



**CHUI SAI ON TO VISIT CAMBODIA, THAILAND**  
The Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, is scheduled to visit Cambodia Thailand from May 7 to 11

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**NEW RULES FOR TAXI SECTOR**  
The Legislative Assembly has passed a law establishing new rules for taxi operations in Macau

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**TAIWAN CALLS CHINESE MILITARY DRILLS A THREAT**

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# Times

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## Cambridge Analytica with links to Macau

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### WORLD BRIEFS

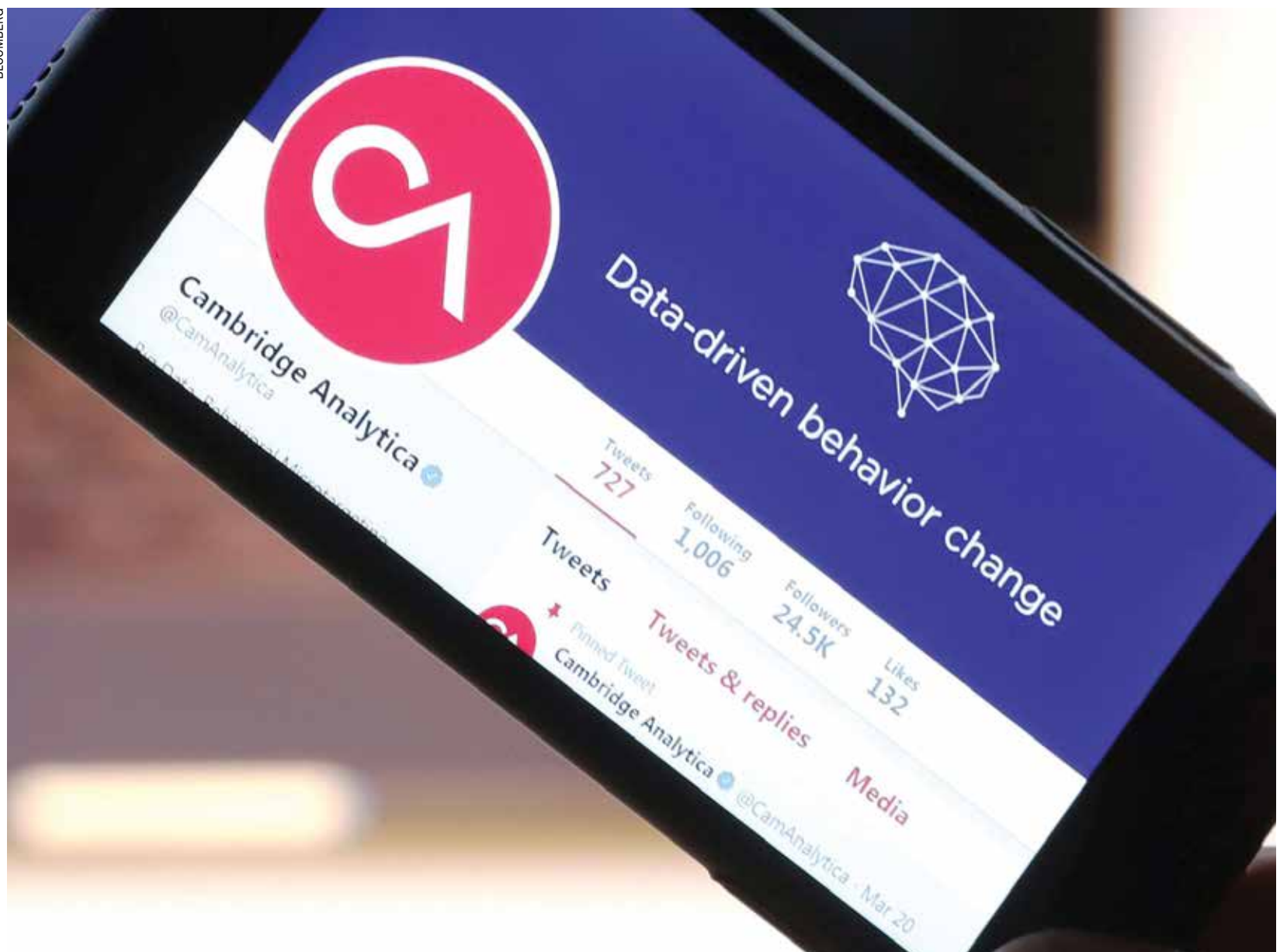


**CHINA-THAILAND** Jack Ma met with Thailand's prime minister yesterday and later signed several agreements, including one to help set up a "smart digital hub" in a showcase project called the Eastern Economic Corridor, to facilitate trade between Thailand, China, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.  
More on p12



**MYANMAR** Community leaders from the Christian ethnic Kachin community have called for urgent medical attention for about 2,000 civilians, including pregnant women and the elderly, trapped in the jungle where they fled to escape clashes between the Myanmar's army and the Kachin guerrillas in the country's north.

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## 'The school has established itself in the MSAR'

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MANUEL MACHADO  
PORTUGUESE SCHOOL OF MACAU PRESIDENT

# 'The school is growing and has established itself in the MSAR'

Paulo Barbosa

**T**HE Portuguese School of Macau (EPM) is celebrating its twentieth anniversary with several events this week, including a show at the Cultural Center tomorrow. In the current school year, the EPM has tutored 577 students from 24 different nationalities. In an interview with the Times yesterday, the school's president Manuel Machado made a positive assessment of the school's role and prospects.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) – The Portuguese School of Macau (EPM) is celebrating its 20th anniversary. What is your assessment of the school's development?**

**Manuel Machado (MM) –** The school obviously had good moments and not so good ones. It began with over 1,100 students and there was a sharp decline in that number during the initial years. Around six years ago that tendency started to revert and the school has had a growth of around 15 students every year. Currently we have 577 students. So, there was a fluctuation in the number of students that had to be accompanied by a fluctuation of the teachers and staff available. Otherwise, one of the major tasks of EPM was to have in Macau a school offering a Portuguese curriculum to the sons of Portuguese

who resided here and wanted to continue their university studies in Portugal and elsewhere. The school has always highlighted the teaching of the Portuguese language, but adaptations have been made along the way. As the years progressed, things changed and a lot of Portuguese left Macau. Progressively, a new group of students from other nationalities and cultures entered the school. The school adapted and overall I make a positive assessment [of EPM's 20 years], given that the school is growing and has established itself in the MSAR. It is recognized and wanted by the different communities that live in this region.

**MDT – In the next school year more students are expected and the school may not be able to accept all the applications for the first time because of its size. There's also an increasing number of students who don't have a Portuguese background. How can EPM make sure that the quality of Portuguese language teaching is kept at a high standard? Is there a risk of disfigurement?**

**MM –** The tendency [to have students without Portuguese background] has been felt for the past years. The students enrolled in the primary school have different sociolinguistic and cultural



backgrounds. The school needs to pay close attention to that in order not to allow, as you said, the disfigurement of the school and its educational project. The school bases itself on the Portuguese curricula with adaptations [to Macau]. For example, last year, we received 60 students in the first year. From those 60, 20 didn't know Portuguese. Those 20 students were integrated in the three classes available and simultaneously two groups for the preparatory year were created. Those two groups have 14 hours of Portuguese per week. The aim is for them to acquire the linguistic tools needed to follow the [regular] classes. Sometimes this [the preparatory year] is not enough and if that occurs extra Portuguese language support is given in the following years.

**MDT – There's also the issue of the facilities, which are becoming insufficient...**

**MM –** Regarding facilities, we are close to our limit. We expect to have around 600 students next year and have managed to find two extra classrooms for the next school year after renovating existing classrooms. After the next school year, it will be very hard to increase the number of students. The facilities are not matching the students' growth. Even if there are more facilities, we also can't take the risk of accepting more students and decreasing the teaching quality. We need to balance quality and quantity.

**MDT – So, is there a risk of being unable to accept all the applicants in the future?**

**MM –** Either that or resorting to

external facilities, although that is not a solution that pleases me. It wouldn't be ideal and only in extremis we would opt for it. But it is preferable to shutting our doors to students and parents who look for us.

**MDT – There has been reinforcement in the means allocated to students with special educational needs. Are there more cases requiring that support?**

**MM –** Over the years there have been more cases of students with special educational needs. Those students require specialized support. Around four years ago we started by having a specialized teacher full-time, who was assisted by other teachers working part-time. Last year we hired one more and another two this year. We currently have four [specialized] teachers.

**MDT – There are claims that some schools in Macau tend not to accept students with special educational needs. Are you aware of that?**

**MM –** I heard that but it would not be elegant to talk about colleagues from other schools. What I can say is that EPM has always been open to receiving students with diverse problems. What we faced over the years was incapacity to address many situations of that kind. Fortunately we are improving significantly now. [...] Currently we have 45 students who were identified as cases with special educational needs. There are other situations arising along the year that require psychological support. We have two full time psychologists who support 111 students, although the number is not stable, because students may have temporary issues requiring short-term support.

## PORTUGUESE SCHOOL | 20 YEARS

# Parents association proposes improvements to Mandarin teaching

**T**HE president of EPM's parent's association (APEP), Valeria Koob, believes that the Portuguese school should impose a multi-hour regime for children to learn the Mandarin language.

According to Koob, the association has been claiming that Mandarin teachers should adopt a more practical teaching approach by taking students outside of the school as much as possible, in

order to use the language in a real environment.

"The teaching of the Chinese language is a complex question. In fact, it requires a completely different methodology from that used for the other languages, since Chinese learning is mostly memory-based," said Koob.

It has been two years that Koob has led the association. Interviewed by the Times, she recalled that APEP, along

with EPM had achieved a number of goals, including the improvement of its canteen services and a higher degree of supervision and guided activities during the students' break time.

"In addition to that, since the school has been receiving more students with special needs, EPM has started investing more and more in specialized staff," she told the Times.

"The increase in the number of students, especially students whose mother tongue is not Portuguese, is a clear sign that Macau society holds EPM and its educational project in high regard," Koob added.

Further, the association pledged that it will continue to develop its activities in the areas of environment, volunteering and Chinese language. **LV**

## WE CORRECT

Yes, we exaggerated a "bit" yesterday on the investment figures for The Londoner project that SCL is developing in Cotai. It was an unfortunate typo caused by a misplaced dot. On April 19, in a feature article titled "Wilfred Wong explains Londoner rebrand," published on page 4, MDT incorrectly printed the figure of the investment which had been announced for the rebranding project. The correct figure for The Londoner project is USD1.1 billion (MOP8.9b). The article was corrected yesterday on our website. Our sincere apologies to Dr Wilfred Wong and Sands China Ltd and to our readers for this honest mistake. **PC**

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# Cambridge Analytica with links to Macau

**T**HE company known for being behind Facebook's data leak scandal, Cambridge Analytica, was preparing to develop its own cryptocurrency, a process that had links to Macau in relation to fundraising through an initial coin offering, according to several reports from Reuters and the New York Times (NYT).

