



MORE CALLS TO GRAFT BUSTER

The Commission Against Corruption's annual report of 2017 shows an increase in the number of complaints filed

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ANIMA IN DIRE STRAITS

The president of Anima says that the animal welfare organization may have to shut down

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HONG KONG'S MTR TO ASSIST MACAU LRT FOR MOP6B

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

WORLD BRIEFS



INDONESIA Deaths from drinking toxic bootleg alcohol in Indonesia have surpassed 100 this month, police said yesterday as they vowed a "scorched earth" crackdown on the makers and distributors of black-market liquor. [More on p13](#)

CAMBODIA yesterday deported nearly 100 Chinese citizens accused of defrauding people in China in an internet scam, a senior Cambodian Interior Ministry official said. [More on p13](#)



THAILAND Police in Thailand have filed new charges against a self-described Russian sex guru and a woman (pictured) who claims to have evidence of Russian ties to President Donald Trump's election campaign.

NORTH KOREA's parliament was scheduled to convene yesterday amid a series of diplomatic moves by leader Kim Jong Un that could have a major impact on the direction the country takes in the months and possibly years ahead. [More on p12](#)



INDIA At least four men were killed in Kashmir when government forces fired on anti-India protesters who thronged a village where soldiers battled a group of militants, officials said yesterday. One soldier was also killed.

More on backpage

ANTONIO TRINDADE

'Typhoon Hato was a wake up call for authorities'



Lynzy Valles

WHO'S leading Macau's environment? What entity do we have in Macau that looks at solutions for Macau to be sustainable? There's nothing," Antonio Trindade said yesterday, ahead of the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF), which CESL Asia joins for the 11th time, "showing its ideas and solutions" during the three-day event.

Trindade spoke to the Times to discuss the city's

progress on becoming a sustainable city.

According to him, Typhoon Hato was a wakeup call for authorities to acknowledge the city's weak environmental and public calamity management, amongst other factors.

Trindade also questioned Macau for not appointing an entity in supervising the city's sustainable and environmental growth, thus weakening the SAR's aim to develop a sustainable environment and economy.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Fong's disciplinary procedures end, pension suspended for 4 years

P4





Airport conducts fuel farm exercise

The Macau International Airport carried out a fuel farm exercise to simulate a fire in the farm. The drill, which lasted for 45 minutes and involved around 300 people, tested a scenario in which a fire took place in a fuel tank top due to static electricity. The fuel farm drill is carried out once every year with the objective of testing and assessing the capacity of government entities and operators to handle a fuel farm emergency.

Lantern classified as an illegal weapon

The Public Security Police Force said it had caught a Thai man, a lawyer in his thirties, with an object classified as a forbidden weapon last Saturday evening at the Macau International Airport. According to the report, the man was caught trying to board an airplane back to Thailand with a powerful lantern in his luggage which, according to the PSP, is considered an illegal weapon in Macau. The man told the police that he was unaware of the interdiction, claiming that he had bought the lantern online long ago and had been using it ever since.

Resident caught stealing

A local resident in his twenties has been caught by a supermarket staff member stealing food products in an establishment at Rua do Almirante Costa Cabral in Central Macau. The theft was discovered by a staff member, who subsequently stopped the man from exiting the establishment. The man was found to be in possession of a total of seven products worth MOP69.70, two of which belonged to the supermarket, and the other five of which were from a nearby convenience store.

District consultant suggests noise law amendment

Kuan Cheong Wun Ian, member of the Northern Districts Community Services Consultative Committee, has suggested that the government authority amend the city's noise control law. According to a report by Macao Daily News, Kuan has proposed that the government establish instructions and policies targeting groups of people who sing or dance in public gardens and who, in particular, are responsible for generating loud noise. Data from the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) showed that, among the 68 complaints about noise filed in 2017, the complaints concerning people using speakers while dancing in gardens topped all categories.

Q&A ANTONIO TRINDADE
CESL ASIA CEO

'Who's leading Macau's environment? There's nothing'

CONTINUED FROM
FRONT PAGE

Macau Daily Times (MDT) – What will CESL offer at MIECF this year?

Antonio Trindade (AT) – Because of what we have evolved into as a company, CESL Asia has been incorporating its major services with a high degree of sophistication in terms of IT solutions. CESL Asia will display its initiatives with a partner from Fujian Province, a high-tech group "Newland." We will look to create [underline] a smart transportation system, cloud computing and big data, and the opportunities for potential deployment of modern solutions.

MDT – What does it take for Macau to have a resilient and sustainable economy?

AT – To face the problem and be available to solve the problem. It's not a question of what it takes, it has to be done. I've said that government [leads the role], but everyone else has a contribution to make. But of course, you don't do this as leadership. Who's leading Macau's environment? What entity do we have in Macau that looks at solutions for Macau to be sustainable? There's nothing.

Gaming is not forever and may not [even] sustainable. It's generating good results for the community, then what? Maybe some problems would occur. We need to let a lot of local companies to sustain the environment. It will be resilient but first we need sustainability and put it on a proper level. This takes leadership and willingness. Obviously there's no leader there.

MDT – Is that the biggest factor as to why the city is not advancing?

AT – Yes. We [CESL Asia] predicted and assumed our responsibility to provide solutions to the government. We keep telling everyone - the government - that we want to be part of the solution and we do



that first and foremost because we are locals.

We can see that we are an international city, yet, we were not prepared for the typhoon [Hato], which stopped the city for so long. It doesn't fit [the image]. It takes leadership and these leaders have to be able to develop the solutions for that. The leaders should not ask outsiders to solve this matter.

MDT – What are the challenges faced in the region's wastewater plant?

AT – Macau has spent hundreds of millions on, for instance, water recycling solutions, but none of them are there [in place]. The wastewater coming out of these plants is as bad as it went in.

We are not talking about an occasional issue. These are [conducted] by the same people and companies. It's not a matter of chasing people, it's a matter of getting the water

Macau lost its leadership [in this sector], but it will definitely gain it back

ANTONIO TRINDADE
CEO OF CESL ASIA

treated. This is what it takes to make a difference. Companies need to commit to deliver something.

MDT – With that being said, is it ironic that MIECF is being held in Macau?

AT – No. I find this as a big reminder that the city was known to have the best environmental solutions and operators in the 9+2 region. We [at CESL Asia] know that we can provide solutions. I am sure we can achieve results and deliver to Macau.

MDT – Does Macau have effective strategies and policies, but is only lacking action?

AT – No, I don't think we have any effective strategies and policies. That is unfortunate.

MDT – Does this hinder Macau to progress in terms of effectively building a sustainable environment?

AT – Macau lost its leadership [in this sector], but it will definitely gain it back because it's a consequence of diversification, a consequence of a platform and a consequence of the Greater Bay Area. If people knew what could go wrong, I think there's a big wake up call, [like] with Typhoon Hato.

MDT – What were the lessons from Typhoon Hato?

AT – We learnt how weak our energy supply and solutions

are, how weak our transportation solutions are, how weak our waste collection solutions are, and how weak our waste water treatment solutions are too. There were diseases that were created and lingered on for the months after the typhoon. That is why there is a big effort to evaluate what went wrong. Was there really a reason why we closed up for so many days?

MDT – Do electric cars remain a solution in the city's transport system?

AT – We don't have too many but for now, electric cars are not a solution for anything. They are not a solution for anything but they can be solution in a new transportation model. Maybe we won't need much roads and some can be converted into parks to improve quality of life.

MDT – What is your take on the lack of a policy model for a smart city project despite heavy investments made by Macau?

AT – I only know the intentions but we don't know yet. However, we are preparing to because we know that there will be infrastructures there. Who is going to provide solutions for e-governance, or for tax and payments? Who will provide solutions for transportation or cloud control; disaster response or mitigation?

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CCAC annual report highlights work conducted 'according to mainland policies'

Renato Marques

THE Commission Against Corruption's (CCAC) annual report of 2017 was published yesterday in the government's Official Gazette.

The report highlights the "difficult year" with "many cases" addressed, covers the added work related to the Elections of the 6th Legislative Assembly, and also notes the duties and work done by graft busters following the policies related to the Chinese central government.

In the preface of the annual report, CCAC commissioner André Cheong says, "although the social environment and legal systems are different between Macau and the Chinese mainland, the strong determination and monumental achievements of the Chinese mainland in the fight against corruption will definitely have far-reaching impacts on the long-term peace and stability of Macau," adding that as a "designated anti-graft agency of the SAR, the CCAC will proactively draw on the successful experience of the Chinese mainland in corruption fighting, strictly implementing its statutory duties as a graft fighter and ombudsman and strive to improve mechanism building that upholds integrity."

In the report, CCAC's work in areas such as the Legislative Assembly Elections, anti-corruption, ombudsman affairs, promotion and education, and exchange and training are summarized. It includes more detailed information of some of the criminal cases and administrative complaints investigated or handled by the CCAC during the past year. Besides the elections, emphasis has been placed on the release of the "Investigation report on

the typhoon forecasting procedures and internal management of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau" as well as the "Investigation report on the employment of workers through acquisition of services by the Cultural Affairs Bureau." These are two big topics in Macau lately and are thought to be a result of the Commission paying extra attention to the responsibilities of public officials. According to the CCAC, officials need to have "the awareness of the administration on the need to proceed according to the law" as well as the ability to make "scientific decisions."

The monumental achievements of the Chinese mainland in the fight against corruption will definitely have far-reaching impacts.

ANDRÉ CHEONG

The CCAC has also added a note that, "in order to ensure that 'power comes with responsibility,' the SAR government should review the legislation pertaining to disciplinary mechanisms for public servants and promptly improve the accountability systems for leadership and senior management officers."

Another highlight is information relating to the case that led to the trial and sentencing of former Prosecutor-General, Ho



Chio Meng, by the Court of Final Appeal. The CCAC records its relevant participation and that the guilty verdict "has demonstrated the truth that the long arm of the law is inescapable."

The CCAC also noted an in-

crease in the number of the cases handled in 2017, where a total of 1,264 complaints was registered (39 percent more than in 2016) of which the Commission concluded investigations of 537.

The report also featured eight

cases outlined by CCAC in more detail involving fraudulent conducts from police officers and other authorities, such as labor department inspectors and a Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's department chief.

Two drivers caught by CCAC in racing subsidies fraud

Two local race drivers, one of them a deputy chief of the Public Security Police Force (PSP), have been caught engaging in fraudulent activities in the application for racing subsidies from the Macao Foundation, the CCAC revealed in its annual report.

According to the details provided, the drivers managed to forge the participation results from race events held in mainland China at different occasions (in the case of the deputy chief of PSP for two consecutive years), while benefiting from government subsidies of around MOP130,000 between 2012 and 2013, to which they were not entitled.

The suspects were accused of swindling and document forgery and were presented to the

Public Prosecutions Office for the crimes. In another case, a Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL) inspector was accused of soliciting a bribe from a company owner. Afterwards, he investigated the company and found the company had illegally employed non-resident workers with working permits to work at different companies and performing different duties. The inspector also found that the company had failed to pay its non-resident workers' compensation and housing allowance.

According to the details provided by the CCAC, the inspector then invited the company's owner to a secret meeting in which he requested an amount of MOP50,000, in order to hide the misconduct of the company.

No plans to use numerous electric buses in near future

Julie Zhu

MACAU will not operate a large number of electric buses in the near future, according to Director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) Lam Hin San.

