



COUTINHO BROTHERS' SENTENCE UPHELD

The Court of Final Appeal has confirmed the previous court ruling that sentenced lawmaker Pereira Coutinho's two sons

P4



CE KICKS OFF VISIT TO CAMBODIA, THAILAND

The trip is aimed at reinforcing mutual cooperation and exchange in the areas of tourism and economic and trade matters

P7



HAWAII PREPARES FOR LONG ERUPTION

P14 US

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

WORLD BRIEFS



PAKISTAN A gunman opened fire on the country's interior minister after a public meeting in his constituency yesterday, wounding him in the shoulder, officials said.

PHILIPPINES The military said Saturday it is checking intelligence reports that a Middle East-educated commander of the Abu Sayyaf extremist group has died after being wounded in an artillery strike in the south.



THAILAND Pro-democracy activists protesting in the Thai capital say that they will march on the country's seat of power later this month to demand that an election be held this year. The planned date — May 22 — will be the fourth anniversary of the bloodless coup that overthrew the elected government

MALAYSIA Opposition icon Anwar Ibrahim can't vote in what he believes will be a "defining election" for his country on Wednesday but even from his prison cell has remained a political force to be reckoned with.

More on p13

UAE Human Rights Watch has asked Dubai's ruling sheikh to reveal the whereabouts of his daughter after a French ex-spy and others say she fled the emirate, only to be arrested off the coast of India.

More on backpage

CHINA DEMANDS

Carriers should name SARs, Taiwan differently

P3



100,000 Chinese move to Manila and trigger property surge

P12 PHILIPPINES



Guangzhou's new airport terminal seeks to become world-class

GUANGZHOU'S new airport terminal, which is designed to handle 100 million passengers annually from the Greater Bay Area by 2025, began operations recently.

The RMB17 billion terminal at Baiyun International Airport is expected to be capable of handling 45 million passengers a year in its 880,000 square meter facility by 2020.

The new terminal handled a reduced schedule of about 30 domestic and international flights on

its first day of operation.

According to a South China Morning Post report, Terminal 2 has 397 check-in counters and more than 5,000 car parking spaces. It will use facial recognition technology to screen all passengers before they board. China Civil Airports Association noted that passenger numbers in the region are expected to reach 223 million a year by 2020, up from around 175 million in 2017. This is higher than the airport

traffic of many major cities including Los Angeles, New York and Tokyo.

Last year, growth in passenger numbers in the region was among the biggest six airports in the country.

The airport aims to handle some 3.5 million tonnes of cargo and mail by 2025, seeking to become a world-class airport with over 220 international routes. The first passenger to board the terminal's first flight, Chris Wietse, said, "I'm always impressed

with China's new infrastructure projects. This terminal is brand new and clean. The services are good also."

"Guangzhou Airport is more convenient and efficient for business trips in the mainland, compared to Hong Kong Airport," the businessman added.

A subway line connecting the city center of the Guangdong capital with the new terminal at Baiyun International Airport will also begin operations.

Tourist on holiday to Hong Kong denied entry on return from Macau

A Filipino national holding a tourist visa for Hong Kong was denied re-entry to Hong Kong after a short trip to Macau, the South China Morning Post reported yesterday.

In the report it is explained that the person holding a tourist visa had been visiting a couple, both Hong Kong permanent residents, with whom she had family connections. The incident occurred when the wife and her cousin, the tourist in question, decided to leave from Hong Kong for a day-trip to Macau. Upon their return to Hong Kong, the officer-in-charge at the Tuen Mun Ferry Pier took the cousin holding the tourist visa aside for questioning and concluded that she was not entitled to enter the region, even though she had a valid and confirmed return ticket to her homeland the next day.

The tourist was then sent back to Macau, escorted by an immigration officer, and was only granted access to her passport after arriving in Macau.

In the report to SCMP, written in a form of a letter, the reporter recorded the event and noted that his reason for writing the report was to "serve as a warning to tourists who have been permitted to

stay in Hong Kong but want to go outside the SAR for a short trip."

The Times learned that situations such as the one described in the report by the Hong Kong media outlet have occurred frequently over the last few weeks regardless of the nationality of the tourists and the destination of the trip outside Hong Kong.

According to a source accessed by the Times, in the last week of April, a similar situation occurred with a European tourist who visited Singapore for a couple of days after visiting Hong Kong for a few days before returning home. Upon arrival back in Hong Kong after her trip to Singapore, the tourist was also denied entry after a long period of questioning. She returned to Singapore for three more days until catching a pre-booked flight back to Europe.

She told the Times that the immigration officers did not specify why she was barred from entering the region, but stated that they had hinted about having performed a "background check" on her which gave rise to suspicions that she might be using her tourist visa to work or find a job, as she was a freelance artist. Nevertheless, such reasons were never delivered to her officially. **RM**

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

CANINE BLOOD SUGAR GUIDELINES FOR DIABETIC DOGS

MONITORING canine blood sugar on a regular basis is a critical part of caring for a diabetic dog in order to ensure the dog's diabetes is under good control. Maintaining good blood sugar control helps keep the diabetic dog healthy and avoids potential complications such as vision loss and kidney failure.

Recommended canine blood sugar levels

Blood sugar levels are measured in milligrams per decilitre of blood or mg/dL. Maintaining a good balance allows your dog's systems to function well and avoids the potential damage that elevated blood sugars or low blood sugars can cause. In caring for a diabetic dog, optimal blood sugar range is between 100 to 180 mg/dL. These levels of blood sugar are within the normal range for dogs and help keep your diabetic dog healthy.

Hypoglycemia or low blood sugar

Hypoglycemia can be just as problematic as

elevated blood sugars in a diabetic dog. 90 mg/dL is considered to be the safe low end of canine blood sugar levels. As the blood sugar continues to fall, you risk your dog becoming disoriented and unable to function. Low blood sugars can also cause seizures and various systems, such as vision and bladder control, to fail. If the low blood sugar is not resolved by feeding quick sugars, your dog is at risk of death. Once a proper blood sugar level is achieved, your dog should return to normal function.

Hyperglycemia or high blood sugar

Hyperglycemia or high blood sugar levels are readings of 180 mg/dL or higher. If your dog is consistently above this level, there are various systems within his body that are at risk of failure if they continue to have to fight the high blood sugar levels. When your dog's blood sugars are high, he will be lethargic, drink a lot of water and urinate frequently. The excessive thirst and high volume of urine are his body's way of trying to rid itself of the extra sugars in

his system. These high levels of sugar put added stress on his kidneys as they try to flush the high sugar levels out of his system. High sugar levels also make his heart work harder and put a strain on his cardiovascular system. High sugar levels also draw in sugars to the eye, causing the lens of the eye to crystallise and form cataracts.

Frequency of blood sugar testing

Testing your diabetic dog's blood sugar is an important part of maintaining good control of his diabetes. Depending on your dog, his activity level and his overall health, your veterinarian may recommend testing anywhere from once daily to once a week. A dog who is highly active, such as a hunting dog or a dog competing in agility may require once a day testing to ensure his blood sugars are remaining at a healthy level, where a dog who spends most of his days just relaxing around the house may only require testing once a week as his blood sugars will remain at a more consistent level.



Maintaining proper blood sugar levels is a balance of proper medication, proper diet and appropriate exercise. Each of these elements are part of the equation in caring for a diabetic dog and helps him to lead a long healthy life.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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WHITE HOUSE

Beijing's political correctness dubbed 'Orwellian nonsense'

THE White House has pushed back against China's efforts to control how U.S. airlines refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau in promotional materials, calling the push to make them comply with Chinese standards "Orwellian nonsense."

The response came in the form of strong words issued by White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders, as she addressed reports that China's Civil Aviation Administration had demanded that some 36 foreign airlines toe the line as to how they regard Chinese territories.

"This is Orwellian nonsense and part of a growing trend by the Chinese Communist Party to impose its political views on American citizens and private companies," Sanders said in a weekend statement.

"[Trump] ran against political correctness in the Uni-



ted States [and as president he will] stand up for Americans resisting efforts by the Chinese Communist Party to impose Chinese political correctness on American companies and citizens," she added. "China's efforts to export its censorship and political correctness to Americans and the rest of the free world will be resisted."

The Chinese government considers the entities of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to be part of China and objects to references that indicate they are independent.

In a response to the White House yesterday, gover-

ment spokesman Geng Shuang wrote that Washington "cannot change the objective fact that there is only one China in the world and that Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan are indivisible parts of Chinese territory." Simultaneously, China's foreign ministry appealed for the U.S. to "respect the national feelings of the Chinese people."

Macau and Hong Kong are sometimes identified as separate territories on the promotional materials of foreign companies for ease of distinguishing them from the mainland, where different laws and rules apply.

Many companies use the official designation, Special Administrative Region of China.

Meanwhile, the self-ruled island of Taiwan has been fighting a losing battle against Beijing for decades, seeking greater international recognition in spite of the mainland's isolation strategy. Relations between Beijing and Taipei have been frosty since incumbent Taiwanese President Tsai Ing-wen refused to embrace the 1992 Consensus stating there is but one China.

Yesterday, Taiwan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs thanked the White House and urged the international community to resist similar demands in the future.

Last month, China's Civil Aviation Authority sent a letter to three dozen foreign airlines instructing that public information which suggested that Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau were different entities be removed.

According to several media reports, failure to comply with the Authority's demands would result in the matter being referred to "the relevant cyber-security authorities," implying that the airlines' websites would be blocked in China.

The letter recalls action taken by Beijing in January, when it temporarily blocked Marriott's website in China after the hotel company listed these same territories as "countries" rather than "territories" in an online survey sent to Chinese consumers.

Also last weekend, a high-level trade delegation led by U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin returned from negotiations in China, following what many are calling the beginning of a trade war between the world's two largest economies, and Secretary of State Mike Pompeo spoke with a member of the Chinese Communist Party leadership. **DB**

Over 100 caught for illegal money exchange services

Police authorities caught over 100 individuals suspected of conducting illegal money exchange services and other illegal activities during a three-day raid in Cotai, state broadcaster TDM reported. The anti-crime initiative was a joint effort by nearly 50 Judiciary Police and Public Security Police Force officers. At least 33 men from the mainland and four women were caught at the City of Dreams. Following a raid on Saturday, the suspects were brought to a police station, and are currently under investigation to determine whether they are linked to other crimes. A similar raid occurred on Friday morning, with authorities apprehending 39 suspects who were allegedly engaged in illegal activities at casinos.

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Man steals jewelry worth MOP4 million

A mainland man has been arrested for stealing jewelry worth MOP4 million patacas from three different shops, as reported by the Judiciary Police (PJ) last Friday. The police received reports from the three shops between November 2017 and March this year. The suspect, wearing fake jewelry, would enter each shop pretending to examine a myriad of products. The suspect would then steal goods whenever the shop's clerk was not paying attention. One shop claimed to have lost a jade worth three million RMB. All jewelry stolen by the suspect was taken to mainland China.

DSEJ will include national security in textbooks

Last Friday, Zheng Xiaosong, Director of the Liaison Office in Macau, expressed his deep feeling that the Macau SAR government should pay strong attention to the importance to patriotic education. "With ... joint efforts coming from all places, and especially the efforts of young students, I believe that this kind [of] passion in loving the country will become deeper and deeper," declared Zheng. The head of the Department of the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, Kong Ngai, also said last Friday that texts on national security will be included in the city's school textbooks, according to a report by TDM.