According to the former Cambridge Analytica employee Brittany Kaiser, quoted by the NYT, the digital coin would have helped people store online personal data and even sell it.

Documents obtained by the NYT also establish the relationship between the company and investors in Macau, namely in what concerns the creation of a so-called Dragon Coin, a cryptocurrency specifically targeting casino gamblers. It was noted that several



The offices of Cambridge Analytica in central London

influential people in the gaming industry in Macau, support the coin, namely former triad boss Wan Kuok Koi, who is nicknamed "Broken Tooth."

In the same documents obtained by the NYT through Kaiser, it is said that Cambridge Analytica had a contract with the Macau Dragon Group as a client, by which it would help to publicize and arrange potential investors for the

USD500 million initial coin offering (ICO).

Such an ICO was also said to have been suspended when the Cambridge Analytica's CEO Alexander Nix was suspended last month when the Facebook data leak scandal became public knowledge.

During a press conference yesterday, a Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) representative called upon residents to

be careful about any fraud that may exist relating to virtual currencies. In a statement issued by the authority, AMCM reminded the residents that virtual currencies are a virtual commodity, and that they are neither a legal currency nor a financial instrument. AMCM has already officially issued a notice to all banks and payment institutions to not participate in or provide, directly or indirectly, any financial services related to virtual currencies, including financial services where the virtual merchandise is adopted as the payment currency. Separate reports have said that the Chinese technology company Lantai Digital Application Technology Co Ltd announced its launch of a cryptocurrency in an operation that would count the support of several of Macau's major VIP gambling promoters (j'unkets), with such a digital coin able to be used for transactions in local casinos.

Such a report had immediate response from the local junkets, who rushed to classify it as fake news, distancing themselves from the company. **RM**

# CE to visit Cambodia and Thailand in May

**T**HE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, is scheduled to visit the Kingdom of Cambodia and the Kingdom of Thailand from May 7 to 11. The visit aims to further leverage Macau's bridging functions in order to deepen cooperation between China and countries covered by the Belt and Road initiative, as well as advancing Macau's contributions to people-to-people bond under the initiative.

The Chief Executive will hold respective official meetings with officials of the two countries and meet with Chinese communities residing either in Cambodia or in Thailand.

The delegation will

attend promotional activities in those countries organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office and the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute.

According to a statement issued yesterday, the delegation will attend exchange sessions between Macau young people and young people in the two countries, as well as a forum on the development of traditional Chinese medicine.

Members of Macau's Executive Council, representatives of returned overseas Chinese communities in Macau and representatives of local youth associations have been invited to join the delegation.

AD



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AL PLENARY

# New law requires voice-recording equipment inside taxis

Julie Zhu

**T**HE Legislative Assembly (AL) has passed a law concerning the city's future taxi operations, stating that, in the future, only taxi companies can apply for concessions for taxi operators. The Secretary for Transport and Public Works, Raimundo do Rosário, said during his presentation of the bill, "we all want taxi services to improve. I think we all have several opinions on the taxi services, such that the image of those services is bad. There are many complaints, regardless if they come from Macau residents or tourists."

Rosário explained that the bill mainly entails that only companies can bid for taxi operation concessions, and that the cars and the taxi drivers should have licenses.

"It cannot be an individual [bidding for the taxi operation license]. We want to be better in taxi service supervision," declared the Secretary, who added that the bill also rules that GPS and voice recording equipment should be installed inside the taxis.

Lawmakers' expressed concerns regarding the bill mostly relating to the fact that concessions will only be available for companies to bid, not for individuals.

Ip Sio Kai questioned the government as to whether it intends to encourage competition by introducing such a policy.

Zheng Anting stated that "taxi drivers and the companies will be in a relationship of managing and being managed."

Another concern is that taxis will be requested to install voice-recording equipment.

Au Kam San pointed out the situation when "a passenger

[can] shout 'you [taxi driver] beat me' while it was in fact the passenger who was harming the driver," in order to corrupt the voice recording evidence.

**We want to be better in taxi service supervision.**

RAIMUNDO DO ROSÁRIO

Angela Leong also noted that "voices might be vague, [a video-recording] is probably more complete and clearer."

Agnes Lam, however, wondered whether the government would consider introducing app-based taxi hailing.

Mak Soi Kun asked whether the government should prevent taxis from working during typhoon No.8.

Rosário, when replying to the lawmakers, said that his departments "have not reached a consensus." He further noted that society and the lawmakers have different opinions.

Regarding the regulation that suggests only companies can apply for taxi concessions, the Secretary remarked that "there is not one single thing in the world with only good sides." He then noted that the

relationship between the companies and the drivers is one of "employer and employees."

He also said "we don't encourage taxis to work during typhoon [No.8]."

The Secretary also stated that "we will not have a specific taxi law for app-based hailing taxis."

Replying to the lawmakers' further questions, he noted that that the government will not list, within the law, the limitation on the number of taxi licenses for which each company can apply. He explained that the adoption of such a measure gives the government some flexibility when opening a public tender each time.

Leong Sun Iok wondered about the fairness of protecting drivers when there is a dispute between them and the passengers. He also asked whether the government would consider establishing a committee for the taxi drivers to file appeals.

"First, we have never considered [establishing] the committee. We can discuss it, but during the proceedings [of the bill's discussion] nobody mentioned that," said Rosário.

The Director of the Transport Bureau (DSAT), Lam Hin San, expressed his confidence in the effectiveness of voice-recording equipment in helping the law enforcement officers deciding what happens inside the taxis.

Another government representative noted that any taxi driver who intends to appeal to the government regarding a dispute, can write an appeal to the government within 15 days after the dispute took place. The government then will investigate the case.

## Tax reduction should encourage use of public transportation

**A** tax reduction bill, aimed at owners whose vehicles were damaged during last year's Typhoon Hato, has been passed through the Legislative Assembly (AL). The bill proposes a tax reduction on flooded or heavily damaged vehicles that have been traded in for new vehicles.

The calculation of the final amount will also take into consideration the number of years the damaged vehicle was in operation.

Each year of life will correspond to a depreciation rate of 10 percent per year after the first year of age up to a limit of 10 years.

Lawmaker Au Kam San noted that, "obviously, it's not necessary for the tax to be refunded only if the residents buy new cars."

Au shared the same opinion as Agnes Lam, who said "the bill obviously stated that owners can only get the tax reduction if they buy a new car. Basically, this kind of tax reduction acts as a punishment because you have to buy a new car in order to get the tax reduction. In Macau, we can enjoy big tax benefits if we buy environmental friendly car."

The Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, in response to the lawmakers, reaffirmed that the tax reduction "is absolutely not

a compensation."

Following the responses of other governmental representatives, Agnes Lam asked why "let them buy a car but not an electric motorbike?"

Au Kam San then questioned "why can't [people] drive a car? Why can't they use public transportation? If they buy an environmental friendly car, it is tax-free already. If you can encourage them to buy an environmentally friendly car, why not encourage them not to drive? Why not trying using a tax-refund method to solve the problem?"

Au hopes the government will further discuss the topic.

"I reaffirm that the bill is a tax-reduction for those families whose cars were damaged during the typhoon, and who need to buy a new car. It is not a tax refund policy. Besides, I, personally, strongly support environmental protection. We hope that they will use public transport," said Lionel Leong.

According to the Transport Bureau (DSAT), a total of 6,521 vehicle registration numbers were canceled and are eligible related for the tax reduction, including 3,240 cars and 3,281 motorbikes, involving an estimated MOP147.7 million in tax reduction.

### ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

#### BUS SAFETY AND

**BUS FARES** Several lawmakers have urged the government to improve the city's public bus safety. Lawmakers including Chui Sai Peng, Angela Leong and Leong Sun Iok suggested conducting research on how to increase the supply of bus drivers, to allow present drivers more time to rest and maintain safe driving behaviors. Leong Sun Iok further suggested that the government urge bus companies to train drivers to improve their proficiency. Leong hopes that the government can improve public transportation services following the bus fare increase.

#### PAID PLASTIC BAGS

Chan Hong wants the government to announce the legislative procedure regarding charging a fee when customers request plastic shopping bags. Chan hopes the government can complete the establishment of the related laws in 2019. In addition, she stated that the government should improve the public's environmental awareness through other means to lead the public towards using less plastic bags of their own initiative, which would reduce the use of plastic bags at the source. She also suggested that authorities establish supervisory regulations over plastic bag usage, such as through the introduction of punitive measures.

#### DRIVING LICENSES

**RECOGNITION** Ng Kuok Cheong and Au Kam San criticized the government regarding the proposal to mutually recognize driving licenses between mainland China and Macau. Ng said that the government "is suspected of ignoring the public's opinion, and is walking [in] the wrong direction in terms of regional cooperation." Au calls on the Chief Executive to cancel the authorization of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works to sign an agreement with mainland China concerning the proposal, and urged the government to conduct a public consultation on the topic, and to only engage in other discussions after the society reaches a consensus.



# Driving license mutual recognition said to be still under discussion

**T**HE Chief Executive (CE) has said that the local government does not have a timeline for implementing the mutual recognition scheme of driving licenses issued by authorities on the mainland China and Macau, according to a statement released by the Government Information Bureau.

On Monday, the CE issued an Executive Order to authorize the Secretary for Transport and Public Works to represent Macau in signing an agreement with the mainland on the mutual recognition of driving licenses by both mainland and Macau authorities.

Chui stressed that the scheme is aimed at mutual recognition of driving qualifications, which is different from enabling mainland-registered vehicles to be driven



directly into Macao, and vice versa.

Chui said the government believed the mainland-Macau recognition scheme would not create huge external demand for the right to drive in Macau, noting that there are four companies in Macau providing a total of 120 light vehicles available for rent – which represents 0.1 percent of Macau's total number of vehicles.

Mutual understanding and

achievement of equal status for the two sides is fundamental to the scheme, Chui said.

He believes the plan will make things more convenient for the Macau public when doing business, travelling, or working on the mainland, especially in relation to young people taking part in the Government-led effort to integrate Macau's development into major national strategies.

The statement also mentioned that approximately 10,000 Macau residents obtained mainland driving licenses between 2016 and 2017, noting that the government has received a total of 20 opinions from members of the Transport Consultative Committee, since the scheme was first proposed in October 2017.

The CE reiterated that the plan was not being pursued for any political purpose, and on the Macau side, it was the responsibility of the combined work of the Secretary for Transport and Public Works, and the Secretary for Security.

