



BENFICA TO PLAY GROUP FAVORITE
Benfica de Macau plays today in N. Korea what is expected to be their toughest match of the AFC group

P3 MDT REPORT



EINAUDI GIVES CONCERT IN MACAU THIS JUNE
The Italian pianist and composer is one of the world's most-streamed living classical musicians

P6



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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH CHINA SEA
A U.S. aircraft carrier is sailing through the disputed South China Sea in the latest display of America's military might after China built a string of islands with military facilities in the strategic sea. More on p10

EAST TIMOR's political parties kicked off a month of campaigning yesterday for new parliamentary elections due in May with promises to boost development in one of Asia's poorest nations.



VIETNAM A court in northern Vietnam sentenced a dissident to 13 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of attempting to overthrow the government. More on p13

THAILAND Police said they shot and killed two suspected Muslim insurgents who ambushed a police unit yesterday in the southern province of Pattani, a day after bombs in a neighboring province injured 12 people.

PAKISTAN Police have requested a travel ban on an American diplomat involved in a vehicle crash that killed one Pakistani man and injured another over the weekend in the capital Islamabad.

More on backpage

GOVERNMENT PROPOSAL

Taxis to have mandatory voice recorders

P2



HKZMB

Authorities dismiss concerns over drifting concrete tetrapods

P2

2018 Environmental Forum to feature 490 exhibitors

Lynzy Valles

BEGINNING tomorrow, the 2018 Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum and Exhibition (MIECF) will see some 490 exhibitors from 19 countries and regions showcase products and solutions designed to curb air, water and soil pollution.

The 11th edition of MIECF will feature Christiana Figueres, vice-chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and a ClimateWorks Foundation Board Member, as the event's keynote speaker.

As announced in a press conference yesterday, Figueres is slated to speak on the current direction of the global environmental protection sector and on sustainable development, focusing on the latest trends in ecocities and the green economy.

The 2018 MIECF is themed "Shaping of Eco-Cities for Inclusive Green Economy," highlighting its "Green Forum" that will be joined by over 50 speakers from the field of environmental protection who come from different regions including Australia, Costa Rica, Portugal, the Netherlands and Singapore amongst others.

The forum will feature a pa-



The event organizers pose for a picture

nel session on "Green Finance Innovation to Achieve Sustainable Development" featuring speakers who are experts on "green finance."

The panel session will discuss the development of green finance initiatives and the role of such efforts in promoting the development of eco-cities, and the international demand for financing tools to support "green investments."

It will also tackle measures and policies to develop such a finance system and look at blueprint policies for the development of the city's "green finance" sector.

The three-day event will feature discussions on how the tourism and MICE industries apply

green technologies and green management that enhance cost-efficiency and boost business opportunities.

Meanwhile, this year's "Green Showcase" will include a new display area for environment-friendly concepts originating from the Greater Bay Area.

Also, organizers have invited procurement representatives of governmental departments and other professional buyers to take part, given the pressing demand for environmentally friendly services.

The Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute is also organizing a guided tour to Jiangmen on the third day of the event, targeting exhibitors

from Europe, and representatives from the local environmental protection and the financial sectors.

"We believe that MIECF will continue to take advantage of Macau's advantages in promoting cooperation on environmental protection in the Pearl River Pan-Delta region, and promote the exchange and transfer of environmentally friendly technology between provinces and regions of the Pan-Delta and EU countries," said Irene Lau, acting president of IPIM.

Lau stressed that the scale and internationalization of MIECF have continually improved, recalling that the first exhibition of MIECF attracted exhibitors

from just eight countries.

"Over the last ten years, more than 280 letters of intent and cooperation projects have been signed through the MIECF, and almost 80 percent have been implemented," Lau said.

Further, the 2018 MIECF is offering two technical tours for trade visitors to the recycling and electronic waste treatment units affiliated with the Computer and Communication Equipment Recycling Scheme and to City of Dreams.

MIECF will continue to take advantage of Macau's advantages in promoting cooperation on environmental protection in the Pearl River Pan-Delta region.

IRENE LAU

The organizers noted that the visit to the integrated resort would allow participants to understand best practice in the environmental management of the hospitality sector.

HKZMB

Concrete structures alleged to have drifted, fallen into sea

ALARM bells were ringing last week over the apparent drift of a large quantity of concrete structures intended to protect the edges of two artificial islands that form an undersea link along the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge.

Aerial photographs published by several news outlets showed that the concrete structures, which usually protect the islands from erosion caused by weather and the sea, were set in an unusual, random arrangement and mostly underwater.

This prompted concern

in neighboring Hong Kong regarding the structural integrity of the undersea tunnel that links the two artificial islands.

However, officials from the mainland authority responsible for overseeing the bridge project have spoken out and insisted that the concrete blocks are arranged as intended; submerged and scattered in a "random manner".

The deputy director of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Authority, Yu Lie, told the South China Morning Post late last week that the arrangement of the concrete

structures was by design.

"We have our ways to do it, and you [Hong Kong] may have your ways to do it. You seem to presume that part of the structure has sunk, has collapsed. But this has been designed as such. We do not think there is any problem with that. There are rules and standards for us to follow," he said.

But Yu's comments were not sufficient to allay public fears that a bad weather event like last year's Typhoon Hato could damage the underwater tunnel.

Hong Kong's Highways

Director Daniel Chung visited the bridge authority on Monday to investigate the rumors. According to Hong Kong media, Chung said that there was no evidence that the concrete blocks have drifted. He said that their current placement had not changed from the blueprint design.

However, the bridge authority has not released the blueprint to the public, despite calls from engineers to do so.

He also said that, although the blocks have been arranged in a semi-random manner, they are required to meet a density of



at least 14 pieces within a 25-square-meter area.

Hong Kong's chief executive Carrie Lam argued that the bridge's stability had been "scientifically proven" and that the quality of the project's construction was not in doubt.

Aerial photographs released by the bridge authority last year – in order to prove the islands

had withstood the onset of Typhoon Hato – show a similar arrangement of the concrete blocks as today.

However, digitally rendered images of the bridge prior to its construction show a consistent, non-random arrangement of the blocks, suggesting that it had not always been a part of the design.

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Times

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Renato Marques

FOOTBALL | AFC

Undermanned Benfica to play group favorite

FOLLOWING a great start to its first ever participation in the group stage of the Asian Football Confederation (AFC) Cup, Benfica de Macau will be forced to play with many sidelined players in its coming match against the widely regarded toughest team of the group. Today, Benfica will face North Korean Champion "April 25 Sports Club," considered the strongest team of the group and standing on an equal footing as Benfica with six points so far accrued.

However, the Macau delegation will be smaller than usual, with the team saying it will be able to send only 14 players to the North Korean capital. Interviewed by the Times, the president of Benfica de Macau, Duarte Alves, noted that "unfortunately" the team does not have the status of the national team, meaning it is not guaranteed certain staff exemption documents from the government.

Consequently, he said, "we will only be able to take 14 players to

the next game in North Korea."

The team's media relations director, João Varela, explained that "Benfica de Macau had asked for a waiver letter from the Sports Bureau (ID) so that players could represent the club on overseas trips to the AFC Cup, as they do when they play in official AFC and FIFA matches."

The ID was unable to issue this kind of exemption and instead drafted a letter requesting that employees consider providing annual leave to their staff members who have been asked to play in the upcoming Benfica match.

Alves noted that this ID document that cannot be used to justify a player's absence from work.

The ID confirmed the above information, stating, "regarding the



football club Macau Casa Benfica's participation in 'AFC CUP 2018,' the club had applied for declaration letters of participation for its players earlier through the Macau Football Association. We have already issued the declaration letters of participation according to the request and characteristics of the competition."

According to what the Times could ascertain, there is no legal provision that allows athletes to take a leave of absence while representing sports associations. In the cases of athletes representing

Macau as a national team, the ID provides a letter to the athletes to deliver to their employers seeking their cooperation, but it has "no binding power."

As for athletes working as civil servants, the only way to compete is to take "days off" from the annual leave, a former athlete told the Times, noting, "all depends on the chiefs and leaders, some are more sympathetic to this [leave request] than others." During the first game played by Benfica last month in Pyongyang, some players went to North Korea using their annual leave.

Benfica's upcoming match is certain to be challenging, with many key players sidelined for the Yanggakdo Stadium game in the North Korean capital. It is truly a herculean task which, in the opinion of the organizing team, could be eased with a little good will from the people in Macau.

Benfica will face a powerful squad of the April 25 Club, composed of several North Korea national team players and led by the former head coach of the North Korea national football team, Kim Jong-hun.

ECONOMY

Consumer confidence on the rise but caution remains

THE Institute of Sustainable Development of the Macau University of Science and Technology has published its consumer confidence index for the territory for the first quarter of 2018.

The overall consumer confidence index for the first quarter of 2018 was 89.92 in Macau, a 2.04 percent improvement from the previous quarter but still indicating that Macau residents are slightly pessimistic in their economic outlook, particularly in regard to consumer prices and living standards.

The consumer confidence index comprehensively reflects and quantifies consumer's opinions on

the strength of the current economic situation. It includes consumers' subjective feelings about the current and next quarter's macroeconomic outlook, employment, prices, living standards, purchase of residential properties and investment in stocks.

In order to obtain its data, MUST's Institute of Sustainable Development surveyed over 1,000 Macau residents aged 18 or above and asked their opinions on the various sub-indexes included in the consumer confidence index.

The index score ranges from 0 to 200, where a score of less than 100 suggests a lack of confidence and a

score over 100 implies a degree of confidence.

Analyzed by sub-index, confidence in local economy (111.22) rose by 0.62 percent on a quarterly basis, similar to that of employment (111.04), which increased by 1.5 percent.

Confidence in consumer prices (72.66) increased by 0.58 percent, but remained far below the 100 mark, as did the sub-indexes for housing purchases (60.21) and stock investment (86.40), which increased by 10.94 percent and 5.45 percent respectively. Living standards was the only sub-index to register a drop, falling 2.37 percent to 97.96.

The institution conclu-

ded in its report that "in sum, the overall confidence of consumers in Macau increased during the quarter, consumer confidence in the Macau economy continued to rise and maintained a 'confident' position above 100."

"Confidence in the employment situation was

more optimistic and in consumer prices was slightly lower. The standard of living is basically stable, the confidence of the purchase of housing rebounded [from a] low [...and] in the short run, the high growth rate of gambling industries enhances consumer confidence."

