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## Boracay for farmers, not casinos

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### WORLD BRIEFS

**INDONESIA's** navy has seized a fishing boat carrying 20 crewmembers, including 14 Indonesians believed to be trafficking victims who were forced to work for years without pay, officials said yesterday.



**CAMBODIA's** National Election Committee warned yesterday that anyone urging voters to boycott the upcoming general election or otherwise interfere in the polls could face criminal charges and be fined.  
More on p12

**INDIA** At least 27 children were killed yesterday when their school bus skidded off a mountain road into a gorge in the foothills of the Himalayas, officials said.

**ISRAEL-SYRIA** Syria has blamed Israel for a missile attack on a central air base yesterday that reportedly killed 14 people, including three Iranians, saying that it was only made possible because of the "unlimited support of the American administration." More on p14

More on backpage



AP PHOTO

## Property tycoons bet that gambling will come to Hainan

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## Ching Ming arrivals up 5.6 percent

Visitor arrivals to Macau during the three-day Ching Ming Festival holidays numbered over 1.02 million, according to data released in a statement yesterday from the Government Information Service. According to the data, just 424,800 of these arrivals were tourists, accounting for 41.5 percent of the total and marking an increase of 5.58 percent year-on-year. Three-quarters of arrivals in Macau during the Ching Ming Festival came via the Border Gate, while about 60,000 arrived via the Lotus Bridge and 84,000 via the Outer Harbor Ferry Terminal. Some 52,000 came via the Taipa Temporary Ferry Terminal and 46,000 arrived via Macau International Airport.

## Property price index rises 2 percent

Information from the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) indicated that the overall residential property price index for period from December 2017 to February 2018 decreased by 2 percent to 252.0 over the previous three-month period ending January 2018. The indexes for the Macau Peninsula (252.0) and Taipa and Coloane (251.9) dropped by 2.3 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively. Meanwhile, the index for existing residential units (265.8) decreased by 1.8 percent, with the indexes for the Macau Peninsula (260.5) and Taipa and Coloane (290.4) falling by 2 percent and 0.9 percent, respectively. Compared to the same three-month period last year, the overall residential property price index grew 9.4 percent, while that of existing residential units rose 8.4 percent.

## USJ to hold Open Day this Saturday

The University of Saint Joseph will hold its Open Day on Saturday at its Ilha Verde Campus to advertise its programs, in addition to an art exhibition by students of the Faculty of Creative Industries. The event will also feature, an international student booth with games and international cultural activities, an English corner and a scholarship information booth, according to a statement by the university. The event will run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m.

# Leong highlights Macau's role in Greater Bay Area plan

**T**HE Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, said yesterday that the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area will create further opportunities for Macau to advance ties with regional partners, integrate itself into the national development, and achieve long-term stability and prosperity.

Leong was speaking during the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area session at the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018 in Hainan Province. Others attending the session included the Chief Executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, Carrie Lam, and the Governor of Guangdong



Province, Ma Xingrui.

In his speech, Leong pointed out that Macau's contribution to

the Greater Bay Area will adhere to the principle of "serving the country's needs, delivering Ma-

cau's strengths."

The Secretary said Macau brings advantages to the Greater Bay Area development strategy, such as "Macau's strong network of overseas Chinese, particularly in terms of their links with either the mainland, Portuguese-speaking countries, European countries other than Portugal, or member states of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations."

The Secretary stressed that the Macau government will work with other cities in the Greater Bay Area in order to improve facility connectivity and efficiency regarding customs clearance, and to enhance overall social well-being.

## CRIME

# Man accused of trying to rape house party host

Renato Marques

**A** 36-year-old man is being accused of sexually assaulting against a woman, aged 25, after a house party.

The incident occurred at around 4 a.m. on Sunday after a house party held by the victim, the Judiciary Police (PJ) spokesperson announced at a press conference yesterday.

The accused, a non-resident worker from the Philippines, had been invited to attend the party, which started at around 10 p.m. on Saturday in the apartment where the woman, also a non-resident worker from the Philippines, currently resides. A total of six people were present, most of them also residents of the same housing unit.

The group admitted that they consumed several alcoholic drinks at the gathering and were all intoxicated when the party finished in the early hours on Sunday.

The suspect asked to

stay overnight in the host's apartment. She acquiesced and went to bed herself in a room where the victim, her cousin, and her cousin's boyfriend were also sleeping.

During this time, the man allegedly climbed to the upper deck of the bunk bed where the victim was sleeping and attempted to perform sex acts on her. The case was discovered and reported initially by the victim's cousin, who was sleeping on the lower bunk and was awoken by cries from the victim, at which point they called the police.

In a separate case, the PJ received two similar reports from two local victims, both women, who had been informed by their banking institution of suspicious online transactions. Both had been targeted with four such transactions for products or services paid for in British pounds. The first woman's transactions totaled MOP6,404 and the se-

cond woman's came to MOP8,830.

Both informed their bank that they had not authorized any of those transactions and filed complaints with the PJ for suspected stolen credit card data.

In another case of swindling, a man from India claimed to have

been scammed by another Indian in a scheme to find a job in Macau.

The victim said that in January this year he found an advertisement for Macau jobs in a local Indian newspaper. He replied to the ad and came into contact with the suspect.

The suspect then requested that the man pay a fee equivalent to MOP10,000 in order to travel to Macau to start the job, which he accepted.

On February 11 the two men traveled together to

Macau. Upon their arrival, the suspect asked for more money totaling MOP45,000.

After the victim paid the amount, he lost contact with the suspect and has been searching for him ever since.

On April 4, the victim finally located the suspect in Macau and attempted to take the money back so he could return home.

The suspect refused to return the money, after which the victim filed a case against him with the PJ.

## Smugglers attack Customs officers following detention attempts

**S**IX smugglers were detained on Sunday after trying to resist orders given by the Macao Customs Service (Customs).

The incident took place at midnight last Sunday. The mainland Chinese marine police reported to Macau Customs that a motorboat suspected of being engaged in illegal activities was quickly approaching the sea in front of the Macau Airport's runway.

Customs then dispatched officers to seize the boat. When officers arrived at the scene, they showed their identification and requested the boat stop its movement for inspection.

The boat's drivers ignored the request and tried to escape by accelerating towards the Customs boat, which

damaged the government vessel. One smuggler attacked the Customs officers with a bamboo pole but failed to injure them.

Two of the smugglers on board then attempted to jump off the boat to escape, but were later detained together with the four people who remained on the boat.

In total, five men and one woman have been arrested, all aged between 23 and 45 years old. The woman and four men are from mainland China, while the sixth individual is a man from Macau.

The two boat operators, along with the Macau resident, have already been transferred to the prosecution authorities. The other three, who are illegal immigrants, have been transferred to the Public Security Police Force.

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# China property tycoons bet that gambling will come to Hainan

**I**N China's southernmost province of Hainan, inside a glittering skyscraper shaped like a sail, Zeng Xianyun has been waiting for Xi Jinping, in more ways than one.

This week, the Chinese president will visit the island and hotel magnates like Zeng hope the leader will come bearing gifts: new tax concessions to attract more tourists to this tropical destination nestled along the South China Sea near the Vietnam border. Local entrepreneurs and global firms like MGM Resorts International have spent big on sea-side developments here.

Many of these investors are making a wager of their own: Someday in the future, Hainan could be teeming with Chinese gamblers, who will give an adrenaline shot to a tourism-dependent economy that hasn't fully lived up to expectations. Right now, gaming remains banned across mainland China and the island only attracts a fraction of the country's tourism outlay.

Xi will speak at the island's Boao Forum and mark the 40th anniversary of China's economic opening. While Hainan's elite aren't expecting him to immediately announce any wholesale legalization of gambling, they are hopeful the policies he unveils will help draw more tourists. And in doing so set off a policy roadmap that eventually ends with regulated casinos.

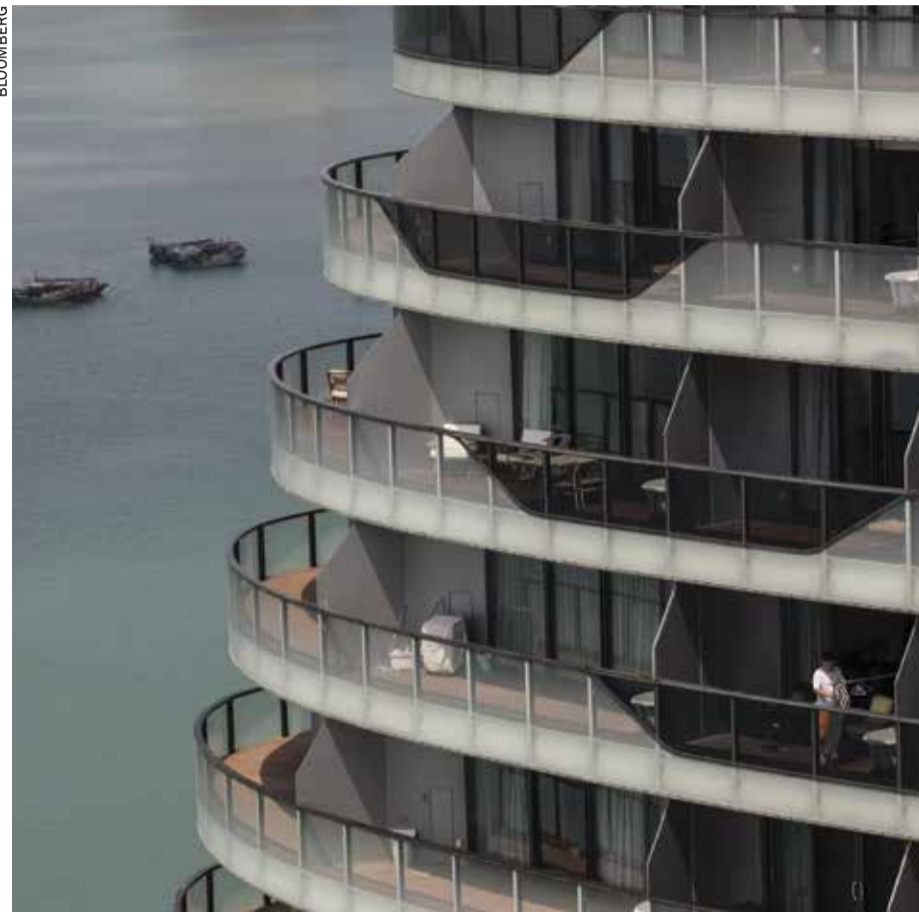
Any move to ramp up tourism in Hainan or open it up to gambling would reverberate within the global travel industry. Chinese jetsetters take about 130 million trips overseas each year, the government estimates, spending lavishly from Las Vegas to Bali and Paris.

Outside the mainland, in Macau, where casinos are permitted, the bulk of revenue still goes to foreign operators like Las Vegas Sands and MGM. A more nationalist angle on the question of gambling and tourism is now finding its moment, dovetailing with Xi's emphasis on a resurgent China taking its place on the world stage.

The question, according to Zeng, is not why the house always wins, but why that house should be foreign. He hopes China can legalize the gaming industry and make Hainan the first mainland province with casinos to reduce the capital outflows.

