



DUTERTE'S
SONS,
DAUGHTER
VISIT
MACAU

P2 MDT REPORT



STUDENTS' EATING
HABITS PROBED

The food consumption
habits of Macau's
secondary school
students will be surveyed



WINTER OLYMPICS
CLOSE

After 16 days of sliding,
skating, jumping and
sweeping, the Pyeongchang
Games have come to a close

P18,19

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Feb 2018

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



KOREA A North Korean envoy making a rare visit to South Korea said yesterday that his country was willing to open talks with the United States, a rare step toward diplomacy between enemies after a year of North Korean missile and nuclear tests and direct threats of war from both Pyongyang and Washington. More on p12

MYANMAR One of several bombs targeting government offices and other places in Myanmar's troubled Rakhine state exploded on the weekend, injuring a police officer.



INDONESIA Heavy rains hampered the weekend search for victims of a landslide on the Indonesian island of Java as authorities raised the death toll to seven.

AUSTRALIA-US Australia's prime minister has urged the United States to maintain its global leadership role and spoke out against a growing sentiment of isolation in America and elsewhere.



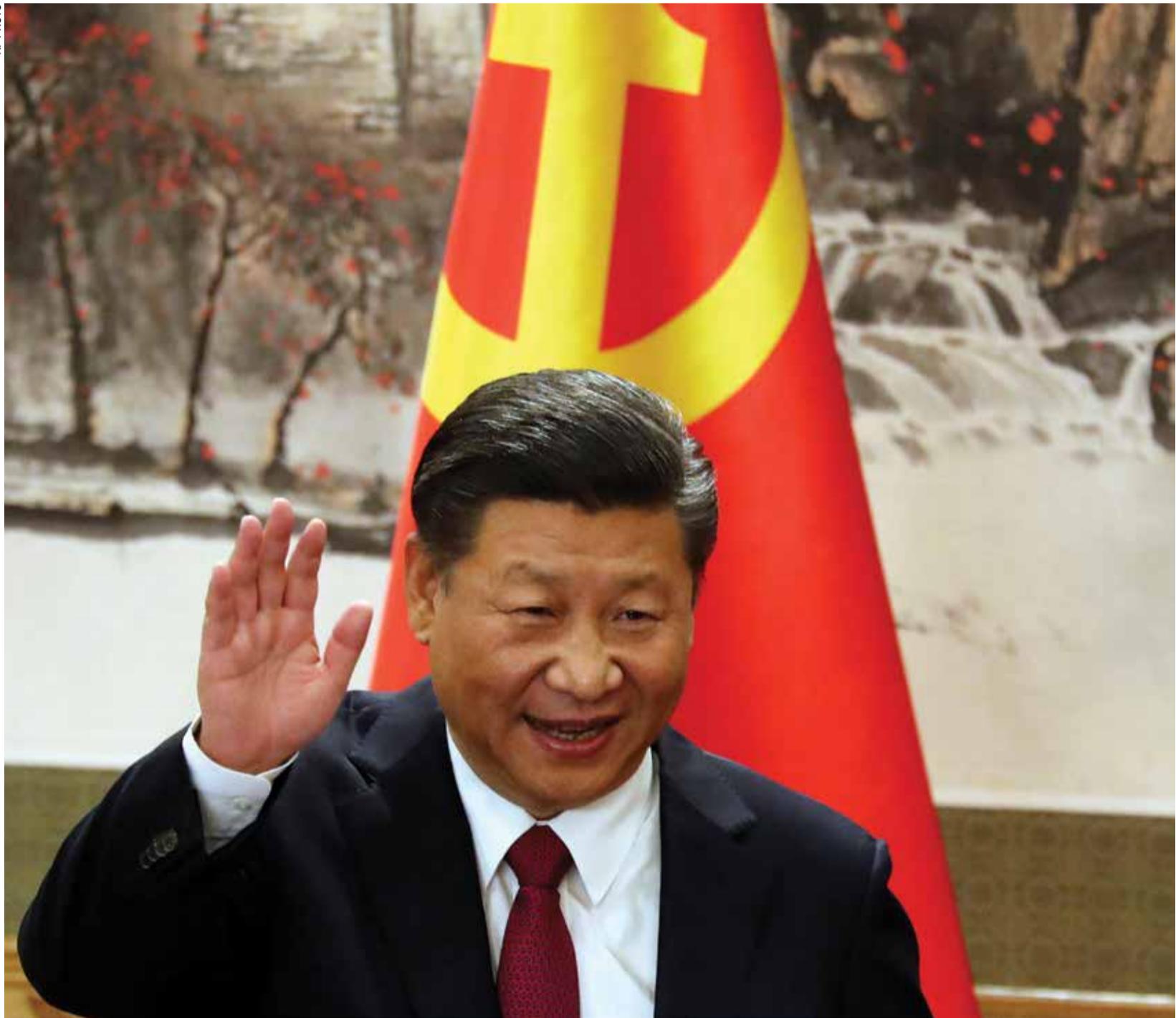
ISRAEL The leaders of the major Christian sects in Jerusalem closed the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, built on the traditional site of Jesus' crucifixion and resurrection, for several hours yesterday to protest an Israeli plan to tax their properties.

More on backpage



Survey: Sharp decline in tourist satisfaction

AP PHOTO



China paves way for Xi Jinping to extend rule beyond 2 terms

P11

Duterte's children visit migrant workers in Macau

Lynzy Valles

THE sons and daughter of Philippine president Rodrigo Duterte visited Macau on Saturday to meet with hundreds of migrant workers as part of the "Tapang at Malasakit" campaign, which translates to "courage and care."

This is the first time that family members of a Philippine president have visited the region.

Groups of Filipino migrants turned up to show their support for the controversial president.

The majority of Filipino migrants in both SARs voted for Duterte during the May 2016 elections, hoping to see radical change happen in their home country.

Davao City mayor Sara Duterte-Carpio thanked the Filipino workers for their support of her father's campaign, pledging that the government would ramp up its outreach to migrant workers abroad.

She was joined by her brothers Paolo Duterte and Sebastian Duterte, along with other city mayors and officials.

"We thank them for helping and supporting the campaign and election of our president. We also thank the continuous support and commitment in his administration," Duterte-Car-

LYNZY VALLES



Sara Duterte speaking to the Filipino community



Aspect of the audience

pio told the press on the sidelines of the event.

She formed the "Tapang at Malasakit" campaign, which calls on Duterte supporters to band together and champion the Duterte administration.

"We volunteered to help our country grow and progress; and to [help] develop our respective communities. [Let's not] forget to help our communities and districts because if the community gets better, that is one less of a problem the president will think of," Duterte-Carpio said.

She reiterated that the president has recently launched the Overseas Filipino Bank, three months after signing the executive order to establish the sche-

The Overseas Filipino Bank provides financial and remittance services that are tailored to the needs of the migrant workers and their families.

We just want you to know that we admire you for your bravery.

SARA DUTERTE

Duterte-Carpio also recalled her father's support for migrant workers and the Duterte admini-

nistration's establishment of a new one-stop center for workers to access frontline government services.

"I salute the Overseas Filipino Workers for their courage and care because I cannot do what you are doing for your families. We just want you to know that we admire you for your bravery," Duterte-Carpio told the audience.

Filipino migrant workers were largely joyful and supportive during the event, but exhorted the administration to listen to the pleas of their compatriots who are at risk of domestic abuse, particularly in countries like Kuwait.

The body of a Filipino maid was found stuffed in a freezer in

a flat in Kuwait, which sparked an outrage in the Philippines.

The incident prompted President Duterte to ban the deployment of new Filipino workers to Kuwait, where many cases of abuse had been recorded.

Regarding the Philippines' democracy, influential political blogger RJ Nieto – better known by his pen name "ThinkingPinoy" – noted that democracy is "alive and well" in the country despite the negative publicity.

"This president – despite all his flaws – we know he's not a sweet talker, but he delivers results. And the results are felt by all classes of society. Even his detractors cannot deny the fact that there [have] been so many reforms happening in the Philippines in the past two years," Nieto told the press.

Questioned by the Times whether press freedom is under fire, Nieto replied, "There's this bunch of people complaining about the press freedom being threatened, but the fact of the matter is they're very noisy."

"Press freedom does not exist when you're being silenced. But the fact that they're being so noisy is a testament that press freedom is alive and well in the Philippines," he added.

"Tapang at Malasakit" was also held in Hong Kong yesterday.

Duterte-Carpio hopes to extend the alliance to more migrant workers overseas.

"We spend our own money for things like these but when there are opportunities, we'll take the chance to [visit and] thank the overseas Filipino workers," she added.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



MOST COMMON CAT INJURIES

A cat injury could be either mild or more severe as in traumatic injuries. It's important to know a few first aid procedures to perform in the case of common cat injuries. Some injuries such as fractures or wounds that are bleeding profusely may require emergency medical help and first aid shouldn't replace medical assistance.

Choking on foreign objects

If your pet is choking on an object you should promptly help her as the cat could pass out very quickly or suffocate. The cat will exhibit signs of gagging, coughing and wheezing. The first thing to do is call your vet or animal emergency care service. You may alternatively try to help your pet by opening the mouth wide and holding the tongue down with one hand. Look for the object and try to gently remove it with tongs if you spot it. If you cannot see the object, avoid further discomfort to your pet and seek medical help. The Heimlich maneuver is used to remove lodged objects. You may perform the Heimlich only if trained to do so.

Broken legs or limbs

Cats with broken bones may be unable to walk

or stand. Before taking the cat to the vet, examine the site and check for protruding bones, open cat wounds or swelling. If your pet has an open wound along with the fracture, gently wash the wound with water. Without applying any medication, hold the wound down with a clean cloth. It's important to minimize movement in pets with broken bones. Hold a folded towel under the broken limb and transport your pet to a doctor. Consider asking friends or neighbors for help as it could be a challenging experience.

Injuries from falling from high places

If your pet has just fallen from a high ledge or a height, examine your pet's body and look for open wounds. If you notice cat blood on the ground where you're pet fell, it's likely your cat is bleeding. The cat may be agitated and suffering from nervousness. Speak to your pet in a reassuring tone and if you notice any broken bones follow the same procedure as you would for fractures.

Cat poisoning

Due to the curious nature of cats, accidental ingestion of poisonous or toxic substances may be fatal.

If you suspect poisoning in your cat, look for the type of poisonous or toxic substance that your pet may have ingested or come in contact with through the skin. If it's a skin related toxin, wash the site with plenty of water to prevent further absorption. Poisonous substances that are ingested are generally removed with induced vomiting. Call our 24Hr Clinic for poisoning emergency care. Follow the instructions to either induce vomiting or provide aid. Although vomiting is the best first aid treatment, it shouldn't be performed on pets showing signs of difficulty breathing.

Seizures or convulsions

Dogs suffering from seizures show uncontrolled body movements like shaking or leaping in the air. When your pet suffers from a seizure avoid sticking a spoon or objects in his mouth. Often several seizures occur consecutively. Remove all objects around your dog that may harm him during the seizure. Note down how long the seizure lasts and the various symptoms exhibited. Since seizures cut off oxygen from your pet's brain, diagnosis and medication is vital. Don't panic as the cat may already be in a state of fright and requires a calm environment.

Injury from cat fights or bites

Cleaning cat wounds after a cat fight is necessary to prevent infection. If the wound is minor, carefully clip the fur around the wound and flush



it with water and 3 percent hydrogen peroxide. Avoid applying any medication. Hold the wound down with a clean napkin to stop bleeding. Take your pet to the doctor as open wounds require both cat medication and dressing. Stitches are necessary for deeper wounds.

Remember to stay calm and contact your vet if you're in doubt. Always keep animal emergency and vet numbers at hand and ask friends for help if you can't handle the situation alone.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

Ask the Vet:

Royal Veterinary Centre

Tel: +853 28501099, +853 28523678

Emergency: +853 62662268

Email: royalveterinary@gmail.com

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

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

SEND NEWSTORY INFORMATION AND PRESS RELEASES TO: NEWSROOM@MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM WEBSITE: WWW.MACAUDAILYTIMES.COM

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

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

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More tourists, less satisfaction in 2017

EVEN as the number of tourists in Macau swells – boosting the economy – their satisfaction with local services and amenities is declining, according to the latest data from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) shows.

