



FAMILY BUSINESS

A MOP1.15m contract to study the arrangement of traffic lights was awarded to a company owned by Chui Sai Peng

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CANIDROME LAND USAGE UNDER DEBATE

P7 AL PLENARY



CHANCES OF CHANGING CONSTITUTION CLOUDED

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his apology yesterday for a cronyism scandal

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“THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’”

WORLD BRIEFS



VIETNAM State media is reporting that fire alarms weren't heard in a large condominium complex in southern Vietnam where a fire killed at least 13 people. It said police rescued more than 100 residents while more than 1,000 escaped on their own.

MYANMAR's parliament has begun the process of selecting a replacement for President Htin Kyaw, who retired this week with ill health, by filling the empty seat of one of the country's three vice presidents.

CHINA Two Chinese sailors have been rescued more than 50 hours after their sand dredger capsized off Malaysia's southern coast, a maritime official said.



AUSTRALIA Volunteers in western Australia have managed to rescue only five of 150 short-finned pilot whales that became stranded on a beach.

PAKISTAN A court has acquitted twenty people suspected of involvement in the lynching and burning alive of a Christian couple accused of blasphemy in 2014.

AFGHANISTAN A car bombing outside a sports stadium in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province killed 13 people and wounded 40 others, an official said. [More on p13](#)

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AFTER DEAL FOR WYNN SHARES

Nevada regulator to examine Galaxy.

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China warns against trade war, wants globalization 'beneficial for all'

P11,14,20 OPINION

Chui Sai On visits Tsinghua University

An integrated command system developed by Tsinghua University for the management of public emergencies will help advance Macau's overall emergency capability, according to Chief Executive, Chui Sai On. Chui made the comments last week in Beijing during a meeting with the Chairperson of the University Council of Tsinghua University, Chen Xu, and with representatives from the University's Institute for Public Safety Research. Chui added that he hoped the visit to Tsinghua University would help foster cooperation between the command system development team and Macau's public departments responsible for emergency management, so as to enhance the process of the system's launch.

48-hour automatic weather broadcast under test

The Macau Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) is adding a new function, an automatic weather forecast, to its official website. The 48-hour Automatic Weather Forecast feature, which is still a system under testing, is present on the SMG's official website. The forecast system provides hourly forecasts of temperature and relative humidity at the station in Taipa Grande for the forthcoming 48 hours. It will be updated once every three hours. The forecast system refers to several global numerical weather predictions.

Artworks depict relationship with Chinese zodiac

Lynzy Valles

PORTUGUESE artist Raquel Gralheiro is set to exhibit her artworks created for a local audience, symbolizing the Chinese zodiac and its relationship with humanity.

The exhibition "My Chinese Zodiac", which opens today, features a total of 12 acrylics on canvas and 12 mixed media boxes of the 12 Chinese zodiac, along with an artwork that features all the zodiac signs on one painting.

To the Chinese community, the zodiac is culturally significant, as it is believed to determine an individual's different personality traits, as represented by each animal.

Speaking to the Times, the Portuguese artist shared that the invitation to exhibit her works was the result of collaboration with Albergue SCM president Carlos Marreiros.

It took a total of 14 months to work on the upcoming exhibition, which is filled with an ambience of Ancient Chinese style and modern art.

"It was always my dream to go to Portuguese-speaking countries and cities. Since



Raquel Gralheiro

I was young, I have always wanted to go to Macau," said Gralheiro.

"Macau is close to my heart so I really had to find a way to showcase my artworks in Macau," she said.

The artist has exhibited her works in Portuguese-speaking countries including Brazil, Spain, Mozambique and Cape Verde.

The artists' paintings – mostly acrylic on canvas – depict the relationship between humans and animals; an interest that started some five years ago.

The artist expressed the similarities between the colors

and shapes she used in the works with Macau's common paintings and vibe.

"My paintings are an expression of myself. It was really a surprise that my works, and the vibe that Macau has, have so many similarities [...] because my works are also so oriental," she explained.

In her works, the artists also integrated the activities conducted in Macau such as gambling, portraying them in the use of golden foils to represent casino chips.

Gralheiro hoped that Macau could serve as a platform for her to also introduce her works to mainland cities in-

cluding Shenzhen and Shanghai.

Questioned on the process involved in creating her paintings, the artist expressed that she has developed an interest in Chinese culture, its numerology and zodiac signs, and the significance of these zodiac signs to Chinese people.

Meanwhile, Gralheiro expressed wishes that there could be more platforms for female artists to showcase their artworks in different galleries across the globe.

She has noticed that in most exhibitions she has gone to, only a few pieces by female artists are exhibited.

"In contemporary art, there are a lot of good women artists but they have no space to show their artworks because the world is ruled by men," she argued.

"I like going to art fairs and galleries in different cities but I [have] noticed that most artists there were men and [there were only a few] women artists," the artist added.

The exhibition "My Chinese Zodiac" will run until May 13 at the A2 Gallery of Albergue SCM.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

DHLPP VACCINE FOR DOGS

THE DHLPP vaccine for dogs is not a compulsory vaccine, but may help your dog and prevent various diseases that commonly affect canines. DHLPP are initials that stand for various canine diseases that may be potentially fatal such as the distemper, the hepatitis, leptospirosis, the parvovirus or the parainfluenza. The first DHLPP vaccine can be administered when the dog is 6 weeks old and several boosters will be given periodically during the following months. Yearly boosters are also needed for the DHLPP vaccine.

10THE CANINE DISTEMPER

The DHLPP vaccine prevents canine distemper, which is an infection caused by viruses. The infection can attack the intestinal tract, the respiratory tract and the central nervous system of the pet. The canine distemper is highly contagious and can be caught through the contact with bodily fluids such as nasal secretions. The virus may also be airborne and contracted in this way; dogs in kennels and animal shelters are more likely to catch the infection. Canine Hepatitis

The canine hepatitis is an infectious disease caused by the adenovirus type 1. The virus can be transmitted through bodily fluids. The disease can be fatal and may manifest through

the hepatitis blue eye, which is the formation of a cloudy-bluish pellicle on the surface of the dog's eye. Vaccination can prevent the contraction of the disease.

LEPTOSPIROSIS

Leptospirosis is a condition that may affect canines and humans alike. There are several types of leptospirosis and the DHLPP vaccine will prevent the occurrence of canicola and icterohaemorrhagiae. Other types of leptospirosis may be potentially dangerous for the dog, even if he receives the DHLPP vaccine. The infection manifests through elevated fever, chronic vomiting, diarrhea and dehydration. Some canines may be allergic to the DHLPP due to the leptospirosis antibodies.

DOG PARVOVIRUS

The parvovirus causes a condition that affects the gastrointestinal tract and will affect most often puppies. The virus may be deadly, especially in immunocompromised pets or puppies that don't have a fully developed immune system. The presence of the virus will cause diarrhea, vomiting and weight loss. The parvo can be transmitted through feces or direct contact with a contaminated area.



THE PARAINFLUENZA

Parainfluenza is not a deadly disease, but it may cause a lot of discomfort and is a contagious condition. Parainfluenza manifests through dry coughing and breathing problems. The condition will go away without treatment. However, it's best if vaccines are administered to protect the dog.

DHLPP ADMINISTRATION

The first DHLPP vaccine will be administered when the puppy is six weeks old or later, if the puppy has missed his vaccinations. Booster shots will be administered in the following months. After the first year of vaccines, the dog will only require a yearly booster shot, which will be helpful in preventing the above men-

tioned diseases in your pet. Some vets recommend administering boosters only once every three years.

The DHLPP vaccine is not 100 percent effective, but will protect most dogs that receive the recommended shots.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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Nevada regulator to examine Galaxy

THE Nevada Gaming Control Board will look into Galaxy Entertainment Group after the Hong Kong-based casino company's purchase of a stake in Wynn Resorts Ltd.

"As is its ordinary course, the Nevada Gaming Control Board engages in a due diligence process for any shareholder approaching a reporting requirement," Becky Harris, the board's chairwoman, said Friday in an emailed statement.

Individuals owning more than 10 percent of a casino must meet suitability requirements in the state, while a 5 percent stake triggers reporting rules for the board. Galaxy's 4.9 percent share falls short, but the state's chief casino agency has discretion over whether to examine investors with less.

In a surprise move, Wynn Resorts announced last week that Galaxy, which operates three re-

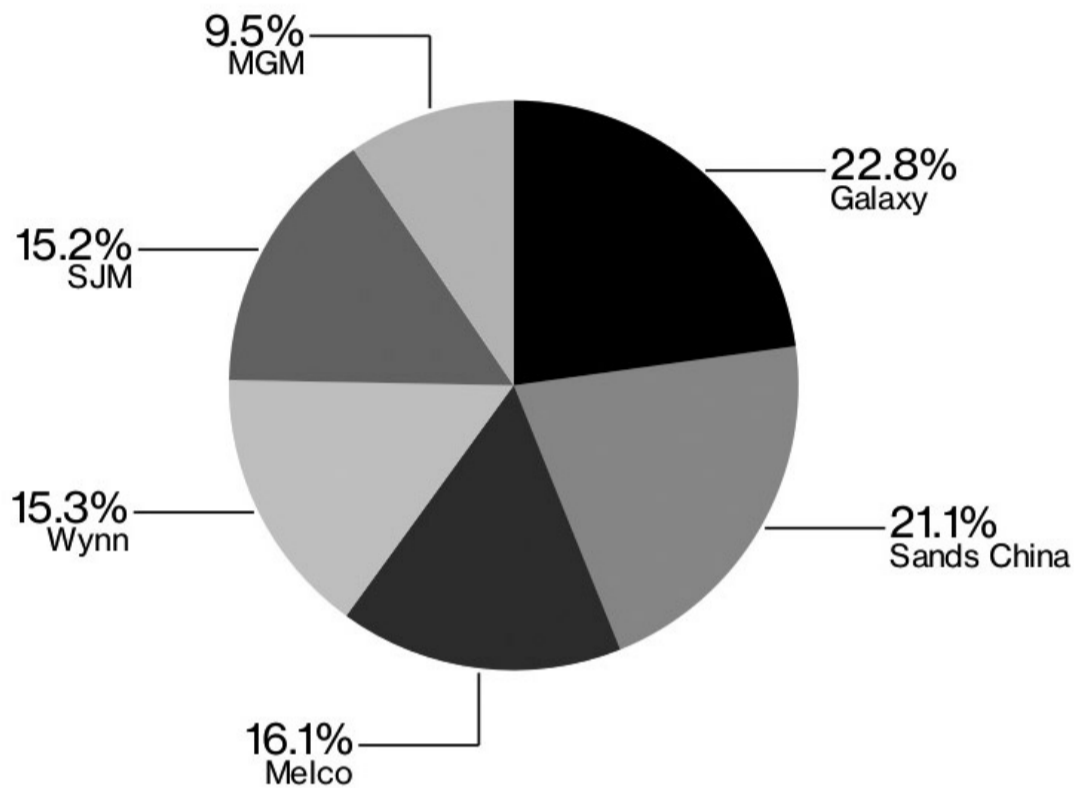
■ The state's chief casino agency has discretion over whether to examine investors

sorts in Macau, had acquired 5.3 million shares of the Las Vegas-based company for USD927.5 million.