On the sidelines of a talk at the University of Macau, Lam told the media that currently authorities are testing some electric buses. However, "it is not economical for us to run such buses to serve the

people [at the current stage]," he said, "because I think the facility requests a high subsidy relative to that of the traditional buses. Second [is] the weight of the buses. Sometimes the battery can be tonnes extra as compared to traditional buses," added Lam.

"We notice that in the market, there are many more new electric buses available, we want to test, and make sure they are good for Macau, because

in Macau, its very difficult for us to make the charging stations," said Lam.

According to the Director, DSAT will try to launch some [new type of] electric buses by the end of this month or next month, "to see the results."

Regarding whether Macau will introduce a large number of electric buses, Lam said "at the moment, there is no plan yet, we want to make sure that the test of these buses is okay for us. Don't forget

that we have also coordinated work with the casinos to test some new e-buses. I think they can also share their experiences with us."

He also remarked that the government will use more electric buses "in the long run, yes, but not in the near future. [...] At least, five to 10 years."

"The problem is the charging stations, and that is very difficult to make charge stations," said Lam.



Benfica defeated 8-0 in N. Korea

Benfica de Macau was defeated 8-0 in their away game yesterday against North Korean champions 4.25 SC (April 25 Sports Club), according to the results published on the AFC Cup website. Benfica were 2-0 down by half time after conceding against Kim Yu-Song and Ri Hyong-Jin in the 13th and 21st minute respectively. That lead was extended early into the second half, with Kim going on to score a total of four goals for 4.25 SC. The Pyongyang-based club was the only team that Benfica had not yet faced in the group, after its impressive start to the tournament. Both clubs had started the match on six points having both won their first two consecutive AFC Cup games for the first time in their history. Following 4.25 SC's victory yesterday, the club now resides in the top spot with nine points.

'The Future of Classical Music' at the UM this Saturday



The Macao Orchestra will take young Macau musicians to the University of Macau's University Hall (N2) this Saturday at 8 p.m. to present the concert "The Future of Classical Music" under the guidance of the orchestra's assistant conductor, Francis Kan. Annually, the orchestra organizes a joint performance with young musicians and music lovers, allowing them to showcase their talent. This year, under the baton of OM's Assistant Conductor, Francis Kan, the young musicians will interpret "Nimrod" from Elgar's Enigma Variations, Britten's "Simple Symphony" and Sibelius' "Finlandia".

Ponzi scheme surfaced in town

The Judiciary Police (PJ) is reminding the public to be cautious of Ponzi schemes. In an official statement released by PJ, the police authority said it came to know about scammers in the city who are inviting residents to invest in a group, that is said to be able to offer 150 percent of the investment in returns after several months. As the PJ understands, these scammers first strike up conversations in order to persuade and brainwash people into investing with them. The investors then collect a payment when they introduce another investor to the group. The PJ said that it has not yet received any reports from the public regarding such cases, however it urges the public to be cautious of these scam investments.

TYPHOON HATO

Fong Soi Kun's pension suspended for 4 years

FORMER Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) director Fong Soi Kun and former deputy director Florence Leong have been held accountable for failing to exercise their managerial responsibilities during Typhoon Hato, according to the results of the special investigation commissioned by the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, announced yesterday.

Fong's punishment was retrospective dismissal from office. Since he has retired from public service, the applicable penalty will be substituted by a four-year suspension of pension payments.

Late last month, it was announced that Fong would receive a pension of approximately MOP80,000 per month. According to a notice posted in the Official Gazette at the time, the government had approved the pension granting an amount reflecting Fong's 35 years of

service in the SMG.

Leong was also found guilty of neglecting her duties and convicted to a 130-day suspension from current duties. Leong had already resigned from the SMG's deputy director post (after being briefly appointed director, before Raymond Tam took office) and is now a staff member of the Bureau.

According to a statement issued yesterday by the Government Information Bureau, no further disciplinary action against the two

persons will be conducted under relevant regulations and laws. The reason for this is that "their acts of misconduct associated with the period of Typhoon Hato had [have] already been reviewed in the special investigation," the statement reads.

Chui authorized a special committee in September 2017 to investigate whether public departments and civil servants had acted appropriately during preparation for Typhoon Hato and investigate the relief work done in



its aftermath.

Typhoon Hato battered Macau on August 23, causing 10 deaths and resulting in heavy economic losses.

SECRETARY: FONG HAD NO CONNECTION TO HATO DEATHS

RAIMUNDO DO Rosário has declared that he does not find a connection between the victims of typhoon Hato and the responsibilities of the former director of the Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG), Fong Soi Kun. During a talk at the University of Macau, Rosário was asked by a student whether it is enough to punish

Fong by just taking away four years of his retirement pension. On the sidelines of the talk, Rosário repeated his answer to the media, saying that "the student put the death of 10 people together with the actions of the former director [of SMG]. [...] I want to clarify that I don't want the student to have the misconception that Fong Soi Kun

has a relationship with the [deaths of] 10 people. I haven't seen any document [indicating such connection]... I will not make any comments [regarding yesterday's announcement of Fong and Leong's punishments]," said Rosário, adding that "we will see later" whether Leong will return to the SMG as a deputy director or not.

Family of rider who died at last year's Macau GP appeals for donations

AN appeal to raise funds to support the family of British superbike rider Daniel Hegarty, who died in a crash on the 2017's edition of the Macau Grand Prix, has been started by the rider's brother on the website justgiving.com.

According to the information provided by Daniel's brother, Joe, the appeal comes after the acknowledgement that the death of the rider last November was not covered by the rider's life insurance since the accident occurred outside of European territory. A father-of-two, Hegarty was competing in the Macau for Topgun Racing Honda and has been recalled by his brother as a "talented, committed motorcycle racer but firstly and always he was a devoted father to his two young sons." The crowdfunding campaign aims to establish a "trust fund for Daniel's two young boys to help them in the future where unfortunately their father can't."

Following his death, Daniel's partner Lucy Draycott said she had "lost the love of her life" and made an emotional tribute.

Hegarty's stepfather Cavan Soal said in a statement to the Nottingham Post, "Racing was always his goal but his drive came from



Daniel Hegarty racing in Macau

within. He taught us all that hard work is what gets you there and no one worked harder than he did."

To the same media outlet, Adrian Cox, the team owner at Topgun racing Honda added, "Unfortunately, on that day we lost one of the good guys, a real gent, a great friend, a devoted boyfriend and a top dad."

Hegarty was a regular competitor at the Isle of Man TT and at this competition achieved his best result in 2016, when he was crowned Privateer champion.

According to Joe Hegarty, the campaign, which is running for almost three weeks, aims to raise a total of GBP20,000 (around MOP230,000) and has so far reached about 50 percent of this amount, backed by around 400 supporters. **RM**

IFT, École hôtelière de Lausanne hold F&B program

MACAUS Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) and École hôtelière de Lausanne hosted an executive development program on food and beverage (F&B) this week, exploring what makes a successful concept in the sector and how organizations can develop sustainably.

The two-day course, which ended yesterday, attracted 17 professionals from hotels and integrated resorts, according to IFT.

The food and beverage industry is sometimes considered one of the toughest trades in the hospitality industry, with organizations required to balance tight margins, heavy staff costs, large startup costs and manage the ever-changing tastes of customers.

Through the program, participants learned how to develop food and beverage concepts, how to anticipate operational complications and understand

the importance of technical planning and back-of-house optimization.

Olivier Vershelde, from Lausanne Hospitality Consulting, which is an Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne subsidiary, facilitated the program.

Vershelde graduated from Ecole hôtelière de Lausanne in 2003 and has been building his knowledge of operations in the hospitality industry ever since. He has been involved in managing a boutique hotel and a spa project near Paris, and has taken the lead in the establishment of several food and beverage outlets from conceptualization to operation.

In a statement issued by IFT yesterday, the education institution said that it is striving to constantly update the local tourism sector with the most up-to-date information and research, which will aid hotel management staff to cope with ever-changing market trends.

Anima has just six weeks to find funding or face closure

Daniel Beittler

THE president of Anima (Macau) says that the animal welfare organization may have to shut down because the government contribution is not enough “to balance the budget.”

Albano Martins, who co-founded the animal welfare association back in 2003, says that the current allowance from the government is not enough to provide for the 700 cats and dogs in its care. He says that the association may have just six weeks to secure more funding.

Speaking to the Times yesterday, Martins said that Anima faces annual expenses amounting to about MOP10.5 million but receives just MOP3.8 million from the local government via the Macao Foundation. He said “it is impossible to balance that budget.”

“The Macao Foundation does not allow a surplus at the end of the year. If we have a surplus, we have to return that to the Macao Foundation. But when there is



a deficit, the funding from the following year cannot be used to clear the [previous year's] liabilities.”

“I want the government to be aware,” Martins said, “that it is impossible to finance [our activities] with only MOP3.8 million. We need more than that.”

Since the government recog-

nizes Anima as a “public utility company,” it should do more to support the association's activities, he added. “We are doing a public service that should be done by the government.”

Anima has historically sought sponsorship from benefactors in the casino sector. Among them is Wynn Resorts - the association's

second-largest contributor after the Macao Foundation – whose philanthropy came about on the back of Steve Wynn's personal interest in animal rights.

But since Steve Wynn stepped down from his role as company chairman, Anima has been scrambling to speak to Wynn Resorts' new top dog, Matt Ma-

ddox, in the hope that the firm can continue to support local animal welfare.

Another problem for Anima is the question of the Canidrome greyhounds. Though Anima has requested the local government pressure the Canidrome into surrendering its greyhounds, the association is still none the clearer on what will happen to the racetracks animals once the facility closes in July.

Martins said that not knowing whether the association is to take charge of the animals is also making it difficult to secure adequate funding.

Unless a new financial package can be quickly negotiated, the association president says he will take the possibility of Anima's closure to association members as soon as next month.

What will happen to the hundreds of animals in the association's care, and the thousands more treated across Macau, remains to be seen.

Though Martins does not believe that the government is legally obliged to step in, he said that it was likely that the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau would assume responsibility in the event of Anima's closure.

That would likely cost the government more than Anima's MOP10.5 million per year, he argued, and – in any case – Anima is asking for just half of that.

