



'MAYORS' VISITING PROGRAM' CONCLUDES

P7



UM KICKS OFF SMART CAMPUS PROJECT

Rector Yonghua Song said yesterday that the UM will use various advanced technologies at the Hengqin campus

P8



17 KILLED AS 2 DRAGON BOATS CAPSIZE

The boats were practicing for a race in the Taohua River in the city of Guilin when the accident happened

P11 CHINA



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WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



SOUTH CHINA SEA

Australia's prime minister said his country has a "perfect right" to traverse the South China Sea after a media report said that the Chinese navy challenged three Australian warships in the hotly contested waterway. China's Defense Ministry defended its navy's actions, saying the report "does not conform with the facts."

MALAYSIA Police said yesterday that an investigation was underway into the gunning down of a Palestinian man a day earlier and gave assurances that security was being beefed up in the country following recent high-profile assassinations.

More on p13

AP PHOTO



INDIA Government forces killed at least 14 Maoist rebels during a raid on their hideout yesterday in a forested area in western India, police said. More on p13

IRAN Police have arrested a former prosecutor known as the "torturer of Tehran," who faces a two-year prison sentence over the death of prisoners following 2009 protests, Iranian media reported yesterday.

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Report claims civil liberties restricted

P4 MACAU



Myanmar community celebrates traditional New Year festival

P3 MDT REPORT

Tax benefits proposed for building reconstruction

Julie Zhu

THE Executive Council has concluded its discussion on tax benefits for the reconstruction of old buildings in order to alleviate the cost pressures, the council spokesperson Leong Heng Teng announced Friday, during a press conference.

The tax benefits proposal is a step made by the government towards speeding up the urban renewal process.

The proposal concerns buildings that have been deemed dangerous, buildings that pose threats to public safety, and buildings that the Chief Executive has described as being beneficial for Macau's social development, or for the purpose of protecting the city's cultural heritage.

According to the bill, it is proposed that developers will not have to pay taxes over the acquisition of a second (or third, fourth, and so on) building if the developers do not change the nature of the building's function. Nevertheless, the developers must complete the groundwork regarding the reconstruction of the buildings within three years after the acquisition.

Owners of properties in the old buildings can also have their tax

es waived over the acquisition of reconstructed properties.

However, there are certain limitations. For instance, a new property obtained by a given owner cannot be more than 10 percent larger than the owner's previous property. Other restrictions include the number of new properties.

"Residences can only be residences, shops can only be shops. Property owners need to pay taxes in function of the difference [in case they own different kinds of properties]," said Iong Kong Leong, director of the Financial Services Bureau.

Owners can only purchase new residences if their previous properties were residences as well. This same policy is also applied to shop owners, since owners cannot acquire a new property which serves a different purpose than their previous properties.

Moreover, owners cannot transfer the ownership of a property within three years after it was obtained, if they have already benefited from the new tax laws.

According to Iong, owners will only enjoy the tax benefits if they own no more than their previous number of owned pro-



Leong Heng Teng

erties, and "can enjoy tax benefits concerning, at most, two units."

When talking about the reconstruction of culturally valuable buildings, Iong noted that "[the policy] also applies for cultural relics which are only par-

tially reconstructed. Later, we will inspect whether the reconstruction has changed the structure of the original architectural form."

The policy is said to serve for "only reconstruction purposes, not any other purpose."

Telecommunication license fees reduced

THE Executive Council announced on Friday that it has concluded the analysis of a law proposing a reduction in the license fees for telecommunication service providers.

The bill proposes to charge companies 10 percent of the income resulting from services these companies provide, in particular audio and video calls, text messages and mobile data.

The purpose behind the proposal is to "allow tourists to further enjoy the beneficial cross-region telecommunication services, as well as to create helpful conditions for Macau

residents to enjoy, [and] in the future, increasingly favorable cross-region telecommunication fees."

According to representatives of the city's telecommunication authority, this proposal will result in a decrease of the Macau government's revenue by MOP24 million in taxes.

A similar reduction has also been suggested for license fees concerning WiFi services.

After the law is passed, service providers will only pay the government half of what they are paying now in terms of WiFi service licenses.

This reduction has been suggested in order to encourage the providers to expand WiFi

coverage area.

The policy will represent an annual reduction of MOP1.7 million in taxes collected.

In addition, the government has also waived the license fees of WiFi spots located in public areas, in the hope more residents will have access to free WiFi, with access spots available at more places.

By not charging the telecommunication companies for providing WiFi in public spots, the government will see a reduction of MOP60,000 in its tax income.

The bill is expected to come into effect on May 1.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester



10 CAUSES OF FELINE URINARY OR FAECAL INCONTINENCE

FELINE incontinence often links to an underlying disease or condition. With incontinence, pets dribble small amount of cat urine all over the house. Incontinence also includes cat diarrhoea. Below are the ten most common causes why cats in Macau deal with incontinence issues.

BLADDER STONES

Bladder stones occur when minerals combine forming large crystals. Bladder stones reach the size of peas and irritate the lining of the bladder. If bladder stones reach the urethra, it becomes hard for a cat to urinate. You'll see him straining in the litter box with little to no urine coming out or cat urine will have a pinkish tint from blood.

BLADDER CANCER

While rare, cats exposed to flea dips and insecticides in the house have a higher risk of bladder cancer. Tumors build up on the inner lining of the bladder eventually blocking the urethra. Symptoms include straining while urinating or defecating, feline incontinence and lethargy.

FELINE DIABETES

Feline diabetes rates are skyrocketing. A diabetic cat drinks excessive amounts of water and urinates often. Often, the cat fails to make it to the litter box on time. Controlling the diabetes eliminates this form of feline incontinence.

FELINE DIARRHEA

People associate incontinence with urine, but poor bowel control is another form of feline incontinence. In cases of severe cat diarrhoea, common problems include spinal cord injuries, particularly including damage to the tail. Other issues include poor diet, digestive problems and bacteria or viruses in the intestines.

FELINE LEUKEMIA

The feline leukemia virus is preventable. Many spayed and neutered cats affected by feline leukemia have problems with bladder control. They frequently dribble urine when they are sleeping or resting. The problem does affect more male cats than females, however. Some veterinarians find that a low dose of chemotherapy helps eliminate if the feline incontinence is excessive.

KIDNEY STONES

Like bladder stones, kidney stones occur when crystals bind in the kidneys causing blockages and irritation. A cat with kidney stones will have a tender abdomen and often has problems urinating. Blood is often visible in the cat urine.

SCARRED BLADDER

If a urinary tract infection spreads to the bladder, scarring will occur. The scarring essentially takes up room causing the bladder to hold less urine. He will need to urinate more frequently. More accidents occur as a result.

SENILITY

With old age, some cats simply lose sense of when they need to go to the bathroom. They may wait too long and dribble on the way to the litter box, or they may forget where their litter box is located. You may find it easier to keep one litter box on each level of your house to avoid these feline incontinence accidents.

URINARY TRACT INFECTIONS

Feline urinary tract infections remain a leading cause of feline incontinence. When the urinary tract becomes infected, the cat finds it impossible to go to the bathroom. He will strain, but little to no urine comes out. Antibiotics are necessary for UTIs. They can quickly spread to the bladder and kidneys if left untreated.



WEAKENED URINARY MUSCLE TONE

Cats that are carrying litters of kittens or elderly cats lose control of their urinary system muscles. Leaking and dribbling of cat urine are common problems. In addition, when the bladder is full, it pushes against the bowels causing accidents with defecation.

Hope this info helps our dribbling cats
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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Myanmar community celebrates traditional New Year festival

Lynzy Valles

THE Myanmar community gathered to celebrate its New Year Festival, "Thingyan," yesterday at Saint Paul School.

Held annually in Myanmar from April 13 to 17, the event marks the country's biggest festive occasion, with residents splashing water on one another. According to the tradition, the water cleanses a person of their sins that was committed during the past year.

Yesterday, the community sprinkled water on their guests of honor as a traditional gesture to wash their sins and bad luck away from the body, mind and soul, so the New Year can be ushered in on a clean slate.

Held in the region for the third time, the Myanmar Social Club of Macau (MSM) provides a platform for its community to remember their tradition back home.

"The celebration [in Myanmar] includes sharing of food, going to the monastery, taking care of



Participants in the event



Ricky Myint

the elderly and splashing water on each other," said Ricky Myint, chairman of MSM.

"This is really a meaningful celebration for Myanmar people," he added.

The festivity featured artists from Myanmar, traditional dances, live performances and the sharing of food.

He estimated there are approximately 60,000 Burmese linked people in the region, many of whom migrated to the region 30 to 40 years ago.

According to Myint, the association – which has some 1,600 members – has seen an increase in the number of Burmese migrant workers in the SAR.

Meanwhile, the chairman admitted that the absence of a consulate in the city remains a challenge for the community, but noted the association is working with the Myanmar Consulate in Hong Kong to assist its community in Macau.

"The consulate in Hong Kong is giving us a lot of support, espe-

cially to us as an association. From time to time, we help the Burmese in [processing the needed] documents," said Myint.

Also, the chairman added that the association had opened a class for the community to learn English and Cantonese to fight the language barrier between them and their employers.

He also expressed that the community easily adapts to the local culture in Macau.

"The food here is totally different from Myanmar food. They

[the Burmese] have difficulties in trying Chinese cuisine but that is just one of the things they have to adjust to," he said.

MSM also holds other activities, including blood donation drives as well as participating in World Migrants Day, and hinted on playing a further part in local activities in the region in the future.

This is really a meaningful celebration for Myanmar people.

RICKY MYINT
MYANMAR SOCIAL CLUB OF MACAU

Meanwhile, Father Lawrence The Reh, a Catholic priest, expressed his hopes to conduct an official mass in the region.

Back in Myanmar, the Catholic community only accounts for 1.4 percent of the total population. In Macau there are some 50 Burmese Catholics.

"[We hold a] mass but it is not official. Maybe later we will ask permission from the bishop to give them a place to conduct the mass because [what we do] is just a private mass for them," he explained.

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US report says civil liberties have been restricted

THE annual US Department of State's report on human rights criticizes Macau for constraints on press and academic freedom, as well as on issues such as democracy development and human trafficking.

The report claims that "the government took steps to restrict unfavorable news coverage." However, it adds local media expressed a wide range of views.

"The media practiced self-censorship, in part because the government heavily subsidized major newspapers that tended to follow closely the PRC government's policy on sensitive political issues," the report reads. The report also quotes claims made by the Macau Journalists Association: "At least five editors of local media outlets received messages from their senior executives instructing them to report more on positive news after a typhoon, and less on the government's accountability for problems, especially the accountability of the highest officials."

Possible constraints to freedom of speech by citizens have also been

reported. "The law provides freedom of expression, including for the press, but the government occasionally sought to restrict these rights," the report reads. "In August, police arrested two persons for allegedly spreading false information about the government's response to a typhoon. In December, the government said it had begun drafting legislation to implement a national law passed in September that criminalizes any action mocking the Chinese national anthem and requires persons attending public events to stand at attention and sing the anthem in a solemn manner when the anthem is played."

The denial of entry into the territory of some Hong Kong journalists was also addressed in the report. In addition, the report mentions criminal proceedings against citizens that participate in peaceful street protests, in a reference to the case involving Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang opposing authorities, who are set to face a court hearing next month.

Regarding cases of "arbitrary arrest or detention," the US report

states that "activists expressed concern that the SAR government abused prosecutorial procedures to target political dissidents, while police said they charged those they arrested with violations of the law."

