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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

## WORLD BRIEFS



**JAPANESE** marked the seventh anniversary of a tsunami that took more than 18,000 lives on the northeast coast and triggered a nuclear disaster that turned nearby communities into ghost towns.  
More on p13



**POLAND** A new law banning almost all trade on Sundays has taken effect, with large supermarkets and most other retailers closed for the first time since liberal shopping laws were introduced in the 1990s after communism's collapse.

**UK** The Chancellor of the Exchequer will seek the public's view on how the country can be a leader in reducing plastic waste. Suggestions will be sought on how the tax system can be used to encourage new technology and bring about behavioral change required to cut the usage of single-use plastics.



**RUSSIAN** President Vladimir Putin says he doesn't care about alleged Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election because the actions weren't connected to his government. More on p15

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## NPC

# Historic move allows Xi to rule indefinitely

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# Wong Sio Chak announces police body cameras start operating this week

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# Rosa Montero shares her passion for writing with local audience

Lynzy Valles

**A**WARD-WINNING novelist and journalist Rosa Montero shared her fiction-writing experiences with the public on the second day of the Macau Literary Festival.

Born in Madrid, Montero has published 15 novels, two books of biographies, three interview compilations, a book of short stories and several children's tales. Her books have been translated into more than 20 languages.

The author won the World Interview Prize in 1978, National Journalism Prize in 1980 and the Madrid Press Association Award in 2005.

Interacting with the local audience yesterday, Montero shared that she wrote her first book, which featured a talking rodent, at the age of 5.

She said that writing fiction has always been her passion and that it is how she gets in touch with her true self.

"Writing is my way of living, it's like breathing and eating. Writing is like an exterior skeleton that keeps me [going], otherwise I'd be on the ground like a mess," said Montero.

Montero, a reporter for the Spanish newspaper El



Spanish journalist and author Rosa Montero

**Writing is my way of living, it's like breathing and eating.**

ROSA MONTERO

País, said writers like her do not treat writing as an escape from reality or a form of therapy. She said the activity makes them more of who they really are, recalling a gap in her life where she stopped writing.

"I spent three years without being able to write [...] It was like a drought because it's exactly what it is: there were no images. It feels like I can't feel things. You're distanced

from life [...] you're not capable of feeling anything," Montero said, adding that she sees unfinished books as a waste.

The author, whose latest novel is "El Carne", said she is a fan of characters that have aged and changed through time.

Montero's novels have different themes and degrees of emotion.

"As the book progresses towards the last six months of the writing, and when the imaginary life accelerates, writing takes up more time – mentally and psychologically as well, as it starts having such a strength that sucks other things from the [imaginary] world into your real life," the author explained.

"It's the moment of impetuous because everything that happens in your real life gets funneled into that [book]. It's a curious experience and there is a moment where you finish this book and [...] could continue rewriting it, but there's a moment where it ends."

## Script Road program director to step down

**C**O-FOUNDER and program director of The Script Road – Macau Literary Festival, Hélder Beja, will resign on March 26, right after the festival concludes its seventh edition.

The festival canceled its invitations to three authors after organizers were informed that their entry to the region was not guaranteed.

"As the co-founder and member of The Script Road's direction since day one, and after the events that came to light in the past few days, ending up with the cancellation of a number of authors from the festival line-up, I consider [that] I'm in no condition to continue on board under such [a] scenario," said Beja in a statement. "I'll remain on board and contribute to the making of its 7th edition, out of respect for our team and the many guests that are already on their way to Macau," he added.

The Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, commented on the case yesterday: "I do not know about that situation at all. I'm unaware of how that rumor spread."

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### BASIC CAT EAR CARE

**M**AINTEINING basic cat ear care is an important part of cat health and hygiene. Owners should know how to clean a cat ear, and know what symptoms to look for that may indicate a health issue, as well as the right treatments for cat ear problems.

#### DIFFERENCES BETWEEN A HEALTHY AND INFECTED CAT EAR

The inner side of the ear flap and inner ear canal should be a healthy light pink colour. Some light brown ear wax is fine but dark brown, black or red wax, discoloured discharge, redness and swelling are signs of a bacteria or yeast infection, allergies, ear mites or clogged ears due to debris and should be addressed by a veterinarian. Your cat may also shake his head and scratch or rub his ears.

To keep your cat's ear healthy and pink owners should start an ear cleaning routine when the cat is 8 weeks old. The cat will become accustomed to getting his ear cleaned once a week and it will be a quick and easy process. Offer your

cat or kitten a healthy treat after ear cleaning to make the routine a rewarding experience. Ask your veterinarian to recommend an ear wash to use and how often it can be administered. Excessive ear washing is not healthy for any cat, unless they are infected and your Vet instructs you to clean twice a day.

#### HOW TO CLEAN A CAT EAR

- Hold the cat in your lap or place him on a flat surface. Place one arm over his body and hold his head with your hand. It might also help to gently grab the back of the cat's neck instead to keep him still.
- With your thumb and forefinger, hold the tip of your cat's ear and gently roll back the ear flap to examine the ear canal and inner ear flap. Look for debris, excess wax, redness, discharge and any odors that could indicate infection, allergies, blocked ears or ear mites.
- To apply an ear wash, use one hand to hold the cat's head while you keep the ear open with your thumb. Hold the ear wash in the other hand. This method can also be used to



apply ointments, ear drops or other types of medication.

- Apply 3 to 5 drops of the ear wash to the inner ear flap. Insert the tip of the bottle only a few millimeters into the ear canal and administer 5 to 10 drops. Do not to force the bottle into the canal or you may damage the ear drum or push debris further into the ear canal.
- Massage the base of the cat's ear for 20 to 30 seconds to distribute the wash evenly in the ear canal, which is very long in cats.
- Wipe away any discharge or debris on the ear flap with a cotton ball. Do NOT stick a Q-tip into the ear canal. Only use a Q-tip in the parts of the cat's ear that you can see.
- It is not a problem if your cat shakes his

head and large amount of ear wash comes out. Owners should wear clothes they don't mind getting messy and remember to massage the base of the ear so the wash is distributed.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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Edvard Pettersson

# Wynn settles Universal Entertainment suit for USD2.4 billion

**W**YNN Resorts Ltd. agreed to pay a total of USD2.4 billion to settle a lawsuit with Universal Entertainment Corp. over the forced redemption of the Japanese pachinko-machine maker's 20 percent stake in the casino operator six years ago.

The settlement announced last week is the latest dramatic turn since Steve Wynn resigned last month amid a sexual harassment scandal at the casino empire he founded. It adds \$464 million to a \$1.94 billion 10-year promissory note Wynn gave Universal in 2012 for the shares, and it puts an end to the biggest chunk of the court fight that started with the acrimonious falling out between Steve and his former business partner, Kazuo Okada.

Wynn Resorts has come under scrutiny from gaming regulators in Macau, Nevada and Massachusetts, where it is building a \$2.4 billion casino resort, in the wake of reports the founder and now former chairman pressured employees into having sex with him. The settlement with Universal Entertainment may help clear a path for Steve Wynn, the company's biggest shareholder, to sell part of his stake should that be necessary.

Okada, ousted from his Tokyo-based company last year, isn't a party to the settlement and Wynn Resorts' claims against him for breach of fiduciary duty remain pending. A trial on those allegations is scheduled for next month in Las Vegas and a lawyer for Okada, J. Stephen Peek, said his understanding is that the claims against his client



will move forward.

In February 2012, Wynn Resorts took the Japanese billionaire's shares, which then had a market value of about \$2.7 billion, and gave him the promissory note in exchange. The company claimed Okada had put the company's gaming licenses at risk by making illicit payments to Philippine regula-

tors. Okada countered that he was forced out of the company because Steve Wynn perceived him as a threat to his control.

Wynn Resorts will make the \$2.4 billion payment to Universal by March 31, the company said in a statement.

"Today's outcome is tremendous for our client," David Krakoff, a lawyer for Universal Entertainment, said in a separate statement. "It resolves long-running litigation on very favorable terms, and provides substantial resources for Universal to continue its international growth."

Universal Entertainment shares tumbled 16 percent, their daily limit and the most in almost five years, in trading in Tokyo on Friday.

"The amount of the settlement was much smaller than expectations," said Tomoichiro Kubota, an analyst at Matsui Securities Co. in Tokyo. "The fact that Kazuo Okada himself was not involved in the settlement left some uncertainty."

The settlement comes a day after Wynn Resorts unexpectedly raised its dividend, and announced one of its longer-serving board members resigned while another won't seek re-election.

Those steps are helping to bring some stability and boost investor confidence after volatility in the company's stock amid the controversy surrounding Steve Wynn, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang. Wynn Resorts shares fell

as much as 19 percent following a Wall Street Journal article detailing the allegations of sexual harassment against Wynn.

The settlement doesn't cover claims by Steve Wynn's ex-wife, Elaine Wynn, who has been trying to get out from under a 2010 stockholder agreement that ties her up 10 percent stake in the company.

## Okada, ousted from his Tokyo-based company last year, isn't a party to the settlement

Last week, Steve Wynn asked a judge to dismiss Elaine's claims pertaining to the validity of that agreement because, following his resignation last month, he no longer seeks to enforce it. His request was denied in part because Aruze USA, the Universal Entertainment unit that held the Wynn shares, argued that it was party to the 2010 agreement and neither Steve nor Elaine Wynn could sell their shares without its permission. A spokeswoman for Elaine Wynn declined to comment.

As part of the settlement, Aruze will no longer consider itself part of the 2010 agreement, which will open the door for Steve Wynn to renew his argument that his ex-wife's claims are moot. If the judge agrees this time, Wynn would be free to sell his shares if gaming regulators decide the misconduct allegations make him ineligible to be the company's largest shareholder. **Bloomberg**

### COMPANY MAY USE LOAN TO PAY SETTLEMENT

**WYNN RESORTS** says it may draw from a bank loan of up to USD800 million to help pay for a \$2.4 billion settlement with a Tokyo company. The Las Vegas-based casino operator on Friday said Deutsche Bank

approved the loan. The company says it could use the loan plus cash reserves to repay the promissory note. CEO Matt Maddox this week said the company had over \$3 billion in cash as of Dec. 31

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## GDI coordinator Chau Vai Man dies

The coordinator of the Infrastructure Development Office (GDI), Chau Vai Man, has died last week. Chau headed the GDI since 2015, when he replaced Chan Hon Kit, who resigned. No cause of death was given. The Times contacted the Government Spokesperson Office and the Office of the Secretary for Transport of Public Works in order to confirm the incident. Both offices didn't officially confirm the death of Chau Vai Man.

## UM holds English festival

The University of Macau's (UM) English Language Centre (ELC) recently held the 'English Festival X,' which featured talks and workshops to improve students' English language skills. The festival included an English debate and a separate speech contest, with the university's first ever talent show "UM Idol" to close the festival. The participants practiced their English skills through hands-on artwork and photography, as well as sampling international cuisines and participating in various contests, according to a statement issued by UM. "The festival is an important fixture on the ELC event calendar, as it gives students the opportunity to improve their English in a relaxed atmosphere," said Dr Sean Grant, a senior instructor from the ELC. "ELC hopes to continue to organize this event in the future to help students improve their English skills," he added.

# Macau opens first int'l exhibition by women artists

**T**HE exhibition "Women Artists – 1st International Biennial of Macau" opened last week, featuring 142 works by 132 women artists from 22 countries and regions.

The art on display includes paintings, silkscreen prints, illustrations, sculptures, installations and videos, among others.

Jointly organized by the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) and Albergue SCM, the biennale was inaugurated on March 8, which is also International Women's Day.

The exhibition aims to showcase and stimulate reflection on the creative journeys and achievements of female artists from the 1970s to the present day.

