

MAN ACCUSED OF PATRICIDE

A local man aged 20 reportedly stabbed his own father to death yesterday in the lao Hon neighborhood



COALITION REACHES CASINO AGREEMENT

A new agreement inks a proposal for the creation of three integrated resorts in Japan

P9 GAMING



50 YEARS AFTER LUTHER KING'S DEATH

P15



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WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA's Ministry of Information and Broadcasting yesterday withdrew a sweeping new order clamping down on journalists accused of spreading fake news.

INDONESIA A

commander of rebels in Indonesia's easternmost Papua region says as many as 100 villagers have taken shelter with them in a mountainous jungle following an Indonesian military attack.



THAILAND Police announced yesterday that they confiscated an estimated USD54 million worth of methamphetamine in one of their biggest-ever drug seizures and arrested 11 people in recent days as illegal drug cases surge in the country.

SOUTH KOREA A court said yesterday that it will allow a rare live broadcast of the verdict at the trial of disgraced former President Park Geun-hye later this week. More on p13

PAKISTAN Gunmen riding on motorcycles carried out two separate attacks in the Pakistani city of Quetta killing five Muslims in one shooting and four members of a Christian family in the other.

YEMEN-S. ARABIA

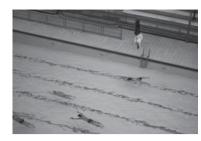
Yemen's Houthi rebels attacked a Saudi oil tanker in the Red sea yesterday, causing "minor damage" to the ship, the Saudi-led coalition battling the rebels said.

More on backpage

Changes to assembly law green-lighted , MALPLENARY



New Macau submits report to UN calling for universal suffrage ...



Estoril Swimming pool reopens

The Estoril public swimming pool has reopened to the public on April 1 at the start of the Summer Season, after undergoing works. As in previous years, the facility operating under the Sports Bureau is open to the public until November 30. The working hours of the venue also remain the same, namely Monday from 1p.m. to 10:30p.m. and from Tuesday to Sunday, between 7a.m. to 12noon and 1p.m. to 10:30p.m.

Tourist arrivals during Easter drop 4.7 percent

According to a statement from the Public Security Police Force on the behalf of immigration authorities, over 2.11 million border crossings were registered at Macau's seven checkpoints over the Easter Holiday period from March 30 to April 2. Of that number, half represent the number of arrivals, according to the PSP, with 753,461 visitors entering through the Border Gate, representing approximately 71.6 percent of total arrivals. The same data shows that more than half of the arrivals were residents and non-resident workers, with just over 400,000 tourist arrivals. This represents a sharp 4.7 percent decrease compared to the same holiday period in 2017.

Wynn Macau extends maternity, paternity paid leave

Wynn Macau announced the enhancement of its maternity and paternity benefits for all eligible employees yesterday. According to a statement from the company, the duration of paid maternity lea will be increased from 56 days (eight weeks) to 70 days (10 weeks). Meanwhile, paid paternity leave will be extended from two days to seven days. Both extensions take effect from May 1, and apply to employees who have completed one year of continuous service as of the date of confinement. The company notes that paternity leave can be taken on or within 30 days after the birth of the child.



The place where the crime occurred

CRIME

Son suspected of killing father

Julie Zhu

Alocal man was arrested yesterday, accused of killing his father, the Judiciary Police (PJ) confirmed.

The incident took place early

yesterday morning, at a residence unit of the Edf. Man On, which is located in Iao Hon.

The suspect is aged 20. His late father was a local resident in his 50s.

According to the PJ, the two

garding some family issues at around 3 a.m.

got involved in a quarrel re-

The suspect is aged 20

The fight lasted until 5 a.m., when the son reportedly took a knife and attacked his father, stabbing him in the neck. After noticing the amount of blood gushing out of the wound, the suspect called the police and reported the case.

Following the inspection of the crime scene, the PJ took the knife into possession. During the investigation, a relative of the victim said that the suspect was allegedly mentally ill.

However, the PJ added

during yesterday's press conference that it has already sent the suspect to the hospital for a mental evaluation and that the hospital found the suspect has no mental illness or exhibits abnormal behavior. The PJ is investigating this as a murder case.

The suspect is in police cus-

According to Macau's law, the sentence for murder is between 10 and 20 years.

Tang Yuk Wak, head of the Department of Family and Community Services of the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS), stated that the bureau has never received a domestic violence report involving this specific family, but noted that seven years ago, IAS handled a financial support application delivered by the same family.

Man arrested amid fraud involving HKD740k

26-year-old mainland male resident has been arrested Aamid an alleged fraud involving HKD740,000, the Judiciary Police reported yesterday.

The victim, a male resident of the mainland, claims to be a

In late March, the victim, along with three friends, came to Macau to gamble. On March 28, the victim met a man surnamed Zhang, who is the suspect, along with another man, who is currently on the run. Both individuals were introduced to the suspect by other people.

Zhang, along with the man on the run, lent money to the victim for gambling, without setting any interest rate conditions. Initially, the victim borrowed HKD1 million, which he lost during gambling. The victim then approached the two men again to borrow another HKD1million, which he took to gamble at a different casino. At this second casino, the victim won a total of HKD4.1 million, at which point he immediately repaid the HKD2 million debt to the two men. At the same time, the victim and his friends, accompanied by Zhang, changed the remaining HKD2.1 million of casino chips into cash. However, Zhang took this HKD2.1 million and only returned HKD1.36 million to the victim. Zhang then told the victim that the remaining HKD740,000 had been given to the man on the run.

Zhang claimed that the fugitive had told him that the victim had reached an agreement of paying the fugitive HKD740,000.

However, the victim said that he had not reached any agreement with the fugitive, thus reporting the matter to the police.

VICTIM CATCHES THIEF AFTER BREAKING

A 50-year-old male resident has been arrested after stealing belongings from a parked car, the Public Security Police Force reported yesterday. The incident took place at 4 a.m. on Sunday. The suspect saw some cash in a parked car, and subsequently broke the window with a stone. While he was searching for items

inside the car, the owner showed up and caught the man red-handed. Upon realizing that he had been caught stealing, the suspect immediately ran away, but after chasing the thief all the way to the Av. do Col. Mesquita, the victim seized him. In total, the suspect managed to take MOP210 from the car.

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Daily 澳門每日時報 • EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR)_Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com MANAGING EDITOR, Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.cc
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS_Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

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

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER Kowie Geldenhuys k

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

For subscription and general issues: @macaudailytimes.com | Printed at Welfare Printing Ltd







AL PLENARY

Democrats criticize bill to hand demonstrations to the police

Renato Marques

NG Kuok Cheong, Au Kam San and José Pereira Coutinho were the most vocal critics against the changes promoted by the government to the law of public assembly and demonstration that aim to change the jurisdiction on such matters from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). The bill was discussed and approved yesterday at plenary session of the Legislative Assembly (AL) and passed at the first reading with only the three lawmakers voting against.

After a short presentation lacking in content made by the Secretary for Administration and Justice Sonia Chan, lawmaker Ng was the first to address the plenary to criticize the bill saying, "when this law was initially approved [in 1993] we were told that we would never see those rights reduced or restrained." The lawmaker said that in his opinion, the bill aims to discourage residents from expressing their opinions.

Ng noted that the most relevant aspect of any public assembly or demonstration has to do with the use of public space and "that is the reason that has always been under the [supervision of the] municipal authorities."

"Why are we passing this [responsibility] to the police? What is the reason that justifies the need for this [change of] attribution?" Ng asked noting the absence on the government stand of any representatives from the police or from the security secretariat.

Noting also the lack of a public consultation by the government on the matter, the same lawmaker said he did not understand how the change of competence from the IACM to the PSP could simplify the process.

Following on from Ng's questions was Au Kam San.

"This law is 25 years old. What were the difficulties and problems faced in its application? I can't see any problems that justify [the need] to change this law. There is no strong reason to change it and with the urgency [in which it is presented to the AL], this needs to be explained."

As for lawmaker Pereira Coutinho, he remarked that the change "is not a simple one" as the Secretary was advocating. "This is an important change and your presentation didn't explain anything. We want to know why, as well as what the procedure will be. Will the PSP have to inform the IACM after receiving the request [...] for a public assembly or demonstration?"



Au Kam San (left) and Ng Kuok Cheong

But not only the group of three that voted against the bill questioned the government.

Lawmaker Agnes Lam also noted the lack of justification for changing the law and questioned if such changes are related with the plan to change the IACM into a new organization, the Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM). Adding to the previous three lawmakers, Lam also noted, "In other regions this [task] is also done by the municipal departments who then report to the police"

Lawmaker Song Pek Kei was in agreement with Agnes Lam, who besides asking on the relation to the IAM, also said: "This carries a lot of work for our administrative machine, the government should clearly explain why this [duty] moves from an administrative service to the security area."

"Which competences from PSP will be reinforced by the proposal?" she queried, adding, "I just hope the government doesn't find one more way to get criticized by the population just for oversimplification." The same lawmaker also referred to interpretations from the Final Appeal Court that previously found that the services of the government do not have competence to authorize or refuse demons-

trations, noting, "we shouldn't be worried with this, but I think the government can clarify to reassure the population."

Another critic of the change was lawmaker Kou Hoi In, noting, "it doesn't seem to make much sense," and questioning, "If we shouldn't discuss this after the creation of the IAM instead."

On the replies to the many questions and doubts from the lawmakers, Chan said, "Lawmaker Song helped already to reply on the reasons," noting that the change is related to the new IAM and its attributions, remarking, "We understand that on this creation we should trans-

fer that notification to the police since the police already assumes a very important role on these matters."

"It is a simple transference of competence and will not repress any of the fundamental rights of the population," she said, adding that that was the reason there was no public consultation.

When this law was initially approved [in 1993] we were told that we would never see those rights reduced or restrained.

NG KUOK CHEONG

The answers did not please Au, who said that they were unconvincing. He argued that if the new IAM continues to be in charge of public spaces, "it doesn't make any sense to inform the police that knows nothing on the use and management of public spaces."

"This will just create added problems and complications and will not [simplify] anything for the population," he added. "There is a lack of logic that is being proposed for the process and procedure."

On the voting that followed, the bill was approved with 26 votes in favor and three against with Lam in her voting declaration noting that she only supported the bill "because it will not change any rights."

Creation of the new Municipal Affairs Bureau under fire

THE creation of the new Municipal Affairs Bureau (IAM) that will replace the current Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) in most of its attributions was under fire yesterday from the pro-democracy wing of the AL.

In yesterday's plenary meeting, which discussed the bill for the creation of the new bureau, the pro-democratic wing lead by Ng Kuok Cheong, Au Kam San and José Pereira Coutinho was especially active in criticizing the lack of democratic aspects in the system to established under the "municipal Bodies without political power" mantra.

As in the previous debate, Agnes Lam also joined the democrats in saying that the proposal now presented falls short of the expectations of the population. "We have been in a long discussion of this matter, but we have been feeding false hopes to the population. We were saying this would give an opportunity for the younger generation and others to participate actively through [...] municipal assemblies but we took all this away; we removed all the democratic [potential] of this project,"

she said.

