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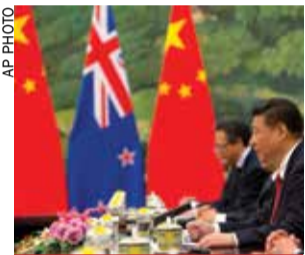
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## WORLD BRIEFS



**NEW ZEALAND** announced yesterday that it plans to significantly boost the amount of aid money it spends in the South Pacific, as China's influence in the region grows



**CAMBODIA** The new owner of a newspaper considered the sole remaining independent media voice in Cambodia fired its editor for publishing a story about the publication's sale and the purchaser's alleged links to the government. *More on p12*

**INDIA** An Indian tourist was killed during a stone-throwing protest in Kashmir, officials said yesterday, as the disputed region shut down for a third day over the killings of civilians and rebels during weekend gunbattles and anti-India protests.



**THE NILE** Egypt, Sudan and Ethiopia have failed again to make progress on their Nile dispute as Ethiopia works to complete a massive upstream dam, an Egyptian official said yesterday.

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# Hotels required to hand guest info to police

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## Kim and Xi meet again in Dalian ahead of Trump summit

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AP PHOTO

**T**HE government-proposed regulation for part-time work has not gathered societal support. This conclusion has been reached from the analysis of the final report on the public consultation document which included the regime. Fifty-six percent of respondents surveyed disapproved of the proposal, the report from the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) notes in its second chapter. In the summary written by DSAL about the work to gather the opinions of different sectors of society, the report states that concerns surrounding the proposed regime are primarily centered around the belief that “the current Labor Law is enough to regulate on both the full-time and part-time work, not being needed a new regime just for the second one.” Additionally, the proposal “breaches the minimum conditions of the Labor Law and lacks consensus from the society.” Some of the surveyed also claimed the intention of the government “should be to incentivize the citizens to find a job, but, the design of the document under analysis does not protect the part-time workers, reducing the motivation of the people that had the intention to work part-time.”

Another opinion which focuses on the shortcomings of the regime said that the proposal claims, “the part-time work would provide the workers a more flexible working schedule based on their personal reasons and needs [but] the regime proposed does not show the possibility of this flexibility and has a negative impact on the working hours and on the salary of the part-time workers.” Of the 44 percent of opinions expressed in favor of the regime’s establishment, around two-thirds of them were employers.

## LABOR

# Majority against proposed part-time regime



The main ideas expressed in favor of the regime suggest that this “could release part of the human resources, which could help to smooth the lack of human resource departments in the small

and medium-size enterprises (SMEs).”

Another opinion in support suggested its capability to, “solve existing [problems] regarding workers’ rights in companies that have both kinds of workers,” noting, “to apply to all the [general] Labor Law would create a big [financial] burden on the companies.”

A more general consensus in relation to part-time work has been achieved for the government’s proposal to classify part-time work as “a number of hours that does not exceed 72 hours in four weeks’ time, including the normal working time, overtime and work provided on days of weekly rest day and mandatory public holidays.”

This definition attracted a total of 75.3 percent of opinions in favor, from a total of 389 validated opinions expressed on the topic. Average citizens and employers were the primary respondents to this particular issue.

The critics of this definition stated that enforcing such a “tight” definition in terms of time might not lead to the wanted “flexibility.” Others called for the possibility of establishing a different number of hours according to seasonality (peak or off-peak seasons).

The report presented by the DSAL follows a public consultation period held for 45 days in between September 25 and November 8 last year. **RM**

## General consensus over changes to Labor Relations Law

**I**N the double public consultation held by the government regarding changes to be enforced to the Labor Relations Law, the seven proposed changes have gathered consensus from the public and several involved sectors, the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) revealed in the final report of the public consultation over the law which was held last year. The report stated that six out of seven proposed changes had a majority of opinions in favor. Three of them had clear societal consensus: the addition of paid paternity leave (three to five days), the possibility of mothers to add to their regular maternity leave another 14 days of justified absence to work after the maternity leave period and the introduction of

a regime to regulate the overlapping of the weekly rest day when this falls on a mandatory public holiday. Those proposals gathered 93.2, 91.9 and 86 percent of approval rate opinions respectively, giving way for their enforcement by the government in the law revision.

