



JAMES PACKER QUILTS CROWN

Billionaire James Packer quit the board of his casino operator Crown Resorts due to mental health issues

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GREEN LIGHT TO BORACAY CASINO

Galaxy has been granted a license to develop a USD500 million casino on the resort island of Boracay

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TRUMP-KIM SUMMIT SITE RUMORS SWIRL

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS

MALAYSIA A Chinese sand-dredger capsized off Malaysia's southern coast yesterday, killing a crew member and leaving 14 others missing, Malaysia's coast guard said.



MYANMAR's president, a close friend of leader Aung San Suu Kyi, said yesterday that he was retiring, a move that puts a representative of the country's already powerful military at least temporarily in a position of executive power.

PHILIPPINES A passenger bus careened off a winding dirt road and hurtled down a ravine south of the Philippine capital, killing 19 people, police said yesterday.



IRAQ has detained or imprisoned at least 19,000 people accused of connections to the Islamic State group or other terror-related offenses, and sentenced more than 3,000 of them to death.

SYRIA Rockets fired on a market in a government-controlled neighborhood of Damascus killed 35 people and wounded more than 20 others, Syrian state-run media said.

UK-RUSSIA British Foreign Secretary Boris Johnson says Russia carried out a nerve-agent attack on British soil because the U.K. has "time and again called out Russia over its abuses" of human rights and democratic values.

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THE public has the right to check footage recorded by police officers equipped with cameras, Cheong Sio Yan, a representative from the Public Security Police Force (PSP), said yesterday during a TDM radio talk show.

An earlier proposal to equip PSP officers with body-mounted cameras was implemented last week. According to Cheong, the camera usage rate is low, and the range of applications for the cameras is also limited. They can be used, for instance, in criminal investigations and violent situations.

Cheong noted that police officers should inform the parties involved when they intend to record footage and provide their own police identification numbers.

Cheong remarked that Hong Kong introduced a similar mea-

Public can check footage of PSP camera-equipped officers

sure in 2013, which resulted in calmer conduct from those confronting police officers and those recorded.

Moreover, the PSP representative claimed that the recording is also a means of chronicling facts, collecting evidence and avoiding verbal disputes.

The PSP has referred twice to the Personal Data Protection (GPD) during the proposal, with the GPD indicating that those who have been recorded have the right to view the videos.

Cheong hinted that the recording will establish greater equity among the public.

PHOTO ARCHIVE



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

'The government's silence on disaster preparedness is absolutely deafening'

Dear Editor,

It has been nearly eight months to the day that Hato had left its indelible mark on Macau. Eight months since promises were made to improve the system that had initially failed to properly inform and protect the citizens of this city. What has improved? Thus far, there has been a fair share of debating and finger pointing while the former director and deputy director of SMG await the outcome of their disciplinary hearings, but what has truly changed? Since the wake of destruction that was left after Hato's arrival, there has been slow development and little meaningful communication on how SMG or the yet to be birthed Civil Protection and Emergency Coordination Bureau will improve future storm preparedness.

As it is, the 2018 typhoon season is upon us in which two storms have already formed (TS Bolaven in January and TS Sanba in February). While these storms mainly affected the Philippines and the South China Sea, it should be a reminder that these tropical systems are occurring with some frequency outside of the typical expected time frame for typhoons. While it is yet to be heard if 2018 will have as much noise from storms as 2017, the government's silence on disaster preparedness is absolutely deafening.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" - Benjamin Franklin. Where wishful thinking seemingly has had an impact on director level decision making within SMG prior to Hato, it is detailed preparation and clear communication that will help to ease efforts and prevent stress on recovery following both minor and major catastrophes. While Hato was

the worst storm to strike Macau in recent memory, it isn't as if typhoons are unexpected, yet with the lack of awareness in the past few storms, it would be foolish to maintain the status quo. As evident from videos and photos taken during the arrival of the storm, far too many people had failed to take shelter before and during the peak of the wind and rain that had reached fatal proportions. This in turn puts rescue workers and volunteers at risk trying to either save or usher these people to safety. Additionally, with much of the city having suffered power and water outages, far too many were caught with out emergency reserves and rations resulting in a clear out of bottled water supplies at stores in addition to long lines at spigots for both potable and non-potable water.

What is needed, as we near the summer months and the peak of the typhoon season, is a campaign to communicate what organizations and individuals can do to safeguard themselves from future emergencies including action plans to find shelter when away from home, action plans when your home is in a flood zone, action plans for families with elderly relatives or young children, checklists for emergency food, water and supplies, checklists for home and building security, and guidelines on how to utilize emergency rations and maintain sanitation. Communicating disaster preparedness has the advantage of both being cheap and effective, provided that either governments or NGO's that wish to take up the task continually repeat their communications through multimedia to ensure the message saturates into the public at large.

Fortunately, we are not without examples on how this can be implemented. In



2015, Hong Kong Observatory produced for the Typhoon Committee a series of short videos that bring about the awareness of dangers produced by typhoons (youtu.be/7v5f8GW_Mnc) which can be easily played in commercial spots or in public spaces where video advertising is available. The WMO backed Typhoon Committee Secretariat (typhooncommittee.org) is also hosted in Macau which is tasked with assisting country members with in the region on developing and improving Typhoon disaster risk management. Finally, other established weather organizations take it upon themselves to ensure the public is well informed, as is the case with the US NOAA/NWS, which sponsors year round preparedness as well as a dedicated week for storm awareness in communities most likely affected by tropical systems (weather.

gov/wrn/hurricane-preparedness, ready.gov/make-a-plan).

If SMG or other related government agencies are unable to engage in pre-storm awareness, then it is up to NGO's, local media and citizen activists to fill in the empty space. Participating in active awareness and education is as simple as being consistent and frequent with adequate information on a wide range of platforms. This not only informs the public of the potential dangers well in advance of coming storms, but also gives agency to citizens by empowering them with the knowledge necessary to save their lives and the lives of others in the event of a potential disaster.

Sincerely,
Luke Lienau
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Leong says Jockey Club owes 'only' MOP150 million

Renato Marques

THE Macau Jockey Club (MJC) owes a total of MOP150 million in taxes to the government, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong told media on the sidelines of a seminar yesterday.

According to Leong, the amount owed by the MJC was calculated by the Financial Services Bureau (DSF) based on contracts for concession renewal signed between the government and the concessionaire. The contracts establish mandatory obligations to pay an Annual Fixed Tax which must be settled within a three-year period.

The concessionaire's commitment to paying the outstanding amount was a condition for the grant of the previous extension of 24 years and six months.

"In 1997, the contract [stated] that the expenses to pay to the government should be MOP25 million, but in 2002 there was a change in that contract. The amount was reduced to MOP15 million which included other payments, [for example] when the profits registered were higher

RENATO MARQUES



than MOP2.5 billion they also needed to pay taxes. But, as you know, the Macau Jockey Club has been reporting losses over the years. For this reason, it has not been paying these taxes, as they also needed to pay 1 percent for the welfare fund," said Leong.

The obligations, according to Leong, were reviewed and removed from the contract in 2005.

The Secretary also revealed that from 2002 to 2018, the MJC had been sending a letter to the government every year claiming to be unable to pay such expenses due to its reported losses. This led to the government of Macau exempting them from their obligation to pay.

According to Leong, the government acknowledged in 2015

that the MJC was not paying the amount it should [MOP15 million]. It owed a total of MOP200 million at the time, the equivalent to MOP20 million every year for a decade.

The economy and finance chief also acknowledged that in disclosing the amount owed to the government, "we didn't take note of any other taxes, interests or

inflation."

Although it is not currently possible to verify this information, as the new contract has not been officially published, the Secretary has assured that the payment of prior debts within the established deadline was a non-negotiable condition for the grant of the new concession.

"The contract is clear that if they can't pay within the three year time frame, the concession will be stopped."

As to why the concession contract had not been terminated earlier, in light of the concessionaire's failure to meet its payment obligations, Leong reiterated that "from 2002 [the company] has issued a letter every year to the government asking to be exempted from the tax due to recorded losses. We have analyzed the case and found that in 2015 the amount was still unpaid, so we decided to give them these [the currently stated conditions] to pay."

Questioned on the reasons why, in 2002, the amount to pay back was reduced to MOP15 million (from MOP25 million in 1997), the Secretary responded that he was not aware of the reasons but believed, "[it was] because they saw that they were registering losses."

"We weighed the situation in relation to the diversification of the gaming industry and the fact the MJC can add more touristic spots [to the region]."

HERITAGE

New Macau calls for Coloane protection

Julie Zhu

THE New Macau Association is asking the government to mark the mountain and waterfront near the old Lai Chi Vun shipyards as a buffer to protect the whole area, the vice president of the association, Sulu Sou, said yesterday during a press conference.

The Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC)'s public consultation regarding the evaluation of the classification of the Lai Chi Vun shipyards will end today. In the consultation, the IC depicted the shipyard area as being in a poor condition overall, which Sou, who is also a lawmaker, deemed a consequence of many years of the government's dereliction of duty.

Sou pointed out that the submissions to the consultation described the shipyards as having safety issues, being in dangerous condition, unsuitable for use, and totally or partially collapsed.

"These comments are ac-



Sulu Sou (center)

tually unfair and incomplete," said Sou, noting that 13 shipyards were repossessed by the government, and these did meet the description above.

"Those which have been supported by the public are in a rather acceptable condition," he remarked.

"In view of the government's resources and engineering skills, if [the government plans to] create reinforcements or fix these

so-called endangered parts [shipyards], then it is not difficult at all."

Sou criticized the government for unfairly depicting the shipyards, which "led part of the public to only discuss the danger and safety issues of the shipyards and whether to demolish or keep them."

The lawmaker believes that there is a need to protect the urban landscape and views near the area, which is cur-

rently under evaluation.

"The shipyard industry itself is the foundation, others are its carrier," said Sou, emphasizing the importance of protecting the Lai Chi Vun shipyards and the area as a whole, not just the shipyards themselves.

He suggested that the Macau government protect Coloane Village, including the shipyards and the neighboring mountains, and limit construction heights to 11.6 meters in these areas.

Previously, the government proposed that the Lai Chi Vun shipyards be defined as protected locations, indicating that only the shipyards themselves should be protected.

Sulu Sou disagreed, arguing that the key to cultural protection is in knowing how to preserve the cultural atmosphere.

The Lai Chi Vun shipyards were the largest group of shipyards in Macau and constitute a major part of the history of local shipbuilding, which was a traditional industry in the southern China region.

The shipyards are evidence of the techniques and methods for shipbuilding and also reveal the traditional lifestyles of the Lai Chi Vun village community.

Sio believes gambling concessionaires may change

FORMER lawmaker Dominic Sio believes that the gaming concessions will be reshuffled from 2020, according to a report by China Business Journal.

"Starting from 2020, the gambling concessions will reopen, [and] this means that [those who are] operating in Macau today, will not necessarily still be operating in 2020," said Sio, who is also a deputy of the 13th National People's Congress.

"This is shuffling, re-applying and re-licensing. During the process of re-licensing, the non-gambling aspects of the gambling industry should also become aspects that the SAR government should place importance on," explained Sio.

With the development of both the tourism and gaming industries, Sio also thinks that economic and trade cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries should be enhanced.

"Macau currently has approximately MOP1,000 billion in capital, with an abundance of capital looking for an exit. Banks are looking for companies to loan, but no companies are asking banks for loans," he continued.

Sio believes that both the mainland and Macau can benefit if Macau's capital were to be made available to mainland companies.