"The members are all appointed by the chief executive, none are elected and they will continue to manage the matters related with the population," add Ng on the topic.

He recalled that members of the IAM will compose the electoral college that will next year decide on the new chief executive. "This is controlling all the factors by surrounding [themselves] with the same people."

Coutinho noted the reduction in responsibilities of the new IAM, which will still keep the same structure and number of staff members.

Au heavily criticized Secretary Chan saying that she did not dedicate any attention to the creation of this body. "You just changed the name. How can you just change the name and [in only doing so] improve on the quality of the services provided?"

Questioned also on the other competences that will move from the IACM to the jurisdiction of other public departments, Chan added that matters related to weapons and ammunitions, as well as firecrackers and fireworks will also be removed



Sonia Chan

from the IAM. On the other hand, some services that were recently "lost" in the previous reorganization – for example cultural and sports matters that went to the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Sports Bureau respectively – will be returned.

The bill was then voted on and approved at the first reading with the same three votes against by Ng, Au and Coutinho.



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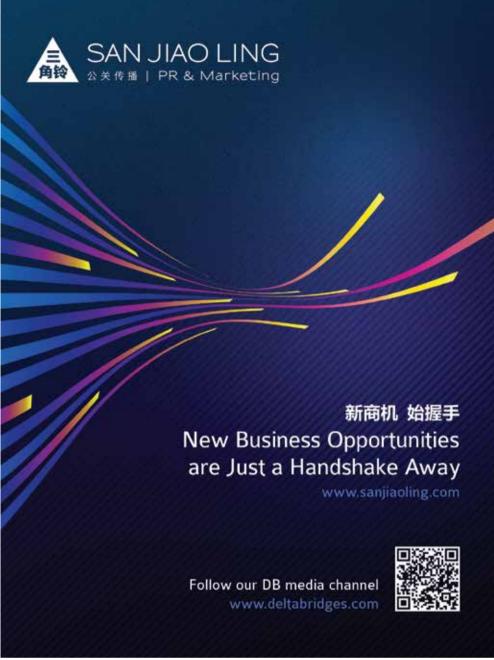
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Construction of new Border Gate to start this year

The government is trying to start the construction of the planned immigration checkpoints' facilities near the Border Gate this year. According to a report by Macao Daily News, at the current stage, the Macau government has already initiated the design of the port. The port, named Qing Mao port in Mandarin, will be situated about 800 meters southwest of the Macau Border Gate and the Gongbei Port. It will mainly have e-Channels, and it has been designed to accommodate 200,000 daily crossings.

Autism support center expected in 2020

The Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) expects to complete construction of a support center for autism patients in 2020. During a recent activity related to autism, Choi Sio Un, chief of the department of the social solidarity of IAS, noted that in the bureau's 10-year plan, the government has planned to build the center somewhere between 2018 and 2020. At the current stage, a preliminary consideration for the center's services has already been formed, but the exact number of people that the center should serve is still under discussion. Currently, Macau has 380 people with autism.

Shun Tak among winners of Delta Bridge bus tender

A consortium of companies including Pansy Ho's Shun Tak Holdings has secured an exclusive contract to operate bus transportation services across the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), and will offer lower consumer prices than existing transportation options.

The consortium comprises Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Land Transportation (Macau) Corporation, Zhuhai Yuegong Xinhai Transportation Company, Hong Kong Zhuhai Macau Bridge Shuttle Bus Services and a subsidiary of Shun Tak Holdings.

Ho disclosed the consortium's tender victory while announcing the group's annual results last week, according to the South China Morning Post (SCMP).

"The company has participated in a consortium, via its subsidiary, which has succeeded in the tender," she said, according to the Hong Kongbased newspaper.

The subsidiary was reportedly awarded the contract because of its promise to set



fares at an affordable HKD80 per journey - about one-third of the price of traveling between Hong Kong and Macau via ferry.

The price is also lower than existing land transportation links that traverse the lengthy perimeter of the estuary, sometimes reaching as far north as the provincial capital, Guangzhou, before returning

south along a route parallel to the Pearl River.

Shun Tak already operates one of the world's largest jetfoil fleets, serving the coastal cities of the Pearl River estuary as well as several routes between Macau and Hong Kong. Its involvement in the bridge's bus contract is expected to strengthen its transportation arm in the region.

Some 90 to 140 buses are expected to run each day between the three cities, according to the SCMP, departing every five minutes at peak hours and every 10 to 15 minutes during off-peak period. Night bus services will also operate, departing every 15 to 30 minutes.

The bus services are expected to begin operating later this year.

AD

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Times

New Macau sends letter to UN noting region has no democratic improvements

Lynzy Valles

HE New Macau Association (ANM) has submitted an 11-page document to the United Nations (UN) Human Rights Council to provide insight for a review on Macau's political issues.

Submitted for the 31st Session of Universal Periodic Review on Macau, which will formally be held in November, the pro-democracy association disclosed the city's issues on political rights, freedom of expression and movement, privacy and surveillance, gender recognition and domestic violence.

According to ANM, the five topics it addressed should not be considered as an exhaustive list of human rights issues in Macau, rather only recommendations that are "technically achievable."

ANM continually calls for universal suffrage, noting that the right to political participation and expression is limited in the city – but government officials have denied the introduction of universal suffrage to the elections of the Chief Executive and all the members of the Legislative Assembly.

Jason Chao, a political activist, lamented that the city has had no improvements in democracy.

"It is regrettable that the government is denying citizens the right to participate in the formation of the Municipal Institute. It's a step backward rather than going forward towards democracy," said Chao, who was present at yesterday's press conference.

The activist slammed the government as he claimed that the future Municipal Institute is just another name for the current Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau.

"I barely see the difference but in terms of political rights, I would say that the SAR is



denying [the] public's participation in the municipal institute," Chao stressed.

Meanwhile, ANM noted the local authorities' denial of entry to Macau of Hong Kong journalists, lawmakers, scholars and writers was not infrequent, criticizing justifications posed by the local government such as "internal security" or the "International Security Framework Law."

However, that law is a piece of legislation intended to combat cross-border organized crime and terrorism. "People with common sense would see these claims [as] hardly convincing," the association wrote in their submission. "The his-

torical, cultural and economic ties between Macau and its neighboring regions made the freedom to enter and leave Macau part of people's lives," it continues.

According to Chao, the association compiled a list of activities as well as journalists and scholars that have been denied entry to Macau, and hopes that the UN will review the document and assess the visitors.

"Of course this is an open violation of freedom of expression" Chao defended.

The ANM also was frustrated by the use of surveillance technologies being deployed by police authorities being unavailable to the public. According to the association, the mechanism to protect citizens' personal data from being abused by the authorities is weak, noting that the existing personal data mechanism is impotent in the face of state surveillance in the digital era.

The association requested the Human Rights Council urge Macau to "oblige public authorities to publish true and complete information on the capabilities of the network surveillance technologies use in the upcoming cybersecurity legislation."

"What is lacking is transparency and accountability. The cybersecurity law proposed by the Secretary for Security only [intends] to expand its power but [there is] no [...] mechanism to keep its exercise of power in check," said the activist.

"There was nothing [by which] the public can get to know the real capabilities of this surveillance technology and what data of citizens is being held by public authorities."

ANM hopes that the document submitted last week would serve as a historical record in the UN's database, and would apply pressure on the city to improve its transparency and security.

Meanwhile, lawmaker Sulu Sou, who is currently suspended, told the press that pursuing universal suffrage is still problematic, revealing that he had been speaking with some Portuguese politicians to hear their views on the matter.

It is regrettable that the government is denying citizens the right to participate in the formation of the Municipal Institute.

JASON CHAO

"We tried to communicate with some Portuguese politicians to discuss whether it's suitable to amend the Basic Law and discuss and check the documents [of the agreement] between China and Portugal. It's still in the discussion stage for ANM," said Sou.

Chao sued for defamation

Acriminal charge was filed against Jason Chao by the former director of the University of Macau's (UM) Public Administration department, after Macau Concealers revealed several allegations of the professor's involvement in sexual harassment back in 2015.

Chao yesterday announced that Wang Jian Wei has sued him for defamation, as the media outlet revealed information regarding the alleged perpetrator.

"As information unfolded, we would guess the identity of the alleged perpetrator," Chao explained.

The UM previously released a statement admitting that there were investigations going on, and the scholar admitted that there were three complaints against him.

"He denied the allegations [but] Macau Concealers just revealed allegations and complaints. But he said that it was defamatory and the whole thing was fabricated by Macau Concealers," the activist said.

"I'm happy and I'm open to taking the matter to the court," he added.

The case will be brought to court on July 24.

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BUSINESS

GAMING

Japan's coalition parties reach tentative casino agreement

new agreement between Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's Liberal Democratic Party and its junior coalition partner Komeito suggests the creation of three integrated resorts in Japan, while revenue from casino activities will be subject to a 30 percent flat rate tax.

The agreement, which was negotiated earlier this week, was made on an inter-party basis and has yet to reach Japan's legislature. Komeito and the LDP together command a majority in both the upper and lower house of Japan's Diet.

The two parties now say they back a total of three integrated resorts with the suggestion that each of them would be located in different cities across the country.

This represents a compromise between earlier statements from the LDP that called for as many as five casino resorts and the more gambling-averse Komeito that had preferred just two or three.

They have also agreed on a flat 30 percent tax rate for gross gaming revenue, as opposed to earlier calls from Komeito for a



Poeple walk through the Dotonbori district at night in Osaka, one of the locations expected to house a casino

sliding scale that would reach up to 50 percent depending on the level of revenue generated by operators.

With regard to the taxation compromise, GGR Asia noted that "it was decided that any sliding scale for GGR [gross gaming revenue] tax that went higher than 30 percent would significantly constrain the competitiveness of the casino industry and affect the benefits it could offer Japan. Such benefits are said to be likely to include an increase in

inbound tourism."

The Integrated Resorts Implementation Bill will likely include a mandatory entrance fee for Japanese citizens and residents wishing to visit the casino. Legislators have looked to Singapore as a model, where such an entrance fee has already been implemented.

Komeito had wanted it to be set at 8,000 yen per person (MOP610), similar to that in Singapore, while the LDP insisted on 5,000 yen (MOP380), citing

a difference in per capita gross domestic product between Japan and Singapore.

According to various media reports, the two parties now stand united on a 5,000-yen entrance fee.

Among the other terms negotiated was a seven-year review of the resorts starting from the approval of the first casino. The Japan Times, citing unnamed sources, reported that Komeito had wanted a 10-year period before the review.

Furthermore, casinos will be permitted to occupy no more than 3 percent of the overall integrated resorts' floor area, though there remain many unanswered questions over how this proportion should be calculated and applied.

■ The parties agreed on a flat 30pct tax rate for gross gaming revenue

The LDP has previously said that it wants to present the Integrated Resorts Implementation Bill to the legislature in the first half of this year, with the aim of securing parliamentary approval by June 20, 2018. However, some analysts maintain that even if the bill is approved by June, casinos in Japan may not open earlier than 2026.