"We need to take the issue seriously instead of avoiding it," said Zeng, who is chairman of Phoenix Island, an artificial archipelago off Hainan's southeastern shore that has a cruise ship terminal, luxury hotels and apartments. "We can't let this big cake be eaten all by foreign capital."

Zeng's development was built with a total investment of 20 billion yuan (USD3.2 billion), of which he put up 45 percent and another 45 percent came from the state-owned infrastructure firm China Communications Construction Co. The property's



BLOOMBERG



Zeng Xianyun



Zhang Baoquan

skyline is dominated by glinting hotels with steel facades, some of which house luxury condominiums with bathtubs on the balconies. Zeng said he could open a casino in under 30 days if given the permission.

The Boao Forum comes at a time when Washington and Beijing are engaged in trade war brinkmanship over tariffs. China has said the Hainan conference will demonstrate the country's future prospects for economic

## ■ A more nationalist angle on the question of gambling and tourism is now finding its moment

growth.

Meanwhile, the drumbeat for casino development in Hainan has grown in recent months. Earlier this year, Bloomberg citing people familiar with the matter reported that government agencies under a party reform group headed by Xi are considering allowing online gaming and sports betting in Hainan, a policy shift that could open the door to physical casinos in the long run.

A balmy climate and sandy beaches are why Hainan, roughly the size of Switzerland, is often dubbed China's Hawaii. Yet, it has been grappling with

its dashed economic potential for almost a decade. It was eight years ago that Beijing designated the island China's "test case" in developing an "internationally competitive tourist destination."

At the time, the government said Hainan could explore lotteries related to international sporting events. The news drove speculation that the island could eventually open up to the gambling industry. Then came an investment flurry that pushed up property prices.

The bubble burst by 2012, when it became clear that specific policy concessions for Hainan weren't imminent, whether legalized gaming or exemption from China's heavy import duties. Property prices have tumbled from their peak.

Eight years on, new highways, high-speed railways and hotel chains are everywhere in Hainan, but its success as an international hotspot is muddled at best. The island drew about 55 million tourists last year, only about 1 percent of the 5 billion trips made domestically in China. Its visitor numbers are much lower than Asian destinations like Bali or Phuket.

"Hainan has extremely high hopes for President Xi's visit and hope to receive some supportive policies," said Liu Feng, a researcher of Hainan Normal University Maritime Silk Road Research Institute. "Designating the island as a tax-free zone, or even just increasing the number of duty-free shopping locations, will inject vitality into Hainan's tourism development."

Xi's visit is timed for the province's 30th anniversary. Building it up would allow China to keep more of its tourists at home. This would hurt not just Macau but other places like Vietnam and Australia that have sunk billions into attracting Chinese gamblers. Yet, for now, some worry that Chinese regulations make it hard for tourism to flourish in Hainan.

Higher-end cultural offerings are stymied by a censorship regime suspicious of foreign film and art, as well as onerous duties on imports. Property developer Zhang Baoquan, who's spent more than 10 billion yuan building a complex combining hotels, convention space and a shopping mall in Hainan, dreams of hosting art fairs and film festivals if the province had some kind of a free-trade zone.

“Since you can't stop Chinese people from gambling it is a better solution to make sure that foreign or private capital do not overly profit from it.”

PEI GUANGYI  
SCHOLAR

Zhang believes policy concessions such as those on a free-trade zone may be on the horizon with Xi's visit. "The tax support will be the most helpful policies for Hainan," he said. "This year will be a turning point for this place."

Meanwhile, MGM through a joint venture with China's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse has made investments in Hainan and hopes to open two more hotels there. The MGM Grand Sanya in Hainan has about 675 rooms, and is one of the best performing hotels in the southern Sanya area, said William Scott, general manager of MGM's joint venture with Diaoyutai.

The business has a letter of intent for a Bellagio hotel and is pursuing another hotel in Sanya. The hope is for more government support in areas like air traffic infrastructure to boost tourism, Scott said.

Hainan's government has commissioned a group of eight scholars to study how to develop gambling tourism there -and how to legalize gambling in China. One member of the group, Pei Guangyi, associate professor at the School of Economics and Management at Hainan Normal University, published a paper in March arguing China should legalize gaming to reduce capital outflows through foreign casinos and introduce a body of regulations.

"Since you can't stop Chinese people from gambling it is a better solution to make sure that foreign or private capital do not overly profit from it," he said. **MDT/Bloomberg**

GAMING

# Boracay casino in question after Duterte comments

**PHILIPPINE** President Rodrigo Duterte said yesterday that he will establish Boracay as a land reform area once its six-month rehabilitation period concludes, casting doubt over what will happen to gaming licenses previously granted for the tourist island.

Speaking prior to his flight to China, where he will attend the Boao Forum, Duterte said that the land had been designated as an “agricultural area” and would be given to farmers - or as he put it - “to the Filipino first.”

The president was referring to the 2008 decision of the Supreme Court, which classified the island as both forest and agricultural land that belongs to the government. The decision means that the island cannot be privatized.

According to local media, Duterte rejected a license that was last month awarded to partners Galaxy Entertainment Group and Philippine-based AB Leisure Exponent Inc. to develop a USD500-



Foreign tourists sunbathe at a beach on Boracay island

million integrated casino-resort. The president claimed to be unaware of such a concession and said, according to local media, that it would not benefit the Philippine people.

“There are no plans for a casino. Let’s stop it because it’s too much. There’s a casino here, casino there,” he said according to several sources. “Why would I give you a casino there? What will the Filipinos get out of it?”

Late last month, Galaxy Entertainment Group confirmed that its wholly-owned subsidiary been granted a provisional gaming license

by the Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR). Just several months earlier, Galaxy’s vice chairman Francis Lui reportedly met with the Philippine president to discuss gaming opportunities.

But the meeting aside, Duterte has taken a resolute stance on gambling activities in the archipelago nation since his 2016 election victory. Within his first six months in office, the former Davao City mayor ordered the closure of all online gaming activities.

In February 2018, he imposed a moratorium on

new casinos in the Philippines – which only applied to would-be developers who had not yet submitted their application for a license - and directed PAGCOR to unload its government-owned casinos and become an industry regulator only.

Yesterday’s announcement on Boracay comes just a few days after Duterte approved the closure of the tourist destination for up to six months after saying the waters off its famed white-sand beaches had become a “cesspool” due to overcrowding and development.

More than 2 million tourists visited Boracay last year, generating about 56 billion pesos (USD1 billion) in revenue. But the influx of tourists, neglected infrastructure and growth of resort establishments have threatened to turn Boracay into a “dead island” in less than a decade, according to a Philippine government study.

The shutdown will take effect from April 26. **DB**

COURTS

# Dore investor entitled to receive HKD6 million

**THE** Court of First Instance (TJB) ruled that a Dore Entertainment Group investor is entitled to receive HKD6 million plus interest.

The investor is one of many who were unable to withdraw their investments from the junket group following a 2015 embezzlement scandal. Dore Entertainment operated several VIP rooms in the territory, most of them at Wynn Macau.

Four plaintiffs alleged that they “borrowed” money or gambling chips from the Dore cashier at Wynn Macau’s premises. The court has now ruled that in three of the cases, it was not proven that the plaintiffs “borrowed money” from Dore. But in one of the cases, the gambling chips were exchanged by a coupon with a Dore stamp.

“In this case there are no doubts that the Dore staffer was acting in the name of the company, hence Dore is responsible for the actions of staff member,” the TJB ruled.

The ruling acquits Wynn Macau from taking responsibility for the debt, stating that the “Dore’s gambling promotion activity was not subject to Wynn.” However, the TJB stated that Wynn should “oversee the activities of the gambling promoter” since Dore was operating within Wynn’s facilities.

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## SANDS CHINA COMMITS TO LOCAL SMES

# Firm sees significant increase in revenue

**S**ANDS China's commitment to supporting local Small and Medium Enterprises has significantly benefited a number of local enterprises as the company continues to foster relationships with local firms in response to the call of the government.

The pioneering long-term initiative of the gaming operator was the first program of its kind in Macau, benefiting hundreds of its partner enterprises. It has facilitated many local firms in growing their revenues.

Chao Pak Kei – a three-generation local business – has been supplying disposable products for Sands China since 2003 – successfully creating a new source of revenue.

At the beginning of operations, the company's products only included paper bags and groceries. It then expanded to paper products including paper cups and plastic disposable forks.

Current general manager, Stephen Chow, who inherited the business in 1999 began to incorporate more disposable products such as paper cups, tableware and plastic bags into its portfolio, continuously increasing product choices and improving their quality.

“At the moment, we sell over 600 products and are the exclusive agent for six brands,” said Stephen.

The expansion has allowed the company to secure partnerships with the city's gaming enterprises – including

Sands China where it initially managed monthly orders of over MOP100,000.

With Sands China boosting its efforts and initiatives to support local SMEs, Chao Pak Kei managed to significantly increase its sales revenue with Sands China, obtaining up to nearly 10 times its initial business with the gaming operators.

The number of its employees has increased from 10 to 18, with delivery vans increasing to seven.

This month, Chao Pak Kei will be moving to its new warehouse prompted by a growing demand in products and services.

Sands China has expressed its commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate responsibility, valuing local SMEs and viewing them as its strategic partners.

The commitment is part of Sands China's supplier relationship management strategy, which guides the company's long-standing efforts to support local suppliers.

In 2017, Chao Pak Kei received a Sands Supplier Excellence Award in the category of small and medium-sized enterprise due to its excellent product offerings and customer service.

The Sands Supplier Excellence Award is a global initiative of Sands China's parent company, Las Vegas Sands Corp to recognize outstanding cooperation and service by its suppliers.

According to Stephen, a

long history should not mean a conservative approach to business, and companies should constantly innovate and incorporate new products, adding the need to enhance company competitiveness in order to seize opportunities and grow over the long term.

The general manager noted that the supplier awards encourage local SMEs to continue to exert effort in providing high-standard products and services to their clients.

**■ Sands China has expressed its commitment to supporting local enterprises as part of the company's corporate responsibility, valuing local SMEs**

“These initiatives act as an acknowledgement and encouragement to local SMEs. At least we know that we are on the right track and it's a good way for SMEs to promote themselves to other enterprises as it enhances a firm's reputation,” said Stephen.

The local firm also partners with other gaming operators in the city, so Stephen hopes that the awards would encour-

age large firms in the region to source supplies from his 60-year old company.

Currently, Chao Pak Kei delivers goods to Sands China's properties on a day-to-day basis, excluding Sundays, expressing its confidence in providing a quality service to the gaming operator.

“Our main advantage is our local service,” said Stephen, recalling that Sands China used to acquire similar items from companies in Hong Kong.

“We can do logistics, we have our own warehouse and we just keep expanding our warehouse. That's one of the most important factors to explain how we have been able to deal with Sands China for so long,” he added.

Commending the flexibility and service of Sands China's procurement team, the general manager lauded the team for assisting them in improving their products and services by offering feedback.

“The procurement team in Sands China is the most efficient and organized in Macau,” praised Stephen.

Currently, the local firm distributes high-end disposable products and is continually working with other brands from abroad to ensure that they provide quality products for local needs.

Chao Pak Kei has Sands China as its largest client – supplying over 300 different items to the gaming operator – and hopes to continually extend their business relationships.

