23.4 percent and 31.1 percent of jurisdictions, representing 16.7 percent and 34 percent of world population respectively.

China, which falls squarely in the authoritarian regime category, saw its score hold stable as it has for the last decade, in the range of 3.00 to 3.14.

Macau is not included on the list, but Hong Kong is.

Hong Kong's 2017 score dipped slightly to 6.31, continuing a trend of marginal decline that began in 2012. According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, this makes the territory a flawed democracy, building on the lower scores recorded in the years 2008 through 2011, which averaged 5.89.

Analyzed by the component categories, Hong Kong posted mixed results.

The city performed well in terms of functioning of the government (6.07) political culture (7.50) and civil liberties (8.53), but less so in terms of political participation (5.56) and electoral process and pluralism (3.92).

Its average of 6.31 puts it in 71st place tied with Namibia and Paraguay.

The list is topped by Norway (9.87), Iceland (9.58) and Sweden (9.39), while North Korea (1.08), Syria (1.43) and Chad (1.50) occupy the bottom of the table. Portugal is ranked in joint 26th, together with Chile, with a score of 7.84. **DB**

## Ten carbon monoxide poisoning cases recorded

Ten cases of carbon monoxide poisoning have been registered so far for this winter, with one incident resulting in death, the Health Bureau (SSM) announced in a statement on Sunday. According to the SSM investigation, in all cases the houses involved gas water heaters that were incorrectly installed without an exhaust pipe to allow waste gas to be channeled outside.

## Most house buyers are Macau residents

Most of Macau's property buyers over the last two years were Macau residents, Financial Services Bureau director Iong Kong Leong revealed recently during a TDM program. According to Iong, 56.7 percent of Macau residents who purchased a property in the last two years already owned a house. Recently, the local government relaxed the loan conditions for young first-time home buyers taking out a mortgage loan. Before the measure was announced, the average monthly residential transactions amounted to between 600 and 700. In the first nine days following the announcement of the measure, the transactions climbed to 900.

## Some temples still disobey safety instructions

The deputy director of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC), Leong Wai Man, said that certain temples still fail to comply with the government's safety requirements. Last year, the IC banned the indoor burning of incenses at night in temples, and required temples to switch off their electricity supply overnight. According to a report by Jornal Va Kio, Leong stated that the IC conducted inspections across all of Macau's 43 temples in which it was determined that 20 to 30 percent of the temples were still noncompliant.

Lynzy Valles

**E**DUCATION representatives gathered last week to discuss the latest developments of Self-Regulated Learning (SRL) in the global context with a focus on the application to classroom instruction and e-assessment platforms.

Organized by the School of Education at the University of Saint Joseph, the conference included four scholars from Taiwan, Hong Kong and the region, sharing their latest research findings and school-based, pedagogical practices.

Speaking to the Times, Ana Correia, dean of the School of Education reiterated the need for schools to change their methodologies and pedagogies.

According to Correia, the university is prepared to be a hub for related projects in the future and are waiting for SRL techniques to develop further. Correia added that the university plans to collaborate with other institutes.

"I think Macau has the resources, and I think it

# Educators encouraged to promote self-regulated learning



Fr Alejandro Salcedo and Ana Correia

also has the enthusiasm so now we need to work together and collaborate between schools and universities."

Echoing the same sentiments, principal of St Paul's School, Fr Alejandro Salcedo remarked that schools in the region should come up with a methodological program on how to move away from the traditional way of schooling and prepare students for the rest of the 21st century, where the required skills will be dif-

fer from those of the past.

In 2012, St Paul's School became a "paperless school" as Primary 4 students to Form 6 made the transition and completed their studies through on-line platforms.

"We have to change. Unfortunately, we have all the things we don't need in education. We need to change in the school and try to give a 360 degree turn," said the principal.

Fr Salcedo noted that innovation should start in the education sector so

that students will be prepared and capable of contributing to the evolving work force.

"Society [in the future] will be completely different from the one we have now, so we have to look for ways and means in preparing our students for that. If other industries are trying to advance, why does education have to be left behind?"

The principal admitted that it is challenging to encourage long-term teachers to change the way they deliver lessons.

"Teachers [should] see the need for change and see that the future will be different from what we have now, so we have to offer something else."

The principal revealed that the school is working on a project that aims to focus on cultivating the habits of students at an early age.

From the current 3-6-6 system, which describes the years from Kindergar-

ten, Primary and Secondary level, St Paul's School is looking at implementing a 6-6-3 system.

"K1 to P3 is crucial – not for learning but for creating habits. So, we have to make students want to come to school. As of now, they are not missing it because the school starts with tests, memorizing and drilling," the principal explained.

Although the change will be internal, Fr Salcedo explained that university requirements nowadays are far more complex than several years ago, adding the need to prepare students and develop the eagerness to learn.

The planned curriculum will focus on allowing the first category to learn within classrooms by sharing and not by lecturing.

The Catholic school is also working on developing a new English curriculum to enhance the students' ability to speak the language.

# Jung Chang joins literary festival in Macau

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE Script Road - Macau Literary Festival 2018 will feature Jung Chang, the acclaimed author of "Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China" (1991), which the Asian Wall Street Journal has called the "most read book" about China.

Chang is also the writer of "Mao: The Unknown Story" (published in 2005, with Jon Halliday), a controversial biography of the PRC founder Mao Tse Tung, and "Empress Dowager Cixi: The Concubine Who Launched Modern China" (2013).

At a press conference yesterday, the organizers announced that the festival, which will be held from March 10-25 at the Old Court Building, will bring more than 60 writers, translators, musicians, filmmakers, performers and visual artists

to Macau.

Heading the line-up of the upcoming festival, Chang has received many awards including the UK Writers' Guild 'Best Non-Fiction' and 'Book of the Year UK', and is the recipient of a number of honorary doctorates from universities in the UK and USA.

Another highlight of the festival is the attendance of Li-Young Lee, a multi-award winning American poet, author of several poetry collections and the memoir "The Winged Seed: A Remembrance".

Born of Chinese parents in Jakarta, Lee learned about loss and exile from an early age. Immediately after Sun Yat-sen's provisional period, Lee's great grandfather was China's first republican President, Yuan Shikai. His father, a deeply religious Christian, was physician to Communist

leader Mao Tse Tung. After a five-year trek through Hong Kong, Macau, and Japan, Lee's family settled in the United States in 1964.

Tokyo-based writer and descendent of the Lobo Macanese family, Marco Lobo, will also join The Script Road.

His historical novels, "The Witch Hunter's Amulet" and "Mesquita's Reflections," explore themes of cultural conflict involving race and religion.

The latter will be published in Chinese and Portuguese and will be launched during the literary festival, organizers said.

Lijia Zhang, author of "Socialism Is Great!" will also be present at the festival with her debut novel "Lotus" on prostitution in contemporary China. The festival will also showcase the works of Miguel Syjuco, novelist, journalist, and



Jung Chang, author of "Wild Swans" and "Mao: The Unknown Story"

university professor from the Philippines, whose debut novel "Ilustrado" was a NY Times Notable Book of 2010 and the winner of The Man, Asian Literary Prize.

Organizers also announced that this year's The Script Road Short Story Competition has received some 190 entries from around the globe.

"The stories came from a large number of places but [stories from] Portuguese-speaking countries are [the largest]," said Helder Beja, program director of The Script Road. He added that there are a significant number of entries from Brazil.

"The majority of Chinese stories are from local writers, and also some are from China and Hong Kong, but a large majority comes from Macau," he added.

The Macau Literary Festival will be screening a total of five films this year, both at Cinematheque Passion and the Portuguese Consulate-General.

Chinese filmmaker Ju Anqi is traveling to Macau with his latest film, "Poet on a Business Trip"; writer and director Han Dong will be showing "At the Dock"; and poet Yu Jian will present his documentary "Jade Green Station".

The festival will also host a series of exhibitions and two concerts, headlined by Portuguese singer JP Simões and folk singer and poet Zhou Yunpeng.

## Registered capital in new companies rises 1,000pct

**A** total of 1,226 new companies were incorporated in the fourth quarter of 2017, an increase of 179 year-on-year, with the total value of registered capital rising 71.8 percent to MOP597 million. Companies in dissolution during the fourth quarter numbered 225, an increase of 32 year-on-year, with their value amounting to MOP27 million.

According to the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), capital for these new companies came mostly from mainland China (MOP459 million), with MOP31 million coming from the nine provinces of the Pan-Pearl River Delta Region, of which Guangdong Province accounted

for MOP30.6 million. Capital from Macau and Hong Kong totaled MOP106 million and MOP25 million respectively.