According to information previously released, there are several companies linked to Macau competing for Japanese licenses, including Melco Resorts & Entertainment, Las Vegas Sands Corp. and MGM Resorts International. Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka are locations where casinos are being considered. To be selected, operators and municipalities will have to team up and submit a proposal to the government. **DB**

INNOVATION

Formula 1-inspired electric cars are coming to India, Australia

David Stringer

TYCOON Sanjeev Gupta could start building Formula 1-inspired electric vehicles in India and Australia early next decade, adding automobiles to a roster of global businesses that span steelmaking to banking.

Gupta's GFG Alliance, which aims to model the budget, lightweight city cars on a design developed by former McLaren Racing and Brabham technical director Gordon Murray, will build EV plants as part of his worldwide push into the auto supply chain.

"We are talking about city cars, about small, light, very, very economic cars," he said in an interview in Sydney. "We will launch both in India and in Australia."

GFG has been selected as preferred bidder for Indian auto parts maker Amtek Auto Ltd., and acquiring its assets will give it a platform for further expansion in the secondmost populous nation, Gupta said.

India almost doubled sales of EVs in 2017, though they account for only about 0.1 percent of total new vehicle sales, according to Bloomberg New Energy Finance. Demand for private passenger EVs is seen increasing from the mid-to-late 2020's as cheaper models enter the market and the nation installs charging infrastructure. Toyota Motor Corp. and Suzuki Motor Corp. are among manufacturers developing plans to begin EV sales in India.

In Australia, the demise of its car industry has created an opportunity, according to Gupta, who's relocated there following local deals including the purchase of the steel and iron ore assets of Arrium Ltd. from receivers. The

closure of the country's last auto plants in recent years has offered potential opportunities to acquire parts of assembly lines or body shops, he said.

We are talking about city cars, about small, light, very, very economic cars.

SANJEEV GUPTA

Acquiring a mothballed plant or equipment would speed GFG's entry into production, meaning it could begin as soon as 2020, though such a timeframe would be ambitious, according to Gupta. "Launching a car is not a joke, it's a big undertaking," he said in the interview last week. "If we are to do something with an existing plant then it'll be faster." Capital expenditure to enter production may be less than USD500 million, "but not much south of that," he said.

Read more: Toyota to Shut Australian Car Plants Ending Local Industry

Murray's iStream design applies motor-sport principles to reduce the weight of a regular vehicle and claims to cut the cost of an assembly plant by as much as 80 percent with a simplified production process. The ex-F1 designer also plans to move into production, including for external customers, according to an October statement. Gordon Murray Design Ltd. declined to comment on Gupta's plans.



Sanjeev Gupta

Motorcycle Yamaha Motor Co. has produced prototypes using Murray's iStream platform, including the MOTIV compact city car presented at a 2013 motor show in Tokyo, a twoseater sports vehicle and an SUV. Yamaha is considering bringing one of the concepts to market, the company's then-Chief Executive Officer Hiroyuki Yanagi, now chairman, said in October.

Lighter cars will offer better battery range - meaning motorists need to recharge less frequently, while the design allows producers to manufacture vehicles in smaller volumes than the sector's dominant players, according

to Gupta.

GFG, which produces automobile components in the U.K., has made a bid for AR Industries, a French manufacturer of aluminum wheels and is constructing a two million wheels a year plant in Scotland, next to its smelter in Fort William.

Gupta's GFG has led an acquisitions spree since 2013 that's included deals in Europe, the U.S. and Australia for businesses including steel mills, aluminum smelters, energy producers and automobile components manufacturers. The group has committed more than \$3 billion to the investments, according to a statement. **Bloomberg**



HK retail sales up 15.7pct in first two months

The value of total retail sales in Hong Kong rose by 15.7 percent in the first two months over the same period last year, statistics released yesterday showed. As the Lunar New Year fell on Feb. 16 this year but on Jan. 28 last year, it is more appropriate to analyze the retail sales figures for January and February taken together in making a year-onyear comparison, according to Hong Kong's Census and Statistics Department. A government spokesman said retail sales strengthened visibly in the first two months, thanks to favorable job and income conditions and a pick-up in visitor arrivals. Looking ahead, the outlook for retail sales should remain positive in the near term, the spokesman said.

3 killed in north China factory explosion

Three people died and three others were injured when an explosion hit a workshop of an aluminum company yesterday in north China's Shanxi Province. The blast happened in the early morning at Yunhai aluminum company in Yongji City. Three people died at the scene and three others were injured, said the local government. The injured are being treated in hospital and are all in a stable condition. The cause of the accident is under investigation. The company was registered in 2010 and mainly produces aluminum alloy products.

Nanjing Massacre survivors on exhibition

An exhibition of family photos of survivors of the Nanjing Massacre opened yesterday in Nanjing. At the Memorial Hall of the Victims of the Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders, visitors can see the family photos of 30 survivors. The photos were taken in 2017 by local photographers for Xinhua News Agency. Zhang Jianjun, curator of the memorial hall, told Xinhua that the exhibition would show to the world that the Chinese people never forget history, but at the same time, they have walked out of the shadow of the past to embrace a new life. The exhibition will last until July 5.

Facebook scandal alarms China eyeing next frontier in AI battle

Marc Champion, Keith Zhai

THE scandal over the alleged abuse of Facebook Inc.'s user data is unfolding a long way from China, and yet privacy regulators in Beijing have been watching intently.

Their interest shows how all three big players in the technology world - the Americans, Chinese and Europeans - are feeling their way to balance the demands of consumers for privacy and of governments for security.

But they're also competing to shape the rules of the game for internet companies and, for the U.S. and China in particular, to maximize access to data for a bigger goal: to dominate Artificial Intelligence, the next frontier in machine learning.

"All of these governments and companies are in the middle of trying to figure out what data governance should look like," said Samm Sacks, senior fellow in the technology program at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, a Washington think tank. "And this is happening in a global context that will have implications for trade and for research and development in AI."

New Chinese privacy standards take effect on May 1. The European Union's sweeping General Data Protection Regulation enters force just over three weeks later.

Now the prospect of tighter data privacy legislation in the U.S. just got a little closer too. Facebook Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg is preparing to testify to Congress on how Cambridge Analytica, a company that worked on Trump's election campaign, secured the data of 50 million Facebook users. That news helped to send tech stocks tumbling in the U.S. and China, a rout that's continued into this week.

"This Facebook incident sounded the alarm for Chinese data regulators and controllers," said Lu Chuanying, a cyber-security researcher at the Shanghai Institute for International Studies who helped draft the new data privacy standard for China's tech companies.

"If that's a problem for the largest social network platform in the U.S., then that can be a problem for Chinese companies," as they wrestle with potential responsibility for third-party data abuse, he said.

AI has exploded in recent years as ever more datasets become available to be mined by algorithms. From robotics, to language and image recognition, to heath care and military applications, many expect AI to drive future economic growth and define great power competition. As



Russian President Vladimir Putin put it last year, "the one who become the leader in this sphere will be the ruler of the world."

China's President Xi Jinping has set out an ambitious plan to dominate in AI by 2030, overtaking the U.S. It would see gross output from China's AI industry increase 10-fold within the next three years, to 150 billion renminbi (USD24 billion), and to 1 trillion renminbi by 2030.

This Facebook incident sounded the alarm for Chinese data regulators and controllers.

LU CHUANYING

Lu said that vision plays a part in drafting regulation. He described the stringency of China's current data-privacy rules as falling deliberately somewhere between the U.S. and the EU. That's partly because of competitive concerns over access to big

The U.S. government's goal is to maintain its global lead in AI development. The EU, which has no big data-collecting corporations on the scale of Facebook, Amazon.com Inc., or Chinese giant Tencent Holdings Ltd., has said it wants to lead in the ethical use of data. It too, though, is beginning to worry about getting left behind on AI.

A study by Jeffrey Ding for Oxford University's Future of Humanity Institute published this month found that China currently trails the U.S. in AI capabilities on most metrics, though not on access to big data or the supercomputers to crunch it.

That's the result of heavy government investment, a 1.4 billion strong population, a higher ecommerce saturation than the U.S., and intrusive government databases that would be politically difficult to maintain in the west.

China is trying to manage access to online information and restrict data exports while legislating for greater privacy rights for consumers in the commercial sector. The tension between those goals is reflected in China's privacy legislation, said Richard Bird, a Hong Kong-based partner in the law firm Freshfields Bruckhaus Deringer.

Though in some ways at least as strict as the EU's, China's new privacy standard is non-binding, he said. Meanwhile, the most developed measures to protect personal privacy are, tellingly, in the National Cyber Security law.

Adopted last year, it required companies to store and process locally all personal data as well as any other data that China considers "important." The U.S. filed a complaint at the World Trade Organization that such a vaguely worded restriction will be used to discriminate against foreign companies.

Then there are the penalties. While the alleged misuse of data in the Facebook-Cambridge Analytica case would breach Chinese law, the potential fine would be capped at 10 times any unlawful gain, said Bird, adding that in practice that means one of up to about \$150,000 would be more typical.

Chinese tech companies have issues with the Cyber Security law, too. The government wants commercial internet champions such as Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., Baidu Inc. and Tencent to expand abroad, adding a digital plank to Xi's One Belt One Road strategy of building infrastructure around the world to expand China's trade links and influence.

Those same companies have been "pushing back on data localization because they see it potentially hurting them globally," said Sacks, the U.S. analyst.

Alibaba, for example, might not be able to serve its Chinese customers abroad. Chinese financial institutions could be hobbled by domestic bureaucracy as they try to make international transactions. The tech companies also want clearer privacy regulation to help win the trust of the foreign governments and consumers they need to expand abroad, according to Sacks.

The companies see international growth as important for data access as well as profit. The U.S. may only have a population of 330 million, but Facebook has 2.2 billion active monthly users and all the information that comes with them.

That said, the whole focus on big data as the new oil - the essential ingredient for a new, AI-based post-industrial economy - may be overdone, according to Paula Parpart, founder of Brainpool.ai, a U.K.-based company that provides companies with high-level AI engineers.

One reason, she said, is that progress is being made in data analysis that strips out the identity of individuals - something known as differential privacy.

Another is that what most people call AI is in reality machine learning, using the brute force of big data to perform tasks. True AI requires coming up with algorithms that, like humans, can learn from just one or two examples, rather than thousands. More privacy regulation could force research in that direction.

Even then there could be risks to over-regulation, according to Parpart. If companies like Alibaba or Facebook are restricted too much in terms of the data they can store and how they can use it they may lose the advertising revenue that enables them to fund AI research, she said. **Bloomberg**

Beijing says bishop selection does not breach religious rights

Yanan Wang, Beijing

ESTRICTING the Vatican's control over the appointment of bishops in China does not infringe on religious freedom, a Chinese official said vesterday, amid historic negotiations between Beijing and the Holy See aimed at healing divi-

Chen Zongrong, an official overseeing religious affairs, said Beijing would not allow "foreign forces" to govern the country's faith groups.