Regarding labor rights, the US Department of State mentions the occurrence of discrimination cases with respect to employment. Non resident workers "frequently complained of discrimination in the workplace in [terms of] hiring and wages, and some classes of migrants were not provided equal employment benefits."

In response, the Macau Government Spokesperson's Office slammed the US report, stating that since its establishment, the MSAR government has protected the rights and freedoms of Macau residents. The statement adds that such "achievements and objective facts have been recognized by anyone holding an unbiased view." On the whole, the statement expressed "strong opposition to foreign countries' interference in any form in Macau's internal affairs that are a domestic matter for China."

US DEPARTMENT OF STATE REPORT

HK gov't actions had a 'chilling effect' on political protest

THE US Department of State 2017 Human Rights Report also covered developments more broadly across China, including on the mainland, the Tibet Autonomous Region (TAR) and in the Hong Kong SAR.

The Department expressed concern over what it deemed the "most significant human rights issues" in the Hong Kong SAR, which were the Central Government's encroachment on local autonomy and "government actions that had a chilling effect on political protest and the exercise of free speech."

In regards to the latter, the report provided the examples of prosecutions against protesters – particularly those were who active in the 2014 Umbrella Movement – and lawsuits used by the government to disqualify opposition lawmakers who advocated for greater democratic representation or full independence from China.

The report also raised concerns about the disappearances of individuals in Hong Kong, citing media reports that suggest they were abducted by agents of the mainland.

Meanwhile, in China,

the most significant human rights issues included the "arbitrary or unlawful deprivation of life and executions without due process; extralegal measures such as forced disappearances, including extraterritorial ones; [and] torture and coerced confessions of prisoners."

The US Department of State also acknowledged that journalists, lawyers, dissidents and activists were harassed and detained by the state, all the while censorship and control of public discourse was on the rise.

As for the Tibet Autonomous Region, which is included under its own sub-heading in the report, the Department highlighted the fact that ethnic Chinese (Han people) CCP members "held the overwhelming majority of top party, government, police, and military positions in the TAR and other Tibetan areas."

It said that the most significant human rights issues included disappearances, arbitrary detentions and torture of political prisoners by government authorities, as well as the government curtailment of the freedoms of speech, religion, association, assembly and movement.

Population density declines

THE population density in Macau decreased from 21,400 persons per square kilometer in 2016 to 21,100 persons per square kilometer this year, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed in its latest Environmental statistics report.

Information from DSEC also indicated that the land area of Macau measured 30.8 square kilometers in 2017, up by 0.3 square kilometers year-on-year.

There were eight tropical cyclones in 2017, and typhoon signal No.10 was hoisted when Typhoon Hato hit Macau on August 23, which was



the first time the signal was issued since 2000.

As regards air quality, the number of "poor" air quality days recorded by each monitoring station in 2017 was higher than that in 2016,

during which the ambient monitoring station in Taipa reported the highest number of "poor" air quality days at 28 days.

There were 66 days with acid rain in 2017.

IMF expects economy to grow by 7 percent in 2018

MACAU'S economy is expected to grow by 7 percent this year, a fall of 2.3 percentage points from the 9.3 percentage rate registered in 2017, according to the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) forecasts in the World Economic Outlook, the IMF's biannual survey on the world economy.

Last March, the Macau Statistics and Census Bureau announced that real economic growth in 2017 was 9.1

percent, with per capita gross domestic product (GDP) showing a slightly lower growth of 8.6 percent, also in real terms.

The report, published last week in Washington, forecasts economic growth of 6.1 percent in Macau in 2019 and 4.3 percent in 2023.

The IMF document includes forecasts of consumer price developments, forecasting inflation rates of 2.2 percent, 2.4 percent

and 2.8 percent for Macau this year, 2019 and 2023, respectively.

Among the advanced economies, Macau has the highest projected current account surplus, with gross domestic product percentage rates of 32.1 percent. This is followed by Hong Kong and Taiwan, which are territories with GDP surpluses as a percentage in double digits, with 33.1 percent and 34.8 percent respectively. **MDT/Macauhub**



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Coloane, Hellene Garden

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

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



Apartment B, Sakura Court, Ocean Garden

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

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



Cheoc Van House, Coloane

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

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

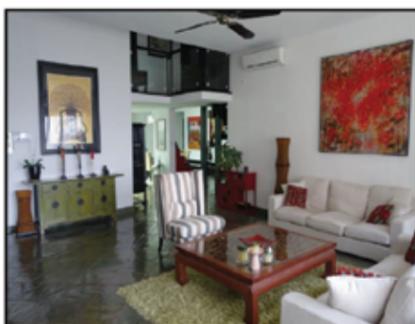
FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau

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

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



Panorama Penthouse Apartment

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

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



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

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

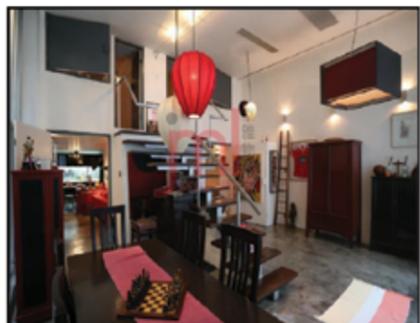
Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carpark that accommodates 3 cars. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. The other two guest rooms are a good size sharing the charcoal / white modern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



Grande Plaza, Taipa

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

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



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

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

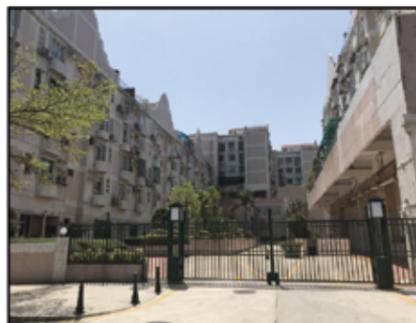
LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

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

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



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

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

Its unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



Chun Hung Garden L Unit

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

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Zhuhai determined to play bigger role in regional cooperation

Julie Zhu

ZHUZHAI is willing to shoulder more responsibilities and play a bigger role in the Mayors' Visiting Program, according to the Mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng, during the Welcome Reception of the Fourth round Mayors' Visiting Program last Friday.

"Zhuhai has pledged to act on the instruction to leverage the advantage of the Zhuhai-Macau cooperation, so as to better serve the trilateral cooperation among mainland cities, Macau and neighboring countries. Zhuhai will make continued efforts to assist Macau in integrating into the national development, maintaining long-term stability and prosperity, and jointly participating the Belt and Road initiative," said Yao.

In Yao's words, the Mayors' Visiting Program is becoming "more and more meaningful," as the report of the 19th CPC National Congress released last October announced that China will "never close its door and it will only open wider and wider."



The Mayor of Zhuhai, Yao Yisheng (right) and other officials pictured at a reception for the event

"The Mayors' Visiting Program is a response to the call of openness in the new era and an important step to implement the spirit of Xi's speech so as to accelerate the Belt and Road initiative and open the door wider to the world," said Yao, who believes that the Mayors' Visiting Program is becoming more and more influential.

"Mainland cities attending the event, Hangzhou, Harbin, Xiamen, Sanya and Yangzhou, all feature developed economies, beautiful environments and unique advantages, making good complementarities [partners]

and enjoying broad prospects of cooperation with Macau and neighboring countries in various fields," said Yao.

The Zhuhai Mayor remarked that China has entered into a new era by upgrading all of its infrastructure on the mainland.

"With the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area shaping up and the bridge linking Hong Kong, Macau, and Zhuhai opening to traffic, we are facing greater opportunities for cooperation," said Yao.

Regarding the "Mayors' Visiting Program," Yao believes that it has "vigorously promoted connectivity in policy, infrastructure construction, trade, capital and people-to-people exchanges, setting an example for regional win-win cooperation."

'MAYORS' VISITING PROGRAM' CONCLUDES

THE FOURTH edition of the "Mayors' Visiting Program" involved civic leaders from 14 neighboring countries – Laos, South Korea, Papua New Guinea, Vietnam, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, Nepal, Pakistan, Thailand, Russia, Brunei and the Philippines – and from six cities on the mainland. The Program was

co-organized by the local government and the Office of the Commissioner of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the People's Republic of China in the MSAR. It took place in Macau from April 19 to 21, and involved meetings with several local departments, including the Cultural Affairs Bureau and the Trade and Investment Promotion Institute.

Knife attack injures Philippine national

A Philippine national sustained serious injuries in a knife attack in the early hours of yesterday morning, public broadcaster TDM is reporting. Citing the police, TDM said that the attack occurred after the victim and the suspect, who is believed to be of South Asian, possibly Indian, ethnicity, broke into an argument in a public space in central Macau. The Philippine national was with his friends in a public space on Rua da Barca at about midnight when the argument broke out. TDM said that witnesses to the attack said that the South Asian suspect drew a knife and assaulted the victim before fleeing toward Estrada de Adolfo Loureiro. The police said that the victim was transported to the public hospital for treatment, while the suspect has been arrested.

Inner Harbor Health Center reconstruction planned

The Health Center of the Inner Harbor will be reconstructed, according to a statement released by the Health Bureau (SSM). However, the reconstruction will only be initiated after the Community Services Municipal Complex of Praia do Manduco is put into operation. The Inner Harbor Health Center has been used for more than 20 years. The SSM noted that all sorts of medical facilities of the center are old and that last year's Typhoon Hato caused the facilities to deteriorate. In addition, the SSM deems the center's current medical facilities and space to be unable to meet the medical service demands of the neighboring communities.

Taxis suggested to not accept nightclub rebates

The president of the Macau Taxi Drivers Mutual Association, Tony Kuok, has suggested that the government should establish a taxi service quality supervision committee in order to allow the taxi industry to participate in appeals regarding taxi services. Kuok also expressed his opposition to nightclubs giving rebates to taxi drivers, noting that it might violate the city's laws. He suggested the government should effectively ban these actions.

ENTERTAINMENT

Joie De Vivre Festival kicks off at The Parisian

THE French-themed Joie De Vivre Festival, a celebration of French food, wine and entertainment, is taking place at The Parisian Macao Eiffel Tower's Observation Deck (Level 7), until June 30.

Featuring an al fresco dining festival open for afternoon tea, early-evening drinks and dinner, all under the Eiffel Tower, the Joie De Vivre Festival allows visitors to experience a crafted selection of French cuisine.

Speaking at the opening night on Thursday, Ruth Boston, senior vice president, Marketing and Brand Management of Sands China Ltd. said: "We're really excited about this French-themed outdoor dining festival being held at our spectacular Eiffel Tower for the first time."

"Visitors can enjoy a genuine taste of Parisian café culture. [...] There is a feast of gastronomic delights for festival goers, both tourists and locals, to choose from, accompanied by exciting live performances," she added.



The festival's food section will feature delicacies including French oysters, Provençal favorites fresh off the BBQ, seafood brochettes (skewers) with rouille Provençal sauce, lamb cutlets and grilled octopus, and its signature Parisian waffles.

The festival is being held alongside Le French Gour-May, which is another celebration of French cuisine and wine that takes place in Macau and Hong Kong.

As part of the event, the integrated resort's Brasserie and Le Buffet restaurants are presenting southern

France cuisine.

To offer guests the chance to discover the cuisine of the second most visited region of France, which spans from the southern Rhône Valley to the Mediterranean coastline, The Parisian Macao has curated an array of food, wine and entertainment.

To complete the Parisian picture, La Parisienne Cabaret Francais is also in full swing at the integrated resort, featuring acrobatics, comedy and dancers.