Analyzed by ownership, there were 823 new companies established solely by Macau shareholders, and 134 joint ventures between shareholders from Macau and other countries or territories.

For the whole of 2017, the number of newly incorporated companies rose by 785 year-on-year to 5,177, reversing the decline of the previous two years. The total value of registered capital increased by more than 1,000 percent to MOP8.2 billion. According to DSEC, the steep rise may be attributed to the incorpora-

tion of companies with large capital in the financial services sector.

Over the same period, the number of companies in dissolution totaled 803 in 2017, with the value of registered capital of companies in dissolution amounting to MOP146 million.

Analyzed by size of registered capital, there were 3,828 new companies (73.9 percent of total) registered with capital under MOP50,000, with their combined worth amounted to MOP100 million (1.2 percent of total). There were 111 new companies registered with capital of MOP1 million or over, and the total value of capital for companies in this category amounted to MOP7.9 billion.

## Seven join employment scheme for disabled during first month

**T**HE Social Security Fund (FSS) has implemented the Employment Incentive Program for Disability Pension Beneficiaries to promote participation of people with disabilities in the workforce. The program kicked off on January 1, with seven people joining during the first month. According a statement from the bureau, the FSS intends to continue actively contacting social service agencies and relevant beneficiaries,

and will increase publicity in order to expand the program's reach to a wider number of people.

The scheme applies to beneficiaries who are currently receiving a disability pension or temporary disability subsidy and are interested in seeking employment. Interested parties can make an application to the FSS to do trial work for a pre-specified period. Beneficiaries who are still unable to integrate fully into the labor market after

completing the trial work, but who have not exceeded the trial work duration, are able to continue receiving the disability pension or subsidy. Only when the beneficiary's trial work duration ends will he or she be deemed to have integrated formally into the labor market, causing the benefit to be discontinued. Beneficiaries may do the trial work up to two times within 12 months.

Participation in the incentive program is voluntary.

### corporate bits

#### SANDS CHINA IMPLEMENTS PAID PATERNITY LEAVE



Sands China is implementing a paid paternity leave policy for eligible team members, effective from February 16, the gaming operator an-

nounced in a statement yesterday.

Male team members who have contributed at least one year of service to the

company will be eligible for five consecutive days of paid paternity leave, to be taken within 30 days after the birth of their child.

Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, said, "We strive to address the needs of our team members, so we're very pleased to announce this new paid paternity leave policy, acknowledging the important role of fathers in the family."

"With this new policy, fathers of new-borns will have time to be with their families to enjoy this important milestone of life and to support them, helping maintain a harmonious family life," he added.

#### CTM DISTRIBUTES FOOD HAMPERS TO FAMILIES



The CTM Volunteer Team organized a Chinese New Year Visit with Caritas Macau, providing food hampers and New Year decorations,

including Fai Chun.

The volunteers visited underprivileged families at Ilha Verde Social House, sending out Chinese New Year bles-

sings and presenting each of the families with festive foods. Volunteer Team members also helped to set up the decorations for the families.

Paul Pun, secretary general of Caritas Macau, expressed his appreciation to CTM and the CTM Volunteer team members for their continuous commitment to fulfilling corporate social responsibility by delivering care and support to those in need, according to a press release issued by the telecommunications company.

CTM pledged that it will continue to fulfill its philosophy of "serving the community and contributing to the society."

# Steve Wynn is out but Vegas is still a tough town for women

Christie Smythe,  
Christopher Palmeri

**T**HE jobs were advertised as some of the best in Las Vegas: collect big tips while dealing blackjack on the Strip.

But inside the casino "party pits," women were the prey, dressed in bikinis and lingerie to be ogled by the customers and used as bait for gamblers. The workers are part of a chorus of women in the casino industry, among them cocktail waitresses and go-go dancers, who say they've been harassed, groped or asked by bosses for sex in return for good assignments.

Yes, this is Las Vegas, a city built on excess, gambling, drinking and sex. But the abrupt resignation of Steve Wynn, chief architect of the modern Strip, has drawn widespread attention to what has long been an open secret: few places in the U.S. are more perilous for women workers than Vegas.

A review of lawsuits, and interviews with women who have worked in party pits and casinos, paint a picture of an industry that has allowed its reputation for debauchery and permissiveness to seep its way into the workplace. (Wynn, who's been accused of harassing women and coercing them into sex, has called the allegations preposterous.) "There's a culture on the Strip. Sex sells," said Las Vegas attorney Maile Lani Esteban-Trinidad.

The casino industry in Nevada employs more than 179,000 people, many of them in low-wage jobs in housekeeping, food service and bartending. The state leads the nation in sexual harassment complaints per capita, according to data from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and the Bureau of Labor Statistics. The rate was about 25.6 complaints per 100,000 female workers. Those numbers represent a small percentage of the overall incidents, according to labor lawyers and workplace safety advocates, because so many don't get reported out of fear of retribution.

"Sexual harassment is endemic in the hospitality



industry, where you have vulnerable workers who are quite frightened to do anything about it," said Jay Holland, an attorney specializing in employment law in Greenbelt, Maryland. "In Las Vegas that culture, that fear, is magnified by the whole theme of the city: What happens here, stays here."

One woman, Eriko Yutani, was trying to make a go of it as a blackjack dealer by joining a staffing agency called Casino Job Center Inc. The company specializes in staffing party pits with scantily clad women at poolside gaming tables and other parts of resorts, with loud music and provocative dancing creating an atmosphere of bacchanalia.

Party-pit dealers such as Yutani could make as much as USD90 an hour in tips - much more than traditional dealers made - working at a high-end property like the Cosmopolitan to pay for her education.

The compensation came at a price. Yutani and other dealers were rated by some of the casinos based in part on their looks, she said in a court filing. And since management controlled which casinos she'd work and when, the assignments could make a huge difference in her income.

Things began to go awry for Yutani in 2015 when she says the company's owner began texting that he was having erotic thoughts about her. He asked for pictures of her in her bikini uniform as well as other "sexier" photos.

Other dealers, she believed, were providing sexual favors to the manager to obtain better work schedules. Stressed out by his advances, Yutani quit and filed a complaint with federal regulators, citing what she called a "sexually charged hostile environment," according to the filing.

The owner, Jace Mande, declined to comment on the allegations because of a confidentiality agreement as part of the settlement of the case.

"I was told I was not allowed to discuss anything about it," he said. He also declined to discuss his business. "I'm kind of busy," he said.

Yutani and her lawyer Jeffrey Gronich also declined to comment but gave permission for her name to be used. The Cosmopolitan declined to comment.

Dealers in ordinary positions in casinos have also raised allegations of being harassed, and even facing swift retaliation when making complaints. A dealer at Boyd Gaming Corp.'s Fremont Casino said her boss inappropriately hugged and touched her in his office, pressuring her to perform sex acts on him and threatening her job if she refused. The manager left the company and moved to rival Golden Nugget, where he continued to harass her, she said in a court filing.

The woman reported his behavior to Golden Nugget management, but found herself immediately suspended, denied a transfer and the subject of "constant gossip and hostility at

work" from other Fremont Casino managers whom she said where friends of her former boss. Boyd Gaming didn't respond to requests for comment.

Late shifts and an alcohol-fueled environment were part of the on-the-job conditions for Eva Perez, a waitress at Red Rock Re-

sorts Inc.'s Texas Station casino. The woman said in a court filing that she was socializing after hours with coworkers one night in 2015 when the bartender began pouring tequila shots for her. After the 2 a.m. closing time, the bartender insisted on driving her home even though he himself was intoxicated. He instead took her to his apartment where he sexually assaulted her, she claimed in a lawsuit. Red Rock had no comment. Perez gave permission for her name to be used through her attorney.

"I wouldn't want to indict an entire town with one statement, but I think for certain individuals, being in Vegas presents a little greater liberty in their mind about how they can act around women," said attorney Daniel Watkins, who also represents sexual harassment victims in Las Vegas.

Some companies, and advocates for employees,

are trying to change conditions. Culinary Workers Union, which represents some 57,000 casino employees in Nevada, said it has been making strides in protecting employees, including pressing casinos to allow housekeepers to wear pants instead of skirts as their uniforms and giving them "panic buttons," handheld devices they can use to call for help in the event they are attacked.

Winning harassment cases against casinos has historically been difficult, in part because casinos donate to the election campaigns of local judges, who tend to be more sympathetic to business, according to Esteban-Trinidad, the Las Vegas employment attorney.