AD

2018MIECF

Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition
2018年澳門國際環境合作發展論壇及展覽

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Highlights of the Official Events		
12/4/2018 (Thursday)		
10:00 - 11:30	2018MIECF Opening Ceremony Keynote Speech: Ms. Christiana Figueres	The Venetian Ballroom (Level 2)
11:00 - 18:30	Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching	Expo Hall A (Level 1)
Green Forum, Green Business Co-operation Day and Signing Ceremony		
14:20 - 15:45	Session 1 Green Economy - The Sustainable Tourism	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
15:50 - 17:05	Session 2 New Patterns in MICE Industry under Eco-Cities Model	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
17:05 - 17:20	Business Exchange & Refreshments	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2403-2503)
17:45 - 18:15	Signing Ceremony	Expo Hall A (Level 1)
13/4/2018 (Friday)		
09:00 - 18:00 Green Showcase (Trade and Professionals Only) & Green Matching Expo Hall A (Level 1)		
Green Forum		
09:30 - 12:50	Session 3 Sustainable and Resilient Eco-Cities - Key Challenges and Opportunities Part I: From Design to Reality - Exploring Eco-Cities Case Studies Part II: Relationship between Green Buildings & Eco-Cities	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
09:30 - 12:50	Session 4 Green Finance Innovation to Achieve Sustainable Development (Co-organized with Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM))	Florence Room (Level 1) (2201-2302)
14:30 - 15:15	Keynote Speaker Special Session Industry Insights with Ms. Christiana Figueres Shaping Tomorrow's Eco-cities	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
15:00 - 16:00	Session 5 Green Chemical Forum - Control and Treatment of VOCs Pollution in Petrochemical Industry	Florence Room (Level 1) (2201-2302)
15:30 - 16:00	Session 6 Pan-Pearl River Delta Region Session Part I: Sharing by Representative of PPRD Delegation to Portugal & Germany Part II: Introduction of PPRD Region's Europe Environmental Protection Industry Part III: PPRD Environmental Protection Industry Association Panel Sessions (Co-organized with PPRD Environmental Protection Industry Co-operation Commission)	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
14/4/2018 (Saturday)		
09:00 - 17:00	Green Showcase & Green Matching	Expo Hall A (Level 1)
10:00 - 17:00	Green Public Day & Eco Market Macao	Expo Hall A (Level 1)

2018MIECF Green Forum - Keynote Speaker

Ms. Christiana Figueres

- Former Executive Secretary of the UNFCCC
- Former Director of Renewable Energy in the Americas (REIA)
- Vice-Chair of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy
- ClimateWorks Board Member
- World Bank Climate Leader
- Senior Fellow for Conservation International
- Mission2020 Convener

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Programme of Seminars & Presentations
Venue: Expo Hall A - Macao Pavilion (Level 1)

13/4/2018 (Friday)

09:45 - 10:30	Buyer Briefing Session: Water Management
16:00 - 16:45	Buyer Briefing Session: Green Building and General Eco Solutions
17:15 - 18:00	Buyer Briefing Session: Waste and Waste Water Management

Programme of Concurrent Events

14/4/2018 (Saturday)

09:30 - 11:30	Seminar on Macao Environmental Protection Development and Review	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)
14:30 - 16:30	Macao International Eco-friendly Equipment Joint Exhibition	Sicily Room (Level 1) (2401-2502)

Free shuttles are provided for the public on April 14th (Saturday). Please refer to the following link for the route:
<http://www.macaomiecf.com/miecf2018/en/general-information/shuttle>

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MTR to provide services to Macau LRT for MOP6 billion

THE local government has trusted the MTR Corporation Limited (MTR), Hong Kong's subway system operator, to provide operation and maintenance assistance services to the Taipa Line of the Macau Light Rapid Transit (LRT) system for a period of 80 months, in order to cope with operations in 2019.

The scope of the services includes the testing and activation of systems prior to the start-up of the Taipa Line, the formation of operation teams and the development of pre-employment training.

MTR will also be responsible for the day-to-day operations of train services within the first five years, and the repair and maintenance of trains, signalling systems and infrastructures.

The price for the services as a whole is estimated at MOP5.88 billion.

At the same time, the government is preparing to establish a wholly-owned company which will run the Macau LRT operations.



Tourists sit in a cable car operated by Ngong Ping 360, a subsidiary of MTR Corp

The aforementioned responsibilities will be handed over to the government company for follow-up management.

Taking into account MTR's extensive railway experience, it is expected that the company will conduct highly efficient operations on the Taipa Line, as well as provide residents and tourists with quality public transportation services.

MTR CEO Lincoln Leung Kwok-Kuen expressed that he is happy to participate in the operation of Macau's first railway project.

In Leung's opinion, MTR has many years of operational experience in Hong Kong and

overseas railway projects.

Leung is confident that MTR will provide quality services to Macau's LRT passengers, and also that MTR will provide major contributions to the development of Macau's railway network.

The Macau LRT will run as trains of two or four cars, each car being able to carry about 100 passengers. If the train runs in groups of four cars, the total passenger capacity will be about 400 people.

In the initial phase of LRT whole-length operation, the line will transport 7,800 people per hour and can be expected to reach 14,100 on an annual basis.

The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo Rosário, said: "As next year we will start operating the LRT, we told the public we would set up a company. We awarded [chose] MTR, [...] we can learn something [from MTR], after all, the LRT is a new thing to us."

The government announced it will open the company by 2019 at the latest. Regarding the reasons why the government awarded MTR a five-year contract, Rosário said "we must have some time to learn something about the operations. [...] We need some time to work with MTR."

The government will pay approximately MOP100 million per month to MTR.

"I hope we all understand that despite LRT providing a 24-hour service, it does not mean it will be available 24 hours per day, because, at night, maintenance will be carried out. We have 11 stops and we have the depot," said Rosário. JZ

Radio Taxi to bid for running additional cars

Macau Radio Taxi Services Limited is planning to bid for the management of another 100 special taxis which the government has announced it will put out for public tender this year. Currently, the company is operating 100 on-call taxis. The Chairman of Radio Taxi, Cheong Chi Man, said that "it's impossible to turn a profit with only 100 cars." In Cheong's opinion, Macau should have 500 special (on-call) taxis. Radio Taxi has voiced its opinion to the relevant governmental department. However, the company remains uncertain about whether it is qualified or not.

Illegal smoking decreases 36.6pct in Q1

A 36.6 percent decrease in the number of illegal smokers (1,425) was recorded in the first quarter of 2018, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau. From the total number, 1,318 (92.8 percent) were male and 102 (7.2 percent) were female. Some 900 (63.4 percent) were tourists, 477 (33.6 percent) were Macau residents and 43 (3.0 percent) were non-resident workers. In 37 cases, police assistance was needed, and officers were called; 21 fewer cases than seen in the same period last year. During the same time frame, the Health Bureau and the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau conducted 236 tobacco-related inspections in casinos resulting in 396 offenses, of which 373 (94.2 percent) were male and 23 (5.8 percent) were female. 345 (87.1 percent) were tourists and 51 (12.9 percent) were Macau residents.



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GAMING

Caesars awards CEO USD29m after emerging from bankruptcy

Alicia Ritcey

CAESARS Entertainment Corp. awarded its chief executive officer USD29.4 million in compensation for 2017, the year the casino operator emerged from bankruptcy.

Mark Frissora received a \$2 million salary, \$4.5 million cash bonus, \$16.5 million in retention-restricted stock, a long-term cash award of \$6 million and \$400,000 for repriced options, the Las Vegas-based company said Tuesday in a regulatory filing.

Repricing options isn't considered a best corporate practice, according to the Council of Institutional Investors, and Caesars said it plans to stop doing so as of May. But to enhance retention during restructuring, the compensation committee - acting without investor approval - reduced the strike price for all awards to \$9.45 a share.



Mark Frissora

Frissora, Chief Financial Officer Eric Hession, Global President of Destination Markets Thomas Jenkin and legal chief Timothy Donovan had a total of 1.2 million options with strike prices between \$11.51 and \$21.18 as of December 2016, according to a regulatory filing last year. The committee also amended certain change-in-con-

trol provisions for the executives' long-term incentives.

Caesars's shares have slid 13 percent this year to \$10.93 at 10:41 a.m. in New York. The stock gained 49 percent last year, outpacing the 13 percent advance of the Russell 2000 Index.

The repricing allowed the company to offer equity-based pay without granting new awards, which were restricted during restructuring, according to Tuesday's filing. The company also awarded each executive long-term cash awards of \$6 million to \$1.08 million in March 2017 that pay out over two to three years.

They received retention stock grants of \$3 million to \$16.5 million after the firm emerged from Chapter 11 protection on Oct. 6. Caesars said the awards are consistent with practices of other companies that have gone through bankruptcy. The shares vest over four years. **Bloomberg**

ADB raises Asia growth outlook, warns of trade tension risks

DEVELOPING Asian economies will expand at a slightly faster pace this year than earlier forecast, but trade tensions with the U.S. pose a major risk, the Asian Development Bank said yesterday in its latest regional update.

The Manila, Philippines-based lender said it expects the region to expand at a 6 percent clip in 2018, slightly above its previous forecast, after recording 6.1 percent growth last year. For 2019, it predicts growth will ease to 5.9 percent.

The bank said robust exports and strong domestic consumer demand are supporting activity across the 45 economies it covers in its annual report.

Risks to the growth outlook are driven mainly by "fears of escalating trade tensions," it said, referring to China-U.S. trade tensions that have threatened to escalate into an all-out trade war.

The report did not mention President Donald Trump but it was clearly referring to his trade policies, which have involved threatening China with




Construction workers in Beijing

higher tariffs on tens of billions of dollars of exports in a dispute that centers on complaints from foreign companies that say they're forced to hand over their technology. Beijing has responded with its own proposed list of tariffs of a similar amount.

"Recent U.S. tariffs on select products have not yet dented trade, but further actions by the U.S. and counteractions against them could undermine business and consumer confidence in Asia and the Pacific," the report said.

Growth in China's economy, the world's second biggest, is set to cool to 6.6 percent in 2018 and 6.4 percent in 2019 after logging 6.9 percent growth last year, it said. **AP**

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A set of measures to promote business tourism in Angola is being introduced, facilitating access to the country and domestic transport, as part of government efforts to stimulate the economy, according to the latest report from the Economist Intelligence Unit (EIU).

In the document, the EIU highlights the project to create a new airline for domestic flights, Angola Expresso, under a public-private partnership between state airline TAAG and a private company and/or civil aviation companies yet to be selected.

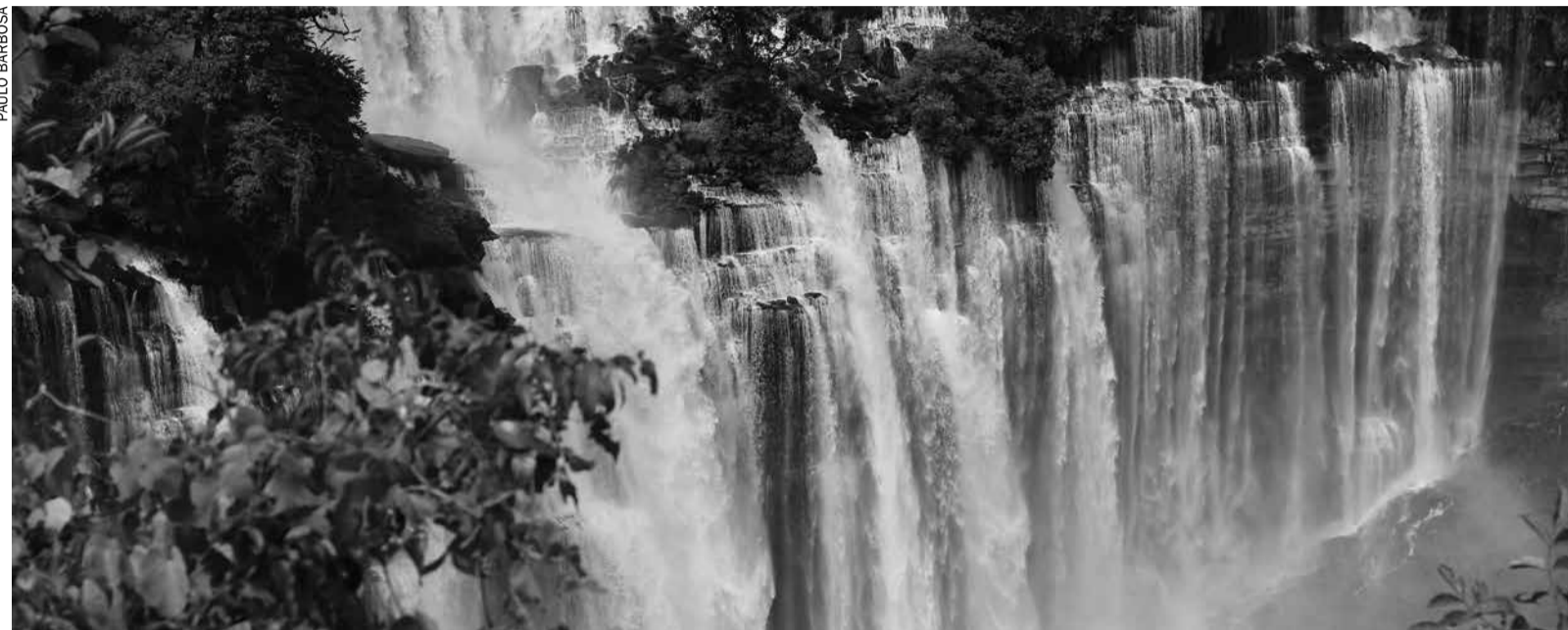
"New services and lower costs can boost domestic tourism and business travel, which should have a positive impact on stronger economic growth," said the EIU, adding that the size of this stimulus was unlikely to be enough to ensure a "substantial change" in their growth forecasts.