Yesterday, the Public Security Police Force issued a statement saying that the department will enhance the public's sense of traffic safety to cope with the scheme's implementation in the future.

## TSI rejects Sulu Sou appeal again

The Court of Second Instance (TSI) has again rejected Sulu Sou's appeal to void the suspension of his mandate decided by the majority of lawmakers. Sulu Sou claimed that several irregularities leading up to the December 4 suspension vote at the Legislative Assembly "violated the rules of procedure and fundamental rights of the appellant." In a decision announced yesterday, the collective of judges of the TSI kept the previous decision by the TSI rapporteur, claiming that Sou's mandate suspension did not qualify as an administrative act "since it did not come from any organ of the administration. [...] It was, instead, practiced by a legislative body with a political framework."

## Indoor space proposed to host singing group

The Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) has plans to open the indoor activity center in Iao Hon Market Garden so that noise issues, which have been raised by the garden's neighboring communities, can be alleviated. IACM is also planning to extend the opening hours of the center so that members of the public can sing or dance there. "After visiting the center, they saw the room is in good conditions, upon which they have been considering using it," IACM president José Tavares said. However, no final decision has been made yet. "They [those who sing] think it [the space] is ok, but we [the government] still need to establish some communications with them [the singers]," the IACM president said. Recently, two cases of violence involving airsoft guns have been reported, both allegedly targeting a group of middle-aged residents who were singing songs in Iao Hon Market Garden.

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Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT), a rapidly growing public higher education institution in Macao devoted entirely to education and training for the tourism and hospitality industry, invites applications for the following full-time teaching post. *Subjects to be taught in English and/or Chinese. Successful candidate is required to teach in both the daytime and evening degree programmes.*

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- Cover letter
- Identity Card or passport copy
- List of academic journals or articles published (if available) with ISBN

Required qualifications and teaching experiences which are not supported by testimonials and/or verifiable evidence at the time of application will not be considered

#### Application closes on 3 May 2018

- The selected candidate is expected to assume duty in August 2018.
- Final result name list will be announced on IFT website around July 2018 or earlier.
- Please note that ALL application materials must be received by the closing date (Macao time). Application received by IFT after the closing date will only be included in the next round of recruitment, if applicable.
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## GAMING

# Wynn Resorts adds female board members

Christopher Palmeri,  
Anders Melin

WYNN Resorts Ltd., the casino operator coping with a sexual-harassment scandal tied to its former chief executive officer, named three new board members - all of them women.

Dee Dee Myers, President Bill Clinton's former spokeswoman; Betsy Atkins, a corporate-governance advocate; and Wendy Webb, former investor-relations chief at Walt Disney Co., were appointed to the Wynn Resorts board, according to a company filing Tuesday. The move enlarges and diversifies the board at a company that earned the lowest possible score in corporate governance last year from the advisory firm Institutional Shareholder Services Inc.

Myers currently serves as head of communications for film and TV studio Warner Bros. Atkins, author of "Behind Boardroom Doors: Lessons of a Corporate Director," previously ran the company that made PowerBar snacks, while Webb runs the consulting firm Kestrel Advisors.

Company founder Steve Wynn stepped down in February after a series of



articles detailed his alleged harassment of female employees. Wynn has since sold all his shares in the business, which operates luxury resorts in Las Vegas and Macau and is building another near Boston. Still, regulators continue to probe the former executive's behavior and the company's response, potentially jeopardizing Wynn Resorts' casino licenses in those jurisdictions.

On Tuesday, ex-wife Elaine Wynn, now the company's largest individual shareholder, said she wanted to see new board appointees and would like to nominate them herself. The company's new

CEO, Matt Maddox, indicated last week that he would be willing to sell the USD2.5 billion resort under construction in Everett, Massachusetts, something Elaine Wynn said should not happen without changes to the company's board.

Two longtime Wynn Resorts board members, Ray Irani and Alvin Shoemaker, stepped down in the wake of the scandal, with Shoemaker leaving when his term ends in 2019. Another director, J. Edward Virtue, plans to leave in May.

Steve Wynn would have received as much as \$582 million in severance and other benefits had he de-

parted the company under different circumstances. He got \$2.5 million in salary, a \$30 million bonus split between cash and shares, and about \$2 million in other compensation for his work last year, according to the filing.

Wynn Resorts paid out the incentives to top executives in December instead of January to take advantage of a deduction that was altered as part of the Republican tax overhaul. The company paid the additional income taxes owed by the executives as a result. Maddox earned a total of \$22.8 million last year. **Bloomberg**

## ARTS

# Exhibition of new works from MAM's collection opens today

AN exhibition of new works from the Macau Museum of Art (MAM) collection will open today. The showcase features eight vertical scrolls depicting flowers, plants and fruits by painter Zhao Mingshan, a third generation heir of the Lingnan Painting School in Macau, the names of which are "Rustic Charm", "Elegant Charm", "Hydrangea", "Flower", "China Rose", "Lychee", "Daffodil" and "Autumn Mood", among others.

Zhao Mingshan, one of the most exemplary painters of the Lingnan School in Macau and a disciple of the renowned Situ Qi, is best known for his pain-

tings of flowers and plants, especially roses. Mingshan has produced few works, making his paintings rare in public and private collections. In 2015, Zhao Guoxiang and his wife, relatives of Mingshan who resided abroad, expressed their willingness to donate eight of the painter's works to the MAM.

After close analysis, the MAM concluded that these works reveal the Lingnan School's distinct style and have clear artistic worth and has, therefore, included them into its permanent collection.

The original MAM collection came from the former Luís de Camões Museum,

which mainly comprised collections of Shiwan ceramics, Lingnan (Guangdong) calligraphy and paintings, historical paintings and modern and contemporary artworks from Macau.

According to a statement issued by the Cultural Affairs Bureau, following its opening and in relation to its almost 20 years' of development, "the MAM has enriched its collection through commissions, acquisitions and donations, mostly valuing the acquisition, collection, showcase and publication of works by modern and contemporary artists from Macau."

The exhibition runs until October 26.





## TOURISM

# MGTO promotes local destinations in Australia

**T**HE Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) and the Fujian Provincial Tourism Development Commission have collaborated to promote their destinations in Melbourne and Sydney from April 16 to 18.

The two tourism bodies updated a total of some 190 local tourism industry operators in Melbourne and Sydney on the tourism prospects in Fujian Province and Macau, encouraging them to tap into the market potential in promoting travel to both destinations in one trip.

While speaking at the occasion, MGTO director Helena de Senna Fernandes noted that the tourism resources of Fujian and Macau, together with Xiamen Airlines' services from Melbourne and Sydney, could attract more Australians to experience both destinations during a



Taste of Macao pop up restaurant in Sydney

single trip.

She added that Macau received close to 90 thousand visitors from Australia last year.

According to a statement issued by MGTO, the bureau met with leaders of overseas Chinese organizations in the two cities.

MGTO hosted banquets for about 40 leaders of overseas Chinese organi-

zations and Chambers of Commerce in Melbourne and Sydney on April 16 and 17.

Providing the guests with an update on the latest tourism developments in Macau during the banquets, the bureau sought to widen the coverage of the promotion among overseas Chinese in both cities.

MGTO also set up a "Taste of Macao" pop up restaurant in Sydney.

For five days starting from April 18, the pop up restaurant will serve delicacy lovers with complimentary local signature delights to highlight the Macau Year of Gastronomy.

Yesterday, Fernandes and her team met with the Honorable George Souris (former New South Wales Minister for Tourism and Major Events), board member of the Australian Film Institute.

The Institute has significant and varied experience in presenting TV and film awards and staging awards ceremonies.

MGTO introduced the International Film Festival & Awards Macao and exchanged perspectives on organizing film festivals with the Institute.

## Business boosted by CNY festivities

**T**HE business of restaurants & similar establishments as well as retail trade was boosted in February by this year's Lunar New Year festivities. According to a business climate survey on restaurants, conducted by the Statistics and Census Service, 49 of the interviewed business owners registered a year-on-year rise in receipts in February, up by 18 percentage points from January. The share of interviewed establishments recording a year-on-year decline in receipts decreased by 21 percentage points from January to 36 percent.

In regard to retail trade, the proportion of interviewed retailers reporting a year-on-year sales increase in February reached 84 percent, the highest number since the survey was first conducted,

up markedly by 36 percentage points from January. Only 8 percent of the interviewed retailers registered a year-on-year sales decline, down by 30 percentage points from January.

According to the survey, retailers were more optimistic about their business prospects in March, with 79 percent predicting a year-on-year sales increase or a steady business performance, up by 4 percentage points from February.

The survey interviewed representatives from 167 restaurants & similar establishments and 135 retailers. According to DSEC, "the results were not extrapolated and only reflect the assessment of the business performance and expectations of the sample restaurants and retailers."

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## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## How Will the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge Affect the Local Market?

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JULIET RISDON

The Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB) is due to open for traffic later this year and has been the talk of the town for quite some time, especially among local investors. There is no doubt that an infrastructural project of this magnitude will have an impact on the local economy and real estate market. The only question is "How much impact it will actually have, and in which direction?" Taking a broader perspective, we can observe that given Macau economy's reliance on the tourism sector, the completion of the HKZMB

would mean easier and faster flow of tourists and personnel, naturally boosting the general economy. From a more market-specific perspective, the upcoming HKZMB is likely to have an equalising effect on the 3 markets, essentially merging them to a degree and bringing them closer to a broad average in terms of capital values and rents. For example, we can expect incoming tenants from Hong Kong looking to escape the stifling rents over there, and outgoing tenants to Zhuhai attracted by larger living spaces and cheaper rents. In this re-

gard, the effect on the Macau local market might not be as pronounced as what we can expect in Hong Kong or Zhuhai. We are seeing high expectations from investors, anticipating a dramatic increase in values. But in reality, only the pre-sales section of the market has been active, while the secondary market has been quite stagnant. We would like to advise caution against over-optimism or rash speculation for investors. In the long run, we expect the bridge to have a generally positive impact on the local market.

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## ATLANTIC CITY

# Hard Rock casino resort announces June 28 opening

Wayne Parry

**H**ARD Rock will open its Atlantic City casino resort on June 28. Jim Allen, the global entertainment and hospitality company's CEO, made the announcement Wednesday at Hard Rock's Times Square restaurant.

The former Trump Taj Mahal casino is being rebranded as a Hard Rock property. Guests will drive past a massive electric guitar at its entrance, and will even be given their own electric guitars to play in their hotel rooms.

"This is an entertainment facility, not just a casino," Allen said. "It's not about, 'Come in, hit a buffet, play USD50 on slot machines and then go home.' That's not what we're about."

The casino announced it will put 60 concerts on sale today, and committed to presenting 300 nights of live music in its first year.

