



**A RECORD-WINNING STREAK**  
Galaxy Group is on a record-winning streak as the effects of a Chinese anti-graft campaign fade

▲ P4 GAMING



**FINAL REPORT ON HATO PUBLISHED**

▲ P6



**CHINA WANTS U.S. TO GIVE UP TARIFF PLAN**  
China's Commerce Ministry urged the U.S. to discard planned tariffs it warned might disrupt global trade

▲ P11

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# Airport adjusts to bigger planes, longer routes

▲ P3

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## WORLD BRIEFS

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**CHINA**'s defunct and reportedly out-of-control Tiangong 1 space station is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere sometime this weekend. Most of the bus-size, 8.5-ton vehicle is expected to burn up on re-entry, although space agencies don't know exactly when or where that will happen. More on p10

**VIETNAM** A court sentenced a former Communist Party Politburo member to 18 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of mismanagement at a state oil giant that cost millions of dollars. More on p9

AP PHOTO



**INDONESIA** Prosecutors demanded 16 years in prison for a senior politician accused of playing a key role in the theft by officials of USD170 million of public money. More on p12

More on backpage

# Malala visits Pakistan for first time since Taliban attack

▲ P12



**Extra**  
times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE

# Urban Planning Committee suspends discussion on Cheoc Van hotel

Renato Marques

**T**HE Urban Planning Committee (CPU) gathered in plenary meeting yesterday to discuss the approval of the urban conditions of 19 land plots across the Peninsula and Islands.

The owner of the Cheoc Van Gardens wants to change the purpose of an abandoned building in the complex to develop it into a hotel and commercial space. The plan was discussed for the first time in July last year at CPU, and once more raised a wide debate and divergent opinions.

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) expressed its opinion in favor of keeping the land for its original purpose (a 'Club House' to be used by residents as well as a commercial space). This was immediately rebutted by the architect and committee member Rui Leão, who said: "Back in the 1990's, when the project was originally built, Macau was far from the purpose that it has today to become a World Centre of Tourism and Leisure [...] maintaining [the purpose of the plot] just to keep everything the same has no significance. I believe that the new goal attributed to Macau and the fact that [according to] the original purpose, the space never worked



and has no feasibility is enough for this [the purpose] to be reconsidered."

Leão added that adhering to the principle of "keeping things as they are, without a real and strong justification, falls short and is a poor principle."

Member Manuel Iok Pui Ferreira agreed, saying, "If we [can] change the purpose we can promote different sectors. We can create a path for the health development [of the area]," he said, citing the example of the city of Vancouver, Canada. Vancouver underwent a similar rehabilitation that was promoted and developed in a peaceful way.

Ferreira also questioned the Committee members, asking

whether changing the plot's intended purpose would really cause any problems. He noted that the government can have an important role as moderator in the current dispute between the residents and the developer.

Committee member Ieong Tou Hong addressed the plenary, questioning whether members should in fact be discussing the topic. Ieong mentioned a newspaper article published this week by a Chinese newspaper, in which it was noted that the plot owner delivered a letter to the CPU requesting the postponement of discussion as he was in the process of negotiating with the resident to obtain approval for the project.

The president of the commi-

tee and DSSOPT director Li Canfeng intervened, saying, "letters to newspapers are just a demonstration of opinion and should not interfere with our work," adding, "the last time we have postponed but today we must discuss on the feasibility or not of the project."

A growing number of opinions were expressed from several committee members that discussion on the topic should be postponed.

Tse and Leão favored postponement. Tse highlighted "the need to weigh well the consequences and to gather more consensus among the residents." Leão opted for a more practical approach, saying, "It's a matter of good sense [to postpo-

ne], taking into account that the person who made the request was the owner. It will also save time [if we do so], since it does not force open a new process that could bring the case back for a few months."

The members voted to suspend discussion on the topic after some confusion about the legal aspects of doing so. However, according to a DSSOPT representative, the suspension of the debate required two-thirds of votes in favor, but this proportion was not obtained.

Li proceeded with the suspension of the discussion on his own initiative, claiming a "lack of information on the case; and not due to the influence of any of the parties involved."

## HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY AND KIANG WU PREPARING DEVELOPMENTS

**THE HOLY** House of Mercy and the Kiang Wu Hospital are preparing developments on their premises. Although it is not clear at this stage what developments will take place and when, the Kiang Wu project is most likely related to the expansion and/or reconstruction of the hospital building, with the possible inclusion of two high-rise towers at a height of 80 meters. The development of the Holy House of Mercy has many

limitations due to its location in the heart of the historical center. Developments cannot change the dimensions of the current building. It is stated on the project brief that the purpose of the project is for housing. The property of the institution led by António José de Freitas is located right next to that which was sold by Sniper Capital early this week, a 70,000 square foot retail development project which went for HKD800 million.

# Public consultations on heritage sites concluded with positive evaluation

**T**WO public consultations ended last week regarding plans for the "Procedures for the Classification of Lai Chi Vun Shipyards" in Coloane and the "Plan for the Safeguard and Management of the Historic Center of Macau."

The Cultural Affairs Bureau acknowledged in a statement the positive results of such consultations, as well as the agreement of "most residents" with the governments' proposals in this field.

With regard to public consultation on the "Procedure for Classification of the Real Estate of Lai Chi Vun Shipyards," which gathered approximately 300 opinions, the IC noted that, "most residents agree on the value of the area of Lai Chi Vun Shipyards, noted in the text of the consultation and on the need for its revitalization." The bureau added that the majority of residents were also in favor of the condition that the original external structure

characteristics of the shipyards should be properly reflected and represented during reconstruction works. The works are taking place to revitalize the space and to enhance security and safety.

Nevertheless, the IC also remarked that experts heard during the seminar on the revitalization and preservation of the shipyards "were unanimous in considering that the revitalization of the shipyard building area does not necessarily imply preserving

its original appearance as a whole," noting also that it is possible to make use of the revitalization for the future development of the area.

The bureau also added "there were also some voices that defended the improvement of the village, located on the opposite side of the shipyards and the expansion of the protection zone, among other aspects." According to the same statement, the IC "will take into account the opinions

received in its work to follow the procedures of classification of this property," noting that it will also, as soon as possible, "compile and summarize all the opinions collected and publish them."

On the other hand, regarding the public consultation on the "Plan for the Safeguard and Management of the Historic Center of Macau," the same bureau noted the four public sessions and six seminars that were held during the consultation period,

which were attended by approximately three hundred participants. According to the calculations of the government, the plan received around 1900 opinions through various channels of communication, most of these being "in favor of the content of the plan, considering that the work would be effective." In some other opinions, the IC noted additional proposals for the establishment of visual corridors, namely from Penha Hill area to the Governador Nobre de Carvalho Bridge." The IC said that it "will carefully analyze [these proposals] in order to improve the contents of the plan."

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PAULO BARBOSA

# Macau airport still after long-haul routes to Europe, South America



Daniel Beittler

**T**HE Macau International Airport Company (CAM) still has an eye to developing long-haul flights to Europe and South America, but that will depend on securing the right partnerships.

Speaking at the company's annual general assembly meeting yesterday, Chairman of the General Assembly Charles Lo said that CAM was still working toward developing more mid- and long-haul charter flights.

"Of course, I am talking about [routes to] Europe and South America," he said in response to a media enquiry. "A lot of people go to Hong Kong [for intercontinental flights]. In the future, we want them to fly from Macau. [...] Our target is regional cooperation, and then we will look at international cooperation, and then bring in larger planes. [In] the very near future, we are

going to have charter flights to other parts of the world, other than Southeast Asia, Asia or Asia Pacific."

The goal has long been on CAM's agenda, but the company says airline operators are unwilling to open the routes, perhaps in part due to the MSAR's proximity to the bigger and more international airport in Hong Kong.

In September last year, a representative of the company told the Times that CAM was interested in exploring "potential airlines to operate direct long-haul routes to Macau," and that CAM "has been trying all [manner of] ways to introduce new airlines to MIA, [...] but] an airline of a foreign country may have many considerations before entering into a new market."

The comments came just a few months after Beijing Capital Airlines inaugurated its Lisbon-Beijing-Macau flight, marking the first semi-direct connection to

the European capital since TAP Air Portugal's short-lived experiment in the 1990s.

However, on the sidelines on the inauguration, the president of the Civil Aviation Authority of Macau, Simon Chan, suggested that that it might not be "realistic for Macau to open many direct long-distance flights in a short time" on account of what he described as the "characteristics of the market."

Certainly, the Macau International Airport is to remain mostly regional in its scope for the years ahead. The airport currently connects the city to a total of 47 destinations, but the vast majority of passengers travel to and from mainland China (36 percent), Taiwan (22 percent) and Southeast Asia (42 percent).

In the medium term, CAM will not shy away from tapping into the considerably larger market residing within the Greater Bay Area, the company said yesterday,

though this would only play out over the course of the next 10 to 15 years.

"The opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge will make it easier for people to travel, provide more travel mode choices for passengers and bring [a] greater

market to the civil aviation industry in the bay area," a statement from the company read.

Asked whether increased demand from the Greater Bay Area would test the capacity of the local airport – even with the extension of the passenger terminal building – Lo declined to say if the company has made any forecasts in this respect and whether its current infrastructure will suffice.

**A lot of people go to Hong Kong [for intercontinental flights]. In the future, we want them to fly from Macau.**

CHARLES LO

The south extension of the passenger terminal building will add to the increased capacity following from the opening of the north extension earlier this year. Together they are expected to facilitate the travel of between nine and 10 million passengers per year, according to previous estimates from the company.

CAM said yesterday that the south extension of the passenger terminal building will be ready for public bidding in the second quarter of this year.

## CAM BOARD APPROVES 2017 ANNUAL REPORT

**THE MACAU** International Airport Company held its annual general assembly meeting yesterday, where the board gave its approval for the resolution of the 2017 annual report.

- The Macau International Airport achieved a total income of MOP4.95 billion, marking an increase of 9.6 percent year-on-year;
- The total income of CAM reached MOP1.4 billion, an increase of 5.5 percent compared with 2016;
- The final net profit of CAM will

be MOP354 million after tax and preferred dividends;

-CAM has proposed new business targets for 2018, including 7.38 million in passenger traffic, 60,000 flight movements and 39,000 tons of cargo;

-Starting from next month, CAM will complete the integration of its subsidiary, Administration of Airports Ltd., into its new airport operations department. All subordinate units, departments and staff of Administration of Airports will be absorbed by CAM.

# Re-elected FMCC chairman pledges to strengthen bilateral ties

**T**HE France Macau Chamber of Commerce (FMCC) announced that Rutger Verschuren has been re-elected as chairman for a three-year term lasting until 2021.

The election was held at Grand Lapa hotel last week during the Chamber's annual General Assembly.

Nacky Kuan, executive director of Macao Water, was elected as vice-president.

"I am honoured to continue as chairman of the France Macau Chamber of Commerce and to work with my colleagues and fellow FMCC Executive Committee and Board of Directors members," said

Verschuren, who works as an area vice president of Macau Operations at Artyzen Hospitality Group.

"We will focus on a number of strategic developments as we continue to strengthen the ties between France and Macau, while enriching our members with knowledge and useful business con-

nections through our offerings of leading chamber events in town."

At the General Assembly, members also elected two new Board members: Eric Chan, general manager of One Central, and Frederico Conde, managing director of Conde Group, to fill the seats of the board of directors.



Rutger Verschuren (center) pictured with other FMCC members

# Record stock streak enriches casino tycoon by USD12b

**G**ALAXY Entertainment Group is on a record winning streak as the effects of a Chinese anti-graft campaign fade - and that's enriching its owner to the tune of USD12 billion.