For the whole of 2017, visitor satisfaction with most local services and facilities dropped. DSEC said the proportion of visitors satisfied with hotel services and facilities (85.9 percent) dropped by 4.2 percentage points year-on-year. The numbers of those who expressed satisfaction with the services of travel agencies (70.7 percent) and gaming facilities (73.9 percent) recorded double-digit decreases of 14.6 and 10.3 percentage points, respectively.

Meanwhile, the proportion of visitors who commented that the tourist attractions were adequate (53 percent) went up by 8.2 percentage points.

In terms of visitors' comments, the respective proportions of visitors who complimented retail

XINHUA



service, environmental hygiene and hotel services and facilities in the fourth quarter of 2017 increased by 2.5 percentage points, 2.4 percentage points and 0.9 percentage points quarter-to-quarter.

The number of those who commented that there were adequate tourist attractions in Macau fell by 3.9 percentage points quarter-

to-quarter.

Speaking to TDM on the topic, Zhu Ming Xia, president of the Macau Tour Guide Promotion Association, said, "Now the demand is higher not only in Macau in general but especially in some events and activities."

She noted that some events organized by the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO)

"lack promotion in some regions [of China]."

Song Wai Kit, president of the Macau Responsible Gaming Association, remarked in the same report that the decrease in visitor satisfaction might be to do with a lack of human resources.

"Tasks that in other places are [usually] done by three to five people, here the employers use only two to three people, leading the quality of the service to drop," Song said, noting that when the number of clients grows but the number of staff remains the same, the quality of services provided might fall. Song also noted that the gover-

Visitor spending increases on fourth quarter strength

TOTAL visitor spending - excluding gaming expenses - stood at MOP18.19 billion in the fourth quarter of 2017, up by 23 percent year-on-year and 14.2 percent quarter-to-quarter, according to new information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC).

By type of visitor, the total spending of overnight visitors (MOP14.78 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP3.41 billion) saw year-on-year increases of 22.9 percent and 23.1 percent, respectively.

The total spending of visitors for all of last year reached MOP61.32 billion, an increase of 16.4 percent from MOP52.66 billion in 2016. Total spending of overnight visitors (MOP49.75 billion) and same-day visitors (MOP11.57 billion)

went up by 18.2 percent and 9.5 percent, respectively.

In 2017, visitors' spending per capita was MOP1,880, up 10.5 percent from MOP1,701 in 2016. Per capita spending of overnight visitors (MOP2,883) and same-day visitors (MOP754) grew by 7.6 percent and 8.7 percent, respectively.

Analyzed by place of origin, visitors from mainland China spent an average of MOP2,203 (+11.6 percent), while spending per capita of visitors from Singapore (MOP1,848), Malaysia (MOP1,762) and Japan (MOP1,744) increased. The spending per capita of visitors from Australia (MOP1,429), the United States (MOP1,236) and the United Kingdom (MOP1,195) recorded a decline.

58 CONSUMER COMPLAINTS RECORDED DURING CHINESE NEW YEAR

THE CONSUMER Council received a total of 58 complaints and inquiries during the Chinese New Year (CNY) holiday. Around two-thirds of the cases were filed by tourists, mainly regarding taxi fares and restaurant prices. Fifteen of these were complaints, four of which were directly related to

taxis overcharging passengers and service quality. Other complaints pertained to retail businesses, including mobile, watch and jewelry stores. The Consumer Council is following up on all cases, which will then be forwarded to the relevant government departments for further investigation.

IACM conducts survey on students' eating habits

Julie Zhu

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) is expected to start conducting a survey today concerning the food consumption of Macau's secondary school students.

The survey, which will be completed by the end of 2018, will record students' height and weight as well as eating habits. It will interview more than 1,000 students from 12 different schools.

IACM representatives revealed last Friday in a press conference that the survey does not assume that students have bad eating

RENATO MARQUES



habits. A similar survey targeting all age groups was done in 2013.

"This time, the target [is]

secondary school students. It is the first time, it has not been done before," said Lam Mei Sio, head of the ci-

vic education and information department of IACM.

The survey aims to help IACM build a scientific database regarding Macau's food consumption.

The results of the survey will be used for a risk evaluation, with a particular focus on the diets of secondary school students.

Ma Kam Keong, a member of the IACM administration council, declared that the government hopes to get to "know what the students eat, and whether these foods are healthy for them."

During the press conference, IACM representatives discussed the bureau's plan-

ned expansion of the Taipa Waterfront Cycle Track Leisure Area. The construction of the full track started in 2003 across six phases, three of which have been completed.

The construction will be carried out in July and will extend the track south towards the Coloane side, ending at the temporary customs station near Rua Marginal do Concórdia.

The new project will extend the track about 600 meters, resulting in a total track length of 1,700 meters.

The construction will be completed in approximately six months, with the tra-

ck scheduled to commence operations in the beginning of next year.

Taking into account this project, the three already completed and the remaining two phases, the cycle track will form a coastal corridor around 6,000 meters long.

IACM said it had held discussions with the Environmental Protection Bureau to ensure the projects will not disturb the ecological environment of seasonal birds.

Regarding the two scheduled projects, IACM is still researching methods to design better recreational spaces.



NYT highlights rise and fall of the Canidrome

HISTORICAL details of the creation, development and decline of the Yat Yuen greyhound racetrack have been splashed across the pages of the New York Times (NYT).

The report concerns the rise and fall of interest in the dog races, as well as the efforts of local groups and international animal rights organizations to put an end to an

activity that many consider to be cruel to the animals.

The NYT report highlights the lack of interest in the activity after the huge growth in the casino sector, following the gaming liberalization that left little room for "small betting" activities.

"In the stands, about two dozen men watched as the greyhounds were led to their starting positions

and then released to sprint after a rabbit-shaped lure around a ring. If any of the men had placed bets, none of them showed elation," the newspaper wrote.

"In an otherwise empty betting hall, a security guard patrolled listlessly as staff members sat behind glassed-in counters, napping or tapping away on their smartphones," the report

continues.

The report also delves into the fears of animal rights organizations such as Anima, which claims that "after the track closes, its greyhounds will be sold to illegal racing tracks, auctioned off to breeders or even sold for their meat."

The same organizations have long called for the closure of the space, which they say "makes no sense" in this current age, claiming that it is informed by a decadence grounded in Macau's "transformation [...] from a colonial backwater into a popular tourist destination for China's fast-growing middle class," with gambling revenue once five times that of Las Vegas.

The Canidrome's revenues have been stalling for several years, the paper added, referring to the race-track operator's annual reports.

The NYT goes into detail about the history of "dog racing" in Macau, which began in the 1930s but failed after a few years "because it was not widely affordable," according to the paper's source, a local veteran journalist.

When the track reopened in the mid-1960s, the same source said, "all of Macau was crazy about it [...] Every weekend, the ferries from Hong Kong to Macau were filled with dog racing fans eager to see the grand event."

The NYT, back in 1969, had suggested a visit to the dog races in

a travel guide to the "tranquil, low-priced Mediterranean-style enclave on the coast of turbulent China."

Half a century later, it changed tack, saying that "the fascination has faded and even turned into disapproval."

The NYT also quotes Anima president Albano Martins, who noted that the Canidrome does not fit in with the current idea of a "modern economy built on tourism" that relies on "a clean environment [...] for families."

Also quoted in the report was Desmond Lam, a professor at the University of Macau who studies gambling and tourism, who said that a growing awareness of animal rights helped explain the decline in the track's revenues.

With the closure announced, animal rights organizations are turning their efforts to the fate of the greyhounds.

"We are concerned, because if they didn't care about animals beforehand, why would they care about them now?" said Martins about the estimated 650 dogs — about 45 of them puppies — currently living in the Canidrome's kennels.

Martins is asking the government for permission to take over the kennels for one year so he can find people to adopt the dogs.

The track is due to close this July. RM

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KIM JONG NAM

Indonesian suspect paid to fly to Macau days before assassination

ONE of the women accused of poisoning Kim Jong Nam at the Kuala Lumpur airport last year was planning to fly to Macau just days before the February 13 assassination.

The new information came to light as both women, Indonesian Siti Aisyah and Doan Thi Huong from Vietnam, are standing trial accused of murder.

The women's defense claims that the pair was tricked into playing pranks for a reality TV show, which included smearing an unidentified chemical on passers-by.

The accused say they were unaware that the substance was liquid VX, a banned chemical weapon.

AP PHOTO



Siti Aisyah (center)

Aisyah's lawyer told the court late last week that his client had been given 4,000 Malaysian ringgit (MOP8,200) on February 8 to buy plane tickets to Macau, where Kim Jong Nam, the half-brother of the in-

cumbent North Korean despot, had been residing in exile for at least a decade.

The trip was arranged by a North Korean national known as Hong Song Hac, who had also arranged visits to other countries to film

scenes for the supposed television prank show.

However, Hong called Aisyah later that same day to say that the trip had been cancelled.

According to Reuters, Kim Jong Nam had arrived in Malaysia two days earlier.

Phone records obtained from Aisyah show that she texted a friend on February 8 to say that she was going to Macau for "shooting". Later that day, she received six calls from Hong, the first five of which went unanswered.

Hong is among the four North Korean nationals who were caught on airport CCTV recordings while fleeing Malaysia on February 13. He remains a suspect in the case.

HEALTH

Flu patient in critical condition dies from complications

A 68-year-old man passed away early Saturday morning after a bout of double pneumonia and sepsis, raising the number of local influenza-related fatalities to three.

The Health Bureau (SSM) said that the man, who was part of a group of influenza (flu) patients in critical condition, had contracted double pneumonia from an infection of "streptococcus pneumonia" bacteria.

The man was confirmed to be infected with the Influenza B virus after displaying flu symptoms early this month. He was admitted to the Kiang Wu Hospital on February 13 and transferred to the Conde de São Januário Hospital Center (CHCSJ) on February 19 when he began having respiratory

problems and required a mechanical ventilator.

The SSM said the other patients in critical condition are aged 64 and 83. Both have been hospitalized in the Kiang Wu Hospital's intensive care unit (ICU) and are also using mechanical ventilators.

In a better condition is a 45-year-old patient admitted to the ICU of the CHCSJ, who is improving and no longer requires respiratory aid.

The SSM noted that all the critical cases – including those where patients died following complications from their illness – had not received the winter influenza vaccine of 2017-2018.

It has called on residents to seek the vaccination immediately, especially if they belong to higher-risk groups.



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Post AGM Networking

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6:00 - 8:00 pm



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Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building
(Ref: 17040646)
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The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities.



Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa
(Ref: 16100620)
1,400 sq.ft. HKD 50,000

Located in the pedestrian shopping area of Taipa village, this is a unique opportunity to rent a great space. Recently upgraded by the owner the property had two toilets, one on each level. With little investment this property could be turned into a commercial enterprise or a home.



C Unit, Vai Fat, Taipa
(Ref: 17110659)
800 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Fabulous newly renovated one bedroom furnished apartment. Modern fitted kitchen with western style oven & cooktop. Great location in Taipa across the road from CuppaCoffee. Available from 5th December 2017



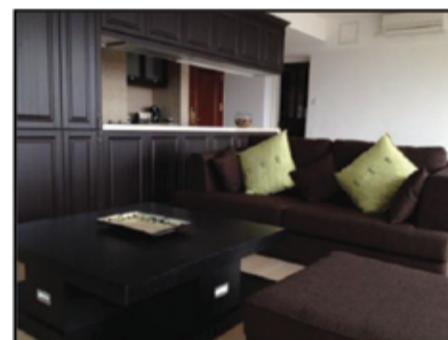
Office - Central Business District, Macau
(Ref: 16090618)
1,222 sq.ft. HKD 16,000

Good size spacious and bright office in a fantastic central location, surrounded by lush vegetation even though its in the central location. Originally two offices, now joined together by an arch way although two separate entrances. Public areas are old, in need of renovations however the owner is willing to upgrade upon signing a long term lease.



Car Park, Manhattan, Taipa
(Ref: 17075528)
sq.ft. HKD 1,800

Single Car park available for rent in Manhattan.