It is one of two shuttered Atlantic City casinos due to reopen this summer, along with the former Revel casino, newly named the Ocean Resort Casino.

Together, the resorts are intended to restore some of the business and luster Atlantic City lost since 2014, when five of its 12 casinos went out of business, even as some worry that expanding a market that has regained stability as a smaller entity could lead to the same problems that forced the business contraction.

Among the musical acts that Allen said will play at the casino were Third Eye Blind, Florida

Georgia Line, Rascal Flatts, Stone Temple Pilots and Counting Crows, along with Chris Young, Frankie Valli, Toby Keith, Steely Dan and Kid Rock. The day after it opens, Bruce Springsteen drummer Max Weinberg will perform in the Hard Rock Cafe associated with the property.

It will feature a Howie Mandel Comedy Club, and 20 restaurants and bars, 2,000 hotel rooms, 2,100 slot machines and 120 table games.

The company, owned by the Seminole Indian tribe of Florida, is pumping \$500 million into the resort.

It will display part of the world's largest collection of music memorabilia, including outfits worn by Whitney Houston and Mariah Carey, and an autographed guitar from Jon Bon Jovi.

Hard Rock is staking its future in Atlantic City on the bones of a building built by President Donald Trump, who was a real estate developer and casino owner in 1990.

Fellow billionaire Carl Icahn bought the casino out of bankruptcy in 2016. He shut it down months later, after failing to reach a contract with the city's largest casino workers' union, putting nearly 3,000 people out of work.

Hard Rock bought it from Icahn in March 2017 for \$50 million, and planned to invest 10 times that amount on a complete remake. First on the agenda was dismantling the ubiquitous domes and minarets of the Indian-themed casino that Trump loved. **AP**

## Amazon's Prime service has 100m members

**A**MAZON has persuaded more than 100 million shoppers to subscribe to its Prime service that offers free two-day shipping and other perks that help bind people to the company and its ever-expanding empire. CEO Jeff Bezos quantified the size of Amazon's Prime membership for the first time Wednesday in his annual letter to the Seattle company's shareholders. Before Bezos' revelation, analysts had been left to guess how many people had been willing to pay USD99 per year for the Prime service, which Amazon launched 13 years ago as a way to foster customer loyalty.

The scope of Prime's success stunned even the most optimistic of analysts, such as GBH Insights' Daniel Ives. He had previously estimated Amazon had 92 million Prime subscribers.

"It's a mind-boggling number that serves as a key barometer to how big Amazon's kingdom has become," Ives said.

Costco has been selling annual memberships to get bargains on goods stocked in its warehouses for decades, and already been outdone by Amazon's Prime service. Costco has 50.4 million memberships that allow 92 million cardholders to shop in its warehouse and website. **AP**

## ADVERTORIAL

## FASHION FORWARD

Zara brings the Augmented Reality technology to Shoppes at Venetian, while JW Anderson's new collection collaboration with UNIQLO, inspired by the UK's hip and happening Brighton Beach, is now in store at Shoppes at Venetian.



## NEW AT UNIQLO

Super cool London-based fashion brand JW Anderson has teamed up with UNIQLO to present a brand new Spring-Summer 18 collection inspired by Britain's Brighton Beach. Vibrant striped t-shirts and knit polos inspired by beachwear, as well as stylish dresses, seersucker bomber jackets, flared skirts and blouses are now available at Shoppes at Venetian. Shop 212, Level 3, Shoppes at Venetian

## ZARA AR APP

Visitors can now shop Zara's Spring-Summer 18 Studio collection, featuring an eclectic mash-up of boho-chic and near-now vintage prints and fabrics, in Augmented Reality. Simply download the Zara AR app, visit the store, position your smartphone and watch as models Léa Julian and Fran Summers seemingly come to life. Snap photos or videos within the app and share to social media platforms – and don't forget that all looks can be purchased on the spot with just one click. Shop 103, Gondola Street, Level 3, Shoppes at Venetian



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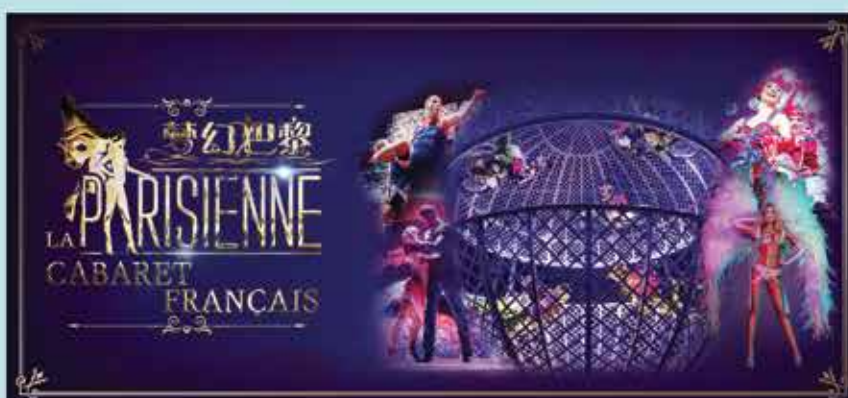
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## opinion

## WHY TRUMP'S TARIFF PLAN WOULD BE A DRAG ON GROWTH

Noah Smith, Bloomberg

Why are President Donald Trump's tariffs such a bad deal for the U.S. economy? It's not just because they might start a trade war. It's because of tax theory.

Now, most tax theory is incredibly boring. (Hopefully my former economics professors aren't reading this column!)

One reason is because it's about taxes, which are not the most interesting subject to begin with. But another reason is that tax theory often involves very complicated mathematics describing highly abstract concepts. Many theories claiming to yield the "optimal" tax are only optimal in a world that doesn't closely resemble the one in which we live. But the real world is so complicated - the federal tax code alone contains more than 70,000 pages - that beautiful theorems posited in economic papers are often next to useless in practice.

But still, there are some important insights to be gained from tax theory. One of these is the idea that intermediate goods shouldn't be taxed. Intermediate goods are things used in the production of other, more complicated things - steel for cars, transistors for computer chips, screens for mobile phones. In 1971, economists Peter Diamond and James Mirrlees realized that under certain conditions, it makes sense not to tax these things at all.

The reason is that taxing inputs causes companies to produce less than they otherwise would. Lower production means a smaller economic pie to divide up. Better, Diamond and Mirrlees concluded, to let companies make as much stuff as they can, and then to focus on dividing up that stuff among consumers.

Diamond and Mirrlees' result holds perfectly true only in the idealized setting of an unrealistic economic model. But it provides powerful intuition that many countries have actually used to design their tax systems. Many countries, as well as the European Union, have value-added taxes, or VATs. These let companies deduct the cost of their intermediate goods when paying their taxes. As a result, a VAT only taxes the amount of value that ends up reaching the consumer.

The U.S. could choose to implement a VAT. Instead, under Trump, it's doing almost the exact opposite. Most of Trump's tariffs fall directly on inputs that U.S. manufacturers need to make their products.

Chad Brown of the Peterson Institute for International Economics has the numbers. According to Brown's calculations, most of the USD50 billion worth of Chinese products that Trump is threatening to impose tariffs on are things that U.S. producers use to make other things - either intermediate inputs used directly in production, or capital goods.

This is bad news for a lot of U.S. companies, although manufacturers will probably be hit the hardest. That would be another self-inflicted wound by an administration that was elected on promises to revive "Made in America." Trump's earlier round of tariffs on steel and aluminum were probably a key factor behind a rise in the prices U.S. factories pay for those metals.

Predictably, a large number of U.S. businesses have applied for relief from Trump's metal tariffs. Granting exemptions helps keep U.S. manufacturers afloat, but also makes the tariffs themselves less effective. That just shows what a bad idea the tariffs are in the first place.

Diamond and Mirrlees' theory may be just some abstract math on a page, but the insight is real and important - if you want to give American manufacturing a boost, don't use taxes to starve U.S. factories of the materials and equipment they need.

So what should Trump be doing instead? If he wants to start a trade war, he could at least focus his tariffs on consumer goods instead, such as televisions or phones. But a better idea would be to simply forget about tariffs, and promote U.S. exports instead.

Another good idea, taking a page from Diamond and Mirrlees' book, would be to have a VAT in the U.S. VATs are a highly efficient form of taxation. They do tend to hit the poor harder than the rich, because they're similar to consumption taxes, and poor people consume a higher percent of their income. But this can be solved by using the VAT to fund health care, housing subsidies and other services for poor Americans.

A VAT might also satisfy Trump's thirst for trade war. Trump seems to think VATs represent a kind of tariff on imported goods. They don't, and most VATs are neutral with respect to trade. But if the president's desire to look tough on trade could be satisfied with an efficient form of taxation that doesn't actually hurt U.S. producers, so much the better.

## BELT &amp; ROAD

## E-commerce giant Alibaba sets plans for Thailand

Jerry Harmer, Bangkok

THE Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba has agreed to step up investments in Thailand as competition between online retailers heats up in fast-growing Southeast Asia.

The founder of the online shopping giant, Jack Ma, met with Thailand's prime minister, Prayuth Chan-ocha, on yesterday and later signed several agreements, including one to help set up a "smart digital hub" in a showcase project called the Eastern Economic Corridor, to facilitate trade between Thailand, China, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam.

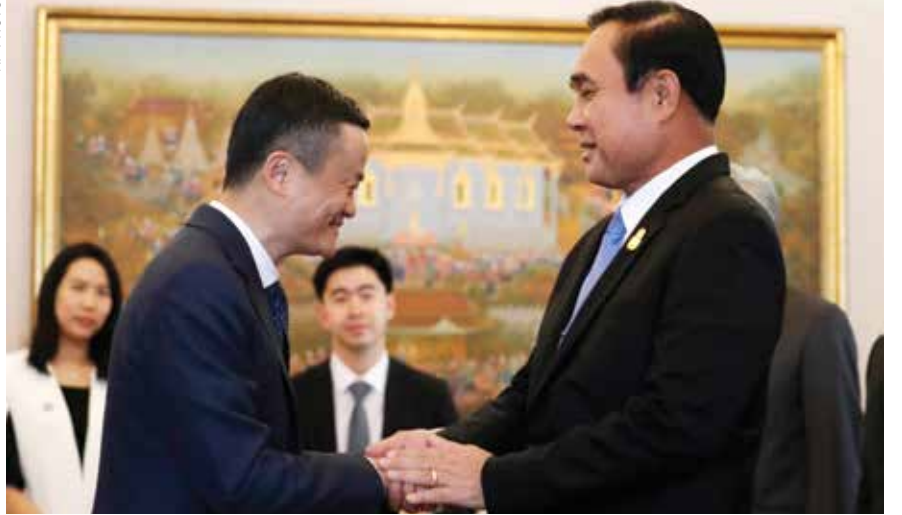
Both Ma and Prayuth sought to allay concerns that Alibaba's growing involvement might increase Chinese influence without benefiting Thailand. Across the region, such concerns have deepened as Beijing expands investments in a slew of projects that help expand transportation and supply chain networks linked to China.