Maid arrested after physically assaulting child

A domestic helper from Myanmar has been arrested for physically assaulting a two-year-old girl. The 28-year-old maid started taking care of the little girl in January of this year. On April 27, after injuring her employer's daughter, she told her employer that the girl had fallen and sustained injuries. A hospital checkup revealed injuries on the girl's head, arms and legs. The hospital immediately suspected that the injuries might have been caused by abuse. After viewing CCTV surveillance footage, police found that the maid had used a spoon to beat the girl's head.

THE court of Final Appeal (TUI) has confirmed the previous court ruling that sentenced lawmaker José Pereira Coutinho's two sons, aged 31 and 27, to imprisonment for eight years and six-months for drug trafficking, the Office of the President of the TUI said in a statement yesterday.

In a case dating back to December 2016, both brothers were accused of shipping and receiving a package containing one kilogram of cannabis, valued at MOP500 million, from Canada to Macau by express courier.

The TUI upheld the sentence issued by the First Instance Court in mid-October last year, following an appeal to the Court of Second Instance in January this year. The TUI has refused the appeal by the defendants' lawyer, Francisco Leitão, who argued that there were several procedural flaws regarding the evidence, which was a package initially received by authorities in Hong Kong, and that the penalty issued was "harsh" and "excessive".

In the ruling, the court rejects all allegations, replying that according to the Macau Penal Code, drug trafficking attracts a sentence between three to fifteen years of imprisonment. For that reason, TUI considered the sentence

COURTS

Coutinho brothers' sentence upheld by TUI

of eight years and six months to be adequate, especially as there were no mitigating circumstances that could contribute to a reduced penalty, with the exception of one of the defendants being a first-time offender.

The court justified the decision as being correct based on credible witness testimony, documented proof, and apprehended objects that together constitute incriminating evidence. The evidence also included phone conversations and messages exchanged between the two defendants. The TUI noted the clear intention to commit the unlawful act and the seriousness of the crime, remarking that the "crime of drug trafficking is frequent in Macau and jeopardizes both public health and social peace."

In a discussion of the final sentence, the court also made reference to the fact that the defendants did not confess their guilt and instead remained silent during the trial. **RM**



Chui visits HKZM Bridge to observe progress

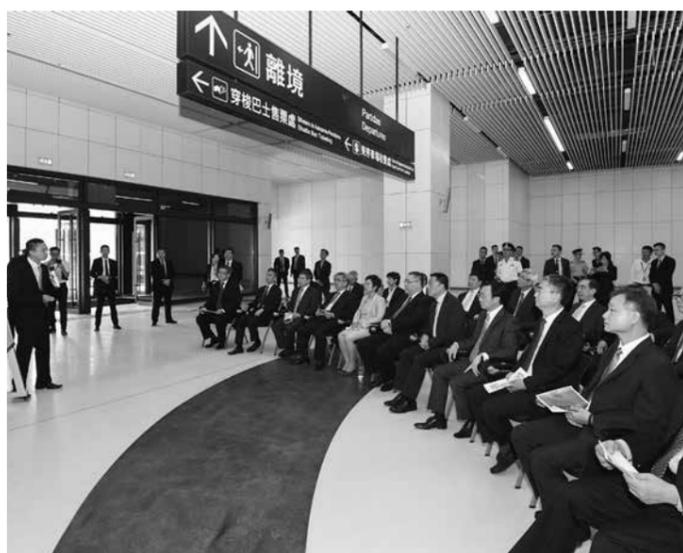
CHIEF Executive (CE) Chui Sai On visited the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau (HKZM) Bridge last week to assess the progress of the preparations for the opening of the bridge and related Macau boundary crossing area, the Government Information Bureau said in a statement.

The CE led a delegation comprised of the government's main officials, the Public Prosecutor-General, and several members of the Executive Council and CE Office. Delegates were briefed on the works currently in progress at several levels, including infrastructure, transport and immigration.

The briefing focused especially on inbound and outbound immigration procedures as well as transport services between the Macau boundary crossing area and Hong Kong and Zhuhai, respectively.

The delegation also toured the main infrastructure and tested the procedures that will apply to residents and visitors once the bridge opens.

During the inspection, the group had also the opportu-



nity to discuss and exchange ideas on various topics, such as the boundary crossing flow model being used, the space reserved for future expansion of the facilities, and the ventilation system employed at the boundary crossing area that covers 71.6 hectares, containing structures that fill a total floor area of 600,000 square meters.

The area includes the building for customs clearance,

two public car parks and municipal facilities, along with infrastructure such as a road network, tunnels, flyovers, railway platforms and facilities for public security services.

Officially under the administration of Macau SAR as of March 15, the area has been the subject of works to prepare it for the official opening of the HKZM Bridge late next month.

EDUCATION

UM to hold conference on Portuguese language

THE University of Macau is slated to hold a conference titled "Confluences in Portuguese: Linguistics, Literature and Translation," on May 10 and 12, inviting more than 40 experts and scholars to share their research findings and expertise in the area of Portuguese as a second language. Organized by the university's Department of Portuguese, Faculty of Arts and Humanities, the main focus of the conference will be the teaching of Portuguese as a foreign language across various topics.

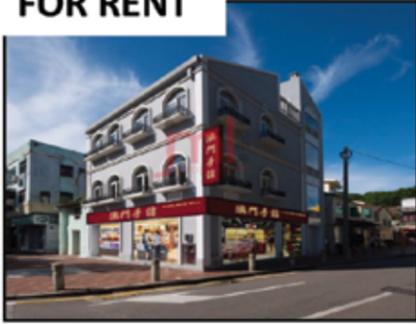
The conference will include a series of sessions including topics such as teaching materials, learning and teaching strategies; phonetics and phonology and perspectives and practices of Learning Portuguese as a second language.

UM said in a statement that it is anticipating that scholars from places such as Portugal, Brazil, Mozambique, France, Italy, Japan, mainland China, and the Macau SAR will attend the event.

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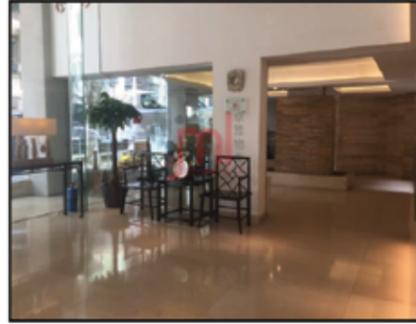
FOR RENT



Coloane, 4 Storey Commercial Building

(Ref: 17040646)
4,003 sq.ft. HKD 168,000

The property is a licensed commercial space spread over 4 floors including a basement, ground floor retail, and two upper floors in the heart of the unique Coloane village situated next door to the famous 'Lord Stow's Bakery'. The property features an elevator and staircase to access all floors, and is perfectly suited for a wide range of commercial activities.



Fountainside

(Ref: 18040677)
1,712 sq.ft. HKD 25,000

Stunning 3 bedroom apartment with unique terrace off the living and master rooms. Central location in the heart of the City of Macau. Modern interior, fixtures and fittings.



Island Park

(Ref: 18040676)
2,500 sq.ft. HKD 28,000

Exclusive condominium in Taipa. Beautiful 3+1 bedroom apartment with stunning views to Macau. Large modern kitchen with good quality appliances, including steamer, oven, microwave, and dishwasher. The apartment comes with one car park. The condominium has a lovely playarea and outdoor swimming pool.



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.

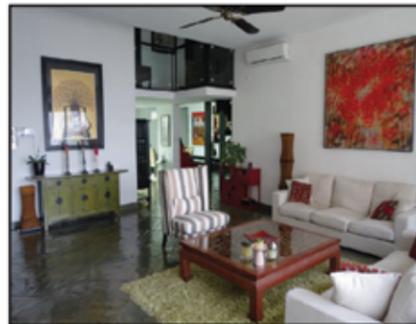
FOR SALE



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

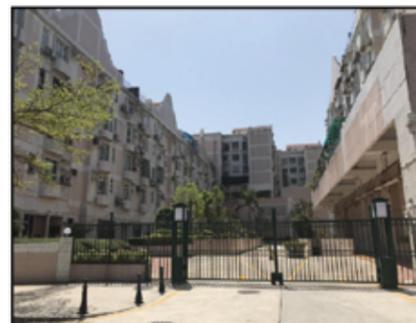
LOFT in the centre of Macau. A unique opportunity to live in this sleek, modern property. The large open space area on the ground floor houses the open plan living and dining areas with fabulous designer kitchen located at back of the property. Viewing can be arranged by appointment.



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

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

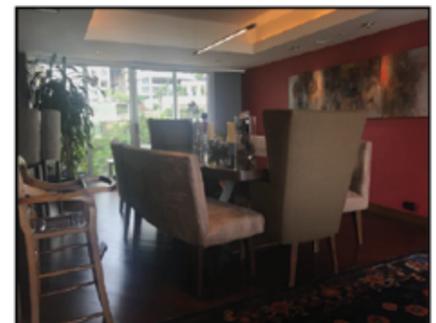
Great two bedroom apartment in Central Taipa. Open plan kitchen with fitted appliance. Two double bedrooms sharing one walk in shower room. Good size living area with balcony.



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.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

(Ref: 18045555)
3,398 sq.ft. HKD 21M
Rate: HKD 6,180

Fabulous apartment with stunning open views across to Macau. Originally four bedrooms converted to three bedrooms with three bathrooms, two en suite. The open plan dining area at the back of the property has another balcony with a view of the original University of Macau. Two parking spaces (one covered and the other open).

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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Gov't explanation wanted for taxi license regulations

Julie Zhu

THE Third Standing Committee of the Legislative Assembly (AL) had an internal meeting last Friday to discuss the region's latest articles on taxi regulations. During the meeting, doubts concerning penalties, licenses, and the installation of equipment inside taxis were raised.

The chairman of the committee, Wong Hin Fai, reported to the media some of the opinions expressed by lawmakers who attended the meeting.

The lawmakers want the government to provide a clear explanation of how permits and licenses will function in future meetings with the committee.

"[This content] cannot be found in the current legal bill. Some articles give us the idea that one permit can be attached to one license only, but others say that one permit can be attached to several licenses," complained Wong, adding that the regulation is not clear about the cancellation of both permits and licenses.

The law suggests that if a contractor does not return licenses to the government once they expire, then the contractor will be fined a fixed penalty of MOP30,000.

"Why hasn't the law established upper and lower limits concerning different levels of violations?" asked Wong, adding that there are no punitive measures for repeat offences.



Moreover, Wong reported that the committee pointed out that no additional punishments had been included in the latest taxi regulation regime, other than the main punishments of fines or jail sentences.

In Wong's understanding, additional penalties could consist, for instance, of banning taxi drivers from operating a taxi for a certain period of time.

Another argument discussed by the committee was related to fake documents.

"If license owners submit fake documents, the licenses will be canceled. When fake documents are involved, the government will only initiate license cancellation procedures after the court has made a verdict [which normally takes two to three years]," Wong noted.

Some members of the committee suggested installing video recording equipment in taxis.

In Wong's words, the committee wondered "why has the govern-

ment not yet arranged video recording equipment, and, when it will, is the equipment [including voice recording devices] going to belong to car owners, to license owners, or to the SAR government?"

The new bill writes that if a driver does not follow the service instructions, the driver may be punished. However, no content concerning said punishment has been listed into the bill, according to Wong.