The move marks the latest twist in the Wynn Resorts saga. Founder Steve Wynn stepped down last month over allegations that he sexually harassed employees for decades. Regulators in Nevada, Macau and Massachusetts launched investigations into the company, which remain active. On Thursday, Wynn Resorts announced that Wynn had sold all of his shares in the business. **MDT/Bloomberg**

The Macau Mix

2018 market share estimates for Macau show Galaxy is still leading



Source: Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd.

Bloomberg

Galaxy's foray into Wynn Resorts puts buyout option on the table

GALAXY Entertainment Group's USD927.5 million purchase of a 4.9 percent stake in rival casino operator Wynn Resorts is an unprecedented move that, according to Bloomberg analysts, "could shake up the global gambling industry at a pivotal time."

Wynn Resorts sold 5.3 million newly issued shares of common stock to Galaxy on Thursday last week. The shares were sold at close to the market price of \$175 each, for a total of about \$927.5 million.

Separately, T.Rowe Price and Capital Research and Management Co., two long-term institutional investors, agreed to purchase the remaining 8 million shares held by founder and former Wynn Resorts CEO Steve Wynn, who quit last month amid allegations of sexual misconduct.

Though there are no immediate signs of a buyout, the sale of new shares to Galaxy, controlled by Hong Kong billionaire Lui Che-Woo, positions the company as a potential suitor should Wynn Resorts go up for sale.

The investment comes at a time when analysts are speculating that Beijing is seeking to reduce foreign interests in the gaming industry in Macau, the only place in China where casino gambling is legal. Some analysts have also noted that if Wynn Resorts were to sell a larger share of the company to a Chinese investor or consortium of investors, the Las Vegas-based operator could earn favor with Beijing.

"The risk of potentially not regaining the Macau gaming concession specifically due to allegations against Steve Wynn are too great not to be immediately dealt with," said David Bonnet, partner at Delta State Holdings Ltd. "With Galaxy now as a major shareholder, it reduces the potential uncomfortable questions that any gaming regulators, specifically Macau regulators, will have in the upcoming license rebidding."

Macau-based gaming analyst Grant Govertsen agreed. He told public broadcaster TDM that although the casino lands-

cape would not change in the near term, the purchase positions scandal-hit Wynn more favorably with Chinese regulators ahead of the concession expiry.

"If Galaxy were to acquire [a majority share in] Wynn – and they haven't done that yet, they've just made an investment in Wynn – it would suggest that licensing [for Wynn ...] is more likely to happen than not, now that a Chinese company has an ownership stake."

Looking further ahead, however, Govertsen acknowledged that if Galaxy were to seek a majority share, it would put the casino operator head and shoulders above its competitors in terms of market share.

As Galaxy is already "neck-in-neck" with Sands in terms of market share, Govertsen said, "If they end up acquiring Wynn, they will definitively be the largest market share by a wide margin in Macau, and control so much of the high-end market."

"Over the longer run, Galaxy may be a potential acquirer of Wynn Macau,

and the initial purchase gives Galaxy a first bite at the company," added a Sanford C. Bernstein & Co. note by Vitaly Umansky.

While Umansky said Galaxy may not want to buy all of Wynn Resorts, "a Galaxy acquisition of Wynn Macau assets would create the leading Macau gaming company."

Galaxy needs about \$8.7 billion to acquire majority control of Wynn Resorts, according to Bloomberg Intelligence. But the acquisition would likely be illegal. According to Macau law 16/2001, shareholders who own at least 5 percent of one concessionaire are not permitted to, directly or indirectly, own 5 percent or more of another casino operator.

The Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau said in a statement that it had been informed of the purchase before it was made public and has yet to note any immediate fallout. The bureau added that it would continue to monitor the situation.

Among those who have expressed concern over

the deal's ramifications is lawmaker and gaming scholar Davis Fong, who urged Macau to remember the 2001 gaming liberalization that broke Stanley Ho's monopoly.

"We don't want any gaming enterprises teaming up to boost their bargaining power and monopolize the gaming market," he warned, according to a TDM report. "We can't forget that our original goal was to break the monopoly and have different operators competing against each other."

Galaxy's investment in Wynn follows its expansion plans beyond Macau. It received a casino license with a local partner in the Philippines this month to build a \$500 million resort, and is also looking at a potential opportunity to enter the Japanese market now that the country has legalized casino gambling.

The investment in Wynn Resorts will give Galaxy more exposure to Macau's VIP gaming segment and also put the company on a global stage through its connection to the U.S.-based gaming giant, said Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Margaret Huang.

The fast-moving developments at Wynn Resorts were sparked by Steve Wynn's departure. Howe-

ver, while the Las Vegas-based company is under investigation by casino regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts, its Macau unit – along with other operators in Macau – is also facing uncertainties as the territory plans to lay out rebidding details of casino concession licenses that will start to expire from 2020.

Wynn Resorts plans to use the proceeds from the Galaxy sale to repay the \$800 million loan it took out to settle a longstanding feud with Universal Entertainment Corp., one of its original investors.

Steve Wynn sold his remaining shares for \$175 each, or \$1.4 billion. The transaction followed the earlier sale of 4.1 million shares, also announced Thursday.

Since stepping down, Steve Wynn has settled a six-year fight with his ex-wife Elaine Wynn, giving her the right to vote and sell her stake in the company, which amounts to approximately 9 percent. The company also settled its battle with Universal, agreeing to consult with that company's casino in the Philippines. Under new CEO Matt Maddox, several long-serving members of Wynn Resorts' board have also left the company. **DB/Bloomberg**

CE's cousin awarded contract to study traffic lights

THE government awarded a MOP1.15 million contract to study the arrangement of traffic lights to a company owned by the chief executive's cousin, online media Macau Concealers revealed on the weekend.

The two-day project was commissioned to study the flow of traffic in order to optimize traffic light arrangement at congested junctions. Cameras were set up around town last month to collect the traffic data that would later be analyzed.

Macau Concealers reported that the cameras were not marked with the logo of any government bureau. Instead, they belonged to the company, City Planning and Engineering Consultants, which is owned by Chui Sai On's cousin, lawmaker Chui Sai Peng.

At least 40 government projects have been outsourced to the company since 2003. Last year it was awarded seven projects



Chui Sai Peng

worth an estimated MOP23 million.

In 2016, the chief executive was accused by activists of harboring a conflict of interest over a controversial RMB100 million donation

from the Macau Foundation to the mainland's Jinan University.

The controversy centered on Chui Sai On's double role as the president of the Council of Trustees of the

Macau Foundation and his time serving as Vice Chairman of Jinan University Council. The Commission Against Corruption quickly dismissed allegations of a conflict of interest.

National Anthem Law review to take place in 'April or May'

AS part of preparations for a review of the Law regulating the use and protection of the national flag, symbols and anthem, the government has made progress on a draft that is expected to be ready for approval in "April or May" this year.

The information came from the Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, as cited by the Government Information Bureau.

Chan discussed the topic with the media on the sidelines of an event celebrating the 25th anniversary of the Basic Law Enactment and the fifth anniversary of the Inauguration of the Macau Basic Law Commemorative Gallery, which was also opening a new exhibition to the public.

Questioned on the topic, the Secretary noted that the review focuses mainly on occasions where the national anthem is played and sung, as well as at all events involving the hoisting of the flag. "There are no big change[s] in what concerns to the increase of penalties," she said.

According to information from Chan, the government has already drafted a version that is currently being analyzed and is undergoing internal legislative procedures.

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Single Car park available for rent in Manhattan.



Taipa Village ShopHouse, Taipa

(Ref: 16100620)
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Cheoc Van House, Coloane

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

FOR SALE



Bauhinia Court, Helene Gardens

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

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



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

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Authors' debate challenges and advantages of 'writing Macau'

Renato Marques

WRITING Macau," a talk featuring three authors that have depicted Macau or related topics in their works, be they a newspaper column, a romance or poem, was held last week.

Jenny Lao-Phillips, Marco Lobo and Rui Rocha were the three guests of a panel included in the Macau Literary Festival, Script Road, which addressed questions regarding Macau's identity and the differences that arise in the authors' relationships with the territory.

Commenting on the challenges and advantages involved with writing about Macau, Lao-Phillips said, "I like the fact that people are very close and I always say to my friends [that] Macau is a very good place to find stories. [...] Macau is a very good place to start writing."

Lao-Phillips mentioned her column "Made in Macao," published every fortnight by Macau Daily Times, where she addresses aspects of local culture as well as traditions and tales that pass verbally from one generation to another.

She noted that in most of the



Jenny Lao-Phillips (left), Marco Lobo, Rui Rocha and Tereza Sena

stories she addresses, she's "not really sure if they are true or not, and sometimes there are different versions to explain a same event." This convergence or divergence of facts and/or interpretations stems from part of the "beauty" of doing work that comes "directly from [the] Macau people."

Beside her column, Lao-Phillips – Macau-born Chinese with Spanish roots – has also published a book of poetry as well as another work about "The Legend of The Chinese Zodiac."

Fellow guest Marco Lobo co-

mes from a background comprising Macau, Hong Kong, East Timor and Portugal, among others. He noted that one of the biggest challenges for him, as a writer of historical fiction, "[is trying] to create some logic on the story and on the characters. Sometimes when we confront the historical archives, they don't make much sense."

He noted that most of the time there are historical gaps and missing information, and that on other occasions, stories are told in a very "exaggerated" way.

"We need to research well and

put some dose of reality into that," he said, noting that characters need to operate with

profound logic, lest readers find the story ridiculous and lose interest.

Another project he is considering is a novelization of the history of the Lobo family, an influential family in Macau and Hong Kong with a significant legacy and enduring presence in local business. However, he added, "it won't be easy, you know. Families have many secrets and independently of what you write, there is also someone that gets annoyed with that."

Rui Rocha, born in Portugal with a Macanese mother, has a long-standing relationship with Macau, which has grown over the decades since he moved to Macau and started work.

By his own admission, one "needs time to understand" Macau, as the reality is not obvious at first glance. Relations need to be studied and built with time and constant observation is required, a method that he said he used to understand Macau better.