"Are we going to occupy Thailand, are we going to take away the jobs?" Ma said at a news conference. "We are not interested in that. We are interested in and focusing on enabling entrepreneurs and partners in Thailand."

Prayuth told reporters that the amount of investment involved would be determined later. Earlier, Thai media reported that Alibaba plans to invest 11 billion Thai baht (USD350 million) in the Eastern Economic Corridor.

Reports said the hub, due to be completed next year, would also serve as a research and development center for Alibaba.

AP PHOTO



Jack Ma [front left] founder of Chinese e-commerce giant Alibaba, shakes hands with Thailand's Prime Minister Prayuth Chan-ocha in Bangkok yesterday

## ■ The Eastern Economic Corridor [is meant] to facilitate trade between Thailand, China, Laos, Myanmar, Cambodia and Vietnam

Prayuth, who as army commander led a 2014 coup, said he asked Ma to help Thailand to boost exports of rice, palm oil and rubber and to help the country's low-income and farm workers.

Ma told the Thai leader that Ali-

baba could help develop logistics systems to speed up delivery of farm products, he said.

"Therefore, this is beneficial to Thailand. Don't think of this as being disadvantageous for Thailand," Prayuth said.

The government said Alibaba also plans to help train Thai entrepreneurs and small businesses in e-commerce and to set up an online tourism platform.

Alibaba and Amazon both have been expanding in Southeast Asia, an increasingly affluent region of more than 600 million people. E-commerce still accounts for less than 3 percent of retail sales in the region but is growing quickly.

Last month, Alibaba announced it was investing another \$2 billion in regional online retailer Lazada Group, doubling its stake in the company that it gained control of in 2016. **AP**

## Qualcomm plan 'has difficulty' resolving concerns

QUALCOMM Inc.'s latest proposal for its USD44 billion acquisition of NXP Semiconductors "has difficulty" resolving concerns of Chinese anti-monopoly regulators, a government spokesman yesterday.

The Commerce Ministry spokesman's comment was the first Chinese statement about the U.S. chipmaker's proposed acquisition since a trade dispute blew up between Beijing and President Donald Trump over technology policy.

China is the final major government withholding approval of the deal. It would allow Qualcomm,

which flourished by supplying chips to the mobile phone boom, to broaden its product range into other industries.

"As for remedial measures already proposed by Qualcomm, the market test conducted by the investigating agency found Qualcomm's plan has difficulty resolving the related market competition problems," said the spokesman, Gao Feng, at a regular ministry briefing.

Qualcomm, headquartered in San Diego, withdrew its proposal for the deal Monday and submitted a new plan this week, Gao said.

The spokesman gave no details of what Qualcomm proposed to satisfy Chinese competition concerns or why regulators found problems with it.

Gao didn't respond to a reporter's question about whether the review was influenced by the dispute with Trump or Washington's decision to penalize a Chinese tech company this week over sales to Iran and North Korea.

Trump has threatened to raise tariffs on up to \$150 billion worth of Chinese telecom equipment and other goods in a dispute over complaints Beijing pressures fo-

reign companies to hand over technology. China has announced its own \$50 billion list of U.S. goods for possible retaliation and says it is ready to take other steps.

In a separate case, American authorities this week barred state-owned ZTE Corp., one of China's biggest technology companies, from exporting U.S. components. The Commerce Department said ZTE reneged on a pledge to discipline employees who were involved in violating U.S. controls on technology sales to Iran and North Korea and instead paid them bonuses. **AP**





A Chinese armed helicopter assaults targets with rocket projectiles in a live-fire exercise off China's southeast coast

## STRAIT DIPLOMACY

# Taiwan calls Chinese military drills a threat to region

**T**AIWAN'S government said yesterday that recent Chinese military drills are aimed at intimidating the island and are a threat to regional peace and stability.

China is attempting to "pressure and harass Taiwan and seek to raise tensions between the sides and in the region," the Cabinet-level Mainland Affairs Council said on its website.

"Taiwan's people are very clear about this and will not accept it. We are determined in our defense of our nation's sovereignty and dignity and will absolutely not yield to military threats or inducements," the statement said.

Underscoring the heightened tensions between the rivals, China's Taiwan Affairs Office issued a new warning to Taipei yesterday against taking further steps toward formal independence.

"Taiwan independence separatist activities pose the biggest actual threat to peace and stability in the

Taiwan Strait," spokesman Ma Xiaoguang was quoted as saying. "Any plots seeking to separate Taiwan from China are doomed to failure."

Ma was responding to a question about whether an increase in Chinese air force training flights around Taiwan was a response to comments from Taiwan-

nese Premier William Lai in parliament that he's a "Taiwanese independence worker," adding that Taiwan is a sovereign, independent nation. Ma offered no details.

China claims Taiwan as its own territory and says the two sides, which separated during the Chinese civil war in 1949, must eventually be united, by force if necessary.

The Taiwanese statement referred to China's live-fire exercises off its southeast coast on Wednesday, echoing earlier comments from the defense ministry that Beijing was playing up the limited-scope war games in hopes of intimidating Taiwan for political purposes.

Beijing's hostility makes "the hugest mockery" of its assertion of a spiritual connection between people from the two sides, it said.

Chinese state media said the single-day drills off China's southeast coast featured an air unit of the People's Liberation Army ground forces. The PLA said the exercise involved the coordination of various types of armed helicopters that detected targets on the water and attacked them.

It was unclear if the exercises referred to earlier drills announced by China that were to take place in the Taiwan Strait. State broadcaster China Central Television reported that

the Taiwan Strait exercises targeted advocates of formal independence for Taiwan, saying in a headline on its website, "Don't say you haven't been warned!"

China severed ties with Taiwan almost two years ago, after independence-leaning President Tsai Ing-wen refused its demand to recognize the self-governing island democracy as a part of Chinese territory.

Chinese officials have denounced the recent passage of a U.S. law encouraging more high-level government contacts with Taiwan, saying that violates U.S. commitments not to restore formal exchanges severed when Washington switched diplomatic recognition from Taipei to Beijing in 1979.

Ties have also been roiled by U.S. plans to provide Taiwan with submarine manufacturing technology and the appointment of hawkish U.S. National Security Adviser John Bolton. **AP**

**We are determined in our defense of our nation's sovereignty and will absolutely not yield to military threats.**

TAIPEI'S MAINLAND AFFAIRS COUNCIL

## PLA holds live-fire drills off coast in warning to Taipei

**C**HINA has held live-fire exercises off its southeast coast, state media said, in an apparent warning to the democratic, self-ruled island of Taiwan against what Beijing deems as provocative remarks on independence.

The official Xinhua News Agency said yesterday an air unit of the People's Liberation Army ground forces held a live-fire exercise on Wednesday off China's southeast coast. The PLA

said the exercise involved the coordination of various types of armed helicopters that detected targets on the water and attacked them.

The exercise ended at around 11 p.m. with the landing of the last helicopter, Xinhua said.

It was unclear if the exercises referred to earlier drills announced by China that were to take place in the Taiwan Strait. State broadcaster China Central Television reported Wednesday that

the Taiwan Strait exercises targeted advocates of formal independence for Taiwan, saying in a headline on its website, "Don't say you haven't been warned!"

Taiwan's Defense Ministry spokesman, Chen Chung-chi, sought to downplay the drill, saying China was exaggerating the scale of the activity to create anxiety among Taiwanese. "It is the Chinese Communist Party that has played this up with cheap verbal intimidation and

saber rattling through the state media, hoping to create panic and unease," Chen said.

Chen described the drill as "a regular artillery shooting exercise" and said China was hyping it up to sound like "a so-called military exercise in the Taiwan Strait."

China's Defense Ministry did not immediately respond to questions. The maritime safety authority in the coastal province of Fujian announced the one-day drill last week, saying only

that it would start at 8 a.m. and end at midnight.

Last week's announcement of the drill coincided with President Xi Jinping's attendance at what was the largest fleet review since the founding of the People's Republic of China in 1949. It comprised 48 ships, among them China's sole operating aircraft carrier, along with 76 helicopters, fighter jets and bombers, and more than 10,000 personnel. **AP**



## JAPAN

# Finance official denies sexual misconduct allegation

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

**J**APAN'S vice finance minister denied sexual misconduct allegations against him yesterday and challenged a TV station's report that its employee was a victim.

Junichi Fukuda announced his resignation on Wednesday, citing difficulty carrying out his duties amid escalating criticism and attention since the allegations surfaced a week ago. He denied making sexually suggestive remarks after TV Asahi identified the victim as one of its female employees.

The Weekly Shincho magazine published sexually suggestive remarks that Fukuda allegedly made to an unidentified female reporter in her 30s. The magazine released parts of what it said was an audio recording of Fukuda's remarks, alleging that he routinely made similar comments to female reporters in private conversations.

Yesterday, Fukuda told reporters that his comments were taken out of context. "You should be able to tell it's not sexual harassment if you examine the whole [conversation]," he said.

Fukuda said he was "not aware of making any remark that could be taken as sexual harassment."

He acknowledged having regular one-on-one meetings with members of the Finance Ministry press club — most of who work for major Japanese newspapers and broadcasters including TV Asahi — but denied



Japan's Vice Finance Minister Junichi Fukuda (center) leaves his ministry in Tokyo

making offensive remarks. He did not rule out a possibility of engaging in a "word play" with bar hostesses after work.

In the alleged conversation, the man described as Fukuda in the article says "I want to kiss you" and repeatedly asks questions such as, "Can I touch your breasts?" and "Can I tie your hands?"

The magazine defended its reporting and released a follow-up story Thursday with more details of Fukuda's allegedly

obscene talk, but without identifying the victim.

Fukuda's case is the latest embarrassment for Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's embattled government that has been stung by cronyism and other scandals. A scandal at one of Japan's most powerful ministries could be especially damaging.

"Further blow to the administration," said a headline in the liberal-leaning Mainichi newspaper, referring to Fukuda's resignation. The conservative

Yomiuri, known for its pro-Abe stance, said in its editorial: "There is a big question mark over the government's administrative management ability."

The Finance Ministry's handling of the allegation has triggered an outrage over its insensitive crisis management, after it urged the alleged victim to come forward and report to a panel of ministry-commissioned lawyers so they can hear both sides and determine whether there was sexual misconduct. Women's

rights groups, lawmakers and media groups accused the investigators of lacking sensitivity and privacy awareness.