The Third Standing Committee will forward all of its doubts to the government. Government representatives will then be invited to a meeting after the committee finishes another internal meeting, which will take place this week.

The city's new bill of taxi regulations rules that a taxi driver's driving license will be revoked if the driver incurs four serious infractions within a five-year period.

The bill also proposes that only companies be able to request concessions for taxi operations, and that both the cars and the taxi drivers should have licenses.



The signing ceremony took place in Guangzhou

Macau signs RMB50b funding partnership with Guangdong

THE Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund was officially signed into operation in Guangzhou on Friday, in a bid to invest in key projects including those related to the Greater Bay Area effort and the two regions, as well as infrastructure for free trade zones in Guangdong.

Jointly witnessed by the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong Vai Tac, and Vice Governor of Guangdong Province, Chen Liangxian, the signing and launching of the agreement signified the formal operation of the Guangdong-Macau Fund in the near term, which would create new modes of collaboration between the two regions.

According to a statement issued by the Office of the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Leong gave a speech at the signing ceremony indicating that the establishment of the Guangdong-Macau Fund was the first instance of innovative financial cooperation between the two regions under the

Guangdong-Macau Cooperation Framework Agreement. Leong said he expected that the two regions would strengthen mutual communication and cooperation, implement the terms of the fund, improve the fund's management, enhance investment returns and assess experiences in a timely manner.

The fund is a capital-protected, interest-guaranteed investment with a mechanism which allows participants to withdraw, and adheres to the "safe, effective, standard, credible" principles.

According to the cooperation agreement, the fund's lifespan will be 12 years.

The SAR will invest a total amount of RMB20 billion from its Fiscal Reserve through various injections of funds.

In the terms of the fund, in addition to the guaranteed return of 3.5 percent on the actual investment, the SAR will be entitled to extra returns when the fund's returns exceed a certain amount.

CE kicks off visit to Cambodia and Thailand today

A government delegation will visit Cambodia and Thailand starting today. The delegation will be led by Chief Executive Chui Sai On. The five-day visit is aimed at reinforcing mutual cooperation and exchange in the areas of tourism and economic and trade matters.

During the visit, the delegation will hold meetings in Phnom Penh and Bangkok with senior officials from the two countries and attend activities hosted by the SAR.

In Phnom Penh, the Chief Executive will meet with leaders of the Cambodian government, the national assembly, the country's senate and the Chinese Ambassador to Cambodia, the Government Information Bureau said in a statement. Chui will also attend a presentation about Macau's tourism and investment environment. Additionally, the CE will attend a youth round-table session regarding opportunities arising from the "Belt and Road" initiative, and will discuss

ways to support exchange and friendship between young people from the two places, and the development of closer ties between the SAR and Cambodia. While in Bangkok, the CE will meet with government officials and the Chinese Ambassador to Thailand. Chui will witness the signing of a memorandum of understanding regarding the establishment of friendship city status between Phuket Province and Macau. The delegation will also attend a pre-

sentation hosted by the SAR on economic and trade ties between the two places as well as on the development of tourism in Thailand and Macau. Meanwhile, during the Bangkok leg of the trip, the delegation will attend the "2018 Traditional Medicine International Development Forum", a platform promoted by the SAR to explore the internationalization of traditional Chinese medicine.

The trip to Cambodia and Thailand marks the first time that representatives of the "Gathering of Thousand Talents" have been invited to join the CE on an official overseas visit.

Communication interception law under draft procedures

THE Office of the Secretary for Security issued a statement on Friday to the effect that the security authority has already drafted a legal bill concerning the interception and protection of communications. The statement further noted that, back in 2013, the security authority suggested that the SAR government amend the relevant law.

"The responsible department and law experts pointed out that it would be more appropriate to draw up a separate law to legislate on the legal regime of the interception and protection of communications," the statement reads.

"The security authority has, in recent years, carried out in-

depth studies and analysis in the area, combining law enforcement needs with the development of telecommunication technology, [...] and drafted the proposal of the separate law entitled Legal Regime of Interception and Protection of Communications," the statement writes.

Last week, the Law Reform Consultative Committee (CCRJ) had a meeting on the topic with representatives from the security authority.

According to the statement, currently, the security authority is improving the text of the bill incorporating feedback from the CCRJ.

A public consultation period will occur as soon as the related law draft work is completed.

TRADE WAR

China could target US firms, debt if Trump plays hardball

Joe McDonald, Beijing

IN a looming trade war between the world's two largest economies, American companies in China may have a bull's-eye on their backs.

The Trump administration is pushing China to cut its trade surplus with the United States by USD200 billion by the end of 2020 and give up policies that favor domestic companies — the core of Beijing's state-led economic model.

As the two sides exchange threats of tariff hikes, their lopsided trade balance means China will run out of imports for retaliation before President Donald Trump does.

But Beijing has other ways to inflict pain. Chief among those is harassing American companies that make autos, operate restaurant chains, sell computer software and do



A woman tends to a child near a promotional gimmick in the form of a bomb and the U.S. flag outside a U.S. apparel shop in Beijing

other business in China's heavily regulated economy.

Other possible options include selling U.S. go-

vernment debt or disrupting diplomatic efforts over North Korea, but those would damage Beijing's own interests.

Trump has threatened higher tariffs on USD150 billion of Chinese goods in response to complaints Beijing violates its free-trade commitments by stealing or pressuring foreign companies to hand over technology.

Beijing reacted to his first round with a \$50 billion list including American aircraft, soybeans and pork for possible retaliation. If it raises that to match Trump's total, that would be nearly equal to China's 2017 imports of U.S. goods.

The Commerce Ministry has warned that no option is off the table.

TARGET AMERICAN COMPANIES

Chinese regulators have wide discretion and an arsenal of tools to disrupt U.S. businesses from withholding licenses to launching tax, anti-monopoly or other investigations.

The U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm Inc. might serve as an early example. China is the final major government withholding approval of Qualcomm's proposal for its \$44 billion acquisition of rival NXP Semiconductors.

In April, the Commerce Ministry said Qualcomm's proposal "has difficulty" resolving concerns of Chinese anti-monopoly regulators. Qualcomm and NXP said

April 19 that at the Chinese ministry's request, the companies withdrew and refiled an application for Beijing to clear the acquisition.

China's entirely state-controlled media have encouraged consumer boycotts against Japanese, South Korean and other products during previous disputes with those governments.

"China can harm the interests of the United States by limiting the operations of multinational corporations," said Jin Canrong, a foreign relations specialist at Beijing's Renmin University, in comments to the website wallstreetcn.com.

Jin pointed to the example of South Korean retailer Lotte, whose business was destroyed by Beijing last year after it sold land to the Seoul government for an anti-missile system opposed by Chinese leaders.

Beijing retaliated by closing most of Lotte's 99 supermarkets and other outlets in China. Seoul and Beijing later mended relations, but South Korean news reports said Lotte has given up on China and is trying to sell its stores.

"Already we are hearing that approvals for some types of licenses for U.S. firms operating are being put on hold," the Eurasia Group said in a report.

FINANCIAL LEVERAGE

Chinese commentators say Beijing has financial weapons, though using them would cost China's own economy and international standing.

Nationalists point to China's \$1.2 trillion holdings of U.S. government debt as leverage. But Beijing would suffer losses if it sold enough of that to influence U.S. debt financing costs. And there are few other places to store such vast foreign currency reserves.

Beijing also could obstruct U.S. investment in China, wrote commentator Ren Zeping on money.163.com. But that also would impose a cost by worsening an investment slump Chinese leaders are trying to reverse.

Regulators could depress the state-controlled exchange rate for China's yuan against the dollar. That could help Chinese exporters and make U.S. imports more expensive. But it would carry a political cost by hurting other trading partners and making Beijing look reckless, possibly destabilizing financial markets.

DIPLOMATIC PRESSURE

Beijing can appeal for support to U.S. allies that are miffed by Trump's "America first" approach and the U.S. withdrawal from the Paris climate pact and the proposed Trans-Pacific Partnership, a regional trade agreement.

Trump's unilateral actions have allowed China, the most-closed major economy, to position itself as a defender of free trade. That could help Beijing win over governments that have criticized Trump for acting outside the World Trade Organization.

China is a "central pillar" of the global trading system, "and we want to fully cooperate with China," U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres said during a visit to Beijing last month.

Beijing also has potential support from American companies and business groups that have criticized Trump and favor globalization.

More broadly, Chinese commentators have suggested Beijing also could disrupt diplomatic work over North Korea's nuclear and missile programs or other initiatives. But analysts say that would risk setting back work Chinese leaders see as a priority. **AP**

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Casino workers want sex harassment policy to include guests

Regina Garcia Cano,
Las Vegas

CASINO industry representatives and workers told Nevada gambling regulators last week that their initial policy draft proposal to address sexual harassment in the workplace needs more work.

The Nevada Gaming Control Board heard input on its proposal that spells out several requirements for license holders, including a system for employees to report instances of sexual harassment and regular prevention training to all workers. It comes in the wake of the sexual misconduct scandal surrounding former casino owner Steve Wynn, who has denied the allegations against him.

"It was nice to hear some contextualized feedback and to understand how the regulations as currently drafted are being interpreted so that we can be specific with our language to make sure that we are accomplishing what we are trying to accomplish," board chairwoman Becky Harris said after the meeting.

The regulatory changes as written would apply to all licensees. The largest casino operators have previously told The Associated Press they meet many of the proposed criteria, which employment attorneys say are standard for most mid- and large-size corporations.

Members of the union representing thousands of casino workers told the board the final regulations should address sexual harassment by guests and high rollers. Workers affiliated with the Culinary Union shared with the three members of the board stories of how guests have harassed them at different properties and over several years.

"About 27 years ago, a high roller gambler wanted me to give him a kiss for luck," said Deborah Jeffries, a cocktail server at a casino in the Las Vegas Strip. "He grabbed me with both hands around my neck, I tried to pull back, and to make a long



Becky Harris (right) and Terry Johnson, both of the Nevada Gaming Control Board, listen during a meeting

story short, he caused permanent nerve damage." She added she filed a report with the company, but the gambler was still allowed in the casino until she filed a complaint with federal officials about the situation.

We are in an industry where guests may drink too much, where guests may party too much.

ROBERT OSTROVSKY
NEVADA RESORT
ASSOCIATION LOBBYIST

The board can impose anti-sexual misconduct policies because state regulations provide that casinos operate in a suitable way to protect "the public health, safety, morals, good order and general welfare" of Nevada residents. It can also pursue disciplinary action if licensee's activities are discrediting of the state and its gambling industry.

The board's decision to draft regulations that address sexual harassment in the workplace came after the Wall Street Journal reported in January that several women said Wynn harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a USD7.5 million settlement. He resigned Feb. 6 as chairman and CEO of Wynn Resorts. Regulators in Nevada are now investigating

the allegations leveled against Wynn. He has filed a defamation lawsuit against The Associated Press for its reporting on a separate allegation made to police.