The Macau casino operator has jumped about 200 percent during a seven-quarter winning streak, placing it among the top four performers on Hong Kong's Hang Seng Index. Analysts are bullish, with 24 saying buy and not a single sell rating, while their consensus target price implies a further 12 percent gain.

That bodes well for founder Lui Che-Woo, who saw much of his wealth evaporate as China's corruption probes battered Macau's casino operators when President Xi Jinping first came to power.

Union Gaming Securities Asia Ltd.'s Grant Go-



Lui Che-Woo

vertsen, who along with analysts at Goldman Sachs Group Inc. and Macquarie Bank Ltd. predicts Galaxy will soar past its all-time high, says the company's focus on mass-market gambling will continue to pay off.

"Galaxy is doing a better job operationally than any other operator today,"

said Govertsen, an analyst with Macau-based Union Gaming who has a buy rating on the stock. "The company came out of the downturn with a much better mass-market program that has enabled them to become a much better all-around operator with a much more impressive future growth potential."

Lui, who was Asia's second-richest person only four years ago, is now 12th in the region, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. He controls the casino operator through closely-held K. Wah Group, which owns stakes in Galaxy and property developer K. Wah International Holdings Ltd. - a stock that's up 20 percent this year.

Galaxy has recovered some \$28 billion of its lost market value since a low in 2015. The company in February reported annual profit that beat the highest analyst estimate, and secured the biggest slice of Macau casino revenues at the end of last year.

On top of that, Galaxy agreed to buy a stake in Wynn Resorts Ltd. this month, which could enable the local business to win more of Macau's \$33 billion market from U.S. operators.

"Barring something catastrophic happening to China's economy, it is unlikely that Galaxy's earnings power faces much risk other than the occasional downturn in gaming revenue," Union Gaming's Grant Govertsen said. **MDT/Bloomberg**

# Exhibition showcases modern art collection

**T**HE exhibition "Modern Painting from the MAM Collection" presents 38 modern paintings by 42 artists from mainland China, Macau, Portugal and France at the Macao Museum of Art (MAM). The exhibition features landscapes and portrait paintings, using a wide variety of styles and techniques, including oil painting, acrylics and mixed media.

A statement from the Cultural Affairs Bureau explained that the paintings portray "rich emotions and complex living conditions" between people and nature, people and society and between people themselves.

The showcase reveals the open thinking and artistic characteristics of Macau as well as its role as a place for cultural in-


tegration between east and west, with artworks spanning a period from the 1980s to the present.

The showcase also illuminates the role of modern art in breaking with the previous limitations of realism, giving rise to a wide range of new art forms and influencing the development of painting in Macau over the last three decades.


Thus the "Modern Painting from the MAM Collection" aims to introduce relevant works from its modern art collection, allowing visitors to perceive multiple characteristics of modernist paintings.

The authors of the exhibition span an age range of 67 years and reside in mainland China, Macau and Europe respectively. The exhibition will run until April 29.

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TOURISM

# Package tour visitors drop one-quarter in CNY February

**VISITORS** to Macau on package tours totaled 597,000 in February 2018, according to the latest data provided by the Statistics and Census Bureau. This figure is up by 8.8 percent year-on-year but down by 25.6 percent month-to-month. Meanwhile, in the first two months of 2018, visitors on package tours totaled almost 1.4 million, a surge of 29.3 percent year-on-year.

Package tour visitors from mainland China (450,000) and Taiwan (56,000) rose by 11.6 percent and 55.3 percent respectively year-on-year in February, while those from South Korea (46,000) dropped by 6.1 percent. Attributable to the long Lunar New Year holidays, outbound residents using services of travel agencies increased by 15.9 percent year-on-year to 131,000. Among them, residents travelling on package tou-

rs grew by 12.4 percent to 53,000, with those going to mainland China (37,000) rising by 10.5 percent.

In the first two months of 2018, outbound residents using services of travel agencies totaled 249,000, up by 9.8 percent year-on-year.

There were 115 hotels and guesthouses operating at the end of February 2018, an increase of seven year-on-year. The number of guest rooms rose by 6.4 percent year-on-year to 39,000, with 5-star hotel rooms rising by 8.5 percent to 24,000, accounting for 61.2 percent of the total.

In the first two months of 2018, guests of hotels and guesthouses totaled 2.21 million, up by 9.8 percent year-on-year. The average occupancy rate rose by 5.9 percentage points to 89.8 percent, while the average length of stay of guests increased by 0.1 nights year-on-year to 1.5 nights.

# CEM: Local power generation up 60 percent in 2017

**T**HE 2017 financial statements and annual report of Companhia de Electricidade de Macau (CEM) were approved by the board of the company at the annual general meeting on Wednesday, with the final net profit settled at MOP793 million.

In 2017, the peak demand of power consumption in Macau rose by 7.7 percent to 1,004 MW, while the total electricity consumption reached 5,377 GWh, up 2.3 percent year-on-year.

The cost of local electricity generation remained competitive last year compared with that imported from mainland China, according to a statement from CEM.

Local power generation increased by 60 percent to 1,260 GWh compared to



2016, accounting for 23.4 percent of the total power consumption in Macau. Electricity imported from Mainland China declined by 8.2 percent year-on-year to 3,952 GWh, taking up 73.5 percent of the total power consumption, while the remaining 3.1 percent was purchased

from Macau Refused Incineration Plant.

The CEM statement said that the company continued to invest in local critical infrastructure facilities last year, "with the aim of strengthening supply reliability and meeting the ever-increasing power demand."

Accordingly, CEM's capital expenditure in 2017 was MOP1.52 billion, with the majority invested in the power transmission and distribution networks and other, specific projects, such as primary substations in the Hospital Conde S. Januário as well as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Artificial Island.

Regarding the impact caused by Typhoon Hato in August last year - which temporarily plunged the city into darkness - CEM said that the power supply was restored "in the shortest possible time." It said that the company was making efforts to improve local power infrastructure, without specifying the details.

The annual general meeting also saw several individuals appointed to the company's supervisory board. They are Paul Tse representing the Macau SAR, Wong Su Cheong representing Sino-French Energy Development Co. Ltd., José da Guia Rodrigues dos Santos representing Energy Asia Consultancy Ltd., and Cheong Sio Tong.



## Enjoy a Special Slice of Easter Sweetness

Indulge yourself this Easter with special selection of Easter desserts and a variety of delicacies for you and your family between 30 March and 2 April 2018.

SandsResortsMacao.com/dining

Image for reference purposes only



## Bishop's Easter message focused on forgiveness

Macau Bishop Stephen Lee issued an Easter message urging "all pastoral groups and institutions in the Diocese to work towards a culture of mercy, reconciliation and communion of youth and family." Noting that "there can be no healthy marriage or healthy family without the exercise of forgiveness in the family," the Macau Bishop centered his Easter message on the concept of forgiveness. "One who does not forgive sickens physically, emotionally and spiritually," Lee wrote.

## Edmund Ho meets with Suu Kyi

Vice Chairman of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference and Former Chief Executive of Macau, Edmund Ho Hau Wah, met yesterday with Myanmar's State Counselor Aung San Suu Kyi at the presidential residence in Naypyitaw, Myanmar. A delegation led by Edmund Ho Hau Wah arrived in Nay Pyi Taw on Wednesday evening. They were welcomed by Union Minister for International Cooperation, U Kyaw Tin, and the Chinese Ambassador to Myanmar, Hong Liang, at the Nay Pyi Taw International Airport.

## Accreditation scheme calls for applications

The Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO) held two promotional seminars yesterday at the Convention Center of Macau Science Center to call for new applications from catering and travel agency sectors for the Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme, which has been carried out for the fifth year. Interested merchants who meet the necessary criteria for the Scheme may submit applications and supporting documents to MGTO from April 3 to 30. Acting director Cheng Wai Tong of MGTO and representatives from a number of supporting entities were present at the seminars, which introduced the application procedures and assessment criteria of the Quality Tourism Services Accreditation Scheme.

# Hato report proposes public emergency management revamp

**T**he government published yesterday the final report assessing the overall impact of Typhoon Hato, which presents suggestions to improve the mechanism for managing emergencies. Among the suggestions are revamping the mechanism and the legal system for managing a public emergency, establishing comprehensive planning ahead of any adverse event and enhancing the coordination mechanism between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau in emergency situations.

The report reviews the overall impact of the powerful storm that battered Macau in August, causing 10 human fatalities and resulting in heavy economic losses.

The Commission for Reviewing and Monitoring the Improvements of the Response Mechanism to Major Disasters invited the Institute for Public Safety Research at Tsinghua University, the North China University of Technology, and



the Ministry of Civil Affairs' National Disaster Reduction Centre of China to write the report.

The review is divided into four chapters. According to the statement, the first chapter offers a comprehensive analysis of the overall effects of Typhoon Hato and provides a summary of the findings.

The second chapter outlines the latest information and practical insights regarding man-

agement of public emergencies. It covers prevention and mitigation measures, and relief efforts in the aftermath of disruptive events.

The third chapter includes suggestions on how to improve Macau's mechanism for the management of public emergencies. The fourth chapter provides suggestions on a number of important initiatives required in the medium- and long-term,

such as the establishment of a command system for the management of public emergencies, the construction of emergency shelters and resettlement sites and the creation of "a center for public safety promotion and education in relation to popular science topics." The report also proposes the construction of waterfront flood control and drainage facilities for the Inner Harbor.

Findings of the final report were developed from a preliminary version published in September.

According to the statement issued yesterday, authorities are stepping up efforts to advance Macau's overall capabilities for disaster prevention, namely by amending the Civil Protection Law; the formulation of a 10-year plan for disaster prevention and mitigation (2019-2028); and the establishment of a new command system for the management of public emergencies.

## Economy expected to grow at an average of 4.9pct

**M**ACAU'S economy is expected to expand at an average of 4.9 percent per year in 2018/2019, supported by an upswing in the gaming industry, according to the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU). In its latest report on the territory, the EIU said that the government's efforts to diversify the economy should have very limited success.

Gross fixed capital formation, or investment, will be bolstered by public expenditure on housing and transport, at a time when private investors, particularly gaming concessionaires, are reducing or limiting their investment following the completion of new hotel or gaming projects.

In the two years under review, the Morpheus Hotel is due to open and will be operated by Melco Resorts. In addition, the Grand Lisboa Palace will also open and be operated by Sociedade de Turismo e Diversões de Macau (STDM).

Although the document mentions that Galaxy Macau (owned by Hong Kong-based Galaxy Entertainment) will invest HKD50 billion (about USD6.4 billion) in the expansion of its Cotai development, it added that the investment to be carried out in 2018/2019 will be significantly lower than in previous years.

The investment will be supported

by public expenditure, including the construction of new social housing projects, the Islands' Hospital (which will provide health services to the residents of the islands of Coloane and Taipa), as well as the Macau light rail network, which has so far only been under construction on the island of Taipa.

The EIU also predicts that while public efforts to diversify the economy will yield slim results, casino operators should invest "heavily" in tourism supply not directly related to gambling, thereby broadening the range of leisure activities available for locals and visitors alike.

The average of 4.9 percent per year for 2018/2019 can be broken down into an economic growth rate of 5.8 percent this year and 3.9 percent in 2019, while the inflation rate will be 2.2 percent this year and 2.9 percent in 2019. The positive balance of budget execution will be only one digit, with a rate of 8.1 percent in 2018 and 7.2 percent in 2019.

The EIU report said that the robust growth of the gambling sector in 2018/2019 will support employment and increase wages in the territory, in turn leading to an increase in household spending, which is expected to grow at an annual rate of 5.2 percent per year. **MDT/Macauhub**

## Library week to host series of programs

**T**HE "2018 Macau Library Week" will be held across April and May, with the theme "Reading Brings People Together." The Week will mark "World Book Day," which is celebrated on April 23.