BLOOMBERG



James Packer quits Crown amid mental health issues

Angus Whitley

BILLIONAIRE James Packer quit the board of his casino operator Crown Resorts Ltd. due to mental health issues, the latest turn in a turbulent private and business life that's seen his overseas gaming empire unravel.

The 50-year-old Australian plans to step back from all commitments, said a spokesman, who didn't elaborate on Packer's illness. Crown stock fell 1.7 percent in Sydney trading.

Twice-divorced Packer has

endured a tumultuous few years, from the public breakup of his engagement with pop diva Mariah Carey, to the conviction of Crown employees in China in 2017 for illegally promoting gambling.

Yesterday's announcement comes about seven months after Packer returned to Crown's board in the wake of the China crackdown. That ultimately led to Crown's exit from Macau and the closure of most of its Asian offices to focus on its Australian business.

"Now that they're more focused on their Australian assets,

it's a company that tends to run itself," said Daniel Mueller, a fund manager at Vertium Asset Management in Sydney who downplayed the significance of Packer's departure from the board. "He's got a lot of people around him, some of whom are on the board."

Packer has had an on-again, off-again involvement with Crown Resorts since stepping down as chairman and then as a director in 2015. The billionaire's private investment company, Consolidated Press Holdings, owns about 47 percent of the casino company.

"Mr James Packer today resigned from the board of Crown Resorts Ltd. for personal reasons," a Consolidated Press spokesman said by e-mail. "Mr Packer is suffering from mental health issues. At this time he intends to step back from all commitments."

A separate statement yesterday by Crown Executive Chairman John Alexander didn't elaborate further on Packer's reasons for quitting. "We have appreciated James' contribution to the board and respect his decision to step down," Alexander said.

The China crackdown ultimately led to Crown's exit from Macau and the closure of most of its Asian offices

Crown shares were down 1.7 percent at AUD12.85 at 3:04 p.m., valuing the Melbourne-based company at AUD8.9 billion (USD6.8 billion).

Packer was born into a media dynasty that owned Australia's biggest magazine publisher. He took over the family business on his father Kerry's death in 2005, and within three years sold most of its broadcasting and publishing stakes, as well as its cattle ranches, for more than \$5 billion.

He used the funds to build the stake in Crown. Since the company's retreat from a Macau joint venture with billionaire Lawrence Ho, Crown is now focused on its existing casinos in Perth and Melbourne and a new six-star casino in Sydney, due to be completed in 2021.

The clampdown in China "shook me to the core," Packer said in a rare interview with the Australian newspaper in October last year. He wasn't on the board at the time and felt "let down," he said.

In the interview, Packer also said he wanted a more "simple life" and acknowledged he'd lost friends, put on weight and had led a reclusive life at his polo estate in Argentina.

"It has been a tumultuous four or five years for me," Packer told the newspaper. Packer was interviewed as a witness as part of an investigation into Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, a spokesman for the billionaire said in February. Netanyahu had received gifts from Packer, who wasn't accused of wrongdoing, and police last month recommended the prime minister be charged with bribery, fraud and breach of trust.

Evan Lucas, an independent market analyst and consultant based in Melbourne, said Packer endured more public scrutiny than most other Australian executives because he's "a large figure in the business world."

"He has been under a reasonable amount of pressure," Lucas said. "It's a sad story to hear." **Bloomberg**

Police revamps Arrival Card scheme

THE Public Security Police Force (PSP) has been working on the optimization and replacement of the Arrival Card for non-residents. It is expected to be completed by March 31.

The Immigration Department of the PSP has been implementing the "Non-stamping Immigration Clearance Policy" since July 2013, issuing a printed Arrival Card to inbound visitors. Starting from January 1, 2014, the scheme was extended to cover persons granted any of the six types of Authorization to Stay. They receive a printed Slip of Authorization to Stay instead of a stamp in their travel document.

According to a statement issued yesterday by PSP, "the purpose for this op-



New version of the arrival card

timization is to make the status of stay clear to the non-residents. No amendment is made to the current conditions or limitations of stay applicable to non-residents."

During the replacement period, the old version and new version of Arrival Card will be in use. Starting from April 1, only the new version of the Arrival Card will be in use.

Non-residents holding the old version of Arrival

Card issued on or before March 31 may remain in Macau until the limit of stay specified on the Card.

The PSP stressed that according to the current immigration laws, non-residents who stay in Macau beyond the limit of stay specified on the card or do not leave Macau within a specific period after the Authorization to Stay is revoked will be regarded as illegally staying in Macau.

Albergue SCM presents 'My Chinese Zodiac' exhibition

THE exhibition "My Chinese Zodiac" by Raquel Gralheiro will begin on March 26 at 6:30 p.m., at A2 Gallery of Albergue SCM as part of the ARTFEM Women Artists - 1st Macau International Biennial.

The exhibition presents a total of 24 works - 12 acrylic paintings on canvas and 12 mixed media boxes - representing the 12 Chinese zodiacs, according to a statement issued by its organizer, Albergue SCM.

Born in Viseu, Portugal in 1969, Gralheiro has

exhibited since 1999 in individual and collective exhibitions, integrating several private collections in Portugal, Spain and Brazil and was awarded the 1st Prize Rui Alberto Espaço de Arte at Arte Erotica, in Gondomar.

In the words of Joana Páris Rito, who signs the artist's foreword text: "the symbiosis between woman and animal is quite clear. The singularities of each particular being of the Chinese zodiac merge with the female character that is

being portrayed, praising her condition, defining her gesture, her posture, the expression of her glance, the outline of her face."

"Throughout her pictorial path, Pop Art's strong colours, the naïf hearts, the bouquets of the Renaissance, the Tahitian patterns of Gauguin or the contemporary kaleidoscopes are a clear sign of the painter's feminine glance over the world," the foreword added.

"My Chinese Zodiac" will be open to the public until May 13.

Lynzy Valles

Autism awareness activities to be held next month

THE Macau Autism Association (MAA) will host a "World Autism Awareness Day 2018" program next month, with a series of family-friendly activities intended to increase awareness, acceptance and support for people with autism in Macau.

One of the highlights for the month of April will be the annual "Light It Up Blue" campaign, which will be observed by 142 countries on April 2.

On that day, landmarks around the world will be illuminated in blue to symbolize support for those with autism, the association announced at a press conference this week.

This year, MAA teamed up with the Macau Science Center and the Macau Tower to light its buildings up in blue.

The association has invited international designers for an exhibition titled "Endless Life and Unlimited Artistic Power". The designers will develop new artworks based on the original paintings of children with autism, which will then be transformed into product packaging.

Companies can then buy these items, with MAA taking a percentage of the proceeds.

Family-friendly activities include talks with parents of autistic chil-

dren and entry to the Skywalk circling the Macau Tower.

Nicole Chan, general director of MAA, said the association had conducted a series of activities last year targeting children with autism, with a total of 5,000 participants.

At least 30-40 percent of the population is aware of autism.

NICOLE CHAN

According to her, some 300 to 400 children have benefited from the activities.

"Based on all the activities that [have] been done by the association [in] creating awareness, I believe that at least 30-40 percent of the population is aware of [...] autism," said Chan.



Nicole Chan

However, she admitted that funding is still hard to come by. The association only has one full-time staff member and some part-timers, as its monthly subsidy from the government amounts to just MOP40,000.

"We are applying for a center from the government and are still waiting for their reply. Whether we have the center or not, we still look for venues that will support the therapy or workshop," Chan told the press.

It has been a year since the association has applied for a center.

2018 marks the third year that

MAA is hosting World Autism Awareness Day, and the second time it is receiving government subsidies to run the event.

The association will also host music classes for up to 20 children with autism.

Of those, ten musically inclined children will be selected for further subsidized classes to determine their eligibility for the Macau Young Orchestra.

"[We] plan to consolidate a group of autistic [children] with musical talent and when ready, they can perform around Macau," said Chan.

There are still no concrete statistics to indicate how many children in the city suffer from autism. Chan said the Health Bureau had evaluated at least 1,000 children since June 2017, of whom 800 required different therapies. Seventy percent of these children suffer from autism.

"Those are the new ones. For the older ones, we do not know. Nobody [...] really wants to accept that their children are autistic. Basically, there are a lot of hidden cases that we're not able to find out," she said.

MAA has started visiting nurseries to conduct sharing sessions with teachers and parents on how to identify symptoms of autism.

"So far the response has been good. We hope that from there, they [will] get earlier therapy," said Chan, adding that autism starts to become apparent in the first three years of life.

The World Autism Awareness Day 2018 will host its opening ceremony at the Macau Science Center on April 2, followed by choir and drama performances.

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Inflation rises fastest since March 2016

The Composite Consumer Price Index (CPI) in February 2018 rose by 3.12 percent year-on-year to 112.18, according to information released by the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC), marking the largest year-on-year growth since March 2016. The Bureau attributes the abnormally high increase to the fact that the Lunar New Year fell in February this year but in January last year. Aside from that, the rise came about due to dearer charges for eating out, increased rental charges, as well as increasing parking meter rates and prices of women's clothing. Compared with January 2018, February's CPI stood 0.93 percent higher. Meanwhile, for the 12 months ending February 2018, the average Composite CPI grew by 1.46 percent from the previous period, led by notable growth in the prices for food and services in the education and health sectors.

Tse to return as MGTO deputy director

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, hopes that Cecilia Tse can serve as deputy director of the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) after she recovers from her illness. The position has been vacant for nearly four months. MGTO director Helena Senna Fernandes noted that Tse returned to work after Chinese New Year but still needs rest.

Land subsidence appeared at San Ma Lou

On Tuesday morning, a ground subsidence (a downwards shift in the surface of land) appeared in one of Macau's busiest avenues, the Almeida Ribeiro Avenue. The subsidence is about one square meter and located in the middle lane in front of the Circle Square. Both transportation police officers and officers from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) went to inspect the scene. The subsidence was repaired yesterday. It was most likely caused by soil erosion, according to IACM, which also spotted ground subsidence at San Ma Lou in February.

'Maturing' Forum Macau celebrates 15 years

Renato Marques

THE Forum for Economic and Trade Co-operation between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries – Macao (Forum Macau) is, "after 15 years and in resemblance to humans, in maturing stage."

Those were the words that the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau, Xu Yingzhen, used to describe the current status of the organization whose job it is to promote Macau as a platform for economic cooperation between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries.

Xu was speaking at the opening ceremony of a seminar yesterday morning at the Four Seasons Hotel Macau to mark the 15th anniversary of Forum Macau.

The seminar reviewed the Forum's work over the past 15 years and invited debate on new perspectives, approaches, policies and developments in this space.

In her opening speech, Xu acknowledged that Forum Macau still has a long way to go to complete its duties and responsibilities.

"It is true that we still have a long way to go and we need to concentrate more effort to reach new outcomes," she said, adding that the organization would "inject new vitality so the Forum Macau can obtain success in this new era."

Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong recalled the first speech of the original signing ceremony that created Forum Macau, in which it was said that the creation of the Forum "opened a new page [for Portuguese-speaking countries' relations with China]."

Leong said the creation of a forum between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries occupies "a highlight position in the strategy defined by the central government, and allows Macau to enhance its advantages to promote the development and diversification of the economy."

Leong also noted the ongoing construction of the Service Center Complex as well as the transfer of the Cooperation Fund to Macau. Another important step towards diversification that was directly attributable to Forum Macau's activities was the central government's attribution of the Renminbi Clearing Centre to Macau, as noted by the Secretary.

Leong closed his speech with a mention of the "notable" results achieved in trade since the creation of Forum Macau, which he said "have been highlighted and praised by the central government."