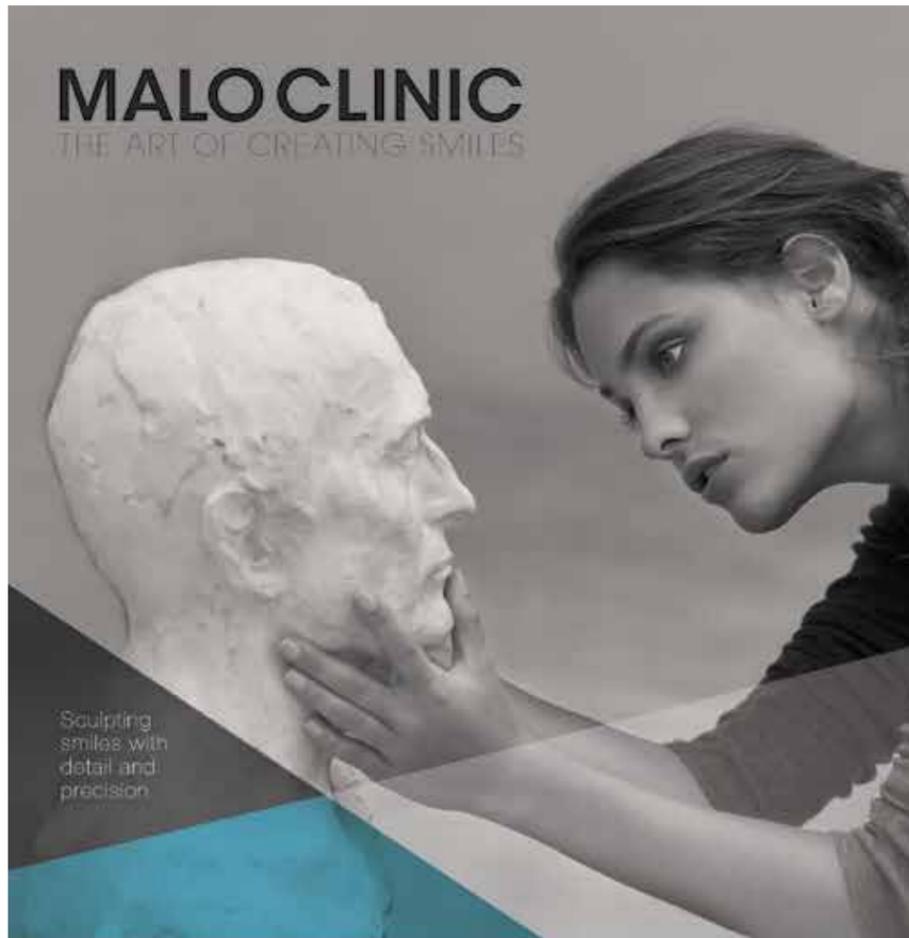
Casino operators MGM Resorts International, Caesars Entertainment and Wynn Resorts have told the AP they offer employees multiple avenues to report sexual harassment — also a proposed requirement.

Labor attorney Jen Sarafina told the board the regulations should not be adopted because they "appear to be a knee-jerk response to media coverage of allegations" that have not been proven in court and would also add a "duplicative" layer of reporting. She said the Nevada Equal Rights Commission and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission already have regulations addressing these issues.

Meanwhile, Robert Ostrovsky, a lobbyist for the Nevada Resort Association, said the proposed annual survey that asks workers to report "whether they are currently being harassed or know of any harassment taking place" should instead ask whether employees are familiar with the process available to make a report and if so, if it is effective.

"These issues are in the forefront, but they are not new," Ostrovsky, who was previously a human resources executive, said. "Yeah, we are in an industry where guests may drink too much, where guests may party too much. You know, we have an obligation to make sure our employees are protected." AP

AD



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+ INFO



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As Trump targets China's high-tech rise, Xi strives even harder

DONALD Trump's attempt to stem China's technological advance could already be backfiring. His counterpart, President Xi Jinping, has responded to tech-focused pressure from Washington, including a ban on a leading Chinese telecoms company buying American parts, by vowing to pour even more resources into research and achieve home-grown breakthroughs. He urged China recently to "cast aside illusions" it could rely on others for help.

As Trump's team continue talks in Beijing Friday armed with complaints about China's industrial strategy and trade surplus, the hosts said their technological advancement goal isn't on the table. The mix of Trump's tariff threats and the realization that the U.S. wants to stunt its Made in China 2025 development plan - aimed at dominating industries from transport to robotics - complicates prospects for detente.



"The more pressure the U.S. puts on China, the more urgently the country has to develop its own high-tech products to reduce reliance on the U.S.," said Xu Jianwei, a senior economist for

greater China at Natixis SA in Hong Kong. "The dilemma thus turns into a vicious circle. As long as the two countries' objectives are unchanged, it's really difficult to find a solution."

China views its shift into higher-tech manufacturing as a crucial part of its development

Beyond China's outsize trade surplus and Trump's call for a "level playing field" on trade, the race for technological supremacy is emerging as the most intractable long-term issue, now that the U.S. has branded China as a strategic rival and at the same time as they vie for military supremacy in the South China Sea.

At the core of the rivalry is the 2025 blueprint aimed at making China a global superpower in 10 strategic industries. "These are things that if China dominates the world, it's bad for America," U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer recently told a Senate committee.

"It involves a long list of discriminatory policies that help domestic firms at the expense of their foreign counterparts," says Scott Kennedy, a U.S.-China expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington. "Made in China 2025 is threatening not only because it will lead to a shift in market share from global to Chinese firms, but because the extent of subsidies and government support will make it difficult for anyone else to compete."

The plan, announced in 2015, highlights 10 sectors for support on the way to China becoming an advanced manufacturing power. The strategy envisions warp-speed expansion and domination of a "fourth industrial revolution," a catch-all term for rapid technological advances.

Among the 10 industries, China is best positioned competitively in communication equipment, advanced railway equipment, aerospace, new energy vehicles and shipbuilding, Citigroup Inc. said in December.

It also could make rapid inroads in robotics, biotechnology, new materials, agricultural machinery and new generation information technology and software if significant state resources are allocated to them, Citigroup said. Still, there's no guarantee throwing state money at the plan will succeed. China has tried to build a domestic semiconductor industry for decades and is still coming up short.

China views its shift into higher-tech manufacturing as a crucial part of its development. Labor costs are surging as a rapidly aging population causes the workforce to shrink, undermining competi-

veness in the industries that underpinned its rise. To continue to thrive, it must shift into industries now dominated by developed economies.

China sees its artificial intelligence industry being in line with those of the most advanced countries by 2020, and will be the world's primary AI innovation center by 2030, the State Council said in July. Although in most sectors AI is still catching up, Chinese researchers have become a global force in AI that cannot be ignored, according to a report last year by LinkedIn Co.

"The two countries seem to be on a collision course because both sides see technology as being key to national security," said Andrew Polk, co-founder of research firm Trivium China in Beijing. "Both the U.S. and China are fighting to dominate the industries of the future and they may be able to agree on the rules of the game but it's a competition and no side wants to voluntarily lose."

There may be more room to negotiate in other areas. Xi promised greater opening up last month and officials then announced steps to further open the financial sector and cut tariffs on autos, both areas where the U.S. has complained of a lack of progress.

Still, China is prepared for a long confrontation. Its unique political system and centralized leadership mean that it will have more endurance should a trade war break out, a senior government official said Wednesday, adding that won't compromise on core interests.

That leaves Trump to decide how much pain he can take, and inflict, as he pushes China to follow global capitalism's rules, says Michael Every, head of financial markets research at Rabobank Group in Hong Kong.

"I've long argued 'a lot' because it's existential at this point: a few billion here and there means nothing anymore to a U.S. fearing a loss of hegemony and a China aiming for it," he said. "If there has to be such a clash, it's better for the U.S. if it happens now." **Bloomberg**

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President praises Marxism as a tool to 'win the future'

CHINESE President Xi Jinping hailed Karl Marx as "the greatest thinker of modern times," in a speech Friday seen as part of an effort to shore up his power against domestic critics.

Xi's address at the Great Hall of the People in central Beijing was one of a series of events in China marking the bicentennial of the philosopher-economist's birth in 1818 in Germany.

Today, we commemorate Marx in order to pay tribute to the greatest thinker in the history of mankind.

XI JINPING

"We must win the advantages, win the initiative, and win the future. We must continuously improve the ability to use Marxism to analyze and solve practical problems," Xi said beneath a massive portrait of the white-bearded



Marx on a stage bedecked with scarlet and gold curtains.

"Today, we commemorate Marx in order to pay tribute to the greatest thinker in the history of mankind and also to declare our firm belief in the scientific truth of Marxism," he said.

Promoting Marx is seen in part

as a way for Xi to strengthen ideological control and counter critics within the ruling Communist Party unhappy with his move in March to eliminate presidential term limits. Xi is also general secretary of the ruling Communist Party, an official that is also not term-limited.

Marx's work became the inspiration for communism, an ideology that aims for shared ownership of the means of production and the absence of social classes.

China launched market reforms three decades ago but the party keeps an iron grip on power. **AP**

Beijing denies using lasers on US aircraft in Djibouti

CHINA on Friday denied allegations that its forces targeted U.S. military aircraft with high-powered lasers near China's military base in Djibouti, resulting in minor injuries to two pilots.

Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said China had informed the U.S. that "after strict verification, we have told the U.S. side that what they alleged is absolutely untrue."

The Defense Ministry issued a similar denial, saying it had refuted the accusations from the American side through formal channels.

"China always strictly abides by international law and the law of the country of residency and is committed to maintaining regional security and stability," said the statement posted to the ministry's microblog.

The U.S. issued a formal complaint to the Chinese government over the use of lasers that targeted aircraft on several occasions in the last few weeks. The Pentagon said the incidents represent a serious threat to U.S. airmen, and that the U.S. asked China to investigate.

The U.S. also put out a notice to airmen, saying they should exercise caution when flying near certain areas in Djibouti.

The pilots suffered minor eye injuries. There were no aircraft crashes or other more serious problems.

Lasers present a serious problem because when aimed at aircraft they can injure pilots or temporarily blind them — which can present safety risks particularly as they are taking off and landing.

China opened its first ever foreign military base in Djibouti last year, joining the U.S. and a number of other countries with military installations in the Horn of Africa nation.

While China stated originally that the base was intended as a logistics hub for U.N. peacekeeping missions and anti-piracy patrols, it is seen as part of a Chinese military expansion into the Indian Ocean that has alarmed regional rival India. **AP**

Scientists say Chinese-backed dam risks orangutan habitat

SCIENTISTS are calling for cancellation of a Chinese-backed hydroelectric dam in Indonesia that threatens the habitat of a newly discovered orangutan species numbering only 800 animals.

In the journal *Current Biology*, the experts say the 510-megawatt dam in Sumatra will flood or otherwise alter part of the habitat and likely make it impossible to take a crucial step toward ensuring the species survives — reconnecting fragmented forests the primates are spread across.

China's state-owned Sinohydro is building the dam, which is reportedly financed by Chinese loans. Critics of the project say it's part of China's "Belt and Road" plans to carpet Asia with Chinese-financed infrastructure and extend its economic



The director general of Conservation of Natural Resources and Ecosystem at Indonesian Forestry Ministry Wiratno (center) inspects a screen displaying the map of Batang Toru Ecosystem

and political influence.

Scientists announced the discovery of the third orangutan species, *Pongo tapanuliensis*, in November. The population, with frizzier hair and distinctively long calls for the males, was previously believed to be Sumatran orangutans. Without special

protection, it's in danger of rapid extinction, scientists say.