It presents the triumphs of female artists from diverse ethnic and educational backgrounds and their pursuit of multiple aesthetics, particularly those that have shaped the world of 21st century art.

Last year, MAM and Albergue SCM held two smaller exhibitions dedicated to women's art.

The biennial features 36



works from the MAM's collection arranged by decade, as well as five large-scale installations that aim to impart a different understanding of space, time and women.

Albergue SCM also contributed, from its own collection, the works of 101 female artists who are active in international art circles.

The works are by women who played significant social and cultural roles. They aim to pre-

sent the various forms of being a woman and different ways of understanding femininity, as well as artistic practices that transcend gender differences.

During the opening, the acting president of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Leong Wai Man, said that female artists have been increasingly drawing attention over time, revealing their artistic charm through expressions of their unique perspective.

The exhibition features artists from mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, Taiwan, South Korea, Japan, East Timor; Russia, India, Iran, Angola, Guinea-Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe; Cape Verde, Portugal, Spain, the United Kingdom, Georgia,

Brazil, the United States and Australia.

The biennial is open until May 13 at the MAM (see related interview).

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**Q&A** VICTORIA WILLING  
ARTIST AND WRITER, DAUGHTER OF PAINTER PAULA REGO

# 'Men are still in power; all we need is more balance'

RENATO MARQUES



**Renato Marques**

**V**ICTORIA Willing is a well-known London-based actress, voice artist and writer, known for her work in several movies and TV series productions, such as "The Inbetweeners (2011)" and various Jim Henson Company productions. She is also the daughter of perhaps the most famous Portuguese painter, Paula Rego.

Willing is in Macau to represent her mother at the inauguration of "ARTFEM Women Artists - 1st International Biennial of Macao," an event jointly organized by the Macao Museum of Art (MAM) and the Albergue SCM. She spoke to the Times in an interview ahead of the exhibition about her mother's work and what it means to be a female artist.

The Biennial will be running until May 13 at the MAM and features a 2011 painting by Paula Rego titled "Our Lady of Sorrows".

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – You are here**

**to represent your mother in the opening, the first ever Women Artists Biennial in Macau. Is representing your mother something you do often?**

**Victoria Willing (VW)** – Well, I've never done this before. I've never represented her [Paula Rego] although I've accompanied her [on] several occasions. It's a responsibility because I don't know everything about her mind and I don't know all about what her opinions are so I can only give what I think it is that mom thinks.

But it's really exciting and a real honor and I'm really excited because I [have] never been in anywhere like this in my life.

**MDT – Your mother is known for having strong opinions and feelings about many topics, which she addressed many times in her works. How does she paint the female condition?**

**VW** – Oh yes, women don't have to do pretty things. There is a kind of understanding with the man artists that they

are not going to do "pretty things," whereas a woman artist is supposed to do pretty things. Being a woman isn't pretty... It's very ugly; there is a lot of ugly stuff and she [my mother] is very good putting that part across. It's mostly about things that most women go through, the heartbreak, the disappointment, the violence, the medical difficulties, all those things, they are all stuff that happens to women and she [my mother] is a woman. She has passed that message through and there have been very overt political moments, created to make a political point. One of them was in the abortion pictures when abortion was not legalized even though there was a referendum and she was very upset that people wouldn't vote, she very much made a point about that. There have been other issues [such as] "honor killings" and FGM [Female Genital Mutilation] that she also illustrated and that were overtly political points.

I remember that when she was young she did a painting

that was called something like "Today we had a lovely lunch and then we went out and killed black people" that was about the war in Angola. So, she had done [some] very obviously political things, which are very powerful I think.

**“Unless you have positive discrimination some times you don't get further in equality.”**

VICTORIA WILLING

**MDT – What do you expect from an event like this Biennial of Women Artists? Is it a way of showing something that always been there just people have not noticed it enough?**

**VW** – Yes, exactly, I think that's exactly what it is. It's

a way of proving that women artists are artists who are women, not just some women painting some pretty things and then going away again. They are here to stay and they have always been there painting quietly but men are worth more, men are more important, men are more interesting... well now they are proving that is not the case but traditionally it's a man's world and only a few women were allowed. In this exhibition we have the professional achievement of 130 women so it's an example for all women and I do think that unless you have positive discrimination sometimes you don't get further in equality. It's still not equal.

**MDT – How do you perceive the recent acknowledgement of a high number of harassment cases against women in your industry? How was it possible to hide that for so long?**

**VW** – I think [it] is a cultural thing and I hope that fortunately a younger generation is realizing that [this behavior] is not normal. There are certain things that my generation of women, growing up the 1970s, 1980s, and 1990s, just thought you had to put up with. If you complained you were being silly, you would be "asking for it" and you would be asked if "you were encouraging him," all those things.

That is changing now but the reason it stayed quiet for so long is because it was normal. It was perceived that as a woman it was your responsibility [to] make sure sexual harassment didn't happen and it was never the man's fault. Instead, it was women's responsibility to stop it from happening.

I think things have changed now and I hope they have changed enough so they won't ever go back. People were fearful of their jobs. In Hollywood, young women are desperate to get work and you have a great big powerful man... because it's all about power in fact... women think they must not say anything or make any fuss about it or I'll never work again, and it is hard enough to get work as it is now. But I do think we are at the beginning of a different era and that's why I think this exhibition is very timely and coming alongside these changes and changes of attitudes towards women, which were supposed to have [should've] changed [a] long time ago. They have [changed] legally but not culturally. It does take a long way from the legal changes until it actually happens in practice. Men are still in power; all we need is more balance.



# New Macau reaches crowdfunding goal one month before deadline

**T**HE New Macau Association (ANM) has surpassed its goal of HKD300,000 for an online crowdfunding campaign launched on FringeBacker on January 8 to raise money for its activities.

ANM amassed HKD324,870 with 28 days left in its campaign, which represents 108 percent of the original goal.

A total of 175 people each donated an average of more than HKD1,800.

ANM's elected lawmaker Sulu Sou told the Times he was satisfied with the outcome. "I'm very touched! Nothing is impossible in this city." In the campaign's comment section, 69 commenters had left supportive messages such as, "Keep going! You are not alone!" Some even referred to the Legislative Assembly's suspension of Sou's mandate, saying, "Just want to support you, I hope you can return to the Legislative Assembly as fast as possible to



Sulu Sou

help more Macau residents."

Electoral promises were also not forgotten, as seen in comments such as, "I hope you will honor your promise and improve this decadent but still loved place."

According to FringeBacker's rules, the campaign will remain

active and continue collecting donations until the campaign ends on April 8.

In the event the campaign had not met its established goal within the 90-day period, all the money would have been refunded to those who backed the campaign. **RM**

## SURVEY | GAMING

# Workers pay increases by 4.3 percent

**T**HE number of full-time employees in the gaming sector increased by 1.5 percent year-on-year to 56,634 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017. Of these, the number of dealers rose by 1.7 percent to 24,453.

According to the latest survey on the manpower needs and wages of the gaming sector conducted by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), average earnings in December (excluding bonuses) of full-time employees in the gaming industry were MOP22,940, up by 4.3 percent year-on-year. Average earnings of dealers increased by 5.4 percent to MOP19,850.

Job vacancies totaled 460 at the end of the fourth quarter of 2017, down by 95 year-on-year. Most of the vacancies (49.6%) were for clerks, and 100 of

them were for dealers.

In terms of recruitment prerequisites, 38.7 percent of vacancies required work experience while 87.4 percent required senior secondary education or lower. The requirement for Mandarin and English-speaking abilities accounted for 90 percent and 31 percent respectively.

In the fourth quarter of last year, a total of 1,518 new employees were hired, surging by 129.3% from 662 in the same quarter of 2016.

As regards vocational training, the gaming industry had 103,487 participants attending training courses provided by the enterprise (including courses organized by the enterprise or in conjunction with other institutions, and those sponsored by the enterprise), a substantial year-on-year increase of 98.9 percent.

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**A** proposed measure for police officers on duty to wear body-mounted cameras will be implemented on Wednesday, according to the Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak.

Wong, who was speaking to media on the sidelines of a launch ceremony for police services' community activities, said the measure had received the green light from the Office for Personal Data Protection.

For the first phase of implementation, 100 officers will don cameras as part of their uniforms while patrolling.

Wong added that such equipment would only be connected when ne-

# Police to start wearing body cameras this week

cessary, that clear instructions and rules had already been established for the use of the cameras, and that police staff had been trained accordingly.

The Secretary also promised to review the program as it progresses and that any expansion of the program will depend on the outcome of the first phase.

Traffic enforcement officers might be next to receive the equipment. **RM**



## 21-year-old dies from motorbike accident

A 21-year-old local resident died last week from a motorbike accident at Av. Marginal do Lam Mau. The deceased is believed to have lost control of his vehicle and collided with a roadside flowerbed. He was sent to the hospital, where he was pronounced dead. This death marks the second fatal traffic accident this year. The Public Security Police Force's transportation department is investigating the accident.

## 151k Macau tourists visited Taiwan in 2017

The number of Macau residents travelling to Taiwan increased eight percent year-on-year to reach 151,000 people in 2017, according to Chinese press reports based on information from the Taiwan Tourism Bureau Hong Kong. On the other hand, more than 1.06 million of Macau's visitors in 2017 were Taiwan residents, with Taiwan becoming Macau's third largest source of visitors. The Taiwan tourism board said it will continue to work with the Macau government, and that it will launch additional flight promotions to encourage more Macau residents to visit Taiwan.

## 3 cases of human trafficking reported in Macau last year, no accusations

**A**CCORDING to data from the government's Human Trafficking Deterrent Measures Concern Committee, there were only three reported cases related to human trafficking in the region last year.

The 2017 annual report states that of those three cases, one was closed before reaching the Public Prosecutions Office (MP). Taken as such, the official figure drops to two, since none of the cases were prosecuted or tried.

In the previous year, only two out of four suspected cases reached the MP. Only one was eventually prosecuted but nobody was tried.

This follows the pattern apparent in 2014 and 2015, with few cases unveiled and almost no accusations after the 34 reported cases in 2013, of which the MP then confirmed 32.

Four suspects were identified in relation to these cases and one of them was found guilty by the courts on charges of aggravated procurement, membership of a criminal syndicate and possession of an illegal weapon. The defendant was sentenced to five years' imprisonment.

The last time the courts tried such a case was in 2015, but the defendant was tried and found not



guilty. According to a report from TDM, the reason that the number of human trafficking-related crimes has dropped is that they have been reclassified as prostitution.

Nevertheless, several organizations and governments – including the US State Department – are treating Macau as a hotbed for such crimes and have accused the government of not doing enough to address the problem and punish perpetrators.

When the disclosure of the latest report from the US State Department - Trafficking in Persons Report 2017 was released in June last year, the Macau government, as usual, strongly rejected such accusations on the grounds that the report's claims about Macau were "unfounded," "untrue" and utterly "unjust."

In a statement by Se-

cretary for Security Wong Sio Chak, the government said the US report had the "wrong interpretation" and "ignores the objective facts of the situation in Macau," adding that it had resulted in "false conclusions" and "unfounded allegations".

Sister Juliana Devoy, director of the Good Shepherd Centre – a local non-governmental organization that deals directly with the victims of such crimes – said on a previous occasion that "Macau's situation is unique because of the casinos, which are a magnet for sex trafficking."

At that time, Devoy stated that both the casinos and the government had started to show a higher level of awareness of the problem. However, she advocated for greater attention to be given to the judges so they can "identify a trafficking case." **RM**

## Lawyers criticize new judicial law

**A** few lawyers in the region expressed their sentiments over the finished draft of the new law proposal, which bars foreign judges from hearing national security and defense cases.

The proposed changes suggest that matters of national security should only be judged by permanently appointed Chinese judges.

The Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ) confirmed to Reuters that the proposed draft law, which Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, announced in February, is complete.

According to Chan's comment made in February, the amendments would help speed up trial proceedings, adding that such cases should be exclusive to local judges, as the cases might involve confidential information about the city and its defenses.

A spokesperson from DSAJ said that the amendments were necessary based on "consideration of major interests such as safeguarding the sovereignty, security and territorial integrity of the country."

It added that the government would submit the relevant legal proposals to the Legislative Council after internal procedures are completed. No timeframe has been given.

Aside from the head of Macau's Lawyers Association Neto Valente, who described the move as a "bad solution," adding that the proposal would amount to discrimination, some Portuguese lawyers also expressed alarm that the proposal violates the city's Basic Law.

A legal source who declined to be identified given the sensitivity of the matter told Reuters, "This is totally ridiculous and a very dangerous step."

"It is a real attempt on the autonomy of the judicial system," the source added.

10 out of 49 magistrates in Macau hold foreign citizenship, mostly from Portugal.

Pedro Cortes, a senior partner with law firm Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortes in Macau, said the proposal could get passed this year in the predominantly pro-establishment Legislative Assembly.

"It is going to be easy to pass this type of legislation, whatever is the final version proposed," he said.

## Pre-sale residentials boost property prices

The overall residential property price index for the three-month period between November 2017 and January 2018 grew by 3.3 percent over the previous October-December 2017 period, according to data newly released by the Statistics and Census Service. The bureau credited the rise to a 14 percent increase in the index of pre-sale residential units. Meanwhile, the index for existing residential units fell by 0.4 percent. Analyzed by district, property price indexes for the Macau peninsula and the islands increased by 2.1 percent and 9.1 percent respectively from the previous period. In comparison to a year ago, the residential property price index for the three-month period increased by 12.8 percent, while the index for pre-sale residential rose 16.8 percent.



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#### C Unit, Vai Fat, Taipa

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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

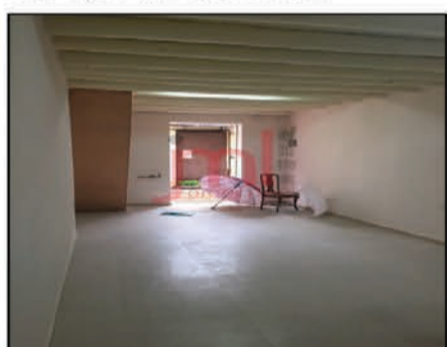
Good size spacious and bright office in a fantastic central location, surrounded by lush vegetation even though its in the central location. Originally two offices, now joined together by an arch way although two separate entrances. Public areas are old, in need of renovations however the owner is willing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



#### Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa

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

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1,433 sq.ft. HKD 22,000

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#### Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden

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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

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Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carpark 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.



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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)  
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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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Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

**GAMING**

# Experts question casinos' plan to prevent sexual harassment

**I**N the wake of the sexual misconduct scandal surrounding Las Vegas casino titan Steve Wynn, Nevada gambling regulators are developing regulations on workplace sexual harassment, but employment attorneys who reviewed the proposed initial criteria told The Associated Press that state officials may be setting the bar too low and inadvertently hampering investigations.

Regulators notified all gambling license holders last week that they plan to enact "regulations or minimum internal control standards" focused on sexual harassment. They included a sample complaint form and a 15-question checklist of possible guidelines.

"How to appropriately address sexual harassment is an important and necessary discussion," Nevada Gaming Control Board chairwoman Becky Harris said in a statement.

The checklist asks whether a company's policies include an "unequivocal statement that sexual harassment will not be tolerated" and "regular compliance trainings for all employees." It also directs companies to provide regulators with "any reported and substantiated" complaints and to report any settlements or judgments of the past 12 months on record with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and relevant state agencies.

The board's move came more than a month after the Wall Street Journal reported that several women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a \$7.5 million settlement. Wynn, who has vehemently denied the allegations, resigned Feb. 6 as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts.

Joyce Smithey, an attorney based in Annapolis, Maryland, who has handled several sexual harassment lawsuits, said that while the list covers the basic elements for an anti-harassment policy, regulators are leaving too much discretion to operators on implementation.

"There are a lot of places where the employer can hide," Smithey said. She said asking operators to



Steve Wynn

report substantiated complaints, charges and settlements may inadvertently discourage companies from conducting thorough investigations to avoid more scrutiny from the board, which has the power to levy fines and even revoke gambling licenses.

"It has some disincentives to make findings and correct things," she said.

The board, whose three members are appointed by the governor, regulates an industry that's the backbone of the state's economy and whose leaders, including Wynn, have become prolific political donors with undeniable influence in the state and beyond. Wynn money previously went to the campaigns of Nevada Gov. Sandoval — who previously said he was "disturbed, saddened and deeply troubled" by the allegations against the casino mogul — and Harris, formerly a state senator.

The board can impose anti-sexual misconduct policies because state regulations provide that casinos operate in a suitable way to

protect "the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare" of Nevada residents. It can also pursue disciplinary action if licensee's activities are discrediting of the state and its gambling industry.

Regulators in Nevada are now investigating the allegations leveled against Wynn, but were initially slow to react. Their counterparts in Massachusetts,

where Wynn Resorts is building a casino, launched a regulatory review immediately after the news report was published. The Nevada board took four days to announce its investigation.

Shannon McNulty, an attorney with Clifford Law Offices in Chicago, said most mid- and large-size corporations like the ones who operate Las Vegas resorts likely already meet the board's criteria, but smaller companies may lack formal policies.

"In employee settings that don't have a formal human resources department, this was maybe a good first start at awareness and compliance," she said.

MGM Resorts International told the AP that its policies "expressly prohibit" sexual harassment and has regular, mandatory training for employees and managers. The company said it offers multiple avenues for employees to report discrimination and harassment concerns, including through an ethics hotline, management and human resources.

Caesars Entertainment said each employee is educated on the company's harassment-free policy. Supervisors and managers must complete anti-harassment training on an annual basis. Alleged violations may be reported through various channels, including a 24/7 ethics and compliance hotline.

Wynn Resorts said it has an anti-sexual harassment policy and provides "multiple channels for employees to report" alleged violations, including through an independent and anonymous hotline in place since its first casino-resort opened in 2005.

The company's board of directors has created a committee to investigate the accusations and to review the company's internal policies and procedures to ensure a "safe and respectful workplace for all employees." At the same time, regulators in Nevada have set up an online form that allows people to report information on any of its active investigations.

Philadelphia-based employment attorney Jonathan Segal, who provides training for human resource professionals, said regulators are sending a strong message to licensees that they take sexual harassment seriously, but many details need to be fleshed out, including the quality of training.

He said training requirements must apply to members of a company's board of directors, have a bystander component and be tailored to the casino industry, with guidelines that protect employees from non-employees.

"One of the levels of customization is how would someone with authority intervene if a player is acting inappropriately toward an employee?" Segal said. "I think there needs to be training on how to respond to it. The response can't be: 'This person is a whale or a high roller and you just got to take it.'" **AP**

**How to appropriately address sexual harassment is an important and necessary discussion.**

BECKY HARRIS  
NEVADA GAMING CONTROL BOARD  
CHAIRWOMAN

## Diabetes drug developer Hua is said to pick HK for IPO

**H**UA Medicine Ltd., a Shanghai-based developer of diabetes drugs, has picked Hong Kong over the U.S. for its initial public offering as the Asian financial hub makes a push for biotech listings, people with knowledge of the matter said.

The biotech drug developer is working with advisers Goldman Sachs Group

Inc., CLSA Ltd. and UBS Group AG on a planned offering in the city this year, the people said. The offering could raise as much as USD300 million, said one of the people, who asked not to be identified because the details are private.

The Hong Kong exchange has started to attract biotech firms after proposing new rules intended to

make it easier for startups from the sector to list. The biotech unit of China's Tasy Pharmaceutical Group Co. is planning an offering in the city, the people said. Grail Inc., a cancer screening company backed by the world's two richest men, is also aiming to price a Hong Kong IPO, people familiar with the matter said earlier.

Representatives for Hua Medicine, CLSA and Tasy didn't immediately respond to requests for comment. Representatives for Goldman Sachs and UBS declined to comment. IFR reported Hua Medicine's IPO plans earlier Friday, citing unidentified people.

Hong Kong is close to formalizing rules that would allow biotech startups to

list even before they turn a profit. The city has attracted \$1.1 billion of first-time share sales from the industry over the past three years, while U.S. exchanges have hosted \$6.9 billion of deals, data compiled by Bloomberg show.

Hua Medicine, led by Chen Li, the former chief scientist for China at Roche Holding AG, is running

late-stage clinical trials for its oral drug used for the treatment of type 2 diabetes, the obesity-linked form that accounts for a majority of cases around the world. The company's investors include Silicon Valley firms Arch Venture Partners and Venrock, as well as the Eight Roads fund, which is backed by Fidelity Investments. **Bloomberg**



# Election tests Hong Kong's stomach for defying Beijing

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

HONG Kong residents voted yesterday in by-elections that give opposition supporters the chance to recapture lost ground in a contest measuring voters' appetite for democracy in the semi-autonomous Chinese city.

The vote pits pro-Beijing loyalists against opposition candidates competing for four seats in the city's semi-democratic legislature. They're among six seats left empty when a group of lawmakers were expelled following a 2016 controversy over their oaths, which they used to defy China.

The ejected members included two advocating Hong Kong's independence, something China's President Xi Jinping has called a "red line."

In the vote's main battleground, little known activist Au Nok-hin, a neighborhood councilor, is competing against pro-Beijing rival Judy Chan. He was enlisted at the last moment after officials disqualified the pro-democracy camp's marquee candidate, 21-year-old Agnes Chow, because she advocated for Hong Kongers to determine their own future.



A supporter of Hong Kong pro-democracy by-election candidate Au Nok-hin, delivers a promotional leaflet to a resident during an election campaign activity

"This election is not just a normal election; it is a battle between the pro-Beijing camp and the pro-democracy camp," Chow said. It's "also a very important choice for Hong Kong people for whether they want rule of law or rule by the Communist Party."

Chow said Hong Kong's younger generation hoped for democratic development. But that prospect looks increasingly distant after Xi prepared to abolish term limits,

allowing him to remain president indefinitely. China's rubber-stamp legislature was expected to approve the change on Sunday.

Chow had intended to stand for the seat vacated after the disqualification of Nathan Law, a fellow member of their Demosisto party who became Hong Kong's youngest-ever lawmaker. The two were among a wave of young activists who emerged from the massive but inconclusive 2014

"Umbrella Movement" demonstrations against Beijing's plans to restrict elections for Hong Kong's top leader.

**This election is not just a normal election; it is a battle between the pro-Beijing camp and the pro-democracy camp.**

AGNES CHOW

Under the "one country, two systems" framework, Beijing promised to let Hong Kong maintain wide autonomy and civil liberties following its 1997 handover from Britain. Fears are rising that China's communist leaders are backtracking.

A handful of pro-democracy

supporters protested outside the polling station where the city's top leader, Carrie Lam, cast her ballot and some pro-Beijing supporters heckled noted democracy activist Joshua Wong outside a campaign stop. Voting otherwise went undisturbed for the election, which has attracted little attention — no opinion polls have been conducted and there was no televised debate by the city's largest broadcaster.

Some 2.1 million voters are eligible to cast ballots for three Legislative Council seats, which saw turnout of around 15 percent by early afternoon. A fourth seat, chosen by architects and surveyors, had turnout of nearly 25 percent. Business and trade groups account for about half the council's 70 seats.

Only one disqualified lawmaker, professor Edward Yiu, is competing again after officials unexpectedly approved his candidacy. Two more seats will be decided later because of ongoing legal action.