Aspect of the seminar held yesterday

Another individual who commented on the "success of this mechanism [Forum Macau]" was Yao Jian, Deputy Director-General of the Liaison Office of the Central People's Government in Macau.

Yao was quoted as saying that "trading between China and Portugal has increase twentyfold, and trading between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries has increased by one hundredfold."

Yao added that Forum Macau has also achieved results in terms of "cultural exchange" and "lifting the internationalization of Macau and also its diversification."

Yao highlighted the work of the "Macao entrepreneurs, who established places to present products from Portuguese-speaking countries in several cities of China, namely Shanghai, Beijing, Hangzhou and others."

The representative of the central government added that the

newly announced China International Import Expo, which will be launched this year for the first time, will feature the joint efforts of both the mainland and Macau governments.

Yao emphasized the importance of the Renminbi Clearing Center and the Training Center for Bilingual Professionals. Both are important landmarks, according to Yao, who concluded with the hope that all parties can contribute more suggestions to improve the relationships between the countries.

On this topic, Deputy Director-General of the Department of Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau Affairs at the Ministry of Commerce People's Republic of China (MOFCOM) Sun Tong, said, "independently of the different areas, the level of cooperation between countries has been reaching new heights, which gives the impression that this cooperation has a good trend to develop."

Sun said that this development can come from new areas such as environmental protection, noting that the MOFCOM is "pleased with the continual added influence of Forum Macau in the past 15 years, which produces synergistic effects."

"In the future, Forum Macau would have more energy and vitality under the guidance of the new era socialist ideology with Chinese characteristics of Xi Jinping," he said, which he added would be under the policy of "opening to the outside world."

It is true that we still have a long way to go and we need to concentrate more effort to reach new outcomes.

XU YINGZHEN

The last speaker of the event, Ambassador Malam Sambu, noted that it was a great opportunity to discuss the Forum's future, and echoed previous speakers' observations that relations between Portuguese-speaking countries and China had reached new heights, suggestive of even greater dimensions in the future.

Priority areas for investment and development include energy, infrastructure, technology and human resources to contribute towards the "common goal of serving as a springboard to [...] fast, harmonious and rational development."

As a final note, he stated the need to "share the profits of these cooperation efforts."

Forum looking for future opportunities

PARTICIPANTS at yesterday's seminar focused their talks on the perspectives and future opportunities for the Forum Macau.

Jorge Costa Oliveira, former Secretary of State of the Internationalization of Portugal and Partner and CEO of consulting company JCO, said, "more important than discussing the many works developed - and well - over the past 15 years is the need to look to the future, and future possibilities to make Forum Macau even more relevant."

Oliveira noted that although the world knows that there are many opportunities for entrepreneurs globally and in China, it is still difficult to get the message across to them. He concluded that "there is still much work to do. [...] The work that Forum Macau has done over the years has been mostly done at an institutional level."

He believes this was the right choice and that such tasks were managed well, as they involved the member countries' governments, public agencies and public entities in bilateral and multilateral relations.

Nevertheless, he points out that companies are the entities that import, export, and invest. As such, he urged Forum Macau to do "proximity

work together with the business associations, doing work that [focuses] on companies to bring them knowledge of the opportunities in both the Portuguese-speaking countries in China and the advantages of partnerships between companies in order to create bonds that allow them to reach new markets."

Henrique Horta dos Santos, the representative of Guinea-Bissau on the West African Economic and Monetary Union, and former Minister of the Economy and Finance of Guinea-Bissau, also highlighted the importance of "facilitating access to Forum-related support and investment funds by companies, namely SMEs" as a potential measure for future development.

On that topic, the Governor of the Central Bank of São Tomé and Príncipe and former Minister of Planning and Finance of the same country, noted the role of Macau and the Forum as a catalyst for the "acceleration of the process of expansion and opening China to the World [Belt and Road], noting the "great commitment of the country in contributing more [...] in a better way to the 'common assets' [which result from the connection of the Portuguese-speaking countries with China]."

Organizations express gratitude to Sands China and Adelson Family Foundation for Typhoon Hato relief

IN response to severe damage caused by the deadly Typhoon Hato, Sands China Ltd. bolstered its efforts to reach out to the community, applying its skills and resources to help the recovery of several organizations across different sectors.

The company has made a pledge to donate a total of MOP30 million in disaster relief funds to Macau in the wake of the destructive 2017 storm season. In addition, the Adelson Family Foundation has pledged MOP35 million, making a total of MOP65 million in donations pledged by Sands China and the Adelson Family Foundation to support typhoon disaster relief in Macau.

UNIVERSITY OF SAINT JOSEPH

The Adelson Family Foundation has donated over MOP15.2 million to the University of Saint Joseph to assist in recovery efforts after both Typhoon Hato and subsequent storms caused significant damage to its brand-new campus in August and September.

The timing of Typhoon Hato – in August 2017, just before the start of the new academic term – was unfortunate for the university, which had only taken possession of its long-awaited new Ilha Verde campus in June.

The basement level of the university's new campus was flooded after the storm, submerging nearly all the installed and stored equipment under 3 metres of water. Five days were required to pump the basement dry.



In a site visit, shortly afterwards, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Sands China Ltd. executives toured the damaged areas that will now be restored with the help of the Adelson Family Foundation donation.

"When we heard about the extensive damage to Macau as a result of Typhoon Hato, our hearts immediately went out to all of the people impacted by it," said Sheldon G. Adelson and Dr. Miriam Adelson. "We care deeply about the Macau community and wanted to do something to help in the aftermath of the storm. Hopefully, this donation to the University

Adelson Family Foundation and Sands China pledged to donate a total of MOP65m in disaster relief funds

of Saint Joseph can help speed up the recovery process and get them fully back to providing all of their educational services as soon as possible. We look forward to seeing the results for ourselves during our next trip to Macau."

"We always feel that we're part of the community. When Hato struck, the first reaction from the company was 'what can we do?' 'Where should we apply our skills and our resources?' said Dr. Wilfred Wong, President of Sands China Ltd.

Patrick Dumont, executive vice president and chief financial officer of Las Vegas Sands Corp. commented, "We're happy to be here. It's a horrible thing that has happened but I have a feeling [the university] will come back stronger and better off after the tragedy."

"To see the students and meet people who contribute to the university makes it more meaningful," Dumont added.

The MOP15.2 million donation by the Adelson Family Foundation will go a long way towards making the university's new campus fully



operational as soon as possible.

HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY

Also recently, Macau Holy House of Mercy unveiled a plaque at its elderly home in recognition of Sands China's assistance after Typhoon Hato.

Sands China made a donation of just over MOP2 million in December to help cover the costs of repairing the facility.

Restoration works have been completed, providing comfort to the residents in the home.

The Macau Holy House of Mercy President Antonio José de Freitas led an inspection tour of the roof for Dr Wong, who later unveiled the plaque with Freitas.

Dr Wong said, "Sands China is pleased to have been able to offer assistance to Macau Holy House of Mercy after Typhoon Hato. It's wonderful to see the elderly home back in order, and our appreciation goes out to Holy House of Mercy for the valuable service they provide to society. We are humbled by the kind gesture of mounting a plaque honouring our company."

COLOANE HOMES

Early this year, the Sands China team also conducted repair work on 22 houses on Navegantes Road and Lai Chi Yun Street, including repairing roofs, walls, doors, windows, wiring, water leaks, and other repair work.

Among them, three corrugated metal homes on Navegantes Road were badly damaged, which Sands China's team has since repaired.

This article is sponsored by Sands China Ltd

WHAT THE BENEFICIARIES SAY

"We are very grateful to Sands China for its generous contribution, which allowed us to repair the damage to our elderly home after the typhoon."

"The residents are happy to have had their home restored to a suitable condition, and we wanted to commemorate the occasion by mounting a plaque as an expression of our appreciation."

- The Macau Holy House of Mercy President Antonio José de Freitas

"The immediate interest and timely support from the Adelson Family Foundation came as an unexpected and heart-warming surprise."

"Without it, we would have been hard put to get the damaged facilities back to working order this academic year. We are deeply grateful to the Adelsons both for having noticed our plight and for their rapid and generous support to USJ at such a critical time."

- USJ rector, Fr Peter Stilwell

Mr Kwok, a resident of Lai Chi Yun, said the residents faced very tough conditions after the typhoon. Fortunately, the Housing Bureau and Sands China provided timely assistance, which he described as being a lifesaver. He and his family expressed their immense gratitude for the help, which they said they will never forget.

FOUR CRITICAL AREAS AT USJ

THE ADELSON Family Foundation donation will go toward addressing four critical areas of need at the Catholic university:

Library - The donation from the Adelson Family Foundation will allow the second floor of the library to undergo a complete redesign to protect against future natural disasters, including the development of a new holding space for the library's collection and an increase in its electronic resources to compensate for the physical loss of shelf space and books.

Server room - The typhoon knocked out services such as Internet, phone and closed-circuit TV. The server room will now be upgraded with a monitoring system to be installed to prevent future damage from severe weather. The system will help identify potential risks, such as water leakage and fire, and will send alerts so that pre-emptive action can be undertaken to avoid damage.

Audio-Visual Studio - Plans were in place to build a basement-level audio-visual studio for the university's Faculty of Creative Industries' new Bachelor of Digital Cinema Programme before the typhoon hit. The Adelson Family Foundation's donation will support the university's efforts to re-design and build a new studio in a safe and appropriate location.

The Adelson Family Foundation's donation will support the university's efforts to re-design and build a new studio in a safe and appropriate location.

Fitness room and recreational corner - The space may now be reassigned to better serve the post-typhoon needs of the campus. In its stead, a fitness room and recreational corner will be built in the Residential Hall to provide fitness and recreational activities for the university's students.

GAMING

Galaxy receives license to develop casino in Boracay

GALAXY Entertainment Group (GEG) confirmed its wholly-owned subsidiary has been granted a provisional gaming license by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) to develop a USD500 million casino on the resort island of Boracay, Philippines.

"We are very excited about the prospect of investing up to US\$500 million into a proposed premium quality, low rise, eco-friendly resort located in Boracay, the world's premier beach destination," commented Francis Lui, vice chairman of GEG.

"We will contribute positively to the local economy and actively partner with the Boracay community. We are confident that we will raise the bar in both resort quality and service and generate significant job opportunities in both construction and resort



Tourists pose for photographs in the sea at White Beach in Boracay

operations. This exciting project also clearly demonstrates GEG's commitment to support China's One Belt, One Road initiative," he added.

Galaxy is developing the project together with a local partner, Leisure & Resorts World Corporation. According to a statement

issued yesterday, the company "continues to assist in the land acquisition process for the planned development of a premium quality eco-friendly resort in Boracay, Philippines, which will include a GEG casino." The land where the resort will stand measures over 20 hectares, in-

cluding beaches.

Galaxy Group, which operates three casinos in Macau, stated that the proposed resort is "very accessible and convenient to the Asian market."

The company added that the "expansion of the Catclan airport makes Boracay a more conveniently accessible destination and enhances GEG's ability to attract more of our affluent customers from China, Hong Kong and Macau, among others."

As the Times reported in December, Francis Lui met with Philippines President Rodrigo Duterte "to discuss gaming opportunities."

Duterte was mentioned again by Francis Lui in yesterday's statement: "We are pleased to support President Duterte and the Philippine government's initiative for the managed and sustainable development of Boracay," Lui said.

Transport Bureau aware of attempts to fake vehicle inspections

SOME motorists are attempting to make illegal modifications to their vehicles, tampering with inspection results in a bid to get such vehicles approved for a return to public roads, the Transport Bureau (DSAT) has said.