This year, the Library Week co-organizing entities will offer different activities starting in April, namely thematic lectures and family programs held by the Public Library.

In the lecture "Taste Nature", local environmental educator and activist Joe Chan, through the five senses and through reading, will embark on a "physical and spiritual journey" through the world of books, nature and food with participants, according to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC).

In turn, in the lecture "The Literature Landscape of Macau", local writer Eric Chau will share works by Macau authors, presenting the characteristics and current status of literature in Macau and probing the relationship between the city and the development of literature.

Family activities include the "Library Orienteering for the Family—Detective Scavenger Hunt", while the "Series of Reading Workshops for



Parents and Children" includes "The Music Playground", "Move Your Body" and "Fun Facts about Classic Toys."

The IC noted that workshops and family activities will be conducted in Cantonese.

In addition, the organizing entities will hold two promotional days for events on April 21 and 22 at the Old Court Building.

Activities during the promotional days include a back periodicals charity sale, a book exchange and book crossing, as well as workshops, thematic lectures and reading games.

The Library Week is co-organized by the Cultural Affairs Bureau Public Library, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Library of the University of Macau and the Macau Library and Information Management Association.

AP PHOTO



Carlos Ghosn, the chairman of both companies, is driving the negotiations

# Nissan, Renault in merger talks after two-decade union

RENAULT SA and Nissan Motor Co. are in talks to merge, seeking to solidify their two-decade-old alliance under a single stock as an unprecedented shift toward electric and shared cars transforms the industry, people with knowledge of the matter said.

A deal would end the current alliance between the companies and marry them as one corporation, said the people, who asked not to be identified as the details aren't public. Renault currently owns 43 percent of Nissan while the Japanese carmaker has a 15 percent stake in its French counterpart. Carlos Ghosn, the chairman of both companies, is driving the negotiations and would run the combined entity, the people said.

A merged giant would be a more formidable rival for Volkswagen AG and Toyota Motor Corp., allowing the partners to better pool resources as the industry shifts toward new-energy vehicles, autonomous driving and car-sharing services. While the alliance of Renault and Nissan has brought savings, the fragmented ownership structure has prevented the companies from reaping full benefits from their union.

"Size matters in the auto industry," said Janet Lewis, an analyst at Macquarie in Tokyo. "The concern has always primarily been the French government, and somewhat Japan, because both France and Japan like to keep their national champions."

The parties are discussing a transaction in which Nissan would essentially give Renault shareholders stock in the new company, the people said. Nissan shareholders would also receive shares in the new company in exchange for their holdings, they said. The automaker may maintain headquarters in both Japan and France.

Getting a deal done could prove very difficult, the people said. The French government owns 15 percent of Renault and may be reluctant to relinquish control over its stake or have its position watered down. Both the French and Japanese governments would also have to approve a deal and may have

strong opinions on where the combined company is domiciled, the people said.

One possibility would be to base the company in London or the Netherlands, where cross-Atlantic carmaker Fiat Chrysler Automobiles NV has its corporate charter. Fiat Chrysler maintains headquarters in both Italy and the U.S.

No final decisions have been made and the talks, which have been ongoing for several months, may not result in a deal, they said. A spokesman for the Renault-Nissan alliance said the group doesn't comment on rumors and speculation, while a spokesman for the French finance ministry declined to comment. Representatives for Yokohama, Japan-based Nissan and Renault also declined to comment.

Reuters reported earlier this month that Nissan was in talks to buy the bulk of the French government's stake in Renault, citing unidentified people. The Renault-Nissan alliance said at the time any discussion about a share transaction involving the parties was "pure speculation."

Ghosn has pledged to cement Renault's partnership with Nissan, saying in February that the companies would devise a plan to "make the alliance irreversible." The 64-year-old relinquished the chief executive officer role at Nissan last year to focus on the partnership.

The companies are seeking to double synergies to 10 billion euros by 2022 from 2016. In April, Mitsubishi Motors Corp. - in which Nissan is the largest shareholder - will further integrate with the alliance by joining a shared parts-purchasing organization.

The alliance forecasts unit sales of 14 million units by 2022, compared with 10.6 million last year. Volkswagen, the world's largest carmaker, sold 10.7 million vehicles last year, while Toyota sold 10.4 million.

"To compete against the Toyotas, Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi very much has to do it as one big group," Macquarie's Lewis said. **Bloomberg**

AD

## EASTER GLEE

From Easter rabbits to chocolate eggs, and spring style to festive fun, we've got it all at Sands Shoppes. Here are just a few reasons why you should celebrate the Easter long weekend with us.



### 1 CHOCOLATE TREATS

From Godiva to La Maison du Chocolat, and Häagen-Dazs to The Chocolate Shop, Easter is a great excuse to indulge in deluxe chocolate treats. Choose from eggs, rabbits, ice cream and sophisticated chocolate selections.



### 2 FOLLOW THE RABBIT

While you may not meet the Easter Rabbit this year, Tea WG is offering a spring special Tea Party Tea with rabbit motif from its Haute Couture Tea Collection that's perfect for this time of year. Enjoy in house or take it home for tea.

### 3 NEW SEASON STYLE

Up-to-the-minute accessories and the smartest, chicest fashion items hot off the spring-summer catwalks are all in-store at Sands Shoppes boutiques now. Hit the shops to get your hands on the hippest spring style.



### 4 FESTIVE FUN

Punctuate a day of shopping with an Easter afternoon tea at Conrad Macao's The Lounge in Shoppes at Cotai Central. It not only includes traditional Easter hot cross buns but also an exclusive range of new Easter-inspired cocktails.

## SHOP, PLAY AND DRIVE AWAY

It's never been easier to shop and win than with our exclusive Shop, Play and Drive Away lucky draw in collaboration with Tesla. For every MOP500 spent at Shoppes at Venetian, Shoppes at Four Seasons, Shoppes at Cotai Central, Shoppes at Parisian or Shoppes at Sands Macao (except dining outlets), you can redeem an entry into our lucky draw with the chance to win Tesla electric cars and other great prizes including Rewards Dollars. Total prizes are valued at up to HKD1,380,000.



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REAL ESTATE MATTERS

Technologies that will change your real estate experience

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property.

JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.

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SAM LEE

The real estate industry is sometimes called a 'technological dinosaur' because it is seen as being resistant to technological disruptions compared to more tech-savvy industries such as media and retail.

Despite this, there is no denying that the industry has gone through its own share of change due to technology. For example, centralised listing platforms such as www.zillow.com in the US or www.malimalihome.net in Macau have helped foster speed and accessibility of market information, and developments in multimedia technologies have brought a breath of creative air into the traditional world of property marketing. With this in mind, here are some exciting technological trends we can expect to further disrupt the real estate industry in the coming future:

Augmented and virtual reality

The most successful exam-

ple of AR so far was the game 'Pokemon Go'. People were absolutely fascinated by the merging of the virtual and physical worlds, and this holds massive potential for property as well.

Imagine a world where the property viewing process is gamified to make it more interactive and memorable. Or imagine that you can view as many properties as you want without leaving the comfort of your home by using advanced VR technology. These technologies will undoubtedly impact the industry in positive and unexpected ways.

Blockchain

Blockchain, the underlying technology behind cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin and Ethereum, is a decentralized digital ledger that basically cannot be compromised. Without going into the possibility of buying properties in cryptocurrencies (who knows?), blockchain has the

potential to store property records more securely and reduce fraud if integrated correctly and comprehensively by regulatory industry bodies.

Big data, AI and machine learning

These powerful technologies have been the talk of the town in recent years, and are most effectively when they work together and feed into each other. Big data will allow for effective implementations of AI and machine learning, such as the creation of intelligent property 'chat bots' that would automate a lot of the manual work that agents are doing at the moment.

Real estate is fascinating because it is an industry that caters to an unchanging need in ways that are constantly changing. These disruptions will surely bring both opportunities and pitfalls, and I hope you are as excited as we are for them.

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## Barclays to pay USD2b to settle mortgage securities suit

**BARCLAYS** Plc agreed to pay USD2 billion in civil penalties to settle a U.S. investigation into its marketing of residential mortgage-backed securities between 2005 and 2007.

The investigation targeted 36 RMBS deals involving \$31 billion worth of loans, more than half of which defaulted, the Justice Department said in a statement yesterday. In addition, two former executives at the bank - Paul Menefee and John Carroll - agreed to pay \$2 million to resolve claims against them without admitting wrongdoing.

"In general, the borrowers whose loans backed these deals were significantly less credit-worthy than Barclays represented," the Justice Department said in a statement.

The London-based bank was said in 2016 to press to keep any settlement to \$2 billion. The Justice Department balked and sued

that December. It was a rare move as big banks typically negotiate a settlement before it reaches that point rather than risk a public trial.

Barclays Chief Executive Officer Jes Staley welcomed the deal in a statement and called it "a fair and proportionate settlement." Staley said the bank remained committed to paying a 6.5 pence dividend for 2018. The bank will recognize the fine in its first quarter earnings.

Menefee, who was the head banker on Barclays's subprime RMBS securitizations, "has always maintained that the government's FIRREA lawsuit against him was baseless," his lawyers said in a statement, referring to the statute under which the case was brought. "Solely to put this matter behind him, Mr. Menefee has agreed to a settlement in which he has not admitted any wrongdoing." **Bloomberg**

## CORRUPTION

# Vietnam jails ex-Politburo member over oil giant's losses

**A** Vietnamese court sentenced a former Communist Party Politburo member to 18 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of mismanagement at a state oil giant that cost millions of dollars.

The former chairman of PetroVietnam, Dinh La Thang, had already been sentenced to 13 years in prison in January on other charges.

The Hanoi court convicted Thang of deliberately violating economic management regulations by investing USD35 million in Ocean Commercial Joint Stock Bank without approval from the board of directors. The investment was lost when the bank was acquired by a state bank at no cost.

Six other defendants who were former senior executives of PetroVietnam received from 15 months of probation to 23 years in jail at the end of the weeklong trial yesterday.

The court also ordered Thang to pay 600 billion dong (\$26.5 million) in compensation to PetroVietnam and the six others to pay the remaining

200 billion dong (\$8.5 million).

"This is a particularly serious case that [...] affected the people's trust and caused especially large losses to the state," the state-run online newspaper VnExpress quoted the verdict as saying.

Thang, 57, was once a rising political star but was dismissed from the all-powerful Politburo in May and was subsequently fired as Communist Party secretary of the southern commercial hub of Ho Chi Minh City. He was arrested on Dec. 8.

Phan Trung Hoai, one of Thang's defense lawyers, told The Associated Press that "we were very shocked at the sentences." Foreign press did not have access to the trial. During the court proceedings, Thang denied the charges and maintained that what he did was in line with the law.

The state-run online newspaper Dan Tri quoted the verdict as saying Thang held the company's highest position and must bear the main responsibility for the losses.

"After committing the crime, the



Dinh La Thang (center) is being led out of a courtroom in Hanoi

defendant did not really express remorse, but instead used tricks to conceal the crime and avoid responsibility and the consequences that it caused," the newspaper quoted the verdict as saying.

PetroVietnam and the banking sector have been at the center of an unprecedented crackdown on corruption, with scores of current or former senior executives on trial. **AP**

### Academic Year 2018/2019

## Central Registration for Children Entering Kindergarten for the First Time

**Eligibility**  
Macao residents aged 3 by 31<sup>st</sup> December, 2018, who will enrol in infant education in Macao for the first time.