The local firm is also working on entering the digital marketplace where it will showcase products online for clients to have easier access to the company.

“In recent years, we have seen that the demand in the market is changing. They are looking for some more high-end products; that's why we have distributorships from some companies in Europe and US well,” Stephen explained.

Sands China has witnessed the local firm's ability to keep up with the times with high levels of adaptability, responding promptly to the needs of the gaming operator.

Sands China sees it as its responsibility to assist the development of local SME suppliers. As the property continues to expand, it aims to bring local firms along with its growth.

Hundreds of SMEs have greatly benefitted from the series of programs that Sands China has launched, including its initiatives to hold roadshows in the back-of-house areas of its properties.

These roadshows offer more business opportunities to local SMEs, micro-enterprises, young entrepreneurs, and “Made-in-Macao” enterprises, and are part of Sands China's commitment to supporting local procurement and SME growth.

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Sands China Ltd.

## Lawmaker calls for traffic accident fund

Lawmaker Lei Chan U has suggested that the government establish a fund to provide financial assistance to victims of traffic accidents. In a written inquiry to the government, Lei noted that the occurrence of traffic accidents in Macau is high, and that current compensation procedures related to accidents are complex and time-consuming. Additionally, when a case involves a lawsuit, the families of the victims struggle economically and face other challenges. Lei asked if the government has evaluated the effects of these issues and requested that the government explain its findings.

## Third fatal traffic accident recorded

Last Sunday, a traffic accident at the Av. dos Jardins do Oceano resulted in the death of a male Macau resident in his 40s. He was riding a motorbike which collided with a seven-seater car driven by a local resident in his 20s. The victim's death was confirmed in the hospital. The police is still investigating the cause of the accident. This case marks the third fatal traffic occurrence this year.

# New Macau urges CCAC to investigate land grant

Lynzy Valles

**T**HE New Macau Association (ANM) submitted a letter to the Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) yesterday, urging the bureau to investigate the unfinished project at 15 and 17 Rua dos Pescadores.

The pro-democracy group is criticizing a dispatch of the Secretariat for Transport and Public Works for approving the resumption of the construction. They raised several concerns including the amendment of the land-granting agreement and the calculation of premiums.

ANM believes that corruption was involved in the original grant process and that the present amendment has failed to comply with the original planning approvals.

Speaking to the press, Sulu Sou stressed that the premium of the plot is waived, with the government explaining that a payment was already made in 1996, and the total floor area has diminished compared to that which was initially granted in 1996.

"I think ANM and the public



Sulu Sou speaks to the press after handing the complaint to the CCAC

cannot accept these explanations because the price has increased a lot during these 18 years, so we urge the CCAC to check this point," Sou said.

The group recalled that the contractor had even promised to construct basic community facilities nearby.

Another concern that the association wanted to pursue was the expired and undeveloped nature of the plot and the avoidance of the Law of Urban Planning.

The statement pointed out that the plot has experienced numerous amendments regarding the

granting agreement, with the term of usage specified during each amendment. However, the contractor has reportedly failed to perform its duties in each instance.

"The company did not fulfill its promise on the document to develop this land. According to the land law, it is a reason for government to take the land back," Sou said.

ANM questions whether the administration has given up its power to reclaim land plots whose contractor has repeatedly failed to comply with its duties for

the term usage under the Land Law.

Although Sou added that ANM is yet to conclude that the matter is a consequence of actions by the former Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Ao Man Long, he expressed the belief that the trial has raised public criticism of the government's mismanagement.

"According to the urban planning law, it has a mechanism to have public consultation about the developing project and should also take to the urban planning committee to discuss, but this project skipped this mechanism and the procedure," Sou argued.

"We think the CCAC has the responsibility to investigate more of the details of what happened during these 18 years. I think the public is also concerned about the land problem in Macau. This project is also related to the Ao Man Long case and it raises public concern," he added.

"ANM believes that, however, five years after the amendment of the Land Law, and over two years after the release of the CCAC report, the present administration still has [made] no progress in reforming the land management system," the association said in a statement.

"In the long run, the shadow cast is still long over the land of the MSAR," the association concluded.

AD



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# Researcher resorts to crowdfunding after being refused by gov't entities

A young local researcher has admitted that he had to resort to crowdfunding after being refused by two government entities when requesting funds for his research.

As the Times reported earlier, Leong Chi Man, a masters student at Taiwan National University, along with two other researchers, wrote the study "Lost in the city: discovery of the rare ant genus *Leptanilla* (Hymenoptera: Formicidae) in Macau with description of *Leptanilla macauensis*." The name *Leptanilla macauensis* has been approved by the International Commission on Zoological Nomenclature.

Leong was in Macau recently and had tried to approach two government entities – which he refused to name – to request funding. Speaking to the Times, Leong said that he was turned

down, as he did not meet the entities' requirements.

"I have requested funds from the government but they replied saying that they do not have the funds to support my project because I did not pass their requirements," he said.

"Maybe they cannot support independent researchers or they just do not want to support me because they are cooperating with mainland researchers," said Leong.

Since the young researcher is keen on continuing his research with insects, particularly ants, Leong looked to acquiring financial assistance through Experiment – a crowdfunding platform for scientific research.

"Many people want to support my project because they know that the government will not support my project, even though I will contribute to their ter-



Leong Chi Man

ritory," said Leong.

According to him, 95 percent of the donors are local residents.

The crowdfunding, which

will end in ten days, has acquired USD6,538 – significantly more than its original target of USD3,800.

"I will keep going and publish

many discoveries to pursue the government to support my research this time," the researcher said.

"I don't want to give up because nobody cares about insects in Macau, because they don't know any endemic species," he added.

Meanwhile, Leong is still calling on the government to enable him to conduct his research by providing financial assistance.

He stressed that a research grant would significantly assist him in advancing his biological research, adding that he does not want to conduct another crowdfunding venture in the future. "I don't want to stop because we have many extraordinary results waiting for us. I want to tell the citizens that we have [endemic species] in Macau," he said. **LV**

# Study shows sports facilities growth not in line with population increase



A study commissioned by the Sports Bureau (ID) to the University of Macau last year concluded that sports facilities in the region have been growing at a slower rate than the population, which has led to extra pressure on existing sports facilities.

The study's findings were presented by the ID at a press conference, where it was also noted that the study's purpose was to survey local sports facilities to determine their current status so as to inform the creation of clear goals for

future development.

The "Macau Sports Facilities Survey 2017" surveyed in loco the facilities around Macau in addition to collecting data regarding their occupation rate and requests for the use of their facilities.

According to the survey results, between 2011 and 2017, local sports facilities grew to a total of 92,714,39 square meters, a growth of 11.9 percent. During this same period, the population in the territory registered a growth of 16.8 percent, meaning

that the sports facilities' area per-capita reduced by 0.06 square meter per person. The study additionally presents a number of suggestions to improve the status quo, such as the inclusion of sports infrastructure in the planning of new developments, as well as more general considerations in urban renewal and the rebuilding of several sports facilities within the new community areas. At the press conference, the President of the ID, Pun Weng Kun, added that the

Bureau has always sought to foster sporting conditions for the population and athletes, by providing adequate sports facilities and venues in order to meet the need for sports development, sports competitions, and sports for all. In addition, the president noted that the ID is "actively monitoring the construction of the "Training Center for Competition Athletes" as well as the rebuilding of the Mong-Ha Sports Pavilion, adding that they will also strive to take up many of the study's suggestions.

All of the data and recommendations have been forwarded by the ID to other relevant urban planning departments. **RM**

## corporate bits

### MGM DONATES MOP300,000 TO HOLY HOUSE OF MERCY'S WELFARE SHOP



MGM donated MOP300,000 to the Macau Holy House of Mercy's Welfare Shop project, financing the distribution of food hampers to more than 360 local disadvantaged households. According to a statement issued yesterday by the gaming operator, MGM has contributed a total of MOP1.7 million to the project over the past six years, benefi-

ting nearly 2,000 households.

On Saturday, MGM's senior executives led a volunteer team on a visit to the Welfare Shop, where they were warmly received by António José de Freitas, President of the Board of Trustees of Macau Holy House of Mercy.

Grant Bowie, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Di-

rector of MGM China Holdings Limited, presented the donation check to António Freitas as well as Ng Siu Lai, President of Board of Directors of General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, and Leong Iok Wa, President of Board of Supervisors of Macau Federation of Trade Unions.

More than 30 Golden Lion volunteers took part in packing daily necessities, such as rice, noodles, canned food, oatmeal and cooking oil, into MGM's tailor-made eco-friendly hampers. These hampers were distributed to disadvantaged households listed by the Macau Federation of Trade Unions, General Union of Neighborhood Associations of Macau, Associação dos Familiares Encarregados dos Deficientes Mentais de Macau and the Holy House of Mercy.

### HONG KONG'S FIRST ADULT-THEMED CARNIVAL 18+CENTRAL CONCLUDED



Hong Kong's first adult-themed carnival, 18+ Central, took place between last Thursday and Sunday. According to the organizers, the event attracted 13,000 visitors, "exceeding the number of first Asia Entertainment Expo (AEE) held by the organizer in Macau."

The attendance figures

released indicate that the majority of the 18+ Central visitors were young couples and groups of friends, over 70 percent of which were female aged between 25 and 35. Apart from local visitors, the event also drew overseas tourists, which made up 30 percent of the total audience.

A press release issued yesterday notes that one of the performing groups, Badboys Australia, also performed at the AEE event in Macau. They stated that "the female crowd in Hong Kong [is] much more passionate than those in Macau, even comparable with those in Australia."

Other attractions included bondage master Shin Nawakiri from Taiwan and the "Naked Painter" Pricasso.

Regine Lau, project manager of 18+ Central, stated that most of the visitors, especially females, apparently found the show entertaining and enjoyable. This reinforces the assumption that Hong Kong lacks large-scale adult entertainment targeting female audiences, Lau added. The organizers intend to hold the event again next year.

AD



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Tourism Industry Council of Macao

# Over 30,000 visitors attend 1st edition of lusophone market

THE first edition of the “Lusophone Highlight” market has concluded after six days of promotion, tasting and sales of products from Portuguese-speaking countries. The initiative of the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute (IPIM) and the Macao Association for Promoting Community Economic Development has attracted over 30,000 visitors to the market located in the Inner Harbor area (Rua de Cinco de Outubro) where several exhibitors promoted a number of products, mostly related to food and beverages.



According to a statement from IPIM, the participating companies praised the initiative and saw a sales increase of 10 to 20 percent.

A total of 22 Macao companies responsible for the import, distribution and sale of Portuguese products were present at the event, which took place over the Easter holidays. Examples of products included biscuits, candies, jams, fruit juices, gelatins, milk-based drinks, wine, beer and handcrafted items.

Quoted by IPIM, Su, an exhibitor involved in the wholesale of canned fish products from Portugal, said that his participation in the market saw a sales increase of over 20 percent, well above his expectations.

Other exhibitors stated that they expected this market to expand and include new purchase channels.

# ‘Red songs’ group accused of disturbing community life

A group of middle-aged local residents singing “red songs” inside Iao Hon Garden has been accused of disturbing life within the community, according to a report by MASTV.