The Wynn allegations, which led to the toppling of an industry legend, may inspire other women to come forward. Gaming regulators in Nevada continue to investigate the allegations against Wynn, even after he stepped down last week as CEO of the company he founded.

"Public awareness of it will make others more willing to stand up and take on these types of cases," Esteban-Trinidad said. **Bloomberg**

AD



MACAU RUGBY CLUB  
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AP PHOTO



## TAIWAN

# Memorial service honors 17 quake victims

Tajing Wu, Hualien

**T**HE 17 people who died last week after a strong earthquake hit Taiwan's east coast were honored at a memorial service yesterday, with attendees bowing their heads while placing flowers in front of photos of the victims.

Fu Kun-chi, the magistrate of worst-hit Hualien county, spoke at the noon ceremony at a local funeral parlor. Members of the

military and police force, religious group volunteers and city workers paid their respects.

Family members, who requested that media remain outside the memorial hall, sat inside while various officials expressed their condolences. The attendees then stepped into the memorial hall in turn, bowing and placing white flowers before the photos.

The deceased include nine mainland Chinese, one Philippine national and two Canadians,

according to Taiwan's official Central News Agency.

The shallow, magnitude 6.4 quake last Tuesday also injured 280 people after several mid-sized buildings were left tilting at dangerously sharp angles.

Fu announced the end of search efforts Sunday with the consent of family members, CNA reported. The magistrate said the last two victims were trapped under heavy columns that could not be removed without

risking the collapse of the entire 12-story Yunmen Tsuiti building, which housed a hotel on its lower floors.

The last bodies that were recovered belonged to members of a five-person family from mainland China, including parents, grandparents and their 12-year-old son.

Hundreds of rescuers had been on the scene. A team from Japan deployed equipment that can detect a heartbeat within a range of

15 meters.

An Fengshan, spokesman for the Chinese State Council's Taiwan Affairs Office, thanked donors in mainland China on Monday for contributions of nearly 21 million yuan (USD3.3 million), CNA reported.

Taiwan has frequent earthquakes. While most of them are minor, a 1999 quake killed more than 2,300 people and was Taiwan's worst recent natural disaster. **AP**

## GUI MINHAI

# Beijing rebukes Sweden over case of detained bookseller

**C**HINA said yesterday that a Hong Kong-based Swedish man who sold gossip books about Chinese leaders is under detention on suspicion of leaking state secrets, and rebuked Stockholm for demanding his release.

Foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang said Gui Minhai had "violated Chinese laws and thus must be dealt with in accordance with Chinese laws."

"The Swedish side's repeated demands that Chi-

na release him is a crude and unjustifiable interference into China's judicial sovereignty. We have lodged multiple solemn representations with the Swedish side over this matter," Geng said.

Gui, 53, was taken off a train by police on Jan. 20 while in the presence of two Swedish diplomats with whom he was traveling to Beijing. Sweden said its officials were taking him to seek medical treatment.

On Sunday, police in

the eastern city of Ningbo said that Gui was being held in the city jail and that they had evidence to back up their accusations that he leaked state secrets and intelligence to foreigners. No details about the charges were given.

Gui told pro-Beijing media outlets over the weekend that he never wished to leave China and that Sweden was using his case to "create trouble" for China's government.

"Looking back, I might have become Sweden's chess piece. I broke the law again under their investigation," Gui was quoted as saying by Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper. "My wonderful life has been ruined and I would never trust the Swedish ever again."

The statement from Gui, who spoke in a detention facility flanked by police, was immediately denounced by rights activists as coerced. In putting Gui

before the press, Chinese state security appeared to be responding to Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallstrom, who last week sharply questioned the rule of law in China and blasted Beijing's "brutal" treatment of Gui after weeks of relatively mild pleas for his release.

Gui went missing in 2015 from his seaside home in Thailand, turning up months later on Chinese television saying he had turned himself in for an alleged 2003 drunk driving accident in which a female college student was killed.

Several of Gui's colleagues from his Hong Kong publishing house also went missing in quick succession, sparking suspicions that mainland se-

curity forces were seeking to snuff out independent voices in the semi-autonomous city.

Gui was released in October after completing his two-year sentence, but had committed to remaining in Ningbo until an investigation was completed into charges of running a business illegally, the Ningbo police said in its statement faxed to The Associated Press. It gave no details about the state of that investigation but said Gui's rights were being preserved as he faced the new charges.

Gui's overseas friends and family, including his daughter Angela, have said the charges are bogus and that Gui was keen to leave China for Europe. **AP**

# China, India vie for influence as crisis unfolds in Maldives

Muneeza Naqvi, New Delhi

**A**S a political crisis plays out in the Maldives, a quiet tug of war is taking place around it, with heavyweights China and India vying for strategic dominance in the picturesque Indian Ocean nation.

At first glance, Beijing and New Delhi want no part in the turmoil that erupted Feb. 1 when the Maldives' Supreme Court overturned the convictions of several opposition politicians, including the president's main rival. Chinese and Indian officials spoke in usual diplomatic tones, saying they have no interest in interfering in the archipelago's internal affairs. But in reality, both have strategic regional interests to safeguard and are jostling for the upper hand.

President Yameen Abdul Gayoom has sent envoys to "friendly nations" China, Pakistan and Saudi Arabia to explain his government's position since he rejected the court ruling, imposed a state of emergency last week and arrested two of the Supreme Court judges. His actions fueled suspicion that he has no intention of easing up on eliminating his rivals and tightening his hold on power ahead of this year's elections.

His most powerful opponent, exiled former President Mohammed Nasheed, appealed to India to send troops to end the crisis.

"On behalf of Maldivian people we humbly request: 1. India to send envoy, backed by its military, to release judges & pol. Detainees [...] We request a physical presence," Nasheed tweeted last week.

Traditionally, the archipelago of 1,200 islands and a population of 390,000 Sunni Muslims has been firmly in New Delhi's sphere of influence, with India



Maldivian police officers detain an opposition protestor demanding the release of political prisoners during a protest in Male, Maldives

even intervening in 1988 when a group of mercenaries tried to seize power. Its support helped keep former strongman Maumoon Abdul Gayoom in power for three decades and later aided Nasheed, the country's first democratically elected leader, who became famous when he used his low-lying island nation to highlight the risk of rising sea levels and climate change.

But the Maldives began tilting toward Beijing after Yameen, the half brother of Gayoom, came to power in 2013 by defeating Nasheed.

Yameen has rolled back many of Nasheed's democratic gains, with all of his potential political opponents either jailed or in exile. His government curbed freedom of speech and assembly, with heavy fines imposed on journalists and social media users found guilty of defamation.

In 2015, in a trial widely criticized by rights groups, Nasheed was sentenced to 13 years in prison. He later received asylum in Britain.

China saw the developments as an opening.

"Until 2011, China didn't even have an embassy in the Maldives. Coming to 2018, it's seen as a big player in this whole Indian Ocean region," said Mahalakshmi Ganapathy, an India-China expert at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies.

When Yameen visited Beijing in December, the two countries signed a free trade agreement that eliminates most tariffs on Maldivian exports, primarily fish, and opens the island nation to Chinese goods and services, including in finance, health care and tourism.

China is already the Maldives'

primary source of tourists, whose spending largely drives the economy, and Beijing is investing hundreds of millions of dollars in an airport expansion, housing development and other projects.

China now sees the Maldives as a crucial part of its "One Belt One Road" project along ancient trade routes through the Indian Ocean and Central Asia. The initiative envisages building ports, railways and roads to expand trade — and China's influence — in a swath across Asia, Africa and Europe.

China's massive lending to poor nations for such projects has raised concerns about their ability to repay. Already, Beijing has taken over ports it developed in Sri Lanka and Pakistan on long-term leases.

Nasheed says China is "buying up the Maldives" under Yameen,

accusing the president of opening up the floodgates to Chinese investments with little or no oversight and transparency. China has dismissed those allegations.

Beijing is watching the Maldives very carefully. If the political situation turns in Nasheed's favor, that may shift the balance of influence back toward New Delhi.

India is clearly uneasy with China's growing presence in its backyard. What's less clear is how it will respond to the current upheaval in the Maldives.

## Maldives began tilting toward Beijing after President Yameen came to power in 2013 by defeating [exiled] Nasheed

So far, India hasn't responded publicly to Nasheed's demand that it deploy soldiers to end the crisis, and it's held off formally meeting with Yameen's envoy.