The show will run at The Parisian Theater until June 17. LV

Edgar Martins recognized in photography awards

EDGAR Martins, a Portuguese photographer who was raised in Macau, is among the winners of this year's Sony World Photography Awards. Martins was awarded first place in the Still Life category for his series, "Siloquies and Soliloquies on Death, Life and Other Interludes", which depicts forensic evidence of objects used in suicides and crimes, such as suicide notes.

According to the series description on the Sony World Photography Awards website, "the work highlights the decisive but paradoxical role that photography has played in the perception and intelligibility of both suicide and death." Martins was also shortlisted for a photograph in other category, taken from his series, "The Poetic Impossibility of Managing the Machine".

Born in Évora, Portugal in 1977, Martins spent his formative years in Macau. He moved to the United Kingdom in 1996, where he studied at the Royal College of Art.

According to organizers of the annual competition, the objective of the Sony World Photography Awards is to establish a platform for the continuous development of photographic culture.

EDUCATION

UM to use data collection to boost student performance

Renato Marques

THE University of Macau (UM) presented its plan yesterday to develop its campus in Hengqin into a "Smart Campus," by making use of mobile data collection and student-teacher interactive tools. The aim is to increase student performance and to transform their creative ideas into business opportunities, the Rector of the University, Yonghua Song, said during the opening ceremony of UM's "Open Day 2018," held yesterday morning at the UM Campus.

Ivy Lao, who is from UM's Information and Communication Technology Office, spoke in greater detail on how the system would create a Smart Campus.

Lao explained that the new system, which would operate through the students' personal WeChat accounts, can act as interactive tools between the students and the teachers and the different applications can also facilitate guidance within the campus, both on and offline.

The system was tested by an audience that was invited to res-



pond either "Yes or No" to a simple question that popped-up on their phones, and the results were shown immediately on the projection screen.

According to Lao, the system can be used for several purposes such as gathering student responses in Massive Open Online Courses (MOOC), preparing classes in advance by providing students access to teaching materials, online resources and topics, as well as using mobile phones "after the classes on offline mode for interaction between the students and the teachers so as to clarify doubts and get feedback."

For the time being, "the system is already in use for the teachers to collect feedback from the students [on] if they have understood the contents of the class" through simple "Yes or No Questionnaires" in order to "monitor their learning process."

In addition, the same system can be applied to monitor other aspects of campus life, such as energy spending, and can be used to enhance services on the campus as well as for booking sports venues and using other different services.

"In the future we will encourage students to use the app to give feedback to the teacher and [express

their] personal opinions. We will also encourage students to write [submit] proposals to the university so we can study what more we can do. We have already collected some proposals for study and we have created the Institute of Collaborative Innovation in order to consolidate all the proposals and study their feasibility," Lao noted, referencing the institute that was created last year with the purpose on providing support for the development of different projects proposed by the students.

Questioned by the Times on the sidelines of the event, the vice rec-

tor for Academic Affairs, Lionel Ni, advanced on the number of projects received saying, "the first batch [of the projects in study] are 24, coming from a total of 45 applications which screen-passed and resulted in the final 24 that have a very good chance to get funded."

"Some are related to e-Campus or Smart City [but there are also] others related to Chinese [Traditional] Medicine and to Energy Saving. There are many different ideas that show the creativity of the students."

Ni noted that the ideas need to be able to break the barriers of the University and of Macau, stating that "to make money [these ideas] need to apply to all cities, not just our city, that is too small, what we are doing [internally] is a 'try out' to see if it works and if it would be able to be applied to other cities and other places in the world [in order to be profitable]."

OPEN DAY ATTRACTS OVER 10,000 PEOPLE

THE UNIVERSITY of Macau's Open Day, which attracted over 10,000 members of the public, according to a statement issued by the university. During the Open Day, different faculties and residential colleges held various activities that were both fun and educational. In addition to booth games and family-friendly games, such as eSports and traditional sports

competitions, there was also a parade by international students, an international food festival, and musical performances by university teams on different locations of the campus. Some visitors learned more about the UM campus and UM students' stories through the campus tours, which included different routes and were guided by the PR Student Ambassadors.

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PokerStars owner to buy Sky Betting in USD4.7 billion deal

Benjamin Katz, Sandrine Rastello and Saijel Kishan

POKER giant Stars Group Inc. agreed to buy Sky Betting & Gaming in a deal valued at USD4.7 billion, moving deeper into sports betting to create the biggest publicly listed online gambling company.

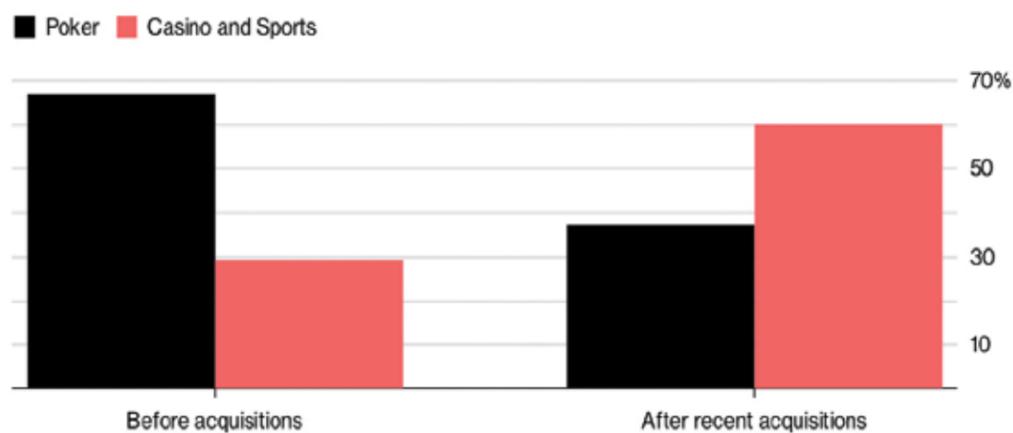
Toronto-based Stars Group will pay cash and stock to owners CVC Capital Partners and Sky Plc, it said Saturday in a statement. The operator of PokerStars estimates it would get about a third of its revenue from sports, the fastest-growing online gaming segment, including recent acquisitions in Australia.

"Sky Betting & Gaming's premier sports betting product is the ideal complement to our industry-leading poker platform," Chief Executive Officer Rafi Ashkenazi said in the statement, calling the acquisition "a landmark moment" for Stars Group.

The agreement calls on Stars Group to pay \$3.6 billion and approximately 37.9 million newly issued common shares based on the closing price of its common stock on April 20. Stars Group said it has obtained debt financing of approximately \$6.9 billion, including \$5.1 billion of first lien term loans, \$1.4 billion of senior unsecured notes and a \$400 million revolving credit facility. The proceeds will be used for the cash portion of the deal, as well as to refinance the company's existing first lien term loan and repay SBG's outstanding debt, it said.

From Poker King to Gaming Giant

Stars Group's M&A push decreases reliance on poker



Note: as a percentage of revenue, 2017 and 2017 if recent acquisitions were included
Source: Stars Group

Bloomberg

After its failed attempt to take control of Sky-rival William Hill Plc, Stars Group is gaining a significant foothold in the U.K. - the largest regulated gaming market - and a trove of potential new customers for its online casino and poker offerings. The acquisition also helps accelerate Ashkenazi's strategy to decrease reliance on the unstable poker business, which accounted for two-thirds of revenue last year.

"The strategic fit is very good, the valuation is reasonable for a fast-growing company," said Simon Davies, an analyst at Canaccord Genuity in London. "And the combined company will be better placed to exploit the opening of the U.S. sports-betting market."

Betting on sports in some form is legal in four U.S. states. That could change as the U.S. Supreme Court weighs New Jersey's attempt to have a 1992 law banning

sports betting struck down as unconstitutional. If the court agrees, it could trigger a wave of states legalizing betting on football, basketball and other competitions.

Private equity firm CVC agreed to acquire a controlling stake in Sky Betting from Rupert Murdoch's Sky in 2014. Canaccord's Davies says the betting company, which gets more than 80 percent of its revenue from mobile devices, "has performed spectacularly" despite concerns of a tighter regulatory environment in the U.K.

The deal will also bring Sky a cash infusion as it is targeted for takeover by both 21st Century Fox Inc. and Comcast Corp. While Fox awaits a U.K. regulatory decision on its bid, Comcast is preparing to formalize its own offer after making a preliminary one at a premium to Fox's, setting the stage for a bidding war.

The agreement follows a move last month by Stars Group to take a bigger slice of Australia's CrownBet Holdings Ltd., which subsequently bought the Australian unit of William Hill.

Ashkenazi signaled last year that he'd be on the hunt for targets after focusing on paying down debt from the 2014, \$4.9 billion acquisition of PokerStars that made the company, then called Amaya, the world's largest online poker business. Ashkenazi took over the top job from founder David Baazov - who resigned in August 2016 to fight insider-trading charges - and built up a new management team.

Morgan Stanley and PJT Partners Inc. acted as financial advisers to Stars Group, while Deutsche Bank AG, Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Macquarie Group Ltd. and Morgan Stanley provided the committed debt financing. **Bloomberg**

Bordeaux vineyards are finding buyers from China, Australia

TWO vineyard transactions in Bordeaux in the past month signal interest from overseas buyers in the region's wine labels and production potential, amid a run of improved vintages since 2014.

Chateau Vieux Paquillon, an AOC Montagne Saint Emilion estate with 12.6 hectares of land, of which 9.9 hectares is planted with vines, was sold to an unidentified Australian investor at close to the asking price of 2.12 million euros (USD2.6 million), said Michael Baynes of Vineyards-Bordeaux, part of Christie's International Real Estate, which handled the transaction. The price per hectare of vines, excluding other assets such as buildings and equipment, was about 120,000 euros, he said in an email.

The seller was Andre Benoist, who also owns Chateau La Bergere in the same appellation of Montagne Saint Emilion. He bought Vieux Paquillon in 2004 and has restored the property. The new owner intends to sell the wine in Australia as well as through existing distribution channels, Vineyards-Bordeaux said.

The transaction followed the purchase of Chateau de Lagorce, an AOC Bordeaux estate in the Entre-Deux-Mers region, by Chinese wine company SCEA Degore earlier this month. That estate was sold by Benjamin Mazeau, who in 1985 inherited the property that has been in his family since 1928.

Chateau de Lagorce has 68.7 hectares of land, of which 43.3 hectares has vines in production. A sale price wasn't disclosed. Degore said it planned to sell the wines in China as well as to existing clients.

The Vieux Paquillon sale "represents the fourth vineyard transaction of 2018 for Vineyards-Bordeaux," Baynes said, adding that French and international investors remain "confident in the Bordeaux vineyard market." **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS SCHEDULED TO TRAIN 3,000 GAMING EMPLOYEES

Sands China's Professionalism Training for Gaming Practitioners programme has trained over 1,500 team members to date, and will be further training another 3,000 team members in the next two years.

Co-organized by the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), the Macau Federation of Trade Unions (FAOM) and Sands China Ltd., the programme was launched in July 2016 and was the first course of its kind in Macau for gaming employees.

"With a goal of training 7,500 team members during

the first five years of the programme, we're also glad to see the programme expanding to non-gaming departments," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd, as cited in a statement.

Programme participants attend 14 hours of training during the course, which consists of two full days in classes of 35 team members.

The coursework covers an overview of the gaming industry, civic education, occupational professionalism and responsible gaming.



MELCO PURCHASES 20 ELECTRIC BUSES

Melco announced the purchase of 20 electric buses last week which will service passengers going to, from and between its integrated resort properties, City of Dreams, Studio City and Altira Macau.