UNCERTAINTY OVER FESTIVAL'S FUTURE

THE SEVENTH edition Macau Literary Festival ended yesterday amidst doubts over the continuation of the event. This year's event was marred by the controversial last minute cancellation of the presence of three authors, among them Jung Chang, author of a Mao biography. Festival director Ricardo Pinto told TDM yesterday that next year the

festival could go ahead in a smaller version and only with private sponsors. Another possibility is not to do it at all and there is also the possibility of keeping the government sponsorship. "That support would be welcome if certain rules, related with autonomy and the possibility of making the next edition without these incidents, occur" Pinto said.

AD

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Tourist arrivals exceed 3 million in February

MACAU'S visitor arrivals exceeded 3 million this February, the highest figure since August 2014, predominantly due to the Chinese Lunar New Year holidays, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) said on Friday.

DSEC's latest data indicated that visitor arrivals reached 3,070,937 in February, up by 12 percent month-to-month and up by 23.1 percent year-on-year.

Overnight visitors (1,396,068) and same-day visitors (1,674,869) went up by 13.3 percent and 32.6 percent respectively year-on-year. The average length of stay of overnight visitors held stable year-on-year at 2.2 days, while that of same-day visitors rose by 0.1 days to 0.3 days.

Visitors from the Chinese mainland surged to 2,286,989 in February, up by 37.3 percent year-on-year. Of this number,



those travelling under the Individual Visit Scheme soared by 57.9 percent to 1,403,954, setting a new single-month record since the implementation of the scheme in July 2003.

Visitors from the Chinese mainland came primarily from Guangdong, Zhejiang and Shanghai. Visitors from Hong Kong (501,753)

inched up by 0.1 percent year-on-year, while those from Taiwan (79,670) dropped by 8.4 percent.

Visitors from South Korea (71,633) dropped by 13.4 percent. Meanwhile, visitors from the United States, Canada and Britain registered increases, whereas those from Australia decreased.

AL PLENARY

Plan for Canidrome land expected to be complete in Q2

Julie Zhu

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) announced last Friday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) plenary meeting that it expects to complete planning for the Canidrome land in the second quarter of 2018.

Several lawmakers, including Song Pek Kei, Ip Sio Kai, and Lam Lon Wai, suggested possible developments for the 40,000-square meter plot.

The Canidrome is expected to cease operations at its current premises no later than mid-July.

Song said that four schools should be built on the plot and asked about the stage of planning.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, admitted he does not have a "specific and mature" reply regarding the plans for the Canidrome land.

Li Canfeng, DSSOPT director, noted that a relevant research study on plans for the land was commissioned last April and is expected to be ready in the second quarter.

According to the DSSOPT director, the plot is intended for



public use and social purposes. The government has collected opinions from several sectors, including the education and sport industries.

"Hardware for preventing and reducing disasters [...] is one of the directions of the research,"

said Li, explaining that in the aftermath of typhoon Hato, there have been a number of suggestions for an underground reservoir to be built there.

Li claimed that the government will consider providing more spaces for educational purposes, and pledged that the current sports facilities at the Canidrome will be maintained and even expanded. A large-scale car park is also under consideration.

Lawmaker Ip expressed hopes that the government can revitalize the city's northern district and spur economic development to help people's livelihoods.

Leong, a strong proponent of public housing for young people on the Canidrome land, reiterated her stance on Friday.

Au Kam San remarked that "everybody is trying to put something onto it [Canidrome land]" but pointed out that the land is limited, and that arrangements will be complicated if all sectors wish to use it.

Au added that "some gover-

mental department [...] is longing after glory" because it plans to put as many as schools on the land as possible in order to build up their political merit. He said that the government should study how to best make use of the land.

Lawmaker Lam Lon Wai said society can share the resources of any schools built on the land, such as libraries and sports facilities.

He stated that the Canidrome land is free of air pollution, which is good for strengthening the students' physical abilities and avoiding infectious diseases.

Agnes Lam suggested that the government come up with a convincing plan to avoid disagreements with other departments.

In his closing remarks, Raimundo concluded that using the Canidrome land might not curb the increasing population in the northern district. He hinted that the related plan will only become effective after the chief executive approves it.

CCTV surveillance for illegal land occupations

THE Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) is considering installing CCTV surveillance cameras to monitor incidents of illegal occupation of land, DSSOPT director Li Canfeng revealed last Friday during the AL plenary meeting.

Li said that areas are often illegally occupied and that his department has already handled several such cases. He further indicated that government alerts have little effect and that it is not possible to constantly monitor such incidents.

"Sometimes, it is really [impossible] to watch," he said.

Li revealed that the DSSOPT is conducting studies on the installation of CCTV cameras and that it is collaborating with other governmental department to combat this issue.

He pointed out that it is not easy to find the parties responsible and that the government needs a long time to address violations appropriately.

According to Li, perpetrators simply move their construction materials elsewhere upon receiving a warning. Police reports will not solve the problem indefinitely, he added.

Several lawmakers, including Au Kam San, voiced their opinions on the topic, pointing out that the government should step up penalties for such violations.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosario, said that the government has "tried its best" to handle cases of illegal land occupation. However, due to the large number of cases, the government is pressed for time.

The Secretary also emphasized that the true culprits are not the government, and that those who illegally occupy the lands are aware that the property is state-owned.

Raimundo added that the government has always been able to successfully retake lands when societal development has called for it.

Association calls for playground for all children

Chau Wai I, vice president of the Woman's General Association of Macau, has proposed that the government include additional features within children's playgrounds across the city to allow children of different physical conditions to play together. Chau pointed out that the children's right to entertainment should not be restricted by their physical impediments. She also noted that the integration concept remains excluded from the design of recreational facilities across town, for instance the lack of slopes and facilities for handicapped children or children with visual or hearing impairments.

Most primary school classes have fewer than 35 students

More than 95 percent of Macau's kindergarten and primary school classes consist of between 25 and 35 students, according to the latest report of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ). The report covers a total of 120 classes, from local kindergartens and primary schools. All these classes are defined as small classes, DSEJ said. Wong Kin Mou, head of the department of research and education resources, revealed that kindergartens that are part of the government's free education network have an average of 29.2 students per class. Regarding primary and middle schools, the corresponding figures are 29.1 and 26.8, respectively. Classes not included in the government's network can each have a maximum of 42 students.

IC opens applications for Young Musicians Competition

The Cultural Affairs Bureau is calling for applications for the 36th Macau Young Musicians Competition, which aims to encourage young, local musicians to explore their music potential. This edition of the Competition, dedicated to Chinese and Western instruments and to vocal music, features 95 categories with elementary, intermediate and advanced levels. A number of prizes will be offered in each category, and the "grand champion of advanced level in solo category" will be awarded a scholarship, according to the IC. The application period will be open from April 4 to 15. Participants must hold a valid Macau SAR Resident identity card and must have been born on or after 1997 for instrument categories, or 1993 for vocal categories.

MORE ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION LAWS TO BE ESTABLISHED

THE GOVERNMENT will establish new laws and regulations for environmental protection, according to Macau Environmental Protection Bureau director Raymond Tam. Meanwhile, four relevant administrative regulations have already entered legislative procedures. When questioned by law-

maker Agnes Lam, Tam said that the government will try its best to support the recycling industry – including the launch of planned subsidy programs for equipment and vehicles within the industry – thus improving its own competencies while advancing the development of Macau's recycling activity.

Greater Bay debated during EU-Macau Joint Committee Meeting

THE MSAR's role in the Greater Bay Area and the economic recovery in Europe were a few of the topics debated during the 22nd EU-Macau Joint Committee meeting held here on Friday.

The meeting was co-chaired by Lionel Leong, Secretary for Economy and Finance of the MSAR Government, and Gunnar Wiegand, managing director of the European External Action Service for Asia and the Pacific.

A statement issued by the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance said that in regard to policy and regulatory matters, the EU and Macau exchanged views on the developments of their taxation policies.

In particular, the parties took stock of the ongoing monitoring of Macau's commitments to address the EU's concerns regarding



the screening of third-party countries and jurisdictions' taxation policies and practices.

The parties also exchanged views on recent developments in the areas of anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing.

The Macau representatives

also provided an update on the review of the government's procurement regime.

On the topic of tourism, both sides discussed how to boost tourist flows and exchanges, and how to maximize the impact of the Global Tourism Economy Forum (GTEF) scheduled

for October 2018 in Macau, an event at which the European Union will be Official Partner.

The parties also agreed to work together under the EU-China Tourism Year (ECTY) 2018, with Macau committed and well placed to play a major role in this initiative.

12 smoking lounges inside casinos await approval

Two casinos are currently applying to set up smoking lounges inside their gambling rooms, according to a statement recently released by the Health Bureau (SSM).

Up until March 21, only two casinos – the Ponte16 casino and the MGM Grand casino – had applied for smoking lounges. In total, these two applications propose 12 smoking lounges, and are still in progress.

SSM said it has learnt about a number of other casinos preparing to apply for smoking lounges.

The bureau says that it will carry out the approval process strictly and according to the law. Moreover, it emphasized that building a Smoking Free Macau requires a joint effort from all people in Macau. SSM also urges all casino managers to comply with the provisions

of the city's tobacco control law, and further urges them, in case they do come across illegal smokers, to immediately deter them in order to protect the rights of non-smokers who are sharing the same place.

The bureau also called on all residents to participate in the tobacco control act and to report illegal smoking cases.

SSM pledges that it will follow up each report, and will draft inspection enforcement strategies in order to increase opportunities for prosecution.

SSM reaffirms that any smoking lounges without the government's approval are prohibited, and that no-smoking signs must be displayed, otherwise the responsible parties will be fined between MOP20,000 and MOP200,000 if found guilty.

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Uber is said to reach agreement on Southeast Asian sale to Grab

Eric Newcomer, Yoolim Lee

UBER Technologies Inc. has reached an agreement to sell its Southeast Asian ride-hailing business to rival Grab and could announce the deal as early as today morning in Singapore, people familiar with the matter said.

The agreement - which includes all of Uber's operations in Southeast Asia as well as Uber Eats in the region - gives Uber a stake of between 25 percent and 30 percent in the new combined business, the people said, asking not to be identified ahead of an official announcement. The deal, which Bloomberg outlined earlier this month, marks Uber's operational exit from yet another major market and hands a victory to Grab as it battles local competitor Go-Jek.

SoftBank Group Corp., a major backer of Grab's and Uber's as well as China's Didi Chuxing, has pushed consolidation to improve the profitability of a global ride-hailing business that bleeds billions of dollars a year. New entrants and the strength of second-place regional players such as Lyft Inc. in the U.S. has complicated those efforts. Representatives for Grab and Uber declined to comment.