Outside Macau, the mainland's consumer confidence index for the first quarter of 2018 was 105.0, down 0.1 percent from 105.1 in the previous quarter. In the same period, the index for Hong Kong stood unchanged at 86.8, while in Taiwan it was 88.8, up 2.5 percent from 86.7. **DB**

CONFIDENCE INDEX

	2017 Q4	2018 Q1	Change %
Local Economy	110.54	111.22	10.62
Employment	109.41	111.04	11.50
Consumer Price	72.24	72.66	10.58
Living Standard	100.34	97.96	↓2.37
Housing Purchase	54.27	60.21	↑10.94
Stock Investment	81.93	86.40	15.45
General Index	88.12	89.92	12.04

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* THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' *

Renato Marques

PROPOSED amendments to the taxi service regulations indicate that taxis should run under licenses owned by registered companies in charge of the management of all processes as well as the application for individual licenses for each of the cars.

The Executive Council (ExCo) said during yesterday's announcement that the ExCo has concluded the analysis of the amendments, which will now proceed to the Legislative Assembly (AL) to be voted upon.

ExCo's spokesperson Leong Heng Teng explained that the proposal results in few licenses being in the possession of the taxi drivers, necessitating a system in which drivers enter into an employment deal with a large-scale company. Leong said the plan came "after studying and comparing the two kinds [of existing licenses], arriving to the conclusion that is best to opt for the company-owned ones."

"It is not only the finance capacity that is on the line but also the management capacity," he added, noting that according to the few details of the proposal that were able to be revealed, such companies, in order to apply for public tender, will have to be "properly" registered and have a share capital of at least MOP5 million.

Questioned as to whether the government thinks this is the most adequate measure, Leong said: "This is only a proposal; it is a duty of the AL to evaluate if this [proposal] is or not appropriate. What we are trying to do is to seek solutions that are according to the development of the society."

In the same section of the proposal it is also noted that the government reserves the right to select the license buyers on public tender "according to the established selection criteria," a topic of which Leong said it was not "the right time" to disclose the details, promising to reveal all those when the bill reaches the AL.

Regarding the same licenses, the government also proposes

Amendments to taxi regulations to cut driver-owned licenses

to forbid any kind of transfer, temporary or permanent, paid or not, of the licenses between companies, after they have been acquired by public tender.

Taxis will be mandatorily equipped with a sound recording device

Another of the measures proposed by the bill relates to the enforcement of actions that aim to prevent unlawful activities by the taxi drivers, namely trying to ease the means of obtaining evidence. In this sense, the government proposes that taxis should be mandatorily equipped with a Global Positioning (and Navigation) System by Satellite (GPS)



as well as with a sound recording device, the installation and maintenance of which will need to be done by Transport Bureau (DSAT) approved entities.

Contrary to what was previously aired during the public consultation document back in 2014, the voice recording system will be of mandatory use and not optional, a change justified by the DSAT's director Lam Hin San as a "more

effective way to exercise the rule of law."

The proposal also establishes a timeframe of one year after the law enters into force for the taxi owners to perform the necessary changes and equip the cars with the required new devices.

Dropped was the idea of operating "undercover agents" to witness the misconducts, as the responsible authority from the

Public Security Police Force (PSP) who was also present at the meeting, noted, "the Macau law does not allow us to try to simulate actions in order to try the drivers," he said, noting, "but we will operate in an indirect way, since the new law will allow both PSP officers and DSAT inspectors to report [and act] immediately when they find any unlawful conduct."

Increased fines on serious offences by taxi drivers

THE bill that the government announced yesterday, which will make amendments to the "Taxi Law," proposes an increase to the fines applicable to instances of unlawful conduct, but also proposes a more lenient system relating to serious offences that result in the cancellation of a driver's license, the Executive Council spokesperson Leong Heng Teng announced at a press conference.

Drivers who infringe the law in regards to this misconduct will be liable to pay increased fines that total from MOP600 to MOP30,000 depending on the severity of the situation. Nevertheless, and contrary to what had been aired during the public consultation period, the number of serious offences committed by one driver that will lead to the cancellation of his or her driver's license remains four offences, but over a period of five years, and not

over one year as was previously proposed.

Questioned on the topic at the government's headquarters yesterday, the government spokesperson said that the proposal follows the laws and examples of neighboring regions and takes into consideration the efforts of the sector to try to improve on their service. "There is only a small percentage [of drivers] that commit these infractions that affect the image of Macau," Leong said, stating that such facts have weighed on the decision over enforceable sanctions.

Among the examples of conduct which will be considered serious are: the "refusal of providing transportation and selection of costumers," the "bargaining of the fare" and the "overcharge of the taxi fare."

In case a driver gets caught in four of these serious offenses within a period of five years, his taxi driver license will be can-

celled and he or she could only apply for a new license by taking the driving course again, and only after a period of suspension of three years.

Heavily raised was the fine for the operation of vehicles providing transportation services without a taxi license, moving from the previous MOP25,000 to MOP90,000 in the new law proposal. Although not clearly mentioned, it is clear that such a penalty hike aims to deter the appearance of transportation services such as Uber and other similar services, leading Leong to say, "If the fines are not high, they do not produce deterrent effects."

The ExCo also proposed that new law enter into force 60 days after the approval by the Legislative Assembly, although the spokesperson failed to forecast when the government expects that this will happen.

BOAO FORUM

Chui discusses cooperation with Guangzhou, Hainan



The CE meets with the Secretary of the CPC Hainan Provincial Committee, Liu Cigui (right)

THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, was in Hainan for yesterday's opening ceremony of the Boao Forum for Asia Annual Conference 2018, where President Xi Jinping delivered a keynote speech.

During his visit to Hainan Province, Chui discussed with Guangzhou and Hainan officials potential ways to advance cooperation on tourism and youth entrepreneurship.

On Monday, the CE met

with the Secretary of the CPC Hainan Provincial Committee, Liu Cigui, and the Governor of Hainan Province, Shen Xiaoming. Later, he held a meeting with deputy secretary of the CPC Guangdong Provincial Committee and Secretary of Guangzhou CPC Municipal Committee, Ren Xuefeng.

In discussions with the CPC Hainan Secretary, Chui said that he saw great potential for Hainan and

Macau to cooperate on tourism, and in the way that the development of Hainan – as a holiday island attracting international tourists – complemented Macau's position as "a world center of tourism and leisure."

In a separate meeting with the CPC Guangzhou Secretary, the CE stressed that Guangzhou and Macau have been developing closer ties, adding that Macau's role as a commercial and trade cooperation

service platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries would create fresh opportunities for young people from each region.

According to a statement, Chui also said that he looked forward to leading a delegation to Guangzhou to gain a better understanding of its policies for youth entrepreneurship, and to assist Guangzhou in sending delegations to visit Portuguese-speaking countries.



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INFO



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MUSIC

Composer and pianist Einaudi plays in Macau this June

ITALIAN pianist and composer Ludovico Einaudi will play a concert at the Macau Cultural Centre on June 10. Together with his band, the world-renowned musician will perform a medley of his best compositions on the piano.

According to the New York Times, Einaudi is one of the world's most-streamed living classical musicians, with about 740,000 Spotify followers.

The composer and pianist is the author of many cinematic soundtracks – such as Aro-nofsky's *Black Swan*, French box office hit *The Intouchables* or Clint Eastwood's *J. Edgar* – and has also composed for ballet, theatre and video installations.

He is admired by a wide spectrum of other artists,



from Iggy Pop and Ricky Gervais to pianist Lang Lang. Einaudi's versatility has also been heard on a string of high-profile commercials, from the NBA and Nissan adverts to BBC's promotional spots. Back in 2016, Einaudi's popularity soared when he played *Elegy for the Arctic* on a floating platform for a

Greenpeace awareness video which drew millions of views.

For those who want to find out more about the composer-pianist, there will be a pre-show talk, for which admission is free. Presented in Cantonese, this session will take place at CCM's Conference Room an hour before the concert.

Macau Bats festival kicks off Saturday

THE fourth annual Macau Bats Rugby Festival will be held on Saturday, April 14 at The International School sports field in Taipa, according to a statement from the organizer. Teams from Hong Kong, mainland China and Macau have been invited to play against one another.

The festival has teams in six different age groups, from under-6s to under-12s.

According to Macau Bats, approximately 50 teams have entered this year's competition. The teams from Hong Kong include HK Football Club, Valley Fort, Sai Kung Stingrays, Discovery Bay Pirates, USRC Tigers and the Flying Kukris.

For the first time, a club from mainland China will take part in the Macau festival, with the Dongguan Bulldogs entering a team in the under-10s age group.

The festival kicks off at 10:30 a.m., starting with games in the under-6s, under-7s and under-8s categories that will run until 12:20 p.m. The under-9s and under-10s' games will be played between 12:30 p.m. to 2:45 p.m., followed by the under-12s cup from 2:45 p.m. until approximately 5:30 p.m.

Organizers said in a statement that the competition promised to be "a great day of sport and fun." The festival is open to all to "find out about rugby and support your local Macau team."

Food and beverages will be available from stalls on site.



Fijian rugby player Waisale Serevi gave a class in Macau

FIJIAN PLAYER IN TOWN

THIRTY PLAYERS from local rugby club Macau Bats were the recipients of a special coaching class by renowned Fijian rugby player Waisale Serevi in Macau on Monday. Serevi, a two time Rugby 7s World Cup winner, was visiting Macau as part of the launch tour of his new book "The King of Sevens". Taking time out from his busy schedule, the IRB (International Rugby Board) Hall of Fame member led the group of local players through their rugby paces at the TIS sports field. As well as demonstrating a number of skilled techniques, Serevi gave the players an insight into what it takes to become a top international player

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Wynn is said to be selling USD150m of Warhol, Picasso works

Katya Kazakina

EMBATTLED casino mogul Steve Wynn is selling several works by Andy Warhol and Pablo Picasso estimated at more than USD150 million, according to people familiar with the matter.

The billionaire former chief executive officer of Wynn Resorts Ltd., who stepped down in February amid sexual harassment allegations that he's denied, is the anonymous seller of at least three paintings offered at Christie's next month, said the people, who asked not to be identified because the information is private. Another of Wynn's paintings was sold last month at Art Basel Hong Kong, one of the people said. Wynn and Christie's declined to comment.

The most valuable of the group is Picasso's 1943 self-portrait in a striped sailor shirt, "Le Marin." Estimated at about \$70 million, it will be offered during Christie's evening sale of Impressionist and modern art on May 15, according to the auction house. Also on the block that night will be the Spanish master's 1964 portrait of a woman with a cat, "Femme au chat assise dans un fauteuil," estimated at \$25 million to \$35 million. It fetched \$18 million at Christie's in 2010.