The zero-emission fleet includes 18 tour coaches and two public bus style vehicles, and is scheduled to begin operations in May 2018, the gaming operator noted in a statement.

Initial plans will have these e-buses operating at the Macau border gate

and along the Macau Ferry route.

Akiko Takahashi, executive vice president and chief officer of the Human Resources and Corporate Social Responsibility department of Melco Resorts & Entertainment, said, "with the purchase and forthcoming operation of this zero-emission fleet, we hope to make the most effective use of resources and actively mitigate the impact of our operations on the environment."

Auto show highlights industry's electric ambitions

Joe McDonald

THE biggest global auto show of the year showcases China's ambitions to become a leader in electric cars and the industry's multi-billion-dollar scramble to roll out models that appeal to price-conscious but demanding Chinese drivers.

Auto China 2018, which opens this week, follows Beijing's decision to allow full foreign ownership of Chinese automakers in a move to make the industry more flexible as it promotes electrics.

The ruling Communist Party has transformed China into the biggest market for electrics with billions of dollars in subsidies to producers and buyers. Now, Beijing is winding down that support and shifting the financial burden to automakers with sales quotas that push them to develop models Chinese drivers want to buy.

That is reflected in the auto show lineup: Global and Chinese brands including General Motors Co., Volkswagen AG and Nissan Motor Co. plan to display dozens of electrics and hybrids, from luxurious SUVs to compacts priced as low as 152,000 yuan (USD24,000).

Communist leaders see electric cars as both a way to clean up smog-choked cities and a key ingredient in plans to transform China into a global competitor in an array of technology fields from robotics to solar power to biotech.

"Just in the last two or three years, China rose from being a very small player in the global EV market to be nearly 50 percent of sales in 2017," said Christopher Robinson, who follows the industry for Lux Research.

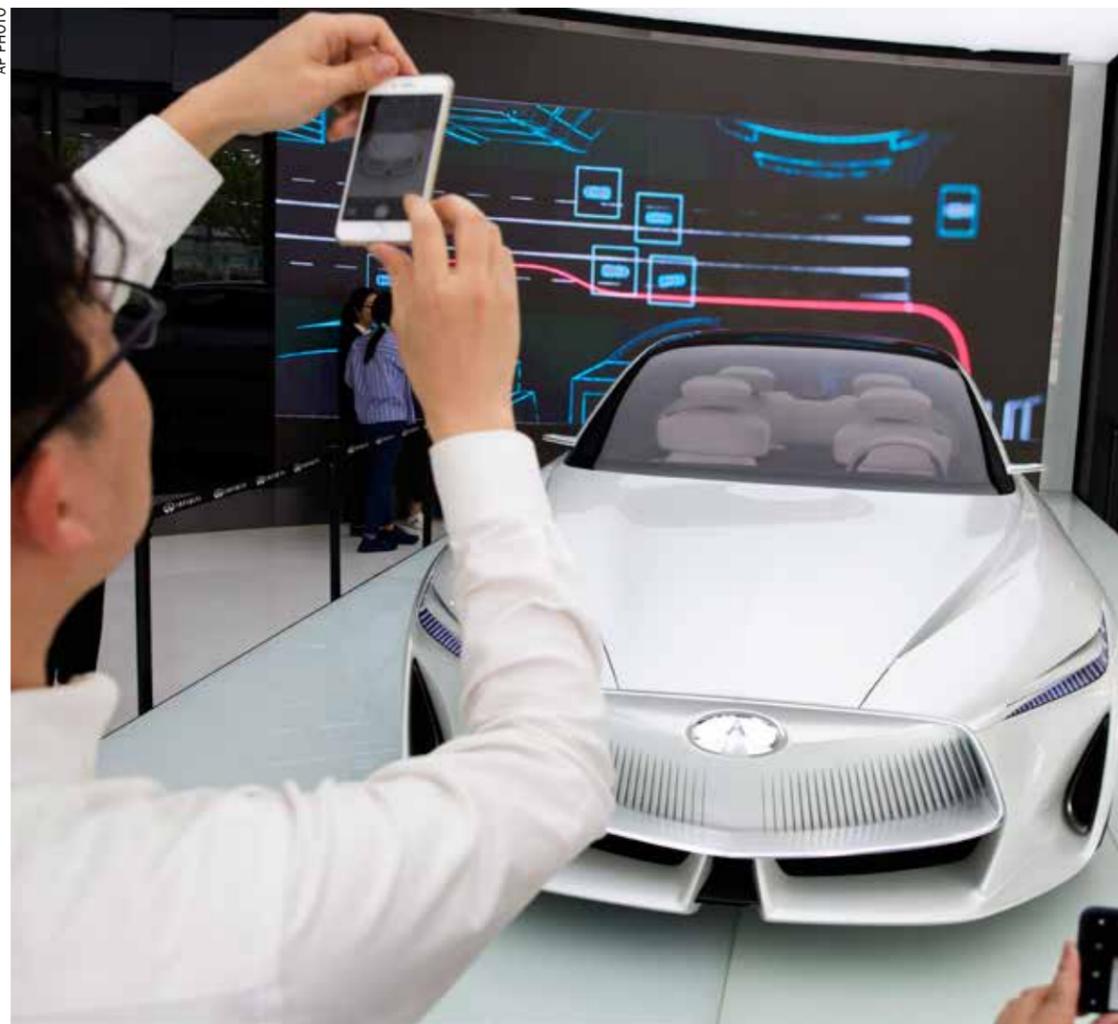
"It attracted nearly every automaker in the world," said Robinson.

Starting in 2019, automakers will be required to earn credits by selling electrics or else buy them from competitors. More stringent fuel efficiency standards will require a big share of each brand's sales to be non-gasoline models.

Global automakers say electrics should account for 35 to over 50 percent of their China sales by 2025.

"There is huge potential for vehicle electrification here," said Roland Krueger, chairman of Infiniti Motor Co., Nissan's luxury brand.

Chinese sales of electrics and gasoline-electric hybrids rose 154 percent in the first



quarter over a year earlier to 143,000 units, according to the China Association of Automobile Manufacturers. That compares with sales of just under 200,000 for all of last year in the United States, the No. 2 market.

Leaders see electric cars as both a way to clean up smog-choked cities and a key ingredient in plans to transform China into a global competitor

GM plans to display five all-electric vehicles including a concept Buick SUV it says can travel 600 kilometers (375 miles) on one charge, plus a hybrid Cadillac XT5 28E.

The Detroit automaker, which vies with VW for the status of China's biggest brand, is launching 10 electrics or hybrids in China from in 2016 to 2020.

VW is due to launch 15 electrics and hybrids in the next two to three years as part of a 10 billion euro (\$12 billion) development plan announced in November.

Nissan is unveiling an electric model at the auto show designed for China and will display an updated version of its Leaf and an electric concept car.

The Japanese automaker also plans to develop a lower-priced electric with a local partner, state-owned Dongfeng Motor Co. Two more versions of that are to be sold under their jointly owned Venucia brand.

China's BYD Auto, the biggest global maker of electrics by volume with 2017 sales of 113,669 units, plans to unveil two new hybrid SUVs and an electric concept car. The company also plans to display nine other hybrid and plug-in electric models.

Infiniti plans to display a concept sedan, the Q Inspiration, that Krueger said will be the basis for future electric models.

The sleek Q Inspiration has no air-drawing engine, and thus no front grill — a change Krueger said was suggested by Chinese designers at Infiniti's Beijing studio.

The car has the roomier back seat that has become standard among luxury brands

that want to appeal to Chinese customers who have a driver and ride in back.

"The first car is going to cater specifically to the needs of the Chinese market," said Krueger.

Ford Motor Co. has announced a "product onslaught" this month for China that includes at least 15 electrified vehicles and 35 other models through 2025. Ford's first plug-in hybrid in China, the Mondeo Energi, went on sale last month.

Washington and other trading partners have been irked by the Chinese controls that required global automakers to work through state-owned local partners and imposed other restrictions.

Automakers complained joint ventures were cumbersome and expensive but complied because they gained access to a market that passed the United States in 2009 as the world's biggest.

Last year's sales of SUVs, sedans and minivans totaled 24.7 million units, compared with 17.2 million for the United States.

The Cabinet's planning agency announced last week Beijing will loosen those controls by allowing full foreign ownership in the industry, starting with electric vehicle producers this year. Limits for commercial vehicles would end in 2020 and for all passenger vehicles in 2022.

That would end a 50 percent cap on foreign ownership of an auto venture, a limit that required automakers to share technology with potential competitors, adding to President Donald Trump's trade complaints against Beijing.

"Now you're going to see the difference between the partners that you want and partners imposed on you," said Carlos Ghosn, chairman of the Renault-Nissan-Mitsubishi alliance.

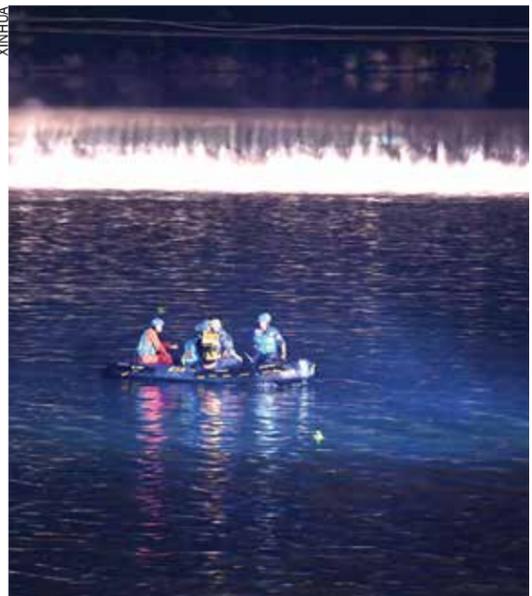
Ghosn said his companies were happy with their Chinese partners. But he said with electrics, autonomous driving and other innovations give companies a new chance to consider a partnership or work independently.

"Every time there is a new opportunity we're going to consider, should we go with a partner? What are the advantages? Or should we go by ourselves?" said Ghosn. "This is a new freedom for carmakers, which is welcome."

Still, while electrics may be China's future, most brands lose money making them. Profits come from sales of SUVs that are wildly popular with Chinese drivers who see them as the safest option on the country's rough, chaotic roads.

First-quarter SUVs sales rose 11.3 percent over a year earlier to 2.6 million, or almost 45 percent of all auto sales, according to CAAM. Electrics accounted for just over 2 percent. **AP**





Rescuers search for missing boaters on the Taohua River in Guilin

17 killed as two dragon boats capsize in Guilin

SEVENTEEN people were killed after two dragon boats capsized in southern China, authorities said yesterday.

The boats were practicing Saturday for a race in the Taohua River in the city of Guilin when the accident happened, said the fire department of the city of Guilin, capital of Guangxi region.

It was not immediately clear what caused the boats to capsize. The fire department said on its

Two organizers of the practice were detained

official account on the social media site Sina Weibo that search efforts ended late Saturday and 17 people had been confirmed dead. A total of 60 people fell into the water.

The official Xinhua News Agen-

cy said eight boats and over 200 people had been deployed to the rescue.

Two organizers of the practice, from the village of Dunmu, were detained, Xinhua said.

China has sought to step up safety surrounding nationwide dragon boat racing during the Duanwu festival, which falls near the summer solstice and commemorates the death of the poet and minister Qu Yuan in the third century B.C. **AP**

HONG KONG

Home owners now a minority as prices keep on rising

Eric Lam

FOR the first time in almost two decades, home owners are in the minority in Hong Kong, underlining the city's status as the world's least affordable property market.