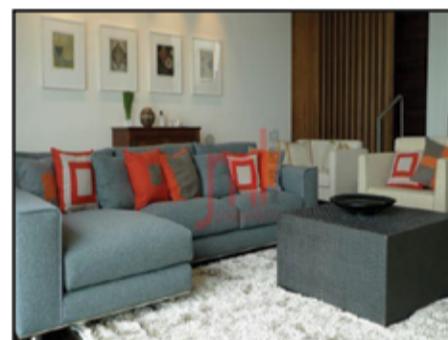
High Floor B Unit in The Buckingham
(Ref: 18010668)
1,433 sq.ft. HKD 22,000

Unique 2 bedroom fully furnished apartment with private terrace. Open plan kitchen with built in appliances. Two bathrooms one en suite. Views of Cotai Strip, China & Macau. Convenient location in central Taipa.



Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden
(Ref: 10020165)
3,700 sq.ft. HKD 35,000

Mid - floor, 4 bedroom apartment located in Taipa. Nice apartment for family. Unfurnished, but all appliances built-in. Large and bright living room with balcony with amazing seaview. Carpark included. Clubhouse facilities can be available gymnasium, outdoor pool, mini theatre, function rooms etc.



Cheoc Van House, Coloane
(Ref: 17060651)
6,222 sq.ft. HKD 79,800

Combining dazzling sea views, stylish interiors and cavernous comfort, this multi-storey property is a rare find in Macao. There are 3 bedrooms on the second floor for family and guests, and the top floor is reserved for a personal studio with a full-size closet and en suite bathroom.

FOR SALE



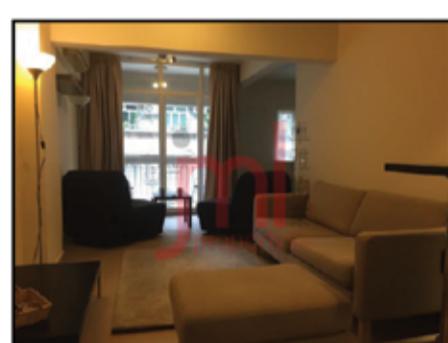
Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens
(Ref: 18015543)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 7.98M
Rate: HKD 4,798

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carport that accommodates 3 cars. The stylish open plan kitchen with all appliances has views across pool towards the beach. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. All rooms fully air conditioned including the kitchen.



Brand New 2 Bedroom Nova Park, Taipa
(Ref: 18015541)
8203 sq.ft. HKD 10.98M
Rate: HKD 9,556

Brand new apartment in central Taipa, never been occupied. Views over Central Park in Taipa, very convenient for shops, restaurants and transportation. High quality fittings and fixtures, new owners can move straight in and start enjoying the facilities and club immediately.



Nam Long, Taipa Village
(Ref: 17085534)
691 sq.ft. HKD 4.485M
Rate: HKD 6,490

Lovely apartment on the second floor of a three storey building in Taipa Village. Renovated 10 years ago from a two bedroom property to a great size one bedroom apartment, well maintained and managed by JML of the last ten years, historical maintenance data available on request. The bedroom has ample space for double bed and plenty of storage.



Panorama Penthouse Apartment
(Ref: 18015542)
4,851 sq.ft. HKD 33.98M
Rate: HKD 7,004

Lower level comprising open plan lounge and dining area. This level also includes an indoor pool, 4 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. The spacious kitchen has a walk in pantry, utility room and a service lift adjacent to the kitchen area. Asking price includes use of one parking onsite parking space.

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CASINO mogul Steve Wynn and his ex-wife have given fresh meaning to the concept of marital bonds.

Wynn Resorts wants to change terms on some of its bonds to protect the company from being forced to buy back debt as a complicated three-way lawsuit progresses. The court battle in question dates back to 2012 and involves Wynn, who earlier this month resigned from the company he founded amid sexual misconduct allegations; Elaine Wynn, an ex-board member who was divorced from Wynn for the second time in 2010, and their former business partner, Kazuo Okada.

If there's no legal obstacle to Steve or Elaine selling a large block of shares, the company might be forced to buy back some of its debt at a price above its face value and its current market value. The buyback would stem from a provision in the notes known as a "change-of-control" put. Under the proviso, if any stockholder acquires more shares than those of Steve Wynn and his related parties, then Wynn Resorts will be forced to buy back some of its bonds from investors at 101 cents on the dollar.

The company's USD500 million of notes maturing in 2023 are trading at around 99.9 cents. Steve Wynn holds about 11.8 percent of the company's shares now and said Tuesday he has no intention of selling.

That's down by around 2 cents on the dollar since the Wall Street Journal published a story in January detailing allegations of sexual misconduct against 76-year-old Steve Wynn, which he denies. Regulators in Nevada and Macau, where Wynn Resorts owns casinos, are investigating, as are officials in Massachusetts, where the company is building a \$2.4 billion complex.

Wynn Resorts wants to raise the change-of-control trigger to 50 percent from its current lower level. The company is offering holders of the 2023 notes \$10 million collectively to agree to the change.

An investor obtaining more stock than Steve Wynn and his related parties is a "real risk" for the company, according to Alexander Diaz-Matos, an analyst at credit research firm Covenant Review. "It's very different than

Wynn Resorts asks bondholders to shield it as founders fight

BLOOMBERG



Steve Wynn

having any person acquire more than 50 percent of Wynn, which I don't think is in the cards."

An investor obtaining more stock than Steve Wynn and his related parties is a 'real risk,' according to an analyst

But other bondholders may get hurt by this change if it goes through, Diaz-Matos said. The notes due in 2025 and 2027 have change-of-control provisions that can be triggered if either a shareholder buys more than 50 percent of the company, or another set of the company's bonds has a change-of-control event triggered. If the 2023 notes lose their lower threshold, then the 2025 and 2027 notes are also less likely to have the provision triggered, Diaz-Matos said.

Owners of the debt maturing in 2023 have until Feb. 27 at 5 p.m. in New York to decide if they'll accept the offer, according to the statement proposing the amendment. It's expected that they'll do so, according to two people with knowledge of the matter, who asked not to be identified as the

discussions were private.

At the heart of the legal fight is a 2010 agreement that gave Steve Wynn control over Elaine Wynn's and Okada's shares. This month, he agreed to give up the control he had over Elaine's portion and has also said that the pact no longer binds either party,

meaning she can sell her 9.4 percent stake.

Okada argues that the 2010 agreement is still in effect, and Wynn cannot discharge his ex-wife from it. A Nevada state court judge will hold a hearing March 2 on the matter. MDT/Bloomberg

Massachusetts regulators say Wynn probe is priority

MASSACHUSETTS officials say their investigation of Wynn Resorts Ltd. and the sexual misconduct allegations against its founder remains active and is a priority for the agency.

The state gaming commission's enforcement bureau won't provide any details about its probe of the casino company and former Chief Executive Officer Steve Wynn until the investigation is complete, Loretta Lillios, deputy director of investigations and enforcement, said last week at a hearing in Boston.

Massachusetts officials have said they would be looking at what company executives and board members knew about the claims against Wynn, who was forced to step down this month after an exposé in the Wall Street Journal chronicled decades of alleged sexual misconduct by the former casino mogul.

The Las Vegas-based company is building a USD2.4 billion resort just outside of Boston. The allegations have prompted similar investigations in Nevada and Macau, where Wynn Resorts already owns casinos.

Investors have been watching the investigations because of their potential impact on the company. Regulators have broad authority to revoke gaming licenses, require changes at companies so that they comply with state rules and even force individuals to divest from casino companies if they are found to be unsuitable.

Wynn stepped down from the company that bears his name earlier this month, citing an "avalanche" of negative publicity that was making it difficult for the company to do business. He has denied assaulting any women.

The executive was replaced by the company's then-president, Matt Maddox.

EDUCATION

40pct of local graduates draw salaries of over MOP18,000

THE director of the Tertiary Education Services Office, Sou Chio Fai, said that 40 percent of local residents who graduated from university within the last year

drew salaries higher than MOP18,000, the median for residents in Macau.

Sou disclosed this information during a TDM radio program, in which he said that the re-

maining 60 percent were offered a salary "slightly lower" than the median.

The percentage changes for students who graduated three years ago. Some 60 percent of the

students who graduated more than three years ago received salaries of higher than MOP18,000, while 40 percent received lower salaries.

Sou's office surveyed

university students before and three years after their graduation.

Ninety percent of surveyed graduates hoped to stay in or return to Macau. Eighty percent of those surveyed were able to find a full-time job within three months of graduation.

Sou expressed his hopes that students can develop their professional and general knowledge

after graduating by continuing to improve their communication, language and cooperation abilities.

In Macau, more than a third of graduates found a job corresponding to their majors. As a point of comparison, Sou stated that less than a third of graduates in the United States find jobs corresponding to their majors.

Dropbox, valued privately at USD10b, files for IPO

DROPBOX Inc., the file-sharing company that's been privately valued at USD10 billion, filed for a U.S. initial public offering, saying it was at scale and capable of moving fast.

The company filed with an offering size of \$500 million, according to a filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. That amount is a placeholder and is likely to change. The company plans to use the proceeds to pay down debt and for general corporate purposes.

Dropbox, which was valued at \$10 billion in its 2014 funding round, would be one of the biggest U.S. enterprise technology companies to list domestically in several years. First Data Corp. went public at a market value of about \$14 billion in 2015 - the biggest such IPO in the past five years.

"While we're at scale, we can still move quickly,"

BLOOMBERG



Dropbox co-founders Drew Houston and Arash Ferdowsi said in a letter to shareholders included in Friday's filing, "Imagine if every minute at work were well spent - if we could focus and spend our time on the things that matter. This is the world we want to live in."

While Dropbox has been

touting its scale - with more than 500 million registered users - and the fact that it is cash-flow positive, the filing gives a more in-depth look at its financials. The company's revenue increased more 30 percent last year to \$1.1 billion from \$845 million in 2016. In the same period, the com-

pany's net losses shrank to \$112 million from \$210 million.

Goldman Sachs Group Inc., JPMorgan Chase & Co., Deutsche Bank AG and Allen & Co. are leading the offering. The company plans to list on Nasdaq Global Select Market under the symbol DBX. **Bloomberg**

BLOOMBERG



BAIC and Daimler to build USD1.9b China production plant

BAIC Motor Corp. and Daimler AG plan to build a new factory in China for Mercedes-Benz vehicles to meet growing demand as the German automaker deepens its ties with the country.

The automakers will co-invest more than 11.9 billion yuan (USD1.9 billion) to build the facility, BAIC said yesterday in a brief filing to the Hong Kong stock exchange. The statement didn't disclose the location of the production base.

"The new factory will manufacture various Mercedes-Benz products in China in-

cluding new energy electric vehicles" and improve the overall production capacity of the companies' joint venture, Beijing Benz Automotive Co., the statement said.

The announcement comes a day after Li Shufu, the billionaire founder of Zhejiang Geely Holding Group Co., said he had acquired a stake worth about 7.3 billion euros (\$9 billion) in Daimler, marking the biggest investment in a global automobile manufacturer by a Chinese company. The 9.7 percent stake makes Geely the single largest investor in the parent of Mercedes-Benz. **Bloomberg**

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AP PHOTO



A bronze statue of former Mozambican president Samora Machel looms in the capital, Maputo

MOZAMBIQUE

Lack of gov't transparency means budget levels likely remain same, EIU says

THE Mozambican government's reluctance to ensure the transparency of public finances is expected to result in direct support for the State Budget remaining at pre-2016 levels in the medium term, the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU) said in its latest report on Mozambique.

"However, donors will continue to finance some development projects, provided that funding is able to bypass the Mozambican Treasury," said the report, which adds that the Mozambican government will continue to work towards strengthening its relationship with the countries of Asia, particularly China, its largest creditor, as well as the coal and natural gas importing countries.

The document said that the hidden debt crisis has no end in sight and that the most likely solution will be to merge the three commercial loans (a bond issue and two syndicated loans) into a single instrument, since the possible repudiation of the two loans in favor of bonds would result in the lifting of the State guarantee and direct exposure to legal proceedings of the individuals who approved the loans.

The EIU analysts also said that another possibility would be the Mozambican government preferring to pay bonds over loans, but "given that they are not expected to be declared illegal, this scenario also seems unlikely."