"The Chinese constitution clearly states that China's religious groups and religious affairs cannot be controlled by foreign forces, and [the foreign forces] should not interfere in Chinese religious affairs in any way."

"I disagree with the view that preventing Rome from having full control over the selection of bishops hinders religious freedom," Chen said.

Speaking at a State Council briefing, the former vice administrator for the recently dissolved State Administration for Religious Affairs emphasized a need for faiths in China to "adapt to socialist society" and "develop religions in the Chinese context."

"Actively guiding religions in adapting to the socialist society means guiding religious believers to [...] be subordinate to and serve the overall interests of the nation and the Chinese people," said a white paper released



Acolytes pray during a Holy Saturday Mass on the evening before Easter at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, a government-sanctioned Catholic church in Beijing

yesterday.

"It also means guiding religious groups to support the leadership of the Communist Party of China and the socialist system," the document said.

The statements are in line with a push in recent years for major religions to "Sinicize" - code for accepting the ruling Communist Party's leadership over foreign influence.

During last month's annual meeting of China's rubber-stamp legislature, the State Administration for Religious Af-

fairs was folded into the United Front Work Department, which manages the party's relations with non-party entities, both domestically and abroad.

"I believe there is no religion in human society that transcends nations," Chen said.

For years, China's Catholics have been split between those who follow state-authorized churches outside the Vatican's authority and those who attend underground churches that swear fealty to the pope.

An expected deal between Bei-

jing and the Holy See has spurred accusations that the Vatican is giving too much away after asserting the need for the Catholic Church in China to remain independent of government control over the nearly seven decades since relations were severed.

Under the agreement being discussed, the Vatican is expected to recognize seven Beijingappointed bishops not chosen by the pope, while two "underground" bishops would step aside. The Holy See is believed in the past to have objected to some of

those unapproved bishops because of their personal conduct or other moral issues.

Guo Xijin, one of the Vatican-ordained bishops who may cede his post, was temporarily removed from his southern Chinese parish last week but returned in time for Easter Sunday services.

Guiding religions in adapting to the socialist society means guiding religious believers to serve the overall interests of the nation.

WHITE PAPER

Chen denied that Guo was deprived of freedom when government agents put him on a train to Xiamen, a city more than 255 kilometers (160 miles) from his Fujian province church, saying he'd been invited there by a local bishop.

Priests and nuns in Guo's parish told The Associated Press last week that it was customary for authorities to require the bishop to take a forced "vacation" during sensitive periods.

They said he had likely been taken this time to prevent him from speaking to the media about the ongoing talks with the Vatican, which have sparked a sharp backlash by some Catholic clergy and supporters of the underground church. AP

Dearth of deposits pushes big banks to short-term debt

THINA'S biggest len-✓ ders are increasingly using short-term financing to meet demand for loans, in a development that could push up money-market rates.

The banks are rushing to sell negotiable certificates of deposit, an instrument that sounds like a saving account but is actually more like a bond. Issuance of these by the five largest lenders more than doubled to 424 billion yuan (USD68 billion) in the first quarter from a previous record in the three months ended Sept. 30, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Banks are taking this approach as deposit growth dwindles and the government curbs the

sale of wealth management products. While new lending in China rose to an all-time high of 2.9 trillion yuan in January, deposits increased at the slowest pace ever last year and WMPs rose just 1.7 percent.

New lending rose to an all-time high of 2.9 trillion yuan in January

"With the biggest banks joining smaller ones to be short of funding now, money rates are prone to spike at some points,"

said David Qu, Shanghaibased market economist at Australia & New Zealand Banking Group Ltd. "People shouldn't take it for granted that the ample liquidity we've seen in the first quarter will necessarily last."

NCDs, introduced in 2013 as a way to funnel cash to smaller financial institutions, are becoming popular among bigger lenders thanks to their cheap cost relative to issuing debt. Big banks also previously hadn't used up their quotas for the instruments, making them an easy source of funds as alternative channels get shut down.

China's big five are usually considered cash rich as they have far more outlets across the

country than smaller banks, allowing them to be net providers of funds in the interbank money cial institutions turn to NCDs to secure funding, they're less able to help others in case of liquidity tightening.

With more than 8.2 trillion yuan of contracts outstanding, NCDs are the fourth-largest type of bond in China, after sovereign, local government and policy bank

Bank of Communications Co. has been the biggest user of NCDs among the top five lenders, selling 223 billion yuan worth so far this year. Agricultural Bank of China Ltd. has sold 127 billion yuan, while Bank

of China Ltd., China Construction Bank Corp. and Industrial & Commercial Bank of China market. As these finan- Ltd. have issued a combined 76 billion yuan. All five banks declined to

lenders, Smaller meanwhile, are reducing their use of NCDs as China seeks to lower leverage in the financial system. Industrial Bank Co., last year's top issuer, cut its plan for 2018 by 24 percent to 680 billion yuan, and Shanghai Pudong Development Bank Co., the second largest, reduced its one by 13 percent to 700 billion yuan.

"The NCD market will witness a change this year - the big banks boosting sales and smaller ones reducing due to regulatory curbs," said Ming Ming, head of fixed income research at Citic Securities Co. The former will probably increasingly depend on NCDs, he

The cost of three-month AAA rated NCDs fell to 3.80 percent on Monday, the lowest since December 2016, in the wake of the central bank boosting cash injections during the top legislature's annual meeting in March. Still, analysts expect momentum to shift upward.

"Market rates are under pressure to go higher as borrowings have become increasingly difficult in the financial system," said Wang Yifeng, a Beijing-based researcher at China Minsheng Banking Corp. Bloomberg



String of abuses clouds future of Saipan visa program

Sophia Yan, Honolulu

Apush to save and expand a visa program unique to the Northern Mariana Islands is hitting skids after recent cases of labor abuse and visa fraud, delivering a major blow to the U.S. commonwealth's economy, which relies heavily on foreign workers.

The visa classification, known as CW-1, allows employers to seek permission to hire foreign workers and is aimed at alleviating a labor shortage among the Pacific islands' population of roughly 52,000. The program was launched about a decade ago and has brought in nurses, teachers, hotel maids, bakers and more.

But a recent spate of visa abuses in the Northern Mariana Islands has cast a shadow over efforts to bolster the program, due to sunset next year.

Just this month, labor authorities reached a USD14 million settlement with Chinese companies for exploiting a visa waiver loophole to bring in illegal workers. And a local businessman and two associates were convicted in federal court for their role in a scheme to defraud foreigners by promising them U.S. jobs and green cards in exchange for cash.

"Seen from the distance of Washington, D.C., this looks like a program that doesn't deserve to be continued — it's not being properly monitored for abuse," said Bruce Mailman, an attorney at Mailman & Kara in Saipan who has worked with companies employing workers on the CW-1 visa. Still, "it's a critical program for this place."

Only 4,999 visas have been allotted for 2019, half of what was available the previous year.

Cutting the number of visas threatens jobs and hurts the Marianas economy, Rep. Gregorio Sablan, a Democrat representing



In this July 26, 2017 photo, Chinese laborers at the Imperial Pacific Casino gather in front of their living quarters before a protest in Saipan

the islands, said in a March 23 statement. He also has said recent violations of U.S. law give the Marianas a black eye and make it increasingly challenging to maintain a sufficient workforce.

A bill introduced in January by Sablan and U.S. Sen. Lisa Murkowski, an Alaska Republican who recently visited the islands, seeks to extend the program for another decade. It would increase the number of visas allotted and crack down on oversight.

Provisions to defend against labor abuses include allowing only "legitimate businesses" to be approved for permits — defined as firms that comply with wage laws and safety regulations for at least five years. Companies cannot engage in illegal activities, such as human trafficking, according to a version of the bill from March 20. It also reiterates that

construction firms are barred from using the program, a change that passed into law last year in a separate bill.

The U.S. Labor Department has found contractors with the Hong Kong firm Imperial Pacific in violation of most of those requirements. Imperial Pacific is building a casino in Saipan, the largest of the Northern Mariana Islands. But construction stalled as thousands of illegal workers returned home to China following an FBI raid after a Chinese man died in a construction accident.

The legislation is on hold as Congress is in recess until April 9. By the time lawmakers are back in session, the government will already be accepting applications for 2019.

Companies have long known the CW-1 program would end but continued to favor the program over other visas because it allows them to pay the local minimum wage. In 2008, when the program was introduced, that was \$3.55 an hour, far below federally mandated levels.

But that incentive is disappearing. Incremental changes over the years have raised the visa's required hourly wage to \$7.05, and by this September it will match the federal minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour.

Saipan businesses that rely on the program are scrambling to make changes. Hong Electric Enterprises, an electric supply firm, has brought in employees on CW-1 permits for years and is working to transition some workers to other visas given uncertainty over the program. "We cannot afford to lose key personnel," said Carol Tamparong, a Hong Electric manager who originally came on a permit.

Employers could consider visas including the H-1B for skilled

workers or the H-2B for seasonal work, as a federal cap that applies in other states doesn't apply to the Northern Mariana Islands, given the local labor shortage, said Janet King, an immigration attorney in Saipan. Other visas, like the EB-3, which cover a range of jobs from accounting clerks to architects, also confer visa applicants more rights and a path toward a green card.

By comparison, a CW-1 visa applies only within the commonwealth and doesn't allow the holder to travel or work elsewhere in the U.S.

More than half of the Northern Mariana Islands' workforce is from China, the Philippines and elsewhere, filling 80 percent of all construction and hospitality jobs.

■ Construction of a casino stalled as thousands of illegal workers returned home to China following an FBI raid

Without those workers, the commonwealth's economy would have clocked as much as a 62 percent reduction in 2015, according to a May report by the Government Accountability Office

Demand for the CW-1 program exceeded the number of available permits for the first time in 2016, and the report predicted a labor shortage given plans for additional hotels, casinos and other projects that would require thousands of employees.

Foreign workers are vital to the islands, Mailman said. "Because of our distance from the U.S. mainland, it's kind of hard to entice people to come out here for jobs that pay below the scale for what they're used to, despite being a tropical paradise," he said AP



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Nick Perry, Wellington

THEN a drone flew within meters of a landing plane last week, endangering 278 passengers and crew, Air New Zealand responded by saving that such reckless drone operators should be thrown in prison.

Other agencies also sounded the public alarm. Air traffic controllers said they were concerned about the increasing numbers of drones flying illegally in controlled airspace, while regulators said flying drones into a flight path was inexcusable and the "height of stupidity."

Yet The Associated Press has found that none of the agencies involved notified police about the drone. Not while it was endangering the plane, nor later to try to track down the perpe-

Air New Zealand didn't call. Auckland Airport didn't call. Air traffic controllers didn't call. And the Civil Aviation Authority, the regulatory agency that oversees aviation safety, didn't call.

Flight NZ92 from Tokyo was landing at Auckland Airport on March 25 when it had the close call. Air New Zealand said the pilots spotted the drone about 5 meters from the plane at a point in their descent when it was impossible to take evasive action.

The airline said the drone passed so close that the crew worried it had been sucked into an **NEW ZEALAND**

When drone imperiled plane, nobody called police



engine, although a later inspection showed that hadn't happened.