Only 49.2 percent of domestic households in Hong Kong were owner of the quarters they occupied as of the end of 2017, the lowest since 1999, according to data released by the Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department last week. The value peaked at 54.3 percent in 2004.

Hong Kong's property prices have tripled since 1999, thanks to abundant liquidity and limited supply of apartments, according to the Centaline Property Centa-City Leading Index. The city was



named the least affordable real estate market in the world for an eighth year by Demographia, an urban planning policy consultancy, beating almost 300 metropolitan housing markets across nine countries.

By comparison, the household home-ownership rate in the greater New

York area was 49.9 percent on average in 2017, according to U.S. Census Bureau data. In Singapore, where the public can obtain government housing, the rate exceeds 90 percent.

Hong Kong Chief Executive Carrie Lam has admitted that several rounds of market-coo-

ling measures have failed to work and it's impossible for the government to curb prices. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority's recent interventions to maintain the city's currency peg have reduced local liquidity and may prompt banks to finally lift mortgage rates. **Bloomberg**

ZTE says it's seeking a solution to US tech ban

ZTE Corp., one of China's biggest tech companies, said yesterday that it is taking steps to comply with a U.S. technology ban and that it is seeking a solution to the issue it says threatens its survival.

The ban on state-owned ZTE was imposed last Monday in a case involving exports of telecoms equipment to Iran and North Korea. U.S. companies are barred from selling technology to ZTE for seven years.

The penalty comes as tensions mount between Beijing and President Donald Trump over technology policy, though the case dates to before Trump took office in January 2017.

ZTE pleaded guilty in March 2017 and agreed to pay a USD1.19 billion penalty for having shipped equipment to Iran and North Korea in violation of U.S. regulations. The company promised to discipline employees involved in the scheme, but the U.S. Commerce Department said last week that they were paid bonuses instead.

The company said yesterday in a statement on the

Hong Kong Stock Exchange that since 2016, it has "learnt from its past experiences on export control compliance" and "attaches significant importance" to the work.

It described steps taken that included the setting up of a committee on compliance led directly by the chief executive officer and a team of experts as well as training for employees.

"The Company has taken and is taking steps to comply with the denial order," the statement said, referring to the ban issued by the Commerce Department. "The Company is making active communications with relevant parties and seeking a solution."

The sanctions could handicap ZTE's global business selling smartphones that use Google Inc.'s Android system and network gear for phone and internet companies that incorporates U.S. chips and other technology.

The sales ban also could disrupt a multibillion-dollar revenue flow to U.S. companies such as Qualcomm Inc. that supply chips, software and other technology. **AP**

Online retail sales grow over 34 percent in Q1



CHINA'S online retail sales maintained high-speed growth in the first quarter, official data has showed.

Online retail sales totaled RMB1.5 trillion (USD238.5 billion) in the first three months, up 34.4 percent year on year, according to Gao Feng, spokesperson for the Ministry of Commerce.

The online sales value accounted for 16.1 percent of total retail sales in the first quarter, 3.7 percentage points higher than the same period last year.

The growth rate of online retail sales was much higher than that of grocery stores, supermarkets, and shopping

malls, although retail sales at brick-and-mortar stores witnessed accelerated growth this year.

China's retail sales of consumer goods grew 9.8 percent year on year to reach RMB9 trillion in the first quarter of 2018.

The expansion increased slightly from the 9.7-percent rise seen in the first two months. In March alone, retail sales went up 10.1 percent.

Consumption has become a key economic driver for China and contributed to 77.8 percent of economic growth in the first quarter, up from 58.8 percent in 2017. **Xinhua**

Road to N. Korea's denuclearization is littered with failure

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

BILL Clinton offered oil and reactors. George W. Bush mixed threats and aid. Barack Obama stopped trying after a rocket launch.

While Seoul and Washington welcomed Pyongyang's declaration on Saturday to suspend further intercontinental ballistic missile tests and shut down its nuclear test site, the past is littered with failure.

A decades-long cycle of crises, stalemates and broken promises gave North Korea the room to build up a legitimate arsenal that now includes purported thermonuclear warheads and developmental ICBMs. The North's latest announcement stopped well short of suggesting it has any intention of giving that up.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Friday to kick off a new round of high-stakes nuclear diplomacy with Pyongyang. The inter-Korean summit could set up more substantial discussions between Kim and President Donald Trump, who said he plans to meet the despot he previously called "Little Rocket Man" in May or June.

A look at previous negotiations with North Korea and how the currently planned talks between Seoul, Pyongyang and Washington took shape:

1994

The Clinton administration in October 1994 reached a major nuclear agreement with Pyongyang, ending months of war fears triggered by North Korea's threat to withdraw from the nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and convert its stockpile of nuclear fuel into bombs.

Under the "Agreed Framework," North Korea halted construction of two reactors the United States believed were for nuclear weapons production in return for two alternative nuclear power reactors that could be used to provide electricity but not bomb fuel, and 500,000 metric tons of fuel oil annually for the North.

The deal was tested quickly. North Korea complained about delayed oil shipments and construction of the reactors, which were never delivered. The United States criticized the North's pursuit of ballistic missile capability, demonstrated in the launch of a two-stage rocket over Japan in 1998.

The Agreed Framework fur-



Kim Yo Jong (left), sister of Kim Jong Un, shakes hands with Moon Jae-in at the opening ceremony of the 2018 Winter Olympics

ther lost political support in Washington with the inauguration of Bush, who in his first State of the Union address in January 2002 grouped North Korea with Iran and Iraq as parts of an "axis of evil."

The deal collapsed for good months later after U.S. officials confronted North Korea over a clandestine nuclear program using enriched uranium. Washington stopped the oil shipments and Pyongyang restarted its nuclear weapons program.

2005

Responding to Washington's toughened stance, North Korea announced in 2003 it obtained a nuclear device and would withdraw from the Nonproliferation Treaty.

This brought the United States back to the negotiating table with the North and the six-party talks also involving South Korea, China, Japan and Russia began in Beijing in August 2003.

After months of fiery negotiations, North Korea accepted a deal in September 2005 to end its nuclear weapons program in exchange for security, economic and energy benefits.

But the agreement was shaky from the start as it came just days after the U.S. Treasury Department ordered American banks to sever relations with a Macau bank accused of helping North Korea to launder money from drug trafficking and other illicit activities, which hampered Pyongyang's international financial

transactions.

Disagreements between Washington and Pyongyang over the financial punishment of Banco Delta Asia temporarily derailed the six-nation talks. In October 2006, the North went on to conduct its first nuclear test detonation.

South Korean President Moon Jae-in meets with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Friday

2007

North Korea agreed to resume the disarmament talks a few weeks after the nuclear test. In February 2007, the United States and the four other nations reached an agreement to provide North Korea with an aid package worth about USD400 million in return for the North disabling its nuclear facilities and re-allowing international inspectors into the country.

North Korea demolished the cooling tower at its Nyonbyon reactor site in June 2008. But in September, the North declared it will resume reprocessing plutonium, complaining that Washington wasn't fulfilling its promise to remove the country from the U.S. list of state sponsors of

terrorism.

The Bush administration removed North Korea from the list in October after the country agreed to continue disabling its nuclear plant. However, a final attempt by Bush to complete an agreement to fully dismantle North Korea's nuclear weapons program collapsed in December when the North refused to accept U.S.-proposed verification methods.

The six-nation talks have stalled since then. The North conducted its second nuclear test in May 2009, months after Obama took office.

2012

Months after taking power following the death of his father, current North Korean leader Kim reached a deal with the Obama administration in February 2012 to suspend nuclear weapons and missile tests and uranium enrichment and to also allow international inspectors to monitor its nuclear activities in exchange for U.S. food aid.

The United States killed the deal in April when the North launched a long-range rocket it claimed was built for delivering satellites. The failed launch was seen by the outside world as a prohibited test of ballistic missile technology.

The North criticized the United States of "overreacting" and launched another long-range rocket in December it said successfully delivered a satellite into space.

In 2013, Kim announced that

his government would pursue a national "byungjin" policy aimed at simultaneously seeking nuclear development and economic growth. This was seen as a clean break from the North's previous stance that mainly used the nuclear program as a bargaining chip to extract concessions from foreign governments, rather than for immediate military purposes.

2018

North Korea's abrupt diplomatic outreach in recent months comes after a flurry of weapons tests that marked 2017, including the underground detonation of an alleged thermonuclear warhead and three launches of developmental ICBMs designed to strike the U.S. mainland.

Inter-Korean dialogue resumed after Kim in his New Year's speech proposed talks with the South to reduce animosities and for the North to participate in February's Winter Olympics in Pyongchang. North Korea sent hundreds of people to the games, including Kim's sister, who expressed her brother's desire to meet with Moon for a summit. South Korean officials later brokered a potential summit between Kim and Trump.

While South Korean and U.S. officials have said Kim is likely trying to save his broken economy from heavy sanctions, some analysts see him as entering the negotiations from a position of strength after having declared his nuclear force as complete in November last year.

Seoul has said Kim expressed genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons. But North Korea for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its troops from the peninsula and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan.

Some experts say Kim's nuclear program is now too advanced to realistically expect a roll back to near zero.

"Kim will not offer CVID at the door," said Koh Yu-hwan, a North Korea expert at Seoul's Dongguk University who's advising Moon on his summit with Kim. He was referring to an abbreviation for the "complete, verifiable and irreversible dismantlement" of the North's nuclear weapons program.

"Everything depends on whether Trump can accept a deal that puts out the 'early fire' — taking away the North's ICBMs and freezing and closing its known nuclear and missile production facilities — and leave the rest for future negotiations," Koh said. **AP**

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIA

Security beefed up after Palestinian gunned down

MALAYSIAN police said yesterday that an investigation was underway into the gunning down of a Palestinian man a day earlier and gave assurances that security was being beefed up in the country following recent high-profile assassinations.

Gaza's ruling Hamas militant group said Fadi al-Batsh was an important member of the group and accused Israel of being behind his killing early Saturday in Kuala Lumpur.

His death comes just over a year after the brazen assassination of the estranged half brother of North Korean leader Kim Jong Un at Kuala Lumpur's international airport. Two Southeast Asian women have pleaded not guilty to killing Kim Jong Nam by smearing a nerve agent on his face in a plot that prosecutors say was masterminded by North Korean agents.

Malaysia's national police chief, Mohamad Fuzi Harun, said yesterday that security has been beefed up and an investigation is underway to determine the motive behind al-Batsh's killing.

"This is an unfortunate incident that we would like to have avoided, but it has happened," Fuzi said at a news conference. "I give an assurance that we will do our best to improve the level of security, especially in Kuala Lumpur."



Relatives sit up a photo while masked militants from the Izzedine al-Qassam Brigades, a military wing of Hamas, receive condolences at the house mourning of engineer Fadi al-Batsh

Malaysian police say the 34-year-old al-Batsh was gunned down by two assailants who shot at least eight bullets from a motorbike as he was heading to a mosque for dawn prayers in Kuala Lumpur. It said closed-

circuit television footage showed him targeted by assassins who had waited for him for almost 20 minutes.

Hamas initially stopped short of blaming Israel, saying only that he had been "assassinated by the hand of treachery." But la-

ter its top leader accused Israel's Mossad spy agency intelligence of killing him and threatened retaliation.

