



**ARRESTED FOR LEAKING INFORMATION**  
A PJ chief investigator has been arrested for allegedly leaking information about police investigations

P4 CRIME



**SOU, CHIANG TRIAL RESUMES ON MAY 14**

P4



**LULA STARTS SERVING JAIL SENTENCE**

Former president Lula da Silva spent his first night of a 12-year sentence in prison, after turning himself in

P14 BRAZIL



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**NORTH KOREA**  
Hundreds of foreigners joined in the annual Pyongyang marathon yesterday despite political tensions that have only recently begun to ease and a ban on U.S citizens traveling to the country that is still in effect.

**VIETNAM** A former top police official in Vietnam was arrested on suspicion of involvement in a multimillion-dollar international gambling ring, part of the ruling Communist Party's crackdown on corruption.



**INDONESIA** A fishing boat has rescued a group of five Muslim Rohingya found in weak condition off westernmost Aceh province after a 20-day voyage that killed five other people.

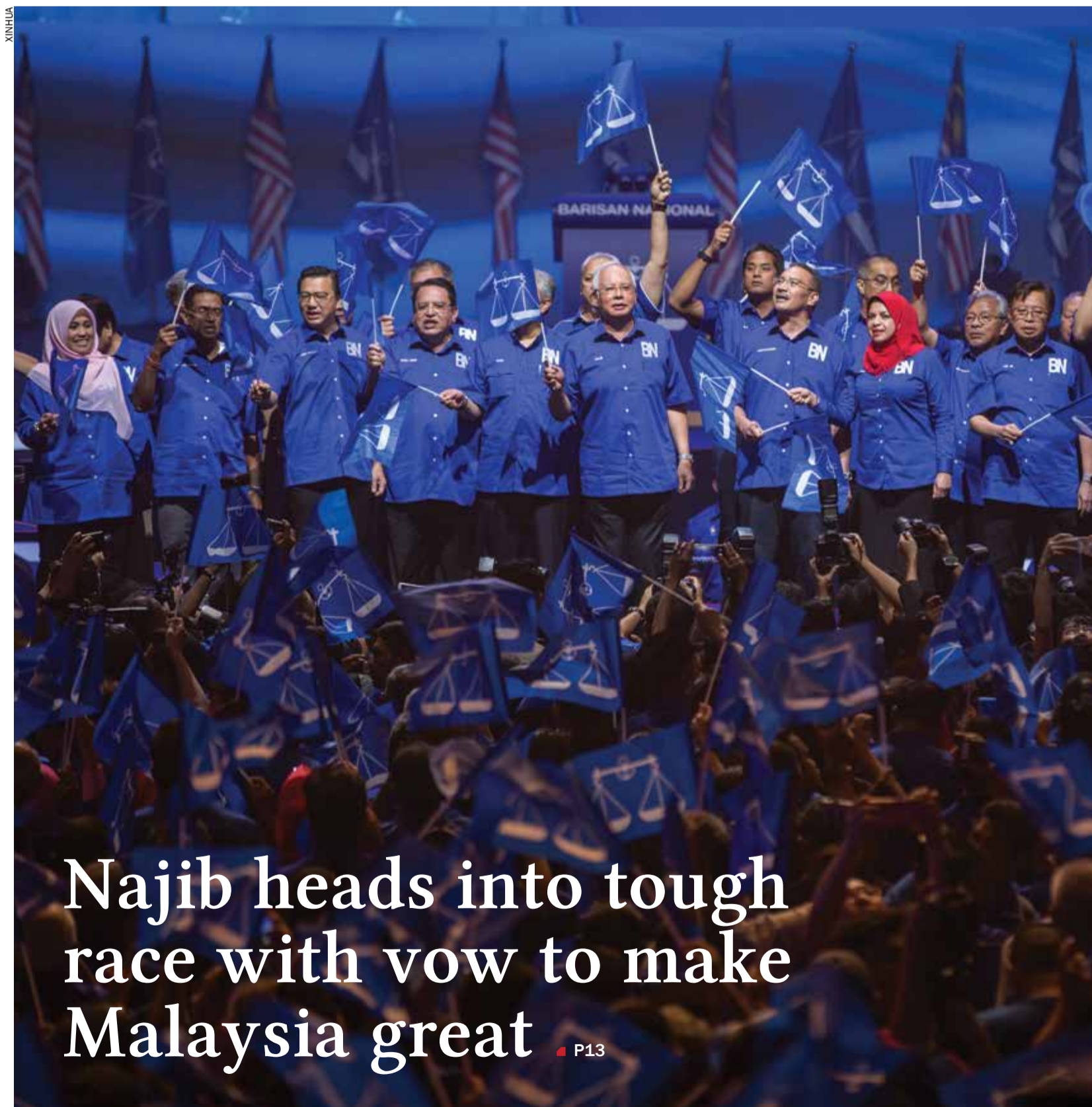
**PAKISTAN** Thousands of people from Pakistan's tribes have rallied in the northwestern city of Peshawar demanding the release of scores of suspects being held by authorities on alleged links to militants.

**SYRIA** An alleged gas attack killed at least 40 people in the eastern suburbs of Damascus, local responders said yesterday. Syrian state media, meanwhile, reported that rebels there have agreed to give up their last foothold in the area.  
More on p14

More on backpage

# Concern over working permit changes

P3 MDT REPORT



## Najib heads into tough race with vow to make Malaysia great

P13



Doan Thi Huong (center) is escorted by police as she leaves after a court hearing at the Shah Alam High Court

KIM JONG NAM

# Malaysian prosecutors rest case in murder trial

Eileen Ng, Shah Alam

**M**ALAYSIAN prosecutors wrapped up their case last week against two Southeast Asian women accused of killing the estranged half brother of

North Korea's leader in a brazen attack at an international airport.

Prosecutors told the High Court that they were resting their case against Indonesia's Siti Aisyah, 25, and Vietnam's

Doan Thi Huong, 29, after questioning 34 witnesses over six months. The judge said closing arguments in the trial, which could send the women to the gallows if found guilty, will begin on June 27.

Aisyah and Huang are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in a crowded airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017. The women have pleaded not guilty, saying they thought they were taking part in a harmless prank for a hidden-camera show.

## Closing arguments in the trial will begin on June 27

The two are the only suspects in custody, though prosecutors say four North Koreans who fled the country were also involved.

After the closing arguments, the judge will decide whether there is a case against the women. If he decides there isn't, the women will be freed. If he decides there is, the women will be called to make their defense, which could take several months.

The crux of the case revolves around whether the women intended to kill Kim or if they truly were scapegoats duped by North Korean agents into taking part in a high-profile political assassination.

Defense lawyers said the prosecution's case was too simplistic and failed to show any motive for the killing. They said evidence has shown the women's

conduct before and after the killing was inconsistent with that of an assassin, pointing out that they didn't wear gloves when applying VX, didn't dispose of their tainted clothing and didn't flee.

Prosecutors, however, contend the women knew they were handling poison.

Hisyam Teh Poh Teik, Huang's lawyer, told reporters he will argue in closing arguments that the women were deprived of a fair trial due to a sloppy and biased police investigation and the conspicuous absence of the four North Korean suspects.

"We are confident with the innocence of our client because that's the truth," Teh said.

Lead prosecutor Iskandar Ahmad said it was common for an accused person to be charged while other suspects are still at large and that it doesn't affect the case. He said evidence has shown the women's connection with the four North Koreans, who had recruited, trained and supplied VX to them.

"We believe we have a good case," Iskandar told reporters.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to Kim Jong Un's rule.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea of involvement in Kim's death and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized. AP

## ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

### 10 COMMON OLDER CAT PROBLEMS

**S**ENIOR felines are more prone to certain cat problems. They may also present behavioral changes. Dealing with an older cat is more difficult, but you need to take time and patience to ensure his well-being.

#### 1. ARTHRITIS

Arthritis is more frequent in elderly cats, and is the inflammation of joints. The cat will be in a lot of pain, will have difficulty jumping and even walking due to stiff joints. The cat may also present irritability and even aggressiveness. The cat will need pain medication and the weight of the cat should be monitored, so that the stress on the joints is reduced.

#### 2. OBESITY

Senior cats, especially neutered felines are prone to obesity. Neutering alone does not cause obesity but is a contributor factor. Older cats and neutered cats eat more and are less active and this results in weight gain.

To prevent obesity, reduce your cat's food portions and make sure he works out on a daily basis.

#### 3. HEART CONDITION

Elderly cats may display a heart condition, especially if they are overweight.

#### 4. INAPPROPRIATE ELIMINATION

Older cats tend to defecate and urinate in other places, different from the litter box. This behavior may point to a medical condition (such as lower urinary tract infection), so take your cat to a vet. Elderly cats may also urinate more frequently. Some possible medical conditions for this are:

- Colitis
- Diabetes mellitus
- Inflammatory bowel disease
- Thyroid problems
- Kidney or liver disease
- Anal sac disease
- Anxiety and stress

#### 5. LOSS OF VISION

Senior cats may suffer from loss of vision. Cats with diabetes may be more exposed to this condition. The loss of vision may also cause the cat to urinate and defecate in inappropriate places. You may add

some litter boxes in your house, so that the cat uses these instead of the furniture or walls.

#### 6. HEAR LOSS

Cats may also suffer from hear loss at an older age. Cats that have had a lot of problems with ear mites may be particularly exposed to deafness.

#### 7. STRESS

Older cats are not as able as young cats to deal with stress. Environmental changes, changes in routine or any small alteration will cause great stress for a senior cat. A stressed cat may need stress medication.

#### 8. AGGRESSIVENESS

Senior cats may have certain behavioral problems. Aggressiveness is frequent in older cats. This behavior may be caused by a medical condition, which makes the cat less tolerant and more irritable. Detect any medical conditions and apply proper treatment.

Try desensitizing your cat to different stimuli that may cause the aggressive behavior.

#### 9. FEAR

Stress or neurological diseases may make the cat very fearful. Also, senior cats tend



to be afraid of new situations.

#### 10. CHANGING ACTIVITY PATTERNS

Even if your cat was trained to sleep at night, when he gets older, he might keep you awake with meowing and night activity. The cat may wake up during the night due to pain or the need to urinate.

Hope this info helps  
Till next week  
Dr Ruan Bester

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# Measures to prevent tourists from seeking jobs proposed

Julie Zhu

**A**N amendment to a law regulating the employment of non-resident workers has been submitted to Standing Committee for the Coordination of Social Affairs (CPCS). The amendments aim to prevent tourists from job hunting while they are travelling to Macau. CPCS members revealed last Friday, following a committee discussion organized in the afternoon.

According to Wong Chi Hong, director of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), the government suggested that those who intend to work in Macau as domestic helpers or other non-specialized jobs and wish to sign a contract with an employer, or have plans to change jobs, must first obtain a work permit prior to their arrival to Macau.

Wong said that the amendment is still under discussion, claiming that the proposed changes can remedy the current problem of tourists who become workers in Macau after coming to the city by finding a job.



Wong Chi Hong

“We want to ensure that all non-residents must first be hired by an employer, then [they] can enter Macau and change identification as a non-local employee,” declared Wong.

Currently, a tourist can visit Macau and become a non-local employee without leaving the territory. Wang Sai Man, a representative of the Employer's Organizations of CPCS, said “it

will not be that easy to supplement the labour force really fast in terms of non-local workers having to leave Macau for a certain period of time before getting a permit for a new type of work or new employer. Especially domestic helpers, [because] families need helpers to assist the elderly.”

A representative from the Employees' Organizations, Choi

Kam Fu, said that the employees' organizations remain unsatisfied with the new proposal.

“It has a clear outcome [but], especially regarding domestic helpers, the government should conduct some studies, in particular on a supervision mechanism,” said Choi, adding that “there is none at this time [concerning the domestic helpers section].”

“The main purpose of this amendment is to ban tourists from looking for jobs in Macau. This law only adds one more step [to the employment process]. Workers will have to leave Macau and wait for their work permits, [...] which means a worker can theoretically go to Hong Kong and come back on the same day [to work],” said Choi.