A person living in the neighborhood complained that “they sing for two hours in a row. How do they want people to sleep? If someone shouts in your house for even half an hour, would it be ok?” The same resident also accused the group of playing their music even louder when they were told to lower the volume.

“Indeed, you are free to sing, but do it without disturbing other people,” the resident stated, adding “they have not been singing; they are shouting.”

Another resident complained that “once they become eager, they sing more agitatedly. [They sing a verse that says] ‘long live Chairman Mao’, excitedly. We can’t throw things, otherwise, if I could, I would throw things to their death.”

The leader of the sin-

ging group explained that they started singing in the garden last May, and that the singing occurs daily from 9 a.m. and lasts for approximately one and a half hours.

Until now, the group has welcomed approximately 150 members, all of them Macao residents aged above 60 years old.

“Some people complained that we sing too loud. We then tried to sing louder. Because our Chinese hearts are really enthusiastic, we sing red songs, [we sing] long live Chairman Mao.”

“Xinhua News Agency came to support us, even applauded. If anyone is against us, then they

all need to go to Xinhua News Agency and ask for a plague to fall upon themselves,” said the group leader, asking “what crime is there for singing red songs?”

The leader also revealed that she had sung in many public places in mainland China, and that she was never blamed for anything.

Last week, two women were shot by someone using an air soft gun at the Iao Hon Market Garden. The two victims are aged 58 and 66 years old and experienced mild injuries. They were among the red song singers in the garden when the shooting happened. A similar case has been reported earlier. **JZ**

## WONG: SINGING IN GARDENS NOT ILLEGAL

**SECRETARY FOR** Security Wong Sio Chak declared that singing in public gardens is not considered illegal assembly. Wong said that singing and dancing activities are a form of exercise and encouraged the public to

show greater tolerance and understanding. He said that noise pollution falls under the jurisdiction of the Environment Protection Bureau (DSPA) and that the Public Security Police Force will assist DSPA in such matters.



# Alibaba-backed China car startup to raise USD2.7b this year

**X**IAOPENG Motors, which counts Alibaba Group Holding Ltd. and Foxconn Technology Group among its investors, plans to raise 17 billion yuan (USD2.7 billion) in funds this year as the Chinese car startup seeks to take on rivals in the world's biggest market for electric vehicles.

The company plans to start pre-sales of its first model, the G3 crossover, by the end of this month, founder He Xiaopeng, said in an interview at the Boao Forum in China. He didn't elaborate on the fundraising plans.

Xiaopeng is among startups striving to become China's Tesla Inc. and reshape the auto industry as the Asian country promotes new-energy vehicles in an effort to clean up the environment and cut its reliance on oil imports. Already the biggest EV market, China accounted for more than half of wor-



He Xiaopeng

ldwide sales last year. Sales of all vehicles grew at a monthly clip of more than 20 percent in 2016 and 2017, according to data from the China Passenger Car Association.

Alibaba and Foxconn led a round of fundraising by Xiaopeng, investing 2.2 billion yuan, the carmaker said in January. That put the total investment as of end-January at

5 billion yuan, according to the company.

The investment marked Alibaba's latest move in the automotive industry, as the Internet giant bets connected cars will generate new revenue. The Hangzhou-based group has developed its own car operating system.

Xiaopeng's He said the company will collaborate with

Alibaba in maps and cloud products in a non-exclusive alliance, adding the company's focus is on ensuring quality of production ramp-up.

Xiaopeng supports China's plan to allow foreign automakers greater ownership in joint ventures as this will spur real competition and ensure the quality of cars made in China, He said. **Bloomberg**

# Gulfstream business jet lead in China at risk in trade spat

Thomas Black,  
Frederic Tomesco

**G**ULFSTREAM, the maker of the G650 business jet, is at risk of losing its dominance in China because of a worsening trade spat with the U.S.

China's proposed 25 percent tariff on U.S.-made aircraft would leave Gulfstream at a disadvantage against competitors from Canada and France. Of the 431 private aircraft based in the country, Gulfstream jets account for 42 percent followed by 24 percent for Montreal-based Bombardier Inc. and 9 percent made by France's Dassault Aviation SA, said consultant Roland Vincent.

"They have been the most successful of the manufacturers in penetrating the Chinese market with new aircraft," Vincent said of Gulfstream, a unit of General Dynamics Corp. "There's potentially a market-share benefit for Dassault and Bombardier if this tariff goes in." The tariffs, outlined



by China as part of a USD50 billion retaliation against duties on Chinese goods proposed by U.S. President Donald Trump, would add to the hurdles of selling private jets in an already sputtering market. Sales have been under pressure in China in the last couple years after President Xi Jinping began an anticorruption campaign, said Richard Aboulafia, an aerospace analyst with Teal Group. "People said, 'wrong time for a business jet,'" Aboulafia said.

## ESCALATING TENSIONS

The new restrictions on U.S. aircraft have yet to take effect, and there's a chance they never will if the U.S. and China reach a truce. But tensions escalated Friday as the nations traded more threats. Trump ordered his administration to consider another \$100 billion tariffs against China, which prompted the Asian nation to vow it would defend its interests "to the end, and at any cost."

China already has a 17 percent value-added tax on private aircraft plus a 5 percent duty on foreign jets, according to the International Trade Administration. The 25 percent tariff on large Gulfstream models would probably be added to that, said Vincent, who puts out a widely read industry forecast with partner Jetnet called Jetnet iQ.

## WEIGHT RANGE

The duties would be applied to U.S. aircraft weighing between 15,000 kilograms (33,000 pounds) and 45,000 kilograms. All Gulfstream models except for its smallest aircraft, the G280, fit in that weight range. Some models of the Boeing Co. 737 would also be affected.

China deliveries made up 10 percent of the 80 large aircraft that Gulfstream shipped last year, Vincent said. The company has an even bigger share of planes hit by the tariff. Gulfstream accounts for 112 of those jets, including

the G650 and G550, compared with 41 Bombardier jets in the same category and 28 for Dassault.

Gulfstream is expected to begin deliveries this year of two new large aircraft - the G500 and the G600 - that fall in the weight range for the tariff. Heidi Fedak, a spokeswoman for Gulfstream, declined to comment.

The extra levy "would have an immediate effect of curtailing potential sales," said Steve Varsano, founder of the corporate aircraft brokerage The Jet Business. Although private jets can be registered in one country and used in another, operators in China discovered that authorities frowned on attempts to circumvent the existing 22 percent tax-and-tariff combination.

"It was a hardship to pay," Varsano said in an email. "But if you didn't and were a regular user in China, they made life difficult to get landing slots and parking availability."

Business-jet manufacturers will be in Shanghai less than two weeks from now for the annual Asian Business Aviation Conference & Exhibition. **Bloomberg**



## Apple co-founder protests Facebook

Apple co-founder Steve Wozniak is shutting down his Facebook account as the social media giant struggles to cope with the worst privacy crisis in its history. In an email to USA Today, Wozniak says Facebook makes a lot of advertising money from personal details provided by users. He says the "profits are all based on the user's info, but the users get none of the profits back." Wozniak says he'd rather pay for Facebook. He says "Apple makes money off of good products, not off of you."

## New Deutsche Bank boss says tough decisions lie ahead

Deutsche Bank's new CEO is telling employees that Germany's biggest lender faces "tough decisions" as it works to return to profit. Christian Sewing, who has worked for Deutsche Bank for all but two years since 1989, was appointed on Sunday night to replace John Cryan after three years of losses. Sewing acknowledged in a message to employees released yesterday that Cryan "led us through an extremely difficult period" and many "greatly appreciate" him. Sewing said that "we want to and have to become profitable again." He added that there may sometimes have been good reasons for missing cost and revenue targets but it was damaging to the bank. He wrote: "The new leadership team will not accept this anymore. We'll have to take tough decisions and execute them."

## ECB weighs emergency cash injections

The European Central Bank is considering a new policy tool that would allow it to inject cash into banks that are being rescued from the threat of insolvency, tackling a gap in rules for dealing with troubled lenders. The proposal would allow the ECB to fund viable parts of a lender as they are spun out of a failing financial institution, according to a confidential document obtained by Bloomberg News and based on a March 21 presentation to the ECB's Governing Council. The suggested framework for Eurosystem Resolution Liquidity (ERL) lays out conditions including a far-reaching public guarantee to safeguard against central-bank losses.



Fans recreated Cheung's signature crimson high heels in Roses

## LESLIE CHEUNG

## Asia's gay icon lives on 15 years after his death

Gwyneth Ho

FOR the past 15 years fans of tormented superstar Leslie Cheung, one of the first celebrities to come out as gay in Asia, have gathered at Hong Kong's Mandarin Oriental Hotel to mourn the day he took his own life.

It's a poignant sign of why the daring and troubled star is still important today.

One of Hong Kong's most popular male singers and actors of the mid-1980s, Leslie Cheung Kwok Wing was not afraid of provoking controversy with his overt sexuality and provocative performances during a more socially conservative era.

And 15 years after his death, Cheung is still attracting new fans, including teenagers and millennials.

Lam, a 15-year-old who attended 1 April's vigil, was only a few months old when Cheung died. She told BBC Chinese she had "discovered him on YouTube".

"He was charismatic; especially when he went androgynous...it's gorgeous," she said.

Meanwhile, 25-year-old Wu travelled from Hunan province on mainland China with his boyfriend to mourn the icon.

Wu told BBC Chinese he drew strength from Cheung's "spirit of being true to oneself".

"He showed the [Chinese-speaking] world that gay people can be positive, bright and worthy of respect."

Born in 1956, Leslie Cheung was one of Hong Kong's most famous stars during the golden era of Cantopop in the 1980s.

He was dashing, stylish and fitted the public idea of a perfect heterosexual male lover. But in reality, he was in a long-term relationship with his childhood friend, Daffy Tong.

It was not an easy time to be gay. At that time, homosexuality was still viewed by many as an illness and abnormality in Hong Kong, especially after the emergence of the first local case of Aids in 1984. It was not until 1991 that adult gay sex was decriminalised in the territory.

"The LGBT movement in Hong Kong took off in the 1990s, when the community finally became visible to the public," Travis Kong, an associate professor of sociology researching gay culture at The University of Hong Kong, told BBC Chinese.

And it was at this point that Cheung became more daring in his work.

He first came to international attention with his portrayal of Cheng Dieyi, the androgynous Peking Opera star, for the film *Farewell My Concubine*, which won the Palme d'Or at Cannes in 1993.

He went on to star in *Happy Together* directed by Wong Kar Wai - a gay cinema classic about a couple who struggle to find a peaceful co-existence.

"Happy Together is different. It is a stereotypical heterosexual romance, but played by two men," said Kit Hung, a Hong Kong director.

Meanwhile, Christopher Doyle, the renowned cinematographer who worked with Cheung on various Wong Kar

Wai films, told BBC Chinese: "He was so beautiful. We both wanted to convey through my lens the most beautiful, sincerest side of him."

"He enters our imagination audaciously... always showing us better possibilities."

On stage, Cheung unleashed a sexually fluid charm. His defining queer performance came in a 1997 concert where he danced intimately with a male dancer to his song *Red*. He wore a black suit with a pair of sparkling crimson high-heels.