Warhol's 1963 "Double Elvis [Ferus Type]," depicts Elvis Presley dressed as a cowboy and shooting from the hip. It's estimated at more than \$30 million and will be part of a postwar and contemporary evening sale on May 17, Christie's said. The pain-



Another of Wynn's paintings was sold last month at Art Basel Hong Kong

ting last appeared at auction in 2012 when it fetched \$37 million at Sotheby's. At the time it was bought by the Mugarbi family, which owns one of the world's

largest private Warhol collections.

Wynn, 76, one of the top U.S. collectors of modern and contemporary art, had already parted with Warhol's 1981 "Superman." The painting was exhibited by Acquavella Galleries at Art Basel Hong Kong. The asking price was \$19.5 million and the work sold during the fair, according to the New York gallery, which declined to identify the signor. "Superman" fetched \$14.4 million at Sotheby's in 2015. **Bloomberg**



Casino staff calls for stricter tobacco control

YESTERDAY morning, a group of Wynn employees organized a demonstration calling on Wynn to more strictly control smoking activities.

The group consisted of around 200 Wynn employees. Their appeals included requesting Wynn Macau to close one smoking area, and to ask the government to implement Macau's tobacco control laws in a stricter way.

According to a report by TDM, one of the participants, surnamed Ip, said that the relevant government department "sent inspectors to the casino, but before their arrival, the casino informs customers that someone is about to come."

Ip also noted that Wynn Macau keeps ignoring situations in which its employees are exposed to second-hand smoking. He then accused the company of allowing customers to smoke inside VIP rooms.

Ip also said that when a worker tries to ask a customer not to smoke, the worker is scolded by his or her superior.

"We work in a really narrow space. Even around a bus stop smoking is banned within ten meters of it. Then why do they smoke within several square meters [in the VIP rooms]," an interviewee questioned.

The participants believe that their company should not interfere with supervision works conducted by the law enforcement authority concerning air quality, and that their company should establish an internal reporting mechanism over tobacco control.

Choi Kam Fu, director general of the Macau Gaming Enterprises Staff's Association, who also attended the demonstration, said that despite the Wynn employees having expressed their appeals to the company several times, the company has not responded. He expressed his wish for Wynn to respond to the dissatisfied staff soon. **JZ**

Some perpetrators of domestic violence have gambling problems

A meeting about domestic violence was conducted last week at which victims of domestic violence in Macau shared their stories.

The meeting was attended by representatives from the Social Affairs Bureau's (IAS) family service department, and some of the city's associations, as well as several legal consultants from the region.

Chan Yiu Hung, head of the Family Service Division of the Department of Family and Community Services of IAS, said that in recent years, IAS estab-

lished a Department of Social Reintegration to follow up domestic abusers. In the past, cases of domestic abuse were monitored by IAS's family services department.

According to Chan, having a specific department responsible for handling situations of domestic violence has a beneficial effect on helping the people involved. This department is responsible for assisting other people's visits to the perpetrators.

During the visits paid to domestic abusers, the department records the entire process. Chan said

that visiting perpetrators helps with stabilizing their mood.

Local legal consultant, Cheong Lai Wa, said that participants at the meeting discovered that many domestic abusers had problems with substance abuse or gambling. She believes that social workers, when handling cases of domestic violence where substance abuse or gambling were suspected factors, should consider forwarding the cases to the relevant governmental department for more suitable and professional support.

EDUCATION

Mainland's national English exams to be held in Macau

STARTING this year, China's national College English Test Band 4 (CET4) and Band 6 (CET6) will both be held in Macau, according to a statement released last week by the Tertiary Education Services Office (GAES).

Three local universities – the University of Macau (UM), Macao University of Science and Technology (MUST), and the City University of Macau (CityU) – signed an agreement with GAES and the test center of China's Ministry of Education regarding pre-

parations for both tests.

Students from these three universities, as well as the Macao Polytechnic Institute, Institute for Tourism Studies and the Kiang Wu Nursing College of Macau, will all be able to take the exams in Macau.

CET4 and CET 6 are held every June and December. The same schedule will apply to Macau.

The exams will take place in UM, MUST, and CityU, with the application fee fixed at MOP280. The first exam to be organized in

Macau will take place on June 16.

CET4 and CET6 are two national standardized English tests organized by the tertiary education division of China's Ministry of Education.

The exams were first established in 1987. Since their inception, they have drawn criticism in the mainland for being part of China's exam-oriented education system. In the past, a mainland university student would have to pass CET4 to obtain their degree.



Business Luncheon
Wednesday 18th April
 with
Guest Speaker: Dr. Wilfred Wong
President, Sands China, Ltd.

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

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

Venue: The Astor Ballroom, 5/F
 The St. Regis Macao, Cotai
 12.30: Drinks
 12.55 pm: Lunch
 1.30 pm: Presentation by Dr. Wilfred Wong
 2.30 pm: Close
Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event
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Facebook problems 'my mistake,' Zuckerberg to tell Congress

Sarah Frier, Steven T. Dennis

FACEBOOK Inc. Chief Executive Officer Mark Zuckerberg, in prepared testimony for the U.S. House of Representatives, said all of Facebook's problems are his mistake.

The world's largest social-media company didn't do enough to prevent its tools from being used for harm, especially in terms of fake news, foreign interference in elections, hate speech, developer policies and data privacy, Zuckerberg, Facebook's co-founder, said.

"It was my mistake, and I'm sorry," Zuckerberg added, according to a copy of the prepared testimony ahead of his appearance in front of the House Energy and Commerce Committee on Wednesday. "I started Facebook, I run it, and I'm responsible for what happens here."

Zuckerberg is due to testify to Congress today and tomorrow [Macau time] in the midst of the worst privacy crisis in Facebook's history. He will try to explain how much Facebook contributes to the world, while saying he didn't take a broad enough view of the consequences of the company's technology.

The prepared testimony recounts many of the updates Facebook has made to improve security since revelations that Cambridge Analytica, a political consultant with ties to President Donald Trump's campaign, obtained information on as many as 87 million users without their consent. It also confirms Facebook knows little about what Cambridge Analytica did with the data, or even whether it still



has the information. Facebook's timeline about the incident relies on outside news reports, not the Menlo Park, California-based company's own investigation.

I started Facebook, I run it, and I'm responsible for what happens here.

MARK ZUCKERBERG

"I've directed our teams to invest so much in security - on top of the other investments we're making - that it will significantly impact our profitability going forward," Zuckerberg said in the prepared testimony. "But I want to be clear about what our priority is: protecting our community is more important than maximizing our profits."

Zuckerberg is also ready to take more questions about the

use of Facebook by Russian operatives to manipulate the 2016 U.S. presidential election. In Monday's prepared testimony, he summarized investments the company is making to prevent fake accounts and monitoring activity around elections.

"My top priority has always been our social mission of connecting people, building community and bringing the world closer together," Zuckerberg said. "Advertisers and developers will never take priority over that as long as I'm running Facebook."

Congress will likely make the point that Facebook is a company, not a philanthropy, and has made decisions based on incentives that don't align with helping users, especially with regards to privacy. Facebook relies on profits from precision targeting of ads and engaged users, which is hard to balance with demands to protect user privacy and stamp out content that's deceptive or false.

This is at the core of a lot of questions Zuckerberg can expect. Republican Senator John Kennedy of Louisiana, who wants to know more about the

algorithms Facebook uses for what posts to show, said Sunday he fears privacy issues and "the propagandist issue are both too big for Facebook to fix."

Zuckerberg met with lawmakers Monday on Capitol Hill, including Senator Bill Nelson of Florida, the top Democrat on the Senate Commerce committee, and Chuck Grassley, an Iowa Republican and chairman of the Senate Judiciary committee.

After an hour-long meeting with Zuckerberg, Nelson said the CEO was "forthright" and promised changes. But Nelson sees the need for lawmakers to do something to protect privacy and counter adversaries like Russia.

"If we don't watch out, with social media and platforms like Facebook and the mistakes that they made in the past, then no American is going to have any privacy," Nelson said. "You can't protect our privacy just on the basis of somebody telling you they're going to protect it. Does that mean law? Yes. Does that mean regulation? Yes."

Nelson, however, isn't confident regulations will be passed under the Trump administration, while noting that Facebook's business model requires data to target ads. The senator is more concerned immediately about data getting into the hands of people who intend to do harm.

"My sense is he takes it seriously because he knows there's going to be a hard look at regulation," Nelson said of Zuckerberg. "If it's going to undermine ultimately our democratic institutions we're going to have to do something to protect ourselves."

Criticism of Zuckerberg wasn't limited to Congress. Trump's top economic adviser, Larry Kudlow, told reporters Monday that he hoped Zuckerberg would present himself professionally. "Is he going to wear a suit and tie and clean white shirt?" Kudlow said. "That's my bigger question. Is he going to behave like an adult, as a major corporate leader?" On his way to the meeting with Nelson, Zuckerberg was in a suit. **Bloomberg**



German airports targeted in widening public workers' strikes

GERMANY'S public-sector workers expanded strikes across Europe's biggest economy yesterday, with flights at airports including Frankfurt and Munich suffering severe disruption.

Ahead of a third round of wage talks on April 15, the Ver.di union is attempting to increase pressure on employers in support of a demand for a 6 percent pay raise, or at least 200 euros (USD250) a month, over 12 months for 2.3 million government workers.

There were widespread delays and cancellations at Frankfurt and Munich airports, while Deutsche Lufthansa AG scrapped more than 800 of Tuesday's 1,600 scheduled flights, affecting about 90,000 passengers. Cologne and Bremen airports were also hit by stoppages, as well as some local transport networks, city administrations, nursery schools, utilities and job centers.

"After two rounds of talks there is still no offer from employers," Ver.di Chairman Frank Bsirske said yesterday in a statement. "At long last, we want to break through this wall."

The nationwide walkouts, which Ver.di said involved 60,000 workers across eight federal regions, are due to continue through Friday, although the four airports were only affected yesterday. **MDT/Bloomberg**

corporate bits

CESL ASIA TAKES PART IN MIECF



CESL Asia will showcase its ideas and solutions at the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF 2018) held from tomorrow until April 14. According to a statement

the firm released yesterday, CESL Asia will display its initiatives at the exhibition. CESL Asia's initiatives are jointly developed with its partner from the Fujian Province, the high-tech in-

tegrated group "Newland", a purveyor of innovative technology and new-generation tech-products in the Chinese market.