But last wee, India's Ministry of External Affairs issued a carefully worded statement aimed at China.

"We note that China has said that Maldives Government has the ability to protect the security of Chinese personnel and institutions in Maldives. We hope that all countries can play a constructive role in Maldives, instead of doing the opposite," the statement said.

"India is in a very difficult position," said David Brewster, an expert on Indian Ocean strategic affairs at the National Security College in Canberra, Australia. "It would like to see Yameen replaced, but it is not sure how to do that."

He added: "India's primary concern is not to restore democracy, but rather to reduce China's influence in the country." **AP**

# Canada reviews takeover by Chinese firm for national security

**A**ECON Group. Inc. has extended the timeline of its proposed takeover by a Chinese buyer, saying Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's cabinet is reviewing the deal on national security grounds.

In a statement yesterday, Aecon pushed the "outside date" to complete its plan of arrangement with a unit of China Communications Construction

Co. to March 30, from Feb. 23, after the government "ordered a continuation of the national security review of the proposed acquisition." It still expects the deal to close by the end of the second quarter, "assuming the satisfaction or waiver" of remaining conditions.

Investors had been betting a takeover of Aecon Group Inc. is no sure thing, with shares posting

their biggest one-week decline since the CAD1.19 billion (USD945 million) offer from a Chinese buyer amid questions of whether the Canadian government will review it on grounds of national security.

Canada's analysis into whether the transaction is in the country's "net benefit" had already stretched into overtime. Yesterday, Aecon said Trudeau's go-

vernment had given notice under section 25.3 of the Investment Canada Act, a passage that allows the government to order a review if it considers the takeover could be "injurious to national security."

The deal, announced in October, would see Aecon acquired by the Chinese firm for CAD20.37 a share. The stock ended Friday at CAD19.50, and tra-

ded as low as CAD19.33 on the day, a gap of 5.1 percent from the takeover price. The shares fell 2.3 percent last week, the biggest one-week drop since the deal was announced Oct. 26.

The purchaser filed an application for review on Nov. 9. Once that application is "certified complete," it begins a 45-day clock for Innovation Minister Navdeep Bains' office to review the deal, according to a summary of the process provided to shareholders by the company. The government can request an extra 30-day extension

for its so-called net benefit reviews of major deals, such as this one, Aecon said. Critically, the deadline can also be extended if the proponent and government agree.

Aecon continues "to respond to officials from the Investment Review Division" in Bains's office, Chief Executive Officer John Beck said last week in another statement. "Aecon welcomes the review on the merits of the proposed transaction and will continue to seek to obtain all the necessary regulatory approvals to close the transaction." **Bloomberg**

AUSTRALIA

# Former PM blames funding for indigenous setbacks

**A**N Australian prime minister who a decade ago set an ambitious timetable for ending indigenous disadvantage has blamed a lack of government funding for slow progress.

Kevin Rudd committed Australia to reducing the difference in life expectancies between Aboriginal and non-indigenous people on Feb. 13, 2008, when he made a historic apology to Australia's indigenous minority for past injustices.

On the eve of the 10th anniversary of that apology, Rudd told the National Press Club of Australia yesterday that the conservative governments of Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull and his predecessor Tony Abbott had failed to maintain funding for overcoming disadvantage and concealed cutbacks through a lack of transparency. Rudd led two center-left Labor Party administrations, mostly recently in 2013.

"A major reason, although by no means the only one, we're languishing in meeting a number of targets is the uncertainty in gover-

AP PHOTO



Former Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

ment's financial effort over recent years and this needs to be named for what it is, rather than being buried in an increasingly indecipherable lump of statistical mud," Rudd said.

The government yesterday released its 10th annual Closing the Gap report which measures progress in overcoming disadvantage in seven

areas, the most important being a decade difference in the life expectancy between the races.

Australia was on track to meet only three of those targets — halving the gap in child mortality by 2018, halving the difference in students completing high school by 2020 and enrolling 95 percent of indigenous 4-year-olds in education programs by 2015.

The gap in life expectancies was widening due to an increase in indigenous cancer deaths, the report found. Rudd had hoped to eliminate that gap by 2030

Rudd described the latest report as a "mixed picture."

"I can only conclude that a major reason we are starting significantly to fall short of the Closing the Gap targets is because this [...] government has withdrawn funding effort," Rudd said.

Turnbull has denied cutting indigenous spending and criticized Rudd for setting targets and timeframes without consulting indigenous leaders. **AP**

## Mattis says North Korea can't drive wedge between South, US

**U**.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis says it's too early to tell if any of the overtures between North and South Korea during the Olympic Games are creating a chance for peace on the Korean Peninsula.

But he rejected any suggestion that even a temporary warming of relations between the North and South could drive a wedge between Seoul and Washington.

His remarks came after North Korean dictator Kim Jong Un's sister, who is attending the Olympics, invited South Korea's president, Moon Jae-in, to visit Pyongyang.

Moon has not yet accepted the invitation from Kim Yo Jong, although he has said before he'd be willing to visit if it would help end the North's pur-

suit of nuclear weapons and its decades of hostility and threats against the South.

Mattis said it's unclear "if using the Olympics in a way to reduce tension — if that's going to have any traction once the Olympics are over. We can't say right now."

Speaking to reporters traveling with him on a weeklong trip to Europe, Mattis said the North's decision to hold a recent military parade that highlighted its ballistic missiles confuses any messages of thawing tensions on the peninsula.

"I don't know if it's a sign," Mattis said.

"That's a very strange time if, in fact, he's trying to show a warming to the country that he has attacked repeatedly as an American puppet." **AP**

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KOREAS

# Smiling sister exploits Trump-Moon rift on North

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un deployed a new weapon at the Olympics to fight back against the Trump administration's sanctions and threats of a preemptive strike against his nuclear program: His sister.

Kim Yo Jong shook hands with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, cheered enthusiastically for a unified Korean team, and displayed a sense of humor in weekend meetings. She also delivered a letter inviting Moon to a summit with her brother in Pyongyang, and asked him to play a "leading role" in reuniting the two Koreas after nearly seven decades.

"I never expected to come here on such short notice to be honest, and I thought it would be strange and different but it's not," Kim Yo Jong said at a dinner Sunday night before heading home. "There are many things similar and the same. I hope we can quickly become one and meet these good people again in Pyongyang."

The warm words were aimed at further exploiting divisions between the U.S. and South Korea, which differ on the best way to rid North Korea of nuclear

weapons. Her visit amounted to a charm offensive designed to counter the U.S. narrative that Kim Jong Un is a madman who tortures his own people and would blow up Los Angeles or New York City if he didn't get his way.

North Korea's participation in the Olympics has already allowed Kim Jong Un to undermine President Donald Trump's pressure campaign, with some sanctions suspended temporarily until the event ends. In pushing for a summit with Moon, Kim is seeking to consolidate those gains while maintaining his nuclear arsenal to deter a U.S. invasion.

The question now is whether the U.S. and South Korea can stay united in keeping up the pressure on North Korea just as sanctions limiting export revenue and curbing fuel imports start to bite. While Trump's advisers have threatened military action to prevent Kim from gaining the ability to strike the



South Korean President Moon Jae-in (right) shakes hands with Kim Yo Jong, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's sister

U.S. homeland with a nuclear weapon, Moon is seeking to prevent a war that could devastate South Korea and the region.

Kim's proposal for a summit was "a brilliant diplomatic maneuver," said Andrei Lankov, a

historian at Kookmin University in Seoul who once studied in Pyongyang. Moon would irritate Trump if he accepts the invitation, while declining would make the U.S. and South Korea appear "unreasonably bellicose," he said.

"The proposal, as well as North Korea's presence at the Games, sends a signal that the North Koreans are ready to talk," Lankov said. "And this signal helps the opponents of a military operation in Washington and elsewhere."

Signs of discord in the U.S.-South Korea alliance were evident immediately after the announcement. Moon's office initially provided conflicting accounts of whether he accepted the invitation, with a Blue House spokesperson later clarifying that pre-conditions first needed to be met.

U.S. Vice President Mike Pence didn't discuss the invitation with Moon while they watched a speed-skating event, a senior White House official said. Speaking to reporters later, Pence reiterated that there was "no daylight" between the U.S., South Korea and Japan in pushing to isolate North Korea until Kim abandons his nuclear program. **Bloomberg**

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## ICELAND

# Energy riches fuel bitcoin craze for speculation-shy island

Egill Bjarnason, Keflavik

**I**CELAND is expected to use more energy “mining” bitcoins and other virtual currencies this year than it uses to power its homes.