### Timeline for printing out and submitting the "Registration slips"

Timeline (Year 2018)	
<p><b>Printing out the "Registration slip"</b></p>	<p>At the self-service kiosks / on the DSEJ website: Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Macao Residents:</b> Parents have to insert their children's valid Macao Resident Identity Card into the self-service kiosks (same machine for medical vouchers) to print out the "Registration slip". (The slip can only be printed once. Duplicated copies will not be accepted.)</li> <li><b>Non-Macao Residents:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Parents who have processed the Central Registration can login to the DSEJ website (<a href="http://www.dsej.gov.mo">www.dsej.gov.mo</a>), input the child's identification document number and print out the "Registration slip". (The information on the "Registration slip" must be verified by the school when the slip is submitted.)</li> <li>The child has not processed the Central Registration, parents must process the "Registration slip" at any of the DSEJ counter(s).</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p>DSEJ counters (for special cases) Between 3<sup>rd</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April (Except Ching-Ming Festival)</p>
<p><b>Release of the admission list and submission of the "Registration slip"</b></p>	<p>Schools release the admission list Between 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> April</p> <p>Parents of admitted students submit the "Registration slip" to the school selected for their children to attend. Between 11<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> April (On school working days)</p>
<p><b>Release of the admission list of waitlisted students and submission of the "Registration slip"</b></p>	<p>Starting from 16<sup>th</sup> April onwards, schools release the admission list of waitlisted students.</p> <p>Parents of waitlisted students submit the "Registration slip" to the preferred school or conduct process for transferring their children to another school Between 16<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup> April</p>
<p><b>Enrolment at other schools</b></p>	<p>If children have not been admitted to any school until 16<sup>th</sup> April, i.e. after schools release the admission list of waitlisted students, or parents want to enrol their child in other schools, parents can visit the DSEJ website to check the status of K1 places available at different schools, and go to the schools that still accept enrolment for enquiries and registration.</p>

**Gentle Reminder:**

- To enrol in Macao schools, non-Macao Residents must possess a stay or residence permit for over 90 days issued by the authorised entity of the Macao SAR.
- The DSEJ will provide "Service of consultation and arrangement of school places" to parents who are in need.

Inquiry number : 8397 2309

For details, please browse DSEJ website: [www.dsej.gov.mo](http://www.dsej.gov.mo)

DSEJ mobile app

DSEJ Wechat

Wechat ID: dsejmacau

Joe McDonald, Beijing

STATE TV has shown the founder of the Chinese insurance company that owns New York City's Waldorf Hotel admitting his guilt at a trial on charges he fraudulently raised USD10 billion from investors.

Wu Xiaohui, former chairman of Anbang Insurance Group, also is accused of improperly diverting money to his own use. Regulators seized control of Anbang in February after a multibillion-dollar global asset-buying spree prompted questions about its financial stability.

"I clearly admit my guilt and repent for it," Wu was shown saying Wednesday in court in Shanghai. "I plead with the court and the parties concerned to give me a lighter sentence."

Wu, who founded privately owned Anbang in 2004, initially denied his guilt at his one-day trial, according to an earlier court statement.

Nearly all Chinese prosecutions end in conviction. Defendants usually express remorse in hope of obtaining leniency.

The case added to an avalanche of scandals for Chinese insurers. The industry's former chief regulator was charged in September with taking bribes. Executives of

# Chinese state TV shows insurance tycoon admitting guilt



In this image taken from undated video footage run by China's CCTV Wu Xiaohui, the former chairman of the Anbang Insurance Group, speaks during a hearing at the Shanghai No. 1 Intermediate People's Court

other insurers have been charged with corruption and mismanagement.

Beijing announced plans March

13 to merge the Chinese banking and insurance regulators in an effort to step up scrutiny of those fast-evolving industries.

The ruling Communist Party has made reducing financial risk a priority after a run-up in debt owed by Chinese companies and

local governments prompted rating agencies last year to cut Beijing's credit rating for government borrowing.

Anbang discussed possibly investing in a Manhattan skyscraper owned by the family of U.S. President Donald Trump's son-in-law and adviser, Jared Kushner. Those talks ended last year with no deal.

Wu gained a reputation for aggressive expansion in a stodgy industry dominated by state-owned insurers.

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

Other insurers have been accused of endangering the financial safety of their industry through reckless speculation in stocks and real estate.

The chairman of a life insurance company was barred from the industry last year in an unrelated case and a third company was prohibited from trading stocks. AP

## TIANGONG 1

# Defunct space lab hurtling toward Earth for re-entry

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

CHINA'S defunct and reportedly out-of-control Tiangong 1 space station is expected to re-enter Earth's atmosphere sometime this weekend. It poses only a slight risk to people and property on the ground, since most of the bus-size, 8.5-ton vehicle is expected to burn up on re-entry, although space agencies don't know exactly when or where that will happen.

Below are some questions and answers about the station, its re-entry and the past and future of China's ambitious space program.

### WHAT WILL HAPPEN AND HOW GREAT IS THE DANGER?

The European Space Agency predicts the station will re-enter the atmosphere between Saturday morning and Sunday afternoon — an estimate it calls "highly variable," likely because the ever-changing shape of the upper atmosphere affects the speed of objects falling into it.

The Chinese space agency's latest estimate puts re-entry between Saturday and Wednesday.

Western space experts say they believe China has lost

control of the station. China's chief space laboratory designer Zhu Zongpeng has denied Tiangong was out of control, but hasn't provided specifics on what, if anything, China is doing to guide the craft's re-entry.

Based on Tiangong 1's orbit, it will come to Earth somewhere between latitudes of 43 degrees north and 43 degrees south, or roughly somewhere over most of the United States, China, Africa, southern Europe, Australia and South America. Out of range are Russia, Canada and northern Europe.

Based on its size, only about 10 percent of the spacecraft will likely survive being burned up on re-entry, mainly its heavier components such as its engines. The chances of anyone person on Earth being hit by debris is considered less than one in a trillion.

Ren Guoqiang, China's defense ministry spokesman, told reporters yesterday that Beijing has been briefing the United Nations and the international community about Tiangong 1's re-entry through multiple channels.

### HOW COMMON IS MAN-MADE SPACE DEBRIS?

Debris from satellites, spa-

ce launches and the International Space Station enters the atmosphere every few months, but only one person is known to have been hit by any of it: American woman Lottie Williams, who was struck but not injured by a falling piece of a U.S. Delta II rocket while exercising in an Oklahoma park in 1997.

Most famously, America's 77-ton Skylab crashed through the atmosphere in 1979, spreading pieces of wreckage near the southwestern Australia city of Perth, which fined the U.S. \$400 for littering.

The breakup on re-entry of the Columbia space shuttle in 2003 killed all seven astronauts and sent more than 80,000 pieces of debris raining down on a large swath of the Southern United States. No one on the ground was injured.

In 2011, NASA's Upper Atmosphere Research Satellite was considered to pose a slight risk to the public when it came down to Earth 20 years after its launching. Debris from the 6-ton satellite ended up falling into the Pacific Ocean, causing no damage.

China's own space program raised major concerns after it used a missile to destroy an out-of-service Chi-



In this 2011 file photo, a Long March-2FT1 carrier rocket loaded with Tiangong-1 space station blasts off from the launch pad

nese satellite in 2007, creating a large and potentially dangerous cloud of debris.

### WHAT IS TIANGONG 1 AND WHAT WAS IT USED FOR?

Launched in 2011, Tiangong 1 was China's first space station, serving as an experimental platform for bigger projects such as the Tiangong 2 launched in September 2016 and a future permanent Chinese space station.

The station, whose name translates as "Heavenly Palace," played host to two crewed missions that included China's first female astronauts and served as a test platform for perfecting docking procedures and

other operations. Its last crew departed in 2013 and contact with it was cut in 2016. Since then it has been orbiting gradually closer and closer to Earth on its own while being monitored.

The station had two modules, one for its solar panels and engines, and one for a pair of astronauts to live in and conduct experiments. A third astronaut slept in the Shenzhou spaceships that docked with the station, which also contained facilities for personal hygiene and food preparation.

### HOW ADVANCED IS CHINA'S SPACE PROGRAM?

Since China conducted

its first crewed mission in 2003 — becoming only the third country after Russia and the U.S. to do so — it has taken on increasingly ambitious projects, including staging a spacewalk and landing its Jade Rabbit rover on the moon.

China now operates the Tiangong 2 precursor space station facility, while the permanent station's 20-ton core module is due to be launched this year. The completed 60-ton station is set to come into full service in 2022 and operate for at least a decade.

China was excluded from the 420-ton International Space Station mainly due to U.S. legislation barring such cooperation and concerns over the Chinese space program's strong military connections. China's space program remains highly secretive and some experts have complained that a lack of information about Tiangong 1's design has made it harder to predict what might happen upon its re-entry.

A mission to land another rover on Mars and bring back samples is set to launch in 2020. China also plans to become the first country to soft-land a probe on the far side of the moon. AP



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and his wife Ri Sol Ju are greeted on arrival at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

# Kim family has made denuclearization vows in China before

Matthew Pennington, Washington

**A**N enigmatic North Korean leader takes a secretive train trip to China to affirm fraternal ties and declare a commitment to denuclearization.

It sounds like Kim Jong Un's visit this week, but his father and predecessor Kim Jong Il made similar declarations on a trip to Beijing, months before he died in 2011. Yet North Korea's nuclear weapons development only speeded up.

President Donald Trump expressed optimism after the younger Kim's meeting with Chinese President Xi Jinping, saying there's "a good chance" that Kim will "do what is right for his people and for humanity." But there are plenty of reasons to be skeptical that the U.S.-North Korean summit slated for May will produce the breakthrough that Washington wants.

After a year of escalating tensions, Trump agreed to talks after South Korean officials relayed that Kim was committed to ridding the Korean Peninsula of nuclear weapons and was willing to halt nuclear and missile tests.

That has tamped down fears

of war that elevated as Trump and Kim traded threats and insults and North Korea demonstrated it was close to being able to strike the U.S. with a nuclear-tipped missile.

Kim's meeting with Xi offered some reassurance to Washington that denuclearization will be up for negotiation if the first summit between American and North Korean leaders in seven decades takes place.

But while Trump has elevated expectations of what that sit-down would achieve, North Korea has yet to spell out what it wants in return for abandoning a weapons program that Kim likely views as a guarantee for the survival of his totalitarian regime.

The readout of Kim's remarks to Xi as reported by China's state news agency Xinhua strongly indicates Pyongyang is looking for significant American concessions.

"The issue of denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula can be resolved," Kim was quoted as saying, "if South Korea and the United States respond to our efforts with goodwill, create an atmosphere of peace and stability while taking progressive and synchronous measures for the realization of peace."

To many North Korea watchers, that sounds like old wine in a new bottle.

In May 2011, the elder Kim, who was making what would be his final trip to China, told then-president Hu Jintao that the North was "adhering to the goal of denuclearization."

That came months after North Korea had revealed a uranium enrichment plant that gave it a second path for making fuel for atomic bombs.

Abraham Denmark, a former senior U.S. defense official, said the North's latest offer to "denuclearize" still appears contingent on U.S. creating the right conditions. In the past, Pyongyang demanded that U.S. withdraw troops from the peninsula and end its security alliance with South Korea and the nuclear protection it offers its ally.

"It's possible that Kim Jong Un has a different meaning in mind," said Denmark, now director of the Asia program at the Wilson Center think tank. "So far it sounds like the same old tune."

Ending six years of international seclusion, Kim was spirited into Beijing by special train under tight security like his father before him. He met with Xi, seeking to repair re-

lations that have been frayed as China has supported tough U.N. sanctions and slashed trade with its wayward ally in frustration over its refusal to stop its provocative behavior.

State Department spokeswoman Heather Nauert said Kim's first foreign trip was a "historic step in the right direction" and proof that a U.S.-led campaign of "maximum pressure" of economic sanctions was working. Trump said the pressure would be maintained for now but offered an optimistic view of how he could achieve peace and denuclearization that eluded past administrations.