The Angolan government has been moving forward with the introduction of visa facilitation measures

The transport minister, Augusto da Silva Tomás, will direct the commission responsible for setting up the company, which will be run by private interests, starting in 2019.

TAAG has experienced operational difficulties due to economic and financial constraints facing the country since 2014, which were exacerbated by the

Business tourism benefits from new measures in Angola



Angola's touristic attractions such as the Kalandula Falls could become more accessible to tourists

devaluation of the currency in 2018.

Faced with strong criticism from consumers over high domestic prices, the company announced in early February that it would reduce domestic tariffs by 10-20 percent and adopt a variable pricing model.

Foreign airlines have also been experiencing difficulties due to Angola's retention by of revenues valued by the International Air Transport Association (IATA) at USD500 million, including TAP – Air Portugal, South African Airways and Emirates.

The Africa Monitor Intelligence newsletter recently wrote that a consortium of some of Angola's private aviation companies is assessed by industry sources as the move most pro-

bable to end in the creation of Angola Expresso.

Among the companies in the best position to be part of this consortium are Airjet, Aerojet – Transporte Aéreo, Heliang – Transporte Aéreo and Air Guicango, which have Embraer

135, Beechcraft B200, Citation and Embraer 120 aircraft.

While working on a solution for domestic flights, the Angolan government has been moving forward with the introduction of visa facilitation measures and, since the end of last

week, citizens from 61 countries, including the European Union (EU), who wish to travel to Angola, may apply for a tourist visa upon arrival in Luanda, and must present only proof of accommodation and means of subsistence. **MDT/Macauhub**

Public tender to build airport in Mbanza Congo

THE public tender for the construction of the new Mbanza Congo airport will be launched within two months, said the chairman of the Board of Directors of Angola's airport management company, Empresa Nacional de Exploração de Aeroportos e Navegação Aérea (ENANA).

Manuel Ceita also told daily newspaper *Jornal de Angola* that the construction of the new airport in an inhospitable area will allow for the

development of the region with the construction of houses and businesses to provide services to residents.

The future airport of Mbanza Congo will be located in Nkiende II, 35 kilometres from Mbanza Congo, the capital of the province of Zaire. When it is in operation, it will be able to receive Boeing 737 and Ilyushin Il-76 aircraft and have a terminal with capacity for 600 passengers.

Chi: Financial innovation needed to support Sino-Portuguese business projects

BUSINESS projects involving China and Portuguese-speaking countries have been receiving official Chinese funding, but the deepening of this cooperation in the "era" of the New Silk Road requires innovative financial mechanisms, the president of the Fund for Cooperation and Development between China and the Portuguese-speaking Countries said in Lisbon.

Chi Jianxin, who travelled to Lisbon for a conference of the Friends of the New Silk Road Association on March 23, said this instrument with an initial allocation

of USD1 billion, jointly funded by the China Development Bank and the Macau Industrial Development and Trade Fund and managed by the China-Africa Development Fund, is actively involved in supporting projects in all Portuguese-speaking countries.

"The Belt and Road initiative is highly compatible with the development plans of many Portuguese-speaking countries and has a strong complementarity in terms of capital, technology, resources, markets, etc., stimulating new opportunities for commercial, economic and investment cooperation

expansion between China and Portuguese-speaking countries," Chi said.

The head of the fund also said that trade and investment cooperation between China and other Portuguese-speaking countries and regions is also increasing, with China becoming one of the most important trading partners and the fastest growing export market for those countries, with the trade balance exceeding \$100 billion in 2017, for the first time.

There are currently around 1,000 companies with capital from Portuguese-speaking countries

in China, while Chinese companies have more than \$50 billion in investments in Portuguese-speaking countries.

Chi Jianxin also referred to what he called the "asymmetry of information and ideas" between companies and financial institutions, as well as the lack of access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises, which make up the majority of the business community in countries such as Portugal.

"We still have good projects and good investment opportunities for companies, but we cannot find adequate fi-

ancial support. At the same time, financial institutions have funds, but they cannot find suitable projects," he said.

In order to solve these problems, it is necessary to "improve the innovation capacity of financial institutions (including insurance agencies and consultancy services), which requires financial institutions to create new financing models to better understand the needs of companies."

At the Lisbon conference, Wu Shiwei, vice president of the China Development Bank (Shaanxi branch), also said that the financial institution,

"actively supports cooperation between Chinese and Portuguese companies" under the "Belt and Road."

Among the suggestions he made was an "improvement of the mechanism of public-private cooperation."

At the conference, Portuguese Foreign Minister, Augusto Santos Silva, said he would go to China in October or November and that the Chinese Foreign Minister will visit Portugal in May.

The mutual visits later this year are yet another step in the growing relationship between the two countries, whose relations, according to the Chinese ambassador to Portugal, Cai Run, are experiencing, "the best moment in history." **MDT/Macauhub**

Tsai: Taiwan is not a pawn, but rather a chess player

IN a televised interview this week, President Tsai said Taiwan is not a pawn, but rather a chess player, official Taiwan News reported.

Asked by TV journalists if Taiwan is like a pawn, Tsai said that she had been asked this question by a large group of young foreign people before.

"Don't underestimate Taiwan. A population of 23 million is not a small number, it is not a small country. Taiwan has economic strength and even to a certain extent Taiwan has military strength. In fact, Taiwan itself has considerable strength." She then concluded by saying that, "Many people say that we are a pawn of others, you should not forget that we ourselves are a chess player."

One of the hosts of the show then said, "Therefore Trump is our pawn and we're in between the two big ones."

In response to the host's comment Tsai said, "I'm just going with the flow."

Yesterday, President Tsai named a key ally to head her office and lead communications efforts aimed at shoring up her waning approval ratings in the run-up to local elections this year, Reuters reported.

The appointment comes a

AP PHOTO



Taiwan's President Tsai Ing-wen answers to press during a media event at the Presidential Office in Taipei yesterday

day after Chinese President Xi Jinping urged Taiwan's business community to shun any idea of independence for the self-ruled island and promote peace and stable ties with the mainland.

Chen Chu, now the mayor of Taiwan's southern city of Kaohsiung, takes charge on April 23, as dissatisfaction with some economic policies has pushed Tsai's approval rating to its second

lowest level since she took office in 2016.

"We very much look forward to the important role of 'Sister Chu'," Tsai told a news conference.

"During the process of pushing reforms, to have sufficient communications and dialogues between the government and society is very important," she said as cited by the news agency.

Taiwan's mayoral and magisterial elections are set for Nov 24 this year. Chen, the manager of Tsai's successful 2016 election campaign, is a colourful figure of the ruling Democratic Progressive Party (DPP) who has visited China twice, in 2009 and 2013.

As a former political prisoner at the forefront of Taiwan's struggle for democracy, Chen has not shied from irritating Beijing, but has repeatedly called for better communication with China.

At the press conference, when asked about relations with China, Tsai said communication applied to "anybody" to balance interests and conflicts, but did not elaborate, Reuters said.

Beijing claims Taiwan as its sacred territory, part of "one China", and has never renounced the use of force to bring under Chinese control what it considers to be a wayward province.

Chen, who fills a position left vacant after Joseph Wu became foreign minister in February, met Susan Thornton, the U.S. State Department's senior diplomat for East Asia, during a trip to Washington last month.

According to the Reuters dispatch, she has also urged greater international support for Taiwan and welcomed the opportunity for high-level visits between the island and the United States. **MDT/Agencies**

Christopher Bodeen,
Beijing

ANALYSIS

Xi vs Trump: Who has the better hand in a pote

THE brewing China-U.S. trade conflict features two leaders who've expressed friendship but are equally determined to pursue their nation's interests and their own political agendas.

But while President Donald Trump faces continuing churn in his administration and a tough challenge in midterm congressional elections, China's Xi Jinping leads an outwardly stable authoritarian regime. Xi recently succeeded in pushing through a constitutional reform allowing him to rule for as long as he wishes while facing no serious electoral challenge.

A look at some of the issues that could determine the outcome of the trade spat:

FRIENDLY TALK

Although Trump sounded tough on the campaign trail and has challenged Beijing over

trade and Taiwan, he professes admiration for his Chinese counterpart and complimented him on his ability to remove term limits on his presidential rule.

"President Xi and I will always be friends, no matter what happens with our dispute on trade," Trump said in a tweet Sunday. "China's great and Xi is a great gentleman," he said in remarks at a Republican fundraiser last month obtained by CNN.

Xi has generally limited his comments to emphasizing the benefits of a close China-U.S. relationship and thanking Trump in a phone call on March 10 for congratulating him on his obtaining a second term as president. A pair of summits between the leaders in the U.S. and China over the past year were also hailed by China as successes.

FAMILY BACKGROUNDS

Both Trump and Xi come from privileged backgrounds, although their routes to political power were decidedly different. Both, however, have built their reputations on a robust form of nationalism, with Trump promoting "America First" and Xi identifying himself with the "Chinese Dream" of rising prosperity accompanied by muscular defense and foreign policies.

Trump was born the son of a New York City real estate mogul and rose to the presidency on a populist wave after a career as a property developer and reality TV star. Xi's father was a colleague of Mao Zedong, whose influence is believed to have aided his rise through a series of military, government and Communist Party positions before he was

named party leader in 2012.

Both also show an affection for strong-man leadership, and while American democracy is far removed from China's one-party authoritarian system, Trump's verbal attacks on the mainstream media and certain judges have drawn criticism. They both also place a strong emphasis on the military, including increased defense budgets and an appreciation for military parades, two of which Xi has led during his time in office.

DRIVING FORCES

Xi's plan to create Chinese global competitors in fields including robotics, electric cars and pharmaceuticals is seen as precipitating the current crisis, while Trump appears motivated by a desire to shore up America's manufacturing strength.

AP PHOTO



Neither wants to be demark bravado, both seen as backing down, "are thin-skinned bullies who place a lot of value on portraying strength," said Liz Eco-

CHINA said yesterday that a high-ranking diplomat plans to travel to Pyongyang later this week amid a flurry of diplomacy following North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's surprise visit to Beijing.