"It's clear the time has now come for tougher deterrents for reckless drone use around airports to safeguard travelers," David Morgan, the airline's chief operations and integrity standards officer, said in a statement last week.

But police told the AP that

there was no record of any report to them about the drone. And that's despite police officers being routinely stationed at the airport.

Under current regulations, drone operators who breach aviation rules can be fined up to 5,000 New Zealand dollars (USD3,600).

Airways spokeswoman Emily Davies said the first priority for air traffic controllers during a drone incursion is to safely manage the planes in the area. She said a controller can call police if it's operationally safe to do so.

"On Sunday [March 25], the controllers on duty were unable to safely leave their positions to make a call due to the workload associated with heavy traffic volumes and managing the drone incursion," Davies said.

She added that controllers are required to notify regulators, who may decide to involve police in an investigation.

Flight NZ92 from Tokyo was landing at **Auckland Airport** on March 25 when it had the close call

Auckland Airport said airlines contact controllers about drones, who in turn contact police if there is an imminent threat. Air New Zealand said questions about tracking down the drone operator should be directed to regulators.

The Civil Aviation Authority said it had received a report from the pilot about the drone but couldn't provide further details "as its part of the information gathering that is now underway in connection with this incident." AP

SOUTH KOREA

Court to allow live broadcast of Park verdict

South Korean court Asaid yesterday that it will allow a rare live broadcast of the verdict at the trial of disgraced former President Park Geun-hye later this

Park was arrested last vear on a slew of corruption charges after being removed from office following months of huge rallies calling for her ouster. Prosecutors are demanding a 30year sentencing live in consideration of public interest. It would mark the first broadcast for a verdict at the trial of a district court, though trials at higher-level courts have been previously broadcast, including the one that dismissed Park from office.

Park has boycotted court sessions since last October, and it's unlikely she'll attend the verdict. Both Park and



Former South Korean President Park Geun-hye (left)

prosecutors can appeal Friday's ruling.

Among the key charges are that she colluded with a longtime confidante to take tens of millions of dollars from companies in bribes and extortion.

Park, the daughter of a deeply divisive dictator, became South Korea's first female president in early 2013.

Nearly all South Korean presidents have been arrested or embroiled in scandal at the close of their terms or after leaving office. Last month, Park's conservative predecessor, Lee Myung-bak, was arrested and jailed over a separate corruption scandal. AP

India spends record USD18b to develop roads as polls loom

Dhwani Pandya

NDIA invested a re-Lcord 1.16 trillion rupees (USD18 billion) in the financial year ended March, to develop highways and improve road connectivity across the nation, according to a statement from Ministry of Road Transport and Highways.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's administration spent 44 percent more than a year ago on building roads. The government plans to construct 83,677 kilometers (52,005 miles) of roads by 2022 to boost economic growth and employment, under its \$106 billion Bharatmala infrastructure development plan.

The government rushing to enact policies that will boost employment opportunities in Asia's third-largest economy before elections next year. Modi swept to power in May 2014 with the biggest electoral man-

date in three decades after promising to create 10 million jobs each year for the country's burgeoning youth population.

"The renewed focus on road building will continue to improve connectivity thereby enhancing the overall efficiency in the economy," said Shubhada M Rao, chief economist at Yes Bank Ltd. "Focus on road building will also help employment genera-

The country constructed 26.9 kilometer of roads daily

The administration awarded a total of 17,055 kilometers of orders in year ended March, around 7 percent more from a year ago, according to the statement. Construction of roads last fiscal increased to 9,829 kilometers from

8,231 kilometers a year earlier.

The breakneck pace of highway projects has resulted in swelling of order books of most road developers to an all-time high, IIFL Wealth Management analyst Alok Deora said. They "will ensure strong topline" and earnings growth in current and next financial years, Deora said. Road developers such as Dilip Buildcon Ltd., Ashoka Buildcon Ltd., Sadbhav Infrastructure Project Ltd. rallied on Monday.

National Highways Authority of India on March 31 said it awarded road projects totaling 1.22 trillion rupees in last financial vear. Tendering and projects awarding activity picked after the government announced the 'Bharatmala' program, NHAI said in a statement.

India constructed 26.9 kilometer of roads daily in the year to March 31. Bloomberg



Winnie Mandela listens to speeches during the memorial service for her ex-husband, former South African president Nelson Mandela



In this June 12, 1964, file photo, Winnie Mandela (right) waits for a glimpse of Nelson Mandela outside the Palace of Justice in Pretoria

OBITUARY

Winnie Madikizela-Mandela: A life of struggle

Christopher Torchia, Johannesburg

EVEN the name given to Winnie Madikizela-Mandela at birth — Nomzamo, "one who undergoes trials" — foretold a life of struggle.

During her nearly 38-year marriage to Nelson Mandela, she fought for black majority rule even as she vowed to escape the shadow of the great man.

And although many South Africans called her the "Mother of the Nation," she would become engulfed in criminal convictions and scandals.

Madikizela-Mandela died Monday in a Johannesburg hospital at the age of 81 after a long illness, her family announced. She will be honored with a state funeral on April 14, President Cyril Ramaphosa said Monday evening after paying a condolence visit to Madikizela-Mandela's home in Johannesburg's Soweto township.

Over the years, Madikizela-Mandela became a symbol of the suffering caused by South Africa's system of white minority rule known as apartheid and became a force against it, ultimately serving as a member of parliament.

She and her husband began a family before Nelson Mandela went underground and then was imprisoned for more than a quarter-century. Left with two young daughters, Madikizela-Mandela was persecuted by police and banished to a remote town where neighbors were forbidden to speak with her.

As Nelson Mandela emerged from 27 years in prison seeking reconciliation and forgiveness, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela wanted the perpetrators of apartheid punished.

"What brutalized me so much was that I knew what it is to hate," she once said in a South African television interview.

Madikizela-Mandela's story grabbed the imagination of people around the world. It's been told in books as well as the Hollywood movie "Winnie," starring Oscar-winning actress and singer Jennifer Hudson.

The young Winnie grew up in what is now Eastern Cape province and came to Johannesburg as the city's first black female social worker. Her research into the high infant mortality rate in a black township, which she linked to poverty caused by racism, first sparked her interest in politics.

■ Winnie's bodyguards were accused of the disappearances and killings of at least 18 boys and young men

"I started to realize the abject poverty under which most people were forced to live, the appalling conditions created by the inequalities of the system," she said.

In 1957, she met Nelson Mandela, a rising lawyer and antiapartheid activist 18 years her senior, and they married a year later following his divorce from his first wife.

The first five turbulent years of their marriage saw Mandela going underground to build the armed struggle against apartheid, and finally to prison in 1963, while his wife gave birth to two daughters.

"The wife of a freedom fighter is often like a widow, even when her husband is not in prison," Mandela wrote. But he added: "Winnie gave me cause for hope. I felt as though I had a new and second chance at life. My love for her gave me the added strength for the struggles that lay ahead."

Madikizela-Mandela always was aware of the danger of being overshadowed by her husband's all-encompassing personality, and she vowed not to lose herself

Even before they were separated by Nelson Mandela's long stay in prison, she had become politicized, being jailed for two weeks while pregnant for participating in a women's protest against apartheid restrictions on blacks.

The apartheid police later harassed her, sometimes dragging her from bed at night without giving her a chance to make arrangements for her daughters.

Madikizela-Mandela complained bitterly on a North American tour after she was forced to testify to South Africa's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 1997 that the commission never asked her about the treatment she suffered over 18 months in solitary confinement.

In 1977, she was banished to a remote town, Brandfort, where neighbors were forbidden to speak to her. She was banned from meeting with more than one person at a time.

The woman who returned to Johannesburg in 1985 was much harder, more ruthless and bellicose, branded by the cruelty of apartheid and determined vengeance.

In her book "100 Years of Struggle: Mandela's ANC," Heidi Holland suggested that Madikizela-Mandela was "perhaps driven half-mad by security police harassment." In an infamous 1986 speech she threatened "no more peaceful protests."

Instead, she endorsed the "necklacing" method of killing

suspected informers and police with fuel-doused tires put around the neck and set alight. "Together hand-in-hand, with our boxes of matches and our necklaces, we shall liberate this country," she said.

At the time, the African National Congress party and its army of guerrilla fighters were riddled with spies and informers, some willing, others tortured into submission.

Still harassed by police, Madikizela-Mandela gathered a group of young men known as the Mandela United Football Club, who lived on her property. But they turned into thugs who so terrorized the black township of Soweto that people set ablaze Madikizela-Mandela's home there, according to an autobiography by ANC veteran Amina Cachalia and other accounts.

Her bodyguards were accused of the disappearances and killings of at least 18 boys and young men. In the most infamous case, her bodyguards in 1989 kidnapped four boys including 14-year-old James "Stompie" Seipei Moeketsi.

He was accused of being a police informer, badly beaten and his throat slit. In 1991, Madikizela-Mandela was charged with Moeketsi's killing. A court found her guilty of his kidnapping and assault and sentenced her to six years in jail.

She appealed and was found guilty of being an accessory in the assault, and the sentence was reduced to a fine and a suspended prison term. Madikizela-Mandela steadfastly denied any knowledge of any killings, leading the judge in that case to brand her "an unblushing liar."

The newly freed Mandela stood by his wife, urging friends to come to court to show their support, according to Cachalia in her autobiography "When Hope and History Rhyme." The marriage that survived decades of prison bars dissolved with a formal separation in 1992, two years after Mandela's release.

The couple divorced in 1996, two years after Mandela became president in South Africa's first all-race elections. He accused his wife of infidelity.

She kept his name, adding her maiden name. In 2003, Madikizela-Mandela was convicted on fraud and theft charges and sentenced to five years in jail, though she ended up serving no time.

The conviction appeared to end her career: She quit Parliament and resigned from her posts as president of the ANC Woman's League and a member of the party's executive committee.

But her base of support, mostly downtrodden black women and youth, remained loyal. In 2009, months before general elections, ANC members made her No. 5 on their election list, a measure of her enduring popularity.

She remained outspoken and joined the rising anger against then-President Jacob Zuma over multiple scandals that hurt the reputation of the ANC, calling with other longtime party veterans for his departure. Zuma resigned in February.

As the mother of two of Mandela's children, Madikizela-Mandela and her ex-husband appeared to rebuild a friendship in his final years. It was not unusual to see him at public events with her on one side and his third wife, Graca Machel, on the other. Madikizela-Mandela later became embroiled in disputes over Mandela's estate.

George Bizos, a human rights lawyer who represented Nelson Mandela at the 1960s trial that led to his long imprisonment, recalled how the marriage broke down.

"Nelson Mandela called two other senior members of the ANC after his release and he actually said, 'I love her, we have differences, I don't want to discuss them, please respect her," Bizos said. "And he shed tears to say that 'we have decided to separate.' He loved her to the end." AP

MacauDaily (MPHEIDER *)

King's heirs still grappling with his killing 50 years later

Errin Haines Whack, Atlanta

N April 4, 1968, a movement lost its patriarch when the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. was killed on a hotel balcony in Memphis.