The Israeli government had no comment. But Israel has a long history of suspected targeting of wanted Palestinian militants in

daring overseas operations around the globe and has been linked to other assassinations as well, though it has rarely publicly acknowledged them.

Fuzi said al-Batsh had lived in Malaysia for more than seven years and was a permanent resident of the country.

He had a degree in electrical engineering and lectured at a local university, according to Fuzi, who said he could not confirm reports that al-Batsh was an expert in rocket making.

He said al-Batsh, who traveled locally and abroad to speak on Palestinian issues, was due to fly to Turkey for a conference when he was killed.

Fuzi said witness accounts showed that the assailants had European features, but that it was premature to confirm whether foreign agents were involved in the killing.

The nongovernmental group Humanitarian Care Malaysia said it had engaged al-Batsh as an imam for the past few years to raise awareness on Palestinian issues in Malaysia. **AP**

INDIA

Police say 14 Maoist rebels killed in raid

GOVERNMENT forces killed at least 14 Maoist rebels during a raid on their hideout yesterday in a forested area in western India, police said.

The fighting began after police commandos raided the rebels' hideout deep in a forested area in Gadchiori district in Maharashtra state, said police officer Prashant Diwate.

Diwate said exchange of gunfire between the rebels and troops lasted about half an hour. He said police were searching the area for more possible bodies.

He said police suffered no casualties.

The Maoist rebels, who claim inspiration from Chinese revolutionary leader Mao Zedong, have been fighting the Indian government for more than four decades, demanding land and jobs for tenant farmers and the poor.

The rebels, also known as Naxalites, have ambushed police, destroyed govern-



In this April 13, 2007 file photo, Maoist rebels or Naxalites, raise their arms during an exercise at a temporary base in the Abujh Marh forest

ment offices and abducted government officials for decades in their fight against the Indian government. They have blown up train tracks, attacked prisons to free their comrades and stolen weapons from police and paramilitary warehouses.

The insurgency began in 1967 as a network of left-wing ideologues and young recruits in the village of

Naxalbari outside Kolkata, the capital of West Bengal state.

In their deadliest attack, rebels in 2010 killed 76 soldiers in Chhattisgarh, one of the most-affected states.

The government has called the rebels India's biggest internal security threat. With thousands of fighters, the rebels control vast swaths of area in the country. **AP**

JAPAN

World's oldest person dies at age of 117

THE world's oldest person, a 117-year-old Japanese woman, has died.

Nabi Tajima died of old age in a hospital Saturday evening in the town of Kikai in southern Japan, town official Susumu Yoshiyuki confirmed. She had been hospitalized since January.

Tajima, born on Aug. 4, 1900, was the last known person born in the 19th century. She raised seven sons and two daughters and reportedly had more than 160 descendants, including great-great-grandchildren. Her town of Kikai is a small island of about 7,000 people halfway between Okinawa and Kyushu, the southernmost of Japan's four main islands.

She became the



Nabi Tajima

world's oldest person seven months ago after the death in September of Violet Brown in Jamaica, also at the age of 117. Video shown on Japanese television showed Tajima moving her hands to the beat of music played on traditional Japanese instruments at a ceremony to mark the achievement.

The U.S.-based Gerontology Research Group says that another Japanese wo-

man, Chiyo Miyako, is now the world's oldest person in its records. Miyako lives south of Tokyo in Kanagawa prefecture, and is due to turn 117 in 10 days.

Guinness World Records certified 112-year-old Masazo Nonaka of northern Japan as the world's oldest man earlier this month, and was planning to recognize Tajima as the world's oldest person. **AP**

Luis Manuel Galeano, Managua

NICARAGUAN President Daniel Ortega said Saturday that his government is willing to enter into talks over social security reforms that have sparked four days of protests and clashes in which, rights monitors say, at least 25 people have died. A journalist covering the unrest was also killed.

In a nationally televised address, his first public appearance since the demonstrations began Wednesday, Ortega said he is open to negotiations so that there is “no more terror for Nicaraguan families.”

But he said the dialogue would be just with business leaders and not with other sectors of society. He also seemed to try to justify what has been a heavy-handed response by the government and allied groups, accusing demonstrators, most of them university students, of being manipulated by unspecified “minority” political interests and of being infiltrated by gangsters.

“What is happening in our country has no name. The kids do not even know the party that is manipulating them. [...] Gang members are being brought into the kids’ protests and are criminalizing the protests. That is why they are put at risk,” Ortega said.

Those remarks appeared to fan the flames, as soon afterward thousands of people spilled back into the streets in seven cities including the capital, Managua, after tensions had calmed somewhat Friday night.

“We are in the streets asking for Ortega and his wife to go. This has already gone beyond the social security issue. Here there have been dead, wounded, and he does not even apologize for his killings or the savage repression against



NICARAGUA

Ortega agrees to talk as deadly protests rage on

the people,” said Mauri Hernandez, one of thousands of demonstrators at a central roundabout.

On Friday night Vice President, first lady and government spokeswoman Rosario Murillo said nine people had been confirmed dead in the clashes, though the human rights group Cenidh said Saturday it had counted at least 25 deaths nationwide.

Minutes later, news emerged that journalist Angel Gahona of the news show Meridiano was killed while covering unrest in the southeastern city of Bluefields. The AP viewed video from when he was broad-

casting live on Facebook via cellphone showing damage to an ATM at the entrance to city hall as riot police advance up a darkened street. A gunshot is heard, the phone falls and a several voices scream his name.

A separate video of the incident circulating on social media, taken from behind Gahona, shows him approaching the ATM. After the shot, he slumps to the ground with blood streaming from his head. Someone presses a piece of cloth to try to staunch the bleeding.

Another Bluefields reporter, Ileana Lacayo, said he died en-

route to the hospital.

A prominent business chamber issued a statement conditioning its talks with Ortega on an end to repression, the freeing of detained protesters and respect for freedom of expression as the authorities have kept off the air one private news channel that is covering the protests.

“We cannot go into a dialogue if these minimal conditions are not met,” it said.

There were more clashes at the Polytechnical University of Nicaragua, one of the strongest bastions of the protesters. “We stand firm. They will not wear us out. Here we will

give our all until the government understands that it will not continue to do whatever it pleases,” Lombardo Ruiz Picado, a leader of the student protesters, told The Associated Press by phone from inside the school.

In the morning, army troops were deployed to Esteli, a city north of Managua that has been a main flashpoint of the demonstrations, to help police repel protesters.

“Gang members are being brought into the kids’ protests and are criminalizing the protests.”

DANIEL ORTEGA

State-affiliated media showed images of armed soldiers patrolling the city center and said they were safeguarding strategic concerns after fires at several public buildings.

The Roman Catholic Conference of Bishops in Nicaragua condemned repression against protesters and urged the government to listen to them and drop the social security reforms.

“A unilateral decision always brings with it social instability. Rectifying decisions is a sign of humanity, listening is the path of reason, seeking peace at all cost is wisdom,” the conference said in a statement.

The reforms, issued by decree, increase income and payroll taxes and make changes to pensions to try to shore up Nicaragua’s troubled social security system. **AP**

FRANCE

Tourists at iconic abbey evacuated after threat



The abbey, whose origins date to the 10th century, and surrounding sites attract several thousand tourists every day

Angela Charlton, Paris

FRENCH authorities evacuated tourists from the Mont-Saint-Michel abbey and were searching houses yesterday on the famed outcropping in the English Channel for a visitor who apparently threatened to attack security services.

Details of the threat were unclear, but the national gendarme service said authorities ordered the evacuation of one of France’s most-visited tourist sites

as a precaution.

A police helicopter circled over the peninsula, notably famous for being isolated by high tides, and the surrounding region. A shuttle service official told The Associated Press that large crowds are being evacuated or turned away but the mood is calm.

The abbey, whose origins date to the 10th century, and surrounding sites attract several thousand tourists every day, year-round.

There was contradic-

tory information about the circumstances of the threat. An official with the national gendarme service said the man made the threat yesterday on one of the shuttles serving the site.

The head of the regional administration, Jean-Marc Sabathe, told broadcaster Franceinfo that the man made the threat when he was trying to stage a street performance and got in an argument with a cafe worker. He said the man was caught

on video surveillance cameras.

“I am ordering house-by-house searches to verify if the individual is still on Mont-Saint-Michel. It’s possible that the individual left the Mont with the flux of tourists,” Sabathe said.

Hotels on the Mont were being evacuated, but its few permanent residents were being told to stay indoors, the site’s administrator, Xavier Bailly, told broadcaster France-Bleu from his home. **AP**

GREECE

Centeno says sides closer as creditors mull debt relief

Viktoria Dendrinou

GREECE'S creditors are getting closer on a deal to ease the country's debt burden, according to Eurogroup President Mario Centeno.

Greece's 86-billion euro (US-D106-billion) bailout program is set to run out in August, and creditors are working on finding a compromise on debt repayments that would help to manage the country's financing needs after it stops receiving international aid. A debt deal would also allow the International Monetary Fund to participate in the current bailout.

"The positions today are much closer than they used to be before," Centeno, who is Portugal's finance minister and chairs the meetings of his euro-area counterparts, said in an interview in Washington. "We still have a final mile to go but there is a positive sentiment around the table so I think that reflects a true willingness to be part of the program."



Eurogroup President Mario Centeno

Further easing Greek debt is a key precondition for the Washington-based IMF before it can participate in the country's program. While the IMF has co-financed Greece's first two bailouts it hasn't yet activated its third one, arguing the euro area must arrange for more debt sustainability. But the participation of the fund, even a few months before the

end of the bailout, is important for some countries including Germany, who see the IMF coming on board as a seal of approval that will offer credibility to the bailout. A "committed presence" by the IMF will also help with market confidence, Centeno said.

Talks among Greece's creditors and euro-area countries on likely debt measures have been going on at a technical level for months. That includes a proposal to link debt repayments to economic growth, so the country can pay back more if it is doing well, and less if it isn't. The aim is to have a final agreement in the early summer, but key differences among creditors on the scope and type of debt relief persist.

The IMF would like to see wide-scale debt relief on all of Greece's euro-area loans -including those from other countries and the bloc's bailout fund. That demand is facing resistance by many European creditors who are only willing to discuss easing the terms of some loans.

Other disagreements have to do with whether the debt relief will be granted to Greece unconditionally or whether it should be tied to budget discipline and further economic reforms. The differences were discussed at a meeting of officials from Greece's key creditor countries and institutions on the sidelines of the IMF meetings in Washington this week.

In order for the IMF to have sufficient time to activate its bailout for Greece before it runs out in August, an agreement on all these parameters will likely need to be struck by the end of next month.

For Centeno, the key is that any conditions attached to debt relief come from Greece's own plans for growth. "We all want debt conditionality to be embedded in the growth strategy for Greece," he said, referring to the country's plans for the economy in its post-bailout life. "Ownership is the single word that may and should define the process in the coming months." **Bloomberg**



HERITAGE

Archaeologists find bust of Roman emperor in Egypt

EGYPT says archaeologists have discovered a bust of the Roman Emperor Marcus Aurelius in the southern city of Aswan.

The Antiquities Ministry says Sunday the head was found in the Temple of Kom Ombo during work to protect the site from groundwater.

It says archaeologists have also unearthed artifacts belongs to a shrine for the god Osiris-Ptah-Neb inside the ancient temple of Karnak in the city of Luxor.

It says the new discoveries include parts of a stone panel depicting a ram and a goose - symbols of the ancient Egyptian god Amun - on an offering table.

Egypt hopes such discoveries will spur tourism, which has suffered from political turmoil following the 2011 uprising.