"It's appalling to think that within our lifetimes, a new great ape species could be both discovered and driven to extinction," said Serge Wich, a professor at Liverpool John Moores University, who was invol-

ved in identifying the new orangutan species.

The scientists also urged that the remaining habitat in the Batang Toru forest of northern Sumatra be given strict conservation protection and that forest corridors be created to link separated populations. One way to do that,

they said, is to close a section of the road between two main forest fragments.

The Batang Toru orangutan was the first great ape species to be proposed by scientists in nearly 90 years. Previously, science has recognized six great ape species: Sumatran and Bornean orangutans, eastern and western gorillas, chimpanzees and bonobos.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature classified Bornean orangutans as critically endangered in 2016 due to a precipitous population decline caused by destruction of their forest habitat for palm oil and pulp wood plantations. Sumatran orangutans have been classified as critically endangered since 2008.

The scientists writing in *Current Biology* said orangutan subpopulations need to number at least 200 to have a chance of surviving a century and more than 500 for longer-term survival. **AP**

PHILIPPINES

100,000 Chinese move to Manila and trigger property surge

IN Manila's main financial district and its fringes, signs of the new inhabitants are everywhere: the restaurants serving steaming Chinese hotpots and dumplings, the Mandarin broadcasts at the Mall of Asia, and the soaring property prices.

An estimated 100,000 migrants, mostly Chinese, have flooded into pockets of the Philippines capital since September 2016, and the deluge is rippling through the city's real estate market in ways that are unique among the world's urban centers. While Chinese investors have been snapping up big swathes of high-end housing in Hong Kong, London and New York for years to move their money offshore, this new rush is motivated by something different: Manila's booming gaming industry.

More than 50 offshore gambling companies that cater to overseas Chinese punters have received permits to operate in the city since President Rodrigo Du-



terte's government began awarding licenses 19 months ago. While bets are placed remotely, the operators need Chinese speakers in Manila to handle everything from marketing and customer queries to payment processing for overseas clients.

The resulting migration, while only a fraction of the metropolitan area's 12.9 million population, is propelling home prices to record levels in neighborhoods fa-

vored by Chinese workers. It's reinvigorating Manila's commercial property market as owners convert offices and shops into gaming centers with card tables and webcams. And it's boosting the bottom lines of local developers including Ayala Land Inc. and SM Prime Holdings Inc.

While no official numbers are publicly available showing the number of Chinese arrivals in Manila, people familiar with the matter

said that offshore gaming operators in the Philippines employ about 200,000 workers, predominantly Chinese, and more than half of them have arrived in the capital region since late 2016. The Bureau of Immigration said it couldn't immediately provide the data.

The influx promises to boost the nation's economy and is helping to strengthen ties with China - a priority for Duterte. Yet it leaves the property market vulnerable in the event of an abrupt shift in online gaming or immigration policies from either country.

The perils of relying too heavily on Chinese buyers became painfully obvious last year in the Malaysian enclave of Johor Bahru, which has been grappling with a glut of vacant homes after China imposed controls on investments in overseas property and demand abruptly dried up.

"Concentration risk could be a potential concern," said Emilio Neri, an economist at the Bank of the Philippine Islands in Manila.

Others see only opportunities. Qiang Huang, a realtor based in the Chinese city of Hefei, expects Manila home prices to get a boost from the steady stream of Chinese workers catering not only to offshore gaming customers, but also mainland clients who frequent brick-and-mortar casinos.

A high-rolling gamer himself, Huang first visited the area in November to place bets at Bloomberry Resorts Corp.'s Solaire casino and realized that Manila could scratch more than his gambling itch. He's planning to build a 500-square-meter showroom in the city to lure Chinese real estate investors and will soon sign contracts to market apartments at

two projects.

"I chose an area with a booming gambling business, as properties there have the largest potential to appreciate," Huang said, adding that he has run into Chinese tourists who have formed "property-shopping" groups.

Among the biggest beneficiaries of this appetite have been condo units near Manila's Makati district, in close proximity to the gaming sites where mainland workers are employed. Patches of San Antonio Village, about one kilometer from Makati's financial hub, now have restaurants, stores, money changers and payment centers catering to Chinese customers sharing space with local stores.

In the Bay Area adjacent to Makati, home prices surged by a record 27 percent in the last three months of 2017, according to data from Santos Knight Frank Inc., dwarfing the 6 percent overall gain in residential prices in the metropolitan Manila area. Condo sales in the capital region rose to an all-time high of 52,600 units in 2017.

Appetite from gaming operators is also supporting the commercial market as demand from traditional outsourcing companies wanes. The share of take-up of new office space by outsourcing companies decreased by a third to 46 percent in 2017, while that of offshore gaming operators tripled to 30 percent, said David Leechiu, CEO at Leechiu Property Consultants, which has partnered with CBRE Group Inc. in the Philippines. "If not for offshore gaming operators, the property market would have crashed last year," Leechiu said.

A typical online gaming operation consists of dealing studios and a call center-like facility that serves offshore customers. A studio that Bloomberg News recently toured in Makati City spanned roughly 400 square meters, with tables for games such as baccarat, Dragon Tiger and Fantan. Dealers - mostly young Filipino women wearing snug halter-neck dresses - staffed each table.

Eight kilometers away, in another part of the city, is the main customer-service center. The 6,000 square

meter space is divided into dozens of rooms with rows of desks that seat more than 5,000 employees. A cafeteria serves free meals around the clock, catering to the army of mostly mainland workers and some Taiwanese and Malaysian staff. Other amenities include a hotpot restaurant and a convenience store stocking Chinese snacks and other products.

Fast Facts on Philippine Offshore Gaming Operators Also known as POGOs Such operations were limited to three provinces north of Manila before Sept. 2016 decision to expand them to the capital region 55 permits for POGOs have been awarded since then 14 of those are engaged in sports betting Revenue from POGOs quintupled to 3.57 billion Philippine pesos (\$70 million) in 2017 from a year earlier Source: Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corp.

Chinese demand is helping stoke record earnings at some builders. At SM Prime, the nation's largest property developer, Chinese buyers accounted for almost 30 percent of residential reservation sales in the first quarter. The share of mainland nationals who bought homes from Ayala Land jumped to almost half of all sales to foreign buyers last year from 30 percent in 2016. Offshore gaming companies occupy 60 percent of DoubleDragon Properties Corp.'s completed office space in the Bay Area and they're paying rents one-third higher than other tenants, said Chief Executive Officer Injap Sia.

Developers aren't betting that boom times will last forever. Ayala Land's President Bobby Dy said the builder will limit offshore gaming leases to 10 percent of its office portfolio. DoubleDragon plans to cap total exposure to such tenants to 30 percent once all its office towers are completed. The firm requires a one-year deposit from offshore gaming operators and post-dated checks for the duration of the five-year contract.

Kitt Lapeña, 34, a Makati resident for most of his life, has seen waves of foreign residents come and go before, from Japan and Korea, but never on the scale of the recent Chinese influx. While he welcomes the economic boost, he worries about the motivations of the new arrivals.

"In a way, it's good for business," Lapeña said. "I hope they become an asset to the community and not just out to make money." **Bloomberg**

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Former Deputy Prime Minister and opposition leader Anwar Ibrahim (center) smiles

Malaysia's Anwar joins with former persecutor for election

Eileen Ng, Kuala Lumpur

MALAYSIAN opposition icon Anwar Ibrahim can't vote in what he believes will be a "defining election" for his country on Wednesday but even from his prison cell has remained a political force to be reckoned with.

The firebrand politician's conviction in 2015 for what he and his supporters said were false allegations of sodomy fractured the alliance of opposition parties that under Anwar's leadership was threatening the ruling National Front's decades-long hold on power.

It was Anwar's second spell in prison and it seemed he'd finally been done in by dirty political tactics. Once a high flyer in the ruling party, in 1998 he was convicted of homosexual sodomy — a criminal offense in Muslim-majority Malaysia inherited from the British colonial

era — and corruption following a power struggle with Mahathir Mohammad, Malaysia's authoritarian prime minister for more than two decades.

Anwar, however, played an unexpected card. From prison he helped forge a new opposition alliance by ending the two-decade feud with his former persecutor-in-chief, Mahathir, who'd once called Anwar "morally unfit" to govern the country.

It was a hard but pragmatic decision, Anwar's eldest daughter, lawmaker Nurul Izzah Anwar, told The Associated Press. Anwar, 70, is an "incorrigible optimist" who believes there must be sacrifices to bring about a change of government and badly needed reforms, she said.

"He was instrumental in galvanizing an eventual approval to get Mahathir to be part of our coalition," said Nurul Izzah. "He was the first to state that it's

time for us to be actively playing our part to design the Malaysia that we want."

Mahathir, 92, now leads an opposition alliance that includes Anwar's party. They're campaigning to oust Prime Minister Najib Razak, who is mired in scandal, and end the National Front's unbroken 60-year rule.

Even with Mahathir, who is popular with Malaysia's Malay majority, the odds are stacked against the opposition. It won the popular vote in 2013 but the ruling party clung to a majority in Parliament because of an electoral system that gives more weight to Malay-dominated rural seats that traditionally support the government.

A popular Islamic student leader, Anwar joined the ruling Malay party in 1982, a year after Mahathir became prime minister. He quickly rose up the ranks, becoming finance minister in 1991 and deputy premier two years later. Anwar became

the heir apparent to Mahathir but they fell out during the 1998 Asian financial crisis and Anwar was sacked.

He refused to go quietly, leading tens of thousands of demonstrators in street rallies in Kuala Lumpur demanding reforms before he was arrested. He was later produced in court with a black eye from a beating by the police chief. That black eye has become the logo of the People's Justice Party led by his wife and is now the symbol of the opposition challenge against Najib.

Anwar was freed in 2004 after Mahathir retired and cleared of the sodomy charges. In 2008 elections, his opposition pact known as the People's Alliance made major inroads by depriving the National Front of a two-thirds majority in Parliament for the first time. In 2013, the National Front lost the popular vote, its worst result since independence from Britain in 1957.

It currently holds 132 of 222 seats.

But in 2015, Anwar was imprisoned again after new allegations of sodomizing an aide that he and his supporters said was a government plot to crush the opposition. "Authoritarian leaders always believe the best way to deal with dissidents is to jail them, but throughout history, it has always backfired," Anwar said at the time.

His opposition alliance broke up after its Islamist ally left. It regrouped as the Alliance of Hope but the pact was shaky due to infighting and the lack of a charismatic figure to hold it together day to day.

Mahathir's political comeback in 2016 provided the missing glue. Despite his advanced age, Mahathir was seen as the best chance for the opposition to win support from rural Malays.

The former prime minister was spurred out of retirement by the corruption scandal at 1MDB, a state fund that is being investigated by the U.S. and several other countries after associates of Najib allegedly stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from it. The fund was set up by Najib in 2009 to promote economic but accumulated billions in debts.

In September 2016, Mahathir met Anwar for the first time in 18 years. Social media was awash with pictures of the two men shaking hands and chatting in court, where Anwar was challenging a repressive new security law.

An opposition victory in the election, though unlikely, could result in a spectacular comeback for Anwar.

He is due to be released from prison on June 8 and Mahathir has pledged to hand leadership to him. Officials say Anwar could take power with a royal pardon.

Anwar, said Nurul Izzah, "knows it's a defining election, he knows the stakes are high."