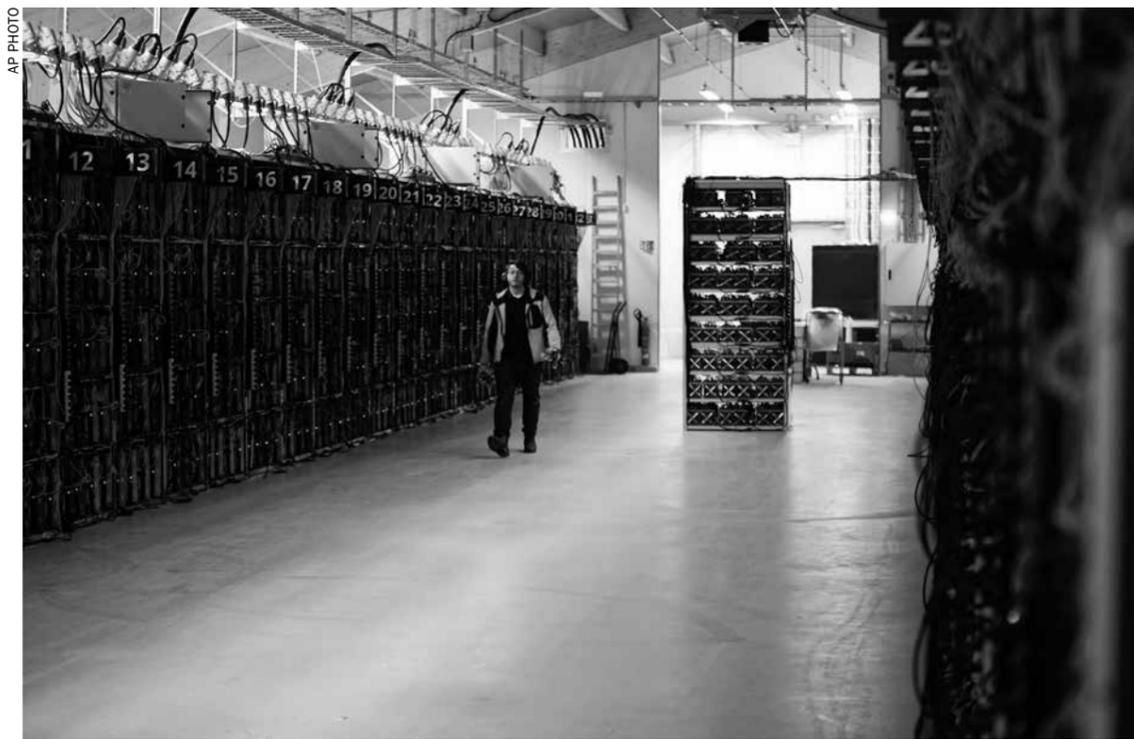
With massive amounts of electricity needed to run the computers that create bitcoins, large virtual currency companies have established a base in the North Atlantic island nation blessed with an abundance of renewable energy.

The new industry’s relatively sudden growth prompted lawmaker Smari McCarthy of Iceland’s Pirate Party to suggest taxing the profits of bitcoin mines. The initiative is likely to be well received by Icelanders, who are skeptical of speculative financial ventures after the country’s catastrophic 2008 banking crash.

“Under normal circumstances, companies that are creating value in Iceland pay a certain amount of tax to the government,” McCarthy told The Associated Press. “These companies are not doing that, and we might want to ask ourselves whether they should.”

The energy demand has developed because of the soaring cost of producing and collecting virtual currencies. Computers are used to make the complex calculations that verify a running ledger of all the transactions in virtual currencies around the world.

In return, the miners claim a fraction of a coin not yet in circulation. In the case of bitcoin, a total of 21 million can be mined, leaving about 4.2 million left to create. As more bitcoin enter circulation, more powerful computers are needed to keep up with the calculations — and that means more energy.



A row of computer rigs that run around the clock ‘mining’ bitcoin inside the Genesis Mining cryptocurrency mine in Keflavik

The serene coastal town of Keflavik on Iceland’s desolate southern peninsula has over the past months boomed as an international hub for mining bitcoins and other virtual currencies.

Local fishermen, chatting over steaming cups of coffee at the harbor gas station, are puzzled by the phenomenon, which has spawned oversize construction sites on the outskirts of town.

Among the main attractions of setting up bitcoin mines at the edge of the Arctic Circle is the natural cooling for computer servers and the competitive prices for Iceland’s abundance of renewable energy from geothermal and hydroelectric power plants.

Johann Snorri Sigurbergsson, a business development manager at the energy company Hitaveita Sudurnesja, said he expected Iceland’s virtual currency mining to

double its energy consumption to about 100 megawatts this year. That is more than households use on the island nation of 340,000, according to Iceland’s National Energy Authority.

“Under normal circumstances, companies that are creating value in Iceland pay a certain amount of tax to the gov’t.”

SMARI MCCARTHY  
LAWMAKER

“Four months ago, I could not have predicted this trend — but then bitcoin skyrocketed and we got a lot more emails,” he said at the Svartsengi geothermal energy plant, which powers the southwestern peninsula where the mining takes place.

“Just today, I came from a meeting with a mining company seeking to buy 18 megawatts,” he said.

At the largest of three bitcoin “farms” currently operating within Keflavik — called “Mjolnir” after the hammer of Thor, the Norse god of thunder — high metal fences surround 50 meter-long warehouse buildings stacked with computer rigs.

The data centers here are specially designed to utilize the constant wind on the bare peninsula. Walls are only partial on each side, allowing a draft of

cold air to cool down the equipment.

“What we are doing here is like gold mining,” said Helmut Rauth, who manages operations for Genesis Mining, a major bitcoin mining company. “We are mining on a large scale and getting the gold out to the people.”

Genesis Mining, founded in Germany, moved to Iceland in 2014 when the price of bitcoin fluctuated from USD350 to \$1000.

Today, one bitcoin is valued at about \$8,000, according to tracking site Coindesk, after peaking at almost \$19,500 in December.

The currency took a hit in January when China announced it would move to wipe out its bitcoin mining industry, following concerns of excessive electricity consumption.

Rauth said bitcoin should not be singled out as environmentally taxing. Computing power always demands energy, he argues.

“How much energy is needed for credit card transactions and internet research? Cryptocurrencies have the same global impact,” he said.

In the capital, Reykjavik, some are more skeptical about bitcoin.

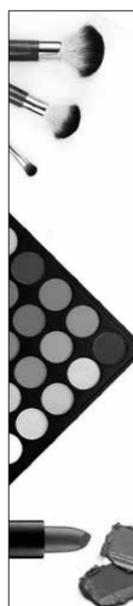
The last time Iceland was an international hub for finance, the venture ended with a giant bank crash, making the country one of the symbols of the 2008 global financial crisis.

The political turmoil following the crash swept the upstart Pirate Party into Iceland’s parliament, where it currently holds 10 percent of seats.

Pirate Party legislator McCarthy has questioned the value of bitcoin mining for Icelandic society, saying residents should consider regulating and taxing the emerging industry.

“We are spending tens or maybe hundreds of megawatts on producing something that has no tangible existence and no real use for humans outside the realm of financial speculation,” he said. “That can’t be good.” AP

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#METOO

# New York state sues Weinstein company

Tom McElroy, NYC

**N**EW York's attorney general is accusing Hollywood movie producer Harvey Weinstein of "repeatedly and persistently" sexually harassing female employees at his film company, according to a lawsuit filed yesterday [Macau time] by the state prosecutor that could impact the company's potential sale.

"As alleged in our complaint, The Weinstein Company repeatedly broke New York law by failing to protect its employees from pervasive sexual harassment, intimidation, and discrimination," state Attorney General Eric Schneiderman said in court papers filed against Weinstein and the company.

Schneiderman launched a civil rights probe into the New York City-based company in October after The New York Times and The New Yorker exposed allegations of sexual assault and harassment spanning decades.



Film producer Harvey Weinstein

Weinstein's attorney, Ben Brafman, released a statement later on saying many of the allegations against his client are "without merit."

"While Mr. Weinstein's behavior was not without fault, there certainly was no criminality, and at the end of the inquiry

it will be clear that Harvey Weinstein promoted more women to key executive positions than any other industry leader and there was zero discrimination at either Miramax or TWC," Brafman said.

Scores of women, including well-known actresses, have

come forward with stories of forced sexual encounters. Weinstein was fired by the film company he founded with his brother Robert and expelled from Hollywood's movie academy.