Three other measures which also attracted good approval rates were those related to “added flexibility in the compensation of work done during the mandatory public holidays,” which proposes that such compensation can be awarded within 90 days instead of the current 30; the “selection of the compensation regime” which allows compensation to be conducted in agreement with employees and employers in rest

days as either extra payment, two rest days; and the “compensation regime that aims to balance the rights and interests of both employees and employers,” which proposed to add a new calculation method to determine the appropriate proportion of compensation in cases where the worker must be compensated for work on rest days or holidays, but due to personal matters had to totally or partially suspend work on those days.

The only proposal which did not convince the public sought to enforce a mechanism which allowed workers to select and exchange their work days across a number of public holidays. Some 63.9 percent of the people and organizations asked did not approve of the measure.

## GREATER BAY AREA

# Task force suggests leasing Zhuhai’s Guishan Island for port facilities

**A** group in Hong Kong is eyeing the relocation of the region’s container terminal, Kwai Tsing’s port facilities to Guishan, an island that falls under the jurisdiction of Zhuhai, in a bid to meet Hong Kong’s development needs.

The idea was just one of the 16 options that the Citizens Task Force on Land

Resources suggested, noting that leasing the land and relocating the port facilities would free up some 300 hectares of prime land for housing.

This came after the SAR kicked off a five-month public consultation period on 18 options to boost land supply due to Hong Kong’s land shortage problem.

According to engineer Al-

bert Lai, a member of the group responsible for initiating the idea, the move will help to facilitate regional cooperation under the Greater Bay Area scheme, the South China Morning Post reported.

Lai added that Guishan’s proximity to the Pearl River Delta would lessen time and logistical cost, as the proximity of Guishan

would act as a short-cut, particularly for transshipments and the river trade.

“Hong Kong never wanted it because no chief executive in the past was ever that committed to long-term, interregional planning,” Lai said.

“The Greater Bay Area is a good opportunity to revive it.”

For the idea to be integra-

ted, it would need to be authorized by a decree from Beijing’s State Council and adopted by the SAR’s law. However, Lai recalled that the high-speed rail terminus in West Kowloon also involves Hong Kong leasing land to the mainland and placing it under national laws.

Beijing granted Macau jurisdiction over a plot of

land located in the mainland, when it granted the lease of a square kilometer of land on the island of Hengqin back in 2009.

The University of Macau campus built there will be under Macau’s jurisdiction for 40 years. The span could be longer or shorter, depending on the consent of Beijing’s cabinet, the State Council.

In 2015, Beijing also green-lighted a marine area of 85 square kilometers that was to be placed under the SAR’s control, an area about which experts called for proper planning. **LV**

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# Hotels to forward information on non-local guests to police

Julie Zhu

**T**HE public consultation regarding the amendment of the region's immigration and residence regime began yesterday, with the new regime proposing several changes concerning illegal stay in Macau. This includes requiring hotels to inform the security forces about the check-in and check-out details of non-local residents through electronic methods.

Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, claimed that the security forces hope to establish a system with which to comprehend information of relevant hotel guests in order to prevent terrorism.

Wong indicated that the proposal had been implemented universally, and that it meets the regulations imposed by Macau's data protection authority.

However, it suggested that such a policy targets only non-local residents older than 16 years old.

The notification should be made within 24 hours of hotel guests checking in or out, the proposal suggests.



In addition, it is suggested that airlines are to send their passengers' information to the Public Security Police Force (PSP). The bill also applies to newborn babies.

Once non-local parents give birth to a baby in Macau, they should obtain a travel document for the new baby and should inform PSP about the acquisition of the said document.

If non-local parents fail to comply with the above-mentioned obligation, they will not be allowed to apply for a residence permit until two years after their previous permit has expired.

Furthermore, the regime introduces and maintains policies concerning the immigration of minors.

"When [the authority] receives a written notification from one of the parents opposing the departure of the child, or when a minor or [his or her] companion behave suspiciously, [the immigration authority] will refuse the minor's leaving," Wong explained.

Recently, the security authority reported that fake marriage would be criminalized with a specific legal definition. Related articles have also been suggested to be included in the regime.

In addition to criminalizing fake marriages, cases of fake adoption, forged factual marriage, and fake employment will also be criminalized.

Currently, departure from the MSAR, other than through im-

migration checkpoints, is not included in the regime of penalties.

The amendment suggests applying a penalty to people who leave Macau without passing through an immigration checkpoint.