"We have to face a lot of onslaught against Mahathir especially in the lead-up to the election, but we are also saying that we are not apologists. Like it or not, he is now doing his bit at the age of 92, what are you doing about it? That's the key message we are giving out." **AP**

AFGHANISTAN

Bombing at mosque kills 14, wounds 33

A bomb blast inside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan that was being used as a voter registration center killed at least 14 people and wounded 33, officials said.

Habib Shah Ansari, the provincial head of public health, confirmed the toll from the attack, which took place in the city of

Khost, the capital of the province of the same name.

No one immediately claimed responsibility for the attack, but both the Taliban and a local Islamic State affiliate reject democratic elections and have targeted them in the past. IS is not known to have a presence in Khost,

but has expanded its footprint into other areas in recent years.

Last month, an Islamic State suicide bomber attacked a voter registration center in Kabul, killing 60 people and wounding at least 130 others. Afghanistan plans to hold elections in October, the first since

2014.

The Taliban and IS have launched a relentless wave of attacks since the start of the year, killing scores of civilians in the capital, Kabul, and elsewhere. Afghan security forces have struggled to combat the groups since the U.S. and NATO concluded their combat mis-

sion at the end of 2014, switching to a counter-terrorism and support role.

Elsewhere in Afghanistan, a vehicle carrying shopkeepers on their way to a market struck a roadside bomb in Afghanistan's northern Faryab province, killing seven of them. Police spokesman

Karim Yuresh said another civilian was wounded in yesterday's attack, in an area where both the Taliban and IS are active.

In the eastern Paktia province, a car bomb killed two people and wounded another three. Abdullah Hsart, the provincial governor's spokesman, said the attack late Saturday targeted Hazrat Mohammad Rodwal, a district chief, who was among the wounded. The Taliban claimed the attack. **AP**



LEBANON

First general elections in nine years

Tens of thousands of Lebanese cast their ballots Sunday in the first parliamentary elections in nine years, a vote that is being fiercely contested between rival groups backed by regional powers Iran and Saudi Arabia. The voting is unlikely to change the existing balance of power among the major political factions in Lebanon, but many hope new contenders from civil society groups can challenge the decades-old sectarian political system. Thousands of army and police forces deployed near polling stations and on major intersections across the country to ensure security. Electoral campaigns have been tense as each group has mobilized its supporters, with fist fights and shootings occurring in several areas in recent weeks.

POLAND

Rescuers find another missing miner

Polish rescue workers yesterday found the bodies of two miners after an earthquake hit a coal mine in southern Poland. Three other miners remain missing some 900 meters below ground since the quake hit Saturday morning in the mine, located in the town of Jastrzebie-Zdroj, close to Poland's border with the Czech Republic. The head of the Jastrzebie Coal Company, Daniel Ozon, said a doctor confirmed the two fatalities and identification of the victims was underway.

SPAIN

476 migrants rescued at sea

Spain's maritime rescue service said yesterday that it saved 476 migrants who were attempting the perilous crossing of the Mediterranean Sea from African shores. The migrants were pulled from 15 small boats on Friday and Saturday, officials said. There were no reported casualties. Separately, a Spanish nonprofit dedicated to helping migrants at sea rescued 105 more migrants in waters near Libya during a mission yesterday. The aid group Proactive Open Arms found the migrants drifting at sea in a motor-less boat.

US

Some calming of Hawaii volcano, but scientists remain wary

THE number of homes destroyed by lava shooting out of openings in the ground created by Hawaii's Kilauea volcano climbed to five as some of the more than 1,700 people who evacuated prepared for the possibility they may not return for quite some time.

"I have no idea how soon we can get back," said Todd Corrihan, who left his home in Leilani Estates with his wife on Friday as lava burst through the ground three or four blocks from their home. They spent the night on the beach in their car and began looking for a vacation rental.

The Hawaiian Volcanoes Observatory said eight vents, each several hundred meters long, opened in the neighborhood since Thursday. By late Saturday the fissures had quieted down and were only releasing steam and gas.

Scientists said Kilauea was likely to release more lava through additional vents, but they were unable to predict exactly where. Leilani Estates, a subdivision in the mostly rural district of Puna, is at greatest risk. Authorities ordered more than 1,700 residents to evacuate from there and nearby Lanipuna Gardens.

Hundreds of small earthquakes continued to rumble through the area Saturday, one day after a magnitude-6.9 temblor hit — the largest earthquake to hit Hawaii in more than 40 years. Magma



Lava burns across the road in the Leilani Estates in Pahoa, Hawaii

moving through Kilauea set off the earthquakes, said geologists, who warned of aftershocks.

Authorities cautioned sulfuric gas pouring out of the vents also posed dangers, particularly to elderly and people with respiratory problems. Hawaii County spokeswoman Kanani Aton said some residents may be allowed to return home briefly to pick up medicine or take care of pets if sulfur dioxide levels drop as a result of the calming vents.

Tesha "Mirah" Montoya, 45, said the threat of toxic fumes wasn't enough to make her family evacuate, but the tipping point was the earthquakes.

"I felt like the whole side of our hill was going to explode,"

she said. "The earthquake was what made us start running and start throwing guinea pigs and bunnies in the car."

Montoya, her husband and daughter don't know how long they will be away from the three-story octagonal house they built nearly 20 years ago in a patch of "raw jungle."

"My heart and soul's there," she said in a phone interview from a cabin on the north side of the Big Island, where the family had hunkered down. "I'm nothing without the land. It's part of my being."

Gary McMillan said his home is about 914 meters from one of the fissures in Leilani Estates. He monitored remote cameras

set up in his home and said his home was still intact.

He's living out of his van with his wife at the nearby community center and constantly thinks about things they left behind, but understands why authorities evacuated residents. "I was a critical care nurse for 37 years, so I understand the health implications and the dangers involved," McMillan said.

■ Sulfuric gas pouring out of the vents also poses dangers, particularly to elderly and people with respiratory problems

Kilauea has been continuously erupting since 1983 and is one of the world's most active volcanoes. In 2014, lava burned a house and smothered a cemetery as it approached Pahoa, the town closest to Leilani Estates. But this flow stalled just before it reached Pahoa's main road.

Nearly 30 years ago, lava slowly covered an entire town, Kalapana, over the period of about a year. **AP**

Marx hometown unveils huge statue on 200th birth anniversary

Kirsten Grieshaber, Berlin

A larger than life statue of Communist philosopher Karl Marx was unveiled Saturday on the 200th anniversary of his birth in the western German town of Trier.

The celebratory uncovering of the 4.4-meter bronze statue of Marx, donated by China, sparked criticism by some who blame Marx for crimes committed by social revolutionaries in Russia, China and elsewhere in the name of Communism.

About 200 guests, including a delegation from China, applauded during the anniversary celebrations, when a bright red cover was lifted from

the statue which depicts Marx with a frock and his signature bushy beard.

■ The 4.4-meter bronze statue of Marx was donated by China

Marx laid the philosophical foundations for Communism, an ideology that aims for shared ownership of the means of production and the absence of social classes. He explained his thoughts in two famous works, the



Communist Manifesto and Das Kapital.

The ceremony and speeches in Trier were at times disturbed by the shouting and whistling of different groups of

nearby protesters. "The present from China is a pillar and a bridge for our partnership," said Malu Dreyer, the governor of the state of Rhineland-Palatinate, where Trier is

located.

A German group representing victims of Communism criticized the Marx anniversary celebrations saying they lacked a debate about the philosopher's support of violence in the abolishment of social classes. "We say yes to a debate about Marx, but no to his worship," the group's leader, Dieter Dombrowski, said in a statement.

When Germany was divided after the end of World War II, the eastern part was under Communist rule from 1949 until the country's reunification in 1990. Some East Germans say they still suffer from the long-term effects of the Communist regime's suppression and violence against its critics.

Karl Marx was born in Trier on May 5, 1818 and lived there until he was 17 years old. He died in exile in London in 1883. **AP**

Israeli PM steps up calls to end the Iranian nuclear deal

AP PHOTO



Benjamin Netanyahu

Josef Federman, Jerusalem

PRIME Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday stepped up his calls to end the Iranian nuclear deal as President Donald Trump weighs whether to withdraw the United States from the 2015 agreement.

In a briefing to foreign reporters Netanyahu said "a deal that enables Iran to keep and hide all its nuclear weapons know-how, is a horrible deal."

The deal "has to be either fully fixed or fully nixed," he said. "But if you do nothing to this deal, if you keep it as is, you will end up with Iran with a nuclear arsenal in a very short time," he said.

Trump faces a May 12 deadline over whether to uphold 2015 nuclear deal, which he long has criticized. Trump has signaled he will pull out of the agreement by May 12 unless it is revised, but he faces intense pressure from European allies not to do so. Netanyahu has found a welcome partner in Trump, who has called the agreement "the worst deal ever."

Netanyahu is an outspoken opponent of the deal, which requires Iran to limit its nuclear enrichment in exchange for the lifting of international sanctions. Netanyahu says the deal will not prevent Iran, Israel's bitter enemy, from reaching nuclear weapons capability.

Last week, Netanyahu said a "half ton" of Iranian nuclear documents seized by Israeli intelligence revealed that Iran had lied about its past efforts to produce nuclear weapons. He did not provide any evidence that Iran has violated the 2015 nuclear deal, but said the documents prove Tehran cannot be trusted.

Iran dismissed Netanyahu's presentation as a "ridiculous show" but did not address the

documents he displayed. Iran has denied ever pursuing nuclear arms.

Netanyahu said yesterday that Israel is passing on the findings "to the main intelligence services" and others. "If you don't violate a dangerous deal, it doesn't make it less dangerous," Netanyahu said.

European countries, which have been pressing Trump to stick with the deal, have said Netanyahu's presentation only reinforced the importance of the agreement, which provides for inspections.

Earlier, Netanyahu accused Iran of supplying advanced weapons to Syria that pose a danger to Israel, saying it's better to confront Tehran sooner rather than later.

Israel has repeatedly warned it will not tolerate a lasting Iranian military presence in neighboring Syria, and is believed to have been behind recent airstrikes on Syrian military bases that killed Iranian soldiers, prompting Tehran to vow retaliation. Israel has neither confirmed nor denied involvement.

Netanyahu told the Israeli Cabinet that Iran has delivered advanced weapons to Syria "in order to attack us both on the battlefield and on the home front."

"We are determined to block Iran's aggression against us even if this means a struggle. Better now than later," he said. "We do not want escalation, but we are prepared for any scenario."

Israel has long viewed Iran as its biggest threat because of Tehran's nuclear activities, its support for armed groups across the region and its leaders' frequent calls for the destruction of the Jewish state. In recent years, Iran has provided crucial military support to Syrian President Bashar Assad. **AP**

ADVERTORIAL



Celebrating environmental sustainability

On April 13, MGM COTAI received the 3 Star China (Macau) Green Building Label certification for commitments to environmental sustainability in the design and construction of MGM COTAI at the Macao International Environmental Co-operation Forum & Exhibition (MIECF) 2018. MGM is the only private sector organization to have received this prestigious award from the China Green Building and Energy Saving (Macau) Association.



MGM COTAI includes environmentally sustainable aspects throughout the property, something integrated into the initial design process, including highly innovative systems to heat and cool our building, water efficiency measures, vertical gardens including over 100,000 plants within the property's Spectacle, and high standards for noise, light and air quality, among many other highlights.