Yolanda, Martin, Dexter and Bernice King lost their father. The loss has not gotten easier in 50 years, but his three surviving children each bear it on their own terms.

"That period, for me, is like yesterday," said Dexter King, now 57. "People say it's been 50 years, but I'm living in step time. Forget what he did in terms of his service and commitment and contribution to humankind [...] I miss my dad.'

His children cling to the few memories they have left of him. For years, they have had to publicly mourn a man who was among the most hated in America at the time of his death -atask they have been reluctant and, at times, angry to carry out.

Now that King is among the most beloved figures in the world, his heirs are forced to share him with the multitudes who have laid claim to his legacy. For more than a decade, they have had to do this without two of the family's cornerstones: their mother, Coretta Scott King, who died in 2006, and eldest child, Yolanda, who died in 2007.

As adults, the siblings have earned a reputation over their infighting, which has spilled into rancorous lawsuits over heirlooms including their father's Bible and Nobel Peace Prize. Today, the three say they are in a "good place" and have managed to compartmentalize their differences and come together as a family in times of difficulty.

Their recollections are a re-



From left: Dexter Scott King, the Rev. Bernice King and Martin Luther King III

minder that at the center of this tragedy was a young family, robbed of a loving husband and father, who was just 39. All are older now than King was. The tributes to their dad - from the buildings and streets that bear his name, to statues in his home state and in the nation's capital — are points of pride, but also constant reminders of the void he left.

KING III: **'TIME FOR CAMARADERIE'**

Martin Luther King III's eyes crinkle into a smile as he recalls the happier times: in the pews at Ebenezer Baptist Church on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta helping his dad greet new members, tossing a football or baseball on the lawn of the family home, swimming lessons at the YMCA.

When he came home from the front lines in the fight against racism, King's somber expression would give way to smiles and a playful mood. For them, he was not an icon, but a buddy.

King III and his brother also traveled with King. Months before he was killed, they accompanied King as he mobilized people in South Georgia to attend his upcoming Poor People's Campaign in Washington.

"That was our time for camaraderie," recalled King III, now 60. King III said he can still get emotional around his father's death. If he listens too closely to King's "Drum Major Instinct" speech, in which the preacher muses about wanting to live a long life, he still gets moved to tears.

For years afterward, King III tensed whenever he saw a news bulletin like the ones that told him his father was killed, or that his uncle, A.D. King, had been found dead in his swimming pool, or that his grandmother had been killed by a madman while playing the organ at Sunday service at Ebenezer - all while he was still a child.

"I was afraid, because I was like, 'Is this going to be something else that happens to our family?" he said.

BERNICE:

'I WISH I KNEW HIM MORE' Bernice King, the youngest,

was once envious of her siblings, who had many more memories of King. Shared stories from her mother, sisters and brother, as well as home movies, helped humanize her father.

Nicknamed "Bunny," Bernice King said she cherishes the scant moments she remembers sharing between father and daughter, like the "kissing game" they would play.

"That stayed with me so vividly," said Bernice, now 55. "I'm glad I had that, because everything else, other than a few memories of being at the dinner table, I don't recall. I wish I knew him more."

She admitted to struggling with having to share her parents with strangers over the years.

"It bothered me," she said. "It's hard to have the private moments ... It's like everybody else has a part of him, and that's always hard to deal with. But I won't let it get in the way of what they have done and what they mean to the world."

DEXTER:

YOU SAW THE ENERGY

That night and the days that followed the killing remain frozen in Dexter King's memory. He remembers his mother telling them something had happened to their father as she prepared to head to the airport. After Coretta Scott King left, their caregiver answered the kitchen telephone, started screaming and fell backward. Dexter, then 7, knew the worst had happened.

When King's body returned to Atlanta, Dexter remembered running up and down the aisle of the airplane, and seeing his father's coffin on the floor.

"I asked my mom, 'What's that?" he said. "She explained, Your dad is going to be sleeping when you see him and he won't be able to speak with you. He's gone home to be with God."

Dexter King spoke of his father's warmth and playfulness, a departure from the serious approach he took to his work. Seeing him in his roles as pastor and civil rights leader, Dexter King said he and his siblings were aware that their father's work was important.

"You saw the interaction and the energy, just the way people reacted to him," he said.

He was again struck by the people's reaction at his father's funeral, as a seemingly endless sea of mourners formed a funeral procession through Atlanta.

"There's Dad, and there's the leader the world owns," Dexter continued. "Generally, I accept that. But he had a family. As kids, we did not choose this life. And I don't know that my dad chose it. It really chose him. We're human, and in some ways, we're still grieving." AP

German prosecutors seek to extradite ex-Catalan leader

TERMAN prosecutors Said yesterday they are seeking the extradition of former Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont to Spain, where he could face trial for his role in organizing an independence referendum.

Puigdemont was detained in Germany on March 25 as he attempted to drive from Finland to Belgium, where he currently resides.

Prosecutors in the northern town of Schleswig said they have asked the

regional court to formally put him in pre-extradition custody following "intensive examination" of the European arrest warrant issued by Spain's supreme court on March 23. If the court agrees to the request, prosecutors would still need to issue an order signing off on Puigdemont's extradition.

Schleswig prosecutors said in a statement they consider the charge of rebellion to have an equivalent in German law — one of the requirements for extradition to take place.

"The accusation of rebellion contains at its core the allegation of carrying out an unconstitutional referendum despite expectations of violent disturbances," the prosecutors said. They noted that during a meeting with police on Sept. 28, Puigdemont was warned that violence might escalate on the day of the Oct. 1 referendum, but his government went through with it anyway.

In addition to rebellion, Madrid accuses

55-year-old of misuse of public funds.

In an interview from jail, published Monday, Puigdemont insisted the campaign for the Spanish region's independence was nonviolent.

Puigdemont's lawyers said in a written statement that they have asked judges to reject the prosecutors' request, adding that they and their client "trust there will be an independent and objective examination by the Schleswig state court, to which fur-



ther arguments against extradition will be presented in detail."

The lawyers have also

urged the German government to intervene in the case, citing the "political dimension." AP



what's ON



THE EXHIBITION "SWISS STYLE NOW"

TIME: 10am-9pm UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do

Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

DIN DONG X TAIPA VILLAGE CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION

TIME: 12pm - 8pm (Closed on Monday)

UNTIL: April 13, 2018 VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space ADMISSION: Free ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

Monkey King

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980,

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818 Kong Seng Ticketing: (853) 2855 5555

Mandarin's House

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

on Wednesdays, open on public holidays) ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

SOMETIMES I FEEL THAT I'M NOT MYSELF - WORKS BY

José Drummond

TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and mandatory

holidays)

UNTIL: April 14, 2018

VENUE: 1st Floor, Macau Art Garden, No. 265, Av. Dr.

Rodrigo Rodrigues ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on

public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre),

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows),

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

COUPLE WHO MET IN SUPERMARKET MARRY AMID VEGGIES IN AISLE 13

Attention all shoppers: wedding in Aisle 13.

A couple who met at a supermarket have tied the knot there with canned carrots and peas among their wedding guests.

The Valley News Dispatch reported 69-year-old Larry Spiering and 61-year-old Becky Smith married Sunday at the Community Supermarket in Lower Burrell, where they met 10 years ago.

Smith said she was working at the supermarket when Spiering walked up and gave her a piece of paper with his name and phone number on it. She said it was only fitting that they married in the aisle where they met.

The couple said they picked April 1, which was Easter Sunday, because it was close to two other important dates: Spiering celebrates his birthday on April 2, Smith on April 3.

The judge who performed the ceremony said it was his first wedding at a grocery store. Store owner George Thimons said he was glad to accommodate the couple.

Smith said after the ceremony the wedding was just what they wanted, "something nice and easy."

IV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Zig Zag
17:30	Miscellaneous
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese Program
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live

CINETEATRO

29 Mar - 04 Apr



READY PLAYER ONE

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: Shôtarô 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

коом 3 2:00, 3:45pm Language: Cantonese

Language: English (Chinese)

Director: Will Gluck

Starring: Domhnall Gleeson, Rose Byrne

Duration: 95min

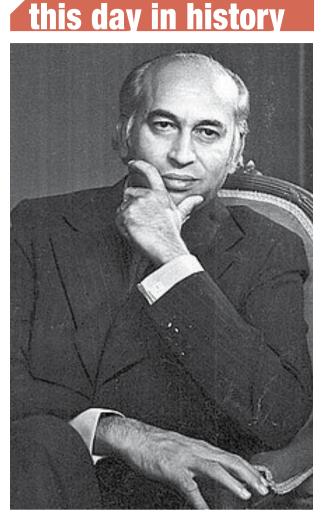


MARY MAGDALENE

коом 3 5:30, 9:30pm Director: Garth Davis

Starring: Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix, Chiwetel Ejiofor

Language: English (Chinese) **Duration: 120min**



1979 DEPOSED PAKISTANI **PM** IS EXECUTED

Pakistan's former Prime Minister, Zulfikar Ali Bhutto, has been hanged in spite of international calls for cle-

Mr Bhutto, 51, who had been Pakistan's leader since 1973, was deposed in an army coup 18 months ago.

He was sentenced to death for the murder of a political opponent following a trial which was widely condemned as unfair.

The appeal process was also tainted by allegations of bias on the part of some judges.

No advance warning of the execution had been given. Mr Bhutto's wife and daughter, Benazir, who are both under house arrest, visited him on the morning before his death.

They had been told it would be their last meeting but the military regime, led by General Zia ul-Haq, continued to deny an execution was imminent.

Autocratic leader

Few details have emerged of the circumstances surrounding the hanging but it is believed to have taken place at 0200 local time (2100 GMT, 3 April) in the Rawalpindi district jail in north-east Pakistan.

Pakistanis learnt of Mr Bhutto's death when it was announced on state radio at 1100 local time (0600 GMT). Shortly after his execution, Mr Bhutto's body was flown to his home village in the Sind province and bu-

ried in the family plot. His wife and his daughter were not permitted to attend the funeral.

Another four men convicted with Mr Bhutto of murder remain in prison.

Mr Bhutto, a member of a rich and influential family, was known as an autocratic leader but was respected internationally.

His death looks set to lead to Pakistan's isolation on the world stage.

The United Nations' Secretary-General, Kurt Waldheim, said he deplored the decision by Pakistan's leaders to ignore appeals for clemency.

British Prime Minister James Callaghan, who made a third appeal for Mr Bhutto's life only yesterday, expressed his "deep regret".

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Martial law remained in force in Pakistan until 1985.