The amendment also proposes the collection of biological elements of non-residents so as to better combat forged identities.

The new regime wants to avoid the possibility of a student visa being abused, thus recommending that non-local students register in certified courses with a higher education institute.

Students who come to Macau for short-term courses, such as language training programs, will be ineligible for a residence permit.

Should the law pass, once it comes into effect, people who help others leave the city through an illegal channel will also be regarded as having committed a crime.

The new regime introduces new penalties for rendering unsuccessful assistance to illegal immigration and illegal staying.

The 30-day public consultation period will last until June 6.

WEATHER ALERT, MILD DAY

## Students left outside schools unaware of suspension

**S**EVERAL students were left outside their schools yesterday after the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) announced, at 6 a.m., that kindergartens, primary schools and special education schools were to suspend classes for the whole day.

The region's Meteorological and Geophysical Bureau (SMG) issued a rainstorm warning at 4.35 a.m. yesterday, followed by DSEJ's school suspension announcement.

According to a report by TDM, some primary school students still went to school alone without knowing of the suspension. Upon arrival, they waited outside the facilities.

Some parents, who live in neighboring Zhuhai and send their children to Macau to study, also said that they only learned of the class suspension after they had already crossed the border to Macau. Schools in Zhuhai operated as usual.

Parents complained that DSEJ issued the school suspension at a short notice. The weather conditions during the day were mild.

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## GAMING

# Two poker rooms in Cotai cease operation

**T**WO poker rooms in Cotai have reportedly shut down, cancelling an international poker tournament that was scheduled in the SAR next week, as a result of Beijing's recent crackdown.

City of Dreams Macau ended their partnership with PokerStars after their partnership was launched in 2013, as per several reports.

"We can confirm that the PokerStars partnership with City of Dreams Macau has come to an end. We are working on ensuring that we can continue to bring high quality live events [to] Asia," Eric Hollreiser, vice president of Corporate Communications for The Stars Group told PokerNews.com.

The renowned PokerStars LIVE Macau poker room at City of Dreams has hosted the Macau Poker Cup, APPT Macau and the Asian Championships of Poker, yet is looking for a new base after Melco Resorts & Entertainment did not reportedly renew its contract.

The eight-table poker room - which was exclusively for cash games rather than tournaments



- in Galaxy Macau also allegedly closed down after it was re-launched just over a year ago.

The Times contacted the two gaming operators but a response was not received by press time.

Macau is left with just one regular tournament poker venue - the Macau Billionaire Poker Room located in Babylon Casino, which hosted the APT Macau Championships 2018 last week.

Meanwhile, the International Poker Tour Macau, which was scheduled to be held from May 16 to 20, has been cancelled.

Organizer Alisports released a statement last week informing players that the event had been postponed "after careful consideration."

Last month, Chinese authorities announced that poker would no longer be recognized as a competitive sport and simultaneously banned the promotion of Texas Hold'em via social media applications.

Thus, all apps offering any form of social poker game will be required to be shut down and removed from app stores by June 1.



## Residential property price index records slight increase

**T**HE overall residential property price index for January to March 2018 slightly increased by 0.6 percent over the previous period to 253.4, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) has indicated.

The indices for the Macau Peninsula (253.6) and Taipa & Coloane (252.1) rose by 0.6 percent and 0.1 percent respectively. The index for existing residential units (267.7) grew by 0.7 percent from the previous period, with the indices for those on the Macau Peninsula (262.6) and in Taipa & Coloane (291.2) rising by 0.8 percent and 0.3 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the index for pre-sale residential units (270.0)

increased by 0.2 percent over the previous period.

Analyzed according to year of building completion, the indices for residential units built more than 20 years ago and completed between 11 and 20 years ago both went up by 0.9 percent, whereas the index for those built in five years or less dropped by 0.5 percent. Analyzed by quarter, the overall residential property price index in the first quarter of 2018 (253.4) grew by 1.8 percent compared to that in the fourth quarter of 2017 (248.9).

The index for pre-sale residential units rose by 12.3 percent, while that of existing residential units dropped by 1.5 percent.

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TOURISM

# Three universities hold forum for Greater Bay Area

THREE tourism education institutions from Macau, Hong Kong and mainland China banded together yesterday to host the Greater Bay Area Collective Tourism Research Forum, designed with the purpose of defining a collaborative research agenda for tourism stakeholders in the area.