According to DSAT's statement, the cases mostly involve motorcycles. Exhaust pipes are drilled and connected to another tube, with the resulting air intake diluting exhaust emissions and altering exhaust pollutant emission values.

The Bureau said it is aware of such cases and will immediately fail such vehicles upon inspection. Owners must then carry out another special inspection for which they will have to pay an additional fee.

The DSAT has called on vehicle owners not to make such modifications, describing them as acts of bad faith that also corrupt the engine's inner workings, putting both the vehicle and rider at risk.

The Road Traffic Law states that whenever there is a change in the characteristics of the vehicle, it must undergo additional inspection in order to secure approval for a return to the public roads.

AD



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Weinstein Co.'s bankruptcy could bring new wave of accusers

Andrew Dalton, Los Angeles

IS #MeToo part two on the way? With its bankruptcy, the Weinstein Co. has tossed out the non-disclosure agreements that officials say its co-founder and former CEO Harvey Weinstein wielded as a weapon in his sexual predation, bringing with it the possibility of a whole new wave of victims coming forward.

Bankruptcy filings are normally shrouded in the jargon of finance, but on this point the movie and TV studio was clear:

"Since October, it has been reported that Harvey Weinstein used non-disclosure agreements as a secret weapon to silence his accusers," a Weinstein Co. statement said. "Effective immediately, those 'agreements' end. No one should be afraid to speak out or coerced to stay quiet."

The rare move from a major business is likely to send new witnesses and victims to media outlets and investigators, which put out fresh calls Tuesday for their stories.

It's unlikely, however, to spur a new surge in high-profile actresses coming forward, as Rose McGowan, Ashley Judd, Salma Hayek and many others have in recent months.

That's because the Weinstein Co. only has the power to end agreements made by the company not Weinstein himself, meaning its effect will be primarily on current and former employees.

Cris Armenta, a lawyer representing accusers in a proposed class-action lawsuit against the Weinstein Co., said she fears that because so many of the agreements are with Weinstein himself and still apply, the impact may not be major.

"What are they actually releasing, and is it just window dress-

AP PHOTO



ing?" Armenta said Tuesday.

Armenta also worries that as creditors line up in front of those who have sued the company to get paid in bankruptcy, it could be "leaving the plaintiffs with nothing to hold on to."

Still, there is a large pool of people, many of them less powerful, lower-level employees with more to fear, who may now break their silence over what happened to them or what they saw.

They include workers like Zelda Perkins, a former Weinstein assistant who was among the first of his accusers to break a commitment to stay quiet after keeping Weinstein secrets for nearly 20 years. She told The

Financial Times in October that Weinstein sexually harassed her "on every occasion I was alone with him" and said she spoke out in part to demonstrate "how egregious these agreements are."

Perkins is precisely the kind of workplace harassment subject that the Weinstein Co.'s move will free to speak, and who the move's champions hope will be helped.

"This is a watershed moment for efforts to address the corrosive effects of sexual misconduct in the workplace," said New York Attorney General Eric Schneiderman, who fought for the provision in the Weinstein Co.'s bankruptcy. He added in his sta-

tement that it "will finally enable voices that have for too long been muzzled to be heard."

On Tuesday, Schneiderman's office sent out a tweet urging victims and witnesses to contact his office, which is conducting a civil rights investigation of the Weinstein Co. and of Weinstein himself.

Time's Up, an initiative started by a powerhouse group of Hollywood industry women to fight systemic sexual harassment, also urged those newly freed by the Weinstein bankruptcy to come to it with their stories, as did The New York Times.

In addition to bringing unprecedented attention to sexual harassment, the post-Weinstein

world has seen a new level of scrutiny of nondisclosure agreements — "NDAs" for short in legal jargon — contractual pledges not to discuss what happened that are common features of financial settlements.

They have since been a central part of news stories including porn actress Stormy Daniels saying she had sex with President Donald Trump, sexual misconduct allegations against casino magnate Steve Wynn, and settlements between USA Gymnastics and gymnasts who were forbidden to speak about their abuse at the hands of team doctor Larry Nassar.

Several states including California and New York have considered legislation stopping or limiting nondisclosure agreements in cases of sexual misconduct.

No one should be afraid to speak out or coerced to stay quiet.

WEINSTEIN CO. STATEMENT

"Secret settlements serve one primary purpose: To keep sexual predators away from the public eye and continuing to torment and hurt innocent victims," state Sen. Connie Leyva said in a statement introducing such a bill in California in January.

But while NDAs have become tools of the rich and powerful, they are not without benefits for their victims, who may want to keep their ordeal private or whose silence may be the only leverage they have in getting legal recourse.

Some 80 women, including prominent actresses, have accused Weinstein of misconduct ranging from rape to harassment.

He has denied any allegations of non-consensual sex. **AP**

corporate bits

SANDS COTAI CENTRAL HOSTS COMMUNITY EVENT FOR CHILDREN



Around 40 children and their families from YMCA Macau enjoyed breakfast with Thomas & The Little Big Club All Stars Saturday at Sands Cotai Central, hosted by a group of Sands China

Care Ambassadors.

As Easter is approaching, the event included a festive egg painting activity after the themed character breakfast, the gaming operator said in a statement.

They were assisted by the Sands China Care Ambassadors and by Sands Cotai Central's executive pastry chef, who gave a lesson on egg painting and provided samples of painted eggs to spark the children's creativity.

The participating children and families came from YMCA Macau's Shek Pai Wan Youth Service Team, Villa Lok Tou, and Youth Community Center.

"The children and their families get to enjoy a fun and memorable time together with an experience that might have been harder for them to attend on their own," said Grace Kuan, secretary-general of YMCA Macau.

CTM, ATFP Exchange Views on 'Digital Macau'



Telecommunications company CTM has introduced Pereira Coutinho, lawmaker and president of The Macau Civil Servants Association (ATFP) and Rita Santos, General Assembly Board president of ATFP, to its IT applications and

network infrastructure in a tour of its Taipa shop.

Pereira Coutinho and Santos toured CTM's Data Centre and Network Management Centre at Taipa to gain an understanding of the shop facilities, daily operations, and

security measures at the two centers.

CTM representatives introduced the key development projects associated with their vision of "Digital Macau", including e-government, e-commerce, e-learning, traffic affairs and business operations.

The company also briefed Pereira Coutinho and Santos about their efforts to ensure the stability of telecommunications services against the backdrop of Typhoon Hato, as well as efforts to support various sectors for post-typhoon relief work.

According to the statement, CTM is looking forward to working with ATFP to organize activities that promote information technology and public welfare.

BLOOMBERG



Former U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew

INTERVIEW

US 'shouting' at China risks a spiraling trade war, Lew says

THE U.S. should engage China on trade instead of having a "shouting match," former U.S. Treasury Secretary Jacob J. Lew said.

"Conflict isn't going to resolve a lot of those issues," Lew said yesterday in a Bloomberg Television interview from Beijing. There's a risk that the rhetoric could spiral out of control into more serious conflict, and the U.S. should work toward better outcomes instead of being an outlier on global trade, he said.

"From a U.S. perspective, there's a lot of opportunity to invest in China, there's a lot of opportunity for U.S.-China economic relations to lead to mutual benefit, but only if China plays by the

rules, and only if the U.S. does the same," said Lew, who served through the end of the Obama administration.

Lew's successor, Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, addressed Chinese officials during the Group of 20 meetings in Buenos Aires this week by reiterating

This is a question about the U.S. place in the world.

JACOB J. LEW

that trade must be free, fair and reciprocal, said a person familiar with the matter who declined to be named because the talks were private. Mnuchin argued for China to adopt a market-oriented trade regime so economic forces could work more efficiently, the person said.

This week, China made further promises to protect the intellectual property of foreigners investing in its economy, addressing a long-standing grievance as U.S. President Donald Trump plans new tariffs aimed at Beijing. The White House plans to impose tariffs worth as much as USD60 billion on Chinese products as soon as this week, according to people briefed on the matter.

"What the world does not need is a trade war," Lew said. "These tariffs are risky. You asked me what this means for the U.S. and China, it's much bigger than that. Once you start putting tariffs in place that other countries don't think are fair, the risk of response and retaliation is very real."

Lew said risks of uncertain policy and questions about U.S. leadership don't help the economic outlook and that it's uncertain whether the country can preserve its legacy of being a foundation of global stability and security.

"This is a question about the U.S. place in the world," Lew said. "We've had for the last 70 years an alliance system with Europe and Asia where our allies around

the world could rely on us being the protectors of the rule of law. I worry that policies that weaken our leadership in the world have much bigger consequences."

Lew said he has worked very closely with both Yi Gang, who was appointed this week as China's first new central bank chief in 15 years, and President Xi Jinping's chief economic adviser Liu He, who was elevated to vice premier.

"Both are committed to reform," Lew said. "They're both very knowledgeable about the economy and they understand what China needs to do to have a strong economy, and they understand the global economy. The challenge is, as policy makers, will the technocratic view or the political view prevail?"

In working with both, it wasn't a question of making a case for many things that we want to engage on, it was more a question of "how to talk through what is the pathway toward doing that in a way consistent with stability in China," said Lew, who is now a partner at private equity firm Lindsay Goldberg in New York.

Lew said he's encouraged by Beijing's work to ensure financial stability.

"Debt is a big risk," he said. "China has the tools to manage through it, and I think the longer you wait to do that the harder it is, so the signs that you see that they are beginning to manage it is something that's a good thing."

On U.S. policy, Lew said the administration's tax cuts are a "dangerous experiment" that ultimately won't help the economy and may fuel risk as they widen the deficit.

"You'll get this flash that comes from throwing oil on the fire, but in the long run, higher interest rates are going to take that down and what you're going to be left with is a bigger deficit, a bigger debt, and no tools on the fiscal side to respond with," said Lew.

"I worry that a tax cut that's going to deepen inequality isn't going to solve the problems of people who were drawn to populism of the right and left in the last election," he said. "It's a very cynical response to those concerns." **Bloomberg**

Chinese dissident, official trade barbs at UN rights body

A Chinese diplomat repeatedly interrupted a speech by a prominent Chinese dissident to block him from addressing the U.N. Human Rights Council, a failed attempt that bared China's sensitivity on human rights.

Yang Jianli, a dissident in exile in the United States, was disrupted seconds into his remarks as

he questioned the Chinese Communist Party's right to represent China at the U.N. body. Yang was invited to appear before the Human Rights Council meeting by U.N.-accredited advocacy group UN Watch.

Chen Cheng of China's diplomatic mission stepped in and insisted that Yang's intervention "se-

riously affected the reputation of council, and it should be firmly opposed."

Yang went on to cite events from decades of recent Chinese history, including the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution and the crackdown on the Falun Gong and democratic movements.

"Millions of people have died," he said.

Chen interrupted again, appealing to the chair to "rule against his speaking."

Invited to continue speaking instead, Yang warned that China "will return to the road of personal dictatorship" to control speech and crackdown on activists,

churches in Xinjiang and Tibet. He did not elaborate in the time-limited address.

Chen insisted that Yang was speaking outside the topic of the session. Both spoke in Chinese, and their comments were translated.

Yang participated in the pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen

Square in 1989 and served five years in prison in China.

Yesterday's conflict came during a debate in Geneva about the Vienna Declaration and Program of Action, which says non-governmental organizations "should be free to carry out their human rights activities, without interference." **AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing, Manila discuss joint projects

PHILIPPINE Foreign Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano was in Beijing yesterday for talks on possible joint development projects in the South China Sea amid signs of an easing of tensions in the disputed waterway.