The attorney general's office said the lawsuit was filed on Sunday partly due to reports of the company's imminent sale, saying it believed it would leave victims without adequate redress.

"Any sale of The Weinstein Company must ensure that victims will be compensated, employees will be protected going forward, and that neither perpetrators nor enablers will be unjustly enriched," court papers said.

Schneiderman's investigation found that employees were subjected to various verbal threats from Weinstein such as "I will kill you, I will kill your family, and "you don't know what I can do."

"To work for Harvey Weinstein was to work under a persistent barrage of gender-based obscenities, vulgar name-

calling, sexualized interactions, threats of violence, and a workplace general hostile to women," according to court papers.

In one case, the probe found that "in a fit of rage against one female employee, he yelled that she should leave the company and make babies since that was all she was good for."

Female executives were forced to facilitate Weinstein's sexual conquests with promises of employment opportunities to women who met his favor, according to the lawsuit, which also accused the company of being "responsible for the unlawful conduct" by failing to stop the abuse.

The company and co-owner Robert "are liable because they were aware of and acquiesced in repeated and persistent unlawful conduct by failing to investigate or stop it," court papers said.

Representatives for Weinstein have previously denied all accusations of non-consensual sex. AP

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TIME: 1:30pm-10pm (Mondays to Fridays)

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; 90 minutes per session, maximum capacity is 150 people at one time)

UNTIL: February 28, 2018

VENUE: MGM Art Space

ADMISSION: MOP150 (MOP120 for Macau residents; free admission for children aged 2 or under)

## REPRESENTING WOMEN THROUGH MAM COLLECTION – 19TH AND 20TH CENTURY

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

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

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

NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## SEALS OF 108 HEROES OF SHUI HU LEGEND FROM THE MAM COLLECTION

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

UNTIL: February 26, 2018

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

NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

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

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: Macao Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25

## Offbeat

## MASCOTS COME FIRST, THEN MEDALS FOR PYEONGCHANG WINNERS



The joy on Jamie Anderson's face as she celebrated her victory in women's slopestyle snowboarding is a timeless Olympic moment. The cute little stuffed tiger in her right hand is a new twist.

After winning gold, silver or bronze, medalists at these Winter Games aren't immediately presented with their hardware. Instead, they get Soohorang, a striped white tiger that is the mascot of the Pyeongchang Olympics and quickly became a ubiquitous sight during many of the games' joyful moments.

The white tiger is considered South Korea's guardian animal. "Sooho" means "protection" in Korean while "rang" is part of the word for "tiger" and the last Korean letter in "Jeongseon Arirang," which is a popular Korean folk song.

Olympic medalists also receive a wooden gift depicting the mountain setting of Pyeongchang, with "Pyeongchang 2018" spelled out in the Korean alphabet.

Hours later — and in some cases an entire day later — come the actual medals.

In most cases, athletes are transported from the venue to the Pyeongchang Olympic Plaza to receive their medals in an evening ceremony. But some medalists — like in men's ski jumping — don't receive theirs until the following day because some competitions last late into the night.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Portimonense x Benfica (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Grimm Sr. 2
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Europe 30
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## cinema



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## MAZE RUNNER: THE DEATH CURE

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

Director: Wes Ball

Starring: Rosa Salazar, Thomas Brodie-Sangster

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 142 min



## BLACK PANTHER

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

Director: Ryan Coogler

Starring: Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 134min

## CODE GEASS LELOUCH OF THE REBELLION - EPISODE 1

ROOM 3  
2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Goro Taniguchi

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; 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



## 1978 FORD MAKES HER ITN DEBUT

Former BBC presenter Anna Ford has become the first female newsreader to join Independent Television News. The former Tomorrow's World reporter will be ITV's answer to the BBC news presenter Angela Rippon.

The appointment comes after a turbulent week in which Miss Ford has been faced with legal action by her former employers at the BBC.

When ITN confirmed that the 34-year-old would be joining them, the BBC opposed the move on the grounds that she would be in breach of her contract.

But they eventually released Miss Ford from her one-year agreement, which still has 10 months to run, following a legal battle behind the scenes.

A BBC spokesman said: "We are sorry to lose her, but we will do nothing to stop her."

Miss Ford is expected to receive an annual starting salary of £14,000 from ITN, compared with her £10,000 contract at the BBC.

She will make her debut on ITN's News at One programme on 9 March.

Miss Ford joined Tomorrow's World from the BBC documentary series Man Alive last autumn after working as a researcher for Granada Television.

Before her career in television, she was a staff tutor in social studies at the Open University in Northern Ireland.

Miss Ford, who is a niece of Lord Winstanley, studied at Manchester University, where she attained a BA honours degree in economics.

ITN newsreader Reginald Bosanquet welcomed her appointment.

"I have never been averse to working with ladies," he said.

"But I judge all my colleagues on professionalism. I do not know Anna but I have heard that she is a very competent and professional lady."

Miss Ford will be in direct competition with the presenter of BBC Nine O'Clock News Angela Rippon.

Miss Rippon has had a high public profile since she became the first female newsreader on TV in 1975.

ITV bosses are now hoping Miss Ford can fill a similar role in their news schedule.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Within two months of joining ITN, Anna Ford went on to present their flagship programme, News At Ten, with Alastair Burnet.

She also turned down an invitation to appear on the Morecambe and Wise Christmas show in the same year despite the fact Angela Rippon joined the pair for a famous dance routine in an earlier festive show in 1976.

Miss Ford continued to work for ITN until 1981 when she moved over to ITV's breakfast programme TV-AM.

She returned to the BBC in 1986 and went on to present the Six O'Clock News in 1989.

Miss Ford then became the presenter of the BBC's One O'Clock News when it re-launched in May 1999.

In July 2003 she received a doctorate from Queen's University in Belfast for her services to journalism and in 2004 she was presented with the royal charter by the Queen for the formal establishment of the University of Manchester.

She retired from newsreading in 2006.

**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Trying to get back into your routines could be pretty challenging for now because your usual high energy seems to be AWOL. You may even be somewhat emotional with colleagues, which could be quite startling.

**Taurus**

April 20-May 20

Relationships are where you're at now, and you have to put in extra work to keep them moving along, since you may be tired out from recent activities. Get ready to deal with some intense business.

**Gemini**

May 21-Jun. 21

You want to let the good times keep on rolling, but even the life of the party needs some quiet time now and then. While you're never short on social options, now is still a good time to say no.

**Cancer**

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Pouring yourself back into work might be something of a challenge - your mind is certainly far away, and you haven't got all that much energy in the first place. The past few days have been great fun.

**Leo**

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

A family problem that's been lurking beneath the surface erupts today, and even if you're not one of the parties directly involved, you're still called upon to take care of it.

**Virgo**

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Listening takes you much further than speaking on a day like today. Sure, you're curious about what's really going on - so ask a few open-ended, neutral questions so you can learn more.

**Libra**

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Possessions and financial issues are much on your mind, but you get to decide what you want to do with them. Maybe someone has given you a gift you're not all that into, but with the tags still attached.

**Scorpio**

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Others are shopping until they're dropping, but you're probably cashing in that gift card and heading for a gallery or vintage store, looking for the one object you just can't live without.

**Sagittarius**

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Everything seems to be up in the air at this time, and you may feel strangely moody or as if you're moving in slow motion. At the same time, you're being called upon to return to the world of work.

**Capricorn**

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

All the thinking and pondering you've been going through should give way to some serious, objective decision-making. Your next big career move might suddenly become perfectly clear.

**Aquarius**

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

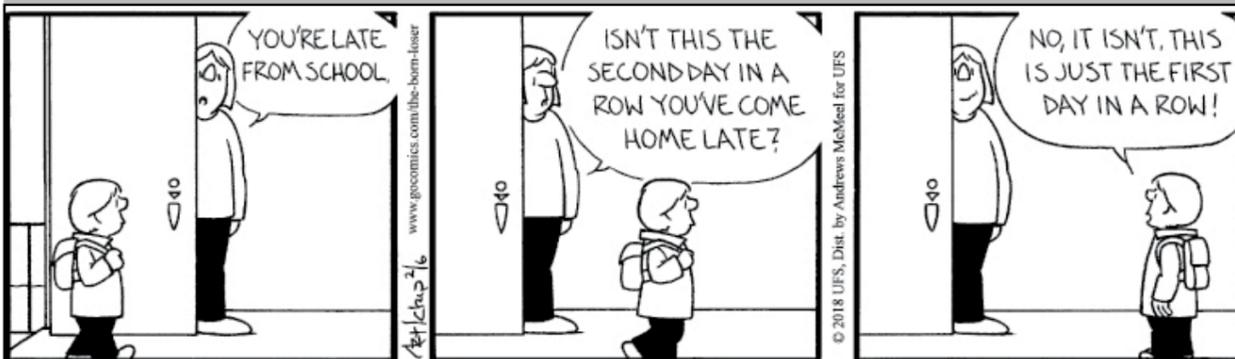
Get ready for today's big moment of realization. You've been in kind of a haze lately, but today you may suddenly be called upon to discuss your ambitions or make some romantic advances.