**“We want to ensure that all non-residents must first be hired by an employee.”**

WONG CHI HONG  
DSAL DIRECTOR

“Practically, it [the amendment] cannot change the situation [of tourists looking for jobs],” said Choi.

Upon concluding the discussion, the CPCS will deliver an opinion report to the legal group that consists of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), Legal Affairs Bureau and DSAL in order to draft the law before the amendment is delivered to the Legislative Assembly.

# Migrants call for talks with labor associations

Lynzy Valles

**S**everal migrant workers expressed their disappointment over the amendment of a law regulating the employment of non-resident workers, highlighting the unnecessary difficulties that they would have to face when the amended law becomes operative.

Macau still requires overseas domestic work, and thus these migrant workers hope that the move would enhance their current situation.

It was last year when the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) announced its plans to work with the Public Security Police Force (PSP) to require non-residents engaged in non-specialized and domestic work to hold a work-related permit issued by the Macau immigration authorities before entering the region and being granted a “stay permit as worker.”

The DSAL previously told the Times “it will help to strengthen the importation management of non-specialized and domestic workers.”



Members of the migrant groups criticized the amended law, as it would be more time-consuming for both employees and employers and there will also be an increase in the hiring costs.

Erik Lestari, former president of an Indonesian migrant group, expressed to the Times that they are not in favor of the policy, recalling that they are still upset from the shortened visa given to them after a contract termination.

“My Vietnamese and Indonesian friends think it is really bad news and we view this as a serious problem,” Lestari said.

“Just to think about the air ticket fares and agency

fees, it is already a significant amount to prepare and it would take so much time to go back home and return to Macau,” she added.

These migrant workers also noted that it would also be problematic for employers to make hiring decisions, as they may be forced to hire a worker they have not met yet. This is exacerbated by the absence of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between their country and the MSAR.

“It is better to have an MoU first,” Lestari suggested, implying that it would assure the rights protection of migrant workers.

“We should sit down with the employers' association and agency association to discuss this issue for the [betterment] of us all,” Lestari suggested.

Echoing the same sentiments, Yosa Wariyanti, president of the Indonesian Migrants Workers Union, called on a hiring cooperation agreement between Indonesia and Macau.

She expressed that the initial process of acquiring a job in a migrant's country is still unclear and would only likely increase unethical placement fee practices undertaken by agencies.

Since the practice of high placement fees is prevalent in the region – which require workers to pay, depending on the sector, a few months of their wages to placement agencies – the migrant worker implied that the government could have focused on solving this particular matter.

“If the system is the same as Hong Kong – when passing by employment agencies – then definitely overcharging will still be

practiced,” she said.

Wariyanti noted that the only advantage the move would bring was to minimize human traffickers and brokers.

**“It will be a pity for those who are already working in Macau and would have to go back home as the only way to find another job.”**

AYRELYN BENAS

“Macau's government must make a clear derivative rules related to this amendment. [...] Whether Macau will make the MoU with countries exporting migrant workers, and to open a representative

agency in the exporting country,” Wariyanti suggested.

Meanwhile, other migrant workers were left disappointed with the upcoming policy, confused about whether it would also be applied to non-specialized non-resident workers who have been working in the region for over a decade.

“I hope the protection for employees from the agencies will be stronger,” said migrant Ayrelyn Benas. She also expressed wishes that the amended policy would equally benefit both employees and employers, but stressed that agencies will still play a significant part in the hiring process – which remains worrying.

“It will be a pity for those who are already working in Macau and would have to go back home as the only way to find another job,” said another migrant worker.

“This would affect the employers if they happen to not like their new employees as it would disrupt their jobs as they need to wait for a new one,” the migrant added.



## Sou, Chiang trial resumes on May 14

The judge overseeing the case of two former presidents of the New Macau Association, Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang - who have been presented with the charge of aggravated disobedience after a street protest - has ordered a resumption of the trial that had been interrupted. The trial was halted before the first hearing due to different processes involving the suspects running simultaneously. Now the judge has ordered the process to resume, and a re-run of the first hearing has been scheduled for May 14. The judicial process had been interrupted several times, including once at the Legislative Assembly in order to decide whether the mandate of lawmaker Sou should be suspended, so as to allow the suspect to be able to speak in court.

## Chui Sai On to attend Boao Forum

Chief Executive Chui Sai On will lead a delegation to Hainan Province, today and tomorrow, to attend the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018, with the theme "An Open and Innovative Asia for a World of Greater Prosperity." While in Hainan, Chui is scheduled to meet with officials from the various provinces and municipalities represented at the forum. Meanwhile, the Government Information Bureau informed that Secretary for Economy and Finance Leong Vai Tac, will also be at the forum to attend "The Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" panel. Secretary for Administration and Justice, Sonia Chan, will be Acting Chief Executive while Chui is away.

## Lionel Leong acknowledges possibility of running for CE

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong does not discard the possibility of running for the position of government leader in 2019, when a new Chief Executive (CE) will be chosen to take the place of Chui Sai On. During an interview to TDM radio show on Saturday, Leong said that he has not yet considered the issue, but does not rule out the possibility of "assuming other [governance] duties in the future," opening the pathway to a long-discussed candidacy in the position currently held by Chui. "Many journalists asked me before about this possibility [of assuming other duties] and I always answered: if it is helpful for the Country, if its helpful for Macau, and if I'm considered suitable for such a position, I will put all my efforts to perform such a role in a good manner and to develop positive work," Leong said.

## CRIME

# Police officer arrested for leaking information to usury groups

A Judiciary Police (PJ) chief investigator has been arrested for allegedly leaking information about police investigations to several criminal groups.

The accused, a gaming crime investigator, is 40 years old and began serving the PJ in 2006.

In January, the PJ received reports about the accused's behavior, and it was later discovered that he was giving information to usury groups as ordered by the groups' masterminds.

The accused attempted to use his colleague's computer to check on documents and past case files related to usury cases but failed to access fellow investigators' computers, as they were password-protected.

According to the PJ during a media briefing on Friday, the accused has already admitted



to his crimes, but refused to disclose the reasons behind his actions.

Lei Hon Nei, spokesperson of the PJ said, "the accused told his co-workers that he was in charge of those cases, asking to check relevant information. But his action drew suspicion from other colleagues, who

reported it to their superiors," she explained, as cited in a TDM report.

"Through this internal monitoring mechanism, we discovered that the accused's actions matched the tip-off," the spokesperson added.

The PJ noted that it remains unknown how many organiza-

tions the accused has worked for and whether he is in debt.

Currently, The PJ believes that the accused is involved in three usury cases, which occurred in March. The PJ does not exclude the possibility of the officer being involved in other cases. The suspect is believed to have acted alone.

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said that PJ is highly focused on the case and will not tolerate illegal conduct.

According to Wong, when asked about whether the leaked information might affect related usury cases, Wong believes that PJ will act quickly by carrying out an investigation.

Wong also claimed that the police would continuously review, evaluate and improve its internal supervision mechanism.

## HEALTH

# SSM monitoring measles in Taiwan, no case reported in Macau

THE Health Bureau (SSM) informed in a statement that, in cooperation with Taiwanese health authorities, it is closely monitoring two reported outbreaks of measles among Tigerair Taiwan's cabin crew staff.

According to Taiwanese officials, the infected crew members were on board four flights between Taiwan and Macau during the disease's incubation period, as well as other flights on which local residents may have travelled. As such, local health authorities have been alerted.

The SSM informed that it has contacted 67 of the 108 passengers travelling on the affected flights, and proceeded with the urgent vaccination of eight of these residents. Nevertheless, health authorities say that at present, it has not received any reports of any suspected or confirmed cases of measles.

The SSM also noted that through the services records, it was also

possible to verify that most of the residents travelling in the at-risk flights had either been vaccinated previously or had a clinical record of a previous measles infection, which is why the possibility of a disease outbreak is currently considered low.

Residents are advised to be attentive to any possible changes in their physical condition over the next three weeks. In particular, residents should pay attention to symptoms associated with measles such as fever, cough, conjunctivitis, runny nose and skin rashes, and report to health authorities immediately if any of these symptoms occur. In addition, the SSM is also following the cases of two people in Taiwan who contracted the disease and had been in Macau before the first appearance of symptoms.

Preliminary information revealed that between March 17 and 18, one patient had travelled to Ma-

cau via a Tigerair flight, but no information is available on the second patient yet. Measles is an acute transmissible respiratory tract disease caused by the measles virus. Transmission occurs mostly through saliva droplets but may also be transmitted by contact with other bodily secretions and contaminated objects.

In general, the incubation period is between seven to 18 days, in some cases reaching 21 days. The transmission period varies from three days to one week after the appearance of characteristic skin rashes. It is a highly contagious disease which is very common in children during periods of low vaccination coverage.

There is no specific treatment for the condition, and in most cases the side-effects are moderate, especially in regions with good levels of nutrition, hygiene and health care. Serious cases of the disease are rare. **RM**



This undated file image shows an artist's rendering of the proposed Wynn Boston Harbor casino

## GAMING

# Wynn Resorts CEO said to weigh sale of Boston-area casino

WYNN Resorts Ltd.'s new Chief Executive Officer Matt Maddox has had informal talks about a sale of the company's still-under-construction Massachusetts casino, according to a person familiar with the discussions.

The person asked not to be named because the discussions are private. Michael Weaver, a spokesman for Wynn Resorts, declined to comment.

Wynn Resorts has been reeling from reports that its founder, Steve Wynn, sexually harassed employees at the company. He denied assaulting anyone, but resigned in February and sold all his shares in the business, one of the largest casino operators in the world.

Wynn Boston Harbor is scheduled to open next year at a cost of USD2.4 billion.

Regulators in Nevada, Macau and Massachusetts have been investigating claims of harassment against Wynn. Massachusetts Gaming Commission Chair Stephen Crosby said at a hearing last week that the company's license to operate in the state was at risk.

Wynn Resorts said in January that it had incurred \$1.13 billion in costs so far on the new property, which is located in Everett, Massachusetts. Wynn Resorts won the rights to the sole casino in the area over bids by rival operators such as Caesars Entertainment Corp. and Mohegan Sun. **Bloomberg**



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## FOR RENT



### Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)  
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The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities.



### Coloane, Hellene Garden

(Ref: 18030673)  
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 12,800

Top floor 3 bedroom / 2 bathroom apartment with uninterrupted sea and hillside views. The apartment has great potential and overlooks Hac Sa Beach on the quiet island of Coloane, close to the sea, walking & running trails. Hellene Garden is popular amongst ex-pats, and is located approximately 10 minutes from Macau's busy 'Cotai Strip'.



### Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden

(Ref: 10020165)  
3,700 sq.ft. HKD 35,000

Mid - floor, 4 bedroom apartment located in Taipa. Nice apartment for family. Unfurnished, but all appliances built-in. Large and bright living room with balcony with amazing seaview. Carpark included. Clubhouse facilities can be available gymnasium, outdoor pool, mini theatre, function rooms etc.



### Cheoc Van House, Coloane

(Ref: 17060651)  
6,222 sq.ft. HKD 79,800

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

## FOR SALE



### Jubilee Court, Macau

(Ref: 18030672)  
2,200 sq.ft. HKD 15.98M  
Rate: HKD 7,263

Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Two double bedrooms have built wardrobes and walk in shower rooms. The other two bedrooms share a bathroom. Plenty of bespoke storage throughout the property.



### Panorama Penthouse Apartment

(Ref: 18015542)  
4,851 sq.ft. HKD 28M  
Rate: HKD 5,772

Lower level comprising open plan lounge and dining area. This level also includes an indoor pool, 4 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. The upper mezzanine level has a room ideal for use as a study, this area also provides access to the roof area dedicated to this apartment. Asking price includes use of one parking onsite parking space.



### Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

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

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carpark that accommodates 3 cars. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. The other two guest rooms are a good size sharing the charcoal / white modern shower room. All rooms fully air conditioned including the kitchen.



### Grande Plaza, Taipa

(Ref: 17115537)  
980 sq.ft. HKD 7.9M  
Rate: HKD 8,061

Superb bright & quiet three bedroom apartment in Taipa just off the main road. Renovated a few years ago the apartment is ready to occupy. Three good size bedrooms with two shower rooms, one en suite off the master bedroom. Fantastic location right next to the escalator on the main road in Taipa, easy public transportation, shopping, schools etc.



### Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)  
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M  
Rate: HKD 5,750

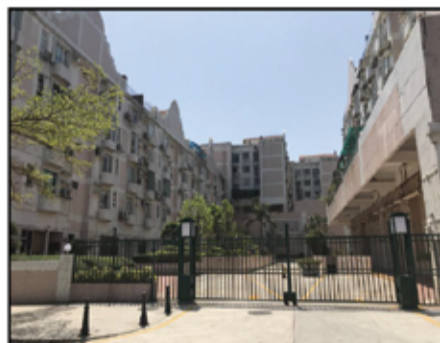
LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



### The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

(Ref: 18025544)  
1,186 sq.ft. HKD 9.48M  
Rate: HKD 7,993

Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



### Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 18035546)  
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M  
Rate: HKD 7,905

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### Chun Hung Garden L Unit

(Ref: 17075526)  
840 sq.ft. HKD 6.49M  
Rate: HKD 7,726

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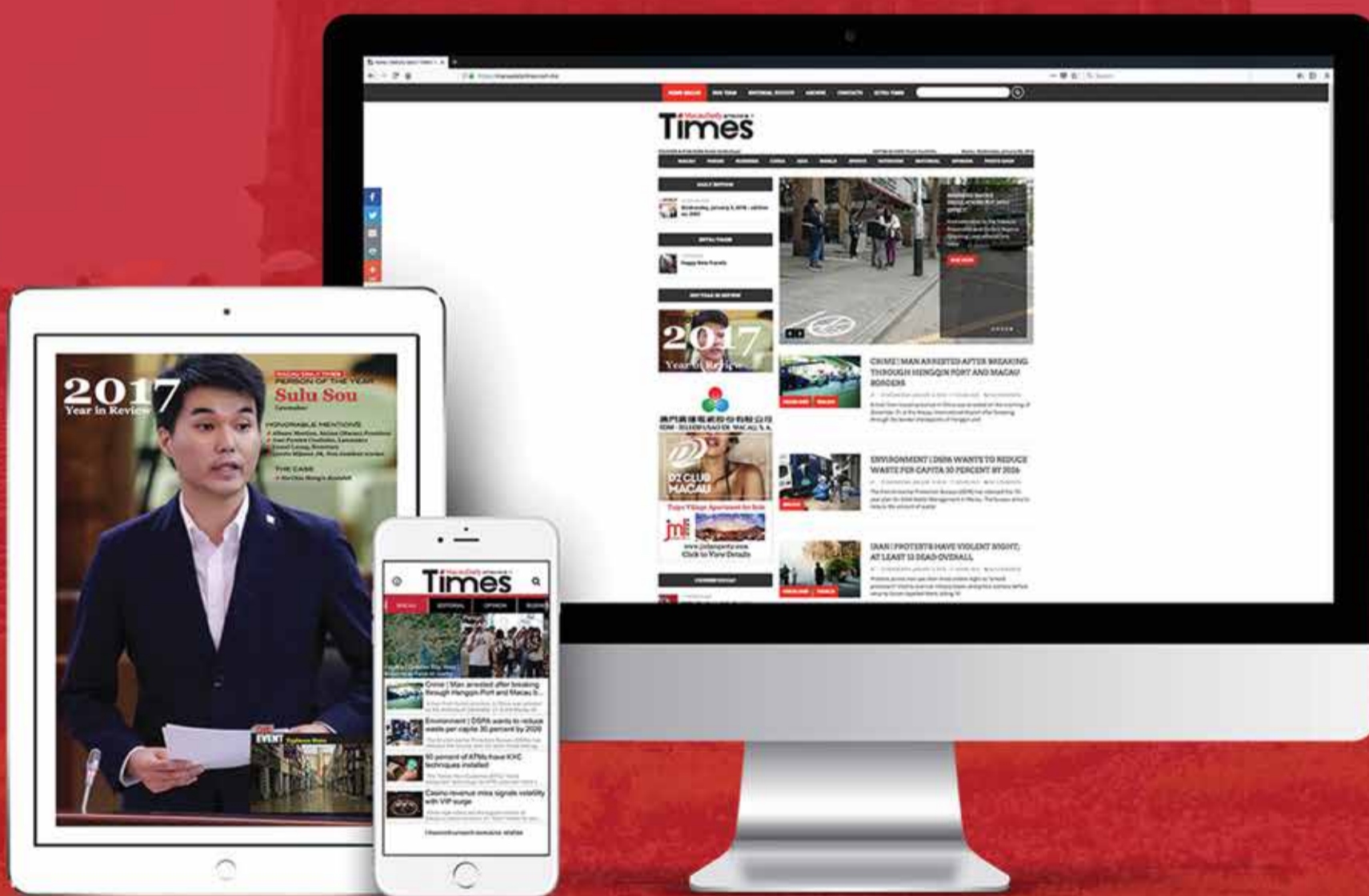
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# News At Hand



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

# Civil Protection mechanism drill set for later this month

**S**ECRETARY for Security Wong Sio Chak announced yesterday that a drill to test the emergency mechanism of the civil protection authority would be held on April 28.

Wong, who was speaking on the sidelines of the Open Day of the Fire Services Bureau, also noted that there was still more to research for the emergency command system - even following his trip to Beijing last month where he and a delegation visited the Public Security Research Institute of the University of Tsinghua.

On the topic, Wong noted that the development is well underway and that it is expected that the system will be part of the civil protection mechanism drill to be held later this month.

Commenting on the recent case of the Judiciary Police



Wong Sio Chak

(PJ) investigator who was suspended due to alleged involvement in a case in which he is

accused of taking illegal profit or advantages from his position, Wong said that such cases only prove that internal mechanisms are working well and that the review made by the authorities in terms of inspection, management and training of staff would fix the existing problems and loopholes.

The Secretary also noted that, the PJ was able to detain and stop the criminal activities and deliver the suspect to the authorities as well as revealing the unlawful conduct of the officer. He described such facts as a positive outcome.

Regarding the police officers who are now using body-mounted cameras, Wong said that authorities are continuing to collect information on the matter. However, "the police will review the matter and opinion from citizens are welcome," he added.

## COOPERATION

# Mozambique wants to use MSAR as platform to attract business

**M**OZAMBICAN Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho do Rosário has said in Maputo that the African country is interested in developing relations with Macau. Macau will serve as a platform which would further the commercial relationship of Mozambique with China and Portuguese-speaking Countries and aims to attract more companies interested in investing in Mozambique.

The Prime Minister was speaking during a meeting held in Maputo with a delegation from the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) led by executive director Gloria Batalha, who was in Maputo to promote the 23rd edition of the Macau International Fair (23rd MIF) at which Mozambique will be showcased as "Partner Country" of the event.

The IPIM executive director also met with Liu

Xiaoguang, economic adviser to the Embassy of the People's Republic of China in Mozambique, who gave assurances that the Chinese diplomatic representation maintains close contacts with the Mozambican Agency for the Promotion of Investment and Exports (APIEX) with a view to exploring trade facilitation, and expressed the hope that more Chinese companies will develop business opportunities in Mozambique.

In meetings held last week at APIEX, attended by the Mozambican Chamber of Commerce, the Confederation of Mozambican Economic Associations and the Institute for the Promotion of Small and Medium-sized Enterprises, Batalha spoke about the incentives provided by IPIM for companies to exhibit at the MIF, which is scheduled to take place in October this year. **MDT/Macauhub**

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2018

READING BRINGS PEOPLE TOGETHER









A man uses a smartphone as he rides a Beijing Mobike Technology Co. bicycle

## How a crazy idea led this former journalist to USD3b buyout

IT seemed like a nutty idea at the time - and it still does. Three years ago, Hu Weiwei and her co-founders decided to start a business letting people share bicycles for pennies per ride. People could hop on for a quick ride to the subway or supermarket, then leave the bike right out front without the hassle of finding a parking rack.

In a shocker for most of the rest of the world, the Chinese business boomed and this week the former journalist and her cohorts agreed to sell Mobike in a deal that values the startup at USD3.4 billion. Food delivery giant Meituan Dianping is acquiring the company. The founders and investors pocket more than \$1 billion in cash and Hu - who's turning 36 this year - and her team get to keep running the business.

It's a story of the New China, where tech parvenus amass riches at mind-boggling speed. A generation of younger entrepreneurs is capitalizing on the mass adoption of smartphones, faster internet speeds, easy mobile payments and abundant venture capital. Backed by giants Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Tencent Holdings Ltd., Chinese startups have been able to burn billions in cash to build business models that often ultimately benefit the two behemoths.

"In world internet history you

have never seen a phenomenon like this; so much money raised, so quickly with such young entrepreneurs," said Ben Harburg, a managing partner at Magic Stone Alternative Investment Ltd., which invested in both Meituan and Mobike.

**■ The founders and investors pocket more than USD1 billion in cash and Hu and her team get to keep running the business**

China Renaissance acted as the adviser for Mobike, most recently valued at \$3 billion according to researcher CB Insights. The deal values the bike-sharing firm's equity at about \$2.7 billion, and Meituan will assume roughly \$700 million in debt, one of the people said.

Mobike's unlikely tale began in 2015 when Hu's team worked out of an office next to their building's communal toilet. Along with co-founders such as Davis Wang, she hatched the idea of

pooling bicycles - long associated with Communist China's industrial boom - to help harried urbanites glide through worsening congestion. Around that time, a bunch of college kids led by Dai Wei were experimenting on-campus with the same idea, eventually creating Ofo - now Mobike's biggest rival.

It wasn't easy. In China, the internet business is trial by fire. At least three dozen companies jumped into the field and mountains of bicycles piled up in Beijing and Shanghai. Municipalities struggled to keep streets and sidewalks passable - local governments in the U.S. and Europe balked as the China startups tried their free-wheeling approach abroad.

More than 34 smaller competitors have shut due to high operating costs and a lack of funding, according to the China Consumer Association. Now, Mobike and Ofo account for about 90 percent of the market, Counterpoint Research estimates.

Mobike lured investors by cultivating a premium gloss. It created bikes with snazzy orange wheels that cost as much as 3,000 yuan (\$476) and equipped them with satellite positioning. Its pricing was double that of Ofo's, but that eventually came down and was often free when the two waged subsidy wars. But a steady stream of funding from

some of the biggest names in tech investment - including Alibaba, Tencent and Sequoia - helped them flood the streets with bikes. It also let them replenish the bikes confiscated on a daily basis by city authorities trying to clear their sidewalks of the resultant clutter.

"Mobike's case shows how China's full of opportunities for small startups to grow quickly in very short period of time," said Teng Bingsheng, a professor at Cheung Kong Graduate School of Business. "Many of the Chinese tech startups will eventually take sides between Alibaba and Tencent because the pair simply covered a wide area in terms of internet services."

In the U.S., it takes on average seven years for a startup to achieve

**■ Mobike lured investors by cultivating a premium gloss. It created bikes with snazzy orange wheels that cost as much as RBM3,000**

ve unicorn status or more than \$1 billion in valuation, according to Boston Consulting Group. In China, that figure is four years.

The deal also highlights how allegiances can shift in the blink of an eye. In the bike-sharing space, three camps remain. There's Meituan and Mobike, backed by Tencent, the social media goliath using both to prop up its mobile payments business. In another camp is Alibaba, which has drafted Ofo and No. 3 player Hellobike.

"It wasn't just that they were in the middle of a war between the Alibaba and Tencent internet giants who were financing them and the venture funds," Harburg said. "They were also, of all the technology companies in the world, the most under the public spotlight because they're one of the few visual manifestations of this internet wave that is hitting China."

Then there's Didi Chuxing, the latest to wade into the fray. Didi was once Ofo's strongest backer. But that relationship soured in past months as Didi sought more control. The company then attempted to invest in Mobike but didn't follow through, according to people familiar with the matter. Tencent, a backer also of Didi's, gave its blessing to Meituan, one of the people said.

Meituan itself is treading a fine line with its most important backer. The company directs some 60 percent of its payments traffic to Tencent, but is developing its own transactions system. As Meituan evolves into a super-app that offers everything from food delivery to ride hailing, it may no longer be content with just being Tencent's proxy. It's already said to be planning an initial public offering this year, seeking a valuation of at least \$60 billion.