Cayetano was scheduled to meet with his counterpart Wang Yi later in the afternoon and on Friday with newly-appointed Vice President Wang Qishan, a close ally of President Xi Jinping.

China and the Philippines have long tussled over islands and reefs in the South China Sea and since taking office in 2013, Xi has taken a hard line on issues of Chinese sovereignty.

Kicking off his second five-year term on Tuesday, Xi declared in a fervently nationalistic address to the ceremonial legislature that China would never cede "one inch" of its territory.

China rejected an international tribunal's 2016 ruling invalidating much of its claim to virtually the entire South China Sea in a case brought by the Philippines.

Prior to his Tuesday departure, Cayetano said the sides would discuss "broad areas of collaboration," but gave no specifics, according to Philippine online news source Rappler. He said the territorial dispute would be discussed "in the context of how we can improve the situation," and that the sides were trying to

AP PHOTO



Philippine Foreign Affairs Secretary Alan Peter Cayetano (second from left) talks with Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi (second from right) during their meeting in Beijing

find a legal framework acceptable to both that would allow joint exploration even as they continued to disagree.

Cayetano said talks would also touch on agricultural exports, investment in infrastructure and operations against Muslim ex-

tremists allied with the Islamic State group in the southern Philippines, Rappler reported.

Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte has pushed for closer relations with Beijing, downplaying the dispute over territory claimed by both sides

and courting Chinese aid and investment. For its part, China has eased pressure on Philippine fishermen and is working with the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations to reach a code of conduct to avoid frictions while operating

in the area where an estimated USD5 trillion in international trade passes annually.

Along with rich but diminishing fishing stocks, the South China Sea is believed to hold deposits of oil, gas and other resources. **AP**

Senior US diplomat, Taiwan leader speak at Taipei event

A senior U.S. diplomat was scheduled to speak alongside Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen at an event in Taipei last night, just days after President Donald Trump signed a new law promoting exchanges between officials from the two sides that has drawn protests from Beijing.

State Department official Alex Wong's appearance was due to follow an announcement by Taiwan's defense minister that China's sole operating aircraft carrier, the Liaoning, had been spotted entering the Taiwan Strait separating the sides on Tuesday.

Yen Teh-fa told a legislative hearing that Taiwan's armed forces were monitoring the situation but declined to give further details. The 60,000-ton craft commissioned in 2012 had been conduc-

ting military operations in the East China Sea over recent days, Yen said.

The Liaoning has previously transited the heavily trafficked 160 kilometer-wide Taiwan Strait.

Wong's visit to Taiwan drew fresh criticism yesterday from China, which claims the self-ruled island as its own and has sought to isolate it diplomatically.

China has already lodged a protest over the new Taiwan Travel Law, saying it violates U.S. commitments not to restore formal exchanges severed when Washington switched recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979. Trump signed the law on Friday.

China urges the U.S. to hold to previous undertakings, cease "any kind of official exchanges and interactions with Taiwan,

and properly deal with the Taiwan-related issue with caution so as to avoid severe damage to the China-U.S. relations and peace and stability in the Taiwan Strait," Chinese foreign ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said at a regularly scheduled briefing.

Wong, whose formal title is deputy assistant secretary for East Asian and Pacific affairs, was to speak at a dinner with the American Chamber of Commerce in Taipei. Tsai's office has said she will be speaking at the same event.

His appearance and the signing of the law come as China is ratcheting up diplomatic and economic pressure on Tsai in response to her refusal to endorse Beijing's "One-China" principle under which Taiwan is considered a part of China.

On Tuesday, Chinese President Xi Jinping warned any attempt to separate any part of China from the nation would be "doomed to failure,"

a message implicitly directed at Taiwan and the U.S. Xi said China would continue to seek peaceful unification with the island, from which it separated amid civil war in 1949, although China has refused to rule out using force to bring Taiwan under its control.

The new U.S. law allows

unrestricted travel by U.S. officials to meet with members of Taiwan's government and for Taiwanese officials to visit the U.S. under "respectful conditions," during which they are allowed to meet with their counterparts, including those from the departments of state and defense. **AP**

ONE SHOT NEWS



A Chinese sand-dredger capsized off Malaysia's southern coast yesterday, killing a crew member and leaving 14 others missing, Malaysia's coast guard said. Three Chinese citizens out of 18 crew members were rescued but one was found dead after the JBB Rong Chang 8 capsized off southern Johor state, the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency said in a statement.

KOREAN CRISIS

From DMZ to ship at sea, Trump-Kim summit site rumors swirl

AP PHOTO



Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

WITH just weeks to go, there's still no official word on where President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un will hold their unprecedented summit.

Will they pick an obvious place like one of their own capitals, or something off the wall, like a ship at sea? Or a place so obscure the curious will be sent frantically searching Google Earth?

There's no dearth of speculation.

Japan surrendered to end World War II on a ship, the USS Missouri. And Potsdam and Yalta are known among historians and locals more so than the rest of us. But like those places, the host city for a Trump-Kim summit could be etched indelibly in the pages of history.

Here are some places they might be eyeing.

IN THE DMZ

This is probably the most sensible choice.

Holding the summit in what is called the Joint Security Area inside the Demilitarized Zone that divides North and South Korea would check off some boxes for pragmatists.

It's spitting distance from the safety of Kim's own borders, so getting there (and getting out hastily, in a contingency) with a large entourage of bodyguards and other assorted personnel would be easier and cheaper. Kim is supposed to hold his summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in there in late April, before the Trump summit,

so that could be something of a dress rehearsal.

But the location has some complicated optics.

It's a symbol of the division of Korea 70 years ago into the socialist North and the capitalist South. For Kim, whose regime doesn't recognize South Korea as a legitimate country, it would have the added symbolism of being where the North claims it forced the U.S. and its allies in the 1950-53 Korean War to essentially capitulate and sign an armistice agreement.

For Trump, going there could be used as a way of showing support for the U.S. troops who are stationed along the DMZ to defend against a Northern invasion. Trump has, however, suggested that the U.S. pays too much to keep its roughly 30,000 troops in the South, so that might be a bit ticklish.

PYONGYANG

Having a U.S. president come all the way to the North Korean capital would be the holy grail for Kim. He could play the host and spin the whole thing as Trump arriving, tail between his legs, to pay homage to Kim and his nuclear weapons.

That's why it almost certainly won't happen.

But Kim has cause to push hard for it. It's where his father, Kim Jong Il, held summit meetings with South Korean presidents in 2000 and 2007 and with Japan's prime minister in 2002, so there is a strong precedent. Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter traveled to Pyongyang after they left office. Clinton went in 2009 to bring

back a couple of jailed American journalists and Carter actually went three times — he met with Kim Jong Un's grandfather amid high tensions in 1994 and returned in 2010 and 2011.

Trump appreciates big welcome ceremonies, such as those given on his trips to Saudi Arabia and Beijing last year. They had lots of pomp. And while it's probably too late for Kim Jong Un to treat Trump to a military parade, another thing the U.S. commander in chief says he enjoys, Kim is capable of throwing a lavish welcome.

Dennis Rodman might have some advice. The former NBA player, one of the only high-profile Americans to have visited the North in recent years, claims to have partied pretty hard with Kim.

WASHINGTON

Same downside as Pyongyang, but for Kim Jong Un this time.

It's a long way to go to essentially be seen as the one paying respects. It also raises big questions about security, which is understandably a major concern for Kim if he were to go to the heart of the country that he and his predecessors have seen as their mortal enemy.

Of course, Trump could throw in some sweeteners. He could reassure Kim that he would be afforded all the trappings of a world leader, which, again, would be a gift for North Korea's propaganda machine. But it would open up Trump, who as a candidate quipped he wouldn't pay for a state dinner with Kim but would be open to having hamburgers, to criticism from opponents at

home and abroad.

As a reality TV-style publicity bombshell, Trump's Mar-a-Lago resort would seem to be both a longshot and a definite short-lister. Trump hosted both Japan's prime minister and China's president at the seaside club.

It's possible the idea of going to either would intrigue Kim. He hasn't done much traveling and perhaps he has a penchant for it. He has shown off a new jetliner that looks an awful lot like a smaller version of Air Force One.

But in the end it's a choice he could only make if he can somehow be absolutely sure it isn't seen as a sign of weakness or desperation.

If there is even a hint of either, he could find himself facing emboldened rivals when he goes home.

BEIJING

It's a third party, so that's a plus. Security wouldn't likely be a concern. And China, the frequent target of Trump tweetstorms, has been trying hard to show it is doing its best to rein in its neighbor's nuclear ambitions.

But relations between Beijing and Pyongyang have grown stormy lately.

North Korea's state-run media have called out China for blindly following Washington's lead on sanctions. China's recent tightening of its trade restrictions is causing considerable pain in Pyongyang. Kim's decision to sit down with the leaders of South Korea and the United States — not China or Russia — is itself a sign of the times.

From that perspective, it would

seem unlikely Kim would want to give Beijing any credit for helping to make the summit happen.

SWEDEN, FINLAND, SWITZERLAND

Neutrality is their advantage.

Sweden has an embassy in Pyongyang and represents the interests of the U.S., Canada and Australia. North Korea's foreign minister just flew to Stockholm for talks and met the prime minister, who hinted that Sweden would be a willing host. Sweden is also believed to be working behind the scenes to get North Korea to release three incarcerated Americans.

Releasing the Americans would be welcomed by Trump and a significant humanitarian breakthrough. So, host or not, Sweden's role is worth noting.

Finland's connection is a bit more tenuous. This week it is hosting semi-formal negotiations between current and former officials from the U.S., South Korea and North Korea. That meeting will likely be important for establishing summit expectations and possibly even agenda items.

Switzerland has been thrown into the speculative mix mainly because Kim lived there as a student and it is the very definition of a neutral country.

All have the drawback of being far from home for Kim, who will want to make sure nothing happens while he is away.

On the upside, Kim does like ski resorts. And maybe snowmobiling.

So, you never know.

Especially with these two leaders. **AP**

SOUTH KOREA

Facebook fined for limiting user access

Youkyung Lee, Seoul

SOUTH Korea's telecoms regulator has fined Facebook for illegally limiting user access to its services from late 2016 to 2017.

The Korea Communications Commission said yesterday that Facebook should pay 396 million won (USD369,400) as a penalty for violating a law against hurting the interests of users. The regulator also recommended that the company fix its terms of use stipulating it cannot guarantee the quality of its services.

The issue is unrelated to Facebook's troubles over allegations that Trump-affiliated data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica stole data from 50 million Facebook users to influence U.S. elections. But the social media giant has faced other complaints in Asia over access and privacy.

The South Korean flap arose after Facebook rerouted some users' access to its services to networks in Hong Kong or the United States, instead of using domestic networks, without notifying them, the regulator said.

That slowed connections for some local Facebook users, and some complained they were unable to play videos on Facebook. The KCC said connections were as much as 4.5 times slower than before for some users during evening hours.

SK Broadband, a local fixed-line internet provider, received about 10 complaints per day for slow connections while LG UPlus, another internet service provider, received an average of 34 complaints a day.

"Facebook did not actively look into the complaints from local telecoms service providers that users are complaining about slower connections and as a result its service quality was not maintained at an appropriate level," the KCC said in a statement. "When controversies erupted in South Korea about Facebook's rerouting, the company restored the connections to their original state around October and November of 2017."

The KCC said the U.S. social media giant violated a law against limiting access or subscriptions to its services without convincing

AP PHOTO



reasons.

"We are disappointed with the KCC's decision. We strive to deliver optimal performance for all our users and will continue working with Korean internet service providers toward this goal," Facebook said in a statement.