Finance Minister Taro Aso has come under attack over his lax oversight of Fukuda and the rest of the ministry whose credibility has been shaken by a questionable state land sale linked to Abe's wife and massive alterations of official documents related to the deal. Another top finance official has resigned and a third official related to the deal committed a suicide.

Abe himself faces another scandal involving alleged favorable treatment given to a friend who opened a veterinary college, and accusations of mishandling of documents at the Finance Ministry and several other departments. The mounting scandals have called into question Abe's chances of securing a third term as party leader in September and could even force him to step down before the leadership race.

TV Asahi said its reporter had recorded the conversation as evidence. It said she provided the recording to the magazine after her own boss said it would be difficult to report the incident on the network.

TV Asahi executive Hiroshi Shinozuka told a midnight news conference that the company regretted failing to address the reporter's complaint, but that it planned to lodge a protest with the ministry over sexual harassment.

Speaking out for victims of sexual misconduct in Japan is difficult because of the lack of social support and understanding for the victims, says Shiori Ito, a journalist and sexual assault victim who became a harbinger of Japan's nascent #MeToo movement. "There are constant fears of losing a job and means of support by going public," she said. **AP**

## NORTH KOREA

# Trump leaves open possibility of bailing on meeting with Kim

**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump said that although he's looking ahead optimistically to a historic summit meeting with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un he could still pull out if he feels it's "not going to be fruitful."

Trump said that CIA Director Mike Pompeo and Kim "got along really well" in their recent secret meeting, and he declared, "We've never been in a position like this" to address worldwide concerns over North Korea's nuclear weapons.

But speaking alongside Japanese Prime Minister

Shinzo Abe yesterday [Macau time], after the allies met at Trump's Florida resort, he made clear that he'd still be ready to pull the plug on what is being billed as an extraordinary meeting between the leaders of longtime adversaries.

"If I think that if it's a meeting that is not going to be fruitful we're not going to go. If the meeting when I'm there is not fruitful I will respectfully leave the meeting," Trump told a news conference. He also said that a U.S.-led "maximum pressure" campaign of tough eco-

nomie sanctions on North Korea would continue until the isolated nation "denuclearizes."

Abe echoed the sentiment.

"Just because North Korea is responding to dialogue, there should be no reward. Maximum pressure should be maintained," he said.

Trump has said his summit with Kim, with whom he traded bitter insults and threats last year as North Korea conducted nuclear and missile tests, could take place by early June, although the venue has yet to be decided. It

would be the first such leadership summit between the two nations after six decades of hostility following the Korean War.

Other than the threat posed to by North Korea's weapons of mass destruction, another issue overhanging the summit plans is the fate of three Americans detained there. Trump said that was under negotiation and there was a "good chance" of winning their release, but he wouldn't say whether that was a precondition for sitting down with Kim.

Pompeo raised the question of the three Ameri-



This combination of two file photos shows CIA Director Mike Pompeo and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un

cans in his meeting with Kim, a U.S. official said.

Trump also said he had promised Abe he would work hard for the return of Japanese nationals abducted by North Korea. Tokyo says at least a dozen Japanese said to have been taken in the 1970s and 1980s remain unaccounted for.

News of Pompeo's trip to North Korea, which

took place more than two weeks ago, emerged on Tuesday, as lawmakers weighed whether he should be confirmed to become secretary of state. Trump and Republican senators held up his highly unusual, secret mission as sign of Pompeo's diplomatic ability. But the prospect of his confirmation hung in the balance as Democrats lined up against him. **AP**



## CUBA

# Bureaucrat Diaz-Canel replaces Raul Castro as president

Michael Weissenstein  
& Andrea Rodriguez, Havana

A 57-year-old bureaucrat will take Raul Castro's place as the president of Cuba today [Macau time] as a government led by a single family for six decades tries to ensure the long-term survival of one of the world's last communist states.

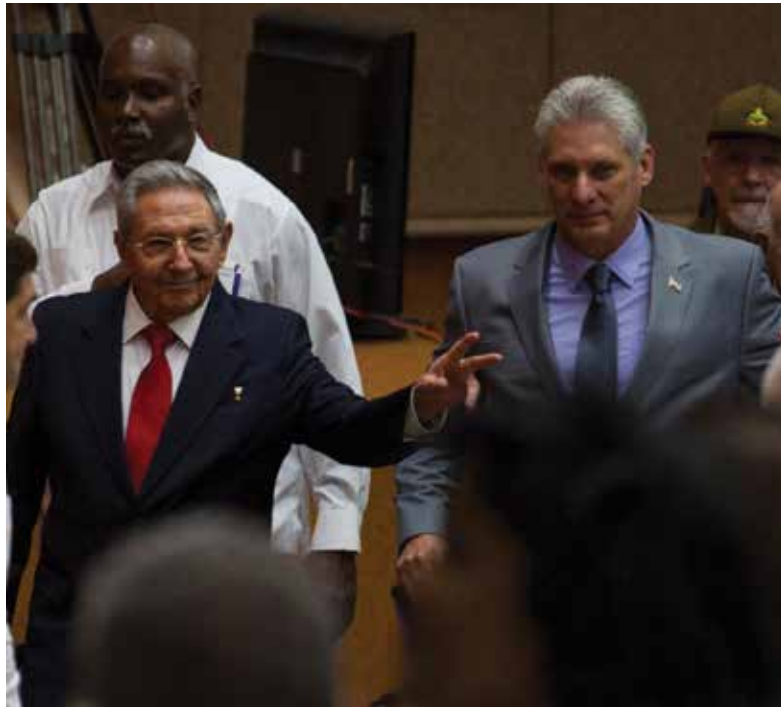
Members of the National Assembly voted yesterday on Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez's nomination as the sole candidate for president. The result won't be officially announced until early morning today, but it's already clear because the assembly approves all executive branch proposals by margins of 95 percent or higher.

The 86-year-old Castro will remain head of the Communist Party, which is designated by the constitution as "the superior guiding force of society and the state." As a result, he will still be the most powerful person in Cuba for the time being.

His departure from the presidency is nonetheless a symbolically charged moment for a country that has been under the absolute rule of one family since the revolution — first by revolutionary leader Fidel Castro and, for the last decade, his younger brother.

Facing biological reality but still active and apparently healthy, Raul Castro is stepping down as president in an effort to

AP PHOTO



Cuba's President Raul Castro (left) enters the National Assembly followed by his successor Miguel Diaz-Canel, center right, for the start of two-day legislative session in Havana

guarantee that new leaders can maintain the government's grip on power in the face of economic stagnation, an aging population and increasing disenchantment among younger generations.

"I like sticking with the ideas of President Fidel Castro because he did a lot for the people of Cuba, but we need rejuvenation, above all in the economy," said Melissa Mederos, a 21-year-old schoolteacher. "Diaz-Canel needs to work hard on the economy, because people need to live a little better."

Most Cubans know their first

vice president as an uncharismatic figure who until recently maintained a public profile so low it was virtually nonexistent. That image changed slightly this year as state media placed an increasing spotlight on Diaz-Canel's public appearances, including remarks to the press last month that included his promise to make Cuba's government more responsive to its people.

"We're building a relationship between the government and the people here," he said then after casting a ballot for members of the National Assembly. "The

lives of those who will be elected have to be focused on relating to the people, listening to the people, investigating their problems and encouraging debate."

**Castro's departure from the presidency is a symbolically charged moment for a country that has been under the absolute rule of one family since the revolution**

Diaz-Canel gained prominence in central Villa Clara province as the top Communist Party official, a post equivalent to governor. People there describe him as a hard-working, modest-living technocrat dedicated to improving public services. He became higher education minister in 2009 before moving into the vice presidency.

In a video of a Communist Party meeting that inexplicably leaked to the public last year,

Diaz-Canel expressed a series of orthodox positions that included somberly pledging to shutter some independent media and labeling some European embassies as outposts of foreign subversion.

But he has also defended academics and bloggers who became targets of hardliners, leading some to describe him a potential advocate for greater openness in a system intolerant of virtually any criticism or dissent. International observers and Cubans alike will be scrutinizing every move he makes after he officially takes office.

Two years after taking over from his ailing brother in 2006, Castro launched a series of reforms that expanded Cuba's private sector to nearly 600,000 people and allowed citizens greater freedom to travel and access to information. He has failed to fix the generally unproductive and highly subsidized state-run businesses that, along with a Soviet-model bureaucracy, employ three of every four Cubans. State salaries average USD30 a month, leaving workers struggling to feed their families, and often dependent on corruption or remittances from relatives overseas.

Castro's moves to open the economy have largely been frozen or reversed as soon as they began to generate conspicuous shows of wealth by the new entrepreneurial class in a country officially dedicated to equality among its citizens.

"I don't want to see a capitalist system, hopefully that doesn't come here, but we have to fix the economy," said Roberto Sanchez, a 41-year-old construction worker. "I'd like to have more opportunity, to buy a car, and have a few possessions." AP

## USA

# Trump says he'll sanction Russia as soon as they deserve it

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said that nobody has been tougher on Russia than him and that he'll hit Moscow with new sanctions "as soon as they very much deserve it."

He also said building a good relationship with Russia is a "good, not bad" thing.

Trump commented a day after an internal White House quarrel over the timing of potential new punishment for Russia exploded into public view. He blamed the news media for spreading a narrative that he said portrays him as being afraid to stand up to Russia.

"There's been nobo-

dy tougher on Russia than President Donald Trump," the president said, citing increased U.S. military spending among his examples. "With the media, no matter what I did, it's never tough enough, because that's their narrative. But Russia will tell you, there's been nobody tougher than Donald Trump."

Trump mentioned the joint U.S., French and British military operation last weekend that struck several sites in Syria to punish the Russian-backed government of President Bashar Assad for an apparent chemical attack that killed civilians. Trump

said the strike was "absolute precision."

Trump had largely avoided criticizing Russia, leaving the harsh rhetoric and sanctions announcements to others in the administration. But he began to criticize Russia on Twitter after the apparent chemical attack this month that spawned images of Syrian adults gasping for air and being hosed off.

Still, Trump said he would prefer good relations with Russia and other nations.

"If we can get along with China, and if we can get along with Russia, and if we can get along with Japan and other nations

that's a good thing, not a bad thing. Just remember that," Trump said as he ended a news conference with Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe. The leaders had spent the past two days discussing such issues as North Korea and trade — and playing golf.

"If we got along with other nations, that's good, not bad," Trump said.

A day earlier, an internal White House quarrel over the timing of new Russia sanctions played out in public after Trump's new economic adviser suggested U.N. Ambassador Nikki Haley suffered from "momentary confusion."