Among other applications to be showcased at MIECF, CESL Asia will present on the smart transportation system, cloud computing and big data, and the opportunities for potential deployment of modern solutions in the area of environmental management.

"We believe that all these elements contribute to the sustainability of the social and economic development, impact on the increasing of the quality of life of Macau citizens," the company said.

SOFITEL TO HOLD 'WINE & MUSIC' NIGHT



Sofitel Macau will present "Wine & Music," this Friday, featuring ethnic music, dance, signature food and wine from South America.

Guests will be offered a free flow of wines from Casablanca Valley, a renowned wine region in Chile, including Cefiro Merlot 2012 (Silver Medal Winner of Mundus Vini), Nimbus Estate Pinot Noir 2012, Cefiro Chardonnay 2013 (scored 88 by International Wine Cellar magazine) and Nimbus Estate Sauvignon Blanc 2014.

Sofitel noted in a statement that unlimited Latin specialties such as smoked turkey tortilla wraps with guacamole, choripan sandwiches, croquetas, chicken anticucho and marinated roasted beef flap will be available.

The event will be held in Mistral North Terrace.

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Beijing defends military buildup

CHINA is entitled to strengthen its defenses on islands in the disputed South China Sea but those measures aren't directed at any specific countries, a defense ministry spokesman said yesterday, amid the latest surge in tensions in the crucial waterway.

China's military deployments are "the natural right of a sovereign nation that helps safeguard national sovereignty and security," Ren Guoqiang said in a statement posted on the ministry's website.

They also help protect navigation safety, "serve to ensure regional peace and stability and are not directed at any country," Ren said.

Ren gave no details, although his statement was a reply to a question about whether China's deployments were a response to missions by the U.S. Navy to challenge Beijing's claim to virtually the entire South China Sea.

That followed the U.S. Navy's dispatching of three aircraft carriers to the South China Sea and a report in the Wall Street Journal newspaper on Monday that China has installed military jamming devices on two islands in the area.

China's military buildup has focused on several islands in the Paracel group and seven that it built atop reefs in the highly contested Spratly group, topping them with airstrips, barracks and other defense infrastructure.

China has also reportedly been holding large-scale naval exercises in the area featuring its sole operating aircraft carrier, while its air force says it recently sent some of its most advanced fighters and bombers for "joint combat patrols" over the sea.

Those included H-6K long-range strategic bombers that carry DH-20 long-range land-attack cruise missiles, giving them the ability to hit targets as far away as Australia, along with Russian-made Su-35 fighters.

China's claims in the South China Sea overlap in whole or in part those of Taiwan, Brunei, Malaysia, Vietnam and U.S. treaty partner the Philippines.

Washington doesn't take a formal position on sovereignty claims in the area but regards the South China Sea largely as international waters in which its navy has the right to operate within legal confines. AP

MDT EXPLAINS

US targets heart of China's economic blueprint

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's threat to hike tariffs on technology imports from China strikes at the heart of Beijing's state-led blueprint for prosperity and restoring the nation's greatness.

For four decades, China has leaned on foreign companies to hand over technology — or help potential Chinese rivals develop their own — in exchange for market access. That helped make China a leader in fields from mobile phones to high-speed rail to wind turbines, but also fueled complaints that China was improperly benefitting from those tactics.

Chinese officials say they are willing to negotiate. In a speech to a business conference in southern China, President Xi Jinping promised progress on areas that are U.S. priorities including cutting tariffs on auto imports, opening China's banking industry and boosting the total volume of imports [see report on these pages].

But the political importance of the industrial policy Washington wants Beijing to change suggests Trump will face intense resistance to major changes.

WHAT'S CHINA'S GAME?

China's tactics have long frustrated the United States, Europe, Japan and other trading partners. But they avoided an open confrontation because China also was a growing market for power generation, telecoms, aerospace and other technology.

Sentiment against Beijing has mounted following complaints by foreign companies they are being squeezed out of promising industries as China develops its own suppliers.

"For them, it's a success story. To change that to something else, I don't know how the system would be willing to do that, because it is so successful," said Joerg Wuttke, a former president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China who has worked in this country for three decades.

"There will be attempts to appease the United States, but it's not going to work," said Wuttke. "We are entering a new phase of uncertainty."



WHAT IS THE FUSS ALL ABOUT?

Other governments, not just the U.S., say China's tactics violate the spirit of free trade. Many complaints center on investment or regulatory issues that aren't part of its World Trade Organization (WTO) commitments.

A builder of Japan's Shinkansen bullet train, Kawasaki Heavy Industries, complained that after it licensed rail technology for use in China, local manufacturers tried to sell it abroad.

Beijing pressed automakers to shift to using Chinese components suppliers by imposing import taxes on autos assembled in local factories with foreign-made parts. By the time a WTO panel ruled in 2008 that violated China's market-opening pledges, automakers had shifted to local suppliers and were teaching them how to make better parts.

U.S. authorities also accuse China's government of using or encouraging cyberspying and theft of technology and business secrets.

More recently, Western governments are on edge about state-financed Chinese purchases of semiconductor, robotics and other companies while foreign buyers are barred from acquiring most assets in China. In Europe, that has prompted complaints the continent might be losing its competitive edge.

Earlier, Washington filed a World Trade Organization complaint accusing Beijing of imposing unfair contract terms on foreign suppliers

and allowing its companies to keep using their technology once a license expires.

In September, Trump blocked the Chinese purchase of a U.S. maker of semiconductors in September. The same month, the president of the European Union's governing body announced plans for the 28-nation trade bloc's first "investment screening" system.

WHAT IS THE US STRATEGY?

Trump's opening salvo was approval of possible 25 percent tariffs on USD50 billion of Chinese aerospace, computer and other technology. The U.S. Trade Representative's Office said that was in response to Chinese policies that "coerce American companies into transferring their technology" to Chinese enterprises. It said products picked for tariffs were those that benefited from such tactics.

Beijing fired back with its own \$50 billion list of American goods including pork and steel pipes for a duty increase. Trump ratcheted up pressure by announcing he might seek higher import taxes on an additional \$100 billion of Chinese goods.

The Trump administration might launch a similar investigation of Chinese cloud, financial and value-added telecoms services, researchers for consulting firm Eurasia Group said in a report.

"We remain concerned that the tariff imposition process could spiral dangerously out of control, given that this trade action is really less about trade and more about China's

rise as a technology leader," the researchers said.

WHAT ARE THE CHANCES FOR COMPROMISE?

Chinese leaders launched market-style reform in the 1980s but never abandoned the idea the ruling Communist Party would guide development and state-owned companies would dominate the economy.

Even today, China is the most closed major economy. Foreign or private competitors have little or no access to industries including banking, oil and gas, telecoms, airlines, coal mining, steel and railways. Foreign automakers and other companies must work through state-owned partners, sharing technology and developing their skills.

Leaders declared in 2013 that market forces would prevail in decision-making, but countered that by saying state industries would still dominate and the party would intensify control of government-owned companies.

"One of the difficulties is that the compromises primarily have to come from the Chinese side," said Lester Ross, a lawyer in Beijing for the firm WilmerHale and chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce in China's policy committee.

"I don't think the Chinese leadership likes to see itself in that position," he said. "It sees itself as a rising power — a rejuvenated country with great ambitions to rise to the top of the world." MDT/AP

Joe McDonald and Gillian Wong,
Beijing

PRESIDENT Xi Jinping promised yesterday to cut China's auto tariffs and improve intellectual property protection in possible concessions aimed at defusing a worsening dispute with Washington over trade and technology that investors worry could set back the global economic recovery.

Speaking at a business conference, Xi made no direct mention of his American counterpart, Donald Trump, or the dispute. He promised progress on areas that are U.S. priorities including opening China's banking industry and boosting imports but didn't address key irritants for Washington such as a requirement for foreign companies to work through joint ventures that require them to give technology to potential local competitors.

Private sector analysts saw Xi's speech as an overture to help end the biggest trade dispute since World War II. It has fueled fears the global economic recovery might be set back if other governments are prompted to raise their own import barriers.

Xi tried to position China as a defender of free trade and cooperation, despite its status as the most-closed major economy, in response to Trump's "America first" calls for import restrictions and trade deals that are more favorable to the United States.

"China's door of opening up will not be closed and will only open wider," said Xi at the Boao Forum for Asia on the southern island of Hainan.

Xi said Beijing will "significantly lower" tariffs on auto imports this year and ease restrictions on foreign ownership in the auto industry "as soon as possible."

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on Chinese goods worth USA\$50 billion in response to complaints Beijing pressures foreign companies to hand over technology in violation of its World Trade Organization market-opening commitments. Beijing fired back with its own \$50 billion list of U.S. goods for possible retaliation.

The Chinese leader promised to encourage "normal technological exchange" and to "protect the lawful ownership rights of foreign enterprises."

"President Xi's speech could create a very good platform to launch U.S.-China dialogue at the WTO to find a deal on intellectual property rights," said economist Rajiv Biswas of IHS Markit in a report. "This would be a victory for the world trading system and an important step away from the abyss of rising global protectionism."

The dispute is likely to end "with a concession from China," said Larry Hu of Macquarie Group in a report.

Singapore Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong, speaking at the Boao event, welcomed Xi's pro-

AP PHOTO



BOAO FORUM

Xi Jinping offers US possible trade concessions

mises on finance, investment, intellectual property and auto imports.

"We look forward to seeing these strategies elaborated, implemented and bearing fruit," said Lee, according to a transcript issued by his office.

Also yesterday, China filed a WTO challenge against Trump's earlier tariff hike on steel and aluminum in a separate dispute.

Beijing, which has issued a USD3 billion list of U.S. goods including pork and apples for possible retaliation, requested 60 days of consultations as a first step. If that fails, the Chinese government can ask for a ruling from a WTO panel of experts.

Chinese officials deny foreign companies are compelled to hand over technology, but business groups say joint venture and licensing rules make that unavoidable. The United States filed a WTO complaint last month accusing Beijing of violating its trade pledges by imposing unfair contract terms and allowing companies to use foreign-owned technology after licensing periods expire.

Foreign companies complain Beijing is squeezing them out of promising parts of the state-dominated economy to promote the ruling Communist Party's plans to create Chinese global competitors in fields including

robotics, electric cars and pharmaceuticals.

Xi gave no details on how those conditions might change, leaving it unclear whether that might mollify Washington.