Song Tao, who heads the ruling Communist Party's International Department, will lead an art troupe to Pyongyang on Friday to attend an arts festival, foreign ministry spokesman Geng Shuang told reporters at a regularly scheduled briefing.

Following Kim's visit to Beijing, the trip "serves as an important cultural exchange activity to implement the significant consensus reached by the top leaders," Geng said.

"We believe this visit will help improve friendly relations and deepen cultural exchanges between the two countries," he said.

Geng said Song had been invited by the International Department of North Korea's ruling Worker's Party. He gave no details about any officials Song would meet.

Kim made an unannounced trip to Beijing last month ahead of potentially breakthrough meetings with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and U.S. President Donald Trump.

The trip, during which he met with Chinese President Xi Jinping, was Kim's first since taking power six years ago, and was considered an attempt to repair traditionally warm ties with China that have deteriorated over the North's development of ballistic missile and nuclear weapons technology and China's enforcement of United Nations economic sanctions.

High-ranking Chinese diplomat to visit North Korea



In this March 26 photo, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (left) and his wife Ri Sol Ju (rear right) are greeted on arrival at Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing

China is the North's most important trading partner, although trade has fallen drastically

under the sanctions, taking a major toll on the country's ailing economy.

Kim's diplomatic moves could have a major impact on the direction the country takes in the months and possibly years ahead. Following his summit

with Xi, Kim dispatched his foreign minister to Moscow, reportedly exploring the possibility of a summit with Russian President Vladimir Putin.

China has long advocated a return to six-nation talks it hosted on the nuclear issue and appears

anxious not to be sidelined by the North's new outreach to other players in that long-stalled process.

Song visited Pyongyang in November, becoming the last high-level Chinese official to do so. **AP**

...ntial trade war?



or state media to trumpet their success and ignore any failings once the dispute has concluded, Economy said.

LET'S MAKE A DEAL

While the current dispute has focused on trade, many other factors are in play, bringing out the bargaining qualities and transactional natures of the two leaders and their administrations. Opinions on who has the upper hand differ widely.

By pursuing the tariff threat and backing complaints about intellectual property theft, Trump has "successfully changed the fundamentals of [...] U.S.-China relations," said Miles Yu Maochun, a China politics expert at the U.S. Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland.

Yu also points to recent U.S. policy on North Korea, particularly Trump's acceptance of an invitation to talks with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un as early as next month that appeared to catch Bei-

jing off guard.

Shortly afterward, Kim paid an unexpected debut visit to China as leader in what some saw as an attempt by Beijing to reassert its centrality in resolving tensions over the North's nuclear weapons and missile programs.

CHINA'S CARDS

Yet, as North Korea's most important trade partner and political ally, China wields considerable influence and its willingness to enforce United Nations sanctions has built up its credibility as a reliable international partner.

China also stands to bring additional pressure on Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy it claims, and which is closely linked to Washington despite technically unofficial ties.

While it responded mildly to Trump's early outreach to the island's independence-leaning government, recent moves such as the appointment of hawkish new

National Security Adviser John Bolton, the passage of a U.S. law encouraging more inter-governmental exchanges and an agreement to pass Taiwan submarine manufacturing technology are hardening views among anti-American nationalists in China.

Beijing's Taiwan Affairs Office yesterday warned against additional moves to strengthen relations with Taiwan, amid reports that Bolton could visit the island this year.

"Any attempt to play the 'Taiwan card' would only be futile," spokesman Ma Xiaoguang said at a bi-weekly news conference. China, Ma said, would "not hesitate to protect our core interests."

CHALLENGES AT HOME

While Yu cites domestic support for Trump's trade approach to China, Xi can likely command even stronger backing at home for a muscular approach toward what

Beijing portrays as a conflict resulting from U.S. unilateralism and hegemony.

Xi also faces no electoral challenge such as the one Trump's Republican party will confront in midterm congressional elections later this year, when Trump's handling of the U.S. economy and a host of other issues will be in the mix. Mindful of voters, especially in the agricultural and industrial sectors, Xi appears set to use such leverage for maximum gain.

"Xi will follow a tough but well directed path designed to hurt specific interests that will complain loudly," said Joseph Fewsmith, a Boston University expert on Chinese foreign policy.

While Xi is broadly considered the most powerful leader since Mao, China "only appears to be united and confident in its approach," said Economy, the academic, adding that the outside world has limited insight into policy debates within China. **AP**

nomy, a leading academic on China and author of "The Third Revolution: Xi Jinping and the New Chinese State."

"This makes it difficult to ramp down in this one-on-one tariff death match," although both have the capacity via Twitter



The Mansudae Assembly Hall where the Supreme People's Assembly is being held in Pyongyang

NORTH KOREA

Parliament convenes to approve national agenda

Eric Talmadge, Tokyo

NORTH Korea's parliament was scheduled to convene yesterday amid a series of diplomatic moves by leader Kim Jong Un that could have a major impact on the direction the country takes in the months and possibly years ahead.

Meetings of the full Supreme People's Assembly are usually brief, once-a-year affairs intended to approve budgets, formalize personnel changes and rubber-stamp Kim's policy priorities.

But this year's session was being watched more closely be-

cause it was to begin just two weeks before Kim is to meet with South Korean President Moon Jae-in and as Pyongyang and Washington are working out the details of a summit between Kim and President Donald Trump in late May or early June.

Kim just completed his first summit, with Chinese President Xi Jinping in Beijing last month. His foreign minister is currently in Moscow, reportedly exploring the possibility of a summit with President Vladimir Putin.

Kim's seemingly sudden switch from launching missiles at a record pace last year to exploring

dialogue has generally been welcomed. But questions remain over how willing Kim might be to make serious compromises on his nuclear weapons program in return for security guarantees and the lifting of economic sanctions that are taking a big bite out of his country's economy.

Pyongyang has been careful not to reveal its hand.

The first significant news of the overtures in its official media came this week, when they reported that Kim laid out his plans for dialogue with South Korea and the United States at a pre-assembly gathering of top ruling party officials on Monday.

But even those reports were cautious: Trump wasn't mentioned by name and Kim was said to have talked about the "prospect" of dialogue with Washington.

It was not immediately clear what was on the agenda for the assembly or how much of it would be made public.

Pyongyang has been careful not to reveal its hand

State media, which only announced the date of the assembly session last month, do not generally report about the meetings until they are over. Foreign media in Pyongyang — including The Associated Press — were not allowed to cover the session independently.

North Korea's supreme assembly is a far cry from the Western democratic idea of what a parliament should be.

The assembly, which has had 686 members since the most recent elections in 2014, generally holds one and sometimes two sessions each year.

It's headed by Kim Yong Nam,

the North's 90-year-old senior statesman who accompanied Kim's sister to South Korea in February to attend the opening of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. He has been the head of the assembly since 1998, and although he seems to be in good health, speculation that he may retire has been circulating for years.

The assembly is technically the highest organ of state power under the North's constitution. In practice, it serves more to formalize whatever decisions and policies that are put before it. But it is an important means of keeping the deputies updated and informed of national priorities so that they can in turn pass that information on to their districts.

When the assembly is in session, it is common to see long caravans of buses filled with deputies being taken around the capital for tours of museums and visits to historical sites — probably a rare experience for some of the representatives of the more remote or rural areas.

State media reported Tuesday that this year's deputies toured a revolutionary history museum, a cemetery for "revolutionary martyrs" and a teachers' university. **AP**

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN MINISTER TO VISIT NORTH KOREA

RUSSIA'S FOREIGN Minister Sergey Lavrov said he has accepted any invitation to visit North Korea. Lavrov said in televised comments after talks with his counterpart from North Korea, Ri Yong-ho, that he has agreed to visit Pyongyang. Lavrov said, however, that there was no word on a possible meeting between President Vladimir Putin and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. Lavrov said that

Russia welcomes Kim's plan to meet with the South Korean president and U.S. President Donald Trump as a step toward resolving the tensions around North Korea's nuclear program. Kim visited Beijing last month to meet with Chinese leader Xi Jinping — the first time Kim has left the North since assuming power in 2011. It was also his first meeting with another head of state.

MALAYSIA

PM declares May 9 election day a holiday after outcry

THE Malaysian prime minister yesterday declared voting day on May 9 a public holiday after a decision to hold elections on a workday triggered complaints that it would deter mainly opposition supporters.

The surprise move is seen as a bid to ease public anger a day after the Election Commission announced that voting will be held on a Wednesday, departing from the norm of having it on a weekend.

The weekday vote triggered a flurry of complaints that it would deter thousands of Malaysians from returning to their hometown to vote. Some companies responded by giving their employees days off



Malaysia's Prime Minister and President of the ruling party coalition "National Front", Najib Razak (right)

and offering to pay for their travel back home to vote. The hashtag "PulangMenggundi" (Go home to vote) trended on Twitter, with

many Malaysians offering financial assistance and car pool to those travelling back to vote.

Critics have said the

weekday vote plus a shorter campaign period could lower voter turnout and dent support for the opposition led by former Prime

minister Mahathir Mohamad, who was Asia's longest serving leader before he retired in 2003.

The weekday vote would still make it difficult for some half a million Malaysians working in Singapore to return and cast the ballot.

Prime Minister Najib Razak's office said May 9 will be a public holiday so that "Malaysians can fulfill their duties as voters."

The Election Commission has said 14.94 million people are eligible to vote, including 1.7 million new voters. It set an 11-day campaign period, shorter than the 15 days for the 2013 polls. It didn't give a reason why the vote would be held on a workday, the first time

in nearly two decades.

Past Malaysian elections were mostly held on weekends but weekday votes are not unprecedented. National polls in 1995 and 1999 under Mahathir were held on Mondays.

Najib, 64, is seeking a third term in office and under pressure to improve his ruling coalition's performance after support eroded in the last two elections. He has been dogged by a massive corruption scandal involving the 1MDB state investment fund, which is under investigation in the U.S. and other countries for alleged cross-border embezzlement and money laundering.

He has denied any wrongdoing. **AP**



Police escort a suspect involved the making of toxic bootleg alcohol after a press conference in Jakarta yesterday

INDONESIA

Alcohol deaths exceed 100 as police vow crackdown

Niniek Karmini, Jakarta

DEATHS from drinking toxic bootleg alcohol in Indonesia have surpassed 100 this month, police said yesterday as they vowed a "scorched earth" crackdown on the makers and distributors of black-market liquor.

Deputy National Police Chief Muhammad Syafruddin said deaths have been concentrated in populous West Java and Jakarta, the capital, but there were also cases in South Kalimantan and other regions that brought fatalities to more than 100.

Indonesian TV has broadcast images of distraught relatives in several cities and lines of gurneys bearing dead bodies in hospital hallways as the death toll relentlessly climbed since late last week. There were 31 deaths in Jakarta and satellite cities at the beginning of the month followed by a dramatic surge in deaths in West Java and hospitalizations of dozens of people suffering nausea, blurry vision and loss of consciousness.

"This is a crazy phenomenon," said Syafruddin, standing in front of seven handcuffed suspects at a news conference. "If we let it continue, it will harm the nation."

"I have ordered all the police chiefs in Indonesia to make these cases stop, zero victims, meaning to reveal the roots ranging from the producers, distributors, sellers to those who have the idea of mixing alcohol with fatal chemicals," Syafruddin said.