The deal represents another major retreat from international markets for Uber. Travis Kalanick, Uber's former chief



executive officer, sold Uber's business in China in 2016 in return for a 17.5 percent stake in Chinese ride-hailing leader Didi Chuxing. Then Uber agreed to sell its Russian business to Yandex - just before Dara Khosrowshahi took over as chief executive.

Khosrowshahi has been pushing to clean up the company's financials in preparations for an initial public offering next year. Pulling out of markets like Southeast Asia would boost profits at a company that has burned through USD10.7 billion since its founding nine years ago. Khosrowshahi signaled during a trip through Asia last month that he is committed to key markets such as Japan and India.

Grab, which has more than 86 million mobile app downloads, currently offers services in more than 190 cities across Singapore, Indonesia, the Philippines, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar and Cambodia. **Bloomberg**

Hong Kong near to buying local dollars for first time since 2005

THE Hong Kong Monetary Authority is on the verge of mopping up local dollars for the first time since a trading band was introduced in May 2005, as the currency slides toward HKD7.85 per greenback.

The HKMA's move would tighten liquidity and raise rates in the city, ending an era of ultra-cheap money that made Hong Kong the least affordable housing market in the world and sent the stock market to a record high. The Hong Kong dollar has been on a downtrend over the past year as ample liquidity prevented local rates from catching up with those in the U.S., prompting traders to borrow the local currency to buy the dollar.

Under the currency peg, the rates have to eventually converge. That started to happen last year when the HKMA sold additional debt, but the effect was temporary. By shrinking the monetary base, direct purchases of the Hong Kong dollar should exert a much larger upward pressure on rates. That would be a drastic change for Hong Kong, which has never had to defend the weak end of its currency band thanks to strong inflows.

Since the global financial crisis in 2008, about USD130 billion to \$140 billion of funds have entered Hong Kong, with inflows intensifying over the past few months, Paul Chan, Hong Kong's financial secretary, told reporters on March 5. **Bloomberg**

ADVERTORIAL

SANDS CHINA NEWS

Sands China Care Ambassadors Celebrate Easter with YMCA Children and Families

Breakfast with Thomas & The Little Big Club and egg painting activity

Around 40 children and their families from YMCA of Macau enjoyed breakfast with Thomas & The Little Big Club ALL STARS March 17 at Sands Cotai Central, hosted by a group of Sands China Care Ambassadors.

With Easter approaching, Sands China's community event included a festive egg painting activity after the themed character breakfast, with the children wearing chef's hats specially prepared for the occasion. 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 children were able to take home their completed Easter eggs to help celebrate the upcoming holiday with their friends and families and kept their chef's hats as a memento of the experience.

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

"Our members really appreciate invitations like these," said Grace Kuan, secretary general of YMCA of Macau. "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. We're very grateful to the Sands China Care Ambassadors for setting this up and for being there to support and accompany our members."

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

More information about YMCA of Macau is available at www.ymca.org.mo/intro.php. Information about Thomas & The Little Big Club and the Thomas Friendship Breakfast with The Little Big Club ALL STARS is at www.sandscotaicentral.com/thelittlebigclub.html.

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



Children and families from YMCA of Macau enjoy breakfast with Thomas & The Little Big Club ALL STARS March 17 at Sands Cotai Central, hosted by a group of Sands China Care Ambassadors.



Assisted by Sands China Care Ambassadors and Sands Cotai Central's executive pastry chef, children and families from YMCA of Macau paint Easter eggs at Sands Cotai Central March 17.

New central banker pledges to rein in financial risk

Joe McDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S new central bank governor outlined sweeping plans yesterday to rein in rising debt and financial risk, but expressed confidence that Beijing can prevent potential dangers.

High debt levels for Chinese state-owned companies, local governments and households are "still a challenge," Yi Gang said at an economic conference. The appearance marked his first extended public appearance following brief remarks to reporters after his appointment last week.

The ruling Communist Party has declared controlling financial risks a priority following a run-up in debt that prompted global rating agencies last year to cut Beijing's credit rating.

Regulators will "deepen regulatory system reform and enhance its resilience against systemic risk," Yi said. He said that will include steps to "impose more financial discipline" on government-owned companies, develop a better financing system for

local governments and "create a system to prevent risk in the real estate sector."

"We need to lose no time in adopting guidelines on financial regulation" for specialized entities such as asset management and holding companies that have evolved rapidly, said Yi. Still, he said, with Beijing's experience and resources, "China is in a good position to mitigate and prevent risks."

China is in a good position to mitigate and prevent risks.

YI GANG

Yi, who earned a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Illinois, succeeded Zhou Xiaochuan, who became China's most prominent figure in global finance during a record 15-year



Yi Gang

term as central bank governor. Yi is a two-decade veteran of the bank and is well-known to foreign investors and regulators as director of China's foreign exchange regulator.

Zhou warned in October that rising debt could have a "severe impact" on the world's second-largest economy, but told reporters this month during the annual meeting of China's ceremonial legislature that regulators believed they had debt under control.

Total debt in China swelled

to above the equivalent of 270 percent of annual economic output, nearly the level of developed countries, as Beijing relied on infusions of credit to prop up growth following the 2008 crisis. Financial analysts worry that heavy borrowing by local governments and state companies could threaten the stability of the financial system. Previously low debt owed by Chinese households also has begun to rise.

Beijing has begun trying to clear away debt, including by allowing some state companies

to give banks stock. But private sector analysts say regulators are moving too slowly.

In February, regulators seized control of one of China's biggest insurers, Anbang Insurance Group, after its debt load following a multibillion-dollar global spree of asset purchases raised questions about the privately owned company's financial stability.


Authorities said Anbang's founder would be prosecuted but have yet to release details.

Other major companies including Wanda Group, which owns Hollywood studio Legendary Entertainment, and HNA Group face questions about whether they can repay billions of dollars borrowed to finance foreign expansion.

"Currently potential risks in China are still reflected in a number of sectors," said Yi. He cited "persistently high" debt at state companies and said the "surging leverage ratio" among households is a "cause for concern."

Yi also promised more action to promote international use of China's tightly controlled currency, the yuan, though he gave no timeline. He repeated official promises to open the state-dominated financial system and allow foreign ownership of banks, but gave no new details. AP

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A top Chinese official warned yesterday a "trade war" would harm all sides but gave no indication of Beijing's possible next move in a spiraling dispute with President Donald Trump over steel and technology.

Speaking to global business leaders at a development forum, Vice Premier Han Zheng appealed for cooperation to make economic globalization "beneficial for all."

"A trade war serves the interests of none," said Han at the China Development Forum. "It will only lead to serious consequences and negative impact."

Han didn't mention Trump by name or refer directly to the dispute with Washington, but the country's newly appointed economy czar warned Saturday that Beijing will defend its interests. The government issued a USD3 billion list on Friday of U.S. goods including pork and stainless steel pipes it said might be hit by higher tariffs.

The Commerce Ministry said those charges were linked to Trump's approval earlier of higher tariffs on steel and aluminum imports. But a bigger battle is brewing over Trump's approval Thursday of a possible tariff hike on \$30 billion of Chinese goods in response to what Washington says is Beijing's improper acquisition of foreign technology.

Global financial markets have sunk on fears Chinese retaliation might prompt other governments to raise import barriers, depressing global trade.

Han appealed to other governments to "cooperate with each other like passengers in the same boat" and "make economic globalization more open, inclusive, balanced and beneficial for all."

However, he also emphasized that China's income per person still is low, suggesting Beijing is unlikely to offer significant concessions to Washington.

Han repeated promises that planned Chinese market-opening would create new opportunities for foreign companies. Business groups have welcomed reform pledges but complain Bei-

AP PHOTO



Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng

Beijing warns against 'trade war,' appeals for cooperation

jing is moving too slowly, making it unclear whether additional promises will mollify Washington, the European Union and other trading partners.

In a phone call Saturday with U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Vice Premier Liu He said Beijing is "ready and capable of defending its national interest and hopes both sides will remain rational," according to the official Xinhua News Agency.

In a speech to the economic forum, Apple CEO Tim Cook acknowledged tensions in Western societies that fuel demands for import controls and said companies must take action to spread the benefits of globalization more widely.

"Not everyone has benefited like all of us in this room have from technology and globalization, and we all must help to address this disparity," said Cook, a

co-chairman of the event. "Their cause must become our cause."

The annual forum, which brings together corporate leaders with Chinese economic officials, usually is used to showcase Beijing's plans. This year, those include ambitious promises to open financial markets and give

Global financial markets have sunk on fears Chinese retaliation might prompt other governments to raise import barriers

entrepreneurs and foreign companies a bigger role in China's state-dominated economy.

Other business leaders at the event included IBM Corp. Chairwoman Virginia Rometty, CEO Patrick Pouyanne of French oil giant Total SA, Bank of China Ltd. Chairman Chen Siqing and CEO Ulf Mark Schneider of Nestle SA. It also was attended by China's newly appointed central bank governor, Yi Gang, and other Chinese economic leaders.

This year's forum has been overshadowed by the growing rancor between Washington and Beijing over Trump's efforts to redress what he says is an unfair trading relationship. Washington accuses China of flooding global markets with unfairly low-priced steel and other goods and stealing or pressuring foreign companies

to hand over technology.

"The business community has always supported the idea that open market foster new ideas and allow entrepreneurship to thrive," said Cook. "The strongest companies and economies are those that are open — those that thrive on diversity of people and ideas."

At a conference on "the challenge of global inequality" ahead of the economic forum, the CEO of asset manager BlackRock Inc. pointed to the fall in global financial markets and appealed to the two governments to avoid a "public fight."

"Dialogue and maybe some adjustments in trade and trade policy can be in order," said Laurence D. Fink to reporters on Saturday.

"It can be done privately," said Fink. "The world does not need a public fight in which we reduce mutual opportunity." AP

ENVIRONMENT

USD250m jackpot shows Iceland is deepening its China ties

Ragnhildur Sigurdardottir

A tiny north European island known best for icebergs, geysers and volcanoes is helping China fight pollution.

Iceland just signed the biggest deal in its history to provide the world's second-largest economy with the technology it needs to deliver clean,

geothermal heat. The agreement affects up to 15 million people in Xiong'an, a new economic area southwest of Beijing established by President Xi Jinping.

With more than 100 volcanoes, Iceland has become a world leader in geothermal technology. The heat produced from the Earth's core not only

doesn't pollute, but is also cheap. So cheap, in fact, that Iceland can afford to heat sidewalks in its biggest cities.

The China deal - a joint venture between Arctic Green Energy and Sinopec Green Energy that comes with USD250 million in loans from the Asian Development Bank - shows that technology

produced in "small communities can be scaled up in the largest countries in the world," said Olafur Ragnar Grimsson, a former Icelandic president who back in 2002 showed Xi's predecessor the first geothermal power plant ever seen by a Chinese head of state.