However, ongoing investigations in the United States, the United Kingdom, and Switzerland into the commercial banks

Credit Suisse and VTB of Russia – could lead to a legal battle, "regardless of the efforts of the Mozambican government to try to avoid it."

The document said that the hidden debt crisis has no end in sight

The state budget for 2018 includes expenditure of 300.7 billion meticals (USD4.4 billion, 10.5 percent more compared to 2017) and revenues of 223 billion meticals (20 percent more), with the government predicting that the resulting deficit will be covered by external (\$620.3 million) and internal (277 million meticals or \$4.5 million) debt.

"We believe that this scenario is unrealistic, as tax revenue should disappoint in view of the economic downturn and that the government remains sidelined from international capital markets," the EIU said, adding that the most realistic solution is to cut in both current and investment spending.

Economic growth will continue at a slower pace than in the past, with the EIU forecasting GDP growth of 3.2 percent this year, followed by 3.6 percent growth in 2019 before jumping to values between 5.3 percent and 5.6 percent between 2020 and 2022. **MDT/Macauhub**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Supports Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop for Six Straight Years

Volunteers provide assistance to vulnerable families ahead of Chinese New Year

A group of around 35 Sands China Care Ambassadors spent time Feb. 3 volunteering at Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop, where they distributed 350 food hampers to disadvantaged families in preparation for the Year of the Dog.

It is the sixth year in a row for Sands China to support the Welfare Shop, including with a donation of MOP 300,000 to assist families with financial hardships. The food hampers distributed on Feb. 3 contain staple items like rice, noodles, biscuits, canned food, cooking oil, toothpaste, shower gel, bar soap, and others.

Several thousand households from disadvantaged neighbourhoods have received food and essentials through the Welfare Shop's monthly distribution since it was launched in 2013 to help provide relief against the rising cost of living. Sands China has been a major sponsor, contributing a total of MOP 1.7 million since 2013, enough to provide 1,800 food hampers.

"Sands China is pleased to offer our continued support – in the form of both financial and human resources – to Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop, as it provides an important service to the Macao community," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd. "We're pleased to see our Sands China Care Ambassadors supporting the Welfare Shop's efforts to aid local households facing economic difficulties."

Dr. Wong presented a cheque for MOP 300,000 Feb. 3 to Macau Holy House of Mercy President António José de Freita, member of the Board of Trustees Duarte Alves, and President of the Supervisory Committee José Ricardo das Neves. Leong Heng Kao, president of the General Union of the Neighbourhood Associations of Macau; Siu Siu Man, director of Community Centre of the Federation of Macau Workers Associations; and Winnie Wong, vice president of corporate communications and community affairs for Venetian Macau Limited, were also in attendance.

Founded in August 2009, the Sands China Care Ambassador programme aims to give Sands China employees an opportunity to serve the local community by organising community activities and initiatives that work toward creating a better Macao. With a current membership of more than 1,600 volunteers from across all Sands China properties – Sands Macao, The Venetian Macao, The Plaza Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao – the Sands China Care Ambassadors have contributed close to 12,000 hours of voluntary community service in more than 50 activities in 2017. Sands China Ltd. considers initiatives like its support of Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop as central to its commitment toward social causes and community involvement; it is one of the many ways the company's team of volunteers expresses its care and spreads warmth to vulnerable and less-advantaged groups in the Macao community.

Sands China's community work is part of Sands Cares, the global corporate citizenship programme of parent company Las Vegas Sands Corp.



Sands China President Dr. Wilfred Wong presents a cheque for MOP 300,000 to Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop Feb. 3. Since 2013, the company has donated MOP 1.7 million to help provide disadvantaged families with relief against the rising cost of living.



Sands China Care Ambassadors meet outside Macau Holy House of Mercy's Centre for the Rehabilitation of the Blind in Fai Chi Kei Feb. 3, before distributing food hampers to disadvantaged families through the centre's Welfare Shop. It is Sands China's sixth year in a row to support the initiative.



Sands China Care Ambassadors help distribute food hampers to disadvantaged families Feb. 3 through Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop, spreading blessings and good cheer for the Year of the Dog.

WINTER OLYMPICS

Faux snow: Man-made snow to be used in Beijing and beyond

Eddie Pells, Pyeongchang

THE forecast for the next Winter Olympics: cold with a 100 percent chance of fake snow.

In other words, a lot like the Olympics which wrap up Sunday in South Korea.

Though freezing temperatures and windy conditions punctuated the action in Pyeongchang, between 90 and 98 percent of the snow at the ski and snowboard venues was man-made at these games.

Climate data compiled since 1979 about winters in Beijing, where the games will take place four years from now, indicate the snow will be entirely man-made there.

Intertrust Technologies analyzed weather in Beijing and found there wasn't a single winter that produced "sufficient snow" — more than 13 feet — to set down the Alpine and snowboarding runs that will be used at the Olympics. On the other hand, the overall mean temperature of minus-11 degrees Celsius in January

and minus-6 Celsius in February makes it likely there will be ideal snowmaking conditions for the games.

This has been an ongoing theme for the Olympics, and winter sports in general, as the effects of climate change directly impact the games and the athletes who play them.

"The Olympics are just another piece of the whole reflection of what's going on with winter," said Seth Wescott, the two-time Olympic snowboardcross champion, who works with an athletes' group, Protect Our Winters. "These are not places that are known for snow. All the years I went over and raced in South Korea, we were dealing with exactly what the athletes have been dealing with this [month]."

Intertrust drew similar conclusions about the cities that could host Olympics in 2026 and beyond.

Of the potential 2026 candidates, Calgary and Sapporo, Japan had the most consistent strings of temperatures of minus-3 Celsius



or less, which is considered ideal to maintain man-made snow. Calgary was also the leader as the city with the most real snow and best conditions to maintain it.

Only 13 of the last 39 Januaries in Utah, which appears to be a contender for the 2030 Games, have had optimal conditions for natural snow.

A bigger question is whether that matters all that much. Course builders and the athletes themselves prefer man-made snow because it can be created at consistencies they need for halfpipes, slopestyle runs and Alpine courses they build in a given area. The Pyeongchang Organizing Committee spent USD6 million to place snow

cannons across the venues.

In awarding the 2022 Games to Beijing, the IOC acknowledged that organizers would be hard-pressed to find natural snow and that there would be no opportunity to haul snow from higher elevations, the way they did in Vancouver for the 2010 Games. Beijing won the bid over Almaty, Kazakhstan, which used the slogan "Keeping It Real" — in a nod to its snowy climate.

In Pyeongchang, cold weather was welcome after two straight Winter Games, in Sochi and Vancouver, that didn't feel much like winter. Still, strong winds wreaked havoc with the Alpine schedule and also played a role in some shuffling at the Phoenix Snow Park, where the action sports took place.

Chris Klug, the 2002 snowboarding bronze medalist, said over the years, he has noticed things other than warm winter temperatures that have indicated climate change. "I've seen 'global weirding' like that in my lifetime," Klug said.

It plays into the fact that nine cities that hosted previous Winter Olympics would be considered "higher risk" or "not reliable" to host the games come the middle of this century.

"It's marginal snow conditions, all man-made, bizarre fluctuations and wind," Wescott said. "It's part of what we're facing on an ever-warming globe." AP

Two detained for posing in Japanese army uniforms

CHINESE police have ordered two men detained for 15 days after they posted pictures on the internet of themselves wearing Japanese World War II army uniforms at the site of one of the war's worst atrocities.

Nanjing police said the sentences were imposed following widespread outrage online, underscoring the enduring sensitivity among Chinese over Japan's invasion and occupation of much of the country in the 1930s and 1940s.

The men, aged 22 and 25, were ruled guilty on the broadly defined charge of "picking quarrels and provoking trouble" and sentenced to administrative detention, a punishment short of jailing for which no trial is required.

"Individual actions of citizens should not

challenge the dignity of the nation and its people," police said in a statement. "No behavior in public settings or in cyberspace can cross the bottom line of the law."

One of the two had been tracked to the southwestern province of Sichuan. The statement, dated Tuesday, didn't say how they were identified, although social media and government databases may have offered clues.

The police statement said the two traveled to Nanjing over the Lunar New Year holiday and the pictures were taken in front of a bunker used by Chinese defenders during the 1937 Japanese assault that ended in the notorious Rape of Nanking.

It said they distributed the photos on the popular QQ messaging service, from where they were re-

posted around the internet, stirring "extreme rage and severe condemnation."

Pictures of the two with faces obscured were posted on websites. One wore an officer's uniform and carried a samurai sword, while the other wore puttees and carried what appeared to be a replica rifle.

More than 70 years after the war ended, Japan's relations with China remain fraught.

China's ruling Communist Party derives much of its legitimacy to rule from its much-mythologized role fighting the Japanese, who were opposed mainly by Chiang Kai-shek's Nationalists. Many Chinese also believe Japan has never showed sincere contrition for the conflict, in which an estimated 15 million to 20 million Chinese were killed.

A memorial hall and museum now stand at the site of a mass grave in the Yangtze River city and annual commemorations in December have been attended by President Xi Jinping and other high-ranking leaders.

In 1937, Nanjing was Chiang's capital, to which he and his army had retreated following the Japanese occupation of Shanghai to the east after dogged fighting by the Chinese defenders.

After entering the city on Dec. 13, Japanese imperial troops went on a six-week-long rampage, raping and murdering civilians and disarming soldiers, looting and setting much of the city aflame. China puts the number of dead at 300,000, although other estimates place the number considerably lower. AP

Top economic aide is said to plan US trip amid trade row

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping's top economic adviser Liu He will head to the U.S. this week in a sign of an expanded role managing the mounting trade tensions between the governments in Beijing and Washington, said a person familiar with the matter.

As President Donald Trump considers harsh tariffs on steel and aluminum imports from China, Liu's visit could mean yet another mandate for the Harvard-educated adviser whose understanding of the U.S. and ties to local business leaders could help ease friction between the governments.

Expected to be appointed vice premier in charge of financial policy by the National People's Congress next month, Liu, 66, also has been named by analysts as a possible candidate to head China's central bank.

Liu is scheduled to arrive in Washington on Tuesday, said the person who asked not to be identified

because the trip hasn't been announced. He will be the second member of the powerful 25-member Politburo to travel to the U.S. this month.

China's top diplomat Yang Jiechi visited earlier in February, an indication of how much attention China is giving to ties with the U.S. as the rhetoric out of Washington becomes more pointed.

Earlier this month, China's ambassador to Washington warned the Trump administration against adopting a confrontational approach toward China. In December, Trump called Russia and China "rival powers" when he unveiled his first national security strategy.

Liu's U.S. visit, which was reported earlier by Axios, will come a day after a planned meeting of the Communist Party's Central Committee starts in Beijing, and before legislators gather early next month to approve new government leaders. Bloomberg

Gillian Wong, Beijing

CHINA'S ruling Communist Party has proposed removing a limit of two consecutive terms for the country's president, the official news agency said Sunday, appearing to lay the groundwork for party leader Xi Jinping to rule as president beyond 2023.

The party's Central Committee proposed to remove from the constitution the expression that China's president and vice president "shall serve no more than two consecutive terms," the Xinhua News Agency said in a brief report. It provided no further details.

The announcement came before the Central Committee was to begin a three-day meeting in Beijing today to discuss major personnel appointments and other issues.

Xi's status as the most powerful Chinese leader in a generation was cemented at last year's party congress, where he was given a second five-year term as general secretary.