At that concert he dedicated a classic love song to the two "loves of his life", his mother and his partner Daffy Tong. This is seen as the moment he came out of the closet. Cheung did not proclaim his sexuality as such, but confessed his love for a man.

"In the 1990s, at times a gay man was still called 'Aids man' and 'pervert'," says Mr Kong. "In a society so oppressive to the LGBT community, the coming out of such a renowned

superstar had a huge effect on the general public."

Despite his success across Asia, there were many who did not appreciate this side of Cheung.

At the 1998 Hong Kong Film Awards, *Happy Together* was mocked by comedians, who described it as a film that would make the audience vomit. A music video he directed, featuring him topless with a male ballet dancer, was also censored by major local TV channel TVB.

In 2000 Leslie became the first Asian star to wear a tailor-made costume by French fashion master Jean-Paul Gaultier in a concert. With waist-length hair, clearly visible stubble and a muscular build, Cheung also wore tight transparent trousers and a short skirt.

He ended the concert with his self-revealing ballad *I*. "The theme of my performance is this: The most important thing in life, apart from love, is to appreciate your own self," he explained.

"I won't hide, I will live my life the way I like under the bright light" he sang. "I am what I am, firelight of a different colour."

But he was dismissed as a "transvestite", "perverted" or "haunted by a female ghost" in local media. He would dismiss that criticism as superficial and short-sighted.

He remains such an iconic figure in Hong Kong's awakening to LGBT issues that the Mandarin Oriental Hotel is even the first stop of a walking

tour on the city's LGBT history.

It was from here that he jumped to his death on 1 April 2003 after a long struggle with depression. It was a shocking moment for the city, and a devastating moment for fans.

Tens of thousands turned out to bid him farewell and at the funeral, his partner Daffy Tong assumed the role traditionally preserved for the surviving spouse, a profound, public recognition of their relationship. Never legally married, Mr Tong's was the first name listed on the family's announcement of Cheung's death, credited "Love of His Life".

Same-sex marriage or civil unions are still not legal in Hong Kong, but in the city's collective memory, Cheung and Tong are fondly remembered as an iconic, loving couple.

Hong Kong still lacks anti-discrimination laws protecting LGBT communities but queer identity and sexual fluidity are no longer so taboo and are part of the social landscape.

Last year a museum in Hong Kong held an exhibition "Ambiguously Yours: Gender in Hong Kong Popular Culture". The first exhibit visitors encountered upon entering the venue was a pair of sparkling crimson high-heels - the pair Cheung wore performing *Red* in 1997.

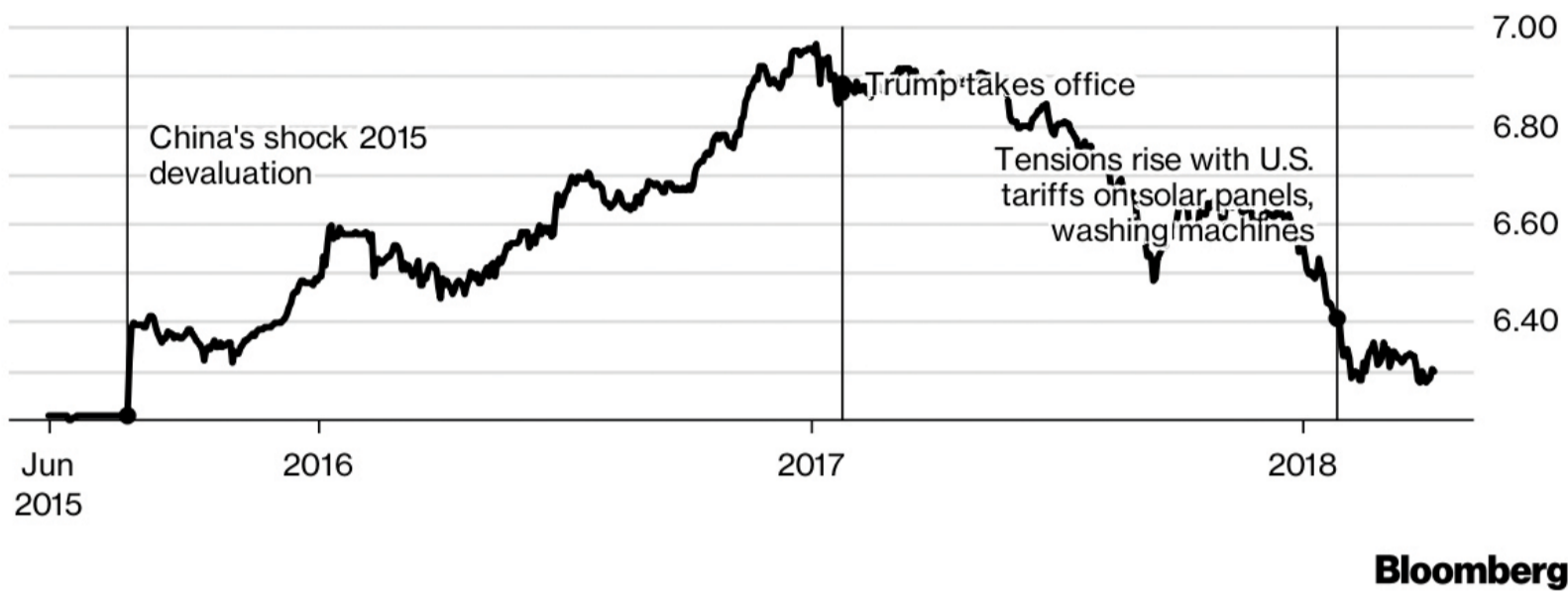
"The highest achievement for a performer is to embody both genders at the same time," Cheung once proclaimed: "For art itself is genderless." **Courtesy BBC News**

**Cheung was one of Hong Kong's most famous stars during the golden era of Cantopop in the 1980s**

## Yuan in Play?

China is said to evaluate the potential impact of a gradual yuan depreciation

■ Onshore yuan versus dollar



### TRADE WAR

# China is said to study yuan devaluation amid US spat

CHINA is evaluating the potential impact of a gradual yuan depreciation, people familiar with the matter said, as the country's leaders weigh their options in a trade spat with U.S. President Donald Trump that has roiled financial markets worldwide.

Senior Chinese officials are studying a two-pronged analysis of the yuan that was prepared by the government, the people said. One part looks at the effect of using the currency as a tool in trade negotiations with the U.S., while a second part examines what would happen if China devalues the yuan to offset the impact of any trade deal that curbs exports.

The analysis doesn't mean officials will carry out a devaluation, which would require approval from top leaders, the people said, asking not to be named as the information is private. The yuan weakened as much as 0.2 percent to 6.3186 per dollar in onshore trading yesterday before trading

little changed as of 5:49 p.m. local time. China's central bank didn't immediately respond to a faxed request for comment.

"It seems as if Beijing is showing the full extent of policies they could deploy," said Viraj Patel, a strategist at ING Bank NV in London.

While Trump regularly bashed China on the campaign trail for keeping its currency artificially weak, the yuan has gained about 9 percent against the greenback since he took office and has been steady in recent weeks despite an escalation of trade tensions between the world's two largest economies. The Chinese currency touched the strongest level since August 2015 last month.

Other markets have been far more turbulent as both the U.S. and China proposed tariffs on USD50 billion of goods and Trump instructed his administration to consider levies on an additional \$100 billion of Chinese products.

The S&P 500 Index has slumped more than 9 percent from this year's peak in January, while the Shanghai Composite Index has lost 12 percent on concern that tensions between America and China could devolve into a full-blown trade war. Yields on U.S. Treasuries have also declined from this year's highs as investors shifted into haven assets.

While a weaker yuan could help President Xi Jinping shore up China's export industries in the event of widespread tariffs in the U.S., a devaluation comes with plenty of risks. It would encourage Trump to follow through on his threat to brand China a currency manipulator, make it more difficult for Chinese companies to service their mountain of offshore debt, and undermine recent efforts by the government to move toward a more market-oriented exchange rate system.

It would also expose China to the risk of heightened financial-market volatility, something au-

thorities have worked hard to avoid in recent years. When China unexpectedly devalued the yuan by about 2 percent in August 2015, the move fueled capital outflows and sent shock-waves through global markets.

It seems as if Beijing is showing the full extent of policies they could deploy.

VIRAJ PATEL  
ING BANK NV

"Is it in their interest to devalue yuan? It's probably unwise," said Kevin Lai, chief economist for Asia ex-Japan at Daiwa Capital Markets Hong Kong Ltd. "Be-

cause if they use devaluation as a weapon, it could hurt China more than the U.S. The currency stability has helped to create a macro stability. If that's gone, it could destabilize markets, and things would look like 2015 again."

Given the downsides, China is unlikely to resort to a devaluation unless it exhausts its other trade-negotiation tools, said Frances Cheung, head of Asia macro strategy at Westpac Banking Corp. in Singapore. The more likely scenario is that the two countries will reach a compromise and China will continue to liberalize its capital account, added Zhou Hao, senior Asia emerging markets economist at Commerzbank AG.

"There are many measures they can take before resorting to this tool," said Ken Peng, an investment strategist at Citi Private Bank in Hong Kong. "Using yuan depreciation is like sacrificing 800 soldiers of your own to kill just 1,000 enemies."

Yuan depreciation is "a weapon that's unlikely to be deployed," writes Tom Orlik, Chief Asia Economist at Bloomberg Intelligence. "Yuan devaluation would turn a bilateral dispute with the U.S. [and one that is likely to have little impact on growth] into a global brouhaha - with all of China's trade partners suffering."

Still, that doesn't mean market-driven yuan weakness is off the table. The average forecast among analysts tracked by Bloomberg calls for the currency to drop slightly by year-end to 6.38 per dollar. China limits daily fluctuations in the yuan to 2 percent on either side of a reference rate set by the central bank.

"There is room for a near-term yuan correction given how much the currency has gained since last year," said Ken Cheung, a currency strategist at Mizuho Bank Ltd. in Hong Kong. "China would allow market-driven yuan weakness if sentiment fluctuates on trade war concerns. But it's unlikely for the authorities to engineer another round of significant one-off devaluation."

Traders looking for clues on President Xi's thinking will soon get the opportunity to hear him speak. Today he's scheduled to address the Boao Forum for Asia - China's answer to Davos - on the tropical island of Hainan. **Bloomberg**

# Beijing bans exports to North Korea of weapons-related goods

CHINA has banned exports to North Korea of electronics and other goods that can be used in making weapons, tightening U.N. sanctions imposed over Pyongyang's nuclear and missile development.

The ban covers "dual use" industrial compo-

nents, metal alloys and other materials that can be used in both civilian products and weapons, according to a Commerce Ministry statement issued over the weekend.

The U.N. Security Council has steadily tightened trade restrictions as leader Kim Jong Un's go-

vernment pressed ahead with nuclear and missile development in defiance of foreign pressure.

Beijing was long Pyongyang's diplomatic protector but has supported the U.N. sanctions out of frustration at what Chinese leaders see as their neighbor's increasingly

reckless behavior.

China accounts for nearly all of the isolated North's trade and energy supplies.

The latest ban includes components, software and tools for aircraft manufacturing, carbon fiber, high-voltage and high-temperature equi-

pment, and tools for mixing and measuring chemicals.