Iceland's deal with China comes as European

authorities fret over the decision by the National People's Congress to make Xi a president for life. The European Commission in Brussels is now considering how best to protect its strategic interests from foreign takeovers by state-owned companies.

Arctic Green Energy Chairman Haukur Hardarson says his company's share of the Chinese geothermal market (heatpumps excluded) is about 35 percent. Based on the demand coming from Asia, he says AGE could service about five

times as many people in three-four years as it does now.

Scientists from Iceland and China are also helping each other study climate change. Grimsson says there's "a direct relationship" between extreme weather patterns in China and the melting of the Arctic.

"When I started my presidency, China was a peripheral issue," Grimsson said. "By the time I left office, in 2016, China had moved to center stage in our cooperation and in our global reach." Bloomberg

JAPAN

Scandal clouds Premier's chances of changing constitution



Emi Nobuhiro, Isabel Reynolds

JAPANESE Prime Minister Shinzo Abe reiterated his apology yesterday for a cronyism scandal as opposition lawmakers warned it would hamper his ambitions of changing the country's pacifist constitution.

Public anger over the revelation that Finance Ministry officials doctored documents relating to the discounted sale of public land to a school operator with connections to Abe's wife sent his poll numbers plummeting a week ago. Speaking at his ruling Liberal Democratic Party's annual convention, Abe vowed to ensure such actions would not be allowed to happen again.

"Ultimate responsibility for the administration lies with me," he said, pledging to carry out his "responsibility to rebuild the system." Despite the setback, he told lawmakers the time was right to tackle a proposed change to the constitution and "put an end to the argument" that Japan's Self-Defense Forces are unconstitutional.

While Abe has said he wants cross-party agreement on constitutional revision, which requires a two-thirds majority in both houses of parliament before it can go to a national referendum, his plans met with criticism from potential allies yesterday.

"The Moritomo problem must be calmed down before we can change the constitution," Toranosuke Katayama, joint leader of the opposition Japan Innovation Party, told national broadcaster NHK. Speaking on the same program, Toshio Ogawa, of the separate opposition Democratic Party, said talk of changing the charter looked like "an attempt to change the subject" from the scandal.

Until a few weeks ago, Abe looked certain to sail through the September LDP leadership vote, which would give him a shot at becoming the country's longest-serving prime minister.

A Kyodo poll conducted March 17-18 found former Defense Minister Shigeru Ishiba was the most popular candidate to become party leader in September, with 25.4 percent of respondents picking him. Second was Shinjiro Koizumi, son of a popular former prime minister, with Abe in third place.

Ishiba's criticism of Abe after the convention was muted - he told reporters progress was too slow on changing the constitution, but emphasized the need for party unity when asked whether he planned to run against the premier in September.

"While the public are looking at the government and ruling party with harsh eyes, we must avoid doing things that cause

confusion within the party," Ishiba said. He hinted that he would consider his candidacy once public anger subsided.

Finance Minister Taro Aso, who is Abe's deputy, also is under pressure to resign as he heads the ministry at the heart of the scandal.

Nobuhisa Sagawa, who stepped down as the nation's tax chief earlier this month amid questions over his involvement in the deal, is set to testify in parliament on Tuesday. Any blame he places on Abe or Aso for the controversy could worsen their current predicament. **Bloomberg**



A wounded man is assisted in a hospital after a car bombing outside a sports stadium in Lashkarga

AFGHANISTAN

Car bomb near stadium kills 13, says official

A car bombing outside a sports stadium in Afghanistan's southern Helmand province on Friday killed 13 people and wounded 40 others, an official said.

Aminullah Abed, the chief of the province's public health department, said the casualties were received at a hospital in the province's capital, Lashkar Gah, with six of the wounded in critical condition and many others burnt beyond recognition.

The explosion occurred after Afghan new year celebrations were winding down and revelers were on their way home, he added.

Omar Zwak, spokesman for the provincial governor, said 14 people were killed and 45 others wounded.

Provincial chief of police Abdul Ghafar Safi said the blast was carried out by a suicide bomber and that the target was civilians. No high ranking officials were present or harmed at the stadium, he added.

The office of Afghan president Ashraf Ghani issued a statement condemning the "brutal terrorist attack."

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attack.

Both the Taliban and the Islamic State group, whose affiliate in Afghanistan has grown stronger since it emerged in 2014, have stepped up attacks recently, in what analysts say is a campaign of violence intended to undermine the U.S.-backed government.

On Jan. 27, a Taliban attacker drove an ambulance filled with explosives into the heart of the city, killing at least 103 people and wounding as many as 235.

The Taliban claimed the ambulance attack, as well as an attack a week earlier in which militants stormed a luxury hotel in Kabul, killing 22 people, including 14 foreigners, and setting off a 13-hour battle with security forces.

The recent attacks have underscored the weaknesses of Afghan security forces more than 16 years after the U.S.-led invasion toppled the Taliban.

They also raise questions about President Donald Trump's strategy for winning America's longest war, which was announced in August but has changed little on the ground. That strategy was based on ramping up military pressure on the Taliban to eventually force them into peace talks with the government. **AP**

ONE SHOT NEWS



Indian paramilitary troopers clash with protesters on Saturday after a gunfight at Shistargam locality of Dooru village in Anantnag district, about 83 km south of Srinagar.

Obama: Pyongyang's isolation means less leverage in talks

Yuri Kageyama, Tokyo

FORMER President Barack Obama said yesterday that negotiations with North Korea on its nuclear weapons program are difficult, partly because the country's isolation minimizes possible leverage, such as trade and travel sanctions against Pyongyang.

"North Korea is an example of a country that is so far out of the international norms and so disconnected with the rest of the world," Obama told a packed hall in Tokyo yesterday.

He stressed the effort to get North Korea to give up nuclear weapons remains difficult, but countries working together, including China as well as South Korea and Japan, to combine pressure on North Korea will be better than nations working alone.

He noted that past U.S. efforts on Iran's nuclear weapons were more successful because there was more leverage, but



Barack Obama waves as he and Shinzo Abe arrive at a Sushi restaurant in Tokyo's Ginza shopping district

there's little commerce and travel with North Korea to being with. "That makes them less subject to these kinds of negotiations," he said of North Korea.

Obama was speaking at an event sponsored by a Japanese

nonprofit group during his trip to Asia, which included earlier stops in Singapore, New Zealand and Australia. Obama's work after leaving office has been focused on nurturing young leaders.

Obama, welcomed by a stan-

ding ovation, said the U.S.-Japan alliance remained strong, and the U.S. committed to defending Japan. "North Korea is a real threat," he said.

"Our view has always been that we would prefer to resolve these issues peacefully," he

said, adding that otherwise "the cost in terms of human life would be significant."

He acknowledged progress on a nuclear-free world will likely take a long time as long as Russia and the U.S. could not agree to start reducing their stockpiles.

Obama also reflected on his 2016 visit to Hiroshima, one of two Japanese cities where the U.S. dropped atomic bombs in the closing days of World War II. His visit was the first by an American president.

North Korea is a real threat.

BARACK OBAMA

Almost all American presidents tend to be relatively popular in Japan, which views the U.S. as its most important ally. But many Japanese particularly appreciate Obama's efforts on denuclearization and remember with fondness his trip to Hiroshima and his message of working toward a world without nuclear weapons.

"It was an extraordinarily powerful moment for me," Obama recalled. **AP**

Koreas to hold high-level talks to set up Kim-Moon summit

Tong-Hyung Kim, Seoul

THE rival Koreas have agreed to hold high-level talks this coming week to prepare for an April summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in, South Korea said Saturday.

The summit aims to improve relations and resolve the standoff over the North's nuclear program.

Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon will lead the South's delegation at the meeting Thursday at the border village of Panmunjom, where officials will discuss the date and specific agendas of the summit, according to the Unification Ministry. The North's delegation will be led by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of the agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs.

The rivals agreed to a summit when Moon's envoys visited Kim in

Pyongyang earlier this month. South Korean officials also brokered a potential meeting between Kim and President Donald Trump by the end of May.

The leaders of the two Koreas have held talks only twice since the 1950-53 Korean War.

It's unclear whether the leaders' meetings between Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington, if they take place, could lead to any meaningful breakthrough after an unusually provocative year. North Korea in 2017 tested its most powerful nuclear weapon to date and test-launched three intercontinental ballistic missiles theoretically capable of striking the U.S. mainland.

There are also concerns in South Korea over whether the appointment of John Bolton, Trump's hawkish replacement for national security adviser H.R. McMaster, could potentially complicate efforts to set up talks be-



tween Trump and Kim, given his past bellicose rhetoric about North Korea.

A South Korean presidential official, who didn't want to be named, citing office rules, downplayed such worries on Friday, saying that Trump remains firmly committed to the summit and is leading the drive to set it up.

The planned summit between Moon and Kim will be preceded by performances of South Korean pop singers in North Korea.

Tak Hyun-min, a South Korean presidential

aide who completed a three-day trip to North Korea to arrange the events, told reporters in Beijing on Saturday that it was agreed that the South Korean artists will hold a concert in Pyongyang on April 1 and follow with a joint performance with North Korean artists on April 3.

The South Korean artists will include some of the country's most popular pop singers, including Cho Yong-pil, who performed in Pyongyang during a previous era of detente, and girl band Red Velvet. **AP**

INDIA

Court jails powerful politician for embezzling funds

A powerful Indian politician was sentenced Saturday to 14 years in prison for embezzling 37 million rupees (USD570,000) from a state government's treasury while he was the state's top elected official.

Lalu Prasad Yadav was convicted of embezzling the money to buy fictitious medicines and cattle fodder while he was chief minister of Bihar state from 1990 to 1997.

Eighteen former Bihar state officials, contractors and suppliers were sentenced in the case to jail terms ranging from 3 1/2 to five years.

Yadav, who already has been convicted three times in related cases, was also fined 6 million rupees (\$92,307).

Yadav, 69, who served as India's railways minister from 2004 to 2009, is barred from contesting elections. Earlier this month, he was shifted to a hospital from a prison after he complained of chest pains in Ranchi, the capi-

tal of Jharkhand state.

Corruption is endemic in Indian politics. Judges are now expediting trials of lawmakers accused of crimes including murder, fraud and extortion following a Supreme Court order to reach verdicts within one year in such cases. Indian lawmakers are now barred from running in elections if they are found guilty of offenses carrying a jail term of at least two years.

Yadav has turned his political party, Rashtriya Janata Dal, or the National People's Party, into a family enterprise, with his wife, two sons and a daughter running it. The daughter is a member of India's Parliament and the two sons have become lawmakers in Bihar state.