Ahead of the party congress, Xi had been shoring up his authority and sidelining rivals, leaving him primed to press his agenda of tightened state control and muscular diplomacy. That included a push to insert his thoughts on theoretical matters into the party constitution and further cultivate a burgeoning cult of personality that could allow him to hold on to

China proposes removing two-term limit for president

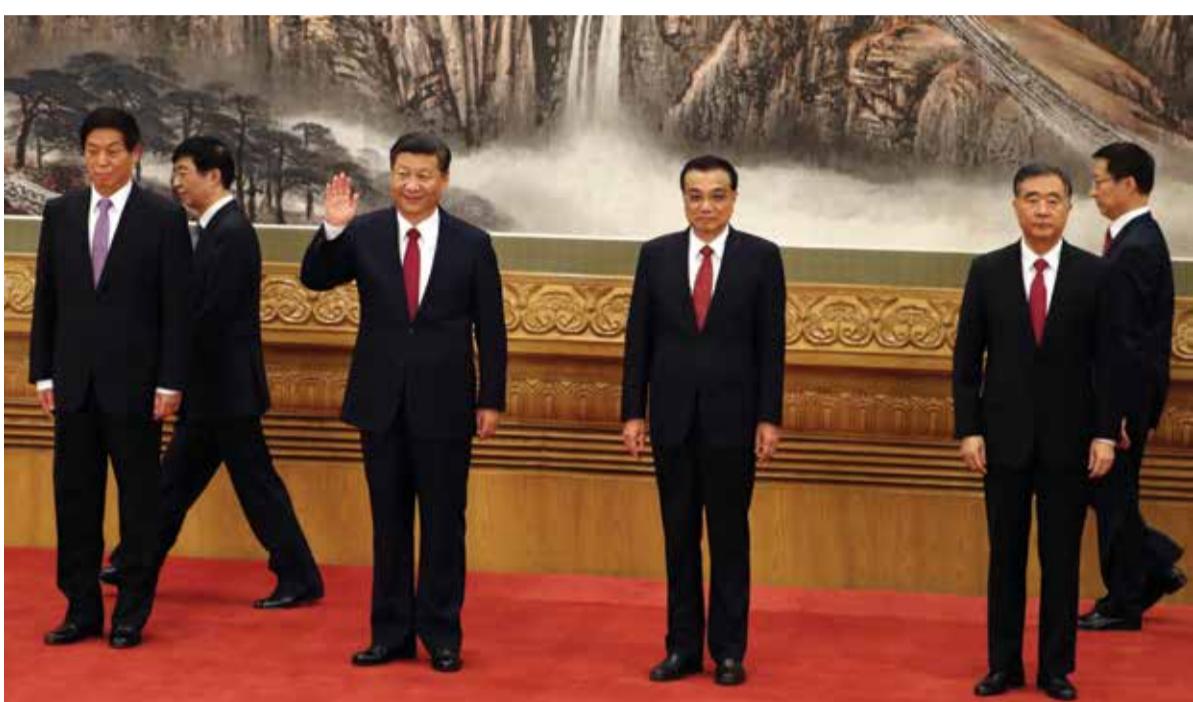
power beyond his second term.

The son of a famed communist elder, Xi rose through the ranks to the position of Shanghai's party leader before being promoted to the all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee in 2007.

In a move carrying enormous symbolic weight, Xi last year took on the mantle of 'core' of the party leadership

When Xi did assume the top spot in 2012, it was as head of a reduced seven-member committee on which he had only one reliable ally, veteran Wang Qishan. He put Wang in charge of a sweeping anti-corruption crackdown that helped Xi eliminate challengers, both serving and retired, and cow potential opponents.

AP PHOTO



Xi Jinping (center-left) waves near Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (center-right)

Xi, whose titles include head of the armed forces, has lavished attention on the military with parades and defense budget increases. But he's also led a crackdown on abuses and a push to cut 300,000 personnel from the 2.3 million-member People's Liberation

Army, underscoring his ability to prevail against entrenched interests.

At the same time, Xi has added to his resume additional titles as leader of more than a half dozen special commissions overseeing areas from national security to fo-

reign policy.

In a move carrying enormous symbolic weight, Xi last year took on the mantle of "core" of the party leadership, elevating him above his peers in a manner redolent of communist China's founder, Mao Zedong. AP

Tycoon who considered Kushner investment prosecuted

Joe McDonald, Beijing

THE founder of one of China's biggest insurers, who had discussed possibly investing in a Manhattan skyscraper owned by the family of U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, will be prosecuted for financial offenses and regulators have taken control of his company, the government announced Friday.

Anbang Insurance Group chairman Wu Xiaohui is charged with improper fundraising and "taking others' money," according to a statement by the Shanghai prosecutor's office. It gave no details and there was no indication the charges were linked to Wu's talks with Jared Kushner's family, which ended last March with no deal.

The case adds to an avalanche of scandals in China's insurance industry. The former chief regulator was charged in September with taking bribes and executives of other insurers have been



charged with corruption or mismanagement.

Regulators took control of Anbang, which owns Manhattan's Waldorf Astoria Hotel, to protect its solvency and consumer rights, the China Insurance Regulatory Commission said on its website. It said the company will be run by a committee of officials from China's central bank, foreign exchange regulator and other agencies.

The takeover will not affect Anbang's debt obligations, the statement said.

Chinese regulators are in the midst of a campaign to reduce financial risks and rein in surging debt that private sector analysts worry could lead to a banking crisis or drag on economic growth.

Insurers have been accused of engaging in reckless speculation in stocks and real estate. The chairman of a life insurance company was barred from the industry last year in an unrelated case and a third company was prohibited from trading stocks.

Anbang has been under scrutiny since a multibillion-dollar string of global acquisitions raised questions about how it paid for its buying spree, including the USD2 billion purchase of the Waldorf.

Anbang's negotiations with Kushner Cos. about a possible investment in its flagship property, 666 Fifth Ave., prompted members of the U.S. Congress to raise ethics concerns. Five lawmakers said in a letter to the White House the possible deal represented a "clear conflict of interest." They asked the Trump administration to confirm Kushner, who transferred his ownership stake to other family members, played no role in the negotiations.

Questions about Anbang's future have swirled since the company announced Wu gave up his duties to deputies in June following news reports he was detained for questioning about unspecified financial offenses.

News reports have accused Anbang of misrep-

ting the source of money used for acquisitions.

Regulators warned Anbang and other Chinese insurers last year about their sales of short-term insurance policies that paid high interest rates. Anbang used such sales to raise billions of dollars.

Anbang, founded in 2004, gained a reputation for aggressive expansion in a stodgy industry dominated by state-owned insurers.

It grew to more than 30,000 employees with 35 million clients and diversified into life insurance, banking, asset management, leasing and brokerage services.

Early investors included a state-owned automaker, an oil company and a mix of rural villagers and small business owners.

Anbang, which is privately held, said earlier it raised 50 billion yuan (USD8 billion) in capital in 2014 by taking on dozens of new shareholders. That increased its registered capital five-fold to 62 billion yuan (\$9.5 billion), the biggest

among Chinese insurers.

A prominent business magazine, Caixin, said in May at least 30 billion yuan (\$4.3 billion) of that money really came from premiums paid by policyholders — a violation of insurance regulations.

Anbang denied that and accused Caixin of publishing negative information about the company and Wu after pressing it to buy advertising.

Friday's CIRC statement confirmed earlier news reports the agency sent investigators to Anbang in June. It said they pushed for unspecified improvements in operations and management.

Anbang's buying spree stumbled after Beijing tightened investment controls in late 2016. Regulators said they wanted to cool spending on foreign real estate and other assets they said did nothing to develop China's economy.

Following that, Anbang failed to complete several deals, including the proposed purchase of U.S.-based Fidelity & Guaranty Life for \$1.6 billion. AP

Hyung-Jin Kim and
Kim Tong-Hyung, Associated Press

A North Korean envoy making a rare visit to South Korea said yesterday that his country was willing to open talks with the United States, a rare step toward diplomacy between enemies after a year of North Korean missile and nuclear tests and direct threats of war from both Pyongyang and Washington.

Kim Yong Chol, who Seoul believes masterminded two attacks in 2010 that killed 50 South Koreans, was in South Korea for the end of the Olympics. He said North Korean leader Kim Jong Un wanted to improve ties with Washington and had "ample intentions of holding talks" with its rival, according to the South's presidential office.

He made the remarks during a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who is eager to engage the North after one of the most hostile periods in recent years on the Korean Peninsula.

Moon, who was invited during the opening ceremonies to Pyongyang for a summit with Kim Jong Un, also said that Washington and Pyongyang should quickly meet to "fundamentally solve" the standoff on the Korean Peninsula.

Kim later sat in the VIP box at Olympic Stadium in Pyeongchang for the Olympic closing ceremonies, just feet away from Donald Trump's daughter, Ivanka, and the top U.S. military commander on the peninsula, Gen. Vincent Brooks. The former anti-Seoul military intelligence chief watched K-pop divas and fireworks and stood for the South Korean national anthem.

Chol says North Korea open to talks with US

AP PHOTO



Kim Yong Chol (center) vice chairman of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party Central Committee, arrives to attend the closing ceremony of the Winter Olympics

Even the faintest possibility of diplomacy will be welcomed by many. But there will also be widespread skepticism among conservatives in Seoul and Washington, with many wondering if the North is simply looking for economic relief after a series of increasingly tough international sanctions slapped on Pyongyang for its illicit weapons programs or more time to develop those weapons.

Moon has yet to accept the North's invitation for a summit, but he has advocated engagement with Pyongyang his entire political career and likely wants to go.

But he must first strike a ba-

lance with Washington, which has a policy meant to isolate and sanction the North until it agrees to give up its nukes. Some observers believe that Pyongyang is trying to drive a wedge to win concessions from Seoul.

There was no immediate comment from the United States, where it was dawn when the statement was released.

Kim Yong Chol was head of the North's military intelligence when the 2010 attacks on South Korea took place and is currently a vice chairman of the ruling party's central committee tasked with inter-Korea relations.

With decades of experience, he is one of the most powerful

people in the North's ruling regime. Seoul decided to temporarily take him off of a blacklist to allow the visit.

Seoul believes Chol masterminded two attacks in 2010 that killed 50 South Koreans

South Korea is hoping to ease tensions by allowing the North to participate in the games and send senior delegations.

Kim Jong Un's sister, Kim Yo Jong, attended the opening ceremony in an historic first — no member of the ruling Kim family had ever traveled to the South before. She invited President Moon Jae-in to a summit with her brother in Pyongyang. The delegation to the closing ceremony was expected to follow up on that invitation while in South Korea.

The delegation's arrival was met by protesters calling for Kim's arrest for his alleged role in the 2010 attacks — the sinking of the warship Cheonan that killed 46 South Korean sailors and an artillery strike on a South Korean island that killed four people.

Outside Olympic Stadium, just before the ceremony, more than 200 anti-Pyongyang protesters waved South Korean and U.S. flags, banged drums and held signs saying "Killer Kim Jong Chol go to hell." They denounced the South Korean government's decision to allow the visit.

"How can a murderer who killed 46 sailors on the Cheonan warship be invited, protected and defended? This is the state of what the Republic of Korea has become," one protester shouted into a mic, referring to South Korea's formal name

The protesters also hung a sign that read: "We are against Pyongyang Olympics: fallen into the propaganda of the terrorist Kim Jong Un's brutal regime."

There were no major clashes.

At the opening ceremony earlier this month, Kim Yo Jong sat in the same VIP box with Moon and U.S. Vice President Mike Pence, creating some awkward moments. Though Pence stood to cheer the entrance of the U.S. team, he remained seated when the athletes from North and South Korea marched together behind a "unification" flag, leaving Moon to instinctively turn around and shake Kim's sister's hand.

Pence's office claimed afterward that the North had pulled out of a planned meeting at the last minute.

The North's state-run news agency ran a story yesterday quoting a "spokesman for the Korea Asia-Pacific Peace Committee" as saying that Pence insulted Kim's sister with his hard-line rhetoric after returning to the U.S. and "we will never have face-to-face talks with them even after 100 years or 200 years." AP

Six months after attacks began, Rohingya see no end in sight

Julhas Alam, Dhaka

THEIR houses are often made of plastic sheets. Much of their food comes from aid agencies. Jobs are few, and there is painfully little to do. The nightmares are relentless.

But six months after their horrors began, the Rohingya Muslims who fled army attacks in Myanmar for refuge in Bangladesh feel one immense consolation.

"Nobody is coming to kill us, that's for sure," said Mohammed Amanullah, whose village was destroyed last year just before he left for Bangladesh with his wife and three children. They now live in the Kutupalong refugee camp outside the coastal city of Cox's Bazar. "We have

peace here."