"These second-tier companies might be used as proxies for Alibaba and Tencent for now, but within their own camps they also are playing a game of chess and trying to build bigger ecosystems," said Zhou Xin, President of Beijing-based internet consultancy Jkinvest Bigdata.

Mobike's big pay-day aside, bike-sharing remains a fraught arena. Both Ofo and Mobike have raised billions via some eight rounds of funding, according to Counterpoint. Yet they're unprofitable, said Zhang Mengmeng, an analyst at Counterpoint. And the bike wars continue.

"The fees charged are not enough to cover the costs of running the operation," Zhang said. "It seems unlikely that there will be any clear ways of monetization from big data in the near future."

Hu, on her personal WeChat account, turned reflective as the deal was completed. She said Mobike's mission is consistent with Meituan's vision.

"From my perspective it's a new beginning," she wrote, including a link to the Nine Inch Nails song "The Beginning of the End". **Bloomberg**



29<sup>TH</sup> MACAO ARTS FESTIVAL  
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展覽場館A (簽約儀式)  
Exhibition Hall A (Signing Ceremony)

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#### 綠色論壇環節一 / Green Forum Session 1 (14:30-15:45)

##### 綠色經濟-旅遊業的可持續發展 Green Economy-The Sustainable Tourism

主持人 Moderator

António Trindade 先生 / Mr. António Trindade  
澳門環境保護產業協會副會長  
Founding President of Macao Association of Environmental Protection Industry

討論嘉賓 Panelists

Des Pugson 先生 / Mr. Des Pugson  
悅榕酒店和度假村董事總經理 (新加坡)  
Managing Director of Banyan Tree Hotels & Resorts (Singapore)

黃朝清 先生 / Mr. Tim Huang  
蘇伊士水務技術與方案大中華區總裁  
CEO - Greater China of SUEZ Water Technologies & Solutions

李志良 先生 / Mr. Victor C. Li  
香港環保產業協會副會長、  
正昌環保科技 (集團) 有限公司業務拓展總監  
Vice President of Hong Kong Environmental Industry Association,  
Business Development Director of Dunwell Enviro-Tech (Holdings) Ltd.

葉成輝 先生 / Mr. Henry Yip  
比亞迪 (澳門) 有限公司總經理  
General Manager of BYD Macau Company Limited

何寒冰 先生 / Mr. He Hanbing  
澳門新大陸博通科技有限公司IT事業部總經理  
IT Division General Manager of Macao Newland Technology Co., Ltd.

#### 綠色論壇環節二 / Green Forum Session 2 (15:50-17:05)

##### 生態城市的綠色會展建設 New Pattern in MICE Industry under Eco-Cities Model

主持人 Moderator

林中賢 先生 / Mr. Tony Lam  
澳門展覽協會會長  
President of Macau Fair & Trade Association

討論嘉賓 Panelists

張哲 先生 / Mr. Zhang Zhe  
中華人民共和國商務部流通產業促進中心會展服務業促進處副處長  
Deputy Director of Exhibition Industry Promotion Division, Circulation Industry Promotion Center, MOFCOM

Shirlena Wee Ling SOH 女士 / Ms. Shirlena Wee Ling SOH  
新加坡會展行業協會執行董事  
Executive Director of the Singapore Association of Convention and Exhibition Organisers and Suppliers (SACEOS)

馬國麟 先生 / Mr. Mark Cochrane  
國際展覽業協會亞太區分部經理  
UFI Regional Manager, Asia Pacific

Rishi Tirupari 先生 / Mr. Rishi Tirupari  
金沙中國可持續發展總監  
Director of Sustainability, Sands China Ltd.

梁國熙 教授 / Prof. Michael K. H. Leung  
香港城市大學能源及環境學院副院長  
Associate Dean, School of Energy and Environment, City University of Hong Kong

#### 商機交流及茶敘 / Business Exchange & Refreshments (17:05-17:20)

#### 簽約儀式 / Signing Ceremony (17:30-18:30)

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- 環節二 Session 2:  
生態城市的綠色會展建設  
New Pattern in MICE Industry under Eco-Cities Model
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Ms. Kuan of Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute  
(Tel: 853-87989127; Fax: 853-28728208;  
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Art symposium on redefining public art



MGM hosted an art tour and symposium on March 25 on the subject of redefining public art to further its mission of making art more accessible to the public and enhancing community awareness on art and culture through MGM COTAI's one-of-kind art program.

The Explore Spectacular Journey began with an art tour of the Imperial carpets, the Chairman's Collection as well as the awe-inspiring digital art collection at MGM COTAI. It was then followed by a meet-the-artists session in which

the participants had an up-close encounter with contributing artists of the Collection, including Hsiao Chin, Ung Si Meng, Xue Song, Gao XiaoWu, Lin Guocheng, Su Xing, Hung Yi, Chloe Ho, Hong Wei, Zheng Lu, Guan Yinfu, Yu Yang, Liang Jenhung, Eric Fok, Kum Chi Keung and Wang Kaifang. The journey concluded with an art symposium on redefining public art with welcome remarks delivered by Ms. Pansy Ho, Co-Chairperson & Executive Director of MGM China Holdings Limited. The dedicated tour and symposium attracted over 200 participants including renowned regional artists, representatives from local arts and cultural scene, educators and students from the art discipline.



Partnering with Art Basel



For this year's Art Basel in Hong Kong, MGM partnered with the premier art fair to showcase artworks from MGM COTAI's Chairman's Collection. The Collection features over 300 thought-provoking artworks, including modern and contemporary paintings and sculptures by renowned Asian artists, newly commissioned pieces by local and regional emerging artists, and large-scale installations. MGM shared with Art Basel some of its unique collection including glass mosaics and canvas artworks from artists, Hsiao Chin and Liu Guofu.

MGM Resorts International, MGM China's parent company, also supported Art Basel's Encounters sector for the first time. Dedicated to presenting 12 large-scale sculpture and installation works by leading artists from around the world including Isabel and Alfredo Aquillizan, Chou Yu-Cheng, Toshikatsu Endo, Ryan Gander, Subodh Gupta, Iván Navarro, Ramesh Mario Nithiyendran, Shinji Ohmaki, Jorge Pardo, Erwin Wurm, Ulla von Brandenburg and Nyapanyapa Yunupingu, Encounters provided visitors with the opportunity to see artwork that transcends the traditional art fair stands, presented in prominent locations throughout the exhibition halls.



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# China leads global solar energy investment as US, Europe lag

**M**ORE money was invested in new solar energy plants last year than in any other power source, with China responsible for much of the boom, according to a report published Thursday by the U.N. Environment Program.

Globally, a record 98 gigawatts of new solar capacity were installed in 2017, with investments topping USD160 billion — an increase of 18 percent compared to the previous year. China alone spent \$86.5 billion on solar installations, adding 53 gigawatts of capacity.

Total new investments in renewable energy reached almost \$280 billion last year, an increase of 2 percent from 2016 but still far below the 2015 record of over 323 billion. Coal and gas accounted for investments totaling \$103 billion, while spending on large hydropower dams and nuclear plants stood at \$45 billion and \$42 billion respectively.

The report, based on data from Bloomberg New Energy Finance, found renewable energy investments in the United

States by six percent, while in Germany they fell by 35 percent and in Japan they dropped by 28 percent in 2017. This was partly due to falling prices, but regulatory changes and the timing of large wind power deals also played a role.

Renewable energy accounted for 12.1 percent of the electricity generated worldwide last year, up from 11 percent in 2016, according to the report. Although this increased share amounts to a savings of 1.8 gigatons of carbon dioxide — a key greenhouse gas — it's not enough to offset rising global energy consumption, according to UNEP.

Françoise d'Estais, an energy finance expert with the U.N. agency and co-author of the report, said countries will have to step up renewable power generation and cut back on electricity use if they want to meet the goals of the 2015 Paris climate accord.

Currently about a quarter of greenhouse gas emissions come from electricity and heat generation. **AP**

## 100m domestic tourist trips during holiday

China saw 100 million domestic tourist trips during the three-day tomb-sweeping holiday, up 8.3 percent from last year's holiday, according to the Ministry of Culture and Tourism. The tourism revenue reached RMB42.1 billion (about USD6.7 billion) during the holiday which lasts from Thursday to Saturday, up 8 percent, according to the ministry. While tourists still favor sites of natural scenes, an increasing number of people chose to visit martyrs' cemeteries and memorial sites of revolution, the ministry said in a report.

## Online recruitment platform seeks Hong Kong IPO

Chinese online recruitment agency Liepin.com is seeking an IPO in Hong Kong. Headquartered in Beijing and founded in 2011, the platform focuses on executive talent. Liepin.com had 3.9 million registered members at the end of last year, according to its prospectus. The company made RMB7.55 million (about USD1.2 million) in net profit last year after suffering losses in the previous two years. The growing recruitment market in China has given rise to domestic players like zhaopin.com and zhipin.com and attracted foreign players like LinkedIn. The company, which put its valuation at 1 billion U.S. dollars, received a D-round financing of more than 100 million U.S. dollars in 2016.

# Xi takes center stage to defend country's trade against barrage of tariffs

Enda Curran

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump's barrage of tariffs threats have left China's Xi Jinping with a tricky balance to strike. He's got to show he's ready to retaliate against U.S. trade threats while demonstrating China's commitment to opening up.

The Chinese president's first chance to hit back in person comes in a speech Tuesday at the Boao Forum for Asia - China's answer to Davos - on the tropical island of Hainan.

Besides reassuring the hundreds of foreign investors present that U.S. protectionism won't produce the same in the world's second-largest economy, he must deliver a strong warning about letting the tariff disputes escalate into a trade war.

"You've got to push back and defend yourself in some way and at the same time say, 'We are still open for business,'" said Fraser Howie, co-author of the book "Red Capitalism," who has two decades of experience in China's financial markets. "The argument can be: 'How do we not respond, if America is placing tariffs on us?'"

Xi set out his defense of globalization at the real World Economic Forum in Davos last year just days before Trump took office promising to protect the U.S. from "other countries making our products, stealing our companies, and destroying our jobs." After an initial honeymoon with Xi, Trump has renewed his China attacks, threatening to pile on as much as USD150 billion of tariffs on the country's goods.



BLOOMBERG

The levies represent an unprecedented challenge to Xi, who can't afford an economic downturn that fuels unrest or to look weak after securing Communist Party backing last month to rule indefinitely. China in recent days has pledged retaliatory tariffs that would hit politically sensitive U.S. regions and vowed to fight "to the end, and at any cost."

Still, Xi is expected to emphasize the benefits of doing business with China and may

announce reduced foreign-investment restrictions to mark the 40th anniversary of the reforms that launched the country's economic boom.

"Xi's Boao speech will reiterate China's firm support for globalization, compliance with World Trade Organisation rules and its commitment for opening up," said He Weiwen, deputy director of the Center for China and Globalization in Beijing and a former Commerce Ministry official.

Yet Xi must also overcome a

credibility gap after years of Chinese promises to free up the economy were followed by more centralized control and state support for local companies. Pledges to open up sectors such as financial services have been made before - but often such pledges have been made only after domestic players already dominate.

Top Chinese trading partners, such as the European Union and Japan, share Trump's concerns about market access, even if they

disagree with his tariff tactics. The trade spat has put new pressure on Xi to counter the U.S narrative during the speech, which will be attended by Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, and the International Monetary Fund Managing Director Christine Lagarde.

**Xi's Boao speech will reiterate China's firm support for globalization, compliance with World Trade Organisation rules and its commitment for opening up.**

HE WEIWEN  
CENTER FOR CHINA AND  
GLOBALIZATION

"It's possible that he will continue the generic general promises of liberalization," said Scott Kennedy, a China scholar at the Washington-based Center for Strategic and International Studies. "But he could try to finally be quite specific and forward leaning and try to pop the American bubble by making a variety of changes that open up Chinese markets." **Bloomberg**

## Trump suggesting Beijing will 'take down' its trade barriers

Jonathan Lemire, Washington

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump is suggesting China will ease trade barriers "because it is the right thing to do" and Washington and Beijing can settle disputes that have rattled financial markets, consumers and businesses.