Easing rules that limit global automakers to owning no more than 50 percent of a joint venture with a Chinese partner might help to address Trump's complaints about technology as well as giving them more flexibility in their biggest global market.

Jake Parker, the vice president for China of the U.S.-China Business Council, which represents companies that deal with China, welcomed Xi's announcement but expressed hope for additional steps such as ending requirements for joint ventures and technology licensing.

"Ultimately, U.S. industry will be looking for implementation of long-stalled economic reforms, but actions to date have greatly

■ **The Chinese leader promised to encourage 'normal technological exchange'**

undermined the optimism of the U.S. business community," Parker said in an email.

Xi repeated pledges to open China's finance industries to foreign investors but gave no additional details.

Chinese regulators announced that intention in November, just after Trump ended a high-profile visit to Beijing, but gave no timeline or details. Business groups welcomed the commitment but said breaking into China's state-dominated financial industries would be hard for new competitors and Beijing might impose restrictions that would make such an effort unprofitable.

The biggest beneficiaries of a cut in China's 25 percent tariff on most auto imports will be the small number of automakers such as electric car brand Tesla that have no factory in China. Other automakers such as General Motors and Volkswagen that assemble vehicles in China with local partners could offer additional models.

More broadly, Xi repeated official promises to expand imports and to narrow China's trade surplus, another irritant for Washington. China reported a global trade surplus of \$423 billion last year — about two-thirds of that with the United States.

"China does not seek a trade surplus," said Xi to an audien-

ce of Chinese and foreign businesspeople. "We have a genuine desire to increase imports and achieve a greater balance of international payments."

The president promised to make faster progress toward joining the WTO's Government Procurement Agreement, which extends the WTO's free-trading principles to purchases by governments. That can make a significant difference in developing countries, where the government often accounts for most sales of computer software, medical equipment and other high-value goods.

The bulk of Xi's 40-minute speech was devoted to China's vision for economic development and its global role following a ruling party congress in October that confirmed him as the most dominant Chinese leader since at least the 1980s.

Xi sounded a conciliatory note toward neighbors with which Beijing has territorial disputes, saying China wants to pursue peaceful cooperative development.

"We will not bully our neighbors," the president said.

"Cold war thinking and zero-sum games are increasingly obsolete," he said. "Arrogance or self-righteousness can only bump into walls at every turn." AP

NORTH KOREA

Kim Jong Un briefs party leaders on future dialogue with US

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un briefed top ruling party officials on his vision for the future direction of dialogue with the United States and his upcoming summit with South Korea's president, the North's official media reported yesterday.

Kim gave his "profound analysis and appraisal" of the prospects for North Korea-U.S. dialogue at a meeting of the Politburo of the ruling party's Central Committee, the Korean Central News Agency reported. The meeting was held on Monday.

The KCNA report did not specifically mention plans for Kim to hold a summit with President Donald Trump, expected in May or June, but it suggests Pyongyang is actively preparing for the meeting and is ready to let North Koreans know big events may be ahead.

The North's official media has thus far made virtually no men-



tion of the series of stunning diplomatic overtures Kim has made toward Seoul and Washington since January, though it did trumpet Kim's visit to Beijing last month to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping.

That was the first time Kim has left the North since assuming

power in 2011 and was also his first meeting with another head of state.

North Korea's parliament, called the Supreme People's Assembly, is scheduled to convene today. The assembly generally convenes once a year to approve the national budget and other

policy and personnel issues that have already been decided on by Kim and the party leadership.

According to the KCNA report, the party leaders who met Monday approved a budget for this year that will be presented to the parliament.

It said Kim outlined in detail

his analysis on the situation on the Korean Peninsula and mentioned the North-South summit, which will be held on the south side of the DMZ on April 27.

He then discussed the "prospects of the DPRK-U.S. dialogue and set forth the strategic and tactical issues" to be maintained by the party.

Though the report did not explicitly mention plans for the summit with Trump, it was the most concrete suggestion to date that Pyongyang is preparing for what would be the first-ever summit between a North Korean leader and a sitting U.S. president.

Trump said Monday their meeting might be in late May or even in June. The location has yet to be announced.

The main issue at the summit will be North Korea's nuclear program.

Speaking at the White House yesterday [Macau time], Trump expressed hope that a deal to get Pyongyang to denuclearize might be made. Administration officials say the North has communicated that Kim is ready to discuss his nuclear weapons program.

Questions remain about what conditions Kim might tack on to any denuclearization agreement.

Today's parliament meeting could provide further clues as to what approach Kim might intend to take for the negotiation. **AP**

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A court in northern Vietnam sentenced a dissident to 13 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of attempting to overthrow the government. He was the seventh activist to be jailed in the past week as Communist authorities step up a crackdown on dissent.

The official Vietnam News Agency said Nguyen Van Tuc, 54, was convicted of affiliating with an outlawed group named Brotherhood for Democracy in a half-day trial at the People's Court in Thai Binh province.

Tuc was also ordered to serve three years of house arrest after finishing his prison sentence.

"The criminal acts committed by defendant Nguyen Van Tuc are particularly serious, directly impacting national security," VNA quoted the verdict as saying.

Court officials declined to comment.

VNA said Tuc joined the group in 2014 and served as its vice president. The group was a "reactionary organization that operated illegally aimed at attempting to abolish the leading role of the Communist Party of Vietnam and overthrow the people's administration," it said.

Tuc was previously sentenced in 2009 to four years in prison for distributing anti-government propaganda.

Last week, six members of the group, including its co-founder, prominent human rights lawyer Nguyen Van Dai, were sentenced to seven to 15 years in prison on the same charges.

Established in 2013, the group says its mission is to "fight to protect human rights recognized by the Vietnamese Constitution and international conventions" and "campaign to build a progressive,

VIETNAM

Activist sentenced to 13 years on subversion charges



Activist Nguyen Van Tuc (center) stands trial in Thai Binh

democratic, equal and civilized society in Vietnam." The group claimed nearly 80 members.

Despite sweeping economic reforms since the mid-1980s that opened up the country to foreign trade and investment and made it one of fastest-growing economies in the region, Communist-ruled Vietnam maintains tight controls on almost all aspects of society including the media and religion.

Separately, 47 members of Vietnamese civic groups, human rights defenders and independent media groups sent

an open letter to Facebook head Mark Zuckerberg asking whether it is cooperating with the Vietnamese government in suppressing dissent.

The letter, released yesterday, said Facebook has increasingly suspended the accounts of Vietnamese human rights activists and citizen journalists and removed their content. It said the company has been unhelpful in restoring the accounts, and that during the trial of activists last week, "many accounts and pages of high-profile citizen journalists were prevented from posting."

"While we applaud Facebook's efforts to fight disinformation in open societies, your efforts are carried out with such a broad brush that it is hurting communities in closed and closing spaces, such as Vietnam," the letter said.

The signers said they were dismayed to learn that a Facebook executive had reportedly agreed to cooperate with the Vietnamese government in the monitoring and removal of content.

"It would appear that after this high-profile agreement to coordinate with a gover-

ment that is known for suppressing expression online and jailing activists, the problem of account suspension and content takedown has only grown more acute," the letter said.

■ Despite sweeping economic reforms since the mid-1980s ... Communist-ruled Vietnam maintains tight controls on ... media and religion

Asked by The Associated Press for comment, Facebook said it is "committed to protecting the rights of the people who use Facebook, and to enabling people to express themselves freely and safely."

However, it said in an email, "There are also times when we may have to remove or restrict access to content because it violates a law in a particular country, even though it doesn't violate our Community Standards." It said it follows the same government request process for the removal of content in Vietnam as it does in the rest of the world. AP

JAPAN

Oldest man likes soaking in hot springs, eating sweets

MASAZO Nonaka has enjoyed soaking in northern Japan's hot springs for many years — probably longer than most people.

The supercentenarian, whose family has run a hot springs inn for four generations, was certified yesterday as the world's oldest living man, at age 112 years, 259 days.

Nonaka received the certificate from Guinness World Records in a ceremony at his home in Ashoro, on Japan's northern main island of Hokkaido, and celebrated with a big cake decorated

with berries.

Born on July 25, 1905, Nonaka grew up in a large family and succeeded his parents running the inn. The 105-year-old inn is now run by his granddaughter Yuko. He regularly soaks in the springs and also enjoys eating sweets, especially cakes.

Nonaka, wearing a knit cap and a kimono-style jacket, flashed a smile and posed for a group photo with his family, making a victory sign with his right hand.

He dug into the cake with a spoon after it was cut, and said, "Delicious," according

to NHK public television.

"Thank you," he said.

His family members say Nonaka still moves about by himself in a wheelchair.

He reads a newspaper after breakfast every morning, and loves to watch sumo wrestling and samurai dramas on TV. But his favorite pastime is soaking in the hot springs and relaxing.

Nonaka has outlived all seven of his siblings, as well as his wife and two of their five children.

He is one of about 67,800 centenarians in Japan, the fastest-aging country in

the world, with the highest average life expectancy — 80.98 for men and 87.14 for women, according to the Ministry of Health, Labor and Welfare.

Guinness says Nonaka replaced Francisco Olivera of Spain, who died earlier this year at age 113, as the world's oldest man.

A 117-year-old Japanese woman, Nabi Tajima, who is currently the oldest living person in Japan, is expected to be certified as the world's oldest person, replacing Violet Moss-Brown of Jamaica, who died in September at age 117. AP



Masazou Nonaka receives the certificate from Guinness World Records as the world's oldest living man at age 112 years and 259 days during a ceremony in Ashoro

MIDDLE EAST

Syrian troops on alert amid fear of US strike after attack

Bassem Mroue, Beirut

SYRIAN government forces and their allies were on alert and taking precautionary measures yesterday at military bases and posts in government-held areas across the country amid fears of a U.S. strike in the aftermath of an apparent chemical weapons attack in Syria, war monitors said.

The measures came as a senior Iranian official visiting Damascus warned that Israel's airstrike on a Syrian air base this week that killed several Iranians "will not remain unanswered."

Iran's semi-official Tasnim news agency put the number of Iranians killed in the attack at seven. It said the victims have been transferred to the Iranian capital, Tehran, and that funerals will be held in the victims' cities of origin across the country.

Russia and the Syrian military blamed Monday's pre-dawn strike, which reportedly killed 14 people, on Israel. There has been no comment from Israel on the strike on the T4 air base in Syria's central Homs province.