MGM's Go Green Campaign

In support of MIECF as well as the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau's Macao Green Week, MGM held its annual company-wide Go Green Campaign from March 20 to April 6 including a host of fun, educational and interactive initiatives aimed at engaging our team in environmental protection.



Green Tours of MGM COTAI

The MGM Green Team led several tours for employees to share with employees the sustainability highlights of MGM COTAI both front of house and back of house. Among many highlights, the tour participants gained an understanding of the green guest room elements, our recycling operations, the expansive array of biodiversity within the property, how our energy-efficient chiller plant works, as well as all the other elements from F&B to procurement that make up our sustainability efforts.

Earth Hour and Green Monday

On March 24, from 8:30am to 9:30pm, MGM once again joined Earth Hour 2017, the global effort to raise awareness of climate change and environmental protection. We joined together MGM Resorts International properties in honor of this global conservation effort by dimming the property's exterior lighting, with all treatment rooms at Tria Spa powering off and illuminating treatment rooms with ambient candlelight.



MGM MACAU also celebrated its first anniversary of Green Monday, the weekly event to support low carbon living through our eating habits. In the employee dining room by including a special menu of plant-based burgers served up by our Green Team to mark the occasion.



Tree Planting by IACM

On March 21, MGM also participated in a tree maintenance program organized by IACM at Hác-Sá Reservoir Country Park to help preserve Macau's green spaces under the guidance of IACM's tree specialists. This is the 9th year running MGM has participated in this much-loved activity by our employees as a way to get in the great at doors and to build a greater appreciation for nature.

Go Green Marketplace

From March 28 – April 3, to help our employees to Live Green, Eat Green and Shop Green, MGM held a Go Green marketplace inviting two local businesses, Concept H and StuffBOX for a special staff market including a selection of healthy foods and eco-friendly products such as collapsible cups and containers, glass straws, re-usable food bags and utensils. Alongside this, we also arranged a barter market for kids items for employees to bring pre-loved items their children no longer use or wear and exchange them for something useful from someone else with the overall aim to raise awareness of the importance of re-thinking waste and remembering that someone's waste is another person's treasure!



MGM
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E sustainability@mgm-macau.com
W http://www.mgm.mo/



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)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

WITH TAJ MAHAL TURNING A BIT GREEN, INDIAN COURT GETS MAD



The Taj Mahal, that shining white monument to love, is turning a little ... green. And yellow. And black.

And India's Supreme Court is not pleased.

"You all appear to be helpless," a Supreme Court judge told government officials earlier this week, after an environmental lawyer argued that pollution and insect dung were discoloring the 17th-century building.

"Money should not be the consideration. We might order you to hire experts from within India or abroad. We need to save it," the judge said, according to numerous Indian media reports. The reports did not give the judge's name.

The officials, representing the central government and Uttar Pradesh state, where the Taj is located, were given until Wednesday to come up with a plan and report back to the court.

Built by Mogul Emperor Shah Jahan for his favorite wife in the north Indian city of Agra, the monument has been losing its sheen for years. The Archaeological Survey of India, the agency responsible for preserving the country's monuments, has been coating portions of the Taj with a special clay that, when it is removed, also takes away most discolorations.

But M.C. Mehta, the lawyer who brought the case to the court, said not enough is being done.

"The white sheen is disappearing and instead of that if the green color, the brown color, the other colors ... are visible, then what is the reason? The reason is that the pollution has become alarming," he said in an interview after the hearing.

Agra is a major north Indian industrial center, and the city is often covered with a fog of pollution. Experts say air pollution and swarms of breeding insects are threatening the Taj by leaving green, yellow and black patches.

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

03 - 09 MAY



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 1

2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm

ROOM 2

4:30pm

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



RAMPAGE

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Brad Peyton

Starring: Dwayne Johnson, Naomie Harris, Malin Akerman

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



TOMORROW IS ANOTHER DAY

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Chan Tai-Lee

Starring: Teresa Mo, Ling Man Lung, Ray Lui, Bonnie Xian

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 91min

THE THROUGH

ROOM 3

02:30, 04:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Nick Cheung

Starring: Nick Cheung, Xu Jing Lei, He Jiong, Miu Kiu Wai

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

this day in history



1976 MORE BODIES FOUND AFTER ITALY QUAKE

Italy's worst ever earthquake has killed more than 550 people and left 80,000 homeless.

At least 1,000 people were injured when the quake struck the northern region of Friuli last night, affecting 11 villages near the Austrian and Yugoslav borders.

A government spokesman said as many as 1,000 may have been killed. It is likely the death toll will rise as rescue workers find more bodies under the rubble of fallen buildings.

The local military and Red Cross are on the scene. They are due to be joined by rescue workers from Venice and Trieste.

Officials from the affected towns are appealing for medicine and emergency lights for hospitals. American army units in the area have flown in equipment and medical staff by helicopter and flown out the injured.

President Giovanni Leone and the Interior Minister, Francesco Cossiga, visited the earthquake zone by helicopter. They were moved to tears when they spoke to the injured at a hospital in the small town of Maiano, 10 miles (16km) north-west of Udine.

The hill town of Gemona, further north, was almost flattened, killing at least 100 people. A cemetery worker told reporters: "We just haven't got enough coffins."

Inmates of the town's prison tried to scale the walls in their panic to get out but were beaten back by machine-gun fire.

This last quake, which measured 6.5 on the Richter scale, was by far the strongest of the 23 tremors which began on the night of 5 May. It could be felt in France, West Germany, Austria, Czechoslovakia, Poland and Yugoslavia.

Most of the 180,000 people who live in the Friuli region spent the night outdoors for fear of further aftershocks.

The Italian tourist office in London has said that there were no known British casualties.

The Queen has sent a message of sympathy to the Italian Government.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The following 12 months saw hundreds more tremors in the region, the largest of which struck in September.

Altogether, the May and September quakes killed 951 people, injured 2,400 and left 45,000 homeless. Damage was estimated at £3,000m. The Italian government came under strong criticism for allowing red tape to hamper reconstruction of the area.

When Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti visited the region in September, he was greeted with angry protests from refugees who had been living in tents for four months.

Tent cities were - eventually - replaced with 20,000 prefabricated houses. Using donations from the European Community, the government had spent £250m by the end of 1976 to rebuild the infrastructure of the region and rehouse its inhabitants.

Northern and central Italy are susceptible to earthquakes, with many minor tremors occurring on a regular basis.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 You've got to take your time today - there's no point in rushing!

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your diplomatic nature is making life easier and sweeter for you.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 You can't quite get your family to understand your feelings today - which can be really hard on you.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Your eye for detail is strengthened today, so see if you can make the most of it.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 You aren't feeling very extravagant today - maybe because of your recent binges.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Your systems for keeping organized are paying off today - so make the most of them!

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 Can you keep still and avoid action today? If so, you should be just fine - but otherwise, things might start to get really weird for you.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 New information comes your way that shakes things up -most likely for the better!

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 People are getting on your nerves today - so much so that you may want to run away screaming!

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Someone needs to hear your voice - most likely someone you haven't spoken with in months!

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Details are all-important, and you need to work through them today.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can get more out of your relationships than you may expect - thanks to at least one important person who gives you the key to understanding.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. Includes sections for CHINA and WORLD with cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Collective word for intellectual pursuits; 5- Deadly African snake; 10- Monarch; 14- Beach, Florida; 15- Healing plants; 16- Suffix with exist; 17- And others, briefly; 18- Easy gaits; 19- Standard; 20- Treatment of disease by X rays; 23- Sprechen Deutsch?; 24- Votes for; 25- Jazz fan?; 29- Follows; 31- Eskimo knife; 32- End for Siam; 33- Foreordain; 37- Blue-pencil; 40- Old California fort; 41- Like ___ not; 42- The largest lizard in the world; 47- Uncommon sense; 48- Wall St. debut; 49- Sayings; 53- Opening word; 55- Yard tumbler; 57- CPR giver; 58- Persistence; 61- Travel on water; 64- Skylit lobbies; 65- Antelope's playmate; 66- Drop ___ (moon); 67- Spoil; 68- Bakery fixture; 69- Hankerings; 70- First name in cosmetics; 71- Actress Thompson; DOWN: 1- Disinclined; 2- Keep possession of; 3- Swaps; 4- Arias, usually; 5- The ___ Falcon; 6- Luau greeting; 7- Acts down; 8- Ale, e.g.; 9- Onslaught; 10- Nairobi's nation; 11- Daughter of Cadmus; 12- ATM maker; 13- Precious stone; 21- ___ and terminator (criminal court); 22- Spitting sound; 26- Furnace output; 27- Respecting; 28- Not e'en once; 30- ___ no good; 31- Meat-grading org.; 34- Extinct bird; 35- Sin; 36- Columbus' ship; 37- Supplements, with "out"; 38- Medicinal amount; 39- Little rascals; 43- Thin change; 44- Function; 45- Shaped like a hood; 46- River to the Baltic; 50- Swiss city; 51- Hosted; 52- Breastbones; 54- Great grade; 55- Reason for a raise; 56- Sheeplike; 59- RR stops; 60- Bustles; 61- Eye infection, pig house; 62- 100 square meters; 63- Charged atom;

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details like 'Choi Long Meng Chui', 'Caçada da Surpresa', 'The Buckingham', 'Violet Court', 'Riveria Tower 2', 'Fountainside', 'Island Park', and 'Car Park, Manhattan'.

FOOTBALL

Man City players finally get hands on EPL trophy

Steve Douglas

BLUE-AND-WHITE ticker tape flew up and fireworks exploded as Manchester City's players finally got their hands on the Premier League trophy yesterday.

They couldn't mark the occasion with a potentially record-breaking win — City surprisingly drew 0-0 with relegation-threatened Huddersfield — but it didn't stop them basking in the glory of a stylish and runaway title triumph that was clinched in record-equaling time two weeks ago.

Pep Guardiola was thrown in the air by his squad. Yaya Toure danced and jiggled with his teammates on one of his last appearances on the Etihad Stadium turf. Some of the backroom staff swigged on huge bottles of champagne. City's fans, who earlier defied orders to not invade the pitch after fulltime, chanted song after song about their favorite players.

The crowning moment on a beautiful, sunny day in east Manchester came when Vincent Kompany raised aloft the biggest prize in English football, the third time the long-serving City captain has done so in seven seasons. He'll never get tired of doing it.

There are still two games left in City's league season — and still time for City to break the record for most points, wins and goals in a single Premier League campaign. Then City will aim to become an even more celebrated team by retaining the title for the first time.

"England is a special place and is so tough. Today we saw it," Guardiola said. "You never know if you are going to win,



but I had no doubt what I had to do. To make back-to-back titles in this league will be tough, but we accept the challenge."

Even Guardiola, a perfectionist, might let off his players for their lowering in standards against Huddersfield. On a day when fans partied inside and outside the stadium and the side entered to a guard of honor made up of the Huddersfield team as well as players from City's title-winning team from 1968, City produced one of its sloppiest displays of the season. The final ball was lacking and even David Silva misplaced some passes.

It was the first time this season City had been kept score-

less at home in the league, the last occasion being in April last year in a 0-0 draw against Manchester United.

In fact, Huddersfield had the better chances — through Chris Lowe and Florent Hadergjonaj in the first half — before defending deeply and obdurately after halftime to secure a point that could prove crucial in its bid to preserve its place in the Premier League.

Huddersfield moved three points clear of the relegation zone with two games to play — against Chelsea and Arsenal.