**Pisces**

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You're weirdly drawn to something that is a big mystery for now, which could be a new activity, an idea or even a new person. Before you get too deeply involved with this unknown, make sure you do your homework.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	-7	8	clear
Harbin	-25	-12	cloudy
Tianjin	-4	9	clear
Urumqi	-13	-5	clear
Xi'an	-2	9	clear
Lhasa	-3	11	cloudy
Chengdu	2	11	cloudy
Chongqing	5	14	cloudy
Kunming	4	20	clear
Nanjing	-3	12	clear
Shanghai	0	12	clear
Wuhan	-1	15	clear
Hangzhou	1	14	clear
Taipei	8	22	clear/cloudy
Guangzhou	7	19	clear
Hong Kong	13	18	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-10	-4	overcast/flurry
Frankfurt	-1	2	sleet
Paris	1	4	drizzle
London	0	4	drizzle/moderate rain
New York	5	8	overcast/cloudy

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Run smoothly; 5- Vintner's prefix; 9- Very funny; 13- Robt. \_\_\_; 14- Bluffer's play; 16- Rocker Clapton; 17- \_\_\_ Only Just Begun; 18- Dadaist Max; 19- Drill a hole; 20- Nabisco's \_\_\_ Wafers; 22- People of courage; 24- Rapturous delight; 27- Irritate; 28- Riding school; 29- Aquatic plants that float; 33- Alamogordo's county; 34- When said three times, a 1970 war movie; 35- "The Sweetest Taboo" singer; 36- Common article; 37- Reef material; 38- Rocker Ocasek; 39- Hearing organs; 41- Blue dye source; 42- Totaled, as a bill; 44- Affecting the whole body; 46- Soggy and reedy; 47- Wait \_\_\_; 48- Prohibits; 49- Large beer mug; 52- Swiss river; 53- French summers; 57- \_\_\_ want for Christmas...; 58- Watering hole; 60- Lymph \_\_\_; 61- In \_\_\_ of; 62- Molars, e.g.; 63- Some nest eggs; 64- Side; 65- Tabula \_\_\_; 66- Treater's words;

**DOWN:** 1- Sunday seat; 2- Suffix with glob; 3- Accelerate; 4- Go in again; 5- Threatening words; 6- Ahead of time; 7- Columbus' ship; 8- CIA predecessor; 9- Book of the New Testament; 10- Buck follower; 11- Bring on board; 12- Breezes through; 15- In the right; 21- Shakespearean villain; 23- Wapiti; 24- Hams it up; 25- China; 26- Scoffs; 27- Countrified; 29- Column style; 30- Makes; 31- Archie Bunker's wife; 32- Lure; 34- Medicine; 37- King Arthur's palace; 40- Sports arena; 42- Sprinted; 43- Hall of fame; 45- Ending for legal or Japan; 46- Actress Mason; 48- Teases; 49- Preservative; 50- Writer Wiesel; 51- Intestinal sections; 52- On the ocean; 54- Ripped; 55- Yellow cheese coated with red wax; 56- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 59- \_\_\_ Lingus (Irish carrier);



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

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

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+ INFO



FOLLOW US

Claire Galofaro, Pyeongchang

**A** Catholic nun waits eight hours each day at a folding table, ready for a call but praying nothing has happened to cause the phone to ring.

Her office, the "Gender Equality Support Centre," a tiny trailer tucked between a bathroom and a police post under the ski lift at the Phoenix Snow Park, is a nondescript acknowledgment of the revolution in women's rights that, outside the Olympic gates, is thundering through the world.

Sungsook Kim — who goes by her religious name, Sister Droste — speaks little English. But to describe her mission, she says the name of the American movement: "me too."

The Winter Olympics in Pyeongchang arrives amid the reckoning that has brought down celebrities, politicians and the entire board of U.S.A Gymnastics. NBC star Matt Lauer was fired for sexual misconduct, and his accuser said the harassment began at the last Winter Olympics, in Sochi.

During the Summer Games in Rio, two athletes were accused of assaulting housekeepers. A horrified world recently watched dozens of women and girls, some of them Olympians, describe in detail how Larry Nassar, the gymnastics doctor, had sexually abused them for decades as layers of elite athletic organizations failed to stop it.

"The whole world just got a front row seat to a master class in trauma," said Nancy Hogshhead-Makar, a former Olympic swimmer and activist calling on Olympic committees to do much more to protect vulnerable athletes.

"This is what trauma does. This is what it looks like," she says. "It stops professional careers, it stops somebody's education, it stops people from being close to other people, it invades their ability to feel safe."

**A SOLUTION BEGINS**

So this year, for the first time, there is an organized and advertised contingent of offices designed to help sexual assault victims dotted around the sprawling Olympics venues — from clinics that cater to world-class athletes to Sister Droste's four trailers, organized by the local community for the army of 14,000 volunteers, most of them young, 70 percent of them female.

"#metoo' allowed us all to see that it's not the victim's fault, being sexually harassed. It's not because of their appearance. It gives courage to the victims," Droste said through a translator.

So far they have responded to four reports of harassment, Droste said, the details of which she could not describe because of confidentiality rules, but said they were not severe.

"Having equal rights," the sister said, "men and women,

AP PHOTO



Sungsook Kim, a Catholic nun who goes by her religious name, Sister Droste

WINTER OLYMPICS

# At the #metoo Games, organizers confront sexual abuse

makes it possible for us to accomplish freedom."

Olympic organizers have finally decided it's time to get serious. Over the weekend, Prince Feisal of Jordan, a board member on the International Olympic Committee, said the Olympic body should pursue the fight against sexual assault and harassment as seriously as it does doping.

"The current scandal begs the question: Why aren't we doing more?" he said.

The United States Olympic Committee has come under withering criticism in the wake of the Nassar abuse scandal. Aly Raisman, a three-time Olympic gold medalist assaulted by the doctor, publicly rebuked the committee for failing to spot and stop the abuse, and for not reaching out to the victims once it was made known.

This happened in a prosperous country with a powerful Olympic committee and the resources to protect athletes, Feisal said. "Imagine countries and federations who've got nothing."

The International Olympic Committee launched a program last year aimed at coaching athletic organizations around the world how to implement policies to protect vulnerable athletes. In 2016, they hastily put together a "safeguarding" program for the summer games in Rio, in which an officer was available to field allegations of

abuse and route them to medical services or law enforcement.

But the plan was approved in June and the Olympics began in July, and they did not have time to effectively spread the word about the program, said Susan Greinig, the safeguarding officer.

As she watched the Nassar saga unfold on television, she remembers feeling a mix of regret and motivation.

"I just thought, if only we could have put this help in place earlier to save these people. But they are an example of future potential victims that we will save, that we will give a voice to," she said. "Out of every evil there can be some good that comes out of it."

This year, she has an office in the Olympic villages, and marches around with a pin on her jacket that reads: "Need to talk?" A sign is plastered to her office door says "I see, I hear, I speak." The posted hotline number for athletes to report sexual abuse routes to her cell phone and she checks it every few seconds.

Three days into the Games, no one had called it yet.

"After these Games, if I didn't have any calls, you could read two ways into that: You could believe people still didn't dare, or there just weren't any incidents that happened during the games," she said. "Obviously, I prefer to believe the second."

**'THEY'RE LISTENING NOW'**

The odds are that among the women chasing medals on Pyeongchang's slopes and slides, some have stories to tell. Scientific research shows that the more elite an athlete is, the more likely they are to be victims of assault, Greinig knows, because the higher an athlete climbs the more they have to lose. Abusers know that, and exploit it. The Olympics is a natural home to the kind of power dynamics that foster abuse: coaches to athletes, athletes to maids.

Greinig does not expect the Olympics would be the venue most would choose to blow the whistle on longstanding abuse. Athletes are away from home, focused on winning, surrounded by strangers.