On Aug. 25, Rohingya insurgents attacked several security posts in Myanmar, killing at least 14 people. Within hours, waves of revenge attacks broke out, with the military and Buddhist mobs marauding through Rohingya villages in bloody pogroms, killing thousands, raping women and girls, and burning houses and whole villages. The aid group Doctors Without Borders has estimated at least 6,700 Rohingya were killed in Myanmar in the first month of the violence, including at least 730 children younger than 5. The survivors flooded into Bangladesh.

Six months later, there are few signs Rohingya are going home anytime soon.

Myanmar and Bangladesh have signed an agreement to gradually repatriate Rohingya in "safety, security and dignity," but the process has been opaque and the dangers remain. New satellite images have shown empty villages and hamlets leveled, erasing evidence of the Rohingyas' former lives. And with 700,000 having fled Myanmar since August, more Rohingya continue to flee.

So far, the refugees wait.

"If they agree to send us back that's fine, but is it that easy?" asked Amanullah. "Myanmar must give us citizenship. That is our home. Without citizenship they will torture us again. They will kill us again."

He said he would only return under the protection of U.N. peacekeepers: "They must take care of us there. Otherwise it will not work."

Buddhist-majority Myanmar doesn't recognize the Rohingya as an official ethnic group and they face intense discrimination and persecution.

The children in the camps face a particularly difficult time. The U.N. estimates children are the heads of 5,600 refugee families.

A survey of children's lives inside the camps showed they faced an array of terrors, from girls reporting concerns of harassments near the camp toilets to fears that elephants and snakes could attack them as they collect



Lalmoti, an elderly Rohingya Muslim woman, lies in a sling as her son and grandson ask for direction to the hospital in Kutupalong refugee camp, Bangladesh

firewood.

"We cannot expect Rohingya children to overcome the traumatic experiences they've suffered when exposed to further insecurity and fears of violence in the camps," Mark Pierce, country director for Save the Children in Bangladesh, said in a statement.

The study was prepared

jointly by Save the Children, World Vision and Plan International.

"The overwhelming message from these children is that they are afraid," Pierce said. "This is no way for a child to live."

The situation will worsen soon. Seasonal monsoon rains will begin pounding the refugees' plastic-and-bamboo city in April. AP

THE Trump administration is considering an offer from Republican mega-donor and Sands China chairman Sheldon Adelson to pay for at least part of a new U.S. embassy in Jerusalem, four U.S. officials told The Associated Press.

Lawyers at the State Department are looking into the legality of accepting private donations to cover some or all of the embassy costs, the officials said. The discussions are occurring as the administration plans a ribbon-cutting for a scaled-down, temporary embassy that will open in May — more than a year ahead of schedule.

In one possible scenario, the administration would solicit contributions not only from Adelson but potentially from other donors in the evangelical Christian and American Jewish communities, too. One official said Adelson, a casino magnate and staunch Israel supporter, had offered to pay the difference between the total cost — expected to run into the hundreds of millions of dollars — and what the administration is able to raise.

Under any circumstance, letting private citizens cover the costs of an official government building would mark a significant departure from historical practice. In the Jerusalem case, it would add yet another layer of controversy to Trump's politically charged decision to move the embassy, given Adelson's longstanding affiliation with right-wing Israeli politics.

The move of the embassy from Tel Aviv to the disputed holy city cleared a final bureaucratic hurdle this week when Secretary of State Rex Tillerson signed off on the security plan. In a letter sent to Congress, the State Department said the interim facility's inauguration will coincide with the 70th anniversary of Israel's independence on May 14.

"It's the right thing to do," Trump said Friday of the embassy relocation.

Adelson's unconventional offer, made around the time Trump announced in December that the embassy would move, would address the president's stated distaste for shelling out eye-popping sums for overseas diplomatic facilities. Although Trump has promoted the Jerusalem move as fulfilling a key campaign promise, he also was outspoken last month in blasting the \$1 billion price tag for a new embassy in London.

How quickly to move the embassy has been a source of intense debate within Trump's administration, said the officials, who weren't authorized to discuss the issue publicly and demanded anonymity.

Tillerson, who opposed moving the embassy in the first place, advocated a go-slow approach and said it could take years. But Ambassador David Friedman, who lobbied Trump to recognize Jerusalem as Israel's capital, has

AP PHOTO



Sheldon Adelson (right) talks with Secretary of State, Rex Tillerson, before a speech by President Donald Trump at the Israel Museum in Jerusalem

US weighs Sheldon Adelson offer to fund Jerusalem embassy

■ It's not clear if there is any precedent, nor whether government lawyers would give the green light to accept Adelson's or anyone else's donations

Initially, the U.S. will merely retrofit a small suite of offices there to accommodate Friedman and one or two top aides. The rest of the staff will remain at first in America's current facility in Tel Aviv.

The Arnona facility will be expanded to accommodate a regular

contingent of embassy personnel by the end of 2019, and ultimately is likely to spill into an adjacent U.S.-controlled property that currently houses a home for senior citizens, officials said. The State Department said a separate search was starting "in parallel" to eventually plan and build a permanent embassy.

Israel's government hailed the impending move, with Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu saying on Twitter that it would turn Israel's anniversary "into an even greater national celebration." But Palestinian chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said the move showed Trump was determined to destroy prospects for a two-state solution and "provoke the feelings of the Palestinian people."

Retrofitting just a few offices can be accomplished at minimal cost. But expanding to allow the bulk of America's diplomatic staff in Israel to work out of Jerusalem would easily cost more than USD500 million dollars, officials familiar with the process said. Particularly pricey are the strict security requirements for embassies that are written into U.S. law.

It's unclear how much of the cost Adelson might be willing to cover. The White House declined to comment. An Adelson spokes-

man didn't respond to multiple requests for comment.

The State Department said it had "nothing to announce" and "no confirmation or details about this hypothetical proposal." Undersecretary of State Steve Goldstein added that there had been no "formal talks" with private citizens about funding.

It's not clear if there is any precedent, nor whether government lawyers would give the green light to accept Adelson's or anyone else's donations.

Kathy Bethany, the former cost management director for the State Department's Bureau of Overseas Building Operations, said she couldn't recall the U.S. government ever accepting donations to build embassies during her tenure, which ended in 2014.

"I don't know how well that would work," Bethany said. "Would we be beholden to putting their name on the building? I've never heard of that."

There are several ways, in theory, that it could work. Citizens could cut a general check to the U.S. Treasury and unofficially "earmark" their dollars as being intended to offset the embassy's cost. The State Department's Foreign Affairs Manual also lays out a formal process for accepting gifts, including real estate, requiring a rigorous review

to ensure the gift "would not give the appearance of a conflict of interest."

Adelson, who donated \$5 million to Trump's inaugural committee, is one of the Republican Party's biggest donors and a major Netanyahu supporter. Adelson also finances Israel Hayom, a pro-Netanyahu newspaper that is distributed free throughout Israel.

Allowing donations from Adelson or others would come with significant political risk for Trump. The president already faces major criticism from Palestinians and others who say his decision to move the embassy to Jerusalem — also claimed by the Palestinians for the capital of their future state — tipped the scales unfairly in Israel's favor.

Mort Klein, president of the pro-Israel group Zionist Organization of America and a close associate of Adelson, said accepting donations would be ill-advised. Klein said he knew Adelson was "deeply interested" in seeing the embassy relocate to Jerusalem but didn't know whether the casino mogul had offered to help pay for it himself.

"This is a government project. It's a government-run embassy," Klein said. "I don't want people to be able to say it was Jewish money." MDT/AP

AP PHOTO



Students are evacuated by police from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland

US

NRA, Florida face backlash after latest school shooting

THE National Rifle Association, and now the State of Florida, faced a growing backlash Saturday as companies cut ties to the gun industry following the latest school massacre, and student survivors called for tourism boycotts of their home state until gun control measures are enacted.

The latest companies to end their ties with the NRA were Delta and United Airlines, two of the three largest U.S.-based airlines.

Corporate ties to the NRA aren't the only elements undergoing scrutiny after a shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, that left 17 dead on Valentine's Day.

Broward County Sheriff Scott Israel said he's investigating claims that some Coral Springs police officers saw several of his deputies outside the building after the shooting began.

On Thursday, Scot Peterson, the school's resource officer, resigned under fire from the sheriff's office for failing to enter the building where police say former 19-year-old student Nikolas Cruz was gunning down students with an AR-15 assault-style rifle.

On Saturday, both Delta and United said Saturday they will no longer offer discounted fares to NRA members to attend their annual meetings, and both have asked the gun rights group to

remove any references to their companies from the NRA website.

A growing number of large companies have announced they are cutting or reducing ties with the association. Rental car company Hertz will no longer offer a discount program to NRA members and First National Bank of Omaha, one of the nation's largest privately held banks, said it will not renew a co-branded Visa credit card it has with the NRA. Most of these companies do promotional tie-ins with groups to spur customer loyalty to NRA members, and do not receive money directly from the NRA.

The moves have come as peti-

tions circulated online targeting companies offering discounts to NRA members on its website. #BoycottNRA was trending on Twitter.

In an email Saturday, the NRA called the companies' actions "a shameful display of political and civic cowardice" and said the loss of corporate discounts and other perks "will neither scare nor distract" NRA members.

"In time, these brands will be replaced by others who recognize that patriotism and determined commitment to Constitutional freedoms are characteristics of a marketplace they very much want to serve," the NRA statement said.

The State of Florida also was facing some backlash. One of the survivors of the Florida school shooting suggested Saturday on Twitter that tourists stay away from the state. He got an immediate response.

"Let's make a deal," tweeted David Hogg, a Stoneman Douglas student who has been a major player in the #neveragain movement. "DO NOT come to Florida for spring break unless gun legislation is passed."

Wendy Glaab, 60, of Fonthill, Ontario, Canada, was among the first to respond. "I like many Canadians travel to Florida from time to time to escape our winter. I can't speak for others but I will not be returning until meaningful gun control legislation is in place."

Glaab told The Associated Press on Saturday that her sister owns property in Fort Lauderdale and she is able to visit any time she chooses.

Members of the NRA have access to special offers from partner companies on its website, ranging from life insurance to wine clubs. But the insurance company MetLife Inc. discontinued its discount program with the NRA on Friday. Symantec

Corp., the software company that makes Norton Antivirus technology, did the same. Insurer Chubb Ltd. said it is ending participation in the NRA's gun-owner insurance program, but it provided notice three months ago. The program that provided coverage for people involved in gun-related incidents or accidents had been under scrutiny by regulators over marketing issues.

Car rental company Enterprise Holdings, which also owns Alamo and National, said it was cutting off discounts for NRA member, as did Hertz.

Other companies, including Wyndham Hotels and Best Western hotels, have let social media users know they are no longer affiliated with the NRA, though they did not make clear when the partnerships ended.

The swiftness of the corporate reaction against the NRA has differed from that of past shootings, including the 2012 Sandy Hook Elementary School massacre that claimed 26 lives, and the killing of 58 people in Las Vegas last fall, said Bob Spitzer, a political scientist at SUNY Cortland and a scholar on gun politics. Spitzer said the reaction was likely a reaction to the student mobilization that followed the Florida shooting, but he said it was too soon tell how significantly it will sway the country's wider gun debate.

NRA Executive Vice President Wayne LaPierre said this week at the Conservative Political Action Conference that those advocating for stricter gun control are exploiting the Florida shooting.

President Donald Trump has aligned himself with the NRA, suggesting some teachers could be armed so that they could fire on any attacker. However, Trump has also called for raising the minimum age for purchasing semi-automatic rifles, a move the NRA opposes. AP

SYRIA

Damascus, its suburbs calm after UN cease-fire vote

THE Syrian capital and its embattled eastern suburbs were relatively calm yesterday, following the U.N. Security Council's unanimous approval of a resolution demanding a 30-day cease-fire across Syria, opposition activists and residents of Damascus said.

The activists reported few violations, including some clashes, on the southern edge of the rebel-held suburbs, known as eastern Ghouta, and two airstrikes late on Saturday night, shortly after the resolution was adopted.

The calm came after

a week of intense airstrikes and shelling that killed more than 500 people in eastern Ghouta and left dozens dead or wounded in the government-held Damascus, which rebels pelted with mortar shells.

"This has been the calmest night since last Sunday," said Rami Abdurrahman who heads the Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights, referring to the start of the bombing campaign on Feb. 19. He said there have been no deaths reported since the resolution passed.