A new Trump tweet doesn't explain why he's optimistic about resolving an escalating trade clash between the world's two

biggest economies.

Trump says he and Chinese President Xi Jinping "will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade."

Trump insists "China will take down its Trade Barriers because it is the right thing to do. Taxes will become Reciprocal & a deal will be made on Intellectual Property. Great future for both countries!"

The U.S. bought more than USD500 billion in

goods from China last year and now is planning or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.

China has pledged to "counterattack with great strength" if Trump decides to follow through on his latest threat to impose tariffs on an additional \$100

billion in Chinese goods - after an earlier announcement that targeted \$50 billion.

The Trump administration also is pushing for a crackdown on what it says is China's theft of U.S. intellectual property.

Conflicting messages about the trade fight have come out in recent days from some top members of Trump's team.

Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin has said he



AP PHOTO

was "cautiously optimistic" that the U.S. and China could reach an agreement before any tariffs went into place. But he also said "there is the potential of a trade war."

The new White House economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, has said the U.S. is "not in a trade war" and that "China is the problem. Blame China, not Trump." **AP**

# Koreas discuss communication issues ahead of summit

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**N**ORTH and South Korea on Saturday held talks over establishing a telephone hotline between their leaders and other communication issues ahead of a rare summit between the rivals later this month.

The closed-door talks between working-level officials at a border village were part of preparatory discussions to set up the April 27 summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and South Korean President Moon Jae-in. The meeting, only the third summit between the Koreas since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, could prove to be significant in the global diplomatic push to resolve the standoff over North Korea's nuclear program.

A summit between Kim and President Donald Trump is anticipated in May.

Before Saturday's meeting, South Korea didn't specify what would be discussed other than the hotline between the leaders. The Koreas have agreed not to

disclose the contents of their preparatory talks until they reach an agreement, Moon's office said. The Koreas agreed on the date of the summit in a high-level meeting last week.

South Korea, which has shuttled between Pyongyang and Washington to set up the talks, said Kim had expressed willingness to talk about giving up nuclear weapons during his upcoming meetings with Moon and Trump. The North has yet to officially confirm such intent or Kim's interest in meeting Trump.

Kim last month made a surprise visit to Beijing and met with Chinese leader Xi Jinping, a move widely seen as strengthening the North's position ahead of his talks with Moon and Trump. China, North Korea's only major ally and main economic lifeline, has been calling for a "dual suspension" of North Korean nuclear and missile activities in return for the United States and South Korea suspending their large-scale military exercises.

The Koreas earlier this week

AP PHOTO



A map of the two Koreas showing Pyongyang and Seoul is placed at the Imjingak Pavilion in Paju, S. Korea

held separate working-level discussions on the protocol, security and media coverage issues of the inter-Korean summit. The countries will hold at least one more meeting on these issues to discuss the summit's agenda.

Working-level officials need to determine how Kim would arrive at the southern side of the border village for the summit.

South Korean media have speculated whether Kim, who has

a flair for the dramatic, would cross the Military Demarcation Line that bisects the countries in a symbolic gesture of peace. The Koreas have to also decide how many times Kim and Moon would meet on April 27 and whether parts of the summit would be broadcast on live television.

The rivals agreed to set up a hotline between the offices of Kim and Moon in March when Moon's envoys visited Kim in

Pyongyang. In a subsequent trip to Washington, Moon's envoys brokered a meeting between Kim and Trump, who said he would meet the North Korean leader by May.

South Korea says a functional hotline between Kim and Moon would help facilitate dialogue and reduce misunderstanding during times of tension. Moon and Kim plan to hold their first telephone conversation sometime before their face-to-face meeting, according to Moon's office.

North Korea's abrupt diplomatic outreach since the start of the year has brought a temporary lull to tensions sparked by its flurry of nuclear weapons and missile tests last year that resulted in Kim and Trump exchanging crude insults and threats of war.

The North last year tested a purported thermonuclear warhead and three intercontinental ballistic missiles designed to strike the continental United States. It also flew two midrange missiles over Japan while threatening to fire similar weapons toward Guam, the Pacific U.S. military hub.

The United States responded by frequently sending its strategic assets such as long-range bombers and aircraft carriers to the region in a show of force and floating talks of military options against North Korea. **AP**

AD



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

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

Venue: The Astor Ballroom, 5/F

The St. Regis Macao, Cotai

12.30: Drinks

12.55 pm: Lunch

1.30 pm: Presentation by Dr. Wilfred Wong

2.30 pm: Close

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

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Anisah Shukry

MALAYSIA

# Najib doubles down on longtime voter bases in poll manifesto

**P**RIME Minister Najib Razak is doubling down on his traditional vote banks in an election manifesto, pledging that under his government Malaysians would live “peacefully and prosperously.”

His Barisan Nasional coalition is pledging to introduce a law for Shariah-compliant property sales, help ethnic Malay farmers resolve their debts, build more affordable housing for the police and military, and ensure the same cost of goods for those living in Borneo as in Peninsular Malaysia. The promises target his key support bases: Muslims and ethnic Malays, civil servants, as well as Sabah and Sarawak states.

“I call on my fellow Malaysians to evaluate the performance of the Barisan Nasional government fairly and thoroughly,” Najib said while releasing the manifesto in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday night. “Barisan Nasional must win, only then can the people live safely and prosperously.”

The campaign launch comes a day after Najib announced the parliament would be dissolved on Saturday. The Election Commission will announce the date of the election within 10 days of receiving official notice



Prime Minister Najib Razak

on the dissolution of the legislature, said Chairman Mohd Hashim Abdullah. The vote must be held in the next two months.

His party's manifesto signals Najib's confidence in maintaining his strongest position yet since the Barisan Nasional

coalition's six-decade rule was nearly interrupted by the 2013 election. With a focus on ongoing infrastructure projects and expansion of existing handouts to his key support bases, he emphasized the work that's been done to push economic growth to a three-year high.

The ruling coalition will erase the debts of farmers and small landowners linked to the state plantation company, Federal Land Development Authority, who took out loans to buy shares of Felda Global Ventures Holdings Bhd., and allocate 300 million ringgit (USD77 million) in five years to forgive extraordinary and extreme debts. Najib is also promising to fix roads, build more houses, hand out replanting grants and increase its purchase price for rubber.

Barisan Nasional is promising to spend 2.3 billion ringgit to

expand electricity access in the Borneo states, and 4.3 billion ringgit on a Trans-Sabah gas pipeline.

With the #MeToo movement sweeping across the region, Najib plans to introduce a sexual harassment act and amend the constitution to set a minimum of 30 percent women occupying seats in the senate. He pledges to extend tax incentives for women who return to the workforce, make it easier for unmarried women to get loans, allow male civil servants to take 10-day paternal leave, and implement a universal childcare program.

Najib took on the opposition-held states, pledging to resolve water disruption issues in Selangor and build thousands of houses in Penang, he said to a deafening roar from his supporters.

“We will fix our past weaknesses and this time we will fight to the last drop of blood, so that Malaysia soars on the international stage,” Najib said to conclude his speech. **Bloomberg**

**■ The campaign launch comes a day after Najib announced the parliament would be dissolved on Saturday**

## UN, Singapore concerned about rising trade tensions

Dake Kang, Beijing

**T**HE U.N. secretary-general and the Singaporean foreign minister voiced concerns about global trade tensions and rising protectionism during back-to-back meetings in Beijing yesterday.

Following remarks from his Chinese counterpart, Singaporean Foreign Minister Vivian Balakrishnan vowed to “double-down” on free trade and economic liberalization in tandem with China.

“This is a time in the world where the temptation to embark on unilateralism and protectionism is unfortunately rising,” Balakrishnan said.

In a separate meeting, Secretary-General Antonio Guterres called China “absolutely crucial” in the international system.

“You mentioned reform and opening up - it's so important in a moment when some others have a policy of closing up,” Guterres told Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi.

“The solutions for these problems are not to put globalization to question, but to improve globalization. Not isolation or protectionism, but more international cooperation,” Guterres said.

The comments came as China and the U.S. exchanged escalating tariff threats in what is already shaping up to be the biggest trade battle for more than a half century.

Beijing vowed Friday to “counterattack with great strength” if President Donald Trump follows through on threats to impose tariffs on an additional \$100 billion in Chinese goods.

Trump's announcement followed China's decision to tax \$50 billion in American products, including soybeans and small aircraft, in response to a U.S. move this week to impose tariffs on \$50 billion in Chinese goods.

The U.S. bought more than \$500 billion in goods from China last year and now is planning

or considering penalties on some \$150 billion of those imports. The U.S. sold about \$130 billion in goods to China in 2017 and faces a potentially devastating hit to its market there if China responds in kind.


In the meetings, Wang attacked what he called “protectionism and unilateralism,” though he didn't single out the U.S. by name.

“China will safeguard the principles of free trade and oppose protectionism,” Wang said. “We should push forward with economic globalization.”

Wang was welcoming both officials ahead of their planned appearances at the annual Boao Forum for Asia, a Chinese-sponsored annual gathering for political and economic elites on tropical Hainan Island.

Balakrishnan is traveling with Singaporean Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong on the first of a five-day visit to China. **AP**

AD



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AP PHOTO

## SYRIA Russia denies reports of chemical attack

Russia's military is rejecting claims that Syrian government forces used chemical weapons in an attack on the rebel-held town of Douma. Maj. Gen. Yuri Yevtushenko was quoted by Russian news agencies yesterday as saying Russia was prepared to "promptly send Russian specialists in radiation, chemical and biological protection to Douma after its liberation from fighters to gather data that will confirm the fabricated nature of these statements."

SAUDI ARABIA

## Crown prince visits France to share his 'new vision'

The crown prince of Saudi Arabia is making his first official visit to France, which is hoping to profit from his shake-up of the conservative kingdom. No big contracts are expected to be signed during the visit of Mohammed bin Salman, but a "strategic partnership" is to be announced Tomorrow with French President Emmanuel Macron. France is hoping for Saudi investments in technology, renewable energy, health and tourism. The influential crown prince is expected to visit the Paris startup incubator Station F.



AP PHOTO

## GERMANY Police: Muenster van driver acted alone

The German news agency dpa is quoting police as saying that the driver who crashed his van into a crowd in the western German city of Muenster had no accomplices. The 48-year-old German man killed two people and injured 20 others Saturday before shooting himself to death in the van. Witnesses of Saturday's crash had initially said they'd seen two other perpetrators flee the van after it crashed into a crowd outside the city's traditional Kiepenkerl pub in the city's medieval old town.



AP PHOTO

Lula (center) leaves the metal workers union headquarters in Sao Bernardo do Campo

BRAZIL

# After tense showdown, Lula in police custody

Mauricio Savarese, Peter Prengaman

**FORMER** Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva was taken into police custody Saturday after a tense showdown with his own supporters, capping an intense three days that underscored raw emotions over the incarceration of a once wildly popular leader who has been engulfed by corruption allegations.

Just hours earlier, da Silva told thousands of supporters that he would turn himself in to police, but also maintained his innocence and argued his corruption conviction was simply a way for enemies to make sure he doesn't run — and possibly win — re-election in October.

When he first tried to leave the metal workers union headquarters where he was holed up to turn himself in, dozens of supporters blocked a gate where a car carrying da Silva was trying to exit.

"Surround, surround [the building] and don't let them arrest him," chanted supporters. After a few minutes of tense words between guards and supporters, the former president got out of the car and entered the union headquarters.

Police vehicles surrounded the building, raising the fears of clashes. Da Silva emerged a second time shortly after nightfall, this time surrounded by bodyguards who pushed back scores of supporters who tried to stop his advance.

The dramatic scene was the

latest development in a whirlwind series of days, which began when the Supreme Federal Tribunal, the country's top court, ruled against his petition on Thursday to remain free while he continued to appeal his conviction.

Judge Sergio Moro, who oversees many of the so-called "Car Wash" cases, then ordered an arrest warrant for da Silva, giving him until 5 p.m. Friday to present himself to police in Curitiba, about 260 miles (417 kilometers) southwest of Sao Bernardo do Campo, and begin serving his 12-year sentence.