Haley said Sunday on

AP PHOTO



President Trump talks with visiting Japanese PM Shinzo Abe before a dinner at the Mar-a-Lago club

CBS' "Face the Nation" that new sanctions directed at companies associated with Syria's chemical weapons program would be announced Monday — but they weren't.

Larry Kudlow, director of the National Economic Council, told reporters earlier this week that Haley "got ahead of the curve," adding, "There mi-

ght have been some momentary confusion about that."

Haley retorted with a statement to Fox News saying, "With all due respect, I don't get confused."

Kudlow called Haley to apologize, a White House official said, speaking on condition of anonymity to describe private discussions. AP



TV canal macau

FRIDAY	
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:50	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Documentary
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

SATURDAY	
10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:55	Miscellaneous
17:50	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Portuguese Around the World Sr 2
22:20	Miscellaneous
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

SUNDAY	
10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
16:30	Brainstorm
17:15	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Miscellaneous
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
00:50	RTPi Live

Offbeat

AUSTRALIAN BANK CHARGES DEAD CLIENT SERVICE FEE FOR A DECADE

Financial advisers working for Australia's largest bank continued charging clients service fees after they died — in one case for more than a decade — a government inquiry heard yesterday.

The Commonwealth Bank had been receiving complaints from clients of being charged for services that had not been provided since 2002, according to documents presented to the inquiry into misbehavior in Australia's financial sector.

But the bank did not report the illegal behavior under the Corporations Act to the industry regulator, the Australian Securities and Investments Commission, until August 2014.

The bank's subsidiary, Count Financial, discovered a financial adviser knew his client had died in January 2004, but was still reaping 1,000 Australian dollars (USD780) a year in service fees in late 2015.

"When asked, he said he didn't know what to do and he had tried to contact the public trustee and had not heard back," a Count Financial document said.

Count Financial's internal investigation revealed other examples of financial planners charging for services that customers never received.

The bank has refunded AUD118.5 million to customers of its financial advice businesses who were charged fees for no service, mainly between July 2007 and June 2015.

Bank executive Marianne Perkovic told the inquiry that management had known for years they had a "fees-for-no-service problem."

Perkovic said the bank had not realized the problem was "systemic" until 2014, when the breach was reported to the regulator.

The government announced in November the inquiry into banking, pension and financial services industries, following a series of scandals.

cinema

CINETEATRO

19 - 24 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

**COLOR ME TRUE**  
ROOM 2  
2:30, 4:30, 9:45pm  
Director: Takeuchi Hideki  
Starring: Ayase Haruka, Sakaguchi Kentarou  
Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)



**SECRET SUPERSTAR**  
ROOM 2  
07:00pm  
Director: Advait Chandan  
Starring: Aamir Khan, Zaira Wasim  
Language: Hindi (English & Chinese)  
Duration: 150min



**ISLE OF DOGS**  
ROOM 3  
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm  
Director: Wes Anderson  
Starring: Bryan Cranston, Koyu Rankin, Edward Norton  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 101min



**TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY**  
ROOM 3  
7:30pm  
Director: Nick Park  
Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston  
Language: English (Chinese)  
Duration: 91min

this day in history



1968 POWELL SLATES IMMIGRATION POLICY

The Conservative right-winger Enoch Powell has made a hard-hitting speech attacking the government's immigration policy.

Addressing a Conservative association meeting in Birmingham, Mr Powell said Britain had to be mad to allow in 50,000 dependents of immigrants each year.

He compared it to watching a nation busily engaged in heaping up its own funeral pyre.

The MP for Wolverhampton South West called for an immediate reduction in immigration and the implementation of a Conservative policy of "urgent" encouragement of those already in the UK to return home.

"It can be no part of any policy that existing families should be kept divided. But there are two directions on which families can be reunited," he said.

Mr Powell compared enacting legislation such as the Race Relations Bill to "throwing a match on to gunpowder".

He said that as he looked to the future he was filled with a sense of foreboding.

"Like the Roman, I seem to see the river Tiber foaming with much blood," he said.

He estimated that by the year 2000 up to seven million people - or one in ten of the population - would be of immigrant descent.

Mr Powell, the shadow defence spokesman, was applauded during and after his 45-minute speech.

However, it is likely his comments will be less warmly received by the Conservative party leader, Edward Heath.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Enoch Powell's so-called "Rivers of Blood" speech was his defining political moment.

It led to him being sacked from the shadow cabinet, ending his hopes of a post in a future Conservative government.

However, thousands of workers staged strikes and marches in support of his views and he was inundated with letters from well wishers.

In February 1974 Enoch Powell left the Conservative party because of his opposition to Edward Heath's intention to join the European Community.

He became an Ulster Unionist and represented the seat of Down South, Northern Ireland, from 1974 to 1992.

He died in 1998 aged 85.

In 1968 he predicted that by the year 2000, up to seven million people living in Britain would be of ethnic descent.

The Census in 2001 showed 4.6 million people living in the UK were from an ethnic minority, or 7.9% of the population.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've played your cards close to your chest for a while now, taking care to maintain your privacy. Better keep that up, because the heavens have arranged an opportunity for you to take a risk.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You just can't stand not knowing absolutely everything that's going on around you - but for the next few weeks, you'd better at least try to get used to it. Someone who loves you is working on a surprise for you.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

You're feeling pretty darned restless, aren't you? Like something is about to happen? Well, you're right, but you can't push it along to make it happen any faster, and you can't drag your heels and make it stop.

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Your skills in mediation and negotiation are legendary. At the moment, however, you'll need to leave those skills right where they are and keep quiet. No one says you'll have to do it permanently.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

It's time to let go and let the universe have its way with you. First of all, there's no other way for things to go right now - and anything is possible at the moment - especially if it's something from the past.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Every now and then, the universe tosses us a day that's just not destined to turn out the way we thought it would. You're due for a few of those now, especially in the financial department.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

According to most astrologers, your sign is known as a money magnet. That doesn't mean that money just shows up, though. You attract it, sure, but only because you're not afraid to go after it the 'old-fashioned' way.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

If anyone is a homebody, it's you. Your nest is cozy and comfy, and you love spending time in it. Needless to say, talking you into leaving home isn't easy, even if it's just for a weekend.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

No one has ever accused you of being lazy or of not taking care of business. You have, however, been called a workaholic every now and then, usually by someone who's jealous of your work.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

There's just no doubt about it - you've been an especially good person lately. So when 'the one you thought had gotten away' suddenly turns up, think of it as a lovely surprise - a second shot at the title.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Among the many admirable qualities on your list, you're famous for your integrity and your never-ending sense of responsibility. That goes especially for people from the past.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You're due to cross paths with someone who's equally enthusiastic about all the subjects you simply adore. The catch is that it's probably going to be someone you've known for a long time.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Coil; 5- Gillette razors; 10- Cushions; 14- Salt tree; 15- \_\_\_ say more?; 16- Joyce's land; 17- Dull; 18- Pertaining to birth; 19- Feminine ending; 20- Diary; 22- Real-estate dealer; 24- Put Down; 25- U-turn from SSW; 26- Like some mail; 30- Girl on film; 34- Slaughter of baseball; 35- Hang; 37- Hook's helper; 38- Red or White follower; 39- Be human; 40- I'm freezing!; 41- Inter \_\_\_; 43- Jack of "The Great Dictator"; 45- Senate position; 46- Sacred place; 48- Region in NW Italy; 50- Last: Abbr.; 51- \_\_\_ es Salaam, Tanzania; 52- Toy racer; 56- Vent in the earth's crust; 60- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 61- Chairman's hammer; 63- Pearl Buck heroine; 64- Political satirist Mort; 65- Muse of poetry; 66- Mont Blanc, par example; 67- Kill; 68- Attack; 69- Soviet news agency;

DOWN: 1- "Shane" star; 2- Other, in Oaxaca; 3- Oil of \_\_\_; 4- Small stones; 5- Peeved; 6- Durable wood; 7- No longer working (abbr.); 8- Jewish month; 9- Absence of sound; 10- Kitchen gadgets; 11- \_\_\_ Misbehavin'; 12- Bond classic; 13- Psychic; 21- Dinghy thingy; 23- Hill dweller; 26- Flat-topped hills; 27- Name on a bomber; 28- Poison; 29- Fantasy; 30- Month of showers; 31- Cinder; 32- Caravansary; 33- Simmons rival; 36- Vessel built by Noah; 42- Sharply; 43- Power problems; 44- Phantom; 45- Garment worn over armor; 47- Pampering, briefly; 49- Guy's date; 52- Flat sound; 53- Sharon of "Boston Public"; 54- Dept. of Labor div.; 55- Infrequent; 56- Rejection power; 57- \_\_\_ breve; 58- Sleeps briefly; 59- Change for a five; 62- Wine container;

Yesterday's solution

P	A	S	T	S	P	A	N	O	S	S	S
I	T	O	O	C	O	R	E	R	T	E	A
G	I	A	M	O	T	T	E	R	R	A	N
P	R	O	C	R	A	S	T	I	N	A	T
S	C	A	R	P	O	N	E	W	A	R	D
E	R	R	O	R	S	A	A	R	U	A	E
N	O	T	W	I	T	H	S	T	A	N	D
I	N	G	A	A	S	E	A	N	C	E	
S	N	O	R	E	F	L	O	A	N	S	E
F	E	E	L	E	S	T	O				
M	A	G	N	E	T	I	C	N	O	R	T
R	O	M	E	A	W	A	R	E	U	S	E
E	D	E	N	I	T	E	R	F	A	R	E
P	E	R	T	S	T	E	E	D			

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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PJ (Open line) 993

PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

Airport 59 888 88

Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283

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Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



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DRINKS RECEPTION: 7:00PM  
DINNER & DANCING: 8:00PM - 2:30AM FREE FLOW DRINKS  
DRESS CODE: BLACK TIE & FANGS OR HORROR THEMED DRESS  
TICKETS: MOP/HKD 1,750 TABLES OF 6 OR 8 ARE AVAILABLE,  
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## FOOTBALL | SERIE A

## Napoli closes the gap to Juventus ahead of title showdown

Daniella Matar, Milan

Monday, 2:45am  
Juventus v Napoli  
H 2.11, D 3.4, A 4.05

**J**UVENTUS was held to a 1-1 draw at Crotone and will not be able to clinch a seventh successive Serie A title this weekend against closest rival Napoli.

Juventus was leading 1-0 at Crotone and, with Napoli losing against Udinese, knew if results stayed the same a win on Sunday [Monday, 2:45am] would hand it the crown with four matches remaining.

But Simy equalized for Crotone and Napoli beat Udinese 4-2 to instead close the gap to four points.