In 1986 Zulfikar Ali Bhutto's daughter, Benazir, returned from exile to take on the leadership of the Pakistan People's Party (PPP) founded by

In August 1988 General Zia was killed in a plane crash and Benazir Bhutto went on to lead the PPP to victory in elections in 1988 and 1993. However, her government was dismissed both times - in 1990 and 1996 -

following allegations of corruption. The man who replaced her in 1996, Nawaz Sharif, was overthrown in a

military coup three years later.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

What's on the menu? Well, think in terms of a surprising emotional outburst, the likes of which you haven't seen in... oh, gosh -- days, at least. This doesn't mean it's going to be you who'll go off by yourself to get the job done.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You've done your very best to maintain the delicate balance between home and career matters, but as of this moment in time, you should these departments to present you with a bit of a jolt.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

After all the 'interesting' things your day will undeniably hold, it will be extremely easy to understand how you could easily lose your temper. But stay calm. Expect just about anything to happen



You don't ordinarily like the idea of being alone -- or of doing anything alone, in fact, no matter what it happens to be. Now may be an exception,



Nov. 22-Dec. 21

At the moment, you're trying to decide whether or not to let one part of a current project slide so that the rest of it will turn out well. Don't kid yourself. You're not happy with what you're doing.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

If you're attached, your significant other may voice an objection regarding the amount of time you spend with your friends, your favorite cause or both. Offer to take them along next time,



Taurus

April 20-May 20

An interesting tug of war between your friends and your lovers will be occurring now, so please do prepare yourself. You know how you are about change -- especially when it wasn't negotiated by you and you alone.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

You're tired of dealing with that domestic argument between family members you've had nothing but disdain since it started, and probably pertains to something you can't believe they'd argue about in the first place.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Surprises are on the agenda for us all at the moment. In your case, however, you're due for at least one that will occur in the department of relationships. Whether it's a romantic, platonic or professional.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Dec. 22-Jan. 19



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

You're probably going to be called on to help assemble a rather large gathering. If and when it happens, use your gift for details to see exactly what needs to happen to make the event a success.



Capricorn

There's a cosmic debate going on at the moment, and if you're not extremely careful, someone who's a bit jealous of what vou've

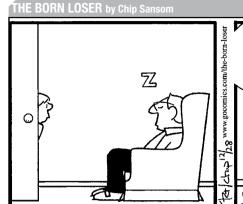


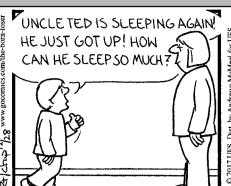
Pisces

accomplished will do their very

Feb.19-Mar. 20

If anyone understands the necessity for solitude, it's you -- and that's just how you feel on a daily basis. If you're trying to figure something out and it's not going so well because you just can't seem to get five minutes alone.







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MACAU'S LEADING NEWSPAPER

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NEATHER

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Harbin	-6	5	clear				
Tianjin	5	11	overcast/sleet				
Urumqi	-1	5	sleet				
Xi'an	12	25	cloudy				
Lhasa	2	17	clear/cloudy				
Chengdu	18	29	cloudy				
Chongqing	18	28	cloudy/drizzle				
Kunming	10	25	clear/cloudy				
Nanjing	11	21	thundershower/over-				
Shanghai	14	21	cast				
Wuhan	13	23	drizzle				
Hangzhou	18	25	overcast				
Taipei	21	29	shower				
Guangzhou	21	30	cloudy				
Hong Kong	22	28	cloudy				

WORLD

Moscow	2	10	overcast/drizzle
Frankfurt	7	15	drizzle
Paris	8	16	drizzle
London	4	8	drizzle
New York	0	19	drizzle

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- man with seven wives; 6- Prefix with present; 10- Not fem.; 14monde; 16- Turkish honorific; 17- Amuses; 19-Animated character; 20- Paris possessive; 21- Cattle group; 22- Recompense; 24- Hawaii's state bird; 25- Hebrew month; 26- Attack; 29- Unequal; 33- Troy story: 34- Tolstoy's Karenina: 35- Suffix with concession: 36- Actress Deborah: 37-Actor Ryan; 38- Dr. Zhivago's love; 39- Energy units; 40- Alaska's first governor; 41- Cruise ship; 42- Philosophy of Zeno; 44- Marquis ___; 45- Golden; 46- Actor Neeson; 47- Jacob's favorite wife; 50- Reddish-brown gem; 51- Suffix with meteor; 54- Amo, amas, ___; 55- Supplementary; 58- Silent performer; 59- Faculty head; 60- Mother of pearl; 61- Tournament favorite; 62- Actress Sommer; 63- Rasp;

DOWN: 1- Supermodel Sastre; 2- Pit; 3- Ballpark figs.; 4- Driver's aid; 5- Dolt; 6- Chicago hub; 7- Female servant; 8- Convent dweller; 9- You're on!; 10-Adoration of Mammon; 11- Dramatic

conflict; 12- Not barefoot; 13- Tins; 18-Circus structure; 23- Barker and Bell; 24- Myopic; 25- Kofi of the U.N.; 26- Long walks; 27- Warn; 28- Summer babe; 29-Late bedtime; 30- Roman goddess of the moon; 31- Made a mistake; 32- The Wreck of the Mary _ _; 34- Emo anxiety; 37- An amorous glance; 41- Directing; 43-Ltd., in Paris; 44- Grime; 46- "Mule Train" singer; 47- Super Bowl XXXIV champs; French girlfriend; 49- Showed up; 50- Neb. neighbor; 51- Member of a great Peruvian people; 52- Fruit-filled pie; 53- Robert ___; 56- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 57- Sculler's need;



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ÚSEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

Emergency calls 999

Fire department 28 572 222

PJ (Open line) 993

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

Water Supply - Report 2822 0088

Telephone – Report 1000 Electricity - Report 28 339 922

Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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7 countries interested in hosting 2026 Winter Olympics

Seven countries are interested in hosting the 2026 Winter Olympics. Cities in Austria, Canada, Italy, Japan, Sweden, Switzerland and Turkey have submitted formal expressions of interest to the International Olympic Committee. The vote is scheduled for September 2019. The IOC has tried to attract more bidders after only two candidates reached the vote for the 2022 Games. Voters in and around Sion, Switzerland, will vote in June whether to continue with their bid, while Erzurum in eastern Turkey faces questions over security. Four former host cities are also bidding, including 1972 host Sapporo, 1988 host Calgary and 1956 host Cortina d'Ampezzo. Turin, which hosted the 2006 Games, is part of a joint bid with Milan.

Bjoerndalen, most decorated male Winter Olympian, retires

Norwegian biathlete Ole Einar Bjoerndalen, the most decorated male Winter Olympian in history with 13 medals, has retired from the sport. Nicknamed "The King of Biathlon," the 44-year-old Bjoerndalen competed at six Olympics. Of his 13 medals, eight were gold. He also won 45 world championship medals. "My motivation is unstoppable," Bjoerndalen was quoted as saying by the International Biathlon Union. "I would like to take a few more years, but this is the last season." Bjoerndalen failed to qualify for the Pyeongchang Games and revealed yesterday he struggled with heart murmurs during the season. "It is not dangerous, but it is a discomfort," he said.

Defender Joel Matip set to miss rest of season

Liverpool defender Joel Matip is set to miss the rest of the season because of a thigh injury that requires an operation. The center back was hurt in Liverpool's 2-1 win over Crystal Palace in the English Premier League on Saturday, although he was able to play the full game. Liverpool said yesterday "surgery is expected to be required to correct the problem" and that is likely to bring an early end to Matip's season. Liverpool plays the first leg of its Champions League quarterfinal matchup against Manchester City on Wednesday, with the return leg next week. Liverpool manager Juergen Klopp is likely to partner Dejan Lovren with Virgil van Dijk at center back for the rest of the



21ST COMMONWEALTH GAMES

Behind the Gold Coast's sun, surf and sand is innovation

FOR people of the Commonwealth, today will be like catching up with a dear old friend celebrating a 21st birthday.

And what a party it is set to be when the 21st Commonwealth Games open at Carrara Stadium on the Gold Coast, where sun, sand and surf should be part of the theme.

Beyond the iconic red and yellow of the surf-lifesavers and miles of world-class sandy beaches, the Gold Coast is a city bursting with innovation.

Here's just a few:

VERY VIRTUAL

What started as an educational project to help save the Great Barrier Reef has grown into a virtual tour of the world's deep

Welcome to Google Ocean Street View, which allows users to explore some of the oceans that cover 70 percent of the Earth's surface — all without putting on a bathing suit.

The underwater footage gives viewers a 360-degree look at dolphins, coral nurseries and even shipwrecks — and people love the images so much the company behind the imagery has received more than 600 million online hits.

And that company, Panedia, is on the Gold Coast.

Aaron Spence started it in 2006 and six years ago he brought in Carlos Chegado, an expert in virtual reality photography.

Spence worked with Chegado in developing underwater rigs and lenses that could withstand ocean pressure and be used for 360-degree photography and videography underwater.

"This is the most ambitious aquatic project in the world [...] and it is exciting for me to be part of a project that is so important for all of humanity," Chegado said. "The ocean is the earth's life support system but it is changing at a rapid rate due to climate change, pollution and over fishing.

"But we also want to celebrate the beauty of what do have so we are also filming 50 of the world's most beautiful reefs — and we are putting this imagery up on 50reefs.org."

Ocean Street View is a joint collaboration of the Catlin Seaview Survey, the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the Chagos Conservation Trust.

The collaboration has allowed researchers to share information and having panorama content displayed in partnership with Google has put Panedia on the world stage and on desktops, tablets and phones.

In trying to help to save the world, the team at Panedia has created some spectacular pictures.

The team uses six cameras capturing 6,000 images a day and there are more than 40 Google Ocean Street View locations around the world.

"Google has put us in the pockets of everyone [...] and if people can see how beautiful our world is, they may want to save it," Chegado said.

LOCATION, LOCATION

Forget Chris Hemsworth. The Gold Coast's biggest mover and shaker in the movie industry could very well be location manager Duncan Jones.

While he doesn't play a super hero, Jones has transformed streets and beaches, parks and buildings into sets for the movies such as Thor, Aquaman and even Captain Jack Sparrow.

The 44-year-old Jones started as a dolphin trainer at the Sea World theme park on the Gold Coast, where he worked on the set of TV series Flipper — and fell into the movie business.

"The Gold Coast has it all — from beaches that could be Rio through to rainforest that could be the Amazon jungle — and our weather is a definite bonus when it comes to shooting in outdoor locations," Jones said.

"My job is to not just go through the script and find the right spot for a director's vision but also to also make sure we also have the right permits in place and to make sure filming can happen."

The Gold Coast is undoubtedly the driving force behind Australia's movie industry, the city has recently played host to

Thor: Ragnarok, Unbroken, San Andreas, and Pirates of the Caribbean: Dead Men Tell No Tales.

But it was the construction of a permanent large-scale outdoor water tank that was used in the U.S. production of Fool's Gold in 2007, and starring Kate Hudson and Matthew McConaughey, that really put the Gold Coast on Hollywood's radar.

The tank allowed for large-scale underwater and above water filming and is directly responsible for attracting 10 big productions.

Lynne Benzie, President of Village Roadshow Studios, said: "If our incentives remain competitive the film industry can continue to grow. We have world-class crews and state of the art studios [...] this is a one-stop destination for filmmakers."

Benzie said since the studio started in 1998 it had attracted \$3.3 billion worth of film production and had injected more than 1.8 billion into the Gold Coast economy.