Beijing previously imposed limits on oil sales and cut deeply into the North's revenue by banning purchases of its coal, textiles and seafood. North Korean businesses in China were ordered to close and migrant workers were sent home.

Despite the loss of almost all trade, the impoverished North has pressed ahead with weapons

development that Kim's regime sees as necessary for its survival in the face of U.S. pressure.

China has steadily increased economic pressure on Pyongyang while calling for dialogue to defuse the increasingly acrimonious dispute with U.S. President Donald Trump's government.

Chinese leaders have resisted previous U.S. demands for an outright oil embargo but went along with imposing limits. **AP**

## CAMBODIA

# Election body warns against poll boycott calls

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

**CAMBODIA'S** National Election Committee warned yesterday that anyone urging voters to boycott the upcoming general election or otherwise interfere in the polls could face criminal charges and be fined, responding to a boycott call by the head of the country's now-dissolved opposition party.

Sam Rainsy, the self-exiled leader of what had been the Cambodia National Rescue Party, said over the weekend that voters should not vote if his party is not allowed to contest the July 29 election.

The party was dissolved in November by a court order after the government filed a complaint alleging it was involved in treasonous activities. All of its lawmakers were tossed out of parliament and party leaders have been subject to legal harassment, with one founder in exile and the other in jail awaiting trial on a treason charge.

"I call on all my Cambodian compatriots who believe in democracy to boycott the 29 July election if the CNRP is not allowed to participate," Sam Rainsy said on his Facebook page. "I also call on national and international observers to refrain from observing an electoral farce with a foregone conclusion."

The moves against the oppo-



In this file photo, a woman holds a child as she casts a ballot in Kandal province, southeast of Phnom Penh

sition, along with a crackdown on the media that has silenced almost all critical voices inside the country, is seen as an effort by the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen to ensure that it prevails at the polls, after signs of softening support in the last general election in 2013 and local elections last year.

The statement from the National Election Committee took note that "some individuals" had urged voters and observers

to boycott the election, having described it as illegitimate.

It said the planned participation of many small parties proved that the polls were legitimate and allowed opposition. Critics have charged that the parties that plan to take part are either small or irrelevant, or creations manipulated by Hun Sen's ruling Cambodian People's Party.

The statement warned that any people appealing to voters not to turn out for vote or

causing any trouble to the election process could be punished with a fine of 5 million riel (USD1,250) to 20 million riel (\$5,000) along with criminal penalties it did not specify.

Sok Eysan, the spokesman for Hun Sen's ruling party, said the appeal by Sam Rainsy was useless and the voters will go to vote as normal, with at least 10 political parties taking part in the election.

"I have no worry at all in regard to the appeal of Sam

Rainsy calling for the Cambodian people to boycott the election, because the people are keen to go to vote and they will show up on election day," he said.

Hun Sen has been in power for three decades, maintaining a framework of democracy while exercising near-total control. His grip seemed shaken in 2013's general election, when the Cambodia National Rescue Party mounted a strong challenge, winning 55 seats in the National Assembly and leaving Hun Sen's party with 68.

Sam Rainsy has been in self-imposed exile since late 2015 to avoid being jailed in one defamation case, and was convicted again in December in connection with a Facebook post in which he accused Hun Sen of offering \$1 million to a political operative to assail the opposition.

Kem Sokha, Sam Rainsy's successor as opposition leader, was charged with treason for allegedly conspiring with the United States to topple the government, and now faces up to 30 years in prison if convicted. He was arrested on the basis of videos from several years ago showing him at a seminar where he spoke about receiving advice from U.S. pro-democracy groups. The opposition party denied the treason allegation, saying it was politically motivated. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# PM regrets setting opinion poll benchmark

**AUSTRALIA'S** prime minister said yesterday that he regretted using a lengthy string of bad opinion polls to justify ousting his predecessor three years ago.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull made the admission as his government matched Tony Abbott's former administration in trailing the opposition Labor Party in 30 consecutive Newspoll opinion polls conducted by Sydney-based Galaxy Research.

The Newspoll published in The Australian newspaper showed 48 percent of respondents supported the single-seat majority conservative coalition government, while 52 percent supported the center-left Labor Party.

The nationwide weekend poll, conducted online and

with automated telephone interviews, surveyed 1,560 voters and had a 2.5 percentage point margin of error. The government has now trailed Labor in the Newspoll series for 564 days and elections are due next year.

"I regret making those remarks at the time — making remarks about 30 Newspolls at the time," Turnbull told reporters.

"But what I promised to do what to provide economic leadership and traditional Cabinet government and I've done both," he added.

The 30-poll milestone in 2015 coincided with a majority of lawmakers in the ruling Liberal Party deciding to back Turnbull against Abbott in a leadership ballot that ousted Abbott two years after he

was elected to power.

Turnbull said that his colleagues were not moving against his leadership.

"I do have the confidence of my colleagues [...] and no one, by the way, is suggesting I don't," he said.

There is no obvious candidate in government ranks to replace Turnbull, although Abbott has hinted that he still holds leadership ambitions.

Since Prime Minister John Howard was elected out of office in 2007 after more than 11 years in power, Australia has had a long period of political instability.

Howard was replaced by Kevin Rudd, who was dumped by his Labor Party colleagues in 2010. They installed his deputy,

Julia Gillard, then dumped her for Rudd in 2013. Abbott was elected to power in 2013, but spent less time in the job than either Rudd or Gillard before his party moved against him.

Howard used a television interview last week to urge the government to stick with Turnbull or risk a voter backlash in the next election.

Abbott, who remains a government lawmaker, said he had never paid attention to polling.

"It's really, I suppose, something for Malcolm to explain why it applied to me, but shouldn't apply now," Abbott told reporters, referring to the Newspoll benchmark.

Opposition leader Bill Shorten said Turnbull made a mistake by using



Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull

an opinion poll to define political success.

"It was Mr. Turnbull who said 30 Newspolls was the definition of success — that's his problem," Shorten told reporters.

"I actually think most Australians want to see politics move beyond the polls and the personalities to what are we going to do for the people," he added. **AP**

# US official says North Korean leader ready to discuss nukes

Josh Lederman, Washington

**N**ORTH Korea's government has communicated with the United States to say that leader Kim Jong Un is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program with President Donald Trump, officials said yesterday [Macau time], increasing the likelihood that the unprecedented summit will actually occur.

The confirmation from Pyongyang directly, rather than from third countries like South Korea, has created more confidence within Trump's administration about the wisdom of holding such a meeting, as U.S. officials make secretive preparations. The Trump administration has long said that if the North Koreans weren't ready to discuss giving up their nuclear program, there was no reason for the two countries to hold negotiations.

Trump took his own administration and other countries by surprise last month when he accepted an unusual offer from



Kim to hold a meeting. The North had conveyed the invitation to a visiting delegation from South Korea, which in turn traveled to Washington and relayed the message to Trump.

The president said yes to the meeting on the spot, even though the U.S. had not yet heard

directly from North Korea about Kim's intentions. The U.S. later heard from other countries including China, where Kim paid a rare visit, that the North was serious about the offer.

Still, North Korea's government has not said anything publicly at all about a meeting with

Trump, and the lack of known contact between Pyongyang and Washington about the meeting has fueled further speculation about the seriousness of Kim's offer.

A Trump administration official said that the U.S. had "confirmed that Kim Jong Un is

willing to discuss the denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula?" A second official said that confirmation had come through direct contact between American and North Korean officials.

Neither of the officials would say when or how the contact took place, nor in what location. The officials weren't authorized to comment by name and demanded anonymity.

Previously, former Secretary of State Rex Tillerson had said there were at least two or three channels through which U.S. and North Korean officials communicate from time to time.

The Trump administration has not said where the meeting will place or whether a location has been determined, nor has an exact date been set. Initially, the White House said it expected the meeting to take place by the end of May. It's unclear whether a date that early could be achieved or whether it might be delayed.

The contacts between Pyongyang and Washington come as Trump's new national security adviser, former U.N. Ambassador John Bolton, prepares to start work at the White House formally today [Macau time]. Prior to being named to the post, Bolton had long expressed hawkish views about North Korea, even advocating a pre-emptive military strike. AP



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## MIDDLE EAST

# Trump to discuss fatal Syria attack with military leadership

Jonathan Lemire, Washington

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump condemned a “mindless CHEMICAL attack” in Syria that killed women and children, called Syrian President Bashar Assad an “animal” and said there would be a “big price to pay” for resorting to outlawed weapons of mass destruction.

Hours later, Syria’s state-run news agency reported a missile attack yesterday at an air base in Syria’s Homs province and labeled it a “likely” U.S. aggression. However, a Pentagon spokesman quickly denied the U.S. was behind the strike.

In the wake of the reported poison gas attack, officials in Washington worked yesterday [Macau time] to verify the claim by Syrian opposition activists and rescuers that the Assad government was responsible.

Just over a year ago, Trump ordered dozens of cruise missiles to be fired at a Syrian air base after declaring there was no doubt Assad had “choked out the lives of helpless” civilians in an attack that used banned gases. White House advisers said at the time that images of hurt children helped spur the president to launch that air strike, and television new shows on Sunday aired similar depictions of suffering young Syrians.

“Many dead, including women and children, in mindless CHEMICAL attack in Syria,” Trump tweeted. “Area of atrocity is in lockdown and encircled by Syrian Army, making it completely inaccessible to outside world. President Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay. Open area immediately for medical help and verification. Another humanitarian disaster for no reason whatsoever. SICK!”

The attack took place in a rebel-held town near Damascus amid a resumed offensive by Syrian government forces after the collapse of a truce. Syrian activists, rescuers and medics said a poison gas attack in Douma killed at least 40 people, with families found suffocated in their houses and shelters. The reports could not immediately be independently verified.

The developments come as Trump has moved to dramatically scale back U.S. goals in Syria, pushing for a quick military withdrawal despite resistance from many of his national security advisers. Trump has given no formal order to pull out the 2,000 U.S. troops in Syria or offered a public timetable other than to say the U.S. will withdraw as soon as the remaining



This image released Sunday by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, shows victims of an alleged chemical weapons attack in the rebel-held town of Douma, near Damascus

Islamic State fighters can be vanquished.

But Trump has signaled to his advisers that, ideally, he wants all troops out within six months.

Republican Sen. John McCain of Arizona said Assad heard Trump’s signal that he wanted to withdraw from Syria and, “emboldened by American inaction,” launched the attack. In a statement, McCain said Trump “responded decisively” last year with the air strike and urged Trump to be forceful again to “demonstrate that Assad will pay a price for his war crimes.”

Images released by the Syrian Civil Defense White Helmets, a volunteer organization, show children lying on the ground motionless and foaming at the mouth. The Assad government, in a statement posted on the state-run news agency SANA, denied responsibility.

Trump was briefed about the attack by his chief of staff, John Kelly, officials said. Trump’s homeland security adviser, Thomas Bossert, noted the timing of the suspected chemical attack — almost a year to the day of the U.S. missile strikes.

“This isn’t just the United States. This is one of those issues on which every nation, all peoples, have all agreed and have agreed since World War II, it’s an unacceptable practice,” Bossert said.