Around 15 percent of Indian lawmakers are facing court trials on criminal charges such as rioting, murder and extortion, according to the Association for Democratic Reforms, an activist group.

Paul Wiseman, Washington

ANALYSIS

Why Trump's latest steps heighten risk of a global trade war

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan once likened trade wars to the pie fights in old Hollywood comedies. One pie in the face leads to another. And then another.

Pretty soon, Reagan said in a 1986 radio address, "everything and everybody just gets messier and messier. The difference here is that it's not funny. It's tragic. Protectionism becomes destructionism. It costs jobs."

Suddenly, the world's financial markets are gripped by fear that an escalating trade rift between the United States and China — the two mightiest economies — could smear the world with a lot of splattered cream and broken crust. If it doesn't prove tragic, as Reagan warned, it may still inflict far-reaching pain.

The Dow Jones industrial average lost a combined nearly 1,150 points Thursday and Friday after President Donald Trump set his administration on a path to restrict Chinese investment in the United States and impose tariffs on up to USD60 billion of Chinese products.

"We should be very worried," said Bryan Riley, director of the conservative National Taxpayer Union's Free Trade Initiative. "It's very possible this could escalate into something that neither country intends."

The trade sanctions that Trump unveiled on Friday [Macau time] are meant to punish Beijing for pilfering technology from American companies or for forcing them to hand over technology in exchange for access to China's market. The announcement followed a seven-month investigation by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative into the tactics China has deployed to try to overtake American technological supremacy.

"China has not been playing by the rules," said Stephen Ezell, director of global innovation policy at the Information Technology & Innovation Foundation think tank.

Unbowed, China immediately threatened to retaliate if the United States followed through on its actions. On Friday, Beijing unveiled a broad list of U.S. products — from apples and wine to pork to steel pipe — that could face retaliatory Chinese tariffs in a separate trade spat with Washington. That dispute is over taxes that Trump imposed this month on imported steel and aluminum.

"We don't want a trade war, but we are not afraid of it," said Hua Chunying, a spokeswoman for China's Foreign Ministry.

The stakes are even higher in the standoff over Beijing's technology policies than in the old-school dispute over metals. An industrial nation's ability to harness technology is increasingly vital to healthy economic expansion.

"If China dominates the industries of the future, it will be very



A woman wearing a uniform with the logo of an American produce company helps a customer shop for apples at a supermarket in Beijing

difficult for the United States to have an economic future," Peter Navarro, a key White House trade adviser, told reporters.

Trade tensions are rising at a delicate time. The world economy has finally emerged from the shadow of the Great Recession. Major regions are growing in tandem for the first time in a decade. International economic growth is expected to reach a seven-year high of 3.9 percent this year. Last year, global trade expanded 4.2 percent, the most since 2011.

If China dominates the industries of the future, it will be very difficult for the United States to have an economic future.

PETER NAVARRO
KEY WHITE HOUSE TRADE ADVISER

Some trade experts fear that a conflict over technology will erupt into an escalating war of sanctions between the world's two biggest economies — Reagan's destructive pie fight.

The U.S.-China tensions remind economists and trade analysts of the Reagan-era skirmishes between the United States and Japan, which at the time appeared to pose a grave threat to U.S. economic dominance.

"This is 'Back to the Future' — that old '80s film," said Rod Hunter, a former White House trade adviser. Indeed, Trump's top trade negotiator, Robert Lighthizer, is a veteran of the trade battles with Tokyo, having served in the Reagan administration.

To target China, Trump and Lighthizer dusted off a Cold War weapon from the Reagan years: Section 301 of the U.S. Trade Act of 1974, which lets the president unilaterally impose tariffs. The provision was meant for a world in which much of global commerce wasn't covered by trade agreements. But with the arrival in 1995 of the World Trade Organization, Section 301 fell largely into disuse.

In some ways, a hard-nosed approach succeeded against Japan three decades ago. Under U.S. pressure, Tokyo agreed to "voluntary export restraints" to limit auto shipments to the United States. But to bypass the limits, Japanese automakers simply built plants in the American South.

Likewise, the Reagan administration in 1985 strong-armed Japan, Germany, France and Britain to raise their currencies' values to help U.S. manufacturers squeezed by a strong dollar, which makes U.S. goods costlier overseas.

But the United States wielded unusual leverage with Japan. The two countries are close political allies; Japan depends on U.S. military protection. China, by contrast, is a geopolitical rival, far less likely to bend to U.S. pressure.

It's true that China has benefited enormously from access to the American market and has much to lose: Last year, it exported \$375 billion more in goods to the United States than it bought in return — a record trade gap that irritates Trump.

But a full-blown trade war would test Trump's fortitude

for commercial combat and would certainly hurt many Americans, including some of Trump's supporters. Most directly, U.S. tariffs would raise costs for consumers and businesses.

Trade groups are already lobbying the Trump administration to seek diplomatic solutions to the disputes. China's all-powerful leaders face no such public pressure.

"We live in a society where stakeholders in Congress are going to put a lot of pressure on the administration," said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade official who is vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute. "In China, they don't."

Still, the 301 sanctions might be enough to prod the Chinese to return to the negotiating table to consider softening their aggressive technology policies.

"If this gets the two countries back to the table to talk about this, then that is a good outcome," said Erin Ennis, senior vice president at the US-China Business Council. "If the idea is to inflict sufficient pain so that China feels it has no choice but to change its policies, then I'm skeptical." AP

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

Germany arrests fugitive ex-Catalan leader Puigdemont

CARLES Puigdemont, the fugitive ex-leader of Catalonia and ardent separatist, was arrested yesterday by German police on an international warrant as he tried to enter the country from Denmark.

The Spanish government told The Associated Press it had received "official confirmation from German authorities of the arrest" of Puigdemont in response to the warrant issued by Spain's Supreme Court.

Police in the northern German state of Schleswig-Holstein said highway police arrested Puigdemont yesterday morning near the A7 highway that leads into Germany.

His lawyer, Jaume Alonso-Cuevillas, said Puigdemont was on his way back to Belgium where he has been staying since fleeing Spain following a failed bid by his regional government in October to declare independence from Spain.

A Spanish Supreme Court judge reactivated an international arrest warrant for Puigdemont on Friday when he was visiting Finland. Arrest warrants have also been issued for five other fugitive

Catalan separatists.

Spain was plunged into its worst political crisis in three decades when Puigdemont's government flouted a court ban and held an ad-hoc referendum on independence for the northeastern region in October.

The Catalan parliament's subsequent declaration of independence received no international recognition and provoked a takeover by Spanish authorities that they say won't be lifted until a new government that respects the Constitution is in place.

Spain had originally asked for Puigdemont's extradition from Belgium after he moved to Brussels, but later withdrew the request until a judge concluded his investigation this week.

In the meantime, Puigdemont was free to make trips



to Denmark, Switzerland and Finland, as part of his effort to gain international support for the secessionist movement.

Puigdemont was also able to successfully run a campaign as the head of his "Together for Catalonia" bloc in a regional election in December in which separatist parties maintained their slim majority in Catalonia's regional parliament.

He had wanted to be re-elected as Catalonia's regional boss — albeit while remaining abroad to avoid arrest — but eventually was stopped by a Spanish court.

Separatists in Catalonia are currently trying to elect a leader for the regional government before a two-month time limit is up and new elections are called. **AP**

US

Hundreds of thousands demand gun control

In a historic groundswell of youth activism, hundreds of thousands of teenagers and their supporters rallied across the U.S. against gun violence Saturday, vowing to transform fear and grief into a "vote-them-out" movement and tougher laws against weapons and ammo. They took to the streets of the nation's capital and such cities as Boston, New York, Chicago, Houston, Minneapolis, Phoenix, Los Angeles and Oakland, California, in the kind of numbers seen during the Vietnam era, sweeping up activists long frustrated by stalemate in the gun debate and bringing in lots of new, young voices.

CROATIA

Far-right supporters march in Zagreb

Thousands of Croatian far-right supporters marched Saturday in downtown Zagreb to protest an international convention they said indirectly legalizes gay marriages and gives rights to transgender people. The protesters sang patriotic songs and chanted slogans against Croatia's center-right government, which last week approved the Istanbul convention that was adopted by the Council of Europe in 2011, but still hasn't been ratified by Croatia's parliament.

AD

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what's ON



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TIME: 2pm-7pm (closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: April 21, 2018

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

DOCUMENTING IMPERMANENCE: AN EXHIBITION OF REPORTAGE PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALICE KOK AND STUDENTS

TIME: 9am-10pm

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

VENUE: Team Building, Institute for Tourism Studies

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2856 1252

Offbeat

FIRST DIRECT FLIGHT FROM AUSTRALIA TO LONDON TOUCHES DOWN



Alan Joyce, CEO of Qantas Airways (front) walks past check-in counters ahead of the company's inaugural flight to London at Perth Airport

The maiden flight of a new non-stop regular passenger service between Australia and Britain has touched down at London's Heathrow Airport.

The Boeing 787-9 Dreamliner, operated by Qantas Airways, arrived yesterday in London just over 17 hours after setting off from the western Australian city of Perth.

The new link with Perth — a 14,498-kilometer journey — is around three hours quicker than routes that involve stopovers in the Middle East to change planes or refuel. It is also set to shorten journeys from London to Sydney or Melbourne, compared with flying via Dubai.

The route is about a quarter more than Britain's previous longest service — 11,707 kilometers — which was flying between London and Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

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



UNSAFE

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



1979 ISRAEL AND EGYPT SHAKE HANDS ON PEACE DEAL

Israel and Egypt have ended 30 years of war with an historic peace treaty brokered by the United States.

The ceremony on the White House lawn in Washington was broadcast live on television. The two leaders sealed the deal with a firm handshake, watched by a smiling President Jimmy Carter.

Both President Anwar al-Sadat of Egypt, and the Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, described the ceremony as an "historic turning point".

Mr Sadat praised President Carter as "the man who performed the miracle".

"Without exaggeration," he said, "what he did constitutes one of the greatest achievements of our time". Mr Carter, however, was more cautious, saying the treaty was "a first step on a long and difficult road." "We must not minimize the obstacles that lie ahead," he said.

Deep divisions between the two sides remain, and even in their speeches following the ceremony the two presidents revealed how far there is still to go.

Mr Begin spoke emotionally of how the city of Jerusalem could never be divided; while Mr Sadat was unreservedly frank about the question of Palestinian autonomy.

News of the signing ceremony was greeted with angry demonstrations throughout the Arab world. Crowds stormed the Egyptian Embassy in Kuwait, and there was a strike in the West Bank.

The PLO leader, Yasser Arafat, told a rally in West Beirut: "Let them sign what they like. False peace will not last."