## North Korea has yet to spell out what it wants in return for abandoning a weapons program

"Now there is a good chance that Kim Jong Un will do what is right for his people and for humanity. Look forward to our meeting!"

There's another way of looking at it.

It could be North Korea, not the U.S., that is calling the shots. When Kim offered an olive branch to South Korea in the new year, he also warned that the entire U.S. was within range of the North's atomic weapons. With that capability in hand, he may now be going on a diplomatic offensive, using it as leverage to win aid and security guarantees rather than intending to give it up.

Trump's pick for national security adviser, John Bolton, is famously skeptical of diplomacy with North Korea. Just a month ago, he made the case for a pre-emptive military strike on the North. That raises questions about whether he might advocate for the same should Trump's summit with Kim fail.

Experts at the Center for Strategic and International Studies think tank said in an analysis that by meeting Xi, Kim may be seeking an insurance policy that "even if summit talks fail with the U.S. that North Korea could still fall back on its relationship with China."

Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, a close ally of the president, is worried about a less-than-ideal outcome.

He said this week that he's concerned that in his talks with Kim, Trump will focus on the intercontinental missiles that can reach the U.S. mainland and not the shorter-range missiles that threaten Japan and may "end up accepting North Korea's possession of nuclear weapons." AP



Chinese Ministry of Commerce spokesman Gao Feng

TRADE WAR

## Beijing appeals to Washington to give up tariff plan

**C**HINA'S Commerce Ministry cursed Washington yesterday to discard planned tariffs it warned might set off a chain reaction that could disrupt global trade and said Beijing will "fight to the end."

A ministry spokesman, Gao Feng, gave no details of how Beijing might respond to U.S. President Donald Trump's proposed tariff hike on USD60 billion of Chinese goods in a dispute over technology policy. But Gao repeated warnings China will "take all appropriate measures" to defend its commercial interests.

Trump's plans are a "flagrant violation" of World Trade Organization rules and "may trigger a chain reaction" of import controls by other governments and harm global economic growth, Gao said at a regular news briefing. He used unusually forceful language even for the latest acrimonious dispute.

"We hope the United States can rein in its horse before the edge of the cliff, or else we will fight to the end," said Gao.

Gao insisted Beijing has abided by WTO rules, despite complaints by Washington, the European Union and foreign business groups that Chinese regulators hinder market access and shield local companies from competition.

The possible tariffs approved last week by Trump are in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology.

Last week, Beijing responded to an earlier U.S. tariff hike on steel and aluminum imports by releasing a \$3 billion list of American goods including pork and steel pipes that might be targeted for retaliation.

Gao repeated earlier Chinese statements that Beijing is open to negotiating a settlement, though he did not confirm a news report that talks already have started. The Wall Street Journal said U.S. officials have submitted a list of market-opening requests covering autos, finance and semiconductors.

## PAKISTAN

# Malala returns to homeland, says she will continue fight for girls' education

Munir Ahmed  
& Sherin Zada, Islamabad

**N**OBEL Peace Prize winner Malala Yousafzai yesterday said she was excited to be back in Pakistan for the first time since she was shot in 2012 by Taliban militants angered at her championing of education for girls.

Yousafzai said in a brief speech at a ceremony at Prime Minister Shahid Khaqan Abbasi's office that she will continue to campaign for the education of girls and asked Pakistanis to be united on issues like providing better health care and education.

She said she remembered having to leave Pakistan for treatment after she was attacked. Covering her tear-filled eyes with her hands, Yousafzai said it was hard to wait for more than five years to return home.

"It is now actually happening and I am here," she said.

Abbasi praised Yousafzai for her sacrifices and role in the promotion of girls' education. He said he was happy to welcome her home, where he said terrorism has been eliminated.

Since her attack and recovery, Yousafzai has led the "Malala Fund," which she said has invested USD6 million in schools and to provide books and uniforms for schoolchildren.

"For the betterment of Pakistan, it is necessary to educate girls and empower women," she said.

Earlier, tight security greeted the now-20-year-old university student upon her arrival at Pakistan's Benazir Bhutto In-



Nobel laureate Malala Yousafzai attends an annual meeting of the World Economic Forum in Davos in January

ternational Airport. Local television showed her with her parents in the lounge at the airport before leaving in a convoy of nearly 15 vehicles, many of them occupied by heavily armed police.

Her return had been shrouded in secrecy and she was not likely to travel to her hometown of Mingora in the Swat valley, where the shooting occurred.

As news broke about Yousafzai's arrival, many of her fellow Pakistanis welcomed her.

Cricketer turned opposition leader Imran Khan's party said Yousafzai's return was a sign of the defeat of extremism in the country.

Mohammad Hassan, one of Yousafzai's cousins in the northwestern town of Mingora, said it was one of the happiest days of his life. He said he was

not sure whether Yousafzai will visit her home town, where schoolchildren were jubilant on her return, though they wished Yousafzai had visited Mingora so that they could greet her.

Javeria Khan, a 12-year-old schoolgirl in Yousafzai's hometown, said she was excited about Yousafzai's return.

"I wish I could see her in Swat. I wish she had come here, but we welcome her," she said, as she sat among schoolchildren.

Marvi Memon, a senior leader of the ruling Pakistan Muslim League party, also welcomed Yousafzai, saying it was a pleasant surprise for her to see Yousafzai back home.

"What an incredible surprise I woke up to this morning" to know that Yousafzai is back along with her parents, she said. Memon said it was a proud day

for Pakistan that Yousafzai was back in Pakistan.

Yousafzai was just 14 years old but already known for her activism when Taliban gunman boarded the school van in which she was sitting and demanded to know "who is Malala?" before shooting her in the head. Two of her classmates were also injured. In critical condition, Yousafzai was flown to the garrison city of Rawalpindi before being airlifted to Birmingham in Britain.

**For the betterment of Pakistan, it is necessary to educate girls and empower women.**

MALALA YOUSAFZAI  
NOBEL PEACE LAUREATE

She has since spoken at the United Nations, mesmerizing the world with her eloquence and her unrelenting commitment to the promotion of girls' education through the Malala Fund, a book, meetings with refugees and other activism.

She was awarded the Nobel in 2014, along with Indian child-rights activist Kailash Satyarthi, and said on the day she collected the prize that "Education is one of the blessings of life, and one of its necessities."

She remained in Britain after undergoing medical treatment there and was accepted to the University of Oxford last year.

At home in Pakistan, however, she has been condemned by some as a Western mouthpiece with some even suggesting on social media that the shooting was staged. Yousafzai has repeatedly responded to the criticism with a grace far outstripping her years, often saying education is neither Western, nor Eastern.

Often when she has spoken in public she has championed her home country and spoken in her native Pashto language, always promising to return to her home.

On March 23 when Pakistan celebrated Pakistan Day, Yousafzai tweeted, "I cherish fond memories of home, of playing cricket on rooftops and singing the national anthem in school. Happy Pakistan Day!"

Local television channels have been showing her return to Pakistan with some replaying the horror of her shooting and the rush to get her treatment.

Pakistani officials say they captured several suspects after the attack on Yousafzai, but the head of the Taliban in Pakistan, Mullah Fazlullah, was still on the run and believed to be hiding in neighboring Afghanistan.

Fazlullah's spokesman, Mohammad Khurasani, earlier this month said Fazlullah's son was among 21 "holy warriors" killed by missiles fired by a U.S. drone at a seminary in Afghanistan. **AP**

## INDONESIA

# Prosecutors demand 16 years prison for politician

**P**ROSECUTORS demanded 16 years in prison for a senior Indonesian politician accused of playing a key role in the theft by officials of USD170 million of public money.

At a sentencing demand hearing yesterday, prosecutors also called for fines and the seizure of Setya Novanto's assets if he fails to return \$7.4 million including a \$135,000 luxury "Richard Mille" watch that he allegedly received as part of the conspiracy.

Anti-corruption police allege Novanto was among about 80 people, mostly officials and legislators,

who used the introduction of a \$440 million electronic identity card system in 2011 and 2012 to steal more than a third of the funds.

Novanto, the former speaker of Indonesia's parliament and senior member of the Golkar party, denies any wrongdoing.

Prosecutor Irene Putri told the special corruption cases court that the stolen money flowed through Indonesia, the U.S., Mauritius, India, Singapore and Hong Kong as the conspirators sought to hide its illegal origins.

She said the trial has re-

vealed "new methods on how to drain money from the proceeds of crime without going through the national banking system, aiming to avoid the detection of financial authorities in Indonesia."

The corruption case, brazen and epic even by the standards of Indonesia's notoriously corrupt parliament, has caused outrage in the world's third largest democracy.

Novanto last year spent months eluding anti-graft officials.

In November, he was hospitalized after being involved in a car crash in Jakarta that was widely

mocked online as another tactic to avoid arrest.

He was arrested in the hospital after doctors who examined Novanto said he was fit to stand trial.

Several other leading politicians, including ministers in President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's government, are possibly implicated by the scandal.

Putri likened the anti-graft commission's investigations to a marathon and said it is continuing to pursue the case.

"We are not running out of energy to keep investigating," she said.

Prosecutors want Novanto to face a further



Former speaker of parliament Setya Novanto smiles as he enters the court room after a break during his hearing at the Corruption Cases Court in Jakarta yesterday

three years in prison if an auction of his assets failed to raise \$7.4 million. They said he should be banned from holding public office for five years following his

prison term.

The trial is expected to resume on April 13 when lawyers for Novanto will respond to the prosecution. **AP**

KOREAN PENINSULA

# Rival leaders to meet April 27 in historic summit

Lee Jin-Man  
& Kim Tong-Hyung, Paju

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un will meet South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a border village on April 27, the South announced yesterday, for a rare summit that could prove significant in global efforts to resolve the decades-long standoff over the North's nuclear program.

The announcement was made after officials of the two countries met at the border village of Panmunjom. The Koreans plan to hold another preparatory meeting on April 4 to discuss security, protocol and media coverage issues, according to a statement released by the countries.

Leaders of the two Koreas have held talks only twice since the 1950-53 Korean War, in 2000 and 2007, under previous liberal governments in South Korea. The Korean Peninsula was divided in 1945 into a U.S.-dominated south and Soviet-backed north, which became sovereign nations three years later.

Unification Minister Cho Myoung-gyon, one of three South Korean participants in yesterday's talks, told reporters beforehand that setting up discussions between the leaders on the North's nuclear disarmament would be a critical point.

After the meeting, Cho told South Korean reporters there was a "sufficient exchange of opinions" on the agenda for the summit, but didn't provide a clear answer on whether discussions of the nuclear issue will be included.

"Both sides agreed to prepare for [the summit] in a way that would allow sincere and heartfelt discussions [between the leaders]. If there's a need, we decided to continue discussions on the summit agenda through follow-up high-level meetings in April," Cho said.

"Both sides will continue working-level discussions [on the agenda] while focusing on the issues surrounding the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula, the stabilization of peace and the development of relations between the South and North."

When asked whether such issues would shape the discussions between Kim and Moon, Cho said "Yes."

The North's three delegates were led by Ri Son Gwon, chairman of a state agency that deals with inter-Korean affairs.



The countries earlier this month agreed to hold a leaders' summit on the southern side of the border village. The meeting was held to determine the date and other issues.

After the meeting, Ri hailed the agreement on the summit, which he said provides "immense expectations and new hope for the entire nation that desires peace on the Korean Peninsula." He called for officials from both countries to do their best to "perfectly secure the historic meeting between the leaders."

## Leaders of the two Koreas have held talks only twice since the 1950-53 Korean War, in 2000 and 2007

The countries also agreed to hold a separate meeting to discuss communication issues, such as setting up a telephone hotline between Moon and Kim, and maintain working-level discussions, according to the statement.