But she hopes their efforts send a signal — to victims that they will be believed and protected, and to abusers that the sporting world is getting serious about the issue, even if it is overdue. She has worked for the IOC for 21 years, with a focus on preventing sexual abuse since 2004.

"It used to be frustrating to make people listen," she said. "But they are listening now."

She is compiling a list of committees and federations as they take steps to implement protections for athletes — a sort of shaming technique she hopes forces slow-moving organizations to get on board as the #metoo mo-

vement spreads from the United States around the globe.

Sister Droste, 50, has watched women's rights in her country slowly improve. Women are more educated now, more confident, yet remain "far behind" other countries. Outside the Olympics, she works in a hotline counseling center for victims of sexual violence, so she confronts the inequities every day. When she looks around, she still sees most positions of power in her country filled by men.

But she is encouraged by signs that the #metoo movement landed last month in South Korea.

Seo Ji-hyeon, a 45-year-old prosecutor, went on national television to say she was groped at a funeral by a high-ranking government official. When she reported it, instead of punishing him, her superiors demoted her by sending her away to work in a fishing village. Her story inspired others to come forward in recent days — a lawmaker, a university student, a news reporter.

She hopes any of the thousands of volunteers in her charge know they have a voice now, too. Meanwhile, she runs four centers during the Olympics that are staffed by 29 professional volunteer counselors working in conjunction with medical teams and law enforcement.

"I am praying to God that nothing happens," Droste says. "But we are here." AP

opinion

**Our Desk**  
 Renato Marques



**ASSUMPTION – THE SCIENCE OF THE ‘IGNORANT’**

In our daily lives, there are many things that we “take for granted” or assume will turn out in a particular way. This applies to work as well as our private lives. Most of the time, these assumptions are based on our experiences about how things work and what kind of outcome we can expect from a certain person or entity.

In these cases, assumptions are based on life experience and grounded in fact, so they are safe bets.

In other cases, assumptions in their pure form can create nightmarish situations – a “science of the ignorant,” if you will – where people jeopardize their work by assuming things they know nothing about and make no effort to research.

Several weeks ago, the Secretary-General of the government’s Talents Development Committee (CDT), Sou Chio Fai, said during the TDM Chinese “Macau Forum” radio program that he hopes “[Macau] students do not think just about working for the government after having studied in Portugal”, suggesting that these students should also consider other jobs. Sou is also the Director of the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES) and served many years as the Director of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ).

I’m not sure what he meant by these words, but it appears he was suggesting that bilingual local professionals should look for jobs in the private sector and not just in government.

At first glance, such statements seem strange. Firstly, the government itself has widely advertised the need for bilingual professionals, as there is a significant shortage of translators, interpreters and other bilingual technicians. This shortage alone led to the creation of several committees and is the reason why the government funds students to study abroad: to improve their language proficiency.

Secondly, these committees themselves seem to ignore the real market circumstances of the private sector, especially regarding salary and other benefits.

It is no surprise for me to say that the public sector pays, on average, between 60 to 75 percent more than private sector for the same job in Macau.

The public sector has also on average 13 to 15 additional holidays each year, in addition to annual leave, paid holidays, overtime pay, retirement provisions, health care benefits, and other perks.

So my question is, why would these highly skilled professional residents choose to work in the private sector where not only are they paid significantly less, have fewer holidays, benefits, reduced career progression, but also face a higher risk of unemployment by contract termination, company closure, or changes in business direction?

I wonder which country/region Dr Sou has been living in? What kind of information comes to his desktop? Is he just speaking about utopian ideas of how a perfect society should work, as happens too often in these kind of consultative committees?

I am honestly confused. I do not want to believe that such high ranked official and so-called “expert” on education has so little knowledge of reality.

**THE BUZZ** LONDON CITY AIRPORT SHUTS DOWN DUE TO UNEXPLODED 500-KG WWII BOMB

All flights in and out of London City Airport were canceled yesterday after a 500-kilogram unexploded World War II-era bomb was found nearby in the River Thames.

The Metropolitan Police service cleared an area within 214 meters of the bomb, including several residential streets, as officers worked with specialists from the Royal Navy to remove the device.

Local officials offered emergency accommodations to residents, as the Newham Council local authority said work to remove the bomb would continue into today.

Police said the bomb was discovered Sunday at the George V Dock during pre-planned work at City Airport.

Airport CEO Robert Sinclair said he recognizes that passengers will be inconvenienced but said the airport is cooperating fully with authorities “to resolve the situation as quickly as possible.”

London City, the smallest of London’s international airports, handled 4.5 million passengers last year. It’s located in east London’s docklands, an area that was heavily bombed during World War II.

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

SOURCE: D5M/G

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**ISRAEL-PALESTINE** Palestinian protest icon Ahd Tamimi is to go on trial before an Israeli military court today for slapping and punching two Israeli soldiers – an act Palestinians say embodies their David vs. Goliath struggle.

**SOUTH AFRICA** Citizens are awaiting an end to a period of political limbo in which President Jacob Zuma has remained in office despite calls for him to resign because of corruption allegations.

**AUSTRIA** Two passenger trains crashed in central Austria yesterday, killing one person and injuring 22 others, authorities said. Authorities said a woman on the EuroCity train was killed and the injured include three children.



**ICELAND** is expected to use more energy “mining” bitcoins and other virtual currencies this year than it uses to power its homes, as large virtual currency companies establish bases in the North Atlantic island nation. *More on p14*

**BRITAIN** Oxfam’s deputy chief executive has resigned, saying she took “full responsibility” for failing to act immediately in the sexual misconduct scandal involving the charity’s workers in Haiti following the 2010 earthquake.



**BRAZIL** There are some Brazilians who probably aren’t finding much to enjoy in Rio de Janeiro’s colorful Carnival parades – the mayor, the governor and the president. An anti-establishment tone is echoing through this year’s celebrations in Brazil.

**US** President Donald Trump is proposing a USD4 trillion-plus budget for next year that projects a \$1 trillion or so federal deficit and – unlike the plan he released last year – never comes close to promising a balanced federal ledger even after 10 years.

**Emergency teams search for victims of Russian plane crash**

**EMERGENCY** teams combed the snowy fields outside Moscow yesterday, searching for debris from a crashed Russian airliner and the remains of the 71 people aboard it who died.

The An-148 twin-engine regional jet bound for Orsk in the southern Urals went down minutes after taking off from Moscow’s Domodedovo airport Sunday afternoon. All 65 passengers and 6 crew on board were killed.

Transport Minister Maxim Sokolov said the search for victims’ remains will take a week. He noted that emergency teams already have found the plane’s flight data recorder, which is crucial for determining the crash’s cause.

Russian investigators quickly ruled out a terror attack but will not speculate on possible reasons for the crash.

Still the crash Sunday reignited questions about the An-148, since the model’s safety record is spotty, with one previous crash and a series of major incidents in which pilots struggled to land safely.

The Investigative Committee, Russia’s premier state investigative agency, said the plane was intact and there had been no fire on board before it hit the ground.



Personnel work at the scene of an AN-148 plane crash in Stepanovskoye village, about 40 km from the Domodedovo airport, Moscow

The plane’s fuel tanks exploded on impact, scattering debris across 30 hectares in deep snow, according to the Emergency Ministry, which used drones to direct the search.

The 65 passengers ranged in age from 5 to 79, according to a list posted by the Russian Emergencies Ministry. Most victims were from Orsk, where the authorities declared an official day of mourning yesterday.

The plane was operated by Saratov Airlines, which said the plane had received proper maintenance and passed all the necessary checks before the flight. The plane was built in 2010 for a different airline that operated it for several years before putting it in storage. Saratov Airlines commissioned it last year.

The airline said the plane’s

captain had more than 5,000 hours of flying time, 2,800 of them in an An-148. The other pilot had 812 hours of experience, largely in that model.

The An-148 once was touted as an example of Russian-Ukrainian cooperation, but it fell into trouble as relations unraveled following Russia’s 2014 annexation of Ukraine’s Crimean Peninsula.

It was developed by Ukraine’s Antonov company in the early 2000s. About 40 were built, most of them in Russia that manufactured the plane under license.

Along with several commercial carriers, the An-148 was operated by the Russian Defense Ministry and several other government agencies. Ukraine’s president has used the plane for some of his trips. **AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**



Ice breakers. The North Korean cheerleaders are back to support the combined Korean women’s hockey team, though they lost their prime seats behind the benches at center ice.

AP PHOTO

AP Photo/Felipe Dana