Police displayed huge quantities of confiscated alcohol at the news conference, some of it in the small clear plastic bags it's sold in for about 25,000 rupiah (USD1.80) as well as professionally labeled bottles purporting to be whiskey or wine.

Syafruddin said production of illegal alcohol must be eradicated completely with a scorched earth campaign and called for the cooperation of the Cabinet and government agencies.

It's unclear how effective the crackdown will be. Curbs on sales of legal alcohol in Muslim-majority Indonesia, including a ban implemented in 2015 on sales at tens of thousands of convenience stores, have created a significant black market for bootleg liquor among the country's poor.

"If what is needed is limited in the legal market because of [government] policies, then the need would be fulfilled by those who want to make a profit" from the black market, said Sugianto

Tandra, a researcher at the Center for Indonesian Policy Studies.

"The current incidence of rampant bootleg alcohol is because there is a need to drink but the product is not available in the legal market," he said.

TV broadcast images of distraught relatives in several cities and lines of gurneys bearing dead bodies in hospital hallways

Potentially lethal methanol can be a byproduct of bootleg distilling and the tainted alcohol is also sometimes mixed with soft drinks. In the recent spate of deaths, police said pure alcohol was sometimes combined with ingredients such as cough mixture and insect repellent.

Syafruddin said labora-

tory testing of black-market alcohol sized by police in several raids in Jakarta showed it contained methanol.

Construction worker Andri Rizal, who was hospitalized near the West Java capital, Bandung, said he and three friends fell ill after drinking palm wine mixed with an intoxicating ginseng drink he'd bought for \$1, an unusually cheap price.

"We purchased and mixed it with the palm wine just to make it feel better and slower to get drunk. Ginseng by itself is too hard," said the 28-year-old. "It was not like usual when it's instantly delicious. I felt limp and dizzy."

Deaths from toxic alcohol are common in Indonesia and foreigners are occasionally among the victims. Some governments warn travelers to the Indonesian islands of Bali and Lombok to be cautious about consuming local spirits and alcoholic beverages.

But the latest cluster of fatalities is extreme, leading to speculation that a single large distributor was responsible. But West Java police said they have found no evidence to support that.

The Kompas newspaper said there were 32 deaths last year from bootleg liquor. **AP**

INDONESIA

Former general says he'll run for president again



Prabowo Subianto, a former Indonesian general with a checkered human rights record (pictured), announced that he'll run for president in an election due next year, confirming an establishment challenger to current President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo. The nationalist politician made the announcement at his expansive residence in Bogor in West Java. It will be his second attempt at the presidency of the world's largest Muslim-majority nation after being defeated by Jokowi, a maverick candidate, in 2014. Subianto heads the opposition Great Indonesia Movement Party, known by its Indonesian acronym Gerindra, and is likely to win support from Islamic parties. Jokowi was the first Indonesian from outside the country's political and military elite to win the presidency. The 2014 campaign was marred by dirty campaigning and wild internet rumors that Jokowi was a secret communist, an accusation often used in Indonesia to discredit or intimidate political opponents. Gerindra's secretary-general, Ahmad Muzani, said a meeting of more than 3,500 party officials and cadres had officially given a mandate to Subianto to run for the presidency in 2019.

BANGLADESH

Myanmar official meets Rohingya refugees



A Myanmar Cabinet minister has visited a sprawling refugee camp in Bangladesh for Rohingya Muslims, who told him of the violence that forced them to flee Myanmar and presented a list of demands for their repatriation. A Rohingya leader, Abdur Rahim, said at least eight women rape victims were among about 40 refugees who met yesterday with Social Welfare Minister Win Myat Aye at the Kutupalong camp in Cox's Bazar (pictured). Rahim said they presented 13 demands for the government to meet for their return to Myanmar. Bangladesh refugee commissioner Abul Kalam said the minister listened to the refugees and replied to their questions. About 700,000 Rohingya Muslims have fled army-led violence in Buddhist-majority Myanmar since last August. The two countries have agreed to begin repatriations.

CAMBODIA

Gov't deports 89 suspects in online scam to China

Cambodia has deported nearly 100 Chinese citizens accused of defrauding people in China in an internet scam. A senior Interior Ministry official, Gen. Ouk Haiseila, said yesterday the 89 suspects, including 15 women, were flown out of the Cambodian capital on two planes sent by the Chinese government. He said members of the group contacted women in China over social media and tricked them into sending nude or erotic photos, then extorted money by threatening to spread the images online. Ouk Haiseila said their deportation Tuesday came after their arrest last month. Online scams by Chinese gangs that operate from foreign countries and target mainland Chinese are common throughout Southeast Asia. Since 2012, Cambodia has sent at least 1,000 Chinese and Taiwanese residents involved in such schemes to China.

AP PHOTO



This image posted by Algerian news agency ALG24 shows firefighters and soldiers at the scene of the fatal military plane crash near Algiers

ALGERIA

Military plane crashes in field, killing 257 people

A military plane carrying soldiers and their families crashed soon after takeoff in a farm field in northern Algeria yesterday, killing 257 people in what appeared to be the worst plane crash in the North African

nation's history. Algeria's Defense Ministry said that those killed included 247 passengers and 10 crew members. The cause of the crash was unclear, and an investigation has

been opened, the ministry said. The ministry said that most of the victims were soldiers and their relatives and that the victims' bodies were transported to the Algerian army's central hospital in the town of Ain Naadja

for identification.

Local media reported that the plane crashed just after taking off. Emergency services converged on the area near the Boufarik military base after the crash. Footage from the scene showed thick black smoke coming off the field, as well as ambulances and Red Crescent vehicles arriving at the site.

It was the first crash of an Algerian military plane since February 2014, when a U.S.-built C-130 Hercules turboprop slammed into a mountain, killing at least 76 people and

leaving just one survivor.

In 2003, 10 people died when an Algerian Air Force C-130 crashed after an engine caught fire shortly after it took off from the air base near Boufarik, according to the Aviation Safety Network's database.

The previous deadliest crash on Algerian soil occurred in 2003, when 102 people were killed after a civilian airliner crashed at the end of the runway in Tamanrasset. There was a single survivor in that crash.

The flight had just taken off from Boufarik, about 30 kilometers southwest of the capital Algiers, for a military base in Bechar in southwest Algeria, according to Farouk Achour, chief spokesman for the civil protection services. It was scheduled to make a layover in Tindouf in southern Algeria, home to many refugees from the neighboring Western Sahara, a disputed territory annexed by Morocco.

The Soviet-designed Il-76 military transport plane crashed in an agricultural zone with no residents, Achour said.

The Il-76 model has been in production since 1970s and has an overall good safety record. It is widely used for both commercial freight and military transport. The Algerian military operates several of the planes. AP

AD

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SYRIA

As Russia warns against US strike, Trump threatens missiles

Robert Burns, Josh Lederman
& Catherine Lucey, Washington

DEFYING Russian warnings against U.S. military strikes in Syria, President Donald Trump said yesterday that missiles “will be coming” in response to Syria’s suspected chemical attack that killed at least 40 people.

“Russia vows to shoot down any and all missiles fired at Syria,” Trump tweeted. “Get ready Russia, because they will be coming, nice and new and ‘smart!’ You shouldn’t be partners with a Gas Killing Animal who kills his people and enjoys it!”

Trump did not detail what a strike would look like, or whether these would be U.S. missiles. The tweet came as Trump administration officials have consulted with global allies on a possible joint military response to Syria’s alleged poison gas attack. Trump canceled a foreign trip in order to manage a crisis that is testing his vow to stand up to Syrian President Bashar Assad.

The tweet drew a quick response from Russia’s Foreign Ministry. Spokeswoman Maria Zakharova said on Facebook that “smart” missiles would destroy any evidence of a suspected chemical weapons attack.

The term “smart” missile dates

to the introduction decades ago of weapons with advanced guidance systems — for example, using GPS — to achieve greater precision in targeting. The term was meant to contrast with “dumb” bombs lacking such technology. Virtually all U.S. missiles now have advanced guidance systems.

Russian lawmakers earlier warned the United States that Moscow would view an airstrike on Syria as a war crime, saying it could trigger a direct military clash between the two former Cold War adversaries. Russia’s ambassador to Lebanon said any missiles fired at Syria would be shot down and the launching sites targeted — a stark warning of a potential major confrontation in Syria.

Trump’s tweets yesterday also delivered a mixed message, not unusual for the mercurial president.

Shortly after warning that missiles were coming, Trump tweeted that the U.S. “relationship with Russia is worse now than it has ever been, and that includes the Cold War.” Then, striking a more conciliatory tone, he said: “There is no reason for this. Russia needs us to help with their economy, something that would be very easy to do, and we need all nations to work together. Stop the arms race?”

Trump’s administration has sought to show they are being

tough on Russia, with a series of economic and diplomatic actions, including new sanctions last week against government officials and oligarchs. But Trump has also largely avoided criticizing Russian President Vladimir Putin by name, though he singled him out in a tweet over the weekend for supporting Bashar Assad.

In the past Trump, has condemned forecasting military plans. During a speech on foreign policy in 2016, he said: “we must as a nation be more unpredictable. We are totally predictable. We tell everything. We’re sending troops. We tell them. We’re sending something else. We have a news conference. We have to be unpredictable.”

The U.S., France and Britain were in extensive consultations about launching a military strike as early as the end of this week, U.S. officials have said. None of the three countries’ leaders had made a firm decision, according to the officials, who were not authorized to discuss military planning publicly.

A joint military operation, possibly with France rather than the U.S. in the lead, could send a message of international unity about enforcing the prohibitions on chemical weapons and counter Syria’s political and military support from Russia and Iran.

President Emmanuel Macron said France, the U.S. and Britain will decide how to respond in the coming days. He called for a “strong and joint response” to the attack in the Syrian town of Douma on Saturday, which Syrian activists and rescuers say killed 40 people. The Syrian government denies responsibility.

Trump tweeted that the US ‘relationship with Russia is worse now than it has ever been, and that includes the Cold War’

The French president does not need parliamentary permission to launch a military operation. France is already involved in the U.S.-led coalition created in 2014 to fight the Islamic State group in Syria and Iraq. Multiple IS attacks have targeted French soil, including one last month.

Trump suggested Monday he had little doubt that Syrian go-

vernment forces were to blame for what he said was a chemical attack, but neither he nor other administration officials have produced hard evidence. Officials suggested such evidence was lacking, or at least not yet at hand. This is in contrast to an incident one year ago in which U.S. intelligence agencies had video and other evidence of certain aspects of the actual attack, which involved the use of Sarin gas. Trump responded by launching Navy cruise missiles at a Syrian airfield.

One official said the U.S., France and Britain were considering military options that would be more extensive than the punitive, one-day strike last April. That strike did not appear to have had the desired effect of deterring Assad from further use of chemical agents. So the three countries are discussing a range of options, including preventing Assad from conducting future attacks by striking military capabilities involved in carrying out such attack, the official said.

Asked whether France would take military action, Macron said his country will continue discussing technical and strategic information with U.S. and British allies and “in the coming days we will announce our decision.” He said any action would “target chemical weapons” stocks. Under a 2013 agreement for which Russia was a guarantor, Syria was to have eliminated all its chemical weapons, but it has used chlorine and perhaps other chemicals since then.

Trump spoke by phone with British Prime Minister Theresa May. A British government statement said the two agreed the attack in Syria was “utterly reprehensible” and that the international community must respond “to uphold the worldwide prohibition on the use of chemical weapons.” Trump met at the White House with the emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani, who told reporters that he and Trump “see eye to eye” on the Syria problem.