Da Silva, who Brazilians simply call "Lula," did no such thing. Instead, he hunkered down with supporters in the same metallurgical union that was the spiritual birthplace of his improbable rise to power in one of the world's most unequal countries.

"The police and 'Car Wash' investigators lied. The prosecutors lied," said da Silva, as a few thousand supporters cheered.

"I don't forgive them for giving society the idea that I am a thief," he continued.

Still, da Silva said he would turn himself in "to go there and face them eye to eye. The more days they leave me [in jail], the more Lulas will be born in this country."

While da Silva spoke, some people cried while others chanted "Free Lula!" When he finished speaking, a sea of supporters carried him on their shoulders back into the building.

Late Saturday, police were

flying da Silva to Curitiba, where after processing he will begin serving his sentence.

Mauricio Santoro, a political science professor at the State University of Rio de Janeiro, said that by not complying with the order on Friday da Silva "wanted to demonstrate strength and popularity, showing that he is a political leader capable of gathering a crowd in his support."

Choosing the metal workers union to take refuge, and not the Workers' Party headquarters, was also significant, said Santoro.

## The more days they leave me [in jail], the more Lulas will be born in this country.

"It shows that he wants to emphasize his trajectory as leader of a social movement, rather than his role as leader of a party marked by allegations of corruption," he said.

Last year, Moro convicted da Silva of trading favors with a construction company in exchange for the promise of a beachfront apartment. That conviction was upheld by an appeals court in January. The former president has always denied wrongdoing in that case and in several other cor-

ruption cases that have yet to be tried.

Still, his jailing marks a colossal fall from grace for a man who rose from poverty to power against steep odds. During his two administrations, several social welfare programs and a booming economy helped tens of millions come out of abject poverty, making his downfall deeply personal for many Brazilians who saw him as a symbol of hope.

Born in the hardscrabble northeast, da Silva rose through the ranks of the union in the country's industrial south. In 1980, during the military dictatorship, he was arrested for organizing strikes. He would spend more than a month in jail.

After running for president several times, in 2002 da Silva finally won. He governed from 2003 to 2010, leaving office an international celebrity and with approval ratings in the high 80s.

Former U.S. President Barack Obama once called da Silva the "most popular politician on Earth."

Like so much in a nation that has become deeply polarized, that da Silva would soon be behind bars was being interpreted differently by supporters and detractors.

"We have no choice but to keep our head high. Our struggle will be bigger tomorrow," said Fernando Lauro, a supporter who watched da Silva be taken by police.

"I hope he never gets out, but I fear he will," said Silvia Gend, a 72-year-old housewife in Sao Bernardo do Campo. "Brazil is the country of impunity."

Workers' Party leaders insist that da Silva, 72, will still be the party's candidate in October. Technically, being jailed does not keep him off the ballot.

In August, however, the country's top electoral court makes final decisions about candidacies. It is expected to deny da Silva's candidacy under Brazil's "clean slate" law, which disqualifies people who have had criminal convictions upheld. Da Silva could appeal, though doing so from jail would be more complicated.

The former leader is the latest of many high-profile people to be ensnared in possibly the largest corruption scandal in Latin American history. Over the last four years, Brazilians have seen near weekly police operations and arrests of the elite.

Investigators uncovered a major scheme in which construction companies essentially formed a cartel that doled out inflated contracts from state oil company Petrobras, paying billions in kickbacks to politicians and businessmen. **AP**

Jeremy Hainsworth, Rob Gillies

# Canada reels: 15 die when truck, hockey team bus collide

A semi-trailer slammed into a bus carrying a youth hockey team in western Canada, killing 15 people and injuring 14 in a catastrophic collision that left a country and its national sport heartbroken. The crash sent shockwaves through the team's small hometown.

Canadians were moved to tears on as they learned of the identities of the deceased on the bus that was driving the Humboldt Broncos hockey team to a crucial playoff game Friday against the Nipawin Hawks.

"The worst nightmare has happened," said the league's president, Bill Chow, as his eyes welled up with tears.

The Broncos are a close-knit team from the small city of Humboldt, Saskatchewan, which has a population of about 6,000. Since the horrific accident many have gathered at the community center at the hockey arena.

"An entire country is in shock and mourning," Prime Minister Justin Trudeau said. "This is every parent's worst nightmare. No one should ever have to see their child leave to play the sport they love and never come back."

The bus had 29 passengers, including the driver, when it crashed at about 5 p.m. on Highway 35, police said. Among the dead are Broncos head coach Darcy Haugan, team captain Logan Schatz and radio announcer Tyler Bieber. Authorities earlier said three were in critical condition but later provided an update to say that 15 have now died.

Canadian police said the truck driver was initially detained but has since been released and provided with mental health assistance. Royal Canadian Mounted Police Assistant Commissioner Curtis Zablocki said it's too early



This aerial photo shows the wreckage of a fatal crash outside of Tisdale, Saskatchewan

to state a cause for the crash.

In a tweet, President Donald Trump said he called Trudeau to offer his condolences to the families of victims.

Darren Opp, president of the Nipawin Hawks, said a semi T-boned the players' bus — an account police confirmed. "It's a horrible accident, my God," Opp said.

Hassan Masri, an emergency room doctor at Saskatoon's Royal University Hospital who has done work in war-torn Syria, said the crash reminded him of an airstrike.

Photographs of the wreckage showed the twisted trailer with most of its wheels in the air and the bus on its side and its back portion destroyed. The force of the crash sent both vehicles into the ditch at the northwest corner of the intersection.

Aerial footage showed the bus on its side, its roof peeled back

and its front end destroyed. The trailer of the truck lay nearby in a shattered mess, with bags of its peat moss cargo scattered all around. The tractor part of the truck was intact, lying on its passenger side.

The tractor-trailer would have had to yield to a stop sign before crossing over the highway that the hockey bus was travelling on. There is a stand of trees on the southeast corner of the intersection, limiting visibility of the approach on both roads.

Police said a lot of issues have to be investigated, including weather conditions at the time and any mechanical issues with the vehicles.

The tragedy brought to mind an accident in 1986, when the Swift Current Broncos team bus slid off an icy highway and crashed in late December, killing four players.

Humboldt Mayor Rob Muench,

wearing a green and yellow Broncos team jersey, hugged people Saturday morning as they came to the Elger Petersen Arena in the Saskatchewan town to comfort each other and learn more.

"It's overwhelming. It's been tough on everybody," Muench said in a phone interview. "We're a small community; some of those kids have been on the team for a number of years. A lot grew up in the community and everybody knows each other."

The team was on its way to play in Game 5 of a semi-final against the Nipawin Hawks. Multiple crisis workers were assisting relatives and friends. "Everybody is just so devastated. These poor young boys," said Penny Lee, the communications manager for the town of Humboldt.

The Saskatchewan Junior Hockey League is a junior 'A' hockey league under Hockey Canada, which is part of the Canadian

Junior Hockey League. It's open to North American-born players between the ages of 16 and 20.

Team President Kevin Garinger said parents from across western Canada were struggling to cope with the tragedy and were rushing to the scene.

"We are heartbroken and completely devastated," Garinger said. "We will never forget the members of our Broncos family who were taken from us and who were injured."

Michelle Straschnitzki, who lives in Airdrie, Alberta, said her 18-year old son Ryan was transported to a hospital in Saskatoon, Saskatchewan.

"We talked to him, but he said he couldn't feel his lower extremities so I don't know what's going on," she said. "I am freaking out. I am so sad for all of the teammates and I am losing my mind."

Kevin Henry, a coach who runs a hockey school in Prince Albert, Saskatchewan, said he knows players on the team.

"This is I would think one of the darkest days in the history of Saskatchewan, especially because hockey is so ingrained in how we grow up here," he said.

The hockey world issued messages of condolences, including Saskatchewan native Mike Babcock, who is the Toronto Maple Leafs coach.

Babcock, fighting back tears, said that "it's got to rip the heart out of your chest."

The Chicago Blackhawks and Winnipeg Jets wore the name "BRONCOS" instead of their nameplates on Saturday night. AP

# Spain, Portugal bust gang smuggling glass eels to Asia

SPANISH and Portuguese authorities announced Friday that they have taken down a criminal network that has been making large profits by smuggling glass eels to Asia.

Authorities across the continent have been trying to tackle the smugglers, who take European glass eels to Asian countries, where they are raised into adults and their meat commands high prices for local delicacies.

The trading of the European eel has been restricted since 2009 under the rules of the CITES convention for the international trade of endangered wildlife. The European Union has banned all exports out-

side the bloc and regulated internal sales, although an underground black market in eels has thrived in recent years.

In the latest operation against the traffickers, four Chinese citizens, three Spaniards and three Moroccans were arrested in Spain in an operation coordinated by the European Union's police body, Europol.

Spain's Civil Guard said 460 kilograms of glass eels were seized in southern Spain. Their market value, once the eels have grown into adults, was estimated at over 400 million euros (USD490 million). One kilogram of baby eels can yield 1.3 tons of adult eels, investigators say.

More than 100 tons of juvenile eels evade wildlife traffic controls every year in Europe, according to Andrew Kerr, chairman of the Sustainable Eel Group.

"That's nearly one fourth of the total European eel natural stock," Kerr said Friday. "It's the biggest wildlife crime action in Europe, and it's hidden from everyone."

Friday's disclosure showed how the ring exported the baby eels bought in Spain through Portugal and Morocco and how the eels were concealed in suitcases or in cargo containers and sent to Hong Kong, mainland China, South Korea and other Asian countries.

Police also seized 364 suitcases possibly used to smuggle the eels, Civil Guard Coronel Jesus Galvez told reporters Friday in Madrid.

Because eels can't be bred in captivity, the wriggling glass eels — or elvers — are usually fished and raised to maturity in aquaculture companies in Asia, where pollution, climate change and poaching has diminished stocks of the Japanese Anguilla species.

Since the glass eel fishing season began at the end of the fall, Portugal has arrested 28 people and has seized 1 ton of glass eels in 18 raids.

Hugo Alexandre Matos, director of the Portuguese authority of food security,



ASAE, said several investigations remained opened.

Meanwhile, Spain has arrested or identified as suspects 89 people since November, snatching more than 2.3 tons of baby eels. The seized eels have been reintroduced to the wild, Galvez said.

The operations come as environmental crimes are

on the rise globally and in Europe, said Europol's chief for organized crime, Jari Liukku, who compared the benefits from illicit wildlife trading to those of drug, arms or human trafficking.

"Punishments are low and the conviction rate for environmental crimes is still low," he said. AP

## what's ON



IN THE SOUL, MOUNTAINS ARE GALLOPING – LANDSCAPE PAINTING EXHIBITION BY XU QINSONG IN MACAU

TIME: 10am-7pm (Last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 12, 2018

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

“MY CHINESE ZODIAC” – EXHIBITION BY RAQUEL GRALHEIRO

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: May 13, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

PINACOTROCA - PAINTING AND ILLUSTRATION BY RODRIGO DE MATOS

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

UNTIL: April 21, 2018

VENUE: G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

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

## Offbeat

## MOOSE STOMPS MAN'S FOOT IN ALASKA AFTER HE KICKS HER

A man was injured north of Anchorage after a moose that he had just kicked stomped his foot in return, state officials said. KTVA-TV reported the man escaped major injuries in the encounter Thursday with the moose and her calf.

“It sounds like the moose were on a trail and in this case, it sounds like the guy was trying to go through them,” State Department of Fish and Game spokesman Ken Marsh said. “That’s never a good idea.”

The two moose left the area after the man had his foot stomped, said Alaska Troopers spokeswoman Megan Peters.

“I am not a biologist, but as a lifelong Alaskan I would advise people not to go around kicking moose,” Peters said.

Moose have vast leg strength, Marsh said.

“If you get into a kicking contest with a moose, guess who’s going to win?” he said.

South-central Alaska has seen a number of violent incidents involving moose this spring, including a man who had a moose swipe at him with its hoof while feeding it and a cocker spaniel attacked by a moose in an Anchorage yard.

Marsh said moose sightings are on the rise as females prepare for calving season in mid-May.