Governments and rights groups have expressed concern about the disqualifications.

"The by-elections have been tainted by government-sanctioned political screening which has resulted in the disqualification of elected lawmakers and candidates," British non-government organization Hong Kong Watch said in a report last week.

Results are expected early today. **AP**

Justina Lee, Emma Dai

HONG Kong's central bank will probably take steps to tighten liquidity in the financial system, a survey of analysts showed, as the city's currency approaches the weak end of its peg against the greenback. The authority denied having any such plans for now.

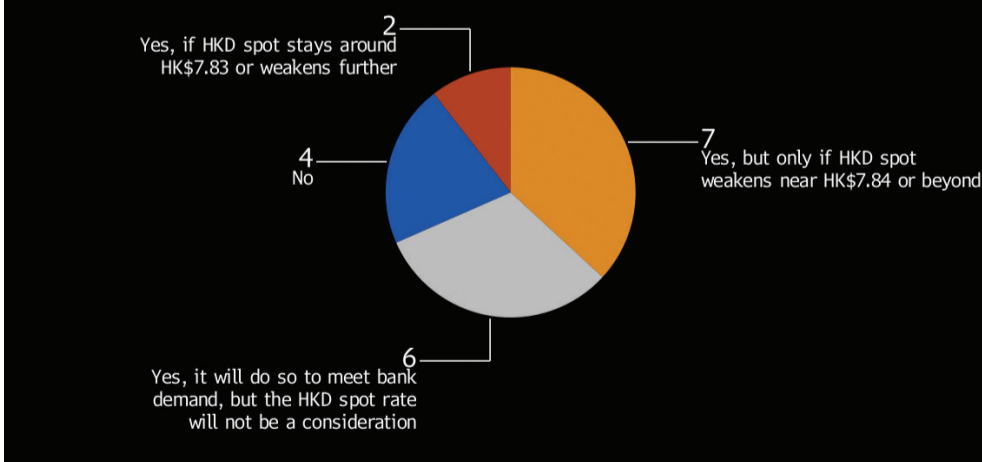
The Hong Kong Monetary Authority will offer extra Exchange Fund Bills this year, according to 15 of 19 analysts surveyed by Bloomberg from March 2 to 6, although not all agreed currency weakness would be a factor in the sales. Twelve respondents said the exchange rate will breach the weak end of its HKD7.75-7.85 band for the first time since it was imposed in 2005. HKMA Chief Executive Norman Chan said on Thursday afternoon the city is capable of coping with fund outflows and will ensure the exchange rate doesn't weaken beyond its band.

As a global financial center with open capital borders and a currency peg, Hong Kong has limited options when it comes to controlling liquidity -- which is currently plentiful. Ex-

## HKSAR seen draining liquidity with currency near '84 low

### Bills, Bills, Bills

Will the HKMA sell extra bills this year?



tra bill sales may help slow the local dollar's drop, but they risk undermining a monetary system in which the HKMA is not supposed to target interest rates. Once the currency reaches the limit of the band, the HKMA will be forced to buy Hong Kong dollars, thereby shrinking the monetary base and effectively raising rates.

"HKMA will act preemptively before HKD hits the 7.85 level," said Christy Tan, Singapore-based head of Asia markets strategy at National Australia Bank Ltd.

She added that the local currency could breach the HK\$7.85 level quickly as it becomes more volatile around the Federal Open Market Committee meeting on March 22 and if local interbank rates known

as Hibor remain low. "HKMA may need to spend more to defend the peg system in this circumstance, as speculators may see this as an opportunity to test the peg," Tan said.

The Hong Kong dollar reversed earlier gains on Thursday, falling as much as 0.06 percent to HK\$7.8405. The move came after HKMA's Chan said in a statement the au-

thority had no plans to sell additional bills for now and it is not true that it doesn't want to see a weaker exchange rate.

The market has started to show it expects higher rates. One-year interest-rate swaps jumped to the highest intraday level since 2008 on Thursday, while basis swaps - which let holders exchange floating Hibor-based payments with those based on dollar Libor - rose above zero last week for the first time since late 2016. Twelve-month forward points rose to the highest since January on Thursday.

The Hong Kong dollar has fallen 1.1 percent since the end of 2016, near its weakest level since 1984. That trend was interrupted only when monetary officials announced EFB sales totaling HK\$80 billion (\$10.2 billion) in August and September. Still, gains in rates proved temporary as money flowed into the stock market and liquidity

remained flush after massive inflows fueled by global monetary easing. The one-month Hibor is 103 basis points below the U.S. equivalent of Libor, the biggest spread since 2008.

To be sure, the HKMA can sell EFBs regardless of currency moves. It stressed last year that the bill sales weren't aimed at pushing up rates and only served to meet strong demand. Six of the surveyed analysts who said they expect more of the debt sales indicated the spot rate won't be a consideration.

Still, selling EFBs now could create the impression that they are aimed at pushing up Hibor and hence the exchange rate. Many analysts say the HKMA prefers using bill sales over being forced to buy local currency when the exchange rate reaches HK\$7.85 - which it has not had to do since the band was widened in 2005.

"Mopping up liquidity again and again would put the credibility of the Linked Exchange Rate System in question, which would be risky to the whole financial system," said Iris Pang, an economist at ING Groep NV in Hong Kong. **Bloomberg**



Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

# China makes historic move to allow Xi to rule indefinitely

**C**HINA'S rubber-stamp lawmakers yesterday passed a historic constitutional amendment abolishing a presidential two-term limit that will enable Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely.

The amendment upends a system enacted by former Chinese leader Deng Xiaoping in 1982 to prevent a return to the bloody excesses of a lifelong dictatorship typified by Mao Zedong's chaotic 1966-1976 Cultural Revolution.

"This marks the biggest regression in China's legal system since the reform and opening-up era of the 1980s," said Zhang Lifan, an independent, Beijing-based political commentator.

"I'm afraid that this will all be written into our history in the future," Zhang said.

Voting among the National People's Congress' nearly 3,000 hand-picked delegates began in the mid-afternoon, with Xi leading members of the Communist Party's seven-member all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee in casting their votes. He placed his orange ballot paper in a red box bearing the official seal of state placed front and center on the stage inside the cavernous hall.

Rank-and-file deputies then rose to vote on the floor of the hall as jaunty instrumental music played. Ten minutes later, the process had ended and delegates were asked to return to their seats while the votes were counted.

Shortly after 3:50 p.m., the results were read out over the public address system and flashed briefly on a screen in the hall. The delegates voted 2,958 in favor, with two opposed, three abstaining and one vote invalidated.

"The constitutional amendment item has passed," the announcer declared to polite applause.

The 64-year-old Xi appeared



The delegates voted 2,958 in favor, with two opposed, three abstaining and one vote invalidated

red to show little emotion, remaining in his seat with other deputies to listen to a report on the work of the congress delivered by its outgoing chairman.

The slide toward one-man rule under Xi has fueled concern that Beijing is eroding efforts to guard against the excesses of autocratic leadership and make economic regulation more stable and predictable.

The amendment also inserted Xi's personal political philosophy into the preamble of the constitution and phrasing that emphasizes the leadership of the ruling Communist Party.

"It is rare nowadays to see a country with a constitution that emphasizes the constitutional position of any one

**■ The amendment also inserted Xi's personal political philosophy into the preamble of the constitution**

political party," said Zhang, the political commentator.

In a sign of the issue's sensitivity, government censors are aggressively scrubbing social media of expressions ranging from "I disagree" to "Xi Zedong." A number of prominent Chinese figures have publicly protested the move, despite the risk of official retaliation.

The legislature's spokesman has said the abolishing of term limits is aimed only at bringing the office of the president in line with Xi's other positions atop the Communist Party and the Central Military Commission, which

do not impose term limits.

While some scholars questioned the wisdom of the move, others said they saw value in sending the message that Xi would be setting policy for many years to come.

"In fact, the more Xi Jinping's position is consolidated and the longer his governing time is to last, the more secure it is for the continuity of the policies," said Liu Jiangyong, a professor at Renmin University's School of International Relations.

The move is widely seen as the culmination of Xi's efforts since being appointed leader of the party in 2012 to concentrate power in his own hands and defy norms of collective leadership established over the past two decades. Xi has appointed himself to head bodies that oversee national security, finance, economic reform and other major initiatives, effectively sidelining the party's No. 2 figure, Premier Li Keqiang.

To be sure, Xi's confident, populist leadership style and tough attitude toward official corruption have won him a significant degree of popular support.

Zhao Minglin, 32, a vice president of an investment firm in Beijing, said it was easier for Xi to carry out his ambitious vision of raising living standards in China if more power were concentrated in his hands.

"I will definitely support this constitutional amendment and this government. This is a powerful and strong government," Zhao said. He added, however, that he was concerned that the public discourse lacked a space for dissenting voices. **AP**

## Minister says trade war would bring 'disaster to global economy'

**C**HINA'S trade minister Zhong Shan warned that a trade war with the U.S. would bring disaster to the global economy, but said his nation won't start one and that talks with the Trump administration continue.

"There is no winner in a trade war," Zhong said at a press conference in Beijing yesterday. "A trade war

will only bring disaster to China, U.S. and the global economy. China doesn't want a trade war, and will not start a trade war first. But we can handle any challenge, and will firmly defend the interests of our nation and our people."

Zhong added that the U.S. trade deficit with China is overestimated by about 20 percent, citing research by

a panel tasked with investigating the discrepancy between the two nations' accounts of their trade balance. The deficit could be reduced by 35 percent if the U.S. eased export controls on high-technology products to China, he said, citing unspecified U.S. research.

Trade tensions between the world's two biggest

economies intensified last week as President Donald Trump signed orders for stiff tariffs on steel and aluminum and indicated more actions are potentially on the way. The U.S. administration asked China for a plan to cut the annual U.S. trade deficit with the nation by \$100 billion, a White House official said Friday.

As China's exports surged in February its monthly surplus with the U.S. widened from a year earlier to \$20.96 billion, according to data from the customs bureau. The U.S. trade shortfall in goods with China surged 8.1 per-

cent during the first year of Trump's presidency, reaching a record \$375 billion, according to Commerce Department data released last month.

The main channel of dialogue on trade between the two nations, the Comprehensive Economic Dialogue, has been put on hold over U.S. frustration over a lack of progress. But Zhong said communications have not been completely broken off.

"We are still in talks, and we are sure that both sides will keep talking for the next step," he said. **Bloomberg**

**■ There is no winner in a trade war.**

ZHONG SHAN  
CHINA'S TRADE MINISTER



# Search is on for the best summit site for Trump, Kim

**R**ONALD Reagan and Mikhail Gorbachev chose Reykjavik, Iceland. Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill and Josef Stalin huddled at Yalta. Dwight Eisenhower and Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev will always have Paris.

So where should President Donald Trump and Kim Jong Un meet up for the first face-to-face talks between a U.S. and North Korean president?

The Demilitarized Zone between North and South Korea is one possibility. Sweden has offered to help. And there's always neutral Geneva, Switzerland.

Someplace in Asia perhaps — such as Beijing — hasn't been ruled out. Nor, for that matter, has a ship in international waters.

The question crackled through diplomatic and government circles Friday, one day after a South Korean official announced in the dark on a White House driveway that the two heads of state who had threatened mutual obliteration for months would take a meeting.

It's not clear what location is suitable for leaders who have sniped at each other — “Little Rocket Man” vs. “senile dotard” — in nerve-rattling Twitter ex-



changes about nuclear war.

“It's all about optics, from their first handshake,” said Lisa Collins, a Korea scholar and fellow at the Center for Strategic and International Studies. “There are 70 years of historical baggage between the two countries ... so to have the meeting in a place that's a safe location and one that doesn't overly highlight the differences between the two countries would probably be the best.”