The South's delegation arrived in Panmunjom after their

vehicles crossed the heavily guarded border near the southern city of Paju.

Greeting the South Korean officials at the North Korean-controlled Tongilgak building, Ri said the past 80 days have been filled with "unprecedented historic events" between the rivals, referring to the resumption of dialogue between the Koreas before the Winter Olympics in the South and the agreement to hold a summit.

Cho, in response, said officials should do their best to arrange a successful summit as the "current situation was created by decisions by the highest leaders of the North and South."

The talks follow a surprise meeting this week between Kim and Chinese President Xi Jinping which appeared to be aimed at improving both countries' positions ahead of Kim's planned summits with Moon and U.S. President Donald Trump.

In setting up separate talks with Beijing, Seoul, Washington, and potentially Moscow and Tokyo, North Korea may be moving to disrupt any united front among its negotiating counterparts. By reintroducing China, which is North Korea's only major ally, as a major player, the North also gains leverage against South Korea and the United States, analysts say.

In his talks with Xi, Kim may

have discussed economic cooperation or requested a softening of the enforcement of sanctions over the North's nuclear weapons and missiles. North Korea also wants Beijing to resist tougher sanctions if the talks with Washington and Seoul fall apart and the North resumes testing missiles.

Chinese State Councilor Yang Jiechi is spending two days in Seoul briefing South Korean officials on the results of the talks between Kim and Xi. Yang met with presidential national security director Chung Eui-yong yesterday and is to meet President Moon today. Moon's spokesman, Kim Eui-kyeom, said in a statement that Seoul welcomes the meeting between Kim and Trump and called it an encouraging sign that Kim expressed a firm willingness to engage in dialogue with South Korea and the United States during his visit to Beijing.

"President Xi exchanged opinions with Kim Jong Un over a long period of time," Yang said through a translator in his meeting with Chung. "We believe this meeting will prove helpful in solving the problems surrounding the Korean Peninsula through political discussions and agreements on the peninsula's denuclearization and establishment of peace and security."

Cho said there was no specific

discussion of the Kim-Xi meeting during the talks at the border village.

North Korea has yet to officially confirm its interest in a summit between Kim and Trump. In its coverage of the Kim-Xi meeting, the North's state media didn't mention Kim's reported comments about opening a dialogue with the United States that were carried in Chinese state media.

It's unclear whether the leaders' meetings will lead to any meaningful breakthrough.

The North's diplomatic outreach comes after an unusually provocative year in which it conducted its most powerful nuclear test to date and test-launched three intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to target the U.S. mainland. The change in tactics could be an attempt to ease pressure from heavy sanctions and improve its economy.

Washington and Seoul have said Kim previously told South Korean envoys that he was willing to put his nuclear weapons up for negotiation in his talks with Trump. However, the North has yet to officially confirm its interest in a summit between Kim and Trump.

There's deep skepticism among some analysts that the North, after years of dogged weapons development, will commit to real denuclearization and agree to a robust verification regime. North Korea over the past two decades has been repeatedly accused of using disarmament talks as a way to ease outside pressure and win badly needed aid, while continuing to secretly push ahead with weapons development.

The Koreans agreed to a summit when Moon's envoys visited Kim in Pyongyang earlier this month. The meeting followed a sudden period of inter-Korean warmth over February's Winter Olympics in the South, to which the North sent hundreds of officials, including Kim's sister who met with Moon to convey her brother's desire for a summit.

On a subsequent visit to the United States, Moon's envoys brokered a potential meeting between Kim and Trump, who said he would meet the North Korean leader "by May."

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

About 70 South Korean officials and technicians flew to Pyongyang yesterday to set up the performance equipment. The South Korean artists performing in the North 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**

## MIDDLE EAST

# A Syrian town, threatened by Turkey, counts on US backing

Sarah El Deeb, Manbij

A rowdy mob of over two dozen men on motorcycles streamed into the small square in the center of Manbij. They cheered and waved jerseys of their local soccer team, which had just beat the town's top club. The upset victory was sweet, and their wild chants reverberated, "My people! My people!"

It was a moment of normalcy distracting from the tensions engulfing the northern Syrian town, which is at the heart of a tussle among Syria's Kurds, the United States and Turkey.

Turkey has threatened to march on Manbij and wrest it from Kurdish hands after its forces won a resounding victory over Kurdish fighters earlier this month and took control of Afrin, a town 100 kilometers to the west.

If Turkey goes through with its threats, it will come in direct confrontation with American troops who patrol Manbij alongside their Kurdish allies.

Ankara and Washington are in talks to diffuse the tensions, with a new round expected on Friday. But it is unclear what would appease Turkey, which says it is prepared to push all the way west to the Iraqi border to push the Kurdish YPG militia — Washington's only ally in Syria — away from its borders. It views the YPG as a threat to its national security and an extension of its own insurgents.

Manbij residents said the repeated threats by Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan have unnerved them — especially after the demoralizing defeat of the Kurds in Afrin. But many who spoke to the Associated Press during a recent visit also said they have faith the U.S. won't abandon them to face Turkish advances on their town.

Manbij, a mixed Arab and Kurdish town of nearly 400,000, was liberated from Islamic State group militants in 2016 by the YPG fighters with backing from U.S.-led coalition airstrikes. Now the town is bustling with trade and life.

With Turkey's threats, the town has become a lynchpin for U.S. policy in Syria. Its loss would damage the Americans' prestige and military deployment in eastern Syria.

Said al-Sayegh, a 33-year old teacher, proudly told of how he didn't leave Manbij after the IS takeover — even when the militants put a gun to his neck, threatening to kill him for refusing to grow a beard. And he said there's no reason to worry

AP PHOTO



A member of the Kurdish internal security forces holds his weapon during a patrol in Manbij, north Syria

now, confident that Erdogan won't risk a fight with the U.S. and the Americans won't back down.

"They will stay. They have invested in it and they have an ally here," he said. "For the Americans, it is strategically important for the control of whole of eastern Syria."

The U.S. Central Command chief, Army Gen. Joseph Votel, said yesterday [Macau time]

■ **The US recognizes Turkey's security concerns, but it also has a 'key partner on the ground' in the Kurds**

the United States recognizes Turkey's security concerns, but it also has a "key partner on the ground" in the Kurds, who made sacrifices in the fight against IS. "We have to continue to work between these two objectives to ensure that we can find an appropriate way forward," he told journalists.

Yesterday, the town's center was buzzing with shoppers. Shop windows gleamed with new clothes, perfumes and trendy shoes. Women in fashionable headscarves — and some with veils over their faces — went up and down the commercial streets, as children were enjoying ice cream in garish fluorescent colors. A few buildings still showed the scars of the fight against IS; a women's clothes shop — named "Zara," in a knock-off of the international chain — has newly opened in a building whose upper floors are still a crushed wreck.

Security patrols and roving, surprise checkpoints gave evidence of the high alert that local

forces were on after a recent assassination attempt on a senior Kurdish official.

Despite people's confidence, the YPG's defeat in Afrin weighed heavily on some. Turkish troops with allied Syrian fighters waged a two-month assault on the Kurdish-majority town in heavy fighting. There was no U.S. presence in Afrin, which was not a theater in fighting against the Islamic State group.

Jamal Sattouf, a resident of Manbij, said his heart went out as he watched footage of Afrin residents streaming out of their town in the winter months, fleeing Turkish bombardment. It reminded him of what he and his family endured in the fighting to free Manbij from IS.

"I don't wish that [suffering] for anyone," Sattouf said. "We fear that he [Erdogan] will be here tomorrow [...] People are afraid of him and no one else."

But Mona al-Ahmed, wearing a faint pink lipstick and a black hijab, said she was adamant Erdogan can't disturb her life

— again, after her world was turned upside down by the IS takeover in 2014. During their rule, the militants imposed their radical interpretation of Islamic law enforced with ruthless brutality. Women were largely forced to stay at home.

"We now feel alive again," she said. She was encouraged not just by the U.S. presence but also by the town's strong fighters and defenses.

"It is impossible for Erdogan to come here," she said. "We are safe and it is impossible for anyone to come in here."

Ahmed al-Khadr, a member of Manbij's internal security, was guarding the rowdy fans of the Al-Ittihad soccer team celebrating their victory over their local rival club, Al-Sharif. He was dismissive of Erdogan, saying he'd made no moves despite all his threats.

"Where was he when Daesh was here," al-Khadr said, using the Arabic acronym for IS. "Why didn't he enter Manbij then? Why didn't he want it?" AP

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## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Documentary
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Movie: Scream 4
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:40	Macau Celebrations - Pao Kung
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Macau Documentary
22:30	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Brainstorm
17:15	Got Talent Portugal
19:10	Macau Documentary (Repeated)
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

## Offbeat

## CARNIVAL CRUISE TRADES CRUISE FOR TEEN'S SNAPCHAT HANDLE



Carnival Cruise rolled into a small Virginia town this week on the hunt for a local teen and his coveted Snapchat handle @CarnivalCruise.

The company surprised 15-year-old Darian Lipscomb at his Prospect, Virginia, home this week after peppering the town with signs asking "Hey Prospect, does anyone know Darian?"

The Richmond Times-Dispatch reports the company offered to trade Lipscomb a free trip for his family abroad in its newest ship, Carnival Horizon, in exchange for his Snapchat handle. The net worth of the trip is about USD5,000.

Organizers say Lipscomb will receive customized surprises throughout the trip, which will be documented on the cruise's social channels.

The Dispatch reports the company said the trade was a fun way to claim the handle and reward a 'superfan.'

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

29 MAR - 04 APR



## READY PLAYER ONE

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:00, 9:30pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min



## YO-KAI WATCH THE MOVIE: A WHALE OF TWO WORDS

ROOM 1

05:00pm

Director: Shinji Ushiro

Starring: Shōtarō Morikubo, Ai Kayano, Sumire Uesaka

Language: Cantonese



## PACIFIC RIM: UPRISING

ROOM 2

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

Director: Steven S. DeKnight

Starring: John Boyega, Scott Fastwood, Rinko Kikuchi

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min



## PETER RABBIT

ROOM 3

2:00, 3:45pm

Language: Cantonese

7:45pm

Language: English (Chinese)

Director: Will Gluck

Starring: Domhnall Gleeson, Rose Byrne

Duration: 95min



## MARY MAGDALENE

ROOM 3

5:30, 9:30pm

Director: Garth Davis

Starring: Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix, Chiwetel Ejiofor

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 1981: PRESIDENT REAGAN IS SHOT

President Ronald Reagan has been shot and wounded after a lone gunman opened fire in Washington.

He is currently undergoing emergency surgery at George Washington University Hospital but there are unconfirmed reports he walked in unaided.

Initial reports claim he may have a punctured lung.

Five to six shots were fired as he left the Washington Hilton Hotel where he had been addressing a union convention, about one mile from the White House.

A man, firing at close range, also wounded White House Press Secretary James Brady in the head.

A Secret Service official and a Washington policeman were also injured before the gunman was pushed to the ground by police.

The president had appeared from the hotel smiling and walked towards his limousine turning momentarily to acknowledge calls from the waiting press.

A burst of gunfire was then heard before the president was bundled into a bullet proof limousine and whisked away.

First Lady Nancy Reagan is understood to be on her way to the hospital to visit her 70-year-old husband.

The attacker is described as being in his twenties and blonde.

He was pinned to the wall by secret service agents and he has now been arrested.

The assassination attempt has sent shock waves around the country where memories of the murder of president John F Kennedy remain vivid.

President Reagan has only been in office for 69 days and the attack leaves the running of the country in some confusion as his vice-president George Bush is currently on his way back from Texas.

Until the arrival of Vice-President Bush it is unclear who is in charge.