“We cannot tolerate with a war criminal,” the emir said, adding, “This matter should end immediately.” Qatar hosts the United States’ main air operations center for the Middle East, which would coordinate any American air attack in Syria.

A watchdog agency, the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, announced that it will send “shortly” a fact-finding mission to Douma, after receiving a request from the Syrian government and its Russian backers to investigate the allegations. It was not immediately clear whether that visit would delay or avert U.S. or allied military action.

The Russian military, which has troops in Syria, said on Monday that its officers had visited the site of the alleged attack and found no evidence to back up reports of poison gas being used. **AP**

what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: April 12, 2018

VENUE: Handover Gifts Museum of Macao

ADMISSION: Free admission

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2872 7066

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

11TH MACAU DESIGN BIENNIAL (HGM)

TIME: 10am-7pm, last admission at 6:30pm (closed on Mondays, open on public holidays)

UNTIL: March 31, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art, Av. Xian Xing Hai, NAPE

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

"MY CHINESE ZODIAC" – EXHIBITION BY RAQUEL GRALHEIRO

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)

12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: May 13, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

Offbeat

JAIL JOB APPLICANT NOT HIRED, ARRESTED INSTEAD IN THEFT CASE

A woman applying for a job at a New Hampshire county jail has been arrested because it turns out she was wanted on a charge in Maine.

Police say Kristina Hoefs, of Manchester, applied for the job on Friday at the Hillsborough County Department of Corrections. But workers soon realized she was being sought on a theft-related offense in Maine.

Hoefs was taken into custody and taken to police headquarters. She was scheduled for arraignment this week.

It's unknown if Hoefs has a lawyer. No phone number for her can be found.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
19:00	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Miscellaneous
21:35	Non-daily Portuguese News
21:40	Portuguese Serie
22:15	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
23:40	Documentary
00:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:55	RTPi Live
03:05	European League: Sporting x Atl Madrid (Live)
05:10	RTPi Live

Cinema



CINETEATRO

12 - 18 APR



RAMPAGE

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 07:30, 9:30pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris, Malin Akerman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



SECRET SUPERSTAR

ROOM 2
2:30, 5:30, 08:30pm

Director: Advait Chandan

Starring: Aamir Khan, Zaira Wasim

Language: Hindi (English & Chinese)

Duration: 150min

TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

ROOM 3

2:15, 5:45pm

Director: Nick Park

Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 91min



READY PLAYER ONE

ROOM 3

9:15pm

Director: Steven Spielberg

Starring: Tye Sheridan, Olivia Cooke, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 140min

this day in history



1975 US PULLS OUT OF CAMBODIA

The US has admitted defeat in Cambodia and removed its remaining embassy personnel from the capital, Phnom Penh.

Early this morning 276 people were airlifted from a football field near the embassy by a fleet of 30 helicopters.

Those on the airlift included 159 Cambodians who had worked with the Americans.

Foreign journalists who had been covering the civil war between the communist Khmer Rouge and the Cambodian government were also airlifted out of the country.

It was feared "Operation Eagle Pull", as the evacuation was dubbed, would come under Khmer Rouge fire and more than 300 armed Marines guarded the field.

However, the operation passed off uneventfully.

Some of Cambodia's most senior government ministers, including the Acting President, Saukham Khoy, were among the evacuees.

The country's Prime Minister, Long Boret, has remained in Phnom Penh.

Long Boret's decision not to leave came as a surprise as he has been condemned to death by the advancing Khmer Rouge.

The evacuees were flown to American war ships, the Okinawa and the Hancock, in the Gulf of Thailand.

In Washington, President Ford explained the reasons why the US had pulled out of Cambodia.

Mr Ford said he had taken the decision with "a heavy heart" but had done so to ensure the safety of Americans who had "served valiantly".

The American withdrawal is an inglorious end to five years of involvement in Cambodia's civil war.

Its presence in the country was closely linked to the war it is conducting in neighbouring Vietnam.

Between 1970 and 1973 the US bombed Cambodia in order to stop its North Vietnamese enemies using the country as a base.

If Phnom Penh does fall, Cambodia will become the first country since Cuba 16 years ago to pass into Communist hands.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

After the Khmer Rouge entered Phnom Penh on 17 April its leader, Pol Pot, immediately set about realising his vision of an agrarian utopia.

He forced hundreds of thousands of people to leave urban areas and become farmers.

Pol Pot's reforms led to the deaths of an estimated 1.8 million people - some were executed but many died of disease and starvation.

In 1979 Cambodia's old enemy, Vietnam, invaded and the Khmer Rouge fled.

In 1991 a United Nations-brokered peace agreement was signed which ended the country's civil war.

In 1997 Pol Pot was convicted of treason by a "people's tribunal" and was sentenced to life under house arrest.

He died in April 1998.

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 With all the uncertainty going on in your life right now, you need the comfort of home, friends, and family to keep you feeling grounded. Set aside some extended time - a long weekend if possible.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 For a model on how you want your day to go today, look for someone you admire and respect. There are lessons and techniques they have learned after all their experiences.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Some of the people around you are moving into exciting changes and their happiness is contagious. Volunteer to help them with any finishing touches and get in on the good karma they're enjoying.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've got more freedom than ever before - are you making the most of it? Be your own boss in every sense of the word today - at work, you can make a bigger impression the bolder you get.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Everything is right in front of you, waiting for you to just reach out and grab it. The impulsive, cocky side of you says you should go for it and all will be fine. But the cautious, humble side of you is telling you to stop.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 You have only just scratched the surface on this new endeavor - keep digging today and you could uncover the whole beautiful thing (at any rate, you should make amazing progress).

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's time to delegate! When it comes to upcoming social plans, ask a friend to help you organize the details - they live for this stuff. Workwise, give someone else the opportunity they've been waiting for.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Easy+

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Easy+' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Medium

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Medium' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

Hard

9x9 Sudoku grid for 'Hard' difficulty with some numbers pre-filled.

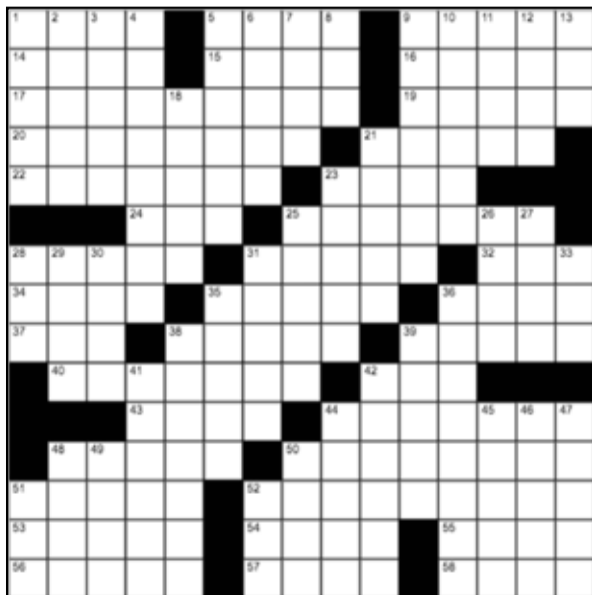
WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Mil. school; 5- On the main; 9- The Jetsons' dog; 14- Kemo...; 15- Semester; 16- Villain's look; 17- Italian restaurant; 19- Courtyard; 20- Transgress; 21- Grow to maturity; 22- Unemployed person?; 23- Yuri's love; 24- Your, to Yves; 25- Uppercase; 28- Infectious agent; 31- Gum; 32- Immerse; 34- Egyptian fertility goddess; 35- Assisted; 36- Baltic feeder; 37- Bar order; 38- Academy award; 39- Point in question; 40- Voter; 42- SASE, e.g.; 43- D-Day beach; 44- Small ring; 48- Chocolate substitute; 50- Remove from action; 51- Pulsate; 52- Capable of being counted; 53- Jeweler's glass; 54- Space; 55- Side; 56- More adorable; 57- Boxer Max; 58- Some Ivy Leaguers;

DOWN: 1- Moving; 2- Chili con ___; 3- Behind; 4- Debris; 5- Does penance; 6- Twilled fabric; 7- Buffalo's county; 8- Doc bloc; 9- Pain and fever tablet; 10- Be short with; 11- Head of France; 12- Bridle strap; 13- Acapulco gold; 18- Wearies; 21- Swift; 23- Coherent light beam; 25- Chest or closet material; 26- Increases; 27- In ___ of (replacing); 28- Through; 29- "Cast Away" setting; 30- Monetary unit of Cambodia; 31- Big name in copiers; 33- Opposite of post-; 35- Take ___ at (try); 36- Kiss; 38- Tenth month of the year; 39- Type of sanctum; 41- The continent; 42- Make beloved; 44- Anouk of "La Dolce Vita"; 45- Defamation; 46- China's Zhou ___; 47- Abounds; 48- ___ En-lai; 49- Stuck in ___; 50- Chapter of the Koran; 51- Pampering, briefly; 52- Capture;



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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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News At Hand



“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

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Andrew Dampf, Rome

EDIN Dzeko surprised a lot of people when he turned down a lucrative offer from Premier League champion Chelsea in January to stay with Roma.

Pledging his allegiance for Roma then, Dzeko declared that he was determined to accomplish something important with the Italian club.

Consider his desire realized.

Dzeko's sheer will and brute force were the primary reasons behind Roma's shocking elimination of Barcelona in the Champions League quarterfinals. The Bosnia and Herzegovina striker scored two goals and drew a penalty to set up another over the two legs as Roma clawed back from a three-goal deficit to advance to the semifinals.

"I stayed with Roma to experience matches like these. I'm happy to be with Roma and I think the club should be, too," Dzeko said after Roma's 3-0 win yesterday [Macau time] overturned a 4-1 first-leg defeat.

"I turned down a lot of money by not going to Chelsea but that's not what I'm interested in. If we play like this we can play with anyone. I've never seen Barcelona in so much difficulty."

Dzeko should know. He was on the Manchester City team that was eliminated by Barcelona in the last 16 in both 2014 and 2015.

Roma suffocated Barcelona with high pressure, prompting the Catalan club to make a series of errant passes and turnovers. Barcelona had no answer for the aerial abilities of Dzeko and fellow forward Patrik Schick, who was the revelation of the night.

Sparingly used previously this season due to a series of injuries, the 22-year-old Czech Republic striker had been set to join Juventus during the offseason but the deal collapsed because of a reported heart problem.

So Roma picked him up instead from Sampdoria, where Schick scored 11 Serie A goals last season.

Cengiz Under, another young attacking player, scored six goals for Roma in February and March and returned from injury by coming off the bench in the second leg.

The 20-year-old Turkey winger's corner set up the header from Kostas Manolas that provided Roma's third goal.

That came moments before Stephan El Shaarawy, another speedy and talented winger, was denied from close range.

In all, Roma is developing a wealth of options in attack that combine velocity and strength, and Roma coach Eusebio Di Francesco was hailed for his 3-4-1-2 formation.

"We had never tried it before but over just three days he got it into our heads," said Roma captain Daniele De Rossi, who converted a penalty for Roma's second goal. "After the first leg we

FOOTBALL | CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Determined Dzeko delivers a 'Romantada' over Barcelona



Roma's Edin Dzeko is challenged by Barcelona's Sergio Busquets

saw that the gap between us and them wasn't really all that large."