Asked about the potential for an American missile strike in response, Bossert said: “I wouldn’t take anything off the table.

These are horrible photos. We’re looking into the attack at this point.”

Trump was to meet with his senior military leadership on Monday, the same day his new national security adviser, John Bolton, assumes his post. Bolton has previously advocated significant airstrikes against Syria.

Vice President Mike Pence deemed it a “likely chemical attack” and reiterated Trump’s threat that consequences would be coming for those responsible.

“We condemn in the strongest possible terms the assault on innocent lives, including children,” Pence tweeted. “The Assad regime & its backers MUST END their barbaric behavior.”

Trump’s decision to single out Russian President Vladimir Putin in a tweet for supporting Assad appeared noteworthy

because Trump long has been reluctant to personally criticize the Russian leader. Even as the White House, after some delay, imposed tough new sanctions on Russia in the wake of its U.S. election meddling and suspected poisoning of a former spy on British soil, Trump left it to others in his administration to deliver the rebukes to Moscow.

Last month, Trump called Putin and, against the counsel of his advisers, congratulated the Russian president on his reelection and invited him to the White House. On Sunday, Sen. Susan Collins, R-Maine, urged Trump to “ramp up the pressure and the sanctions on the Russian government, because, without the support of Russia, I do not believe that Assad would still be in office.”

Trump also invoked Iran in his

series of tweets, further challenging Tehran while signaling he may scuttle its nuclear deal with the West. The president has often laid some blame on his predecessor, Barack Obama, for Assad’s continued grip on power after years of civil war.

Obama said in 2012 that Syria’s use of chemical weapons would be a “red line” that would change his decision-making on intervening in the war and have “enormous consequences.” After such an attack in 2013 killed hundreds outside Damascus, American ships in the Mediterranean were poised to launch missiles. But Obama pulled back after key U.S. ally Britain, as well as Congress, balked.

## Putin, Russia and Iran are responsible for backing Animal Assad. Big price to pay.

TRUMP TWEET

He opted for a Russian-backed proposal that was supposed to remove and eliminate Syria’s chemical weapons stockpiles.

“If President Obama had crossed his stated Red Line In The Sand, the Syrian disaster would have ended long ago! Animal Assad would have been history!” Trump tweeted from the White House.

Questions about the administration’s possible response reverberated throughout Washington in the hours after the attack.

“It’s a defining moment in his presidency” that comes as Assad sees the U.S. “determination to stay in Syria waning,” said Sen. Lindsey Graham, R-S.C.,

“If he doesn’t follow through and live up to that tweet, he’s going to look weak in the eyes of Russia and Iran,” Graham said. “You need to follow through with that tweet. Show a resolve that Obama never did to get this right.”

Graham and Bossert were on ABC’s “This Week,” and Collins appeared on CNN’s “State of the Union.” AP

## Israel blamed for missile strike in Homs airfield; 14 reported dead

**R**USSIA and the Syrian military blamed Israel for a pre-dawn missile attack yesterday on a major air base in central Syria, saying Israeli fighter jets launched the missiles from Lebanon’s air space. A war-monitoring group said the airstrikes killed 14 people, including Iranians active in Syria.

Russia’s Defense Ministry said two Israeli aircraft targeted the T4 air base in Homs province, firing eight missiles. It said Syria shot down five of them while the other three landed in the western part of the base. Syrian state TV quoted an unnamed military official as saying that Israeli F-15

warplanes fired several missiles at T4. It gave no further details.

Israel’s foreign ministry had no comment when asked about the accusations.

Since 2012, Israel has struck inside Syria more than 100 times, mostly targeting suspected weapons’ convoys destined for the Lebanese militant group Hezbollah, which has been fighting alongside Syrian government forces.

Most recently, Israel hit the same T4 base in February, after it said an Iranian drone that had violated Israeli airspace took off from the base.



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## what's ON



**2018 BRAND STORY – MACAO ORIGINAL FASHION EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 10am-8pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)  
**UNTIL:** April 29, 2018  
**VENUE:** Macao Fashion Gallery  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2835 3341

**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, Macao Art Garden, No. 265, Av. Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2836 6064

**"PUNACOTHECA" - PAINTINGS AND ILLUSTRATIONS BY RODRIGO DE MATOS**  
**TIME:** 2pm-7pm (Mondays to Saturdays)  
**UNTIL:** April 21, 2018  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**VENUE:** Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2875 3282

**WOMEN ARTISTS 1ST INTERNATIONAL BIENNIAL OF MACAU**  
**TIME:** 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)  
**UNTIL:** May 13, 2018  
**VENUE:** Macau Museum of Art  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 8791 9814

**DIN DONG X TAIPA VILLAGE CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION**  
**TIME:** 12pm - 8pm (closed on Monday)  
**UNTIL:** April 13, 2018  
**VENUE:** Taipa Village Art Space  
**ADMISSION:** Free  
**ENQUIRIES:** (853) 2857 6118

## Offbeat

**MAINE COMMUNITY CREATES MASSIVE ICE CAROUSEL ON FROZEN LAKE**

Residents in a Maine town believe they've created the world's largest ice carousel on a frozen lake.

About 100 volunteers cut a circle in the ice that's 130 meters in diameter, and they used four outboard boat motors to get it rotating on Saturday. It happened in Sinclair in northern Maine.

Mike Cyr, one of the organizers, announced, "we got 'er spinning!"

He says the ice carousel is big enough to break the world record held by a town in Finland. A surveying team confirmed the measurements.

Volunteers used augurs to bore more than 1,300 holes, along with chain saws and other equipment, to cut the massive hole in lake ice that was 30 inches thick. They waited for warmer weather to get it spinning.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:10	NOS League: Sporting x Pacos Ferreira (Repeated)
17:50	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
18:40	TDM Sports (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	TDM Interview
21:30	Miscellaneous
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	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

**1998 NORTHERN IRELAND PEACE DEAL REACHED**

The Northern Ireland peace talks have ended with an historic agreement.

The accord - dubbed the Good Friday Agreement - was reached after nearly two years of talks and 30 years of conflict.

Negotiations on the final day dragged on more than 17 hours after the deadline for an agreement passed.

The agreement is a triumph for British Prime Minister Tony Blair and the Republic of Ireland's leader, Bertie Ahern, who have succeeded where all their predecessors failed.

Speaking at a news conference after the deal was announced Tony Blair said he hoped it marked a new beginning.

"Today I hope that the burden of history can at long last start to be lifted from our shoulders," Mr Blair said.

Bertie Ahern said he hoped a line could now be drawn under the "bloody past".

The proposals in the agreement include plans for a Northern Ireland Assembly, new cross-border institutions involving the Irish Republic and a body linking devolved assemblies across the UK with Westminster and Dublin.

A copy of the proposals will be posted to every household in Northern Ireland and the Irish Republic and then put to a referendum in May.

The chairman of the talks, former US Senator George Mitchell, paid tribute to all those who had taken part.

But Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams said there was still a huge gap of distrust between nationalists and unionists.

"It must be bridged on the basis of equality. We are here reaching out the hand of friendship," he said.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble added: "I see a great opportunity for us to start a healing process."

The peace agreement was also welcomed by the UDP and PUP parties, which represent loyalist paramilitary groups.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

A referendum held in May 1998 on both sides of the Irish border, returned a resounding "yes" vote for the Good Friday Agreement.

The first three years of the agreement's implementation saw accusations and counter-accusation from both sides.

Unionists said the republicans had not complied with the spirit of the agreement's requirement for the decommissioning of arms.

Disagreement over decommissioning and policing led to three suspensions of the Northern Ireland Assembly.

In October 2002 it was also suspended after allegations of IRA intelligence gathering inside the Northern Ireland Office.

Devolved power was restored to the Assembly on 8 May 2007. DUP leader Ian Paisley and Sinn Fein's Martin McGuinness - age-old opponents - took office as first and deputy first ministers ending five years of direct rule.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 To say that the past couple of days have been tricky - no, downright demanding - isn't quite capturing the spirit of the times. In fact, you've had it with just about everyone and just about everything.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You can come out now; it's finally safe. That means whatever you've been trying to forget about - in vain, judging by the quality of your sleep lately - will finally become no more than a distant memory.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 After all the tension and ridiculous rules you've been enduring lately, you're finally golden. The universe has seen fit to arrange for things to go easily for you - just this once.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've been juggling work, family and your primary relationship for what seems like weeks, but it's finally over. The heavens have just unwound themselves, giving you the green light to pursue anything.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 After what you went through over the past couple of days, today will be an absolute dream come true. That means no more explaining your every move to anyone who doesn't quite believe in you.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Still not done clearing the air? Still feel as if there's something you need to say? Well, go ahead. Just make sure you're finished by tonight because the heavens are ready to put all such unpleasant moments to an end.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 After one more day of wishing you could just crawl under a rock and disappear - not because you're ashamed of yourself, but more because you just don't want to deal with a certain person's nonsense any longer.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Okay, you're done. It's time to finally let go of all those awful feelings you've been dealing with - and even though it's hard, try having some fun while you do it. Bet you're feeling better already.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Hopefully, you've gotten over the urge to take revenge - because with the kind of conscience you tote around, it wouldn't work for long. You'd have to turn yourself in and apologize.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 You've never been especially fond of sharing intimate issues with others, even if you know them well. So if someone who isn't all close to you tries to get too personal, you won't put up with it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Every now and then, the universe steps in, makes an executive decision, and forces us to take a right when we were absolutely sure we'd be taking a left. This is one of those times...

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Prepare yourself for a big meeting with the boss. You've got something to ask them, most likely about a raise, bonus or promotion you were promised a while back.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

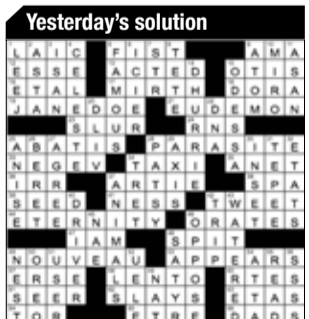
WORLD

Table of weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- James of "The Godfather"; 5- Rum cakes; 10- Partly open; 14- Lhasa...; 15- Without...; 16- Director Ephron; 17- In spite of; 20- Boise's state; 21- Juan's uncle; 22- Cream-filled cookies; 23- Finish; 25- Nary a soul; 27- Two pairs; 31- Former Egyptian leader; 35- Dull pain, often in the head or back; 36- Spice; 38- Man-mouse link; 39- Actor Erwin; 40- Travel on snow; 41- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 42- 'Droid; 43- Thrice, in prescriptions; 44- Add fizz; 46- Cover up; 47- Poorly ventilated; 49- Communicating corridors; 51- Cowboy's tool; 53- Actor Mineo; 54- Mary of "The Maltese Falcon"; 57- Civil War initials.; 59- Foil maker; 63- Direct; 66- Chair; 67- Asia's... Peninsula; 68- Caesar's wings; 69- Cookbook amts.; 70- States; 71- Hankerings;

DOWN: 1- Child's plea; 2- Footless animal; 3- Dog star; 4- Not anywhere; 5- Baseball club; 6- Zwei cubed; 7- Medieval steel helmet; 8- Threepio's buddy; 9- Neptune's realm; 10- Guitarist Segovia; 11-... de vivre; 12- Florence's river; 13- Torn clothing; 18- Electrically charged particles; 19- Period of immaturity; 24- Asses; 26- Unity; 27- Observes Ramadan; 28- Eight singers; 29- Swahili for "freedom"; 30- The Ghost and Mrs. ...; 32- Ferber novel; 33- Eat away at; 34- Gives a 9.8, say; 37-... Hari; 40- Adventurous expedition; 45- Follower of Christ; 46- Corridor; 48- Hovers; 50- German river; 52- Chilled soup; 54- Type of D.A.; 55- Fr. holy women; 56- Mouse catcher; 58- A long way off; 60- Racer Yarborough; 61- Port of Algeria; 62- Summer coolers; 64- "Today" rival, briefly; 65- Yiddish plaints;



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**Tales Azzoni, Madrid**

**C**RISTIANO Ronaldo scored for the 650th time in his career yesterday [Macau time] but Antoine Griezmann responded with a goal of his own to leave Atletico Madrid and Real Madrid even in a city derby that allowed Barcelona to move closer to the Spanish league title.