The suspected poison gas attack in a Syrian rebel-held town of Douma, just east of Damascus, and the airstrike by U.S. ally Israel have escalated tensions in the already volatile Mideast and raised the threat of possibly imminent American retaliation.

Ali Akbar Velayati, an aide to Iran's supreme leader, issued his stark warning upon arrival in the Syrian capital yesterday. He was quoted by the country's state-run



Douma, in eastern Ghouta region east of Damascus, Syria

news agency IRNA.

Iran is one of President Bashar Assad's strongest backers and has sent thousands of Iran-backed gunmen to back his forces.

President Donald Trump has threatened a military strike against Syria, vowing to respond "forcefully" to Saturday's apparent chemical weapons attack on civilians in Douma, warning that Russia — or any other nation found to share responsibility — will "pay a price."

Syrian opposition activists said 40 people died in Saturday night's chemical attack in Douma, the last remaining rebel bastion just outside of Damascus. The

opposition blamed Assad's forces for the attack, accusations the government and its Russian backers strongly deny.

UN Secretary-General Guterres said he is outraged by Syria's apparent chemical weapons use against civilians

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said he is outraged by Syria's apparent chemical weapons use against civilians. If confirmed, the use of such weapons would be a violation of international law, Guterres said in a statement.

Guterres also said he reaffirms his support of an investigation into the alleged attack by the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

The Britain-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights said that as of Monday night, troops have been on a 72-hour alert and are fortifying their positions. The Observatory's chief Rami Abdur-

rahman said the alert includes all army positions and bases from the southern province of Sweida all the way to Aleppo province in the north, the Mediterranean coast in the west to Deir el-Zour province in the east, along the Iraqi border.

The Sound and Picture Organization, an activist collective in eastern Syria, said that Iranian fighters and members of Lebanon's Hezbollah group have evacuated their positions in the Boukamal area, near Iraq's border.

A Lebanese politician with close links to the Syrian government confirmed that precautionary measures were being taken throughout Syria. The politician, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak about secret military movements, said the atmosphere and American statements hint to a possible strike "but there are no indications on the ground so far."

The politician said the Syrian government was expecting a limited strike, similar to the one on Shayrat air base last year, referring to last year's U.S. attack on the central air base of Shayrat in the central province of Homs following a chemical weapons attack on northern Syria that Washington blamed on the government.

In Moscow, a senior Russian lawmaker said his country is willing to help arrange a visit this week for experts from the international chemical weapons watchdog, the Organization for the Protection of Chemical Weapons or OPCW, to the site of a suspected poison gas attack in Syria.

Yevgeny Serberennikov, from the defense committee at the Federation Council, told the RIA Novosti news agency on Tuesday that Russia is anxious for the OPCW to "finally start carrying out the functions it was created for." AP

UK

Northern Ireland marks 20 years of peace deal as Brexit casts shadow

FORMER U.S. President Bill Clinton and ex-British Prime Minister Tony Blair were heading to Belfast yesterday to mark the 20th anniversary of Northern Ireland's peace accord, as Brexit casts a shadow over the deal's future.

Clinton and Blair are due to attend an event at Queen's University Belfast with other architects of the Good Friday Agreement, including former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell and Ireland's former prime minister, Bertie Ahern.

The deal, signed on April 10, 1998, largely ended three decades of sectarian violence in which more than 3,000 people died. Over the following years the Irish Republican Army and other paramilitary groups renounced violence and destroyed their stockpiles of weapons, and the British military dismantled its bases and checkpoints in Northern Ireland.

But two decades on, one of the peace deal's main achievements — a Protestant-Catholic power-

sharing government for Northern Ireland — is in limbo. The administration collapsed in January 2017 and attempts to restore it have faltered over the issue of protections for the Irish language — a sign of the cultural and political issues that still separate Northern Ireland's British unionists and Irish nationalists.

Britain's impending departure from the European Union threatens another product of the peace process, the all-but invisible border between Northern

Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

After Brexit next year, it will be the only land frontier between the United Kingdom and the EU. Both sides say there should be no return to customs posts or other border infrastructure, but it is unclear how that will be achieved.

Blair says he believes the peace deal "can and it should survive Brexit, but you can't deny that there is now a problem."

He said that over the last 20 years the border had become "of no great prac-



Former British Prime Minister Tony Blair

tical meaning to people in the north or the south [...] Now there is going to be a practical border so of course it's a complication."

"Peace has to be worked

on continuously. It is not guaranteed," Blair told reporters. "Brexit is complicating things, but the Good Friday Agreement has to survive Brexit." AP

A 4.7-magnitude quake shook residents and structures yesterday in a region of central Italy that had been struck by a series of powerful quakes in 2016. No deaths or injuries were reported.

Mayors in towns affected did, however, report some damage from the temblor, which struck just before dawn, and said that checks were under way. Schools in some towns were closed for the day, while a local train line was reopened after being closed temporarily.

The quake struck near the town of Macerata in the Marche region, which is still recovering from powerful quakes in October 2016 that caused widespread damage but no deaths, and was felt in the neighboring regions of Umbria and Lazio.

The October 2016 quakes, including one registering 6.1 in magnitude, came two months after a deadly quake killed some 300 to the south in Amatrice, meaning many vulnerable structures in the mountainous, quake-prone had been rendered uninhabitable. That was cited by civil protection officials as a key reason that the most powerful quake in nearly 40 years didn't cause loss of life.

The mayor of the town of Muccia in Macerata province, Mario

ITALY

4.7-Magnitude quake hits temblor-prone central region

Baroni, where the quake was centered, told Sky News24 that the temblor had caused the partial collapse of a 17th century bell tower that had been damaged in 2016. He said the main concern was to ascertain any damage to homes that had remained inhabitable after the 2016 quakes.

"We have few remaining inhabitable homes, and if they are damaged we will have even more people displaced by earthquakes," he said. Just 120 residences in Muccia have remained inhabitable after the 2016 quakes, and more than half of the town's 920 residents continue to live in emergency housing, according to the news agency ANSA.

Baroni said that yesterday temblor was the strongest since October 2016 even if the area remains seismically active with frequent smaller quakes, including one in January.

"In the end, people are be-



A view of a damaged bell tower of the 17th century Santa Maria di Varano' church after an earthquake, in Muccia, central Italy

ginning to live with quakes. But the uncertainty is creating a sense of anxiety and worry," Baroli said.

The mayor in nearby Pieve To-

rina, Alessandro Gentilucci, said authorities were checking structures. ANSA reported that four families were evacuated from their homes in the town.

"This situation never seems to end," Gentilucci said. "We are back in a dramatic situation, reliving scenes I never thought to relive." AP

UK

Ex-spy's daughter released from British hospital

Gregory Katz, London

A British health official said yesterday that Yulia Skripal, who was targeted along with her father in a nerve agent attack in England, has been discharged from hospital.

"This is not the end of her treatment but marks a significant milestone," said Dr. Christine Blanshard.

She said she would not provide details about Skripal's condition out of concern for the patient's privacy.

The 33-year-old daughter of ex-spy Sergei Skripal, 66, has been taken to a secure location.

Blanshard said Sergei Skripal, the apparent target of the attack, is recovering more slowly than his daughter but continues to improve.

The doctor said no date has been set for the elder Skripal's release from Salisbury District Hospital.

The two were poisoned March 4 in an attack that has led to a prolonged confrontation between Russia and Britain that



This is a file image of Yulia Skripal taken from her Facebook

has revived Cold War tensions.

The British government is likely to keep details about Yulia Skripal's location secret given the sensitivity of the case.

If she is well enough, she is likely to be extensively questioned by British security officials and police about her recollection of events leading up to her poisoning.

Yulia Skripal was in critical condition after the attack.

She had arrived in England on an Easter visit from Moscow the day before the attack.

Sergei Skripal is a former Russian military intelligence officer who was convicted in Russia of spying for Britain.

He was imprisoned in Russia and eventually settled in England after a "spy swap."

Britain has accused the Russian government of masterminding the attack on the Skripals, who were found unconscious on a bench in the English city of Salisbury.

British officials say Russia had the means and the motive to attack Sergei Skripal, who was convicted of betraying Russia.

The British government maintains the Skripals were poisoned by a military-grade nerve agent that could only have been made in Russia. Russia has denied the allegation.

The incident has led to a mass expulsion of Russian diplomats from countries aligned with Britain. Russia in turn retaliated by expelling diplomats from countries that sided with Britain. AP

AD

Songkran party

happy thai new year

April 12 - 15

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what's ON



THE EXHIBITION "SWISS STYLE NOW"

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Tap Seac Gallery, located at No. 95, Avenida do Conselheiro Ferreira de Almeida

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

DIN DONG X TAIPA VILLAGE CREATIVE ART EXHIBITION

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

UNTIL: April 13, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Village Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2857 6118

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680,

MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

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

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

UNTIL: April 14, 2018

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

Dr. Rodrigo Rodrigues

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

NAKED AND UNAFRAID: NUDE MAN JOGS THROUGH BALTIMORE STREETS

With Baltimore temperatures hovering around 40 degrees Fahrenheit, a naked jogger may have pruned, but he certainly proved to be no prude.

The Baltimore Sun reports that the sight of the naked man jogging through downtown Baltimore jolted commuters during Monday's morning rush hour. In addition to clothes, the man eschewed shoes as he slowly trotted past a hospital and a courthouse.

Witnesses reported the man didn't seem lost or confused. Attorney Nicholas Panteleakis says he stopped at a traffic light 1.5 to 3 meters from the cardio enthusiast.

Baltimore police spokeswoman Detective Nicole Monroe says officers drove up the street in response to several 911 calls, but the man had disappeared, evading an indecent-exposure charge.

TV canal macau



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



1957 BRITAIN AGREES TO SINGAPORE SELF-RULE

The British government is to allow the island colony of Singapore to govern itself under a new constitution agreed in London.

The Singapore Constitutional Conference ended today after four weeks of talks when Chief Minister of Singapore Lim Yew Hock and Alan Lennox-Boyd, secretary of state for the Colonies, signed an agreement.

The constitution comes into effect some time after 1 January 1958 when the colony will become known as the State of Singapore.

Britain will remain in charge of external affairs and defence.

There was, however, one major pre-condition that the Singapore delegation would not agree to - that "persons known to have been engaged in subversive activity" would be barred from standing for the Legislative Assembly.

This demand is aimed at excluding extremist left-wing activists in the People's Action Party (PAP), some of whom have been detained for inciting anti-British riots last year.

At the signing ceremony at Lancaster House, Mr Lim rejected this demand as "a departure from normal democratic practice" but agreed to put it before the Legislative Assembly.