Own-goals from De Rossi and Manolas handed Barcelona a 2-0 lead last week but Dzeko's late consolation goal in that match proved decisive when Roma advanced on away goals.

Dzeko also scored the key goal when Roma eliminated Shakhtar Donetsk in the last 16. He has six goals in all in this season's competition.

"The best is yet to come. The semifinal will be even greater," Dzeko said.

■ **L'Equipe** labeled it a 'Romantada' — a play on the Spanish word 'remuntada,' which translates as comeback

"But of course, tonight is unforgettable," Dzeko added. "I don't have an adjective to describe it. Let's just say it was a crazy match — incredible. Nobody believed in us."

Roma fans celebrated throughout the night, waving flags and driving scooters around the central Piazza Venezia.

"Imperiali!" — Imperials — said the headline in yesterday's Gazzetta dello Sport.

French sports daily L'Equipe labeled it a "Romantada" — a play on the Spanish word "remuntada," which translates as comeback.

It's the first time that Roma has reached the last four since it lost the 1984 final to Liverpool on pe-

nalties in its own stadium.

The semifinal draw is scheduled for Friday and so far the only other club which has advanced is Liverpool, which is spearheaded

by former Roma striker Mohamed Salah.

While Roma keeps on surprising in the Champions League — see its 3-0 domination of Chelsea

Klopp saw off Man City and thought Barca collapse was a joke

RETURNING to the Liverpool dressing room, Jurgen Klopp was savoring the unexpectedly smooth elimination of Manchester City.

Then the Liverpool manager was halted in his tracks.

There was even more stunning news from the Champions League.

Just like Liverpool, Barcelona started its quarterfinal second leg with a three-goal advantage.

Unlike Liverpool, Barcelona conceded at home the previous week.

It proved costly for Barcelona. Roma required a 3-0 victory to oust the Spanish league leaders, and it was improbably accomplished to advance 4-4 on away goals.

"I walked up the stairs and somebody told me," Klopp said after Liverpool's 5-1 aggregate win over City. "I really thought it was a joke. Not that I don't respect Roma, the absolute opposite. They have a fantastic team. Edin Dzeko, wow."

"They lost Mo Salah and they are in the semis," Klopp said. "That's quite a big thing."

Klopp is fully aware of that. Liverpool is through to the semis in part thanks to Salah with his nine goals in 12 European matches — the latest in the 2-1 win at City yesterday.

Roma reluctantly sold Salah last June. But the need to com-



Liverpool manager Jurgen Klopp and Liverpool goalkeeper Loris Karius celebrate in front of their side's fans

ply with UEFA financial fair rules meant the Italian capital club cashed in on its biggest asset. For Liverpool, paying 42 million euros (then USD47 million) for the Egyptian forward now appears a bargain. It seemed more of a gamble at the time, given Salah had come off a season netting only once in his nine European fixture.

Now Salah's 39-goal haul this season is on a par with Barcelona forward Lionel Messi. Only one of them has a shot at picking up the European Cup in Kiev next month.

What seems remarkable is that both sides who reached the quarterfinals are far off the pace in their domestic competitions.

Liverpool trails Pep Guardiola's City in the Premier League by 17 points in third place. Roma is even worse off in Serie

in the group stage — the Giallorossi have struggled in Serie A. Roma is fourth in the Italian league, a distant 21 points behind leader Juventus and level on points with Lazio entering Sunday's Rome derby.

"Honestly I don't know why we can't transfer the mentality we have in the Champions League to Serie A," said Dzeko, who led Serie A with 29 goals last season.

Still, this season already marks a turning point for Roma's American ownership team led by Boston executive James Pallotta.

Roma has received preliminary approval to build a long-delayed new stadium with a design inspired by the Colosseum. The Champions League success might help speed up the stadium process — especially if Roma reaches the final in Kiev.

"We can't think like we've achieved a miracle," De Rossi said. "We've got to keep playing and try to go all the way." **AP**

A, toiling away 21 points behind Juventus in fourth place.

At a time when UEFA is trying to address concerns about the levels of competition balance in its competitions, seeing Liverpool and Roma advance is a welcome tonic.

"This competition is quite fair," Klopp said. "I really think a normal final would have been Manchester City against Barcelona, and now they are both out."

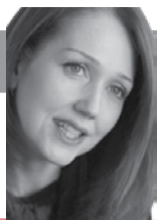
The Italian leaders could join them on the Champions League scrapheap on Wednesday night, with Juventus trailing holder Real Madrid 3-0.

That could leave Bayern Munich as the sole league leader still in contention in Europe with the newly crowned Bundesliga champions holding a 2-1 advantage over Sevilla heading into today's second leg. **AP**

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



KCALs ON THE QUIET

Nutrition information on packaging is to be welcomed. But I want to know more – like the crunch of my lunch. The din of my dinner. Or the fracas of my snacking. I want to read: 'barbecue-flavour crisps – 91 calories and fewer than 91 decibels.' And I'm about to learn I'm not the only one.

It's 8.30pm on my ferry from Central and I'm turning a crisp upside down in my mouth. The top surface is already soggy. The underneath needs to be moistened. This is all in preparation for a socially-acceptable chomp.

I try a bite. The man on the seat in front shifts. I've bitten prematurely. I have annoyed him with my crunch.

It's not just food on ferries. Ever tried to eat an apple on a train? Or in the office? Some food is just too rowdy.

Another night I try a salad on a bed of lentils. Nope, lentils don't cut it as ferry food either. The salad is quiet but I hiss unsavoury phrases whenever lentils fall onto the seat, which is often. I don't want to be one of those people who leave tidbits on the upholstery.

Ice cream? A little tub of Manila Mango is surely designed for smooth transfer and a hushed swallow. Uhh. Logistical challenge. Too many bits: lid, lid covering, spoon. To avoid drips on the seat, and the ruin of any subsequent passenger's attire, I end up putting everything on the floor, therefore headbutting the seat in front so its occupant is more irked than if I had wirelessly connected my teeth to speakers. (As if I knew how).

Back to crisps. I search for 'quiet foods' with my barbecue-flavour, crumbly fingers and discover I've inadvertently engaged with the 'gender crisp gap'. There was a recent fuss about 'silent Doritos', which were mentioned by the boss of that company and intended to be 'lady-friendly', which apparently means low crunch and low mess on your fingers.

Silent Doritos caused havoc on the internet. There were declarations under the hashtag #ladychips that women had the right to crunch and knock back the broken bits at the bottom of the bag. Sure they do. But people probably tweet like they eat crisps and we only heard the loud ones.

#ladychipsquibble. I would have liked those silent crisps. I get it, culture, world and social media. Women are, unfairly, expected to be refined and well-behaved – by others and themselves. Men don't care about looking bad when they eat, or about annoying their neighbours, because society won't judge them harshly.

But instead of women claiming the equal right to eat noisily with their mouths open and smear the seats to clean their hands, how about men behaving more like women and eating with better manners? How about everyone going low crunch and low mess? Sometimes things that women do could be considered and included, and not eradicated. Here, I am taking a trip across the choppy seas of Nuance Harbour. Join me.

Anyway, other aspects of culture contribute to eating behaviour. My Britishness makes me a shyer snacker. And silent food, I grant you, might not take off much in China. Not that eating loudly happens as much as it did, just that any mastication noises are already drowned out by gamers without earbuds.

Meantime, I trust no other CEOs get ideas about modifying refreshments in a bid to appeal to different genders. I don't want to see Man Cupcakes, which make a loud squelch when you bite. Or be invited to a Gentlemen's Afternoon Tea, where the cake stand has nine tiers not three.

THE BUZZ BRITAIN SENDS WARSHIPS TO ASIA TO MONITOR NORTH KOREAN TRADE

A British warship has arrived in Japan to join international efforts to enforce sanctions on North Korea by monitoring any prohibited trading by the country at sea.

The frigate HMS Southerland, which entered Yokosuka – home to the U.S. Navy's 7th Fleet – yesterday, will join exercises with Japan's navy and monitor attempts by North Korea to evade U.N.-imposed sanctions.

The ship is the first of three British warships planned for deployment in the region this year

to participate in the monitoring and join exercises with Japan and other countries in the Asia-Pacific region.

Britain says its warships' presence demonstrates its commitment to the region's peace and stability.

During its deployment in the region, the British frigate will be joined by the amphibious assault ship HMS Albion to help enforce the U.N. sanctions. A third ship, the HMS Argyll, is to be deployed later in the year.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	35-55 Good	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

AZERBAIJAN Voters in the oil-rich Caspian Sea nation of Azerbaijan cast ballots yesterday in an early presidential election that is all but certain to extend the rule of the country's long-serving leader by another seven years.



ALGERIA A military plane carrying soldiers and their families crashed soon after takeoff yesterday into a field in northern Algeria, killing 257. More on p14

POLAND has intervened to prevent an author accused of anti-Semitism from receiving an award at a Polish diplomatic outpost in the United States.



SERBIA A United Nations war crimes court yesterday sentenced a Serbian ultranationalist to ten years in prison, partially overturning his acquittal over crimes against humanity and other charges dating to the Balkan wars in the 1990s.

SWITZERLAND Authorities in Switzerland and Italy were searching yesterday for a German billionaire who has been missing in the Alps since the weekend.

PANAMA-VENEZUELA Panama has prohibited Venezuelan companies from operating flights to Panama, in retaliation for Venezuela's diplomatic and trade bans announced last week.

BRAZIL Gunmen attacked a prison in northern Brazil trying to stage a mass escape of inmates, setting off a gunbattle with police that killed 20 people and injured at least four, authorities said.

Founder of megachurch quits following misconduct allegations

The founder of a Chicago-area evangelical church that grew to become one of the largest in the nation is stepping down, calling allegations that he touched and made lewd comments to female congregants a distraction.

The Rev. Bill Hybels, 66, announced his immediate retirement at a meeting yesterday (Macau time) with members of the Willow Creek Community Church in South Barrington, Illinois. He has said since 2012 that he planned to retire this October.

Rev. Hybels said the decision to step down now 'was mine and mine alone after a lot of prayer'

The Chicago Tribune last month reported details of the misconduct allegations against Hybels stretching back to the 1990s. A church inquiry cleared Hybels. He



Willow Creek Community Church Senior Pastor Bill Hybels stands before his congregation

has said he has been accused of things he "simply did not do" and that the allegations are "flat-out lies."

Hybels told congregants Tuesday that the allegations have become a distraction from the church's mission and work. He apologized for making choices that put him in situations that could be misconstrued, and for reacting in anger when the accusations were made public.

"I realize now that in certain settings and circumstances in the past, I communicated things that were perceived in ways I did not intend, at times making people feel uncomfortable," he said.

He said the decision to step down now "was mine and mine alone after a lot of prayer."

Heather Larson, executive pastor, will take over as the church's chief executive.

"This is going to take time for all of us to process," Larson said. "This is not the end of the story. It's not the end of Bill's story. It's not the end of Willow's story, and it's certainly not the end of God's story."

The church that Hybels started in Palatine, Illinois, in 1975, now has eight Chicago-area locations. Leaders say it draws 25,000 people each week. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



Synchrony. Malaysia's Jun Hoong Cheong and Pandelega Rinong Pamg dive on their way to winning gold in the women's synchronised 10m platform final at the 2018 Commonwealth Games in Australia, yesterday.