He accused President Sadat of betraying the Egyptian people, and said they would eventually eliminate him.

The normally moderate King Hussein of Jordan has now joined President Assad of Syria and President Hassen al Bakr of Iraq in calling a summit conference of opponents of the treaty.

Egypt is thought likely to be expelled from the Arab League as a symbolic gesture of anger at the decision to go it alone in negotiating peace with Israel.

Even in the West, the response to the treaty has been lukewarm. A statement from the nine European Community nations praised the efforts of President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin to make peace.

But, in a comment bound to anger the Israelis, it added that a settlement could only happen if the Palestinian people were given a homeland.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Egypt-Israel peace treaty was a direct result of the Camp David Peace Accords, signed in September 1978. President Sadat and Prime Minister Begin were jointly awarded the Nobel Peace Prize later that year.

Under the accords, Israel agreed to withdraw troops from the Sinai Peninsula in return for Egypt's recognition of the state of Israel. Palestinians were also granted the right to some self-determination.

President Sadat died for his decision to shake hands with Israel, assassinated in 1981 by extremists in the Egyptian army opposed to the treaty.

The last Israeli troops left the Sinai Peninsula in 1982. Less than two months later Israel invaded Lebanon. There was little further progress towards peace in the Middle East until the Oslo Peace Process began in 1993.

In August 2005, Israel put into force its so-called Disengagement Plan and evicted Jewish settlers from the Gaza strip and began to demolish some settlements on the West Bank as well.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Part of you wants nothing more than to keep quiet about what you're feeling, especially if it's a touchy subject. But a much more insistent part of you - the rebellious part who wants to challenge the world with the news.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You've kept quiet about that attraction you've been feeling for a long time, but it just can't last for much longer. You really need to talk to someone about this.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 At this point, the thing you need to remember is that while you can love someone just as much as you want to, you can't live their life for them. Forgetting about them may be impossible, too.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 This astrological forecast is so good, it's like having exactly what you ordered from the universe magically come to pass - only better, because it doesn't matter where you are or who you're with.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You're excited, enthusiastic and feeling as if you've got a solid ten hours of snooze time under your belt. Good for you. Consider it a gift from the universe, and enjoy it.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Today's astrological menu includes more than just a touch of passion. We're talking major-league fireworks, in fact. But remember, passion can travel long-distance, and that's where it's going now.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Yay! You're set to receive nothing but good news today. Not only is it finally, officially time to play, but you're also going to be in a fine mood - romantic, passionate and just a tad eager to take a risk.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 No one has ever accused you of being lazy, and no one ever will. No one in their right mind, anyway. Those who know and love you have also seen how you get when you're really intent on finishing something.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You're not quite sure what's gotten into you, but you think you like it. You're still as fun-loving and fond of risks as you ever were, but at the moment, you're also looking for a safety net.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 It's not like you to talk a lot. You pride yourself on using only as many words as necessary to get your point across. No more and no less. So when your dear ones ask you what's up, don't be offended.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Still operating your mouth without engaging your brain first, especially if your feelings are involved? Well, try your best to get it under control - but if it doesn't work, don't worry.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You're a sensitive creature. You have a type of intuition that never, ever fails you. Those antennae are going to come in quite handy now, given that there's a mixed bag of astrological energies.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

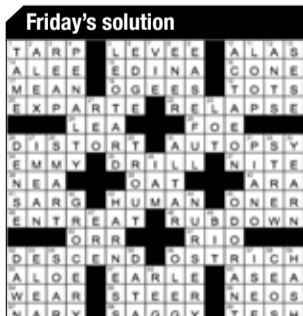
WEATHER

Table with columns: CHINA, MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, Urumqi, Xi'an, Lhasa, Chengdu, Chongqing, Kunming, Nanjing, Shanghai, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Taipei, Guangzhou, Hong Kong, WORLD, Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Leopardlike cat; 7- Gave grub; 10- Lopsided victory; 14- "West Side Story" Oscar winner; 15- ___ Lingus; 16- Inventor Rubik; 17- Pollen producer; 18- Altdorf's canton; 19- Actor Estrada; 20- Rule of a prince; 23- Foundation; 26- Shoebox marking; 27- "Exodus" actor Sal; 28- Affirm; 29- Choose; 30- Ages; 31- Variety of rummy; 33- ___ de cologne; 34- Fallen space station; 37- Hobby shop buy; 38- "You've got mail" co.; 39- AOL alternative; 40- Fury; 41- Hearst kidnap grp.; 42- Circle of flowers; 43- Monetary unit of Mozambique; 45- ___ Kapital; 46- Affirmative reply; 47- Child's plea; 48- Introduction; 51- Ran into; 52- Moral principle; 53- Cultivation of forests; 56- Et ___; 57- City in GA; 58- With extremeness; 62- Tolstoy and Gorcey; 63- Classical beginning; 64- Newspaper executive; 65- Gds.; 66- Compass reading; 67- Break;

DOWN: 1- Mantric syllables; 2- Camp bed; 3- Division of geologic time; 4- Monetary unit of Honduras; 5- Lulus; 6- Singer Braxton; 7- Tap; 8- Causing goose bumps; 9- Faucet fault; 10- Land, as a fish; 11- Senator Hatch; 12- Bring together; 13- Capital of Japan; 21- Kathmandu native; 22- Quantity; 23- Supports; 24- Be of use; 25- Actress Berger; 29- Siouan speakers; 30- Moves with care; 32- Italian sausage; 33- Clown Kelly; 34- Book after Jonah; 35- Teheran native; 36- Museum artifact; 44- Jaundiced; 45- Contrive; 46- Egg yolk; 48- Sacred song; 49- Irritated; 50- Mixed bags; 51- Tones down; 52- Wear down; 54- Tins; 55- Consumer; 59- Parisian season; 60- ___ Angeles; 61- Decade divs.;



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Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
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AP PHOTO



Ferrari driver Sebastian Vettel

F1 Vettel holds off Hamilton to win Australian GP

Justin Bergman, Melbourne

FERRARI driver Sebastian Vettel captured his third Australian Grand Prix yesterday, taking advantage of a well-timed, mid-race safety car to take the lead and holding off his hard-charging Mercedes rival Lewis Hamilton in a dramatic start to the new Formula One season.

It was the 100th podium of Vettel's career and it came in his 200th F1 race. The German becomes the fourth driver to claim 100 podium finishes, joining Hamilton, Michael Schumacher and Alain Prost.

Vettel finished the race a full five seconds ahead of Hamilton, who started from pole and had made several late attempts to

catch the Ferrari but couldn't manage to pass on the narrow Albert Park circuit and fell just short of the victory.

"We're not yet where we want to be. The feeling is good, but I think we can improve and then we should be able to race our game in qualifying and also for the race," Vettel said.

Ferrari's Kimi Raikkonen finished third, denying Red Bull's Daniel Ricciardo a chance to become the first Australian driver to secure a podium place at the Australian GP.

A resurgent Fernando Alonso of McLaren made a bold run to finish in fifth place, holding off a spirited challenge by Red Bull's Max Verstappen, who was sixth.

Hamilton looked comfortab-

le up front for the first 20 laps before deciding to pit, giving up the lead to Vettel. The race then took a dramatic turn when Haas drivers Kevin Magnussen and Romain Grosjean suffered calamitous back-to-back pit stops midway through the race. Both drivers had been running strongly in fourth and fifth places, respectively, but saw their cars immediately fail after coming out of pit lane within two laps of one another.

The virtual safety car emerged as race marshals removed Grosjean's car from the circuit and Vettel took advantage of the slowdown to pit and change tires. He came out of the pit lane just ahead of a confused Hamilton, who got on the radio to ask his team what had just

happened.

"Why did you not tell me Vettel was in the pits?" Hamilton asked. "We thought we were safe, but there's obviously something wrong," his team responded.

■ The German becomes the fourth driver to claim 100 podium finishes

When racing resumed, Hamilton stayed close to Vettel's Ferrari, trailing by less than a second for more than 10 laps,

but was unable to find space on the tight circuit to pass the German. With victory looking increasingly out of reach, Hamilton then eased up toward the end to conserve his engine for the next race.

"Needless to say, we got a bit lucky with the timing of the safety car," Vettel said. "It was our key to win, no doubt."

Hamilton said after the race that he still wasn't clear exactly what happened.

"I did everything I believed I was supposed to do," he said. "I think just disbelief was really from that moment until the end. Just disbelief."

Vettel's victory comes a day after Hamilton set a blistering track record to capture pole position nearly 0.7 seconds ahead of the rest of the field, a massive margin that raised concerns among some teams that Mercedes had the speed to dominate yet another Formula One season.

But Vettel said he believed Ferrari would fare better in race conditions — and he was right.

"They didn't do anything special, not more than they did last year," he said of Hamilton's speedy qualifying lap. "It was clear that he just a very good lap and he drove well."

Ricciardo also pushed Raikkonen hard for the entire second half of the race for a chance at a podium spot, but the Ferrari driver put in a masterful drive to hold him off and maintain third.

Alonso also put several disappointing years of technical failures with McLaren's Honda-made engines behind him, securing his best race result since late 2016 with the team's new Renault engines.

Renault's Nico Hulkenberg finished in seventh place, just ahead of the other Mercedes driver, Valtteri Bottas, who crashed in qualifying and ended up starting in 15th place on the grid after incurring a penalty for switching out his damaged gearbox.

McLaren's Stoffel Vandoorne finished in ninth place, followed by Renault's Carlos Sainz in 10th **AP**

Cambridge sweeps Boat Races for first time in 21 years

FAVORITE Cambridge stormed to victory in the Boat Race to hand coach Steve Trapmore a farewell triumph on the River Thames on Saturday.

Cambridge's three-length win over Oxford in the 164th edition completed a clean sweep in all four Boat Races (men's, women's plus reserve races

for both) for the first time since 1997.

Trapmore, a gold medalist at the 2000 Sydney Olympics, is rejoining the British Olympic rowing program on April 5.

He overhauled Cambridge's program, overseeing the construction of a purpose-built training complex. Cox and club presi-

dent Hugo Ramambason hailed Trapmore's influence.

"He's more than a coach, he's a mentor to all of us," Ramambason said. "More than just rowing, the ethos he lives by, he tells us to work harder than anyone else and take nothing for granted."

Oxford was left to rue illness and in-

juries, and another late crew change which brought in Benedict Aldous, who was banned from social events after wearing a Ku Klux Klan costume to an Oxford fancy dress party.