Under self-government, the office of Governor will be abolished and replaced with a Malayan-born representative of the Queen known as the Yang di-Pertuan Negara.

An internal security council preventing subversion is to be set up under the chairmanship of the UK Commissioner charged with safeguarding British affairs in the territory.

Last April, David Marshall, first Chief Minister of Singapore, led a delegation to London to ask for internal self-government with the aim of achieving independence or "merdeka" in Malay.

The talks failed, and as a result Mr Marshall resigned as Chief Minister last June. He was succeeded by Lim Yew Hock.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

A few days later former Chief Minister David Marshall resigned from the governing Labour Front in protest at the agreement which he felt did not go far enough. He called it "a pock-marked beauty shrouded in chloroform".

The Constitutional Agreement was finally signed in London on 28 May 1958 and self-government achieved after Singapore held general elections in 1959.

The first government of the State of Singapore was sworn in on 5 June with Lee Kuan Yew as Prime Minister.

It joined the Federation of Malaysia in 1963 and became totally independent in 1965, nearly 20 years after it was made a British crown colony.

The People's Action Party (PAP) has been the dominant political force since independence.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Age or appearance may set you apart today, but it will not negatively affect how much respect you'll be given - so don't let anything put a damper on your positive attitude. You need to stay objective and calm.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Today turn most of your attention to people who have a link to your past - reminiscing and remembering can be a wonderful way to reaffirm the path you've been traveling so far.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 With the smallest amount of effort, you can make the biggest things happen today. Right now, you're in a very powerful position: Merely lift an eyebrow and someone will ask you what's up.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Celebrating has become a bit of a foreign concept to you, and that has to end today. You now have everything at your disposal to create a special event for a group of your friends, so make it happen.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Since you're up for tougher challenges lately, pick out someone whose crotchety or abrupt personality usually intimidates you, give them a smile and try a little flattery (which always helps).

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 If a challenge in your work environment has you stumped, keep in mind that in life (just like on TV), the good cop-bad cop game works every time. You might immediately plan to go for the nicer role.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Everything you need will be at your fingertips today, no matter how ill-prepared you may feel, so don't worry! You can handle anything with grace and your customary wit.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Flirting can be fun whether you have any intention of following through or not - if you're with someone who understands there's nothing behind it, then flirt away.

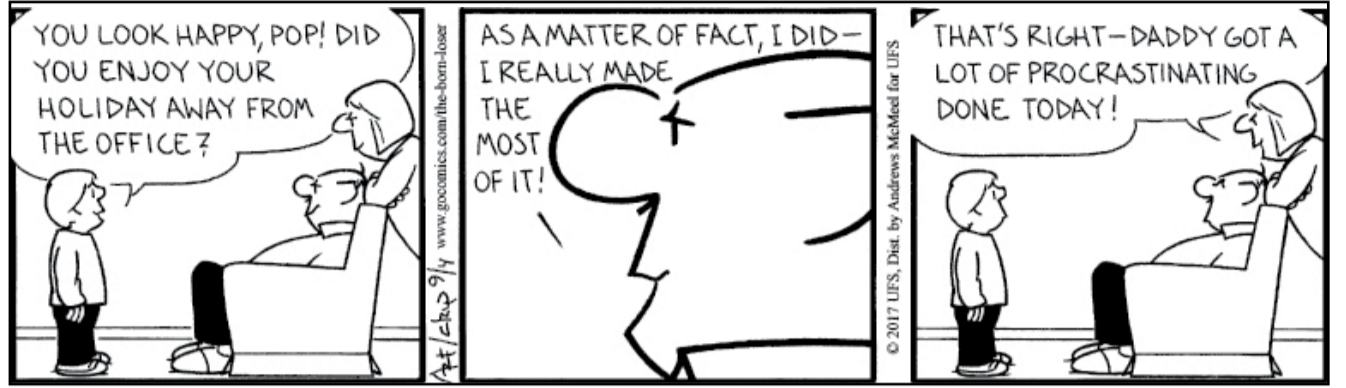
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 It's all about pushing boundaries today - there's a strong energy of exploration hovering about right now, and you will be able to tweak a few taboos and enlighten some uptight folks.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 There have been some big changes with some of the people you love most in life - check in on them to see what's up. You may be surprised to learn of a new arrival.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Optimism is a powerful thing - capable of transforming an unbearable situation into something tolerable. It has not always been your strong suit, but today you will find yourself on the sunny side of the street.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Persistence will pay off today when you're able to peel back a layer of a big mystery. With further prodding as the day goes on, you will be able to reveal quite a bit about more confusing episodes.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION for various cities in CHINA and WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Deride; 6- Travel on water; 10- Plays are divided up into these; 14- Swashbuckler Flynn; 15- Lotion additive; 16- Shipping deduction; 17- No-no; 18- Dispatch; 19- It transforms carbon dioxide into oxygen; 20- Recondite; 22- Polish seaport; 24- Metropolis; 25- Noblewoman; 26- Tristan's love; 29- Countess's husband; 30- Alone; 31- Woman who sings; 37- Prince Valiant's wife; 39- Downed; 40- Caravansary; 41- Nightgown; 44- Price paid; 45- Watchful one; 46- Dissertations; 48- Erin; 52- Capital of Shaanxi province, China; 53- Lady of Spain; 54- Baptize; 58- Helps; 59- Manhattan neighborhood; 61- ___ Janeiro; 62- Arrow poison; 63- Michael Moore's "Downsize ___!"; 64- Motherless calf; 65- Pops; 66- Village People hit; 67- Get-go;

DOWN: 1- ___ precedent; 2- Pinchy crustacean; 3- Globes; 4- Carpet; 5- Ruddy; 6- Fresh; 7- Sheltered; 8- Electrically charged particle; 9- Account books; 10- Rose essence; 11- Chili con ___; 12- Head lock; 13- Looks for; 21- Western Indians; 23- Shoulder muscles, briefly; 25- Senate attendants; 26- This ___ outrage!; 27- Arias, usually; 28- Designer Cassini; 29- Door sign; 32- Paddled; 33- Critical revision of a text; 34- Greek god of love; 35- Manuscript enc.; 36- Poses; 38- Shed ___; 42- Family of rulers; 43- Agitate; 47- Coiffure; 48- Let me repeat...; 49- Queen of Spain; 50- Finished, terminated; 51- Misplaces; 52- Language with click consonants; 54- Trendy; 55- Duds; 56- "What I Am" singer Brickell; 57- Nair rival; 60- Resistance unit;



USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
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FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Madrid has depleted defense for second leg against Juventus

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

Thursday, 2:45am
Real Madrid v Juventus
H 1.64, D 4.5, A 5.6

SCORING hasn't been a problem for Real Madrid recently, especially with Cristiano Ronaldo in top form.

But the European champions could have issues in defense when they host Juventus in the second leg of the Champions League quarterfinals today [Thursday, 2:45am].

Madrid will try to protect its three-goal advantage from the first leg with coach Zinedine Zidane unable to use his best players in central defense.

Madrid captain Sergio Ramos is suspended and his immediate substitute, Nacho Fernandez, is out injured. Raphael Varane just returned from injury, and the other central defender in the



Madrid's coach Zinedine Zidane

squad, 21-year-old Jesus Vallejo, is not fully fit and it remains unclear if he will be able to make it to the match at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium.

Madrid won the first leg 3-0 in Turin, with Ronaldo scoring with a spectacular bicycle kick for his second goal of the match. Madrid can reach the semifinals for

the eighth straight year even if it loses Wednesday's game by two goals.

Zidane probably would have liked not to force Varane's return in the Spanish league derby against Atletico Madrid this weekend, but he couldn't rest him because Vallejo hurt a muscle in practice last week.

Exams showed no major injury to Vallejo, but he trained separately from the squad on Monday before joining the rest of the team on Tuesday.

Vallejo is Zidane's last option to play in central defense, and the youngster didn't impress in the few times he got to play this season. He has made only eight

appearances, mostly when Zidane chose to rest his regular starters. His last match was against Las Palmas following the international break last month. Vallejo's last Spanish league match before that was against Sevilla in December.

Madrid didn't concede against Las Palmas, but before that it conceded at least once in five straight matches, including three times against Girona in a league game at home.

In the attack, Madrid has scored in seven straight matches, with Ronaldo continuing to impress. He has found the net 20 times in his last 10 games, including in the 1-1 derby against Atletico on Sunday.

If Vallejo can't play against Juventus, Zidane will have to improvise in central defense, likely using midfielder Casemiro to play alongside Varane. Mateo Kovacic would likely enter the lineup to replace Casemiro in the midfield, or Zidane could choose a more aggressive setup with an extra attacking midfielder such as Marco Asensio or Francisco "Isco" Alarcon.

Madrid has won three Champions League titles in the last four seasons, including the last two in a row. The team defeated Juventus 4-1 in last year's final. **AP/Oddschecker.com**

AD

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Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edf. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR

AFTER a career spanning five countries and countless titles both as a player and a coach, Fabio Capello announced his retirement early yesterday [Macau time].

The former AC Milan, Real Madrid, Roma and Juventus coach told RAI state radio he was not interested in the open job with Italy's national team.

The 71-year-old Capello left as coach of Chinese club Jiangsu Suning last month only three matches into the season. He signed an 18-month contract with the Nanjing club in June 2017, helping the 2016 league runner-up avoid relegation.

"I've already had experiences with the England and Russia national teams," Capello said. "I wanted to coach a club once more and Jiangsu was my last football job. I did everything that I wanted to. I'm pleased with what I did and now I'll enjoy being an analyst. You always win in that role."

Capello was most successful at Milan, guiding the Rossoneri to four Serie A titles and the 1994 Champions League trophy.

He also won titles at Madrid and Roma, plus two Serie A's at Juventus that were wiped out following the Calciopoli refereeing scandal.



FOOTBALL

Fabio Capello retires from coaching, no interest in Italian job

Asked about Italy's failure to qualify for the World Cup, Capello pointed to the lack of quality players.

"We coaches do well when we have top-level players," Capello said. "It's difficult to do well with mediocre players. And right now there are no top-level players. They

lack leaders, players who make the difference."

Zenit St. Petersburg coach Roberto Mancini is among the top candidates for the Italy job.

"Mancini is an experienced manager who has traveled the world and that will help him relate to the players, but they lack talent," Capello said.

To develop more talent, Capello said Italy should follow Spain's model.