The White House wasn't offering suggestions in the hours af-

ter the announcement.

Trump, a former reality TV star, understands well the value of “optics.” But symbolism, security and practicality also come into play. Holding talks in either the U.S. or North Korea seem unlikely. Traveling to North Korea risks conferring legitimacy on Kim and his country.

As for Kim: Except for schooling in Switzerland and perhaps some vacations during that time, it's not clear that Kim has left North Korea. So Mar-a-Lago, the president's Florida estate that

was good enough for Chinese President Xi Jinping last April, probably won't do this time.

More likely is the no-man's-land of Peace Village in the DMZ's Panmunjom. There is a building there with a line through the middle that marks the border — and was the site of the 1953 armistice. Theoretically, Kim could shake Trump's hand by reaching over the line without ever setting foot outside North Korea. And Trump's been wanting to visit the DMZ, anyway. A shrouded-in-secrecy stop there during Trump's tour of Asia last year was scrubbed due to bad weather.

In April, the leaders of North and South Korea are to meet there for their own historic bilateral talks.

Swedish Prime Minister Stefan Lofven, meanwhile, has offered to help, given that his nation has an embassy in Pyongyang. “We are a non-aligning country,” Lofven pointed out during a press conference with Trump this week. “If the president decides, the key actors decide if they want us to help out, we'll be there.”

History offers some lessons in bilateral summitry.

Sometimes, talks fail. In di-

plomatic circles, Reykjavik, Iceland's frosty capital, refers President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev's hastily arranged arms reduction talks in 1986. They failed to produce a deal, but did result in iconic photos of the two leaders smiling together in the final years of the Cold War.

Other times, they blow up. “Peaceful coexistence” was the goal, but not the immediate result, of a summit in Paris between Khrushchev and Eisenhower. The talks were tense over the Soviet downing of a U-2 plane in 1960 that Eisenhower was forced to admit had been spying on Russia. The Russian leader stalked out of the meeting, cooling any thoughts of a lasting peace for awhile.

It's good to have a backup venue: What were to be talks in 1989 between President George H.W. Bush and Gorbachev aboard a ship near Malta turned into the “seasick summit” when seven-foot waves forced the leaders to cancel some meetings.

Talks and the most powerful images sometimes go only so far. Egyptian President Anwar Sadat stunned the world when he set foot in Israel in 1977 and addressed the Israeli parliament. The visit set the tone for the Camp David peace summit and treaty in 1979. The Egyptian-Israeli agreement has remained intact and laid the groundwork for other Mideast summits. But the peace process has stalled in recent years. **AP**

## Rohingya living in ‘no man's land’ insist they will stay

Tofayel Ahmad

**F**ROM their home, a tent hastily erected in a grassy field, the young Muslim Rohingya couple can see the village they left behind last year, fleeing attacks by Buddhist mobs and Myanmar security forces.

They arrived in a no man's land, one of the small, ill-defined areas that exist at the cloudiest edges of the borderlands, places that seem to be neither Myanmar nor Bangladesh. While nearly every other Rohingya refugee has sought protection in the immense camps a few miles deeper into Bangladesh, these people say they will go no farther.

“My ancestors' graves are there,” said Abdul Naser, gesturing toward his village, less than 100 meters (yards) away. “Sometimes, I walk close to the barbed wire fence and touch my land, and I cry in the dark.”

But a few weeks ago, things changed. Myanmar deployed more soldiers to the border, some of whom

began coming to within 10 meters (yards) of the refugees' homes. They shout insults at the Rohingya, and they throw empty whiskey bottles, the refugees say. They have set up speakers that blare announcements, insisting people go farther into Bangladesh.

Because to Myanmar, no man's land doesn't exist at all.

“We cannot accept the term ‘no man's land’ because that is our land,” said Nyan Myint Kyaw, Myanmar's deputy commander of the border police. Shifting rivers may have washed away some border markers, he says, and fences may not have been erected everywhere. But he insists the 6,000 or so Rohingya who think they live between the two countries are actually living inside Myanmar.

It is easy to get confused on the border, where many areas are not marked at all and where it's sometimes unclear if a fence marks someone's personal land, or if it demarcates the frontier.

Making things more complicated, Myanmar places its border fences 45 meters (150 feet) from the actual boundary line.

While Myanmar insists all the hazy territory is their land, its security forces — as well as Bangladeshi security forces — are also very careful to avoid entering places seen as a no man's land, presumably fearing accidental clashes and diplomatic trouble.

Myanmar says the additional soldiers were deployed to stop possible cross-border attacks by Rohingya militants, though no such attacks are known to have occurred. When Bangladesh protested the deployments, Myanmar dismissed their complaints.

“This is not like we are trying to invade Bangladesh,” Myanmar spokesman Zaw Htay said in early March. “These are only actions taken against the terrorist groups.”

The Rohingya have long lived at the ragged fringes of life in Myanmar, denied citizenship and many of the

most basic rights. They are derided as “Bengalis,” and many in Myanmar believe they are illegal migrants from Bangladesh. Muslims in an overwhelmingly Buddhist nation, most live in poverty in Myanmar's Rakhine state, next to Bangladesh.

The most recent problems began in August, when Rohingya insurgents launched a series of unprecedented attacks on Myanmar security posts. Myanmar responded with overwhelming force, burning Muslim villages with the help of Buddhist mobs, raping women, looting homes and carrying out massacres. Some 700,000 Rohingya fled the attacks into Bangladesh. Aid groups say more than 6,700 people were killed.

The United Nations refugee agency has appealed for protection for the borderland Rohingya.

The agency “is concerned about the safety of a group of vulnerable Rohingya women, men and children from Myanmar, who have been living in a so-called



Bangladeshi border guard personnel gesture to Rohingya who are stuck in “no man's land” as they tell them not to cross in Tombru

“no man's land,” the agency said in a statement. “People who have fled violence in their country must be granted safety and protection.”

But is the no man's land inside Myanmar? Even the Rohingya say some of it probably is, though there are plenty of places where even border guards aren't sure where to find the dividing line.

A Rohingya community leader says most of the 6,000 in the borderlands are from nearby villages.

“They do not want to lea-

ve the place or enter Bangladesh, hoping that they will go back one day and it will be easier to move from here,” Dil Mohammed said.

The young Rohingya couple agreed with him. They want to keep their village in sight. Or at least what's left of it.

“My trees are still there,” said Naser's wife, 20-year-old Ruksana Begum. “It's spring now. I can see the green leaves of my mango trees. They have burned our homes, but my trees are still growing.” **AP**





Independence hero Xanana Gusmao (center) waves a national flag upon arrival in Dili

EAST TIMOR

# People give hero's welcome to border talks negotiator

**T**HOUSANDS of East Timorese lined the road to the capital's international airport yesterday to cheer returning independence hero Xanana Gusmao for leading negotiations that settled the sea border between the impoverished country and Australia.

Gusmao, whose party lost power in parliamentary elections last year, was greeted at Dili's airport with cries of "Viva Xanana Gusmao."

He'd been abroad for the previous eight months leading the final stretch of maritime border talks.

Australia and East Timor, one of the world's youngest nations, signed a historic treaty Tuesday drawing their maritime boundary, ending years of bitter wrangling and opening a new chapter in relations.

For East Timor, a half-island nation of 1.5 million people who are among the poorest in the world, the treaty was crucial for possible economic development.

The two sides are still to agree on final terms for the exploitation of billions of dollars of oil and gas riches that lie beneath the Timor Sea. **AP**

JAPAN

# 7th anniversary of tsunami that killed 18,000 marked

**T**HEY bowed their heads, hands clasped or palms firmly pressed together. They stood in grassy areas or roadsides overlooking the choppy sea. In Japan's capital, they lit candles and offered flowers. Some dabbed at tears.

Japanese marked the seventh anniversary yesterday of a tsunami that took more than 18,000 lives on the northeast coast and triggered a nuclear disaster that turned nearby communities into ghost towns.

Residents along the coast gathered outdoors to remember the tragedy as sirens wailed at 2:46 p.m., the moment the magnitude-9.0 offshore earthquake that set off the tsunami struck on March 11, 2011.

The tsunami overwhelmed sea walls and washed away buildings, cars and entire neighborhoods as it swept inland. It knocked out power at the seaside Fukushima Dai-ichi nuclear power plant, causing partial meltdowns in three



Local government workers pray in front of their town hall hit by the 2011 tsunami in Otsuchi

reactors.

Prime Minister Shinzo Abe said at an official ceremony in Tokyo that reconstruction is making steady progress, but more than 70,000 people are still displaced and many have no prospect of returning to their homes.

Prince Akishino, the second son of Japanese Emperor Akihito, expressed hope that the tsunami would raise awareness and help prevent or mitigate damage from future natural disasters.

"It is my earnest hope ... that we hand down the knowledge to future generations in order to protect many people from the dangers of disasters," he said.

Separately, several hundred people observed a moment of silence and made offerings at an altar set up in Hibiya Park in central Tokyo.

Cleaning up the still-radioactive Fukushima nuclear plant site remains a daunting challenge that is expected to take 30 to 40 years. **AP**

AD

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US | AP EXCLUSIVE

# National Rifle Association gave USD7m to hundreds of schools

Collin Binkley, Meghan Hoyer

**T**HE National Rifle Association has dramatically increased its funding to schools in recent years amid a national debate over guns and school violence, an Associated Press analysis of tax records has found. But few say they plan to give up the money in the aftermath of the latest mass shooting.

The AP analysis of the NRA Foundation's public tax records finds that about 500 schools received more than USD7.3 million from 2010 through 2016, mostly through competitive grants meant to promote shooting sports. The grants have gone to an array of school programs, including the Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps, rifle teams, hunting safety courses and agriculture clubs.

In some ways, the grant distribution reflects the nation's deep political divide over guns. Nearly three-quarters of the schools that received grants are in counties that voted for President Donald Trump in the 2016 election, while a quarter are in counties that voted for Democrat Hillary Clinton, according to the AP analysis. Most are in medium-sized counties or rural areas, with few near major cities.

California received the most in school grants, more than \$1 million, while Florida was a close second.

Florida's Broward County school district is believed to be the first to stop accepting NRA money after a gunman killed 17 people at one of its schools Feb. 14. The teen charged in the shooting had been on a school rifle team that received NRA funding. School officials announced the change Tuesday but declined to comment further.

Denver Public Schools followed on Thursday, saying it won't pursue NRA grants in the future and will turn down several that were to be awarded this year. But officials in many other districts say they have no plans to back away.

"Whatever I think of the NRA, they're providing legitimate educational services," said Billy Townsend, a school board member in Florida's Polk County district, whose JROTC programs received \$33,000, primarily to buy air rifles. "If the NRA wanted to provide air rifles for our ROTC folks in the future, I wouldn't have a problem with that."

The grants awarded to schools are just a small share of the \$61 million the NRA Foundation has given to a variety of local groups since 2010. But it has grown rapidly, increasing nearly fourfold



A group of shooters compete in the prone position during a tournament for sport and precision air rifles at Cibola High School in Albuquerque

from 2010 to 2014 in what some opponents say is a thinly veiled attempt to recruit the next generation of NRA members.

The NRA Foundation did not return calls seeking comment.

Annual reports from the program group say its grant program was started in 1992 and raises money through local Friends of NRA chapters. It says half the proceeds from local fundraisers go to local grants and half goes to the national organization. Tax records show roughly \$19 million in grants going to the group's Virginia headquarters in 2015 and in 2016.

Besides schools, other typical recipients include 4-H groups, which have received \$12.2 million since 2010, Boy Scout troops and councils, which received \$4 million, and private gun clubs. Overall, about half the grants go to programs directed at youth.