"A month and a half ago I would have happily signed a paper to arrive at the match against Napoli with a four-point advantage," Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri said. "It will certainly be a great battle on Sunday and I wouldn't sign for a draw. We

AP PHOTO



Napoli's Lorenzo Insigne (right) scores at the Serie A soccer match against Udinese at the San Paolo Stadium in Naples

have to play to get the maximum points, winning would be a great step forward. Whatever happens though, the championship won't finish Sunday."

Elsewhere, the battle for the Champions League places heated up as Roma and Lazio both won to remain third and fourth,

respectively, on the same number of points.

They are one point above fifth-place Inter Milan. The top four from Serie A qualify for Europe's premier club competition.

Napoli's title hopes diminished on Sunday when it was held to a 0-0 draw at AC Milan.

And Maurizio Sarri's side endured another setback when Jakub Jankto tapped in to give Udinese the lead four minutes from half-time yesterday [Macau time].

Lorenzo Insigne leveled moments later but teenager Svanter Ingelsson restored Udinese's advantage 10 minutes into the

second half.

But news of Crotone's equalizer filtered through to the home fans and that seemed to inspire Napoli as Raul Albiol headed in a corner to put Napoli back on level terms.

Napoli took the lead for the first time in the match in the 70th. Albano Bizzarri parried Jose Callejon's effort but the ball fell straight to Arkadiusz Milik, who slotted it into an empty net.

Lorenzo Tonelli headed in another corner five minutes later to seal the win.

"We wanted this win, we're four points behind Juventus and now we have to go to Turin with the right mentality," Insigne said. "Against Juventus it will be 11 against 11, today we gave a huge sign that we have heart and determination, we have to show that on the pitch Sunday too."

Douglas Costa had set up all three goals for Juventus on Sunday and he was again the provider in the 16th minute with a perfect cross from the right for Alex Sandro to head the Bianconeri in front.

However, Crotone leveled in spectacular fashion in the 65th through an audacious overhead kick from Simy — a similar goal to Cristiano Ronaldo's in the Champions League against Juventus.

It was a valuable point for Crotone, which inched a point from safety. **AP**

AD

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opinion

**Kapok**  
Eric Sautedé



**RECONCILING THE  
IRRECONCILABLE**

Maybe it was mere slip of the tongue. Maybe it was simply a manner of speaking. Or maybe it was truly what was meant. Yet, when the Chief Executive seemed to imply in his out of the cuff response to an unscheduled question addressed by legislator Ng Kuok Cheong that Macao had been “imposed” the mutual recognition of driving licenses between the mainland and the SAR in order to satisfy the grand plan of regional integration defined by the central authorities, it caused indeed more confusion than relief.

After all, legislator Ng was bringing up the matter because of a widespread public concern that this would indeed affect traffic very adversely, bearing in mind that this mutual recognition had been originally pitched by the government as a way to facilitate things for Macao citizens. Even though this is not antagonistic, it does suggest a logical discrepancy that has far reaching consequences as to what presides over the design of a public policy: either you initiate or you obey, and then for whose benefit?

Beyond what it reveals once more of this Chief Executive — his clear inability to argue for what is supposed to be his own policies when he cannot mumble a written document — this mishap might prove to be useful in the end as it will allow to open a debate on the adequacy of such a highly debatable scheme. The very same day, suspended legislator Sulu Sou was staging an event outside of the Assembly contesting the validity of the already proclaimed government dispatch regarding the mutual recognition, as both the haste of the proclamation and the lack of justification(s) for it seemed to clearly indicate that “a bigger power” — to use Sulu’s wording — was at play.

This is all the more saddening that the government, and Mr Chui in particular, are in the midst of trying to sell the latest fad for an ever-bright and prosperous Macao beyond gaming: the development of the Greater Bay area! It is no secret that the vision to integrate further the urban continuum between Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Huizhou, Dongguan, Zhongshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing, Hong Kong and Macao was the centerpiece of the discussions for Macao’s representatives who attended the “two meetings” in Beijing in March. It was especially true for the twelve Macao representatives at the National People’s Congress, including four (Ho Iat Seng, Kou Hoi In, José Chui Sai Peng and Si Ka Lon) who are concurrently members of the Macao Legislative Assembly.

So, when I read that “many lawmakers expressed doubts regarding the influence and relevance of the Greater Bay Area plan”, I can perceive a sense of irony in the journalist’s report, especially as Kou Hoi In himself took the lead in rhetorically raising some questions. The Chief Executive’s exposé had been — to remain polite — dreary: “promote infrastructure connectivity”, “enhance the level of market integration”, “build a global technology and innovation hub”, “build a modern system of industries through coordinated development”, “build jointly a quality urban environment”, “cultivate greater strength in international cooperation”, and “support the establishment of major cooperation platforms”.

Over the past month, pro-establishment legislators have been all over the place in trying to illustrate, sometimes very creatively, what the Greater Bay Area could entail: such is the case of Si Ka Lon who is now suggesting the creation of a sea reserve for international tourism, or Zheng Anting (Jiangmen belongs to the network of eleven cities) who would like the scheme to facilitate the relocation of aging citizens on the mainland. In the Chinese press of Macao, it is no less than 1,155 articles that focused or dealt with the “Greater Bay Area” since mid-March: no wonder then that the Chief Executive appeared to be obsessed with an ever-increasing integration of Macao in the Pearl River Delta!

But how, when and for whose benefit? In the questions addressed to Mr Chui, there was absolutely no mention of Hengqin and its ongoing development. Yet, the island was the subject of 150 press articles in Chinese over the same past month: beyond the slogans, reality bites!

**THE KARL LAGERFELD CALLS  
MODELS ‘SORDID CREATURES’**

An organization that protects the rights of models has called for action against outspoken fashion designer Karl Lagerfeld.

Lagerfeld was quoted by a French magazine as calling models “stupid,” “toxic” and “sordid creatures.” The April 12 interview on the magazine’s website, Numero.com,

also quotes Lagerfeld as saying models should “join a nunnery” if they don’t want their pants pulled down during photo shoots.

The founder of the Model Alliance, Sara Ziff, says Lagerfeld remarks were a “flippant dismissal” of sexual harassment and abuse in the fashion industry.



**Nepal honors first  
conquest of Everest  
without bottled oxygen**

Binaj Gurubacharya,  
Kathmandu

**N**EPAL’S government yesterday honored two climbers who were the first to scale Mount Everest without supplementary oxygen 40 years ago.

Minister for Tourism Rabinendra Adhikari praised the climbers at a ceremony in the capital, Kathmandu.

Italian Reinhold Messner and Austrian Peter Habeler reached the summit without use of supplementary oxygen, while others on their team used bottled oxygen. Until then, all climbers carried oxygen cylinders to aid them at high altitudes where oxygen levels are low. Since Everest was first scaled in 1953, thousands of climbers have reached the summit and hundreds more make attempts every year. This year nearly 350 foreign climbers have already been issued climbing permits. Most climbers still use supplementary oxygen.

Messner has been a strong critic of the large number of people climbing Everest. He suggested many years back that Nepal give the mountain a rest to allow it to re-



Italian mountaineer Reinhold Messner is felicitated by Nepal's government in Kathmandu yesterday

cover, but Nepal did not listen.

“They decided like this, I cannot change it,” he said, while acknowledging that the climbing has been good for Nepal economically because many people stay for weeks and spend large amounts of money.

Messner said climbing Everest is no longer an adventure and instead has become a tourism activity.

“Today mountaineering is tourism. Mountaineering is where people are going without infrastructure, but on Everest there is huge infrastructure,” he said. “The Sherpas prepare everything and clients pay to trek to the

summit.”

The debate about Everest climbing was revived in 2014 when 16 Sherpa guides were killed by an avalanche just above the base camp while preparing the route for clients. A year later, an avalanche triggered by a massive earthquake killed another 19 people at the base camp.

Each climber pays the government USD11,000 for a permit. Various expedition outfitters offer climbing gear, cooks and guides, which can cost many thousands of dollars.

No mountaineering experience is required to get an Everest permit. **AP**

**Southwest Airlines pilot lauded as  
hero for handling crisis**

**T**HE Southwest Airlines pilot being lauded as a hero in a harrowing emergency landing after a passenger was partially blown out of the jet’s damaged fuselage is also being hailed for her pioneering role in a career where she has been one of the few women at the controls.

Tammie Jo Shults, one of the first female fighter pilots in the U.S. Navy, was the captain and piloting the Dallas-bound Flight 1380 when it made an emergency landing Tuesday in Philadelphia, according to her husband, Dean Shults.

One of the engines on the Boeing 737 exploded while the plane was traveling 800 kph at 30,000 feet with 149 people on board. Shrapnel hit the plane and passengers said they had to rescue a woman who was being blown out of a damaged window. The woman later died of blunt force trauma to her head, neck and torso.

Shults calmly relayed details about the crisis to air traffic controllers, and passengers commended her handling of the situation.

In a statement yesterday [Macao time], Shults and the other pilot on board, First Officer Darren Ellisor, said they felt like they were sim-



Lt. Tammie Jo Shults, one of the first women to fly Navy tactical aircraft, in 1992

ply doing their jobs.

“On behalf of the entire Crew, we appreciate the outpouring of support from the public and our coworkers as we all reflect on one family’s profound loss,” the two pilots said in the statement, adding that their “hearts are heavy.”

Friends at Shults’ church in Boerne, Texas, about 30 miles northwest of San Antonio, said they were not surprised after listening to the recording and reading media reports about her actions. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	65-95 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Good	
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**INDONESIA** A shallow magnitude-4.4 earthquake in central Indonesia has killed three people and damaged more than 300 homes, disaster officials said yesterday as they declared a two-week emergency for the affected areas.

**IRAQ** says it has launched airstrikes in neighboring Syria against Islamic State militants. The PM’s office says Iraqi fighter jets launched “lethal” airstrikes against the extremists in an area along the border. It says the militants posed a threat to Iraq, without providing further details.



**GERMANY** French President Emmanuel Macron arrived in Berlin yesterday for talks with Angela Merkel aimed at winning support from the German chancellor for his ambitious reform plans for the European Union.



**UK** Queen Elizabeth II opened a summit of the 53-nation Commonwealth, and backed her son Prince Charles to be the next leader of the association of Britain and its former colonies. In a ceremony at Buckingham Palace, the queen said she hoped Charles would “carry on the important work” of leading the Commonwealth.



**CUBA** Raul Castro (pictured) said that he expected 57-year-old Miguel Mario Diaz-Canel Bermudez to serve two five-year terms as president and eventually take Castro’s place as head of the Communist Party, potentially dominating Cuban politics until 2031.

More on p15

**USA** Descendants of people buried in a small cemetery in western Pennsylvania have sued the owners of a motel over an excavation project that left the cemetery a mound of earth more than 25 feet high.