The Cambridge women won their race by seven lengths for consecutive victories for the first time since 1999. **AP**

AP PHOTO



The Cambridge boat approaches Hammersmith Bridge

Q&A LOREN ZITOMERSKY KNOWN ON SOCIAL MEDIA AS 'BACKWARDS GUY'

'You use 33 percent more energy running backward than forward'

William J. Kole

LOREN Zitomersky has gotten used to the jokes: "Hey, you're running the wrong way!" Slamming straight into trees he didn't see behind him? Not so much. Also, ouch.

But the Disney movie production lawyer is on a singular quest to break the world record for the fastest marathon ever run backward. Zitomersky, 33, who's known on social media as "Backwards Guy," hopes to accomplish the feat at next month's Boston Marathon to raise money and awareness for an epilepsy cure.

The Associated Press caught up with Zitomersky, who lives in Los Angeles, to find out what makes him tick. (Or is that tack?)

— Let's start with the question everyone surely asks

when they see you: Why?

Loren Zitomersky (LZ) - My dad lost a son to epilepsy in 1977 before I was born. I never got to meet Brian, but his loss obviously had a huge impact on my dad. He and I started riding bikes and running marathons to raise money for the Epilepsy Foundation. Nobody wants to talk about epilepsy — it's such a stigmatized disorder — yet one in 26 people has it.

What are your plans at the Boston Marathon on April 16?

LZ - Last June, I qualified for Boston with a 3 hour, 14 second marathon. Immediately I told myself I'm going to go big with my epilepsy fundraising and awareness campaign. I was wracking my brain trying to figure out what to do for Boston. Someone threw out an idea: What about a world record? But most of the records were kind

of cheesy — fastest marathon run while dressed as a clown; that sort of thing. Then I stumbled upon the record for fastest backward marathon.

— **Who holds that world mark now?**

LZ - Xu Zhenjun set the record at the Beijing Marathon in 2004 with a time of 3:43:39. Beating it will mean running backward at a pace of about 8 and a half minutes per mile. In training, I've worked myself up to 45 backward miles per week, but I can't emphasize enough how hard it is. It's not efficient at all. Your calves feel like they're on fire. You use 33 percent more energy running backward than forward.

— **What are the occupational hazards?**

LZ - At first it was tough just getting my bearings and balance.

Early on, I ran into a tree and cut up my back. When you're running forward you can zone out. You can't do that running backward. But I've gotten used to it. Sometimes I run with a friend who acts as a spotter. He's basically the eyes in the back of my head: "Right, right ... left, left ... in 100 yards we're going to make a left turn."

— **How do people react when they see you?**

LZ - Hey, it's LA — there's a lot of weirdos out here. A lot of people just stare at me. Some get really excited and run backward with me for a few steps. I had a woman run up and hug me. Kids love me — most of them, anyway. A little girl saw me and she immediately turned around and started running backward. Then she fell down and started crying. I guess backward running isn't for everyone. But I do get a lot of messages of support



from people who suffer from epilepsy.

— **How confident are you of breaking the record?**

LZ - It's literally going to be the hardest thing I've ever done in my life. I'm by no means 100 percent sure I'll manage it, but I'm going to give it my all. I'll be a wreck, crying my eyes out. I'm going to be a running meme.

AD

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opinion

World views

Tim Culpan, Bloomberg

TRUMP'S TARIFF HAMMER WON'T HIT CHINA'S IP NAIL

President Donald Trump is frustrated over trade imbalances and the theft of intellectual property by China. His proposed tariffs aren't likely to remedy the situation, and could make it worse.

Trump on Friday [Macau time] ordered tariffs on at least USD50 billion in Chinese imports, with the proposed product list set to include items in aerospace, information and communication technology and machinery. Some people are talking about the pronouncement as if building a wall against the encroaching Chinese tide might be new or effective. Not so: The U.S. has been throwing obstacles in front of its largest trade rival for decades and has complained about intellectual property theft for just as long.

For years, the U.S. has used Section 301 of the Trade Act to target foreign IP infringement. While that part of the law doesn't specifically focus on intellectual property issues, the provision has become the umbrella for an annual report card on how countries protect IP. Being placed on the U.S. trade representative's Special 301 Watch List is a slap on the wrist for countries. After that, there is the Priority Watch List, considered even more severe.

Mostly, it's an embarrassment to be on either list, and countries tend to tighten IP enforcement in order to be delisted. This happened to Taiwan in the early 2000s because of music piracy, and spurred the government there to implement tougher measures including the introduction of an IP court. It has since been dropped from the list, and the U.S. can point to Taiwan as a case study in effective use of Special 301. Not that it always works this way.

China has been on the Priority Watch List since at least 2006. Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. has been named a Notorious Market" by the U.S. trade representative, and tends to shed crocodile tears every time it does. Beijing doesn't seem particularly embarrassed, nor in a great hurry to be delisted. So this particular carrot and stick doesn't appear to be effective.

Beyond Special 301, the U.S. doesn't have a lot of options when it comes to enforcing intellectual property rights outside its borders. One of them is to ban imports of infringed items, a process that is currently left to the U.S. International Trade Commission in a cumbersome process that requires litigation and lengthy court cases. Samsung Electronics Corp. and HTC Corp. have both been subjected to this process through suits brought by Apple Inc., but it's not very efficient or effective.

Even the ITC is helpless when products are developed in China for use internally. Huawei Technologies Co. looks set to get kicked out of the U.S. - for security reasons, not IP - and there's not a lot of other Chinese technology products being sold in the U.S. either, which is why implementing tariffs as a measure to spur IP enforcement looks like the wrong tool for the job. You can't tariff a product that's not even being imported, and it doesn't make practical sense to tax items unrelated to the IP being stolen.

In addition to tariffs, Trump has directed the Treasury Secretary to propose new investment restrictions on Chinese companies to safeguard technologies. This seems unnecessary. The Committee on Foreign Investment in the U.S., which is chaired by the Treasury Secretary, already monitors and rejects foreign investments. It acts in secret and rarely explains its decisions. And while it doesn't have the power to veto deals, it makes recommendations to the president. Trump rejecting Broadcom Corp.'s takeover of Qualcomm Corp. is proof that this mechanism works.

Enunciating restrictions in writing may not change the end result, but it would give China something concrete to rail against and provide ammunition for Beijing to escalate this trade war.

Clearly, Trump is itching for action. But while swinging a large hammer will make a lot of noise, it might not get the job done.

THE NEVER-SEEN PHOTOS OF BEATLES' EARLY US CONCERTS AUCTIONED

Hundreds of previously unseen photographs of The Beatles' first U.S. concerts have sold for 253,000 pounds (USD358,000) at an auction in England.

The photographer Mike Mitchell, who was 18 at the time, snapped the photos of the band's performances at the Washington Coliseum and the Baltimore Civic Centre in 1964. He also took photos of the Fab Four at a pre-show press

conference and their arrival at Union Station.

A total of some 400 negatives with copyright were sold at Omega Auctions on Saturday in northwestern England. Apart from 46 images that were sold in 2011, the remainder has never been seen.

A 1984 black Mercedes once owned by George Harrison also sold for 43,200 pounds (\$61,047) at the same auction.

HERITAGE

Lincoln to Thai king: Thanks but no thanks for the elephants

THE elephant is Thailand's national animal, so it's only natural that King Mongkut in 1861 offered to send a pair to the United States as a gift of the friendship between the two countries.

President Abraham Lincoln, likely bemused and relieved at the distraction from America's then-raging Civil War, politely declined, saying his country uses the steam engine and would have no use for the working animals.

As part of the 200th anniversary celebrating the long-lasting relationship, the U.S. Embassy in Bangkok is showcasing historic gifts the two countries have exchanged on the grounds of Thailand's Grand Palace.

It includes the first-ever official letter sent in 1818 from a Thai diplomat to President James Monroe — there are documents spanning two centuries — as well as some spectacular Thai objects d'art and portraits.

Then there's the elephants' story, also documented among the exhibits.

In his 1861 letters, Mongkut offered the elephants after learning they were not native to America. He also sent along three gifts: a sword and scabbard, a photograph of the king with one of his daughters, and an impressive pair of elephant tusks.

He addressed the letters to then-President James Buchanan "or whomever would become president" with elaborate paragraph-long salutations.

Lincoln was already president by the time the letters arrived a year later. He penned a reply, addressing the king simply as "Great and Good Friend."

The offer of elephants did not neglect practical details. Mongkut stated, "On this account, we desire to procure and send elephants to be let loose to increase and multiply in the continent of America." But Thailand — then called Siam — did not have a large enough vessel to transport them, the letter said.

It continued: "In reference to this opinion of ours if the President of the United States and Congress who conjointly with him rule the country see fit to approve, let them provide a large vessel loaded with hay and other food suitable for elephants on the voyage, with tanks holding a sufficiency of fresh water, and arranged with stalls so that the elephants can both stand and lie down in the ship."

Mongkut then in his letter directs that the elephants should be kept away from the



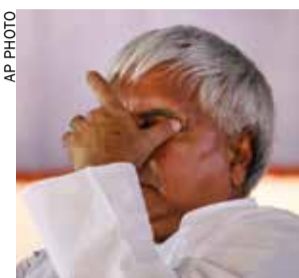
cold and under the sun, and to also "let them with all haste be turned out to run wild in some jungle suitable for them not confining them any length of time."

Thai monarchy expert Tongthong Chandransu said the offer of elephants reveals that Mongkut wanted to be part of building the young United States. "You have to consider that 200 years ago, elephants were an important means of transportation and helped a lot with our work, not to mention warfare, but also the building of homes and cities," Tongthong said.

The ever-practical Lincoln rejected the offer to send wild elephants running through American forests, saying the country "does not reach a latitude so low as to favor the multiplication of the elephant." The exhibition runs until June 30. MDT/AP

Station	Air quality
Roadside	45-65 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA A powerful politician was sentenced to 14 years in prison for embezzling USD570,000 from a state government's treasury while he was the state's top elected official. More on p12



CROATIA Thousands of far-right supporters marched Saturday in downtown Zagreb to protest an international convention they said indirectly legalizes gay marriages and gives rights to transgender people. More on p12

GERMANY Carles Puigdemont, the fugitive ex-leader of Catalonia and ardent separatist, was arrested by German police on an international warrant as he tried to enter the country from Denmark. More on p15



BRITAIN A teenage Iraqi asylum-seeker who told police he had been trained by the Islamic State group has been sentenced to at least 34 years in prison for bombing a London subway train and injuring 51 people.

BRAZIL Officials say seven suspected drug traffickers have been killed in a shootout with police in a Rio de Janeiro slum.

PERU A Peruvian judge has barred recently resigned President Pedro Pablo Kuczynski from leaving the South American nation for 18 months while he is investigated for possible money laundering.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Nam Y. Huh



Demonstrators hold signs during Saturday's "March for Our Lives" rally held in Chicago, United States, in support of gun control.