## TV canal macau



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

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

04 APR - 11 APR



## READY PLAYER ONE

ROOM 1

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

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min

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

ROOM 1

05:00pm

Director: Shinji Ushiro

Starring: Shōtarō Morikubo, Ai Kayano, Sumire Uesaka

Language: Cantonese

## PACIFIC RIM: UPRISING

ROOM 2

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

Director: Steven S.DeKnight

Starring: John Boyega, Scott Fastwood, Rinko Kikuchi

Language: Chinese

Duration: 96min

## EARLY AN

ROOM 3

2:15, 5:45pm

Director: Nick Park

Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 111min

## PETER RABBIT

ROOM 3

4:00, 7:30pm

Language: Cantonese

7:45pm

Language: English (Chinese)

Director: Will Gluck

Starring: Domhnall Gleeson, Rose Byrne

Duration: 95min



## MARY MAGDALENE

ROOM 3

9:30pm

Director: Garth Davis

Starring: Rooney Mara, Joaquin Phoenix, Chiwetel Ejiofor

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 120min

## this day in history



## 2003 SADDAM STATUE TOPPLES WITH REGIME

There have been scenes of jubilation in Baghdad as US tanks rolled into the very heart of the Iraqi capital, confirming that the government of Saddam Hussein has been ousted from power.

In the main square in Baghdad, a group of Iraqi men attempted to pull down a massive statue of Saddam Hussein in an unprecedented show of contempt for the Iraqi leader.

The metal plaque at the base of the statue was torn off and the statue's marble plinth attacked with a sledgehammer.

The men scaled the statue to secure a noose around its neck but were unable to pull it down.

Then US troops joined in, and used an armoured vehicle to gradually pull down the statue.

The extraordinary scenes were watched by millions across the world live on television.

The square is opposite the Palestine Hotel, used as a base by the world's media during the war in Iraq.

A little before the statue came down, a US soldier climbed up and draped the face with a US flag.

The crowd did not welcome the move, seeing it as a step too far towards American triumphalism, and the flag was quickly removed.

A few minutes later, it was replaced by the old Iraqi flag, to roars of approval.

As the statue fell to the ground at last, the crowd surged forward and jumped on it.

Chanting and jeering, they danced on the fallen effigy, kicking it and hitting it with their shoes in a symbolic gesture of contempt as it was torn to pieces.

They then severed the head, tied chains around it, and dragged it through the streets.

As news of the events in the square spread, more and more Iraqis gathered to watch, with women and children joining the crowds of men.

There were similar scenes across the capital, as the many hundreds of statues and pictures of Saddam Hussein that came to symbolise his regime were attacked and torn down.

The military campaign will continue, although the US Army has delivered its most upbeat assessment yet of the gains it is making in Iraq.

“Much of Iraq is free from years of repression,” said Brigadier-General Vincent Brooks, the US Central Command spokesman in Qatar.

“With every day that passes, we are breaking the grip of the regime.”

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The toppling of Saddam Hussein's statue became one of the enduring images of the war in Iraq. Although there has since been some speculation that it was staged by US forces.

One BBC correspondent, who was in Paradise Square and watched the statue being pulled down, said his impression was of “a newly free people” expressing their “overwhelming joy”.

US troops continued to advance north for another week, taking key towns such as Saddam Hussein's home town of Tikrit, before President Bush declared victory on 1 May.

The honeymoon period for US troops was short.

In the power vacuum which followed the collapse of Saddam Hussein's regime, law and order broke down and US troops became targets for many Iraqis resentful of the continuing occupation.

In the six months after the war ended, more US soldiers died in guerrilla attacks and suicide bombings than during the whole of the war.

Saddam Hussein himself was captured in December 2003. He was tried by and Iraqi court, sentenced to death and was hanged on 30 December 2006.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've done all right. You've challenged authority and come out of the battle(s) virtually unscathed...

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your bonds with loved ones are especially important now - so much so that you'll happily do whatever it takes to keep them just as strong as they are...

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Relationships of all shapes, sizes, and forms will go along quite well - as if you didn't have to do a single thing to make that happen. That may even apply to your encounters with authority figures, too.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've been working very hard to keep things under control for some time, and it hasn't been easy. Not even a tiny little bit. If you can keep it going for a little while longer, though - and you know you can.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Like everyone, there are definitely moments when you feel the need to indulge yourself in some quality time alone - completely alone. You won't feel at all lonely while you're at it, either.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're not known for letting little things slide. You may even be aware of your sign's reputation for focusing a bit too much, at times, on details. So now, when one little thing holds the potential to ruin one very big.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 If someone tells you now that you're not being fair, consider the source - and the motivations of said source. If the only reasons you can come up are their strictly selfish motives - and that wouldn't be surprising.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Now, when someone you love acts totally out of character, you may be left wondering what to do about it. You may even be worrying. Well, don't - on either count. Think, instead, about how much fun they may be having.

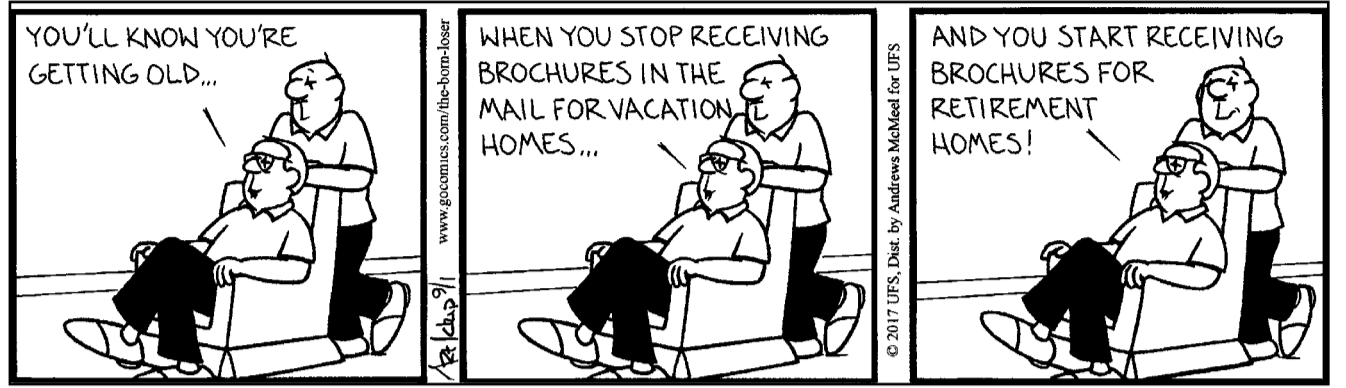
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If a friend seems intent upon removing themselves from the world - temporarily, at least - and you're asked by their loved ones to drag them back, think before you agree.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 A long while ago, you discovered that the best way to make something as ethereal as a dream turn into reality is to tackle it practically and realistically. That means you've got to work very hard now.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You're a very powerful sign, for many reasons. First off, your mind is such a vast playground that you can conjure up an image in a split second - and it will only take you a few more split seconds.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 When you're startled, one never knows what you might say or do in response - that goes for any situation. But now that you're feeling a bit more emotional than usual.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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3 | 2 | | 1 | | |

Hard

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4 | | | | | 5 |
| | 8 | | 3 | |
1 | | 3 | 2 | | |
| | | 5 9 | | |
8 | | | | | |

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION. Rows include CHINA (Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.) and WORLD (Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.).

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Secular; 5- Clenched hand; 9- Doctors' org.; 12- Latin being; 13- Played the part; 15- Singer Redding; 16- List finish; 17- Hilarity; 18- "David Copperfield" wife; 19- Unidentified woman; 21- Good spirit; 23- Insult; 24- "ER" extras; 25- Barbed-wire barricade; 28- Sponger; 33- Israeli desert region; 34- Cab; 35- Work without \_\_\_; 36- Discount rack abbr.; 37- Clarinetist Shaw; 38- Health haven; 39- Highly ranked competitor in sporting events; 41- Capone nemesis; 42- Chirp; 44- Infinite time; 46- Speaks publicly; 47- How Dry \_\_\_; 48- Roasting rod; 49- Recently created; 53- Becomes visible; 57- Gaelic language of Ireland or Scotland; 58- Slow, to Salieri; 60- Hwys.; 61- Crystal gazer; 62- Does in; 63- JFK postings; 64- Craggy hill; 65- French 101 verb; 66- Pops; DOWN: 1- Actor Cobb; 2- "The Thin Man" pooch; 3- This \_\_\_ outrage!; 4- Actress Holm; 5- Renowned; 6- More frigid; 7- Orch. section; 8- Head of France; 9- Molecular component; 10- Picasso contemporary; 11- Strong \_\_\_ ox; 14- Nonpile cotton rug of India; 15- Black Sea port; 20- 554, in stone; 22- Modern-day evidence; 25- Licorice-like flavoring; 26- Henri's hat; 27- Be of one mind; 28- Fall guy; 29- Graph line; 30- Map feature; 31- Conical shelter; 32- Les \_\_\_-Unis; 34- Waste allowance; 37- Creatures; 40- Chauffeur; 42- Stumble; 43- Irrigated; 45- Not for a Scot; 46- Fight; 48- Nymph chaser; 49- Resting place; 50- Nabisco cookie; 51- Customer; 52- River to the Ubangi; 54- \_\_\_ boy!; 55- Peruse; 56- Flat sound; 59- \_\_\_ King Cole;



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LA LIGA

# Messi nets 3, Barca equals record of 38 games unbeaten

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

**L**IONEL Messi scored a hat trick and ensured Barcelona equaled a Spanish league record of 38 matches without a loss after beating Leganes 3-1 on Saturday.

Barcelona matched Real Sociedad's milestone set in 1979-80 by remaining undefeated through 31 rounds this season after finishing the last campaign without a loss over the final seven games. The runaway leader hasn't lost in La Liga in a year.

Ernesto Valverde's side can establish a new unbeaten record if it doesn't lose to Valencia next weekend. It will then have another six rounds left in its quest to finish the entire campaign without a defeat.

"This is one of those records that goes down in history," Valverde said. "I am excited to have matched it because of what it means, and what it meant at that time for Real [Sociedad]. Over time you realize its importance."

Reaching the mark set by Sociedad underscores the exceptional job Valverde is doing in his first year with the team. Despite having Messi and other top players, Barcelona entered the season reeling from the unwanted departure of star striker Neymar and back-to-back losses to Real Madrid in the Spanish Super Cup.

Eight months later and Barcelona is marching toward the recovery of the Liga title from Madrid. It opened a 12-point lead over second-place Atletico Madrid before it faces third-place Madrid in a derby on Sunday.

Messi scored from a free kick for the seventh time this season before completing his third league hat trick in 2017-18.

The Argentina forward earned a foul from Leganes defender Dimitrios Siovas a few meters outside the top of the area, to the right. It was a perfect spot for him to curl a left-footed strike high beyond



the reach of diving goalkeeper Ivan Cuellar.

Messi followed up on his 27th-minute opener with a second goal five minutes later, slotting a low strike in after Coutinho met his run into the box.

Barcelona paid for its complacency in the second half when Leganes forward Nabil El Zhar stuck on a counterattack in the 68th, after his shot grazed Sergi Roberto beat goalie Marc-Andre ter Stegen.

Messi flipped his third goal over Cuellar after receiving a pass from Ousmane Dembele

in the 87th.

The treble took Messi's league-leading tally to 29.

Roberto, who has already shown his versatility playing as a midfielder, right back, or forward, added to his repertoire by playing his first match at left back for Barcelona. That let Jordi Alba rest until he went on as a late substitute along with Andres Iniesta.

Sergio Busquets and Samuel Umtiti also rested ahead of Barcelona's return-leg Champions League quarterfinal at Roma on Tuesday. Barcelona won the first leg 4-1. AP

BUNDESLIGA

# Bayern wins record-extending 6th straight title

**I**T'S hard to believe there was a time this season when Bayern Munich didn't look like a champion side.

Less than two months into a lackluster start, Bayern officials pulled the trigger on manager Carlo Ancelotti and persuaded Jupp Heynckes to un-retire for a fourth stint in charge.

Bayern started winning again, and didn't stop. A relentless, almost inevitable march to the title ended on Saturday when Bayern underlined its dominance of the Bundesliga with a record-extending sixth successive championship.