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what's ON



"MY CHINESE ZODIAC" – EXHIBITION BY RAQUEL GRALHEIRO

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: May 13, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

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

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

Offbeat

MUGABE SUMMONED OVER ALLEGED DIAMOND LOOTING



A Zimbabwean parliamentary committee is summoning former leader Robert Mugabe to explain past comments on alleged diamond looting — the first time a public institution has called him to account for such claims made during his 37-year rule.

Mugabe, who resigned in November following a military intervention and extraordinary public demonstrations, has said USD15 billion worth of diamonds were looted from fields in the country's east. He later said he had no basis for that figure and spoke off the top of his head.

But parliamentary committee chairman Temba Mliswa told The Associated Press the 94-year-old still should appear on May 9 to explain his comments. Parliament "very soon" will dispatch an official letter for Mugabe to appear, Mliswa said.

It was not clear whether Mugabe, who has lived quietly in the capital since his resignation, will agree to show up.

The allegations of diamond looting have been a source of anger in the once-prosperous southern African country whose economy collapsed under Mugabe's long rule. Non-governmental organizations such as Global Witness have accused government and security agencies of both looting and human rights abuses.

Zimbabwe security agencies, including the military and police, were involved in the mining in partnership with Chinese firms until the government cancelled all diamond mining licenses in the region in 2016, making way for a monopoly by a government-owned firm.

The parliamentary committee also has asked former Vice President Joice Mujuru to provide evidence. Former and serving top police officers, government officials and mining executives already have appeared before the committee.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

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

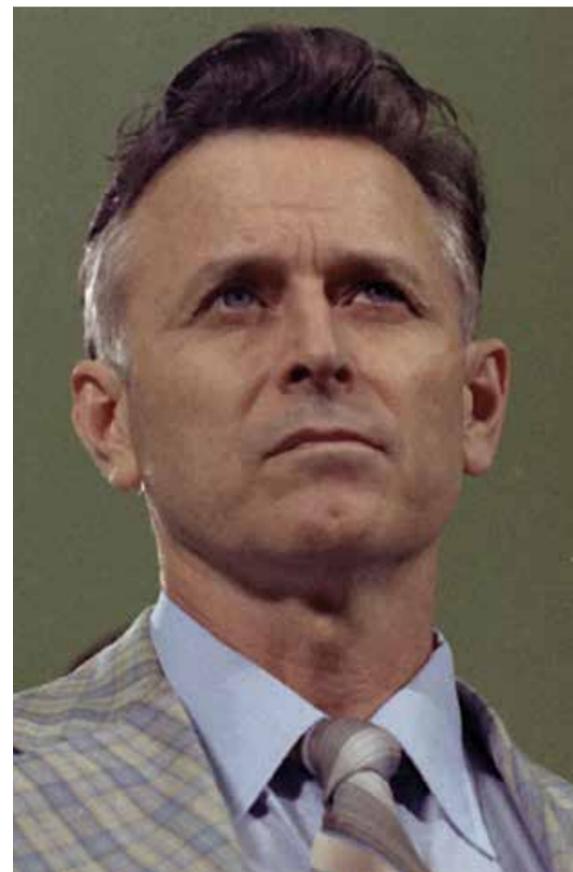
Director: Nick Park

Starring: Eddie Redmayne, Tom Hiddleston

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 91min

this day in history



1998 MARTIN LUTHER KING KILLER DIES

James Earl Ray, the convicted killer of the black American civil rights leader Martin Luther King, has died, aged 70, still protesting his innocence.

Officials in the Tennessee prison department said he died in hospital where he was being treated for terminal liver disease. He had been treated in hospital several times in the last 15 months.

Dr King died from a single rifle shot as he stood on the balcony of the Lorraine Hotel in Memphis, on 4 April 1968.

The assassination sparked race riots in more than 100 cities and set off one of the biggest manhunts in US history. Ray, an escaped convict, was captured in London more than a year later.

He pleaded guilty to the killing and was sentenced to 99 years in prison for the murder to escape the electric chair, but three days after his jail sentence began he withdrew his confession.

His case was taken up by the King family, which has campaigned for a new investigation into the assassination in the belief that it may have been plotted by senior officials in the US Government.

The King family issued a statement expressing grief over the death of Ray and renewed its call for a fresh inquiry.

Events marking the anniversary of Dr King's assassination in Memphis last month were dominated by a debate over the viability of claims that new evidence points to a vast government conspiracy to kill him.

Some black leaders regard the campaign for a new inquiry as a distraction from the search to put Martin Luther King's vision into action.

Ray was known to have a fanatical hatred of black people. Even while serving his sentence in Missouri, he rejected a move to an open farm prison where conditions were better on the grounds he could not live with black inmates.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Members of the King family who supported James Earl Ray's fight to clear his name believed the US Government may have been involved in Dr King's death.

Their case was strengthened in December 1999 when a jury in a wrongful death case brought by the King family, decided the civil rights leader was the victim of a murder conspiracy. But in June 2000 the US Justice Department said it had uncovered no reliable evidence of a conspiracy.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 That decision you've been trying to make, regarding a certain someone who's just ambled back into your life? Think about it - especially if you've 'replaced' them with someone a lot more wonderful.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Ready for just one more red-hot dose of passion? Sure, that doesn't sound too hard to take for a sign as sensual as yours. Of course, you may need to fight off a slew of admirers.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 When you got up this morning, you might have thought you'd want to make it an early night. Forget about that. The heavens have arranged for some red-hot energies to bring someone back into your life.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Here's another day that's tailor-made for staying in with friends and just plain old relaxing. Like the last time you planned something, it's definitely going to shake things up.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 This could be a wistful, romantic kind of day - and that's right up your alley. Oh, and here's a surprise: If you don't get a call from the person you've been seeing for a little while now, don't be too upset about it.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Get ready, because someone you never expected to hear from again may be preparing to dial your number, or tap at your door. So even if you'd planned to kick back, relax, and catch some late-night TV.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Okay, so they've called. Again. And you really, really want to see them. In the long run, what you want right now really doesn't matter. When it comes to one-to-one relationships.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 The powers that be have tossed quite the dilemma your way. The good news is it involves someone you miss - someone you've been missing dreadfully for a good, long time.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 You've been quite the sociable creature lately, for just about the entire week - and for quite a while before that, too. Well, don't expect to kick back and be alone tonight.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone who either stood you up or outright left you in the lurch has decided to pop back into your life, asking for a second shot at the title. You may be a bit tongue-tied, which is odd, but don't worry about it.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 The consequences of speaking your mind with blunt honesty haven't ever deterred you from telling the truth. So when someone from the past arrives and expects you to be nice, they'll be in for quite the surprise.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 Get out your checkbook, credit cards and ATM cards - and all the accompanying statements. Do that before you decide to wreak any more havoc on them - even if it is because the one who got away has called.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

CROSS: 1- Good fortune; 5- Comic O'Donnell; 10- Minus; 14- Feel sore; 15- Prolonged pain; 16- Neighbor of Sask.; 17- Narrow strip of wood; 18- The Wreck of the Mary...; 19- Simpleton; 20- Pertaining to an archbishop; 23- Perot; 24- Narrow mountain ridge; 25- Flows out; 28- Routine; 30- Small piece of wood; 31- One who is able to read but rarely does; 36- Wet spongy ground; 37- Chooses; 39- Badger; 40- Airplane with one set of wings; 42- Architectural pier; 43- Bistro; 44- Consented; 46- Poles for sails; 49- Stork, e.g.; 51- Achievement; 56- Pinchy crustacean; 57- Curt; 58- Antitoxins; 60- 'You are...'; 61- Lend... (listen); 62- Boris Godunov, for one; 63- Consumer; 64- Swarm; 65- Eye problem; DOWN: 1- Vegas; 2- Bruins' sch.; 3- Blacken the edges of; 4- Condiment; 5- Wirelesses; 6- Curved moldings; 7- Lathers; 8- Cross letters; 9- Organs used for sight; 10- Worker; 11- Get hitched quick; 12- Summer ermine; 13- Fine fur; 21- Charlemagne's realm; Abbr.; 22- Actress Phoebe; 25- SDI concern; 26- Drive away; 27- Indication; 28- Starchy food grain; 29- Giant Mel; 31- Wings; 32- Author Deighton; 33- Actress Heche; 34- London art gallery; 35- Old oath; 37- Sudden convulsion; 38- Pole worker; 41- Tenth month of the year; 42- Takes into custody; 44- Stick; 45- Precious stone; 46- Picchu; 47- Green... is the place to be; 48- Frighten; 49- Electrician, at times; 50- Syrian president; 52- Egyptian deity; 53- Carson's successor; 54- Hotbed; 55- Cafeteria carrier; 59- We... the World;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' listings in various locations like Macau, Coloane, and Taipa.

FOOTBALL

Barcelona easily wins historic fourth straight Copa del Rey

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

IF it was a farewell, Andres Iniesta went out in style. The veteran midfielder is expected to soon confirm he's leaving Barcelona at the end of the season. He couldn't have asked for a better way to say goodbye.

Iniesta scored amid a brilliant performance as Barcelona crushed Sevilla 5-0 in the Copa del Rey final on Saturday, and became the first team in 85 years to win four straight Copa titles.

"It was a great night, for me and for the whole team," Iniesta said. "There were a lot of strong emotions, a lot of different feelings. I'm happy to be able to help the team win this title."

Despite a lifetime contract at Barcelona, the 33-year-old Iniesta has been linked to a move to Chinese football. He will reveal his decision in the next week.

"It's a spectacle to watch Andres play," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "He has to make a decision and see if he wants to come back next season."

Luis Suarez scored twice and Lionel Messi and Philippe Coutinho also made the scoresheet for Barcelona's record-extending 30th Copa triumph, and sixth in the last decade.



Andres Iniesta (center) celebrates with teammates

"We played a great match, with a lot of determination," Valverde said.

Sevilla was trying to win a sixth Copa and save a season which will end without any trophies and maybe not even a place in the Europa League next season.

"Barcelona [...] played a formidable match," Sevilla coach Vincenzo Montella said.

The final took place at Atletico Madrid's Wanda Metropolitano Stadium in the capital amid the ongoing political turmoil involving Catalonia's bid for independence.

There were jeers by part of the Barcelona crowd when the national anthem was played, but the boos were largely subdued by the reaction of the numerous

Sevilla fans in the crowd. Spain's King Felipe VI smiled and saluted the fans after the anthem.

Suarez opened the scoring with a shot into the open net after a breakaway that started with goalkeeper Jasper Cillessen in the 14th minute. Cillessen made a long pass from inside his area to Coutinho. The Brazilian playmaker entered the box free

from markers before making a pass back to Suarez, who just tapped the ball in.

Messi scored with a mid-height shot from the middle of the area after a great backheel pass by Jordi Alba off the end line. Messi became the second player to score in five Copa del Rey finals, after Athletic Bilbao's Telmo Zarra.

Suarez scored again before halftime with a low shot after picking up a great throughball by Messi and fending off a defender while entering the area.

Iniesta scored the fourth in the 52nd after a quick exchange of passes with Messi. He dribbled past goalkeeper David Soria and shot into an empty net.

Iniesta received a huge ovation by fans from both clubs when he was substituted near the end of the match. He then lifted the trophy, his sixth in the Copa.

Last year, Iniesta became the first player to sign a lifetime contract with Barcelona, a deal allowing him to keep playing for the club for as long as he remained fit.