Grant funding to schools rose sharply in the years after the 2012 shooting at Connecticut's Sandy Hook Elementary School, fueled in part by a new grant program the NRA unrolled to help schools make safety improvements. Three districts received safety grants totaling \$189,000 in 2014, tax records show, but none appears to have been awarded since then.

Nearly half of the 773 overall school grants have gone to JROTC programs, which put students through a basic military curriculum and offer an array of small

competitive clubs, like the rifle team at Broward's Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. But JROTC leaders say few students ultimately enlist in the military, and the primary goal is to teach students skills like discipline and leadership.

"The safety that we're teaching, the good citizenship that we're teaching here, those are the things you don't hear about," said Gunnery Sgt. Jim Flores, a JROTC instructor at Cibola High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico. "The majority of people walk out of here awesome young men and women, respectful of authority, things of that nature. Not so much little tin soldiers."

In some parts of the country, shooting clubs draw the same sort of following as any school sport. Bill Nolte, superintendent of the Haywood County district

**■ Grants are often provided as equipment rather than cash, with schools given rifles, ammunition, safety gear and updates to shooting ranges**

in North Carolina, says he still shows up at school sportsman's club tournaments even though his son graduated. Starting in sixth grade, students can join the clubs to compete in shooting events, archery and orienteering. For many families, Nolte said, it's just like any other weekend sports event.

"You take your lawn chair and your coffee in a thermos, and do much like you would do if you were going to a youth soccer or travel basketball or baseball event," Nolte said, adding that NRA grants have helped buy firearms and ammunition and cover other costs that otherwise would fall to the parents. "We are constantly seeking revenue for sportsman's club just like we do for cheerleading and track."

Districts that tallied the largest sums of NRA money typically used it for JROTC programs, including \$126,000 given to Albuquerque schools, \$126,000 to Broward County and \$125,000 to Anchorage, Alaska. The most awarded to a single district was \$291,000, given to Roseville schools near Sacramento, California, which say much of the funding went toward ammunition and gear for trap-shooting teams.

Grants are often provided as equipment rather than cash, with schools given rifles, ammunition, safety gear and updates to shooting ranges. Nationally, about \$1.3 million was provided as

cash, while \$6 million was provided through equipment, training and other costs.

The data does not include grants smaller than \$5,000 — those do not need to be individually tracked in tax filings.

Ron Severson, superintendent of the Roseville Joint Union High School District, says no parents have raised concerns over the funding, but administrators may reconsider it in the wake of the Florida shooting.

"After we get through this spring, we will probably take some time to assess how to move forward," he said.

School board members in some districts said they didn't know about the grants. Donna Corbett, a Democrat on the school board in southern Indiana's New Albany-Floyd County School Corporation, said she never heard about \$65,000 that went to a JROTC program at one of the high schools. Corbett said she plans to raise the issue with her board but feels conflicted about it.

"I am not a big NRA fan, but I also realize that ROTC is a good program," she said. "I'm not sure I would be willing to pull it to the detriment of the kids and their programs."

While some states received dozens of school grants, about 20 got only a few or none at all. In Massachusetts, for example, no schools have received NRA grants since 2010, tax records show. Terry Ryan, a school board member in the Westford district northwest of Boston, says a local teacher considered applying for a grant in 2014, but the district ultimately didn't pursue it.

"We were not interested in any way, shape or form endorsing the NRA or its philosophy," Ryan said in an interview.

By contrast, parent Jana Cox in Louisiana's Caddo Parish says few in the area would have a problem with the \$24,000 in NRA grants that have gone to school JROTC programs.

"Everybody here has guns," Cox said. "This is north Louisiana. You've got a lot of hunters and you've got a lot of guns."

Without NRA grants, some programs would struggle to stay afloat, officials say. For JROTC groups, which receive most of their money from their respective military branches, the grants have become more important as federal budgets have been cut. Programs at some high schools in Virginia, Missouri and other states have folded in recent years amid the pinch.

Lt. Colonel Ralph Ingles, head of the JROTC program at Albuquerque schools, says the Florida shooting has sparked a conversation about NRA grants, but he doesn't anticipate cutting ties anytime soon.

"I don't see anybody really backing down," he said. "I think it's just ingrained that we're going to continue to move forward in a positive direction." **AP**



ANALYSIS

# Putin's Russia: From basket case to resurgent superpower

**V**LADIMIR Putin and his Russia look more invincible than at any other time in his 18 years in power.

Since he last faced election in 2012, Russians have invaded Ukraine, annexed Crimea, blanket-bombed Syria, been accused of meddling in the U.S. presidential election and claimed to have a scary new nuclear arsenal.

"No one listened to us. You listen to us now," he said earlier this month in boasting about those new weapons.

Putin will overwhelmingly win re-election as president on March 18, again. So why bother holding a vote at all?

He disdains democracy as messy and dangerous — yet he craves the legitimacy conferred by an election. He needs tangible evidence that Russians need him and his great-power vision more than they worry about the freedoms he has muffled, the endemic corruption he has failed to eradicate, the sanctions he invited by his actions in Crimea and Ukraine.

"Any autocrat wants love," said analyst Andrei Kolesnikov of the Carnegie Moscow Center, and Putin gets that love "from high support in elections."

Expected to win as much as 80 percent of the vote, Putin will further cement his authority over Russia, a czar-like figure with a democratic veneer.

In 14 years as president and four years as prime minister of the world's largest country, Putin has transformed Russia's global image, consolidated power over its politics and economy, imprisoned opponents, offered asylum to Edward Snowden, quieted extremism in long-restive Chechnya, hosted phenomenally expensive Olympic Games and won the right to stage this year's World Cup.

He's now 65, and he's not planning to leave anytime soon.

The election will confirm Putin's argument that to improve life in Russia, the country needs continuity more than it needs drastic change, independent media, political opposition, environmental activism or rights for homosexuals and other minorities.

Russia will remain disproportionately dependent on oil prices and its 144 million people will stay poorer than they should be. They also will still be convinced that the world is out to get them.

Putin's most important mission in the next six years will be working out a plan for what happens when his next term expires in 2024: Will he anoint a friendly successor or invent a scheme that allows him to keep holding the reins?

Today's all-powerful Putin bears little resemblance to the man who took his tentative first steps as president on the eve of the new millennium.

Catapulted to power on Boris Yeltsin's surprise resignation as president, Putin walked into his new office Dec. 31, 1999, in a suit that seemed too big for his shou-

AP PHOTO



Vladimir Putin speaks during an interview with NBC News' Megyn Kelly in Kaliningrad, Russia

lders. His low-level KGB background made him seem shifty, and many Russians regarded him as little more than a puppet of the oligarchs then pulling the strings in the Kremlin.

Russia was still emerging from a tumultuous post-Soviet hangover. Contract killings dominated headlines, its army couldn't afford socks for its soldiers, and its budget was still dependent on foreign loans.

**Sooner or later there will be no Putin, and at that point, what will we do with Russia?"**

DMITRY ORESHKIN  
POLITICAL SCIENTIST

Eighteen years later, Putin's friends run the economy and Russia's military is resurgent.

An entire generation has never known a Russia without Vladimir Vladimirovich Putin in charge. And an increasing number of other leaders — President Donald Trump among them — are emulating his nationalist, fortress mentality.

The once-feisty Russian media has fallen silent. Kremlin propaganda now has a global audience, via far-reaching networks RT and Sputnik.

Yet while Putin looks invulnerable on the surface, he has reason to worry.

The Kremlin is lashing out at opposition leader Alexei Navalny's recent investigations of corruption, fearing they could spur public uproar. And the battle for succession threatens to cause damaging splits within Putin's inner circle.

Meanwhile, Russia's disillusioned youth could turn against him. Some have joined Navalny's protests; others just won't bother to vote, quietly sapping his power.

As Putin faces challenges at home, expect more Russian chest-thumping abroad.

"The international environment is an instrument for him in managing those domestic challenges first and foremost," said Matthew Rojansky, director of the Kennan Institute in Washington. "He can declare something like a Syria intervention or something in the post-Soviet space."

And a newly elected Putin is likely to continue the Cold War-like relationship with Trump's United States.

Russia sees the investigation into alleged meddling in the U.S. election as concocted — but also as a sign that Russia is important again, and that Americans are obsessed with weakening Russia at all costs.

"Does the U.S. treat Russia equally? Does it take Russia seriously? That's an enormously important benchmark" for Russians, Rojansky said. "They are not benchmarking themselves against China."

Ever since a leading U.S. diplomat was recorded giving instructions to Ukrainian opposition figures, Russians have been convinced that Washington caused the Ukraine conflict by messing

in Russia's backyard, and that America bears responsibility for the ensuing fighting. It has killed thousands and remains unresolved.

Russia's annexation of Crimea prompted U.S. and European Union sanctions, sending Putin's popularity skyrocketing.

Crimea is framed as Russia's biggest victory in the Putin era, a restoration of might and righting of historical wrongs. To drive the message home, the March 18 election is being held on the fourth anniversary of the takeover.

The last time Putin faced voters, he also was guaranteed victory but was on shakier ground. A movement led by Navalny had

brought masses to the streets of Moscow and other cities, as the educated middle class chafed at Putin's backward-looking vision.

Since then, Navalny has been arrested repeatedly and is barred from running for president for criminal convictions that are seen as politically driven. Other opposition figures also have been sidelined, such as onetime billionaire Mikhail Khodorkovsky, who spent 10 years in prison for tax fraud charges seen as punishment for political ambitions. He now lives abroad.

Meanwhile, Russia's problems persist.

Putin has barely bothered with campaigning. When he does, he promises a brighter future, implicitly acknowledging a lackluster present.

With around 20 million Russians currently living below the official poverty line of about \$180 a month, he pledges higher wages and pensions. He wants better health care to boost life expectancy from 73, several years below European levels. Recent space launch failures have drawn attention to troubles with the struggling aerospace industry, once a pillar of Soviet pride, and he wants Russia to catch up on robotic technologies and artificial intelligence.

"To put it mildly, Putin will have plenty to do in his next term," Kolesnikov said.

Notably, he must ensure that his country can outlast him.

Political scientist Dmitry Oreshkin asked, "sooner or later there will be no Putin, and at that point, what will we do with Russia?" AP

## President on alleged US election interference: 'I don't care'

**R**USSIAN President Vladimir Putin says he doesn't care about alleged Russian interference in the U.S. presidential election because the actions weren't connected to his government.

In an interview with American broadcaster NBC News that aired Saturday, Putin also suggested that some of the 13 Russian nationals indicted by the United States may not be ethnically Russian.

"Maybe they are not even Russians, but Ukrainians, Tatars or Jews, but with Russian citizenship, which should also be checked," he said.

Putin responded brusquely when interviewer Megyn Kelly asked if he condoned the interference that was alleged in last month's U.S. indictment by special counsel Robert Mueller.

"It's all the same to me. To me it absolutely makes no difference because they do not represent the government," Putin answered, according to the Russian-language interview transcript posted Saturday by the Kremlin.

Putin said Russia has neither the tools nor the will to meddle in elections. He repeatedly complained during the interview that Washington has brushed off Russian initiatives to work together on cybersecurity issues.



## what's ON



MACAU NARRATIVE BY IU-PUI CHAN  
TIME: 11am-7pm  
UNTIL: March 31, 2018  
VENUE: Macau Tower T1 Art Gallery  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 8330

SOMEWHERE – PHOTOS BY FRANCISCO RICARTE  
TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)  
UNTIL: March 17, 2018  
VENUE: G/F, Macau Cultural Centre Building  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY  
TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)  
VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE  
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)  
ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MONKEY KING  
TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)  
VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre  
ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280  
COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818  
KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

DOCUMENTING IMPERMANENCE: AN EXHIBITION OF REPORTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALICE KOK AND STUDENTS  
TIME: 9am-10pm  
UNTIL: March 31, 2018  
VENUE: Team Building, Institute for Tourism Studies  
ADMISSION: Free  
ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

## Offbeat

## SUMATRAN TIGER FATALLY ATTACKS MAN IN WESTERN INDONESIA

A rare Sumatran tiger fatally attacked a man in the latest human-tiger conflict in a western Indonesian region plagued by widespread deforestation, officials said Sunday.