Augsburg was beaten 4-1 away for Bayern to seal

its record 28th German championship, including the solitary pre-Bundesliga title in 1932.

Bayern did it with five rounds to spare, allowing the team to focus on the Champions League and German Cup for the rest of the season.

After reveling with a cardboard Bundesliga trophy, the players danced in a conga line on Augsburg's field. But there were none of the customary beer showers. Celebrations were relatively muted as the side looked to the remaining targets.

"There'll be a lot of time to celebrate," Franck Ribery said on his 35th birthday.

AD

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ilustrador/插畫: João Jorge Magalhães

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FOOTBALL

# Hiroshima stays undefeated and in top spot in J-League

**SANFRECCE** Hiroshima beat Kashiwa Reysol 1-0 to remain undefeated and in top spot in the J-League yesterday.

Defender Sho Sasaki beat Kashiwa 'keeper Kazushige Kirihata with a left-foot shot in the 17th minute as Hiroshima improved to 16 points, five ahead of Kawasaki Frontale, which was held to a 1-1 tie at Yokohama F Marinos.

In other games, a hat-trick from Diego Oliveira and goals by Keigo Higashi and Kensuke Nagai gave FC Tokyo a 5-2 win over V-Varen Nagasaki.

Winless Gamba Osaka was handed its fifth defeat, 1-0 to Vissel Kobe on Shuhei Otsuki's injury-time goal.

On Saturday, Shimizu S-Pulse held Jubilo Iwata to a 0-0 draw while Urawa Reds beat Vegalta Sendai 1-0 for their first win of the season.

Consadole Sapporo beat Nagoya Grampus 3-0, and Cerezo Osaka defeated Sagan Tosu 2-1.

Miki Yamane's 94th-minute winner lifted Shonan Bellmare to a 2-1 win over Kashima Antlers. **AP**

**F**IJI won a fourth successive Hong Kong Sevens after pouncing on Kenya's ill-discipline and errors to take the final 24-12 yesterday.

The most successful team in the tournament's history, Fiji matched England's record title run from 2002-06, won a sixth title in seven years, and 16th overall.

Captain Jerry Tuwai stressed the defense and Josua Vakurunabili finished on the outside for the opening try.

Tuwai was then denied in a try-saving tackle by Willy Ambaka, but Tuwai drew a foul from Kenya's Collins Injera, who was yellow-carded.

Moments later, Ambaka joined Injera in the sin-bin for a tackle off the ball, and Kenya was down to five players against seven. Inevitably, Fiji's Eroni Sau scored for 10-0 amid booing.

Kenya tried retaining the ball to wait for Injera to return but after the halftime hooter it gave away a penalty, and Amenoni Nasilasila combined with Vakurunabili to score a try, and convert it for 17-0.

Kenya started the second half with a try to Billy

RUGBY

# Fiji wins 4th straight Hong Kong 7s beating Kenya in final

Odhiambo but the comeback was snuffed out by consecutive knock-ons forced by Fiji.

Nasilasila sent in Vatemou Ravouvou for Fiji's fourth try and a 24-5 lead with less than two minutes to go, and the certainty of a 25th straight win at Hong Kong dating to 2014.

Kenya finished with an Oscar Ouma converted try after the hooter in its first Hong Kong final.

"Hong Kong is always special for us," Tuwai said. "We brought the No. 1 team here, not like the others, because we respect and honor the tradition Fiji has at the Hong Kong Sevens." Many other teams saved



Fiji's Jerry Tuwai (center) is tackled by South Africa's Selwyn David

their best players for the Commonwealth Games next weekend on the Gold Coast.

All four Hong Kong semi-finalists will feature on the Gold Coast, with Olympic champion Fiji favored to win

its first Commonwealth gold medal.

South Africa finished third after beating New Zealand 29-7 but its lead in the world series was cut to three over Fiji. **AP**

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opinion

**Rear Window**  
 Severo Portela



**THEY ARE ALL BIRDS OF A FEATHER**

It is no wonder that in such a small place like Macau - truly, any small place real or otherwise - rumor, gossip, bad information or good innuendo, move regularly strangely, and run even more strangely in times of worry, uncertainty, and change. But if the talk of the town is the local monoculture, the staple diet of the enclave of people outside THE CASINO (in capitals to highlight the MSAR's status as the number one to Las Vegas' distant second), rumor degenerates into wild guessing, blind maneuvering or breeds the lunatic stock of a conspiratorial state of mind: the theory of everything is possible.

The transitioning of the gaming concessions in 2020/2022 has everybody involved or party to the casino business - allow us to call them industry players - believing they can influence or rather forestall the future, thus positioning themselves to a second helping of the game.

Season this with some mundane episodes from the gaming world like the downfall of Steve Wynn or the resignation of casino-entrepreneur James Packer from his Crown Resorts board due to mental health issues, or first-tier junkets, officially known as gaming promoters, dreaming of upgrading to the rank of concessionaires, and the landscape is set for a game of anybody can and anything goes.

In times like this sometimes it takes just one wise word to reset the mood and calm the ongoing anxiety. The local deputy of the 13th National People's Congress and former legislator Dominic Sio said to China Business Journal that he thought the outlook is that gaming concessions will be shuffled after 2020, meaning that today's operators will not necessarily be operating in the future; whatever the criteria may be to be selected he underlines it will be a decision to be made by the SAR government. Sio believes he is able to postulate the type of shuffling to occur, and connects the momentum of re-application and the moment of re-licensing of concessions in which the government shall evaluate the performance of non-gambling elements.

Anyway, given the above, it is fair to presume that a conservative approach will be taken, with a limited tender. Alternatively, there may be a framework of full concessionaires (discarding the sub-concessionaires), give or take one or more operators, with the ones and only the ones who have answered the call for non-gaming or elements of diversification. Also, the role and profile of the gaming promoters are likely to be kept, despite the likelihood of an overall reassessment of the taxes levied on concessionaires and junkets.

Of course, nobody can ignore the importance of promoters in the casino credit chain, but to morph their role into something more diverse would challenge the conservative approach; an approach that seeks for integration of the model instead of one of fragmentation... given the special role promoters have in gaming operations. Although the Macau government may set out overhaul the regulatory framework under which promoters work the industry, the conservative approach we mention above would not radically alter their status. They will continue being birds of a feather. We cannot picture the Executive, its departments or bureaus talking relevant gaming and non-gaming policy matters with no one but the concessionaires.

We have to call a spade a spade and ask a simple question: could anyone picture the average junket claiming as does Galaxy's vice-chairman Francis Lui about the Boracay venture that the "exciting project also clearly demonstrates Galaxy's commitment to supporting China's Belt and Road Initiative"?

P.S. Our final notes recall the now solved intriguing mystery of Coloane's black substance and suggest a spring reading of Borges Book of Imaginary Beings: beings like the Amphisbaena, the two-headed snake... if chopped in half its two parts can reunite; Cerberus the three-headed dog that guards the gates of the underworld in the Greek Mythology; and the Fastitocalon, a massive whale that sailors mistake for an island.

**THE BUZZ** STEVE WYNN SUES LAWYER FOR DANCER WHO ACCUSED HIM OF LEERING

Disgraced casino mogul Steve Wynn has sued the attorney of a dancer who accused him of inappropriate behavior. Wynn's attorneys filed the defamation lawsuit Thursday against lawyer Lisa Bloom and her firm in U.S. court in Las Vegas. It seeks at least USD75,000 in damages.

Wynn resigned from Wynn Resorts in February amid sexual misconduct allegations that he has denied. Bloom's law firm said last month that she's representing a dancer in the

show "Showstoppers" at the Wynn Las Vegas casino-resort. Its news release accused Wynn of leering at female performers in "physically revealing" segments of the show.

Wynn's lawsuit calls the allegations false. His attorney accuses Bloom of intentionally ignoring that Wynn was "legally blind" when she alleges the leering occurred. Bloom says she'll fight Wynn in court and believes he sued "in an attempt to intimidate other women."

**Las Vegas Sands doubles Sheldon Adelson pay to USD26.1 million**

Anders Melin

**L**AS Vegas Sands Corp. more than doubled Chief Executive Officer Sheldon Adelson's pay to USD26.1 million after the casino operator rejiggered his compensation as part of a new contract.

Adelson, 84, received a \$12.5 million cash bonus and \$5 million in salary for 2017, the company said last week in a regulatory filing. He also got \$4.21 million in equity awards and taxable perks worth \$4.38 million, most of it for his personal security detail. His pay for 2016 totaled \$12.7 million.

The world's largest casino operator also paid more than \$1 billion in dividends on shares held by Adelson, his wife and trusts on behalf of other family members, according to data compiled by



Bloomberg. They collectively own more than half of the company's stock.

A recovery in the Macau gambling market helped the firm boost revenue 13 percent to \$12.9 billion last year, more than half of it coming from the Chinese enclave. Earnings grew 68 percent to \$2.81 billion.

Adelson signed a new employment agreement last year that lasts through 2021. It quintupled his salary to \$5 million and increased his bonus potential by 50 percent to \$12.5 million. He's the world's 20th-richest person with a \$36.3 billion fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. **Bloomberg**

**Facebook scandal a 'game changer' in data privacy regulation**

Stephanie Bodoni

**R**EVELATIONS that data belonging to as many as 87 million Facebook Inc. users and their friends may have been misused became a game changer in the world of data protection as regulators are looking to raise awareness about how to protect information.

Elizabeth Denham, the U.K. privacy regulator leading the European investigations into how user data ended up in the hands of consulting firm Cambridge Analytica, will say in a speech today that the technology industry and regulators must improve the public's trust and confidence in how their private information is handled.

"The dramatic revelations of the last few weeks can be seen as a game changer in data protection," Denham, the U.K. Information Commissioner, will say at her agency's annual conference for data-protection practitioners. "Suddenly, everyone is paying attention." Denham's office is combing



through evidence it gathered at the offices of Cambridge Analytica during searches last month following reports that the political consulting firm had obtained swathes of data from a researcher who transferred the data without Facebook's permission. Denham has said that Facebook has been cooperating with her probe, though it's too soon to say whether the social network's planned changes will be enough.

The ICO has been reviewing the use of data analytics for political purposes since May 2017 and is now investigating 30 organizations, including Facebook, Denham said earlier this month.

"Our ongoing investigation into the use of personal data analytics for political purpo-

ses by campaigns, parties, social media companies and others will be measured, thorough and independent," she will say in her prepared remarks. "Only when we reach our conclusions based on the evidence will we decide if enforcement action is warranted."

The remarks come ahead of a meeting of the EU's 28 data watchdogs in Brussels to discuss the issue and a call between Facebook Chief Operating Officer Sheryl Sandberg and the bloc's Justice Commissioner Vera Jourova.

Denham's speech comes ahead of a public awareness campaign, called Your Data Matters, which also seeks to restore people's trust in how data is treated.

"The proper use of personal data can achieve remarkable things," said Denham. "Now, more than ever, the role of data protection practitioner is not just as a guardian of privacy but as an ambassador for the appropriate use of personal data in line with the law." **Bloomberg**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	60-80 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**ISRAEL** Police say a Palestinian who tried to stab an Israeli in the West Bank has been shot. Police said the attacker was armed with a long screwdriver and was trying to stab the Israeli when another civilian drew a gun and shot the Palestinian.

**LIBYA** Authorities have found the remains of three children abducted for ransom more than two years ago near the capital, in a case that highlighted the security deterioration in the country since the 2011 uprising.



**HUNGARY** Long lines of Hungarian voters stretched for blocks yesterday outside polling stations in Budapest, with some waiting for two to three hours to cast their ballots as Prime Minister Viktor Orban sought a fourth term.

**ITALY**'s populist 5-Star Movement is facing criticism after organizers of a conference on its future refused access to a newspaper reporter deemed critical of the party.



**CANADA** A hockey arena became the epicenter of grief for a small Canadian town yesterday, as friends and relatives gathered to mourn 15 people killed after a semi-trailer slammed into a bus carrying a youth hockey team in western Canada.

**MEXICO** Authorities in the northern Mexican state of Chihuahua say that police who were providing security for the governor have been attacked. Gov. Javier Corral was not harmed.