"Kids need to be taught how to play soccer and to control the ball," Capello said. "In Italy they talk tactics already at the age of 12. In Spain they always just give kids the ball and only the ball." AP

South African court dismisses Pistorius appeal

LEGAL experts say Olympian Oscar Pistorius has finally run out of options to appeal his 13-year prison sentence for the murder of Reeva Steenkamp.

South Africa's highest court dismissed Pistorius' request to review the prison sentence yesterday [Macau time], bringing a close to a five-year legal saga surrounding the man who was once one of the world's most celebrated athletes.

"There is nothing they can do," said Pierre de Vos, a constitutional law expert at the University of Cape Town.

Last year, the Supreme Court of Appeal more than doubled Pistorius' six-year sentence for the murder of Steenkamp, a 29-year-old model, who he shot four times through a locked bathroom door in his home on Valentine's Day 2013.

The minimum sentence for murder in South Africa is 15 years, and the court called the initial six-year sentence "shockingly lenient."

The double-amputee runner, who is 31, claims he mistook his girlfriend for an intruder.

Pistorius was originally convicted of manslaughter, which was overturned and replaced with a murder conviction by the Supreme Court. He has also tried and failed to appeal his murder conviction in the Constitutional Court. AP

AD

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ANGELA LI
 FOUNDER OF
 ART23 CONTEMPORARY ART GALLERY

THE CHALLENGE OF CONTEMPORARY WOMEN ARTISTS

SEMINAR
 DATE: APRIL 11th, 2018 (Wednesday)
 TIME: 7:00 pm
 LANGUAGES: MANDARIN & ENGLISH (POWERPOINT IN ENGLISH)
 VENUE: AUDITORIUM (1ST FLOOR) OF MACAU MUSEUM OF ART AV. XIAN XING HAI, MACAU

第一屆國際女藝術家澳門雙年展

MULHERES ARTISTAS 1ª BIENAL INTER NACIONAL DE MACAU

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monitora/monitor: Cristina Vinhas cód. 1710270593

Quintas/Thursdays 18h30 - 21h30
 Sábados/Saturdays 15h00 - 18h00

início/starts: 12/04/2018 fim/finishes: 16/06/2018
 total: 60 horas/hours 10 sessões/sessions
 propina/fee: MOP 2400 *

língua/language: Português e Inglês/Portuguese and English ** patrocínio/sponsor: Fundação Macau

local/venue: Avenida do Dr. Francisco Vieira Machado n° 431- 487 Edf. Industrial Nam Fung 8° andar B, sala 1, Macau
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opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



A MACAU ISLAND FERRY SERVICE

I have previously mentioned having a ferry service to circumnavigate Taipa and Coloane Islands in this column (July 2015) and it is worth discussing this idea in more detail now that there is mention that the Macau Government and Shun Tak are discussing a Macau leisure tours service with a terminal near the Ah Ma Temple.

I am sure that high quality leisure tours that offer a luxury experience would be very positive for Macau, but I feel it would be a great waste to purely focus on this kind of coastal experience and neglect development of a more mass market Island Ferry Service that could be a much larger tourist attraction that also yields a much broader social impact.

I would like to see a more mass transit focused coastal ferry that goes all round Macau that lets both tourists and locals get on and off at a wide variety of points of interest. I see a ferry route the circumnavigates Macau starting from the landing point of the Hong Kong-Macau bridge and ending at Ilha Verde. Along the way it could have stops at Fisherman's Wharf, the Taipa Ferry Terminal, Hac Sa Beach (on Coloane Island), Cheoc Van Beach, Coloane Village, the Yacht mooring area (near the University of Macau Hengqin Campus), Broadway (adjacent to Galaxy Macau), the Taipa end of the Sai Wan Bridge, the Ah Ma Temple, and 1-2 stops along the inner Harbor. These stops are all potential points of interest for both tourists and locals. The service could use a time based ticketing system that lets passengers get on and off ferries wherever they want.

Because of the shallow waters around Macau, the ferries need to be shallow draft (and thus relatively small). They should also be very "hi tech" in keeping with Macau being a "city of the future". They could be largely solar and wind powered, and with some research and development I believe they could be largely driverless. In collaboration with the considerable renewable energy and yacht building expertise in the Pearl River Delta, such ferries could be a whole new export industry for Macau.

Technically, using a mix of passive and active control strategies it is quite possible to fully automate the management of the boat sails so that they provide the optimal forward thrust irrespective of the direction in which a sailing yacht is moving – see saildrone.com, for example. I am surprised more yachts do not use this approach. Partially solar powered ferries are also already in service.

Smaller, driverless, renewable energy powered ferries means that there could be lots of them so that the service is very frequent and convenient. Additionally, such ferries would only need small docking infrastructure – floating pontoons should do – so that the whole system is relatively inexpensive, but may involve a research and development effort that Macau can afford.

I believe that a high frequency Island Ferry Service that stops at many places of interest could become a big tourist (and local) attraction for Macau that also brings many other benefits. It takes demand from buses to reduce our road congestion and vehicle pollution. It spreads tourists around Macau lessening their concentration, while at the same time increasing Macau's tourist carrying capacity. Small local businesses in many diverse locations would see more tourists to potentially increase their revenues. Finally, it could establish a research and development culture and ferry service expertise that can be exported and built upon.

PS: Robo-taxis have arrived! Waymo has recently granted a license to run a fleet of autonomous, driverless taxis in Phoenix, Arizona. When do you think they will be granted a taxi license in Macau?

THE BUZZ YES, MARK ZUCKERBERG WILL WEAR A SUIT FOR CONGRESS TESTIMONY

Though best known for his "uniform" of jeans, sneakers and a fitted gray T-shirt – adding a hoodie if the weather demands – the Facebook CEO will don a suit and tie when he testifies before Congress this week.

The 33-year-old billionaire is no stranger to suits. In 2009, he wore a tie every day, the first of what have become his yearly "personal challenges."

Back then, the U.S. economy was in a deep

recession and Facebook was not yet profitable. The company "needed to get serious about making sure Facebook had a sustainable business model," he wrote on his Facebook page this January.

Today "feels a lot like that first year," he added. The world feels "anxious and divided" and Facebook, he wrote, has a lot of work to do.

His personal challenge for 2018 is to fix Facebook. [More on page 9]

CLIMATE CHANGE

Ten teams advance in international carbon dioxide competition



A pair of coal trains idle on the tracks near Dry Fork Station, a coal-fired power plant being built by the Basin Electric Power Cooperative near Gillette, Wyoming

Mead Gruver

A USD20 million international competition to make profitable products from a gas that otherwise would contribute to global warming has entered its final stretch.

The 10 finalists in the contest sponsored by a U.S. energy company and a group of Canadian oil sands producers have shown in a lab they can use carbon dioxide from power plants to potentially turn a profit making everything from concrete to methanol, an alcohol used in a range of products.

The finalists announced yesterday [Macau time] – from India, China, Scotland, Canada and the U.S. – will collect \$5 million in prize money, or \$500,000 apiece.

The teams also get the chance to put their ideas to work using much larger volumes of CO2 obtained from actual power plant emissions. The 1 metric ton of CO2 they will need to use daily is 10 times more than they had to demonstrate in a lab.

A ton is still only about 1 percent of a power plant's daily output of CO2. But the competition is more about inspiring than immediate solutions to climate change, said Marcius Extavour, senior director of energy and resources for the XPRIZE Foundation

organizing the contest.

"It's about opening people's minds and really demonstrating what is possible," Extavour said.

Five of the finalists will compete to make use of actual flue gases from a Wyoming coal-fired power plant. The other five will compete at a gas-fired power plant in Alberta, Canada.

Starting this summer, they will have a year to practice at the plants before data collection for competition begins. The two winners, one at each site, will each collect a \$7.5 million grand prize.

Chemistry is why the competition has two tracks. Carbon dioxide concentrations at the Wyoming Integrated Test Center, a new research facility at the Dry Fork Station coal-fired power plant near Gillette, are about double those at the Alberta Carbon Conversion Technology Centre, a new research facility at the Shepard Energy Centre gas-fired power plant in Calgary, Alberta.

The 10 finalists scored highest among 20 semifinalists on how much CO2 they could put to use, as well as the value of their products. Making concrete, for example, scores high on volume but not product value, while making relatively small amounts of pricey carbon fiber scores low on volume but high on value.

The finalists include C2CNT, a team from Ashburn, Virginia, making carbon nanotubes, and CarbonCure, of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, Canada, which already has been using carbon dioxide on a commercial scale to chemically create limestone in concrete.

CarbonCure works with almost 100 concrete plants in the U.S. and Canada but gets its CO2 from a variety of sources, said Jennifer Wagner, CarbonCure's XPRIZE team leader.

"We know the technology works. We know there is an environmental benefit and an economic benefit to the concrete producers," Wagner said. "What we need to show for the purposes of the XPRIZE is that technology can score the highest."

Besides saving concrete producers money, the process can potentially reduce demand for cement from plants that are responsible for up to 5 percent of the world's CO2 emissions, she said.

The competition is sponsored by NRG Energy and Canada's Oil Sands Innovation Alliance. XPRIZE is an organizer of technological innovation contests including one that awarded \$10 million for the first private organization to launch a manned spacecraft into space twice within two weeks. AP

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	55-75 Moderate	☹️
High Density Residential Area	30-50 Good	😊
Ambient	60-80 Moderate	☹️

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



SAUDI ARABIA A lawyer representing a Human rights Yemeni group has filed a lawsuit in a French court against Saudi Arabia Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, accusing him of complicity in torture.

SYRIA-US Syrian government forces were on high alert and taking precautionary measures yesterday at military positions across the country amid fears of a U.S. strike in the aftermath of an apparent chemical weapons attack near Damascus. More on p14



HUNGARY Newly re-elected Hungarian Prime Minister Viktor Orban said yesterday that "significant changes" will be made in his next government.

ITALY A magnitude 4.7 quake shook residents and structures yesterday in a region of central Italy that had been struck by a series of powerful quakes in 2016. No deaths or injuries were reported. More on p15

BRITAIN-ISRAEL The chief of Israel's Labor party says the group is suspending ties with the leader of Britain's opposition Labour Party over its alleged anti-Semitism.



COLOMBIA Leaders of Colombia's disbanded FARC rebel army accused the U.S. yesterday of trapping a prominent rebel negotiator on a drug warrant in order to sabotage the country's already struggling peace process.

BRAZIL Jailed former Brazilian President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva will register his candidacy to return to the country's highest office at the deadline for October's election, his party said.