The victim, Yusri Effendi, a 34-year-old construction worker, was mauled Saturday evening in the Indragiri Hilir district of the Sumatran province of Riau.

Local police chief Muhammad Rafi said the victim and three fellow workers were working when they spotted the tiger under a building. They decided to wait for about two hours until the tiger left.

They later walked about 250 meters and came face-to-face with the tiger. Rafi said they ran for safety but the tiger attacked Effendi.

A search by fellow workers and villagers found Effendi unconscious in shrubs on the edge of a river, but he died later due to bleeding from a wound on his nape, Rafi said.

He said the location was about 20 kilometers from a palm oil plantation where a female worker was mauled to death in January.

Indonesia is home to some 400 Sumatran tigers, but they are increasingly under threat as their jungle habitat shrinks.

As their habitat diminishes, many of the endangered animals roam into villages or plantations in search of food, setting off conflicts with humans.

Sumatran tigers are the most critically endangered tiger subspecies. About 400 remain, down from 1,000 in the 1970s, because of forest destruction and poaching.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
16:30	Zig Zag
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	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

08 - 14 MAR



## TOMB RAIDER

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Roar Uthaug

Starring: Alicia Vikander, Daniel Wu, Dominic West

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min



## MARK FELT: THE MAN WHO BROUGHT DOWN THE WHITE HOUSE

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Peter Landesman

Starring: Liam Neeson, Diane Lane, Bruce Greenwood

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103 min

## BLACK PANTHER

ROOM 2

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

Director: Ryan Coogler

Starring: Chadwick Boseman, Lupita Nyong'o

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 134min

## AGENT MR CHAN

ROOM 3

4:30, 9:30pm

Director: Cheung Ka Kit

Starring: Dayo Wong Tze Wah, Charmaine Sheh Sze Man

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

## IS THE ORDER A RABBIT? DEAR MY SISTER

ROOM 3

5:45, 7:00, 9:15pm

Director: Hiroyuki Hashimoto

Starring: Ayane Sakura, Inori Minase, Risa Taneda

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 60min

## this day in history



## 1993 BOMBAY HIT BY DEVASTATING BOMBS

At least 200 people have died and 800 have been injured after 13 bombs exploded in Bombay.

The explosives went off within 75 minutes of each other across several districts of India's financial capital.

The first bomb went off at 1325 local time at the Bombay Stock Exchange. The blast occurred in the basement garage. It blew up more than 30 cars and shattered windows.

Some brokers and investors are reported to have been trampled to death in the stampede.

Mr Mayya, chief executive of the Bombay Stock Exchange, said: "There was blood everywhere and people were rushing to get out."

He described how there was chaos in the lower floors of the building and on the streets outside as office workers tried to flee high-rise buildings and make their way to the railway and bus stations.

Police have cordoned off the area around the exchange, which is littered with shards of glass and metal rods. Up to 20 bodies have been removed from the headquarters of Air India, which was also bombed.

Witnesses said glass, furniture and bodies had been flung into the road by the force of the explosion at the Air India building, one of Bombay's high-rise landmarks.

The airline HQ was among a cluster of commercial buildings in Nariman Point that were attacked. The Bank of Oman was destroyed by a bomb.

Other explosions were reported at government offices, banks, cinemas, bazaars, two hospitals, a university and several hotels. A bus was also torn apart by a bomb.

A police spokesman said all the bombs were set off by timing devices and were made of high quality plastic explosives and the Stock Exchange device appeared to be a car bomb.

The spokesman said no-one had stepped forward to admit carrying out the attacks but the blasts appeared to have been timed to paralyse business and trading and spread fear among Bombay residents.

Government officials said most of the bombs were in vehicles but several were in unoccupied hotel rooms.

In New Delhi, the Indian Home Affairs Minister, SB Chavan, said the attacks were part of "an international conspiracy". No arrests have been made - but explosive experts have been flown in from Delhi to analyse the devices used in the attacks.

The number of dead in Bombay is expected to rise as police and firefighters find more charred bodies from the bombed areas of the city.

Hospital officials said they expected the final number of dead to increase as many people had suffered serious injuries.

England's hockey team, in Bombay for an international tournament, escaped serious injury when one bomb went off at the Searock Sheraton Hotel, where they were staying. Some players were cut by flying glass.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

It later emerged that at least 250 people had died in 15 bombings, 1,100 had been injured and the attacks had caused \$10m in damage.

The bombings were seen as a retaliation for anti-Muslim riots that left hundreds dead.

The Mumbai (Bombay) bombings case is one of India's longest-running trials.

A special court was set up to hear the case and regular hearings have taken place over the years, with more than 600 witnesses questioned.

Bombay, which is home to 12.5 million people, has been the scene of violence since Indian independence in 1947.

At the time of the 1993 bombings, Bombay was still recovering from a wave of Hindu-Muslim fighting in January of that year, which left more than 500 dead and led to the flight of around 40,000 people from the city.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Secrets, whispers and intrigue are the specials the cosmic menu is offering up today - and that will suit you just fine.

Taurus April 20-May 20
You can't put your finger on it - not exactly - but you can tell that something is going on that you weren't informed of.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You don't need to worry about that hangnail (or any other trivial health issue) any more. Whatever was bothering you will quite quickly be over and done with.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
In the mood to play around? Definitely not. Thinking about getting serious with someone you're thinking might just be toying with you?

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Exactly how long has it been that you've been trying to help a dear one curtail their bad habits? Can you remember? Keep in mind that you've been working so diligently at that project.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Secrets are usually the easiest thing in the world for you to manage. You just decide that you won't talk about them, and that's it.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You've been playing around with a certain hobby for a while, and it's in you that you really and truly might be able to make a full-time job of this - or at least, a nice part-time source of income.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
As per usual, you've got a definite plan in mind, and a definite goal. You'll be especially focused on making this idea become a reality, and you'll be convinced that it can actually happen.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
A family member who tried to spring a surprise on you yesterday will be treated to at least the same shock today - coming right back at them. In other words, you won't bite - not one little nip.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
The folks that you're associating with have been truly enjoying your company - and truly learning from you. They've decided to act on what you've taught them, too.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
For several weeks, you've been toeing the line, keeping a close watch on your every move, and making sure that you're following the rules - and it's making you crazy.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Don't even take the chance that you won't catch the phone on the fourth ring. Answer it after three rings - at the very most. Even if you only catch them on the Caller ID, just wait, listen and call back.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for various world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Nuisance; 5- On \_\_\_-to-know basis; 10- Teen follower; 14- Roman censor; 15- Specialty; 16- After-bath powder; 17- Fedora feature; 18- That is to say...; 19- One of the Simpsons; 20- Defer action; 23- She played Carla on "Cheers"; 24- Call for help; 25- Native New Zealander; 28- Russian fighter; 31- Leash; 35- Shoe part; 37- \_\_\_ Mahal; 39- ... man \_\_\_ mouse?; 40- In spite of; 44- Parisian season; 45- Intent; 46- Magistrate; 47- Caravansary; 50- Snakelike fish; 52- Donkeys; 53- I'm freezing!; 55- Engrave with acid; 57- Notification of dismissal; 63- Actor Lugosi; 64- Wagons; 65- Prez's backup; 67- Med. school course; 68- Running wild; 69- Poet \_\_\_ St. Vincent Millay; 70- Fit to \_\_\_; 71- Nursemaid; 72- Trent of the Senate;

DOWN: 1- Chem. contaminant; 2- Tombstone lawman; 3- Agitate; 4- The day following today; 5- Flaming; 6- Polite refusal; 7- \_\_\_ Tu" ('70s hit); 8- Coup d' \_\_\_; 9- Actor Leary; 10- Finally; 11- Manner of walking; 12- Last word in a threat; 13- Nipper's co.; 21- Hot stuff; 22- Rejections; 25- Floating bombs; 26- Make \_\_\_ of (write down); 27- Blender brand; 29- "Who's there?" reply; 30- Gangster's gun; 32- Churns up; 33- "L.A. Law" lawyer; 34- Senate attendants; 36- LAX posting; 38- Quick punch; 41- Get a move on; 42- Civil rights org.; 43- Touse; 48- Remove by melting; 49- Annoy; 51- Elementary particle; 54- Puerto \_\_\_; 56- Delicious; 57- Proceeded; 58- Caesar's wings; 59- Japan's first capital; 60- Broad smile; 61- Overhaul; 62- Faxed; 63- Lamb's lament; 66- Bit of butter;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbers indicating starting points.

Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details on various properties like Grande Plaza, 1st Floor Car Park, etc.





RUGBY | SIX NATIONS TROPHY

# Ireland KO Scotland 28-8 to stay on Grand Slam track

**T**HE Grand Slam is on for Ireland on St. Patrick's Day. Spicing it up a little more, Ireland go to Twickenham next weekend holding the Six Nations trophy surrendered by upcoming host England.

The Irish stayed undefeated by dispatching Scotland 28-8 with a four-tries bonus point at Lansdowne Road on Saturday. They then watched England's attempt to stay in the race collapse with a second straight loss, to France 22-16 in Paris. The championship is Ireland's third in five years.

But the bigger prize would be beating England next Saturday for Ireland to earn only a third Grand Slam, beside those in 1948 and 2009.

"We're going to have to save the best for last, and that's what it's going to take to win everything next week," Ireland captain Rory Best said. "Everyone knows the size of the challenge. They haven't lost at Twickenham under Eddie Jones."

Scotland upended England last time out but that was at Murrayfield. With an awful record away from home, the Scots' own championship bid was almost inevitably squashed by an Irish side which owns the visitors in Dublin, where Scotland has won only once in 20 years. Scotland had its chances but wasn't as accurate, and butchered two tries, probably three.

By the time winger Blair Kinghorn claimed Scotland's sole try, Ireland had three, two to wing Jacob Stockdale. The bonus-point fourth try came with 11 minutes to go, when hooker Sean Cronin, only three minutes after replacing Best, dived over from the back of a rolling maul.

Ireland made its bonus-point intentions known after only four minutes, when flyhalf maestro Jonathan Sexton waived off a penalty goalkick to set up a lineout. However, the throw-in wasn't caught. Against the run of play, the Scots took the first points from a Greig Laidlaw penalty.



Ireland's Jacob Stockdale runs in to score his side's first try of the game against Scotland

Scotland managed to get hands on the ball and looked threatening until Peter Horne threw a wayward pass between center partner Huw Jones and Stuart Hogg straight to Stockdale. The wing took the gift 55 meters untouched to the posts with the usual Sexton conversion.

Scotland bore more gifts for the hosts. An attack from deep saw a Jones chip and catch and Hogg in-

side him with only the posts ahead. Jones drew last-man Sexton but passed too far in front of Hogg.

Back came Ireland right on halftime. A nice flick-on by center Garry Ringrose, playing only his second match this year, freed fullback Rob Kearney. From the resulting scrum, Ringrose doubled round Bunde Aki, and Stockdale stepped opposite Kinghorn to score his second try of the match, and a

leading sixth in the championship. Sexton's conversion gave Ireland a 14-3 lead into the break and breathing room.

Scotland missed 13 tackles in the first half, and looked outclassed after the new half began and an Irish lineout drive to the try-line finished with scrumhalf Conor Murray barging over with a push from Aki. At 21-3, Ireland was cruising.