The probe was launched in May last year after reports it had interfered with some local users' ac-

cess to Facebook and Instagram.

The KCC probed claims that Facebook intentionally slowed access while it negotiated network usage fees with internet service providers.

Facebook has gained traction in South Korea in recent years and politicians and celebrities often use it to interact with fans. More than 12 million users visit Face-

book per day in South Korea, according to the KCC.

Facebook said it did not violate the law in part because its terms of use say it cannot guarantee its services will operate without delays or interference. KCC officials rejected that argument, saying the terms were unfair. It recommended the company amend its terms of use. **AP**

AD

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Times

FACEBOOK | ANALYTICA SCANDAL

Zuckerberg asked to testify in London parliament; data firm's CEO suspended

Danica Kirka & Gregory Katz,
London

THE head of Trump-affiliated data-mining firm Cambridge Analytica has been suspended, while government authorities are bearing down on both the firm and Facebook over allegations the firm stole data from 50 million Facebook users to manipulate elections.

Cambridge's board of directors suspended CEO Alexander Nix pending an investigation after Nix boasted of various unsavory services to an undercover reporter for Britain's Channel 4 News.

Channel 4 News broadcast clips that also show Nix saying his data-mining firm played a major role in securing Donald Trump's victory in the 2016 presidential elections.

Nix said the firm handled "all the data, all the analytics, all the targeting" and said Cambridge used emails with a "self-destruct timer" to make its role more difficult to trace.

"There's no evidence, there's no paper trail, there's nothing," he said.

In a statement, Cambridge's board said Nix's comments "do not represent the values or operations of the firm and his suspension reflects the seriousness with which we view this violation."

Cambridge has denied wrongdoing, and Trump's campaign has said it didn't use Cambridge's data.

Alexandr Kogan, the Cambridge University researcher who developed the app used by Cambridge Analytica to harvest data from millions of Facebook users, claimed yesterday he has been made a scapegoat.

He told BBC he believed all the information he provided was obtained legitimately. He said it was Cambridge Analytica that came to him.

"They approached me. In terms of the usage of Facebook data they wrote the terms of service for the app, they provided the legal advice that this was all appropriate," he said.

Kogan admitted he did not ask enough questions about the data use and did not have a lawyer review the agreement.

Facebook also drew continued criticism for its alleged inaction to protect users' privacy. Earlier, the chairman of the U.K. parliamentary media committee, Damian Collins, said his group has repeatedly asked Facebook how it uses data. He said Facebook offi-

AP PHOTO



The offices of Cambridge Analytica (CA) in central London

cials "have been misleading to the committee."

The committee summoned Facebook CEO Mark Zuckerberg to testify.

"It is now time to hear from a senior Facebook executive with the sufficient authority to give an accurate account of this catastrophic failure of process," Collins wrote Zuckerberg. "Given your commitment at the start of the New Year to 'fixing' Facebook, I hope that this representative will be you."

Meanwhile, Britain's information commissioner, Elizabeth Denham, said she is pursuing a warrant to search Cambridge Analytica's servers. She has also asked Facebook to cease its own audit of Cambridge Analytica's data use.

Cambridge Analytica said it is committed to helping the U.K. investigation. However, Denham's office said the firm failed to meet a deadline to produce the information requested.

Denham said the prime allegation against Cambridge Analytica is that it acquired personal data in an unauthorized way, adding that the data provisions act requires services like Facebook to have strong safeguards against misuse of data.

Leading Democrats in the U.S. Senate also called on Zuckerberg to testify. Sen. Diane Feinstein of California, the top Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, called Facebook's latest privacy scandal a "danger signal." She wants Zuckerberg's assurances that Facebook is prepared to take the lead on security measures that protect people's privacy — or Congress may step in.

Facebook sidestepped questions on whether Zuckerberg would appear, saying instead that it's currently focused on conducting its own reviews.

Facebook has weathered many such blow-ups before and is used to apologizing and moving on. But the stakes are bigger this time. The latest scandal has some people reconsidering their relationship status with the social network, though there isn't much of anywhere else to go.

Chris Wylie, who once worked for Cambridge Analytica, was quoted as saying the company used the data to build psychological profiles so voters could be targeted with ads and stories.

Wylie has agreed to be interviewed by Democrats on the U.S. House Intelligence Committee. A date has not been set, and it's unclear if Republi-

cans on the panel will attend.

Wylie said he found Facebook's reaction to the revelations bizarre. He told an audience at the Frontline Club in London that before the story broke, Facebook had agreed to work with him to improve its platform. But he said he was blindsided on Friday with a news release that identified him as a suspect in the case.

Cambridge Analytica found itself in further allegations of wrongdoing. Britain's Channel 4 used an undercover investigation to record Nix saying that the company could use unorthodox methods to wage successful political campaigns for clients.

In footage released Monday, Nix said the company could "send some girls" around to a rival candidate's house, suggesting that girls from Ukraine are beautiful and effective in this role.

He also said the company could "offer a large amount of money" to a rival candidate and have the whole exchange recorded so it could be posted on the internet to show that the candidate was corrupt.

Nix says in a statement that he deeply regrets his role in the meeting and has apologized to staff.

"I am aware how this looks, but it is simply not the case,"

he said. "I must emphatically state that Cambridge Analytica does not condone or engage in entrapment, bribes or so-called 'honeypots', and nor does it use untrue material for any purposes."

Nix told the BBC that the Channel 4 sting was "intended to embarrass us".

"We see this as a coordinated attack by the media that's been going on for very, very many months in order to damage the company that had some involvement with the election of Donald Trump," he said.

The data harvesting used by Cambridge Analytica has also triggered calls for further investigation from the European Union, as well as federal and state officials in the United States.

A dozen consumer-advocacy organizations pressed the Federal Trade Commission in the U.S. to investigate whether the release of data violated an agreement Facebook signed with the FTC in 2011 offering privacy assurances.

The move comes after Bloomberg News first reported the FTC could already be investigating. The FTC hasn't confirmed the investigation but said it takes "any allegations of violations of our consent decrees very seriously." AP

AFTER all, President Donald Trump has called Russian President Vladimir Putin to congratulate him on his re-election, drawing bruising criticism from members of his own party, including a leading senator who scorned the election as a "sham." Trump also said he and Putin might meet "in the not too distant future" to discuss the arms race and other matters.

What they didn't discuss yesterday [Macau time] was noteworthy as well: Trump did not raise Russia's meddling in the U.S. elections or its suspected involvement in the recent poisoning of a former spy in Britain.

"An American president does not lead the free world by congratulating dictators on winning sham elections," said Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., who chairs the Senate Armed Services Committee and has pressed the Trump administration to respond aggressively to Russia's interference in the U.S. presidential election.

Sen. Jeff Flake of Arizona, a frequent Trump critic, called the president's call "odd." Senate Majority Leader Mitch McConnell said Trump "can call whomever he chooses" but noted that calling Putin "wouldn't have been high on my list."

RUSSIA-US

GOP senators criticize Trump for congratulating Putin on win

At the State Department, spokeswoman Heather Nauert said it was "no surprise" that Putin was re-elected, commenting that some people were paid to turn out to vote and opposition leaders were intimidated or jailed. She also cited a preliminary report by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe that said Russia's election took place in an overly controlled environment that lacked an even playing field for all contenders.

Her comments were notably tougher on Russia than those coming from the White House.

White House press secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders defended Trump's call, and noted that President Barack Obama made a similar call at the time of Putin's last electoral victory.

"We don't get to dictate how other countries operate," Sanders said.

The action and reaction fit a Trump White House pattern of



AP PHOTO

declining to chide authoritarian regimes for undemocratic practices.

Trump himself has long been reluctant to publicly criticize Putin. He said that during their hoped-for meeting the two men would likely discuss Ukraine, Syria and North Korea, among other things.

"I suspect that we'll probably

be meeting in the not too distant future to discuss the arms race, to discuss the arms race, which is getting out of control, but we will never allow anybody to have anything even close to what we have," Trump said.

Russia has received global condemnation after Britain blamed Moscow for the recent nerve agent attack that sickened Sergei

Skripal and his daughter. Russia has denied the accusation.

Trump's call came at a period of heightened tensions between the two nations after the White House imposed sanctions on Russia for its interference in the 2016 U.S. election and other "malicious cyberattacks." Sanders insisted that the administration has scolded Putin at the appropriate times.

The Kremlin said in a statement that Trump and Putin spoke about a need to "coordinate efforts to limit the arms race" and for closer cooperation on strategic stability and counterterrorism.

"Special attention was given to considering the issue of a possible bilateral summit," the Kremlin statement said.

In addition, the two presidents expressed satisfaction with the apparent easing of tensions over North Korea's weapons program, according to the Kremlin. **AP**

AD

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Wednesday, 28/3/2018
Doing Business in China II: Strategy and Counter-Strategy
Speaker: **Dr. Alexander Kocsis**, Of Counsel (Hylands Law) and Adjunct Professor Of Law and Business
FMCC Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: Dr. Alexander Kocsis is back by demand! This time: How to deal with Business Strategies and Counter-Strategies in China with focus on the Greater Bay Initiative and the 13th NPC & CPPCC in Beijing.
Date: Wednesday, 28 March 2018
Time: 9:00 - 10:30am (Reception: 8:45am)
Venue: Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16
Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on March 26th
info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

- 2018 FMCC members join free-of-charge*
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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

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY
TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Mondays)
ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

11TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL (HGM)
TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)
UNTIL: March 31, 2018
VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE
ADMISSION: Free
ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

Offbeat

TEST REVEALS WHY FEMALE LION IN OKLAHOMA ZOO SPROUTED A MANE



Lab results have revealed the answer to a mystery at an Oklahoma zoo: Just what caused a female lion to sprout a mane.

The Oklahoma City Zoo says in its March newsletter that testing at the University of Tennessee found the African lioness named Bridget has an elevated level of androstenedione, a hormone that can contribute to developing male features.

Veterinarians compared Bridget's blood to samples from her sister, who has no mane. Bridget's blood also contained a higher level of cortisol, which regulates metabolism and the immune system.

The zoo says the results likely mean the 18-year-old lioness has a benign tumor that's producing the hormones, but that her health is excellent.

The zoo says female lions with manes are not unheard of, but they are rare.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Zig Zag
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:40	What's Up
19:00	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Yes, Chef! Sr 2 - Final
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Macau Documentary - Final
00:05	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:40	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

22 - 26 MAR

PSYCHIC KUSUO

ROOM 1

2:30, 6:00, 9:30pm

Director: Yuichi Fukuda

Starring: Kento Yamazaki, Kanna Hashimoto

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

MAZINGER Z: INFINITY

ROOM 1

04:15, 07:45pm

Director: Junji Shimizu

Starring: Shōtarō Morikubo, Ai Kayano, Sumire Uesaka

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 95min



UNSAINE

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Steven Soderbergh

Starring: Claire Foy, Joshua Leonard, Jay Pharoah

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min



WONDERSTRUCK

ROOM 3

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

Director: Todd Haynes

Starring: Oakes Fegley, Julianne Moore, Michelle Williams

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 116min



TOMB RAIDER

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Roar Uthaug

Starring: Alicia Vikander, Daniel Wu, Dominic West

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 118 min

this day in history



1963 PROFUMO DENIES AFFAIR WITH MODEL

The Secretary of State for War, John Profumo, has denied any impropriety with the model, Christine Keeler.

Allegations were made yesterday by three MPs in the House of Commons, that Mr Profumo was in some way connected to the disappearance of Miss Keeler, who was due to appear as a witness in a trial at the Old Bailey.