Ghouta-based opposition activist Anas al-Di-

mashqi said the night was calm but warplanes and drones were flying over rebel-held areas. He said several explosions were heard yesterday in Ghouta.

Dr. Sakhr al-Dimashqi, a surgeon at a clinic in Ghouta, told The Associated Press that several shells hit some towns in the suburbs, adding that they received six wounded people at the clinic where he works.

"The shelling today is not as intense as over the past week," he said.

The two largest and most powerful rebel factions in Ghouta, Failaq al-Rahman and Army of

Islam issued statements saying they will abide by the cease-fire unless they are forced to fire in self-defense. Both called for the "immediate delivery" of emergency aid.

The resolution excludes members of the Islamic State group and al-Qaida-linked fighters. Ghouta is also home to a few hundred members of the al-Qaida-linked Levant Liberation Committee.

Damascus residents said there's more traffic in the streets, compared to previous days and most schools and universities were open yesterday. They said some private schools were still

closed, especially those close to the front lines with Ghouta.

Saturday's vote at the United Nations came after the vote was delayed from Friday. Russia's U.N. Ambassador Vassily Nebenzia had repeatedly called an immediate cease-fire unrealistic.

In a bid to get Russian support, sponsors Kuwait and Sweden amended the draft resolution late Friday to drop a demand that the cease-fire take effect 72 hours after the resolution's adoption.

After two hours of additional negotiations on Saturday, the Security

Council unanimously approved the resolution demanding a 30-day cease-fire across Syria "without delay" to deliver humanitarian aid to millions and evacuate the critically ill and wounded.

After the vote, many council members urged stepped-up efforts to ensure a cease-fire and get assistance to millions in need.

Russia has been a main backer of Syrian President Bashar Assad since the country's conflict began seven years ago. In 2015, Moscow joined the war on Assad's side tipping the balance of power in his favor. AP

Dusan Stojanovic, Belgrade

FOR years, Russia has worked to gain influence in Southeast Europe, using Serbia as a foothold to establish a friendly pocket on a hostile continent.

The European Union finally is pushing back. European Commission President Jean-Claude Juncker is embarking on a seven-nation Balkans tour Sunday to promote the EU's new eastward expansion strategy.

Russia mainly wants to discourage the Western Balkan countries — Albania, Bosnia, Macedonia, Montenegro, Kosovo and Serbia — from joining NATO. But Moscow also is trying to deter them from joining the EU.

The EU sees the prospect of membership as an incentive for reform in the volatile Balkans region, which was torn apart by war in the 1990s. Its expansion strategy puts Serbia and Montenegro in position to join should the bloc open its doors to more members, tentatively by 2025.

Serbia is a major target of Moscow's anti-Western activities in Europe because the two Slavic and predominantly Eastern Orthodox Christian nations share deep cultural and historical ties. Their bonds also have experienced lows and highs, especially since the former Yugoslavia refused to join the Soviet bloc in 1948.

The Kremlin is so concerned

EU and Russia vie for influence in volatile Balkans region

AP PHOTO



A Serbian Army MiG-29 jet fighter received from Russia stands on the tarmac at Batajnica, military airport near Belgrade, Serbia

about losing its ally that Russian Foreign Minister Sergey Lavrov repeatedly argued while in Serbia last week that EU membership isn't all it's cut out to be.

Lavrov also gave a warning; the EU's repeated calls for Serbia to align its foreign policies with the bloc as a precursor to membership and to impose sanctions on Russia, he said, are the same "mistake" the West made by pressuring war-torn Ukraine to choose between it and Russia.

Lavrov told Russia's Rossiya 1 TV on Saturday that both Serbia and Russia are "the object of the West's overt pressure" to turn Serbia against Russia.

"We love our countries, and the Serbs love Russia, and the Russians love Serbia," he said.

Serbian political analyst Bosko Jaksic thinks the "Russians are getting increasingly nervous as they lose allies one by one in the Balkans."

"It's not clear how far they are

willing to go to preserve their interests here, but judging from what they did in Ukraine, they are willing to go far," Jaksic said, referring to Russia's annexation of Crimea and support for pro-Russian rebels in eastern Ukraine.

Lavrov also said that "Europe is facing an unhealthy situation" because of NATO's eastward expansion. Montenegro joined the Western military organization last year despite Moscow's strong opposition. He praised Belgrade for maintaining military neutrality and refusing to join NATO.

"We are convinced that this status is one of the main factors ensuring stability in the Balkans and the European continent in general," Lavrov said.

There have been mounting fears in the West that Russia is using Serbia to foment tensions in the Balkans by arming its ally with warplanes and tanks while working to destabilize neighboring Bosnia, Montenegro and Macedonia.

The European Union's foreign and security policies grew out of Europe's failure to respond to the wars in the Balkans that accom-

panied the breakup of Yugoslavia. The bloc remains wary that some of the ethnic cleavages that sparked the conflicts of the 1990s persist.

Three countries have become EU members: Bulgaria and Romania in 2007, and Croatia in 2013. The rest either are candidates for membership or potential candidates.

Although Serbia formally has declared its interest in joining the EU, the right-leaning leadership now running the country repeatedly has expressed anti-Western sentiments.

"Investing in the stability and prosperity of the Western Balkans means investing in the security and future of our Union," Juncker said ahead of the trip.

Juncker's tour of the Balkans, which starts in Macedonia on Sunday and ends with an EU summit in Bulgaria on March 1, is seen as the EU's belated attempt to counter Russia's reach.

"Paradoxically, the Russians and their policies in the Balkans have triggered alarm bells that woke up the European Union into action," Jaksic, the analyst, said. AP

AD

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what's ON



TEAMLAB FUTURE PARK

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

10:30am-10pm (Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays; 90 mintues 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)

SWIM ON THE RIFFLERS

TIME: 11am-6pm (closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: 10 Fantasia – A Creative Industries Incubator

ADMISSION: Free

EMAIL: cipa_slcd@yahoo.com

THE MEMORABLE TIME – THE TRADITIONAL HANDICRAFT INDUSTRIES OF MACAU

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

UNTIL: February 25, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum

ADMISSION: MOP15

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

LANGUAGE & THE ART OF XU BING

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

UNTIL: March 4, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

FRENCH CUSTOMS OFFICIALS FIND STOLEN DEGAS IN LUGGAGE ON BUS



French customs officers have found an impressionist painting by Edgar Degas stowed on a bus, more than eight years after it was reported stolen.

The French Culture Ministry said Friday that customs agents in Marne-la-Vallée were surprised to find a work of art bearing the signature "Degas" inside a suitcase in the bus' luggage compartment. The ministry says none of the passengers claimed the suitcase during the Feb. 16 search.

Experts verified the artwork as Degas' "Les Choristes" ("The Chorus Singers"), which depicts a scene from Mozart's opera "Don Giovanni."

The painting was stolen from a Marseille museum in 2009 while on loan from Paris' Musée d'Orsay.

French Culture Minister Francoise Nyssen said she was delighted by the recovery of a work "whose disappearance represented a heavy loss for the French impressionist heritage."

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:35	Zig Zag
17:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Sports
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League 2017/2018 Magazine
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

26 FEB

OZZY

ROOM 1

02:15, 04:00pm

Director: Alberto Rodriguez

Language: Cantonese

AGENT MR CHAN

ROOM 1

5:45, 7:45, 9:45pm

Director: Cheung Ka Kit

Starring: Dayo Wong Tze Wah, Charmaine Sheh Sze Man

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)



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



FERNAND

ROOM 3

02:00, 06:00, 8:00pm

Director: Carlos Saldanha

Starring: John Cena, Kate McKinnon, Bobby Cannavale

Language: Cantonese

Duration: 108min



MONSTER HUT 2

ROOM 3

4:00, 10:00pm

Director: Raman Hui

Starring: Tony Leung Chiu-wai, Bai Baihe, Jing Boran

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 110 min

this day in history



1991 IRAQI TROOPS FLEE KUWAIT CITY

The Kuwaiti capital has been liberated by the Gulf War Allies after 208 days of Iraqi occupation.

Thousands of Iraqi troops began leaving the city after an order from President Saddam Hussein, broadcast this morning, to withdraw immediately.

He said he was ordering the retreat because of "the aggression of 30 countries against Iraq" and the economic blockade led by the US.

The first group of Allies into the city centre was a reconnaissance team of 12 US marines who arrived in the capital this evening, ushered in by some Kuwaiti resistance forces.

To the north of the city a trail of abandoned Iraqi T-55 tanks were scattered along the main highway into town, as well as transport trucks and smaller vehicles.

US pilots said the Iraqi troops, deserted by officers and in disarray, left the city "bumper to bumper".

They made an easy target for the American fighter jets which carried out repeated air strikes on the retreating troops, saying they would continue to attack until ordered not to. They reported only light anti-aircraft fire.

The main resistance came from Iraqi armoured units trapped at the international airport on the southern outskirts of the city, but the US Marine 2nd Division was reported to have the upper hand.

Kuwaiti radio, run by the government-in-exile, urged people not to take revenge on the retreating troops.

But there were claims that the Iraqis took many prisoners as they left as hostages. Reports say up to 5,000 people were captured as the troops retreated.

Families told reporters their sons had been taken from them, ordered into the retreating Iraqi army buses as they walked to work.

During the last days of Iraqi occupation there were widespread reports of torture, rape and execution.

Colonel Abu Fahad, an officer with the Kuwaiti resistance, told The Guardian newspaper: "I have seen a lot of my friends and some of our guys executed in front of their families for nothing, just being in the country. In the past few days, we didn't even leave our houses."

Much of the city has been destroyed, with 200 buildings set on fire. Hotels, parliament buildings and government offices have been attacked.

The manager of the Sheraton hotel, Mohammed Mousa, told reporters he had been given an hour to clear the building and then Iraqi soldiers had looted it, taking everything from video recorders to the piano.

They then poured petrol over the ground floor, mined it and blasted it with tank fire.

The university, museum, schools and hospitals have all been looted and soldiers have taken whatever they could find from shops and homes.

Even clothes and mattresses lie scattered around the streets, stolen, but too bulky to take away.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

President George Bush announced his intention to press on with "undiminished intensity" to complete a rout of Iraqi forces.

Apart from liberating Kuwait, he said the Allies wanted to secure large parts of southern Iraq and defeat Saddam Hussein's elite Republican Guard.

Two days later the president announced a ceasefire after Iraq accepted all 12 resolutions laid down by the United Nations.

Two of the main conditions were the return of all allied prisoners of war and Kuwaitis taken hostage and also the renunciation of all claims to Kuwait.

Saddam Hussein remained in power until George Bush's son, George W Bush, mounted another attack on Iraq in March 2003. With the backing of British and Australian forces, he succeeded in toppling Saddam Hussein, who fled into hiding.

He was eventually captured in December 2003 put on trial by an Iraqi court, sentenced to death and executed on 30 December 2006.

AP PHOTO



Marit Bjoergen (8) competes in the women's 30k cross-country skiing competition

WINTER OLYMPICS

Bjoergen dominates in last race, wins 5th medal

Steve Reed, Pyeongchang

MARIT Bjoergen has left a legacy that will be hard to top. In her final Olympic race, the most decorated athlete in the history of the Winter Games obliterated the field, winning the 30-kilometer mass start cross-country ski race by 1 minute, 49 seconds over silver medalist Krista Parmakoski of Finland.

The 37-year-old Norwegian was never challenged Sunday en route to her eighth career gold medal and 15th overall since she began competing at the 2002 Salt Lake City Games.

"When I look behind me and see what I have done, it's incredible," said Bjoergen, who broke down in tears at one point after the race. "It has been an amazing career for me, this is my last

Olympics and to finish like this is incredible."

Bjoergen won five medals at the Pyeongchang Games, more than any other athlete.

She never left a doubt about the outcome of Sunday's race.

Bjoergen took the lead about 2 kilometers in and continued to stretch it. With 7 kilometers remaining she was so far ahead of the rest of the field that se-

cond-place skier Teresa Stadlober couldn't see her, and took a wrong turn on the course, heading right instead of left. By the time the Austrian corrected her course, she had fallen to eighth place and out of medal contention.