But Scotland didn't think it was over. Another attack foundered when Hogg threw too high for Kinghorn, but Kinghorn scored on his debut start moments later when all seven Scottish backs lined up to the right from an attacking scrum, and executed a great two-wave move to put Kinghorn into the right corner.

The Scots, 21-8 behind, should have had another try moments later when Horne slipped through a big gap. Jones was beside him and Kinghorn further out but Horne threw to the wrong man - Kinghorn - and over the sideline. That was Scotland's last gift. Ireland went all out for the fourth try. Devin Toner, Peter O'Mahony, and the front row were replaced.

"We've a lot of big leaders," Best said. "At times when we were under pressure today and they were trying to play chaotic rugby, we were able to get a breath back and get control through the spine of our team." AP

AD

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**W**EST Ham captain Mark Noble grappled a pitch invader to the ground and the struggling English Premier League club's owners were forced to flee their seats to escape protests during a loss to Burnley on Saturday.

Lax security allowed two more fans to come on the field at the Olympic Stadium before being led away by West Ham defender James Collins.

Burnley forward Ashley Barnes also tripped another pitch invader, while a supporter was able to pick up the corner flag and plant it in the center circle.

In addition to four separate pitch intrusions by supporters, police said they received two allegations of assault on an afternoon when frustrations about West Ham's plight boiled over.

As the English Football Association investigates the unrest, the Premier League separately said it would be contacting West Ham to seek assurances that the disorder would not be repeated at future matches. West Ham called an emergency meeting with the publicly owned stadium's operators and said it was "committed to taking decisive and appropriate action" against the perpetrators.

As West Ham scraps to stay in the Premier League, sitting three points above the relegation zone,

**EPL**

# West Ham fans invade pitch, force team owners to flee seats

resentment has grown over the decision to uproot from the Upton Park home of 112 years to Olympic Stadium in 2016.

Hundreds of fans congregated beneath the directors' box to chant "Sack the board," which includes co-owners David Gold and David Sullivan. Some supporters made a throat-slitting gesture while missiles were seen being thrown in the direction of the executive seats.

The first pitch invasion came moments after Ashley Barnes gave Burnley the lead in the 66th minute. A man ran onto the pitch from the home end. With no stewards on hand to remove the fan, an enraged Noble grabbed him and threw him to the floor.

After Chris Wood put Burnley 2-0 up, another fan picked up the corner flag, marched to the center circle and planted it in the ground.

"There is no place at any level of the game for what happened at the London Stadium," the Premier League said. "While the offi-

cial investigation of the incidents will be carried out by the Football Association, we will be asking our own questions of West Ham United about what happened this afternoon, especially to ensure similar events never reoccur."

It was a tumultuous end to a turbulent week that saw a protest march called off as West Ham fans groups turned on each other.

"What we need is the club, supporters, players, everyone, is to pull together," West Ham manager David Moyes said.

"All I ask for is that everybody sticks together and we try to get ourselves enough points to make sure we're a Premier League team [next season]," he added.

Many fans have never accepted watching their team in the stadium that was designed primarily for athletics at the 2012 Olympics.

Whereas Upton Park provided a formidable atmosphere, fans are separated from the pitch by the running track in their expansive, largely taxpayer-funded new



home. It is only being rented from the company in charge of securing the legacy of venues from the 2012 Olympics.

The holding name "London Stadium" highlights the failure to secure the naming rights envisaged — a pursuit that could be even harder after the latest turmoil.

"An emergency meeting has been called with all London Stadium stakeholders," West Ham said.

The Football Association "strongly condemned" the crowd disturbances and said it would be seeking observations from West Ham. **AP**

AD



**BBAM**  
澳門英國商會  
British Business Association of Macao

**Working Lunch**  
**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> March**  
**Guest Speaker: Rui Leão**

Founder and Partner of LBA Architecture and Planning Lda.  
President of CIALP (International Council of Architects of the Portuguese Speaking Countries)

**"The Urgency of a Master Plan of Macau"**

*Needed: a strategy for the historic centre*

*Understanding Regional Integration*

*Transport: its centrality in a hyper-urbanized environment*

*Zoning: The importance of open un-purposed spaces*

*The platform*

**Venue: Harbour & Bay Room, 1/F, Mandarin Oriental, Macau**

**12.30: Registration**  
**1 pm: Lunch**  
**1.20 pm: Presentation**  
**1.45: Q&A Session**  
**2 pm: Close**

*Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation policy applies for this event*

**Members – MOP/HKD 250 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 350**

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opinion

Insight  
Paulo Barbosa



**MANY 'BLUE CARDS' HAVE NO OTHER HOME, BUT ARE TREATED LIKE COOLIES**

In a move seen by many as discriminatory, the public hospital Conde de São Januário (CHCSJ) has proposed that the service fee of natural childbirth for non-local workers to be increased from the current MOP975 to MOP8,775. The price hike is even higher for tourists, with the cost of a natural delivery increasing from MOP1,950 to MOP17,750.

The Health Bureau's justifications for implementing the measure were not very convincing. Claiming that the CHCSJ's antenatal and delivery charges had not been updated in nearly 20 years, the bureau said the updates "were not intended to increase its financial revenues, but to ensure provision of quality services for residents."

The new charges for non-residents will still be "just half the market price," although citizens are left to wonder how this "market price" is calculated. The price remains unchanged for residents.

Is there really a need to introduce a brutal nine-fold rise for parents who may not have large financial resources, particularly during a demanding time for family budgets such as the first months of parenthood? Besides, many non-resident mothers probably do not have the familial structure or the will to give birth in Macau.

If there is a problem with ensuring that residents have access to "quality services" in the maternity ward of the central hospital, then the Health Bureau should have presented figures that reflect such a problem. It occurred in Hong Kong some years ago, where mainland tourists flocked to emergency rooms to give birth, hoping that their child would be granted residency, until former HKSAR chief CY Leung opted for a "zero tolerance" policy.

However, the figures presented by the Health Bureau do not reflect the existence of a problem with non-resident births. From 2015 to 2017, a total of 3,371 babies were born at the Conde S. Januário Hospital; 8 percent of them were delivered by non-resident women and 20 percent by tourists. According to data released last week, in 2017 a total of 6,529 live births were delivered in Macau, down by 617 year-on-year. Our maternity wards are less busy than they were.

Regarding tourists, I do not see why the charges were not increased before, although such a surge in prices is hardly justifiable as a preventive measure. "The update also took into account the mainland's 'two-child policy', which might eventually lead to a greater number of women with non-resident or tourist status giving birth in Macau," the Health Bureau stated, but did not elaborate.

Yet to charge non-resident workers so much more is a completely different matter. As lawyer Sérgio de Almeida Correia pointed out to the Times earlier this month, "unfortunately, it seems that we are on the right track to have in Macau a selfish society with new kinds of apartheid, since it also seems that we are building a highly xenophobic society."

Discrimination in Macau is worsening, thanks to the tendency to establish countless legal differences between permanent and non-permanent residents - when the only initial difference was the right to vote - and the establishment of a huge gap in rights between these and the "blue card" holders. It seems there are first- and second-class citizens, and then some others who are treated like coolies.

The term "non-resident worker" was badly penned. We all know cases of non-residents who are born here but are denied residency simply because their parents, who already resided here, did not have a local ID. Many non-residents know no other home, yet they face discrimination from birth. Private schools here charge non-local students the "market price" for fees - around twice what locals pay. The difference between these "non-local" students and "local students" is the fact that the latter possess a Macau ID.

Once again, the government is not setting a good example in a city with deep multicultural roots.

**THE BUZZ LIGHTNING STRIKE KILLS 16, INJURES 140 AT CHURCH IN RWANDA**

A Rwandan provincial governor says at least 16 people were killed and 140 others injured when lightning struck a Seventh Day Adventist church in the country's south.

Rose Mureshyankwano said 140 churchgoers were injured and rushed to a nearby hospital, where two are in serious condition.

Mureshyankwano said 17 of those injured are still in the hospital while the rest have been dis-

charged.

Lightning strikes are frequent across Rwanda, which has many hills and mountains, and the country's police record a number of human and livestock deaths.

The governor said a similar incident occurred on Friday when lightning struck a group of 18 students, killing one. Last October, lightning killed 18 people in different parts of the country.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	65-85 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Moderate
Ambient	65-85 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SYRIAN** government forces divided the eastern Ghouta enclave outside Damascus into two, pro-government media said yesterday, dealing a major setback to rebels and threatening to exacerbate an already dire humanitarian situation at the doors of the nation's capital.



**SAUDI ARABIA's** king has established special anti-corruption units of prosecutors to pursue embezzlement cases in the kingdom after a recent crackdown.



**TUNISIAN** women have demonstrated to demand equal inheritance rights, amid national debate over the issue that has reverberated around the Muslim world.

**ETHIOPIA** A command post overseeing the country's state of emergency said security forces mistakenly killed nine civilians in Moyale, near the country's southern border with Kenya.



**BOLIVIA** A narrow strip of blue has stretched for more than 196 kilometers across the nation of Bolivia as part of a demonstration of the country's demand for an outlet to the sea.

**CHILE** Conservative Sebastian Pinera returned to Chile's presidency yesterday, vowing to revive an economy that has slumped under center-left leader Michelle Bachelet.

**'Mr. Records' keeps Kenya's last vinyl music shop alive**

Joseph Mwhia, Nairobi

**T**UCKED into a busy market in Kenya's capital is arguably the country's last record store.

"Real Vinyl Guru" has been open for 28 years and now enjoys the growing interest of music lovers who want to look beyond sleek digital offerings and return to the pleasure of browsing for a classic African vinyl find.

Former disc jockey James "Jimmy" Rugami is at his shop every morning as early as 6, sorting through his latest discoveries. While many record shops closed in music's shift to digital and with the rise of piracy, he patiently held on and collected the stock of closing stores.

His love of vinyl has seen his collection grow into the thousands and earned him the nickname "Mr. Records."

"Every time I knew somebody is closing down and he has records, I couldn't stop the urge to buy one, including even crossing borders," he said.

Hundreds of collectors now flock to his store in Nairobi, and he has won attention from fellow vinyl fans overseas.

The producers of the Grammy-nominated Somali album "Sweet as Broken Dates: Lost Somali Tapes from the Horn of Africa," culled from popular music of the



A potential customer discusses a record with James «Jimmy» Rugami inside his vinyl records stall in Kenyatta Market in Nairobi.

1970s and 1980s, gifted him a copy.

"This is it," Rugami said, smiling as he pulled the record from his collection.

Neighboring Somalia has been chaotic since dictator Siad Barre was overthrown in 1991, and the al-Qaida-linked al-Shabab extremist group now carries out frequent attacks, even crossing into northern Kenya.

"Something good coming from Somalia, a country that has been in turmoil in all those years and discovered by somebody. But too bad it was foreigners and they actually had an ear to know this is good sound," Rugami said. "Well, it's good."

His customers now include tourists on the hunt for other gems of African music.

"Finding a vinyl shop in Nairobi was quite an exciting thing," said Firouz Khairoullaev, who was visiting from Turkey. "I think the vinyl is back. Essentially it's something that is cool and it's something that unites and it's like a hobby."

The shop's popularity after years of dire predictions about vinyl means that Rugami now can afford to employ five staffers.

"It is not once or twice I have been labelled insane, very many times," he said. "Guys actually ask me, 'That was like 10 years ago, what are you doing with this kind of whatever, we are moving forward but you are moving downwards, what's the reason?'"

"Well, I couldn't stop." AP

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Giulia Marchi/Bloomberg



Delegates to the National People's Congress stand in line to cast their ballots. Yesterday's vote in Beijing resulted in abolishing a presidential two-term limit that will enable Xi Jinping to rule indefinitely (see more on page 11).