But in a personal statement to the House today, Mr Profumo, 48, categorically denied the accusations and warned that he would not hesitate to issue writs for libel and slander if the allegations were made outside the House of Commons.

He said: "There was no impropriety whatever in my acquaintance with Miss Keeler and I have made the statement because of what was said yesterday in the House by three honourable members whose remarks were protected by privilege."

He went on to explain that he and his wife, the actress Valerie Hobson, had met 20-year-old Christine Margaret Keeler at Cliveden, Berkshire, in July 1961.

The couple had been invited by Dr Stephen Ward, a London osteopath, to his country cottage on the Cliveden estate near the River Thames.

Also at the cottage was Captain Eugene Ivanov, a naval attaché at the Russian Embassy in London.

It is understood Miss Keeler was having an affair with Captain Ivanov at the time.

Rumours began to circulate that Mr Profumo had begun an affair with the young model soon after their meeting and that secret information on nuclear weapons could have been passed via Miss Keeler to Captain Ivanov.

These rumours were the basis of the allegations made by MPs George Wigg, for Dudley, Richard Crossman, for Coventry East, and Barbara Castle, for Blackburn, yesterday.

But in today's statement Mr Profumo said that between July and December 1961 he had met Miss Keeler about half a dozen times at Dr Ward's flat when he had called to see him, but stressed there was "no impropriety whatsoever" in the relationship.

He added he had not seen Miss Keeler since December 1961 and had no part in her disappearance.

Miss Keeler had been due to appear at the Central Criminal Court as a witness in a shooting trial.

But the Secretary of State for War was steadfast in his denial: "Any suggestion that I was in any way connected with or responsible for her absence from the trial at the Old Bailey is wholly and completely untrue."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

On 5 June 1963 Profumo resigned from the government after admitting he had lied to Parliament about his relationship with Christine Keeler.

Three days later Dr Stephen Ward was arrested and charged with living off immoral earnings. His trial took place the following month.

He was found guilty on two charges but he did not live to hear the verdict because he took a fatal drug overdose the night before the judge finished summing up and died four days later.

Many believe Stephen Ward was made a scapegoat to save the government from embarrassment.

The Prime Minister, Harold Macmillan, asked Lord Denning, to conduct an inquiry into security aspects of the Profumo affair.

Lord Denning criticised the government for failing to deal with the affair more quickly, but concluded that national security had not been compromised.

In December 1963 Christine Keeler was arrested and charged with conspiracy to pervert the course of justice and perjury in an unrelated court case. She was sentenced to nine months imprisonment after pleading guilty to the charges.

The scandal rocked Harold Macmillan's Conservative government to its core and eventually led to its downfall when Labour, led by Harold Wilson, came to power in October 1964.

John Profumo died in March 2006.

After leaving politics he dedicated his life to helping the poor and disadvantaged in the East End of London. He was given a CBE in 1975 for services to charity.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Emotionally speaking, of course, family, true friends and loved ones will necessarily take the number one spot in your heart - and since you're prioritizing, spend some time with them and spoil them a bit.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Your personal philosophy holds that the festivities, in general, shouldn't be limited to just weekend evenings. Judging by the way you feel this morning, you probably proved that again last night.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Isn't it time to ask for a day off? Sure it is. Talking your boss into it to won't take much effort at all, so while you've got their ear, why not mention an item that's been on your professional wish list for a while.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

In your book - at the moment, anyway - nothing exceeds like excess. If one of anything is good, then two is better, and three or more would probably be just terrific.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Fortunately, anyone new at work who tries to get one over on you will have the steadfast loyalty of your colleagues to contend with, and since you've always thought of them as family.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Your recent interest in beautifying your home isn't coincidental. You've made some new friends, one of whom you find especially interesting. Whether you've admitted it to yourself or not.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

After days of mulling things over, shuffling around the house in your jammies (okay, and maybe pouting, just a tad, too), you're ready to stop this nonsense, get the show on the road and let those feelings out.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're in the mood to stay home, but you also feel restless - and you definitely won't be turning in early. Sounds like an impromptu party at your place is simply your only option.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You're thinking great big thoughts about great big issues - politics, religion, and education, for starters. When you're in this kind of mood, you need to spend your time with kindred spirits.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

So now that your emotions are actually surfacing, you're having quite the time getting used to them. Fortunately, your companion is most definitely in the mood for this - they've been waiting for it, in fact.



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Ever since you declared yourself 'off duty' from being responsible for others, it's been eerily quiet around your place. The good news is that you're starting to relax.

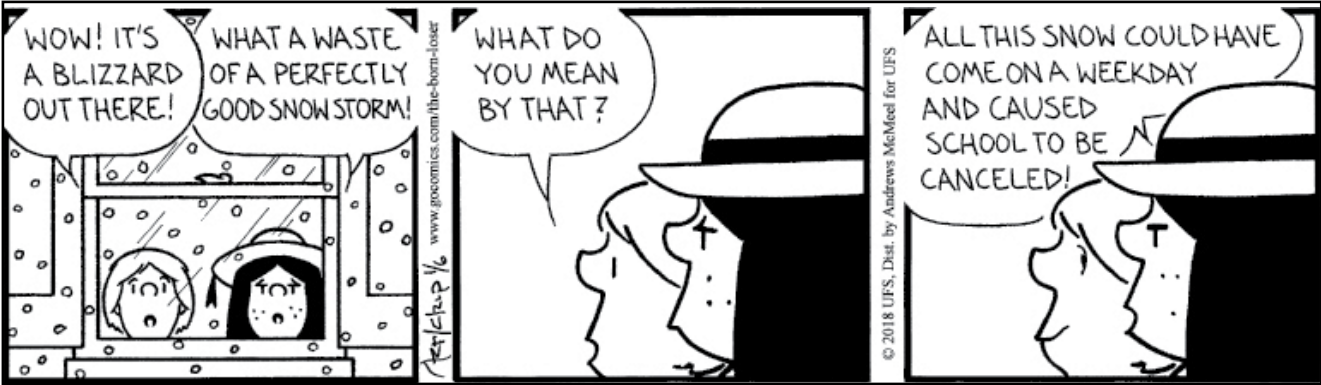


Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Right in the middle of your personal renaissance, someone you love has called, in need of advice that apparently only you can give. Of course, it's understandable. You're as solid as a rock!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Three squares; 6- Tailless rodent; 10- Madras dress; 14- ___ once; 15- Part of QED; 16- Till bills; 17- Congo, formerly; 18- Small brook; 19- Salt tree; 20- Parisian pupil; 21- Bunkum; 23- Math subj.; 25- Wonder; 26- Presidents' Day event; 29- Scottish refusals; 32- Attempts; 37- Feeling of self-importance; 38- Soviet news agency; 39- Mountain range; 40- In spite of; 43- Bay windows; 44- ___ Karenina; 45- Code-cracking org.; 46- Speed contests; 47- Memory unit; 48- Cereal grain; 49- Acknowledgment of debt; 51- Inexperienced; 53- Makes a sign; 58- Govt. security; 62- Think; 63- Columbus' ship; 64- Kitchen gadget; 65- Bear in the sky; 66- Felines; 67- Chip maker; 68- Couples; 69- Ultimatum word; 70- It's only ___!;

DOWN: 1- Labyrinth; 2- Mideast airline; 3- I cannot tell ___; 4- Immature insects; 5- Pittsburgh product; 6- Salon offering; 7- La Scala highlight; 8- Operatic soprano; 9- Attorney- ___; 10- Drench; 11- Pot starter; 12- Depend (on); 13- British verb ending; 22- Eye membrane; 24- No-see-ums; 26- Mexican mister; 27- Greek marketplace; 28- Living in flowing water; 30- Bat wood; 31- Short literary composition; 33- Sunburnt; 34- One of Chekhov's "Three Sisters"; 35- Dadaist Max; 36- Long stories; 38- Semihard light yellow cheese; 39- More reasonable; 41- Itty-bitty; 42- Blasting stuff; 47- Interment; 48- Possessing; 50- Prevention dose; 52- Skylit lobbies; 53- Mentor; 54- Canadian gas brand; 55- Oceans; 56- Tolkien tree creatures; 57- Manuscript enc.; 59- Twice tetra-; 60- Abound; 61- Author ___ Stanley Gardner; 62- Mire;

Yesterday's solution

OPTIC	ANAME	TAT
WEAVE	SOLON	ERE
CASEL	OSTEO	MAR
LONG	LAPIS	
EARRING	CHORTLE	
ATEASE	SAIGA	
RESET	EARLYST	RO
SIT	IDIOT	NEE
ENFORCELL	SMALL	
PEENS	SPINET	
APPEARS	TARGETS	
ROUND	HOP	
ER	AUDIO	NAKED
STE	PAINT	GOOPY
TISE	TROTH	ELATE

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FIGURE SKATING

Kostner's potential farewell subplot to world championships

OLYMPIC champion Alina Zagitova is without question the heavy favorite heading into figure skating's world championships, especially after the sprightly Russian's training partner and rival Evgenia Medvedeva withdrew because of injury.

She won't be the sentimental favorite, though.

That would be Carolina Kostner, the ageless Italian star who could be competing at worlds for the last time on home soil. The former champion and six-time world medalist seemed to indicate that retirement could be looming after she finished fifth at the Pyeongchang Games, where she was chosen to carry the Italian flag at the closing ceremony in South Korea.

Kostner will have a huge home crowd behind her when the event begins early today [Macau time] in Milan.

"Decisions like that should never be taken in a hot moment. It will come naturally," said Kostner, who no longer can compete with the sport's high-fliers when it comes to technical marks, but

AP PHOTO



Alina Zagitova and Carolina Kostner

whose elegant artistry and presentation often make up the difference.

"She is an example of perseverance, of a long-lasting athlete," Medvedeva said. "I have trouble imagining how someone can stay in that shape for a very long time. When you see people like Carolina, you understand that if she can do something, then that something is possible. If you love

what you do, you put all of yourself into it, like Carolina Kostner."

When asked about retirement, Kostner brought up her cousin, Isolde Kostner, who won three Olympic medals as an Alpine skier before deciding to step away from competition.

"She stopped skiing shortly before the [2006] Olympics in Italy," Caroline Kostner said.

"Many did not understand why she wouldn't pull through because it was her home country, and she said, 'You will feel strongly when it is time to stop.' And I haven't felt it yet."

The biggest story at the world championships in an Olympic year tends to be who is missing rather than who shows up. The grind of competing for an entire season builds toward the qua-

drennial event, and athletes who medal or intend to retire rarely press on to worlds. Then there are the injuries, which accumulate during the year.

Medvedeva and Olympic champion Yuzuru Hanyu are the biggest names to withdraw, both citing long-lingering injuries. Medvedeva has been dealing with a stress fracture in her right foot that she skated through in Pyeongchang, while Hanyu returned from a right ankle injury to become the first skater since Dick Button in 1952 to successfully defend his men's Olympic title.

The Canadian contingent was thinned considerably by retirements. Olympic ice dance champions Tessa Virtue and Scott Moir, the most decorated Olympic figure skaters ever, joined Patrick Chan and the pairs team of Meagan Duhamel and Eric Radford in declining invitations. Olympic bronze medalist Kaetlyn Osmond will lead their squad.

After a disappointing showing in Pyeongchang, the American squad will be led by Nathan Chen, who rallied from a calamitous short program to win the free skate and finish fifth. Pairs team Alexa Scimica-Knierim and Chris Knierim could be competing at their final worlds, while Olympic teammates Karen Chen and ice dance bronze medalists Maia and Alex Shibutani decided to withdraw. **AP**

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FOOTBALL

Brazil coach Tite looks for rhythm in last friendlies

Mauricio Savarese, Sao Paulo

GOING into his first World Cup as Brazil coach, Tite is looking for some rhythm.