Atletico held Madrid 1-1 at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium to keep a four-point lead over its city rival in the fight for second place. Valencia later defeated Espanyol 1-0 to move past Madrid for third place, and within three points of Atletico.

The draw at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium benefited league leader Barcelona, which defeated Leganes 3-1 on Saturday with a hat trick by Lionel Messi to stay 11 points in front of Atletico at the top with seven matches left.

Atletico won La Liga in 2013-14 but has finished third behind either Barcelona or Madrid in all other years since 2012-13, which was the team's first full season under coach Diego Simeone.

"I'm not happy because we wanted to win, we wanted the three points to try to stay close to Barcelona," Simeone said. "We needed more. Our goal is always to try to do the best we can against the powerhouses of Real Madrid and Barcelona. As an Atletico fan I would have been proud of how we have been competing against them."

Madrid hasn't finished worse than second since 2014, when it trailed Atletico and Barcelona. Before then, the last time it failed to finish in the top two was in 2003-04, when it was fourth behind Valencia, Barcelona and Deportivo La Coruna.

Ronaldo opened the scoring with his 650th career goal — for clubs and country — early in the second half with a shot from near the far post after a long cross by Gareth Bale from the left flank.

Griezmann equalized less than five minutes later with a strike from near the penalty spot after a move started by Vitolo inside the area.

"We deserved more, it's a shame," Madrid coach Zinedine Zidane



FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

# Griezmann cancels Ronaldo's goal in crucial Madrid derby

said. "But in the end we also could have lost the match. This is how it goes in football."

Of Ronaldo's 650 goals, 446 came with Madrid, 118 with Manchester United, 81 with Portugal and five with Sporting Lisbon.

Ronaldo has scored 20 goals in his last 10 matches in all competitions, including his acclaimed bicycle kick in the 3-0 first-leg win at Juventus in the Champions League quarterfinals midweek.

Zidane rested some of his regular starters ahead of the return leg against Juventus on Wednesday at Bernabeu, including midfielders Luka Modric and Casemiro. Striker Karim Benzema also started from the bench, replacing Ronaldo in the 64th.

Atletico hasn't lost at Bernabeu in five seasons now in the Spanish league.

Madrid, which had won six in a row, had the most dangerous scoring chances throughout. But the hosts brought out a great performance by Atletico goalkeeper Jan Oblak, who made one of his best saves on a last-minute free kick taken by Sergio Ramos.

"Oblak is a great player, he has been showing it game after

game," Zidane said.

**OTHER MATCHES**

Rodrigo scored with a close-range header in the seventh minute against Espanyol and Valencia held on for its fifth straight victory.

It was the sixth goal in the last five matches for Rodrigo, the Brazilian-born striker who is among Spain's attacking options for the World Cup in Russia.

Espanyol, winless in three matches, stayed 14th.

Levante took a big step toward avoiding demotion by defeating Las Palmas 2-1 with an injury-time winner by Jose Campana, opening an eight-point gap to the relegation zone with seven matches left.

Las Palmas is in second-to-last place and two points behind Deportivo La Coruna, which on Friday earned its first win in nine matches under coach Clarence Seedorf by defeating last-place Malaga 3-2 at home.

Levante opened the scoring at Ciutat de Valencia Stadium with a goal by Jorge "Koke" Andujar in the 35th, but David Garcia equalized in the 50th before Campana calmly found the far corner for the winner in a late breakaway for the hosts.

Levante's winner came while the team played with 10 men as Koke was sent off for a hard foul in the 86th. Levante also had Ruben

Rochina ejected in the fourth minute of injury time.

Mikel Oyarzabal scored twice as Real Sociedad routed Girona 5-0

at home for its first win in four matches.

The result moved Sociedad to 12th place. Girona, winless in three matches, is eighth. **AP**



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opinion

**Our Desk**  
Renato Marques



**SOCIAL NETWORK SHARING -  
How much is too much?**

To start, I would say that we definitely live in an era in which the world has turned "voyeuristic". We photograph and film pretty much everything in our lives (that's fine) but most recently, we turned this (almost) obsession to report everything we do into something far more serious, because we decided that it was OK to disclose our lives to the world. And I really mean it when I say to the world.

Recorded and Live functions of your favorite social network platforms have become a habit and we have started to "vlog" pretty much everything in our lives, from social events to our lunch or even that paper cut that we sustained in the office while using the copy machine. They all become relevant in our lives and "the world needs to know about this", so all things become shareable.

Recently, two situations made me seriously think about this issue. The first occurred when I was having a quick bite at a restaurant in town. After a few minutes, I noticed that a group of people at the table beside me were doing a "Live Broadcast" of their lunch, and of everyone else in the restaurant having their lunch too, on Facebook. Then I started to think, "who in the world might be interested in a group of people seated at a restaurant table eating?" Because that was all it was about. Not a party, not a special celebration, not a birthday or something, it was just regular people eating chicken drumsticks.

The second incident happened when I was at home and about to go to sleep, I took one last glance at my Facebook account (like it might vanish forever overnight) and a window popped up with another of the "Live Streams" that I usually don't take more than 0.5 second to swipe through. But this time I didn't. I decided to look at it long enough to realize that it was a broadcast from a famous local night club. And guess what, it was "Ladies' Night."

A bit more seriously, I'm not sure if I was more impressed or shocked with the situation: a person (that I obviously know) was just wandering around the club with her mobile in hand, filming and broadcasting everything and everyone, from costumers to staff and security of the place. Then she pointed the phone at the dance floor and vanished from the screen, continuing to broadcast whatever was happening in the phone's field of vision.

I reached the limit of my patience with that after 1:30 minutes.

Why? The question hovered in my mind and did not allow me to close my eyes for a long time.

And then I remembered the near-worldwide fever around TV programs like "Big Brother" (which I also never had the interest or patience to watch) that still exist in some countries, which of course means that they must have an audience. I also remembered those people on the TV who get paid to have their lives broadcast and exposed from the bed to the toilet.

More importantly, I would question - what gives us the right to broadcast the lives of others who just happened to be (unluckily) in the same place and time as those of us who livestream large parts of their lives?

Unfortunately, I don't know the answer for this "condition" but I'm guessing this is probably why nobody seems to care about the growing surveillance everywhere. But that's a story I'll leave for next time.

**THE BUZZ** THE FRENCH LEAGUE EXPENDING IN CHINA WITH TV DEAL

The French football league is continuing its expansion in China after signing a four-year deal with the China Central Television group.

The LFP said in a statement its top-flight matches will be accessible to more than one billion people following the agreement with beIN Sports and CCTV. BeIN Sport has a partnership for the international media rights to French league games.

The deal covers four seasons, until 2021.

From next season, two games will be broadcast live each match day on CCTV channels. Magazines produced by beIN Sports will also be aired, as well as match summaries.

Financial details were not disclosed.

Didier Quillot, the LFP executive director, said "one year after the opening of our Beijing office, this major breakthrough demonstrates the new-found attractiveness of our league internationally."

NO PORN, GAMBLING, DISSENT

**China state media say four popular news apps suspended**

**F**our popular Chinese news apps have been temporarily removed from the Android store in China following an order from regulators to tighten control over the spread of information, state media reported yesterday.

Toutiao, Phoenix News, NetEase News and Tian-tian Kuaibao suspended their downloading services before 3 p.m. yesterday, the Beijing Daily newspaper said on its microblog.

It said Toutiao will be suspended for three weeks and will resume service on April 30, while Phoenix will be taken down for two weeks, NetEase for one week and Tian-tian for three days. Users can still download the apps from Apple's App Store.

Android phones are far more common in China and the government has great sway over domestic communications and Internet platforms.

Further details on the regulatory measure were not immediately available and calls to the government's oversight body, the Cyberspace Administration of China, rang unanswered yesterday.



Screenshot taken from Jinri Toutiao website

China maintains tight control over news sources and heavily censors the internet for content related to gambling, pornography, dissident politics, criticism of the government and other perceived social ills.

On April 4, executives of Toutiao and live streaming app Kuaishou were told by the State Administration of Radio and Television to remove "violent, erotic content" on the websites, cease adding new upload accounts and investigate the current ones.

According to SART, Toutiao and Kuaishou have long been ignoring the law by expanding their video

program services without proper licenses, and were streaming "programs that violated social morality."

Toutiao announced on April 6 that it had deleted more than 10,000 short videos and 4,800 problematic accounts and added 1,700 sensitive words for video censoring.

On April 6, Kuaishou also published hiring information on several websites to recruit 3,000 people for content review and editing. Priority was to be given to applicants with reliable political backgrounds, especially members of the ruling Communist Party or its youth league. **MDT/AP**

Station	Air quality
Roadside	55-75 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	45-65 Moderate
Ambient	65-95 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**TURKEY** A cargo ship has crashed into a historic mansion on Istanbul's Bosphorus strait, severely damaging the building.

**POLAND** As Poles mark the eighth anniversary today of a plane crash in Russia that killed President Lech Kaczynski and dozens of other top Polish officials, new monuments are going up and streets are being renamed to honor the victims of the national tragedy.



**HUNGARY** Prime Minister Viktor Orban has won a third consecutive term in office on a virulently anti-migration platform, and it's likely that advocates for refugees and asylum-seekers will be among the first casualties.

**DJIBOUTI** an arid Horn of Africa nation with less than 1 million inhabitants, also is already a military outpost for the U.S. China, France, Italy and Japan, but now wants to become a major shipping outpost too.



**MEXICO** FIFA inspectors begin evaluating Mexico's suitability to stage World Cup matches in 2026 yesterday after a study commissioned for the North American bid highlighted concerns about violent attacks on female fans, human rights activists and reporters in the country.

**CANADA** A controversial Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project that would nearly triple the flow of oil from Canada's oil sands to the Pacific Coast is in doubt after the company announced a suspension in all non-essential activities and related spending on the project.

**THE DECISIVE MOMENT**

AP Photo/Vincent Vinont



Tear gas. Environmental activists are silhouetted during clashes with police officers in Notre-Dame-des-Landes, outside the city of Nantes, western France, yesterday. Some 2,500 police tore down flaming barricades and fired tear gas at tenacious squatters.