Coutinho closed the scoring by converting a 69th-minute penalty kick after a handball by a Sevilla defender.

No other team had won four Copa titles in a row since Athletic Bilbao from 1930-33. The only other team to do it was Real Madrid from 1905-08.

Barcelona is also three points away from winning the Spanish league. Sevilla lies seventh, the final spot guaranteeing a Europa League berth next season.

It was Sevilla's eighth straight match without a win in all competitions. **AP**

ATHLETICS

Kipchoge, Cheruiyot of Kenya win at hottest London Marathon

THE hottest-ever London Marathon featured a Kenyan double as Eliud Kipchoge swept to a third victory in front

of Buckingham Palace joining Vivian Cheruiyot who won the women's race yesterday.

The 33-year-old Kipcho-

ge ran the 42.2-kilometer course in 2 hours, 4 minutes, 27 seconds to add to the Olympic champion's wins in the British capital

in 2015 and 2016. "I ran a really beautiful race," he said.

Tola Shura Kitata of Ethiopia was second, followed by Mo Farah, who set a British record 2:06:21 in front of his home fans who lined the streets in temperatures that reached 23.2 Celsius near the finish.

While the race began in the southeast London district of Blackheath, the official starter for the men's race was more than 48 kilometers to the west of the British capital. Queen Elizabeth II pushed the start button in front of Windsor Castle.

The race ended in front of the monarch's London residence — Buckingham Palace.

Cheruiyot, the Olympic 5,000-meter champion,



crossed the line in 2:18:31 seconds to win at her second attempt. Fellow Kenyan, Brigid Kosgei, was 1 minute, 42 seconds further back and Tadelech Bekele of Ethiopia was third.

There was a home success with David Weir winning the men's wheelchair race for an eighth time after a sprint finish.

The 38-year-old Weir

clocked 1:31:15 to beat Marcel Hug of Switzerland into second place, while Daniel Romanchuk of the United States was third.

Madison de Rozario of Australia won the women's wheelchair race for the first time ahead of four-time champion Tatyana McFadden, whose fellow American, Susannah Scaroni, was third. **AP**

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Rugby Academy

Over 600 players take part in Macau Bats Rugby Festival

Donald Shaw
Special to MDT

APRIL 14 saw the largest turn-out of rugby players yet seen in Macau. Over 600 players congregated at The International School (TIS) sports field in Taipa for the 4th edition of the Macau Bats Rugby Festival. Close to 50 teams, representing 9 clubs, from Hong Kong, Macau and mainland China competed across six age groups.

The first Macau Bats team to play was the U6s who lost narrowly to Sai Kung Stingrays (2-3), followed by a 1-4 loss to a strong Valley Fort before winning 4-1 against Discovery Bay Pirates and finishing off with an exciting 3-3 draw against the Flying Kukris.

The U7s had a good start to their campaign by defeating Stingrays 5-3 before being on the wrong end of three high scoring games against Pirates (5-6), Sandy Bay (3-6) and Valley Fort (4-5). The second Bats team at U7 level had a tough set of games losing to HKFC (0-5), Tigers (2-4), Valley Fort (0-4) and Pirates (0-4). This was the second team's first experience of tournament rugby and according to their coach it was a valuable learning experience.

The U8s won against HKFC (4-3), Pirates (7-3) and Kukris (3-1) before losing in an exciting final game against Valley Fort (4-6).

The U9s fielded two teams with the "A" team losing against a very strong Stingrays (3-10), Valley Fort (3-8) and Barbarians (3-5). Meanwhile the "B" team secured victories against Pirates (6-4), Valley Fort (5-1) and Sandy Bay (5-2) before losing 5-6 in a thrilling game against Barbarians.

Similar to the U9s, the U10s were drawn against strong Hong Kong teams and played a high scoring draw against Sandy Bay (4-4), lost 0-3 to a very good HKFC team before finishing with two big wins against Flying Kukris (7-0) and Dongguan Bulldogs (7-1).

The U12s began their campaign in the afternoon and recorded two wins against the Pirates 1st (5-0) and 2nd (6-1) teams. This was followed by a good 3-1 victory over Sandy Bay setting up a winner takes all final game against the Stingrays. Once again a last play score decided the game in Stingrays favour as they beat the Bats 2-3 to emerge as the Cup winners with the Bats gallant runners-up.

According to a Bats representative the festival was an overall success with over 1,200 people attending the day to see a great display of youth rugby.

Hot on the heels of the festival the Macau Bats U12s played the Shenzhen Dragons at TIS sports field on Saturday.



opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



EXECUTIVE PRIVILEGE

Once again, Chief Executive Chui Sai On left the government building for Nam Van Lake's Legislative Assembly to take part in a plenary session called to debate matters explicitly related to his 2018 policy address. Once again, the bi-annual session was a non-eventful meeting, smooth and polite as they can be in an Executive-led system, helped by a carefully staged Q&A in which lawmakers submit their questions in advance and dare not go astray.

No wonder the session was to be dominated, if not hijacked, by the challenges and opportunities to be found in the Greater Bay Area framework for the MSAR: an ambitious Central Government roadmap not yet completely drafted or, rather, still under construction.

We should bear in mind that there is no problem in exchanging ideas on a project of such relevance to Macau. But in doing so, the Legislative Assembly Q&A opted for not discussing current issues of the utmost importance like the amendment of the Macau Special Administrative Region judiciary law, the updating of the security apparatus and its regulations, or the overall gaming outlook around the region. Brief and light allusions are not enough.

Regarding the long-awaited proposal from Sonia Chan to "smooth and expedite" trial proceedings, among other improvements (still in the pipeline and allegedly ready to be delivered to the Legislative Assembly and soon to be tabled), we hear that it will overthrow that absurdity and lighten the aberration which excludes some citizens from the right to appeal. To make things clear, disgraced former Secretary Ao Man Long and disgraced Prosecutor General Ho Chio Meng would have been given the right to appeal from a sentence handed down by the Court of Second Instance, their first, instead of being gridlocked at the Court of Final Appeal, better known by its Portuguese acronym TUI. The proposal may not, however, be extended to the number one in MSAR, a kind of Executive privilege.

Unfortunately, the will to right some wrongs will not allegedly be extended to that singular idea which prevents foreign judges from hearing or ruling on matters of national security. Secretary for Administration of Justice denies that the idea is discriminatory, rather, on the contrary, one that is justly driven by the idea to expedite trial proceedings.

The idea of selecting judges amounts to a very unusual way of conceiving this question; since, objectively, while preventing some judges to rule on any matter is to put up a corps of special judges. We are at the same time inducing the idea of special courts. And the effects of the symmetry do not stop here, even if the rationale seems topsy-turvy: special judges, special courts, and a special law. At the crossroads, all converge in a scary way: the national security law aka article 23 and its upcoming supplementary regulations are harmless but are made special by the internal security law and a corresponding bureau or new public department to address security matters.

Perhaps this is nothing more than the new security paradigms making their presence felt, but we have to confess that when we picture this legal and enforcement apparatus together with legislator Mak Soi Kun's calls to further upgrade the CCTV system to a surveillance system of the SKY NET type, we do not feel intent on reviewing the movie. "Some residents suggested (to Mak Soi Kun) that besides installing more CCTV cameras, Macau can refer to the mainland practice of using artificial intelligence and big data to predict events, thus establishing Macau's Sky Net... Macau can introduce a real-time pedestrian system in order to develop a three-dimensional security prevention and control system".

This begs three questions: With whom is Mak Soi Kun talking and who will guard the guards themselves (ques custodiet ipsos custodes)?

THE ISLAMIC STATE SUICIDE BOMBER
BUZZ KILLS 57 IN AFGHAN CAPITAL

An Islamic State suicide bomber carried out an attack at a voter registration center in the capital Kabul on Sunday, killing 57 people and wounding more than 100 others, said officials from the Afghan interior and public health ministries.

Public Health Ministry spokesman Wahid Majro said that among 57 who were killed in the attack, 22 were women and eight are children. Majro added that 119 people were wounded in yesterday's attack, among them 17 children and 52 women. "The tolls could still rise," he added.

Gen. Daud Amin, the Kabul police chief, said the suicide bomber targeted civilians who were registering for national identification cards.

The large explosion echoed across the city, shattering windows miles away from the attack site and damaging several nearby vehicles. Police blocked all roads to the blast site, with only ambulances allowed in. Local TV stations broadcast live footage of hundreds of distraught locals gathered at nearby hospitals seeking word about loved ones.

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	45-65 Moderate	
High Density Residential Area	70-100 Moderate	
Ambient	70-100 Moderate	

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

TURKEY More than a dozen Turkish opposition lawmakers switched parties yesterday in a show of solidarity as President Recep Tayyip Erdogan's rivals scramble to challenge him in a surprise snap election that could solidify his rule.



ARMENIA The leader of major political protests that have gripped the Armenian capital for more than a week was arrested yesterday, while the streets of Yerevan echoed with blaring car horns as protesters tried a new technique for expressing opposition.

GERMANY's center-left Social Democrats yesterday elected a combative new leader to spearhead their recovery from a disastrous election result while guiding them through a fractious coalition government with Chancellor Angela Merkel's conservatives.

US-LIBERIA A Liberian man convicted of lying about his past as a rebel commander accused of brutal attacks and killings so he could enter the U.S. has been sentenced to 30 years in U.S. federal prison.



NICARAGUA Pope Francis has expressed deep worry over deadly violence in Nicaragua fueled by protests and he's pressing for a peaceful solution. Human rights advocates say that since April 18 at least 26 people have been killed in unrest over social security reforms planned by the government. [More on p14](#)

BRAZIL Police in Brazil will recreate the scene of last month's murder of a Rio de Janeiro city councilwoman and her driver in an effort to track down their assailants.

CUBA

Diaz-Canel receives Maduro in first act as president

CUBAN President Miguel Diaz-Canel met with his Venezuelan counterpart Nicolas Maduro Saturday in his first official act as the country's leader.

Maduro is the first president to visit Diaz-Canel since he was selected by outgoing President Raul Castro to lead the island's government earlier this week.

The Associated Press was told that Castro did not attend the welcome ceremony for the Venezuelan president at the Palace of the Revolution. But in a marked change from the past, Cuban first lady Lis Cuesta was in attendance along with Maduro's wife Cilia Flores.

Cuba had no first lady during the nearly six decades that the Castro family was in power. Castro was a widower when he took office 12 years ago and his older brother Fidel carefully guarded his private life.

The Cuban government selected 58-year-old Diaz-Canel as the sole candidate to succeed Castro on Wednesday in a transition aimed at ensuring the continuity of the country's single-party system. The 86-year-old Castro will remain head of



Miguel Diaz-Canel (front left) escorts Maduro during his welcome ceremony at Revolution Palace in Havana

the Communist Party, but it is not clear how much power he will wield.

The meeting between Maduro and Diaz-Canel affirms the strong alliance between Venezuela and Cuba, which in essence receives oil for Cuban doctors and technicians who work in public health in the South American country.

But former President Castro has acknowledged that the political and economic

crisis in Venezuela is having a negative spillover effect on the island's economy, and Cuba has sought to strengthen its alliance with China and Russia.

Official media have reported that Russian President Vladimir Putin called Castro and Diaz-Canel to affirm their shared interests, but did not offer further details.

Today, Bolivian President Evo Morales is expected to greet Diaz-Canel in Cuba. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP/Tony Gentile



New priests lie face down on the floor during an ordination ceremony presided over by Pope Francis, in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. During yesterday's ceremony, Pope Francis reminded priests to always be merciful.