It's the one thing, surprisingly, he thinks his team is short of. So Tite will use the upcoming friendlies against World Cup host

Russia and defending champion Germany to find a proper No. 10, someone who can play at the heart of the midfield and keep his orchestra in sync.

"To use a samba concept, I need a rhythm-maker," Tite said recently. "Even if that player is not in his top form he will be brought in because the team

needs that."

Beijing Guoan's Renato Augusto has been Tite's first-choice No. 10 so far but hasn't inspired much confidence that he can lead a team that is among the favorites to win the tournament for a sixth time.

With Neymar out injured, there's even more room for experi-

ment, and players like Willian, Philippe Coutinho and Fernandinho could be tested in more than one position.

CENTRAL MIDFIELD - Tite has relied heavily on Augusto, viewing the midfielder as his voice and eyes on the pitch. But the player has had such an easy time in the Chinese league that he has a separate fitness program to stay ready for Brazil games. And his recent sub-par performances have forced Tite to think of alternatives.

The most obvious change would be to push Coutinho back to Augusto's position, which would also open space for Willian in the starting lineup. Besiktas' Anderson Talisca and Juventus' Douglas Costa could also be options to Willian. There is also a more defensive alternative with Fernandinho replacing Augusto, which could be useful once Brazil has the lead.

If neither of those options prove effective enough, Tite might decide to bring in some players he has overlooked recently, such as Giuliano (Fenerbahce), Lucas Lima (Palmeiras), Diego (Flamengo) or Rodriguinho (Corinthians).

STRIKER - Gabriel Jesus' recent injury with Manchester City and Roberto Firmino's top form for Liverpool have thrown the striker position wide open

for Brazil. Whichever of the two performs better during these two friendlies could have the upper hand going into the World Cup.

Jesus only recently returned from a near two-month injury layoff but had a good first half to the season and is widely seen as Brazil's future No. 9. But Firmino's current form has some wondering whether the Liverpool player could still represent the present.

The 26-year-old Firmino is having his best season with Liverpool and has become one of the main leaders of the team after the recent departure of Coutinho to Barcelona.

Tite seems inclined to keep Jesus for now, but could try playing both strikers at the same time because of Neymar's absence.

BACKUP DEFENDERS - Dani Alves and Marcelo will start as Brazil's full-backs as long as they remain fit, but it remains unclear who their backups will be.

Corinthians' Fagner will once again be tested as a replacement for Alves on the right, while Juventus' Alex Sandro will play on the left in the two friendlies. Sandro's chances of making it to the World Cup are significantly higher after Atletico Madrid's Filipe Luis picked up an injury, although Monaco's Jorge is also fighting for that spot. **AP**

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MACAO GOVERNMENT TOURISM OFFICE

NOTICE

The Macao Government Tourism Office hereby announces an invitation to tender for the **Production of Promotional Videos and TV Commercial for "Macao designated as UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy"**, in accordance with the approval of the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture dated 12th March, 2018.

From the date of publication of the present notice, interested parties may visit the Macao Government Tourism Office Reception Counter, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macao, to view the Tender Process within normal working hours, and pay MOP 200.00 (two hundred patacas) to obtain the copies, including Terms of Tender, General Conditions of the Bid and other relevant enclosures; or visit the Macao Tourism Industry Net website – <http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo> to download.

Criteria for evaluation and percentage:

Price	: 15%
Creative concept and storyboard	: 45%
Tenderer experience and CV Portfolio	: 5%
Team experience and CV Portfolio	: 25%
Production Value	: 10%

The maximum price limit for the service is **MOP 2,000,000.00 (two million patacas)**.

For any further enquiries, please visit the Macao Tourism Industry Net website (<http://industry.macaotourism.gov.mo>) to submit enquiries before 2nd April, 2018, all replies will be posted on the same website.

Tenderer must submit the tender within normal working hours by **13:00 on 23rd April, 2018**, to Macao Government Tourism Office, located in Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 12th floor, Macao, the tenders should be written in one of the official languages of Macao SAR or in English.

The provisional guarantee fee of MOP40,000.00 (forty thousand patacas), to be paid by 1) Cash, cashier order or cheque deposit directly to Macao Government Tourism Office, cashier order or cheque should be made payable to "Fundo de Turismo" as the payee; or 2) Cash deposit to the account of "Fundo de Turismo", account no. 8003911119 of Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau and with designation of the reason for the deposit; or 3) Bank guarantee; or 4) Wired Transfer to the account of "Fundo de Turismo" in Banco Nacional Ultramarino of Macau.

The tender opening session will be held in the Auditorium of the Macao Government Tourism Office, located at Alameda Dr. Carlos d'Assumpção, no. 335-341, "Hotline" Building, 14th floor in Macao, at **10:00, on 24th April, 2018**.

According to the article no. 27 of Decree-Law no. 63/85/M, of 6th July, the tenderer or the legal representatives of the tenderer should be present during the tender opening session for any complaints and/or to explain any doubts regarding their respective tender.

The legal representative of the tenderer may appoint, by a notary certified power of attorney, an authorized representative to attend the public action of the Opening of the Tenders on their behalf.

In case of closure of the services of Macao Government Tourism Office due to typhoon or force majeure, the deadline for submission, the opening of tender will be postponed until the first working day that follows immediately.

Macao Government Tourism Office, 21st March, 2018.

Director
Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes

opinion

Made in Macao
Jenny Lao-Phillips



THE EVERYWHERE
GROUNDSKEEPER GOD

Last Sunday, Macao was filled with noises and people on the streets. Of course, we are used to having our streets filled on weekends, but this Sunday it was not just tourists and Catholics going to churches who were out on the street. There was a charity walk of some kind around Sai Van, and more importantly (or noisily) there were sounds of drums and gongs from trucks with lion dancers driving around town. There must have been some special occasion. A stroll around town reminded me that it was the second day of the second month of the lunar year, the birthday of the land god, also known as the groundskeeper or the god of luck and virtue.

The big celebration of the groundskeeper god's birthday is not merely a religious festival. It has been a long practiced annual tradition in this city, and has lately been listed as an example of intangible cultural heritage of Macao. The day-long celebration includes performances such as lion dances and Chinese opera ending with a huge dinner held on the streets around the two large temples for the groundskeeper god, one at Bairro Horta da Mitra and the other at Largo Pagode do Patane.

It is also a day of sharing. For the whole day, everyone from the neighborhood hangs out around the temple, mingling or preparing for the day in the morning, enjoying the performances together and sharing dinner on the streets. More than just enjoying the day together, I presume the costly celebration is also a joint contribution from the neighborhood. This is shown from the boards outside the temple with long lists of names and amount of money donated by each person, from hundreds to thousands.

Although not a public holiday like the Buddha's birthday, the groundskeeper god is perhaps worshipped by more people in Macao. Aside from the two old temples dedicated to the god where the celebrations are held, there are another eight to ten smaller temples around town which are always filled with incense, demonstrating the high traffic of worship there.

The worship of the land god is not only in the temples. Almost all shops have an altar for the groundskeeper god. We can see them everywhere — the small red plates, usually with some Chinese inscription placed on the ground outside the shops, with an incense holder and sometimes also two small glasses and a plate of fruits in front, representing the altars for the land god. Some people also have an altar for the groundskeeper outside their apartment too. Conversations with a few local shop owners showed that many of them are not Taoist, but they still keep an altar outside their shops as a tradition for luck and prosperity.

But what does the groundskeeper god have to do with prosperity? Out of curiosity, I read different stories about the god, and the most widely circulated story tells that he was a chief finance official named Zhang, serving the emperor in the Zhou dynasty. Being a just and virtuous civil servant, people loved him, and he brought peace and prosperity to the country.

After he passed away, he was succeeded by a greedy, corrupt, evil miser who caused a lot of suffering to his people, and many went from prosperity to poverty. One day, a victim of poverty used four large rocks as walls to build a small temple to pray to Zhang, and legend has it that his prayers were heard and he started to prosper. Soon, everyone started praying to Zhang, who then became the groundskeeper god. So, while he is known as a land god, he has also been known to bring luck and prosperity to his worshippers.

THE BUZZ IS SUICIDE BOMBER KILLS 31 AS AFGHANS CELEBRATE NEW YEAR

An Islamic State suicide bomber struck on the road to a Shiite shrine in Kabul yesterday, killing at least 31 people as Afghans celebrated the Persian new year.

The Public Health Ministry said another 52 people were wounded in the attack, which was carried out by a bomber on foot.

The Islamic State group claimed the attack in an online statement, according to the SITE Intelligen-

ce Group, which monitors jihadi websites. IS said the attack targeted "a gathering of Shiites celebrating Nauruz."

The Persian new year, known in Afghanistan as Nauruz, is a national holiday, and the country's minority Shiites typically celebrate by visiting shrines.

The Sunni extremists of IS have repeatedly targeted Shiites, who they view as apostates deserving of death.

Steve Wynn files to sell shares in former company

STEVE Wynn plans to sell up to his entire USD2.2 billion stake in the casino company he founded, a week after settling an acrimonious court fight with his ex-wife that freed each of them to do as they wish with their share of the family fortune.

Wynn plans to sell all or part of his 12 percent holding in Wynn Resorts Ltd., according to a regulatory filing yesterday. The 76-year old mogul "will seek to conduct such sales in an orderly fashion and in cooperation with the company," it said. "No assurance can be provided that Mr. Wynn will elect to sell common stock."

The founder's sale, should it move forward, along with the unwinding of the shareholder agreement that prevented Elaine Wynn from lowering her 9.3 percent stake, potentially makes Las Vegas-based Wynn Resorts vulnerable to a takeover. Casino regulators in Nevada, Macau and Massachusetts are still investigating the company's handling of harassment claims against Steve Wynn that were raised in the couple's bitter six-



The founder's sale, should it move forward, potentially makes the company vulnerable to a takeover

year court battle -- probes that could result in him being found unfit to be the largest shareholder in a casino company.

Wynn Resorts dropped as much as 2.3 percent in early trading before U.S. markets opened. The stock, which closed at \$184.19 on Tuesday, is

up 9.3 percent this year.

Elaine Wynn said this week that she may seek talks with company management over a variety of matters, including strategy, business, management, capital structure and allocation, corporate governance, and board composition. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	70-100 Bad	
High Density Residential Area	50-70 Moderate	
Ambient	65-95 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



NIGERIA Boko Haram extremists returned almost all of the 110 girls abducted from their Nigeria boarding school a month ago with an ominous warning. "We did it out of pity. And don't ever put your daughters in school again," the extremists said.



GERMANY Chancellor Angela Merkel acknowledged that the migrant influx of 2015 led to deep divisions in Germany and renewed a promise yesterday that it won't be repeated as she embarked on her fourth term.



BRAZIL's health minister says the country is expanding its campaign to vaccinate people against yellow fever to cover the entire country.

PERU The revelation of secretly shot videos allegedly showing attempts to buy a lawmaker's political support has roiled Peru's political establishment two days before a scheduled impeachment vote against President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski.



US-RUSSIA US President Donald Trump was warned in briefing materials to refrain from congratulating Russian President Vladimir Putin on his re-election, but he did so anyway, a senior administration official said yesterday. **More on p15**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Jeronimo Nisa/The Decatur Daily via AP



Rusty the dog walks among debris in northern Limestone County, near Ardmore, Ala., after a violent storm went swept through the area the night before.