The American Stock Exchange has stopped trading and the Academy Awards have been postponed until tomorrow night in the wake of the attacks.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The president initially appeared to have escaped serious injury, but had been hit by a ricocheting bullet as he was bundled into his limousine by Secret Service Agents.

He was operated on and made a fast recovery.

Mr Brady suffered severe head injuries, and policeman Thomas Delahanty and Tim McCarthy of the Secret Service were also injured.

John Hinckley, 25, the son of an affluent oil industry executive, was charged with trying to assassinate the president fuelled by an obsession with actress Jodie Foster and a desire to impress her.

The following June, Hinckley was found not guilty by reason of insanity and was committed to hospital.

Ronald Reagan went on to win a second term in office by a wide margin almost four years later.

He died in June 2004, aged 93, after suffering from Alzheimer's disease for 10 years.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries**  
Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
Hanging with your family is the ultimate getaway. You feel comfy and cozy and able to let all the recent tension of the past just slide away. This may carry over into an urge to redecorate your pad.

**Taurus**  
April 20-May 20  
Staying resentful and angry won't make you stronger - on the contrary, they're sapping vital energy that could be much better used in other areas of your life. Let go of them little by little.

**Gemini**  
May 21-Jun. 21  
The stars are dealing with cold - cold, hard cash that is, and they're telling you to get your financial house in order, or else. If you've been dealing with a financial nightmare.

**Cancer**  
Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
A totally unexpected development may send shockwaves through your day, but you have to admit that all this is spectacularly exciting despite the upheaval. Now comes dealing with the aftermath.

**Leo**  
Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
Keep that ego under control, and remember that there are many other people around you with their own lives. It's especially important to keep self-promoting to a minimum during on-the-job discussions.

**Virgo**  
Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
Some bolts from the blue early on in the day might throw you for a loop, especially if they involve dormant emotions or a past situation you thought long resolved. Take your mind off of this by getting some perspective.

**Libra**  
Sep.23-Oct. 22  
Right now, however, the stars urge you to hone in on one of your myriad talents. Go ahead and specialize and single-mindedly pursue one main goal instead of spending your energy in several directions.

**Scorpio**  
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
It's the perfect time to ask for a really big favor, score an invitation to an ultra-exclusive event or get a rise out of that supposedly unattainable love interest. Not only will you meet with a warm reception.

**Sagittarius**  
Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Filing and sorting don't just apply to email and office work, you know. Right now you're about to begin the process of evaluating your relationships. Your time's been taken up by the trivial too long.

**Capricorn**  
Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
Life's been topsy-turvy for you lately, so it's understandable that you've wanted to stay at home in your own cozy nest. However, now is a good time to poke your head outside again.

**Aquarius**  
Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Venturing into alien territory on the job? Go ahead and ask lots of questions from people who have gone before you, and don't be afraid to buy a guidebook or two.

**Pisces**  
Feb.19-Mar. 20  
Feel like you're always the last one picked for the team? Well, that's no reason to stop suiting up - far from it. If you're still stymied about how to make it to the big leagues.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	7	18	clear/cloudy
Harbin	-2	14	clear/cloudy
Tianjin	9	20	clear
Urumqi	6	17	cloudy/clear
Xi'an	15	27	clear/cloudy
Lhasa	2	14	sleet/overcast
Chengdu	15	21	overcast
Chongqing	16	25	cloudy/shower
Kunming	9	23	clear
Nanjing	15	24	cloudy
Shanghai	13	21	cloudy
Wuhan	14	27	overcast/cloudy
Hangzhou	15	24	cloudy
Taipei	20	26	cloudy
Guangzhou	19	27	cloudy
Hong Kong	21	26	cloudy
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	-11	2	clear
Frankfurt	1	12	drizzle/overcast
Paris	2	12	drizzle
London	0	2	sleet
New York	3	17	drizzle

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Dens; 6- Daybreak; 10- Coarse file; 14- Throat problem; 15- Auction site; 16- Draft status; 17- Skin layer; 18- \_\_\_ well...; 19- Principal; 20- Protection; 23- Rifts; 27- Donkeys; 28- Mature male European red deer; 29- People of courage; 34- On \_\_\_-to-know basis; 36- All, in music; 37- Actress Zadora; 40- In spite of; 43- Neckwear; 44- You \_\_\_ right!; 45- Shorthand pioneer; 46- Most desperate; 48- Yours, in Tours; 49- Hosiery thread; 53- Executor's concern; 55- Incapable; 60- Final Four org.; 61- "A Death in the Family" author; 62- Yoga posture; 67- Make; 68- Scottish Celt; 69- Heat unit; 70- Flat sound; 71- Whirling water; 72- Caravansary;

**DOWN:** 1- Leary's drug; 2- Got fed up?; 3- Like some discounted mdse.; 4- Sleep stage; 5- Muscle contraction; 6- Unwilling to listen; 7- Word that can precede bodied and seaman; 8- Travel on foot; 9- Wall St. institution; 10- Easy wins; 11- "Delta of Venus" author Nin; 12- River that flows through Paris; 13- Sudden pains; 21- Shade of blond; 22- Relaxing; 23- Repeat rhythmically; 24- Capital of Vietnam; 25- Narrow mountain ridge; 26- Goulash; 30- Early anesthetic; 31- Charlotte \_\_\_; 32- Preminger et al.; 33- Sorority letter; 35- Crown; 37- Michelangelo masterpiece; 38- Gold bar; 39- Texas A&M player; 41- TNT part; 42- Curse!; 47- Sawbuck; 49- Queues; 50- Early Peruvians; 51- Surgery souvenirs; 52- Bank offerings; 54- Data; 56- Leaf of a book; 57- Crikey!; 58- Prepared to drive; 59- Hard to hold; 63- Cow or sow; 64- \_\_\_ Lingus; 65- Heston's org.; 66- Bordeaux buddy;

**Yesterday's solution**

R	O	A	P	Y	O	C	A	L	A	R	A	T
G	O	P	S	E	U	R	G	E	D	S	R	O
T	O	T	A	S	N	E	A	T	O	S	E	A
A	V	E	R	A	G	E	B	R	A	T	O	N
L	I	N	E	A	R	S	E	L	E	S		
I	S	L	A	M	P	A	L	L	E	T	T	Z
A	T	A	W	E	L	L	S	A	S			
S	A	I	L	S	O	A	T	S				
C	U	D	G	E	L	W	H	I	S	P	E	R
M	E	N	S	A								
T	D	I	S	A								
S	E	T	S	W	E	A	T	N	O	T	M	E
S	S	E										

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**PJ (Picket)** 28 557 775  
**PSP** 28 573 333  
**Customs** 28 559 944  
**S. J. Hospital** 28 313 731  
**Kiang Wu Hospital** 28 371 333  
**Commission Against Corruption (CCAC)** 28326 300  
**IACM** 28 387 333  
**Tourism** 28 333 000  
**Airport** 59 888 88

**Taxi** 28 939 939 / 2828 3283  
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**Business Luncheon**  
**Wednesday 18th April**  
 with  
**Guest Speaker: Dr. Wilfred Wong**  
*President, Sands China, Ltd.*

**From Venetian to Parisian,  
 and now Londoner**

This presentation provides an overview of the Londoner project – Sands China’s transformation and rebranding of its Sands Cotai Central integrated resort into *The Londoner Macao*. Points covered include Sands China’s investment and development milestones in Macao; a look at the research behind the decision to create The Londoner; the resort’s design concepts; how to create a London-like experience; details of the transformation and attractions; the project’s budgeted investment; estimated construction and completion time; and visitation stats for Macao and Sands China

**Venue: The Astor Ballroom, 5/F**  
**The St. Regis Macao, Cotai**

**12.30: Drinks**  
**12.55 pm: Lunch**  
**1.30 pm: Presentation by Dr. Wilfred Wong**  
**2.30 pm: Close**

*Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event*  
**BBAM/ Members – MOP/HKD 420 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 600**



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John Pye, Gold Coast

**M**ORE than 6,600 athletes and officials from across the world will converge on the Gold Coast for the 21st edition of the Commonwealth Games, the multi-sports event for 71 countries and territories of the British Commonwealth held every four years.

There will be 275 events across 19 sports at venues mostly on the Queensland state's coastal tourist strip, ranging from track and field and swimming to beach volleyball, which will make its debut at the games.

Here are some men to watch at the April 4-15 games:

#### TRACK AND FIELD Yohan Blake, Jamaica



Usain Bolt will be on the Gold Coast to watch. Blake will be here to win his first Commonwealth Games medal.

Blake, the 2011 world champion whose personal-best 9.69 seconds over the 100 has only ever been topped by fellow Jamaican Bolt (9.58 and 9.63), is in Australia for the first time and shaping as the favorite for the featured men's track title after Canada's Andre de Grasse announced he wasn't competing on the Gold Coast.

Bolt has jokingly said there'll be trouble if Blake doesn't win the title. Blake isn't feeling the pressure.

"I'm going home with that gold medal. So watch it," Blake said. "I'm ready to go. I don't have a Commonwealth medal — that's something that has to be in my cabinet."

Blake has two Olympic relay gold medals, and silvers in the 100 and 200 from the 2012 Olympics. After missing the 2014 Commonwealth Games in Glasgow in order to prepare for the 2016 Olympics, Blake finished out the medals in fourth place in the 100 in Rio.

He was also fourth in the world championships in London last year, but he posted the 2nd and 6th quickest times for the 100 in 2017 and has the second-fastest so far this year.

#### RUGBY SEVENS Fiji



No team performance in the history of the modern Olympics has excited more jubilation

### COMMONWEALTH GAMES

# Male athletes to watch at the Australian edition

in one nation than Fiji's victory in rugby sevens at Rio de Janeiro in 2016. Not only did the Fiji government proclaim a national holiday and award grants of land and chiefly honors to the players and England-born coach Ben Ryan, but it created a seven-dollar banknote in the team's honor. Sevens is Fiji's national sport, its obsession and the victory in Rio brought the Pacific nation its first Olympic medal.

Sevens great Waisale Serevi has tipped Fiji to win its first Commonwealth Games gold, saying they're peaking at the right time.

Fiji enters the games as winners of two tournaments on the current World Series, but is playing at the Commonwealth Games for the first time since 2006.

Jerry Tawai, Jasa Veremalua Semi Kunatani, who all played integral parts against Britain in the gold-medal match in 2016, are carry overs from the squad that won the Olympic title in Rio.

#### SWIMMING Kyle Chalmers, Australia



Australia swimmers won 19 of the country's 49 gold medals at Glasgow in 2014. Chalmers, the 100-meter freestyle champion from the Rio Olympics in 2016, is the headliner of a men's team that also includes James Magnussen, a two-time world champion and the 2012 Olympic silver medalist in the 100 freestyle.

The Australian public has come to expect a glut of medals from its swimming team at major international events, particularly at the Commonwealth Games. The women's team is strong and will feature Emma McKeon will be the busiest Aussie with a six-event program of three individual events and three relays.

Cate Campbell made a strong return at the recent national trials — held at the same pool to be used for the main Games competition — from a 2017 sabbatical to cope with a poor performance at the Rio Olympics. The former world champion set Australian records in the 50-meter butterfly and 50 freestyle and also won the 100 freestyle.

#### TRACK AND FIELD Damian Warner, Canada



The 2014 Commonwealth Games gold medalist in decathlon, Warner will be bidding to defend his title in the 2018 edition of the games. Warner won bronze at the Rio Games for Canada's first Olympic medal in decathlon since Seoul 1988.

The 28-year-old won the silver medal in heptathlon at the IAAF World Indoor Championships in Birmingham, England, earlier this month.