As for City's players, they still require two points, one win and two goals to set milestones in a season when Guar-

diola's side cruised to the title playing the kind of football rarely seen in the English game.

City's remaining games are against Brighton at home and Southampton away, and Guardiola is sure to rotate. Toure, for example, will get his Etihad send-off against Brighton after eight years at City where he has been one of the most influential players at the club and in the league.

Toure was given the biggest cheer by fans as City's players walked up to the stage to collect the trophy. As many of them jumped on the midfielder, the trophy fell off its perch and onto the grass. A minor blip on a special day for City. **AP**

MOTOGP

Marquez wins Spanish GP, takes lead after rivals collide

MARC Marquez won the Spanish MotoGP to take the overall points lead after several of his rivals crashed out of the race yesterday.

Pole sitter Cal Crutchlow wiped out before a three-rider crash involving previous points leader Andrea Dovizioso, his Ducati teammate Jorge Lorenzo, and Dani Pedrosa.

That left Marquez, who had maneuvered into the lead from a fifth-place start, free to increase the gap and never be challenged as the four-time MotoGP champion cruised to his 37th career victory in the top category.

"Dani [Pedrosa] was the fastest, but a race is not only about being the fastest," Marquez said. "You have to overtake, be aggressive in certain moments. I hope they are okay, but I won't lie, [it means] more points for me."

Marquez steered his Honda across the finish line in 41 minutes, 39.678 seconds, more than five seconds before Johann Zarco, who finished second. Andrea Iannone completed the podium.

Marquez leads the competition with 70 points after four races. Zarco is second with 58, followed by Maverick Vinales with 50. Lorenzo Baldassarri won the Moto2 race ahead of Miguel Oliveira and Francesco Bagnaia, who leads the category with 73 points. Baldassarri is second with 64.

In Moto3, Philipp Oettl got his first career win after edging Marco Bezzecchi at the line. Bezzecchi leads the standings with 63 points, ahead of Jorge Martin with 55. **AP**

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MACAU GP

Circuit might need changes ahead of 2019

MACAU might have to make changes to the Guia Circuit in order to host the new International Formula 3 race starting in 2019, magazine Autosport claims.

In an article published last week, Autosport says that the power-to-weight ratios for the competing vehicles may force the city to alter its circuit.

Currently the track meets FIA Grade 3 standards, allowing it to accommodate cars with a power-to-weight ratio of 2-3kg per 1bhp.

FIA safety director Laurent Mekies, who is responsible for this aspect of the competition, said: "If the car comes with a power-to-weight ratio that doesn't limit it to Grade 3, we are not going to add kilos onto it to make it still a Grade 3 - that would be silly from our side. [...] The car will come with the lowest weight possible, and we will then run simulations to do what it takes to make Macau suitable to that car and to that power-to-weight ratio."



"If it means going to Grade 2, that's what we will do - we are currently doing these simulations and seeing where it takes us; it's a lot more precise and refined than just looking at the weight and the power," Laurent Mekies told Autosport.

Pun Weng Kun, president of the Macau Sports Bureau, said that the organizing committee would be prepared to "evaluate" changes and have their feasibility assessed.

"Until any potential changes have been identified and studied, it is too early to say whether or not it would be possible to implement them, and therefore to change the current circuit homologation," he told Autosport.

He said that, moving forward, the organizing committee would remain in contact with the FIA on matters concerning the Grand Prix.



World of football awaiting update on Alex Ferguson

THE world of football was waiting for an update on the condition of Alex Ferguson yesterday, a day after the former Manchester United manager underwent emergency surgery for a brain hemorrhage.

Social media continued to be awash with tributes and get-well messages for the 76-year-old Ferguson, who was in intensive care late Saturday according to a statement from United.

That has been the only comment so far from the

English club, where Ferguson spent almost 27 years in charge before retiring in 2013 as the most successful manager in British football history.

Among those sending their best wishes to Ferguson was Manchester City manager Pep Guardiola, who said "a big hug and our thoughts are with his wife, Cathy, and the Manchester United family. I was glad to have dinner with him two weeks ago, and hopefully he can recover as quickly as possible." AP

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opinion

Rear Window
Severo Portela



JUMPING INTO THE CROWD

We would like to be able to say that out of the blue, the Legislative Assembly took the bold step to recommend to the MSAR government an overall amendment of the 1993 laws regarding the rights to public demonstrations and public meetings. But we cannot... since this move has, to some extent, followed logically from an apparently revisionist will to challenge certain legislation such as the judiciary law. Albeit the general intention is one to update and upgrade, or to reform and adapt, we have to be prudent when evaluating this ambitious aggiornamento, regardless of whether or not the package is wrapped up and labeled as a legitimate and necessary improvement in keeping with the development of society, and far from any veiled plan to discard the laws of Macau as if it was about a maladjusted cast or fundamentalist rococo.

First, we have to admit that the modus operandi strikes a note of awe at something that is usually named political strategy, and secondly, we would care to point to some potential flaws and actual worries. Phase one of the legislative amendment took the shape of an apparent innocuous replacement of the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau as the department to be notified of a demonstration or public meeting for the Public Security Force. However, it is a switch that would not go unnoticed anywhere else - forgive the double negative.

From this bureaucratic phase, the idea to amend the law followed sound analogy and common sense in the form of an interrogation: if we are to pick the regulatory framework to put PSP as the place to notify about demonstrations and meetings, why not take the opportunity to address other flaws?

At this point a related question emerges: flaws, what flaws? Disconnected sentencing is not only a symptom but proof that the law should be improved to avoid different verdicts on similar cases.

Should we be concerned about a revision of such an important right for MSAR people? Yes and no!

No, if we are to extrapolate a mantra from the explanation the government gave about the replacement of IACM by PSP: the change would not decrease a resident's right to demonstrate. No, if we acknowledge that there is no draft proposal yet!

Should we worry? Yes, cautiously. When the zeitgeist seems to be one of integration we have to demand that the autonomy of the Basic Law should not be diminished vis-a-vis a particular reading that China's constitutional framework makes of fundamental rights.

If Macau is to nurture its own system, it has to cherish article 40 of the Basic Law which grants that "the rights and freedoms enjoyed by Macau residents shall not be restricted unless as prescribed by law. Such restrictions shall not contravene the provisions of the first paragraph" - IC-CPR and ICESCR.

The truth is that the dwindling numbers seen in the 2018 May First demonstrations seem to endorse that legislative priorities be given to other areas of law. Eight hundred residents voicing their concerns about Pearl Horizon or the Gaming world, plus a sole demonstrator on his own - it almost behooves one to help the solitary voice by jumping into the crowd so as not to support ideas of a hypothetical theory on representative demonstrations.

Forgive us for the gloomy note but to nurture the second system - as is the convention to address Macau autonomy - does not sit well as per the famous line of the cynical expatriate in Casablanca: we'll always have Paris! Memories to fall back on!

THE BUZZ PICASSO NUDE IN ROCKEFELLER AUCTION MAY HELP BREAK A RECORD

Pablo Picasso's "Young Girl with a Flower Basket," will star in a Rockefeller collection going on the block starting May 8 at Christie's. The Picasso, estimated at about USD100 million, is the highest valued of more than 1,500 Rockefeller lots, which include other Impressionist masterpieces, duck decoys and the dinner service that Napoleon took to his exile in Elba.

The painting is among 45 Picasso works estimated to fetch more than \$305 million at New York auctions in the next two weeks. Sellers include

embattled billionaire casino mogul Steve Wynn and the estate of Joan and Preston Robert Tisch.

With \$212 million of Picasso works having already sold at auction this year, according to Artprice.com, 2018 is shaping up as the best ever for the Spanish master.

Wynn is parting with Picasso's 1943 self-portrait in a striped sailor shirt, "Le Marin." Estimated at about \$70 million, it will be offered during Christie's evening sale of Impressionist and modern art on May 15.

North Korea says US ruining mood of detente

WITH just weeks to go before President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un are expected to hold their first-ever summit, Pyongyang yesterday criticized what it called "misleading" claims that Trump's policy of maximum political pressure and sanctions are what drove the North to the negotiating table.

The North's official news agency quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman warning the claims are a "dangerous attempt" to ruin a budding detente on the Korean Peninsula after Kim's summit late last month with South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

At the summit, Kim agreed to a number of measures aimed at improving North-South ties and indicated he is willing to discuss the denuclearization of the peninsula, though exactly what that would entail and what conditions the North might require have not yet been explained.

Trump and senior U.S. officials have suggested repeatedly that Washington's tough policy toward North Korea, along with pressure on its main trading partner China, have played a decisive role in turning around what had been an extremely tense situation. Just last year, as Kim was launching long-range missiles at a record pace and trading vulgar insults with Trump, it would have seemed unthinka-



ble for the topic of denuclearization to be on the table.

But the North's statement yesterday seemed to be aimed at strengthening Kim's position going into his meeting with Trump. Pyongyang claims Kim himself is the driver of the current situation.

"The U.S. is deliberately provoking the DPRK at the time when the situation on the Korean Peninsula is moving toward peace and reconciliation," the spokesman was quoted as saying. DPRK is short for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the North's formal name.

Kim and Trump are expected to meet later this month or in early June.

Trump has indicated the date and place have been chosen and said he believes the Demilitarized Zone that divides the Koreas might be a good venue. Singapore was also believed to be a potential site.

Experts are split over whether Kim's statement made with Moon at the DMZ marks a unique opening for progress

or a rehash of Pyongyang's longstanding demand for security guarantees.

Yesterday's comments were among the very few the North has made since Trump agreed in March to the meeting. The spokesman warned the U.S. not to interpret Pyongyang's willingness to talk as a sign of weakness. He also criticized Washington for its ongoing "pressure and military threats."

Before Trump meets Kim, Washington is hoping to gain the release of three Korean-Americans accused of anti-state activities. Trump hinted the release of Kim Dong Chul, Kim Hak Song and Tony Kim was in the offing.

There was no sign of an imminent release yesterday, though the men had reportedly been moved to the capital.

The White House, meanwhile, has announced a separate meeting between Trump and Moon at the White House on May 22 to "continue their close coordination on developments regarding the Korean Peninsula." AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



An unidentified uniformed man adjusts his wristwatch in front of a clock of the Pyongyang Station. N. Korea readjusted its time zone to match S. Korea's on Saturday and described the change as an early step toward making the longtime rivals "become one" following a landmark summit.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	10-30 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

WORLD BRIEFS



ISRAEL-IRAN Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu yesterday stepped up his calls to end the Iranian nuclear deal as President Donald Trump weighs whether to withdraw the United States from the 2015 agreement. More on p15

AFGHANISTAN A bomb blast inside a mosque in eastern Afghanistan that was being used as a voter registration center killed at least 14 people and wounded 33, officials said. More on p13



GERMANY High school students in Germany have gathered tens of thousands of signatures in an online petition to complain about an "unfair" final English exam, saying the test was much harder than in previous years.

FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron acknowledged the "pain of colonization" Saturday during a visit to New Caledonia that was rich with symbolism and emotion as the South Pacific archipelago prepares to vote on whether to break free of French rule.



ARGENTINA's peso has rebounded following the government's decision to boost the reference interest rate to 40 percent.

COLOMBIA's government and its last major rebel movement have agreed to continue peace talks in Cuba after Ecuador last month withdrew as host for the negotiations.