GOLD COAST COMPANY SHINES

A GOLD Coast company is lighting up the gaming floors of casinos around the world. Simtech Creations counts the world's largest casino — the Venetian in Macau — as a client as well as Las Vegas Venetian and Galaxy, and Singapore's Marina Bay Sands casino and Sentosa Island. While Simtech, which turns over between USD30-40 million annually, does work for all the Australian casinos, managing director John Curtis said this accounted for only five percent of its business. "Globally we are the

biggest gambling supplier in the world in terms of displays and link systems," Curtis said. Curtis said his company's LED lighting technology, which can be contoured to virtually any shape, is 10 years ahead of its international competitors and such is the demand that Simtech has expanded to 13 small factories. Their lighting technology, which can flow around corners and curves and often highlights gaming machines and tables, is now used in casinos in Asia, America, Philippines, Australia and New Zealand.

2018 ASIAN GAMES

Indonesian official: All venues to be ready by June

senior Indonesian minister assigned to supervise the nation's preparation for the 2018 Asian Games said yesterday that all venues for all sports at the upcoming multi-sport event would be ready by June, or 100 days prior to its start.

"One thing for sure that we have set commitments to make all venues in Jakarta and Palembang done by June," the Indonesian Coordinating Minister for Human and Cultural Development Puan Maharani, who is the Deputy Chair of the 2018 Asian Games Steering Committee, said in Yogyakarta.

She said that as of now 90 percent of infrastructure and projects to facilitate the Asiad in Jakarta and Palembang have been completed. "Later on they will all be settled, 100 days before the event," the minister said in her visit in



An elevated track for the Jakarta Mass Rapid Transit stands under construction as vehicles travel along a highway

the nation's rock climbing training center.

Rock climbing is one of the sports to be contested at the upcoming Asian Games, which are slated for August 18 to September 2 in the two Indonesian cities of Jakarta and Palembang.

The host country has set target to seize 16 gold medals in the 18th Asian Games so as to make it among the top ten teams prevailing in the sports event.

Indonesia secured 4 gold, 5 silver and 11 bronze medals in the previous Asian countries and re-2014 Incheon Games,

placing 17th.

The upcoming Asian Games will be the second for Indonesia, having earlier been held there in 1962. Themed "Energy of Asia," the event will include over 11,000 athletes from 45 gions. MDT/Xinhua



FOOTBALL

Guangzhou held to 1-1 draw in Asian Champions League

YUANGZHOU Evergrande will have to wait another two weeks to find out if it will advance to the second round of the Asian Champions

The Chinese club, a two-time champion of the tournament, was held to a 1-1 draw at Thai club Buriram United yesterday. Guangzhou is at the top of Group G but could still be overtaken by Japanese club Cerezo Osaka and Buriram United.

Only the top two teams from each of the eight groups advance to the next stage.

Yoon Jun-soo scored a late goal to give Buriram United the draw. Zheng Long scored for Guang-

Cerezo Osaka beat South Korean team Jeju United 2-1 and is in second place in the group with eight points, one behind Guangzhou. Buriram United has six points in third place.

Guangzhou will face Cerezo Osaka on April 17 while Buriram United takes on Jeju United. AP



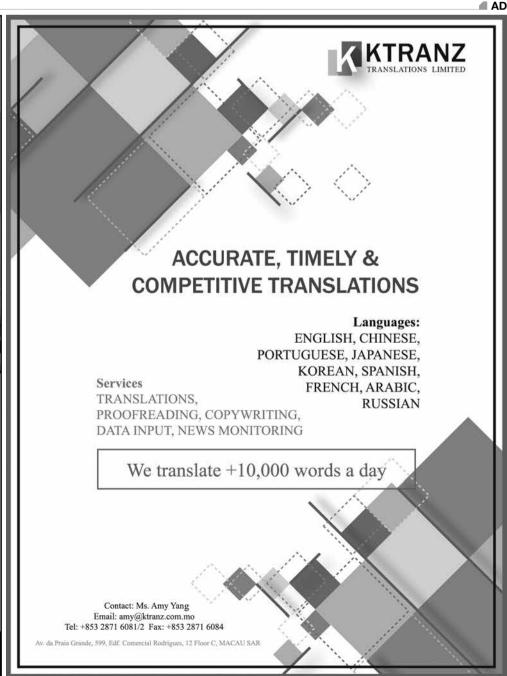
Gastroentero-Hepatology: Dr. Zhan De Juan

Dietitian : Chan Lai U Joey

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opinion

World Views

Michael Hill, Associated Press

BOOK SHOWS APOLLO 8 WAS A BIG RISK FOR 3 ASTRONAUTS



The first astronauts to orbit the moon ended their 1968 Christmas Eve television broadcast with a personal message for the people of Earth.

No one knew what the three Apollo 8 astronauts would say — not their worried wives 240,000 miles away nor the buttoned-down

NASA engineers who meticulously planned every moment of the high-stakes mission to reach the moon before the Soviets.

With the moon showing on TV screens, Bill Anders began reading: "In the beginning, God created the heaven and the Earth ..." Then Jim Lovell and Frank Borman followed by reading a few lines each from the book of Genesis. The plain voices reading the Bible's creation story made grown men weep, Kurson writes, and sent people outside to peer at the sky in wonder.

Sweet moments like this punctuate this mostly engrossing book about the historic but sometimes overlooked Apollo 8 mission. Neil Armstrong and company will always get top billing among astronauts for landing on the moon in 1969, but first someone had to show it was even possible to get there and back.

By 1968, the Soviets appeared poised to launch and deal Americans yet another in a series of space-related humiliations dating back to Sputnik. NASA was determined to get there first, even if it meant dramatically compressing the timeline.

Kurson's conception-to-splashdown reporting had the cooperation from the astronauts and their wives, giving him invaluable details of what happened inside the astronaut's capsule and in their homes below. Most readers already know how the mission turned out (success!), but Kurson builds suspense around a mind-bendingly complex and dangerous journey.

One NASA official explained that with Apollo 8's 5.6 million parts and 1.5 million systems, even if the mission went 99.9 percent right, there would be 5,600 defects. Borman, Lovell and Anders knew full well there was a very real chance the tiny capsule could become their tomb.

Their wives knew it, too. Marilyn Lovell, Susan Borman and Valerie Anders shared all of their husbands' anxiety and got almost none of their glory. Their fate was to keep brave faces for the press photographers and to wait to hear their husbands' voices on the squawk boxes installed in their homes. Just in case, Susan Borman sat at her kitchen table to write her husband's eulogy. The three women provide the most poignant moments in the book.

The book starts slowly as Kurson tracks the astronauts through their boyhoods, courtships and military careers. But the gruff and no-nonsense Borman pops off the page once they start planning for the mission.

Borman argued with NASA mission planners who wanted more lunar orbits than he thought was prudent. Planners offered 12 orbits. Borman said 10 would be better. Planners told him 10 orbits would result a pre-dawn splashdown on Earth. If the parachutes malfunctioned, no one could see what happened.

Borman replied that if the chutes didn't work, they'd all die anyway.

Planners saw his point. There were 10 orbits.

HOMICIDE RATE IN LONDON ON THE RISE; KNIFE CRIME TO BLAME

The homicide rate in London so far has increased each month in 2018 as the British capital experiences a rise in knife-related crime.

The Metropolitan Police said Monday there were eight homicide inquiries in January, 15 in February and 22 in March. Police reported another homicide on April 1.

If the upward trend continues, there would be substantially more homicides in London in

2018 than took place in 2017.

The violence has alarmed Police Commissioner Cressida Dick, who believes social media is partly to blame. She says social media enflames young people and normalizes violence, making people more likely to commit major crimes.

Dick has announced a substantial task force to combat street violence and said the use of "stop and search" tactics would be increased.

Roadside 30-50 Good High Density Residental Area 30-50 Good Ambient 30-50 Good

Former Revel casino moving toward reopening as Ocean Resort

Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

ATLANTIC City's former Revel casino is moving toward its reincarnation as the Ocean Resort Casino.

The Boardwalk property said Monday it's affiliating with the Hyatt hotel chain. The announcement came on the sixth anniversary of the opening of Revel.

Colorado developer Bruce Deifik bought Revel in January and set about remaking the property.

"Hyatt has an incredible 60-plus-year legacy in the industry, and its loyal global customer base will have access to an authentic way to experience all that makes Atlantic City attractive and popular," Deifik said.

Although Ocean Resort will own and operate the 1,399-room hotel and the casino, its affiliation with Hyatt will enable it to make use of their reservation systems and other infrastructure, a spokeswoman said.

It also will include the 32,000-square-foot location of exhale, Hyatt's newly acquired fitness and spabrand, which will feature 32 treatment rooms, a mind and body studio, and a retail boutique. Ocean Resort will be part of Hyatt's "Unbound Collection" of hotel properties.



The exterior of the former Revel casino resort in Atlantic City

Ocean Resort plans to open sometime this summer, although it has not yet announced a date.

Accessing the expertise of a major worldwide hotel chain — and its base of potential customers — could address two big reasons Revel failed. It shut down in 2014 after a little over two years of operation, during which it never came close to making a profit.

"The global recognition of the Hyatt brand, its base of customers and well-developed loyalty program are major assets for the Ocean Resort Casino, and should provide a strong support for the resort when it opens this summer," said Rummy Pandit, executive director of the Levenson Institute of Gaming, Hospitality & Tourism at New Jersey's Stockton University.

"The addition of the exhale fitness and spa brand puts even greater emphasis on the resort's non-gaming amenities and signals a focus on providing guests with experiences beyond casino gaming."

Ocean Resort recently got approval from state gambling regulators for the design of its gambling chips, and has been advertising jobs throughout the resort.

It is one of two shuttered casinos planning to reopen this year.

Hard Rock is remaking the former Trump Taj Mahal casino that President Donald Trump opened in 1990 and fellow billionaire Carl Icahn closed in 2016. **AP**

WORLD BRIEFS



ISRAEL's defense minister said yesterday that the military will not change its tough response to Hamasled mass protests near Gaza's border with Israel, warning that those who approach the border are putting their lives at risk.

GERMANY Prosecutors said yesterday they are seeking the extradition of former Catalan separatist leader Carles Puigdemont to Spain, where he could face trial for his role in organizing an independence referendum. More on p15



FRANCE A major
French railway strike has
brought the country's
famed high-speed
trains to a halt, leaving
passengers stranded
and posing the biggest
test so far for President
Emmanuel Macron's
economic strategy.

BRITAIN-RUSSIA

The chief executive of Britain's Porton Down defense laboratory says its scientists have identified the nerve agent used to poison Sergei and Yulia Skripal, but have not verified its "precise source."



PERU New President
Martin Vizcarra (left) has
sworn in a Cabinet that
aims to continue the probusiness policies of his
disgraced predecessor
while seeking to ease
political tensions.

US Trump administration officials said they're crafting a new legislative package aimed at closing immigration "loopholes" after the president called on Republican lawmakers to immediately pass a border bill using the "Nuclear Option if necessary" to muscle it through.



Xinhua/Li Yibo