In Birmingham, Warner finished just five points behind France's Kevin Mayer, who won Olympic silver in Brazil. In claiming silver, Warner set five personal bests: 6.74 seconds in the 60 meters, 14.90 meters in shot put, 2.02 meters in high jump, 4.90 meters in pole vault and 2:37.12 in the 1,000 meters.

#### TRACK AND FIELD Aaron Brown, Canada

In the absence of Andre de Grasse, the 25-year-old Brown will carry Canada's hopes in the men's sprint events. Brown specializes in the 100 and 200 meters. He won an Olympic bronze medal as part of Canada's 4-x-100 meter relay team at the Rio Games. He was also a member of Canada's bronze medal winning 4-x-100 meter relay teams at the IAAF world championships in Beijing in 2015 and Moscow in 2013.

De Grasse was initially named to Canada's team but has withdrawn. The Canadian triple Olympic sprint medalist says he wants to focus instead on his fitness for the outdoor season.

#### SHOOTING Gagan Narang, India



Narang is carrying India's prospects of rich haul of medals in the Commonwealth Games competition which will see a strong contingent of 27 shooters.

The 34-year-old Narang won

four gold medals in the 2006 Commonwealth Games at Melbourne and replicated his performance with another four at New Delhi in 2010.

His form dipped at Glasgow in 2014 when he won silver in the 50-meter rifle prone and a bronze in the 50-meter rifle three position categories, respectively.

Narang, an Olympic bronze medalist at London, will compete in 50-meter rifle prone event on the Gold Coast.

#### DIVING Tom Daley, England



Married and a father-to-be, life has changed so much for Daley since he burst into the global consciousness in 2008 when he competed at the Beijing Olympics as a 14-year-old prodigy.

He is also now a world champion, rubber-stamping his status as the biggest name in the diving competitions at the Commonwealth Games.

Daley won a combined three gold medals in the 2010 and '14 games, and will compete in the 10-meter platform and 3-meter synchronized events at the Gold Coast.

#### GYMNASTICS Max Whitlock, England



England is aiming to surpass the 19 gymnastics medals it won in Glasgow in 2014 and, in Whitlock, the team has a perfect leader.

Whitlock is Britain's most decorated gymnast, having won 11 medals — including four golds — at Olympics and world championships. He is the defending Commonwealth champion at the all-around competition, and appears to be standout competitor in the floor and pommel horse — the exercises in which he won gold at the 2016 Olympics.

This is his third Commonweal-

th Games. He has a combined eight medals from the games in Delhi and Glasgow.

#### TRACK AND FIELD Tom Walsh, New Zealand



In work hours he's an unassuming builder from the sleepy South Island town of Timaru, beyond that he's one of the world's best male shot put throwers.

That's just about the story of Tom Walsh, who seems to have come from nowhere to join the sport's elite. Walsh was almost unknown outside his native New Zealand three years ago. Now he's a triple winner of the world indoor title and at recent meeting in New Zealand Walsh threw 22.67 metres, the longest put in the world in the last 15 years and the ninth best of all-time. The throw prompted veteran U.S. shotputter Ryan Whiting to call Walsh the best "clean" putter in history.

#### SQUASH Nick Matthew, England

A former top-ranked player, Matthew has been the best male squash player in the Commonwealth over the past decade and is bidding for his third straight gold medal in the singles. He has also won gold in the doubles, in 2010.

At age 37, this will be his fourth and last Commonwealth Games, having previously announced that this would be his final playing season.

#### CYCLING Australia



Reigning Commonwealth Games champions Stephanie Morton, Matthew Glaetzer and Annette Edmondson headline the track selections for the powerful Australian team, in addition to the return of 2010 Gold medalists Cameron Meyer and Kaarle McCulloch.

Reigning road national champions Alexander Edmondson and Shannon Malseed, triple world championship medalist Katrin Garfoot and 2006 Commonwealth Games road race gold medalist Mathew Hayman are in the road selections.

Australian cyclists won 24 medals at Glasgow in 2014, including seven golds. **AP**

opinion

**Kapok**  
 Eric Sautédé



**WYNN-LOSE OR WIN-WIN?**

Think about it: the viral #MeToo campaign is only five months old, and yet, it is bringing down the rich and powerful the world over!

It started in the United-States — Los Angeles, to be precise — and targeted a single individual, a despicable male who had used and abused of his position of power to act as a predator vis-à-vis female employees, actresses and secretaries alike.

Apart from the offensive and illegal acts, what made producer Harvey Weinstein even more abominable were his typical blunt demeanor and gruff appearance — out of shape to say the least — that contrasted so much with the sheer beauty (and presumed power) of some of his most famous preys.

In French, the #MeToo hashtag was converted into #balancetonporc, which was translated in English with various degrees of literal rendering as “rat on your dirty old man” (BBC), “expose your pig” (The Guardian) or “squeal on your pig” (The Guardian and CNN). In the West, for those who have spent too much time contemplating the Chinese zodiac, a pig or swine does not equate with wealth but rather with muck (scum if you prefer) and the irrepressible disgust it triggers in the one confronted with it. Actually, a swine in English also means “a contemptible person”.

The “Me Too” expression goes back further in time, and is documented as having been coined by social activist Tarana Burke as a rallying campaign on the Myspace social network back in 2006. The original idea was to empower victims of sexual abuse in underprivileged neighborhood by triggering a movement of empathy, sympathy and ultimately solidarity. “Me too” was a liberating cry to shake isolation and break free from domination. Victims were inspired to get together in order to tilt the balance of power — imaginary or effective — to their advantage, and ultimately outplay their tormentors.

The #MeToo 2.0 has proven far more potent, and thanks to the virality of social networks (Twitter this time), the momentum to expose and bring to justice abusers — and not only display empathy for and with the victims — has proven unstoppable.

Closer to us, Steve Wynn, who, in late January this year, was still boasting with confidence about the probable renewal of his casino concession in Macao come 2022 is now forced into an early retirement, and possibly much more severe penalties. First he had to relinquish his executive position with the eponymous group he had founded, and then sell his entire stake in Wynn Resorts Ltd., including 5.3 million shares to his Macao competitor Galaxy Entertainment Group. Very soon the very name of Wynn will only be but a mirage!

Allegations of repeated sexual harassment on his part are now reaching a point where the whole group (the corporation) is being investigated for gross cover up, over decades, of the misdemeanor of its founder. Even a checkbook made thicker by the recent sale of all his shares might not allow Mr Wynn to reach consecutive out of court settlements with all the victims and the ones who are guilty by association.

Just like in the case of Mr Weinstein, Mr Wynn’s downfall is a clear indication that nobody is out of reach. But contrary to October, it is the conventional press — The Wall Street Journal — that brought to the fore the allegations against Mr Wynn, and thus social networks played a very limited role. Good old fact checking by a team of journalists in the United States unraveled the story, and beyond the predator turned scapegoat, it is a whole system that is being exposed. And yet, without the widespread concern and awareness created by the social network campaign starting last year, conventional journalists might not have dedicated so much energy in looking into the matter and their editor might not have deemed such a report front-page material.

We now know that in Hong Kong more than one in ten women working in shops, bars and restaurants admit to having been sexually harassed at work and that one in seven women in the general population acknowledges having experienced sexual violence.

In Macao, the Las Vegas of the East, ignorance is still a bliss!

**THE BUZZ** EGYPTIAN MEDIA SAY ELECTION TURNOUT AT 40 PERCENT

The initial results of Egypt’s presidential election show a landslide win for President Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi, who faced no serious challenge, and a turnout hovering around 40 percent, pro-government media reported yesterday.

Egyptian authorities went to great lengths to bolster turnout in a bid to give the election legitimacy. Provincial governors and other officials promised incentives and financial rewards, and in some cases resorted to threats to get people to the polls. The National Elections Authority

threatened fines of around USD30 for anyone boycotting the election, but similar warnings have been made in the past without being widely enforced.

Local media, which is dominated by pro-el-Sissi commentators, also urged people to vote, portraying it as a national obligation and warning against foreign plots to undermine stability.

The website of the state-run newspaper Al-Ahram said el-Sissi leads with around 92 percent. Official results are expected on April 2.

**Brazil’s da Silva calls demonstrations the work of fascists**

**FORMER** President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva defended his record and called protests against him the work of fascists Wednesday, a day after an attack on his campaign caravan underlined Brazil’s deep divisions ahead of heated elections.

His left-leaning Workers’ Party said gunshots hit two buses in the caravan Tuesday. No one was hurt and da Silva was not on either bus. Police are investigating.

The incident comes at a moment of intense division in Brazil after a tumultuous few years that have seen the impeachment and removal from office of one president and the implication of dozens of politicians, including da Silva, in a mammoth corruption investigation.

Protests have repeatedly rocked Brazil, and current President Michel Temer warned Wednesday that the violence against da Silva’s caravan threatened to destabilize Latin America’s largest country. But divisiveness looks likely to increase as Brazil prepares to elect a new president in October.

Despite a conviction on corruption charges that could see him barred from running, da Silva is the front runner in that race. Yet he is no longer the universally beloved figure he once was after two terms



as president.

Demonstrations have dogged his 10-day campaign tour through southern Brazil, which tends to be wealthier and more conservative than his political heartland in the northeast.

At a rally in the southern city of Curitiba on Wednesday night, da Silva described the protesters who sometimes threw rocks and eggs at the caravan and into crowds. “I don’t know who they were and I don’t care,” he told a crowd of a few thousand people. “I just know they were not democrats. They are more like fascists and Nazis; they are more for anything else than for democracy.”

The investigation is, in many ways, at the heart of Brazil’s tumult.

Prosecutors have alleged that Brazil’s government has effectively been run like a cartel for years, with politicians doling out favors, state

contracts and plum positions in exchange for bribes and campaign contributions. The probe initially focused on da Silva’s Workers’ Party, but it has implicated other parties, including Temer’s. Temer himself has been accused of corruption, but Congress twice voted to spare him a trial while he remains in office and he denies the charges.

While many have cheered the investigation as heroic for its unflinching pursuit of those in the upper echelons of Brazilian politics, some, especially on the left, think it has unfairly targeted the Workers’ Party for political reasons.

Da Silva himself has said the charges against him are invented and meant to keep him from regaining the presidency. “They know that I know how to fix the country because when I took over Brazil ... this country was in a worse state” than it is now, he told the crowd in Curitiba. **MDT/AP**

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

Daniel Beitler/MDT



Job well done. A repainted line marking a smoke-free area on Avenida da Praia Grande, after the government said it wanted the demarcation to be more visible.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	40-60 Good	
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	
Ambient	40-60 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**THAILAND** Six men were sentenced to death by a court in southern Thailand for the massacre of eight members of one family, including three children, over a land and loan dispute.



**PAKISTAN** The mere fact that Fazlur Rehman Khalil, veteran leader of an organization designated as a terror group by the U.S., is free has experts questioning Pakistan’s willingness to fight extremism.

**SERBIA** vowed to protect its ethnic kin in Kosovo after seeking Russia’s advice on how to respond to a spike in tensions, a move that risks escalating the East-West struggle for influence in the Balkans.



**FRANCE** Former President Nicolas Sarkozy (right) is being ordered to stand trial on charges of corruption and influence peddling.

**IRELAND** will hold a referendum May 25 on whether to lift a constitutional ban on most abortions. Voters will be asked whether they want to retain the eighth amendment to Ireland’s constitution, which greatly limits abortion, or repeal it.



**VENEZUELA** Relatives of 68 people killed in a fire at a Venezuelan police station jail waited yesterday for officials to turn over the remains of their loved ones, after having spent much of the previous day clamoring for information and clashing with police.

**HOLIDAY TIMES**

Macau Daily Times will not be published during the holiday. The Times will be back on the stands on Tuesday April 3. However the MDT website will be updated with breaking news during the recess period. We wish our readers, advertisers and friends the best of times.