Stadlober said she later made another navigational error.

"I don't know what happened to me, I took the wrong way," Stadlober said with an embarrassed laugh. "And I did it twice. I don't know why I took the wrong way. I'm sad that it happened today because I had a really good day."

Stadlober finished ninth.

Stina Nilsson of Sweden said she didn't know where Stadlober had gone and said she was shocked to learn when she crossed the finish line that she had won the bronze medal.

"I didn't know what had happened to Stadlober, so I figured I was fighting for fourth place," Nilsson said. "It is a huge difference between a fourth place and a bronze medal at the Olympics so it means a lot to me."

Bjoergen had no such problem, despite skiing alone most of the race. She picked up the Norwegian flag on the home stretch and waved it as she slowly cruised to the finish line.

Bjoergen reiterated there is no chance she will participate in the 2022 Beijing Olympics, but plans to finish out the World Cup season and make a decision

on how long to continue racing once that is complete.

"It's hard to know now. I only have the focus on this year," Bjoergen said. "But of course it's been incredible for me to have five Olympics and 15 medals like that, it's hard to understand actually. I think I need some moments by myself and see what I've done and look behind me."

She felt like she had a good chance to win the 30-kilometer mass start after dominating the event over the last seven years. Since 2012, she had won eight of the last 12 major races in the event in the World Cup, world championships and the 2014 Sochi Games.

Bjoergen's win was also big for the Norwegian team, which finished with 14 medals in cross-country skiing in Pyeongchang, breaking the record of 13 held by the Soviet Union in 1988.

"The future is good for Norway," she said. "They've always got younger athletes who are coming up and I think that's the reason why we are so good, that we always have some new people who are coming up and they have some idols to see."

Charlotte Kalla of Sweden failed in her bid to match Bjoergen for a fifth medal at the Pyeongchang Games, finishing fifth. American Jessie Diggins, who won gold in the team sprint last week along with Kikkan Randall, fell early in the race and finished seventh. AP

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Bach: Russian doping scandal didn't stain Winter Olympics

THE massive, state-linked Russian doping scandal didn't stain the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics, IOC President Thomas Bach said yesterday.

It was, however, the subject of the vast majority of the questions Bach fielded as the IOC tried to shake the stigma of Russian cheating that has plagued the last three Olympics — Sochi, Rio de Janeiro and now Pyeongchang.

The IOC doesn't want it to touch Tokyo's Summer Olympics in 2½ years.

Just hours before yesterday's closing ceremony, the IOC ruled that the 160-plus Russian delegation — participating under the neutral "Olympic Athletes from Russia" logo — could not march in the closing ceremony under its own flag. This would have been a signal that Russia was back in the Olympic Family.

Russian athletes produced two of the four positive doping tests in Pyeongchang despite IOC guarantees about intense testing before and during the Olympics.

AP PHOTO



Thomas Bach, president of the International Olympic Committee

"These two doping cases have in fact played the major role when coming to the decision of not lifting the suspension," Bach explained. "This was the key factor."

However, the IOC also decided that the Russian Olympic Committee will still have its suspension lifted if there are no more positive tests by Russians at the Pyeongchang Games.

Bach gave no timeframe for lif-

ting the suspension, but the testing could be completed in a few days.

The IOC stores test samples for a decade when new science can detect cheating, but Bach said Russia would not have to wait that long for reinstatement.

This was the IOC's attempt to "draw a line" under the Russian scandal.

"I don't think, quite frankly, that these Winter Games have been

tainted by the Russian affair," Bach said.

The Russian Olympic Committee was banned from the Olympics on Dec. 5 because of widespread doping at the 2014 Sochi Games. But "clean" Russian athletes were allowed to compete under the neutral banner, and the IOC left open the possibility of reinstatement ahead of the closing ceremony if the country met a series of criteria.

IOC member Nicole Hoevertsz, who heads the Russia implementation group, said the country's delegation met many of the criteria required for reinstatement during the Olympics.

"Despite a good collaboration from the OAR delegation to respond to these (doping) cases in a prompt and transparent way, the implementation group was convinced that these cases caused significant concern," said Hoevertsz, who is from Aruba.

The IOC's full membership unanimously approved the recommendation of the executive board just hours before the final competition and the closing ceremony.

Fifty-two of the IOC's 100 members were present at the meeting, though many left days before the critical decision.

Bach repeated several times the two Russian cases gave "no indication whatsoever of systematic doping." He termed them "cases of negligence."

Bach has defended the right of individual athletes to be judged separately and shied away from collective punishment. His stand has been seen as "soft on Russia" by many who called for an outright ban.

"We have to draw a line and look toward the future," Hoevertsz said. "It is never going to be business as usual any more in the world of sport and in Russia. Many changes have been made and many changes still have to be made."

Bach said the treatment of Russia was not a "blueprint (for the future) because I hope this affair remains a unique one."

He also gave a sobering assessment about doping and cheating and the struggle to control it. "We will always have positive tests with regard to every nation," he said. "This fight against doping will never be over. As long as you have human beings in competition with each other you will have some who try to cheat. In society we have laws against theft and robbery for thousands years, but there is still theft or robbery." AP

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opinion

Insight

Paulo Barbosa



'WHAT'S HE BUILDING IN THERE?'

The government is speeding up the legislative process for a new cybersecurity law which has been scheduled for the second half of 2018. A public consultation on the proposed bill was held from December 11 to January 24.

The bill has some good ideas, such as the requirement for purchasers of telephone SIM cards in Macau to provide their ID, which could help to identify genuine users and avoid phone scams.

But there are concerns about the protection of personal information. In preparation for the new regulations, the Judiciary Police (PJ) has indicated its intention to recruit a small army of computer experts to enforce the law.

According to the consultation paper, the PJ will coordinate a Cybersecurity Incident Alert and Response Center, which will deal with cybersecurity incidents. It will reportedly focus on implementing preventive measures and monitoring digital traffic metadata.

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, has made several assurances that surveillance operations under the future law would be for the purpose of "detecting any irregularity in the flow of data" and "would not involve access to any personal information."

Wong also said that in order to obtain security-encrypted content posted online – such as in situations involving suspected criminal acts – public departments would first be required to obtain judiciary approval before decoding the online material for investigation.

As the Macau Portuguese and English Press Association (AIPIM) pointed out in a letter this January to Wong Sio Chak, "the crux of the question here lies in the blurred boundary between having access to digital metadata and the content of the same data or communications." In the letter, AIPIM disagreed with the PJ's proposed role as coordinator of the center.

"Criminal police investigations being led by the Public Prosecutions Office and interfering in citizens' private lives solely as a result of a court order are fundamental pillars of the Macau SAR's constitutional law and criminal procedure," the letter read.

Does the Macau citizenry really believe that the dozens of computer experts that are being hired by the PJ will only look at metadata? It's hard to fathom. Metadata can tell who speaks to whom, but not what is spoken.

Besides these questions, there is the need to reflect on the usefulness of a surveillance apparatus such as the one about to be created in Macau.

States worldwide are spending disproportionate amounts of money on surveillance operations. The more transparent ones, like that of the US, have made those figures public. Back in 2010, Washington spent USD80 billion on intelligence operations. To put this in proportion, the US Education Department budget that same year was USD66 billion, while the Environmental Protection Agency spent USD10.5 billion.

Moreover, is most of the data gathered by these surveillance operations useful in preventing any criminal activity? Many observers don't believe so.

A recent South China Morning Post feature had some interesting remarks about this subject, with which I agree: "From Washington, Moscow and Beijing to Tokyo, governments will continue to squander money on espionage and counter-espionage. It is a great shame for taxpayers – most of these operations are so secretive that they are not accountable to the public nor subject to supervision. They are inherently wasteful and do not always serve the greater good of all. If deployed elsewhere, even a fraction of the resources would solve many problems we are facing today."

*We have a right to know'

THE BUZZ ZHUHAI TOURISM INDEXES INCREASE DUE TO CHINESE NEW YEAR

Zhuhai received 1.93 million tourists during the Chinese New Year Golden Week, according to a report by Macao Daily News. The number represents a 19 percent increase year-on-year. The city recorded over RMB1.2 billion in tourism-related revenue during the Golden Week, which represents a year-on-year growth of almost 30 percent.

All other indexes related to tourism saw a boost during the CNY holiday. More than 485,000 overnight tourists were registered, an

increase of 19.5 percent year-on-year.

The city launched 36 themed activities such as flower markets, shopping promotions and amusement parks.

Zhuhai's tourism board said that the city is gradually becoming an attractive destination for Hong Kong and Macau residents in the Pearl River Delta region.

The CNY holiday is said to have accelerated the development of Zhuhai tourism, especially in the countryside.

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

SOURCE: DSMG



WORLD BRIEFS

LEBANON Authorities in Beirut are interrogating a man suspected in the death of a Filipina maid whose body was found stuffed in a freezer in Kuwait, security and judicial officials said Saturday.

NIGERIA Parents in Nigeria have released a list of the 105 young women they say are still missing nearly a week after Boko Haram militants attacked a northern town, demanding that residents direct them toward the school for girls.



RUSSIA has worked to gain influence in Southeast Europe for years, using Serbia as a foothold, to discourage Western Balkan countries from joining NATO and the EU. The European Union finally is pushing back.
More on p15

CZECH REPUBLIC Authorities detained a former leader of a Syrian Kurdish political party under an Interpol red notice that was based on Turkey's request for his arrest, Turkish and Syrian Kurdish officials said yesterday.



BRAZIL The public defender's office for Brazil's Rio de Janeiro state is complaining that a military-led crackdown on crime there is violating constitutional rights.

COLOMBIA A suspected drug chief known as the "Pablo Escobar of Ecuador" was extradited to the United States on Saturday, Colombia's chief prosecutor's office announced. U.S. officials accuse Prado, also known by the alias "Gerald," of shipping more than 250 tons of cocaine to the United States.

Major tunnel of HK-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge completed



The port of the HKZMB in Zhuhai

A bridge linking Hong Kong, Zhuhai and Macau has moved a step closer to official opening, with a major tunnel project fully completed Saturday.

The 2,741-meter-long Gongbei Tunnel is 21 meters high with an excavation area of 336.8 square meters, bigger than any other highway tunnel in the world, China Railway Construction Corporation (CRCC) said.

The 55-kilometer Hong

Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge, situated in the Lingdingyang waters of the Pearl River Estuary, will be the world's longest sea bridge.

The two-way tunnel with six lanes in total, which has been built over five years, is the only passage connecting the main body of the bridge with Zhuhai, according to the company.

The full completion of the tunnel has "laid a foundation for the bridge to be officially open to traffic," said

the CRCC, giving no specific timetable.

Comprising a main bridge structure together with crossing facilities and link roads, it is designed to meet the growing demand of passenger and freight land transport between the three cities.

The bridge will slash travel time between Hong Kong and Zhuhai from three hours to just 30 minutes, further integrating cities in the Pearl River Delta.

12 local deputies elected to NPC

MORE women, farmers and workers – but fewer officials – will sit on China's top legislature, as election results for the new National People's Congress (NPC) were approved Saturday.

The qualifications of 2,980 deputies elected to the 13th NPC were endorsed by the 12th NPC Standing Committee at its bi-monthly session.

The new lineup has 742 women, accounting for 24.9 percent of the total, up 1.5 percentage points from the previous NPC. 36 deputies have been elected from Hong Kong and 12 from Macau.

468 of the deputies are workers and farmers. Their share has grown by 2.28 percentage points to 15.7 percent.

At 1,011 deputies, party and government cadres still form the bulk of the NPC composition, but their share has dropped to 33.93 percent. Working professionals number 613, accounting for 20.57 percent.

About a quarter of the new NPC members are re-elected deputies, with the overall turnover rate of the national legislature remaining high.



There are 438 ethnic minority deputies, representing all 55 of China's ethnic minority groups.

Thirteen Taiwanese individuals elected in the mainland will serve as Taiwan deputies on the top legislature.

Xin Chunying, deputy secretary-general of the NPC Standing Committee, said that the deputies all maintain good ties with the people, hold high moral standards, display leadership in their jobs, and possess the will and ability to carry out their duties as NPC deputies.

The 13th NPC will convene its first session in early March. **MDT/Xinhua**