The single-day forum, organized by Macau's Institute for Tourism Studies' (IFT) Tourism Research Centre, the School of Tourism Management, Sun Yat-sen University, and the School of Hotel and Tourism Management, Hong Kong Polytechnic University, attracted a total of 110 participants, according to a statement from the IFT. They included government officials, industry executives and members of various community interest groups.

The forum comprised two sessions, with the first con-



sisting of short statements delivered by the three co-chairs of the forum and the second inviting participants to split into smaller groups and discuss the issues and challenges in more detail.

According to the IFT statement, the host of the event and president of the institution, Fanny Vong,

delivered her welcome remarks, underscoring the need for tourism and hospitality stakeholders in the Greater Bay Area to work together and coordinate much needed research.

Much of the forum's discussion centered on several key topics for further research, namely: the long-term impacts of tourism

activity in the area; the sustainability of the sector; balanced tourism development on both sides of the Pearl River Delta; the impact of large infrastructure projects, such as the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge; and the creation of joint destination branding, image and marketing of the Greater Bay Area.

MORGAN STANLEY

# World Cup a good time to score casino names

MACAU casino operators got a boost yesterday as Morgan Stanley highlighted the upcoming soccer World Cup as a prime opportunity for investors to strike amid a lull in foot traffic.

While the tournament beginning in June will likely impact the gaming business in the second quarter, casino operators are currently tracking ahead of market expectations. That suggests the sporting event won't be as much of a headwind as feared, the firm's analysts said in a report dated Monday. An uptick in Macau's gambling market that started in mid-2016 is expected to continue for the next few years, they added.

Casino and hotel operator SJM Holdings Ltd. rose 2.5 percent, extending its highest price since August 2015, after Morgan Stanley analysts led by Praveen Choudhary raised their target price on the stock by 14 percent to HKD8.30. The move followed stronger-than-expected first-quarter results last week.

Even so, the analysts expect SJM Holdings to lose its revenue market share before its Cotai casino opens and maintain a sell rating on the stock. Their share price target is still 7.8 percent lower than the closing price of HKD9. **Bloomberg**

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" THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN' "

# GPDP reports low case conclusion rate and only eight sanctions in 2017

Renato Marques

**T**HE Office for Personal Data Protection (GPDP) concluded only 187 from the 408 cases handled by the Office in 2017. Of those, only eight cases resulted in sanctions being applied to the offenders, the GPDP coordinator Yang Chongwei said yesterday at a press conference. The presentation aimed to publish last year's activity report, as well as developments related with the activities of this year's "Privacy Week," among other topics.

Yang noted that the office was only able to treat 45.8 percent of cases, although from 2016 to 2017, it registered a drop in all the figures related to solicitations of work to the office, with the most significant figure relating to the number of notifications, which dropped year-on-year to 50.4 percent (599 cases) instead of the 1,207 cases reported in the previous year.

Another figure that also dropped significantly was the one related to "authorization requests," which fell by 34.3 percent in 2017. On the topic, Yang explained that both the figures were related to and justified by the same fact: "Back in 2013, we had the applications for the Small and Medium-size Enterprises related to the CCTV [Closed Circuit Television] cameras installation for security purposes, and those authorizations are valid for a period of three years and that is why in 2016 we had so many notifications and authorization requests, since it was the time to renew such licenses," he said, noting that all the other figures from 2017 have registered "normal" drops between 1.8 and 9 percent. He related these minor drops to the fact that "people are more informed" about the Personal Data Protection Law as a result of information sessions and cooperation with institutions regarding information disclosure.

Questioned by the media as to details on the cases that led to the only eight sanctions from the Office, the coordinator noted that of those, "the majority (five cases) of the offenders were individual people and these cases are related [to] the publication of personal data from third-parties in the internet," he said, clarifying at a later stage.

"We have been noticing this tendency [of disclosing of private information of social net-



Yang Chongwei

works] due to revenge or bullying reasons." Yang added that in all the five cases reported, "a person (due to personal reasons) may have revenged or [emotion] had revealed personal data that includes images and or photographs [of other people]," remarking that these cases "having nothing to do with cases of public interests or freedom of expression" that could justify the unveiling of such information, promising that the Office will be alert to this kind of privacy breach.

The Office head further disclosed that from the 217 cases investigated in 2017, a total of 36 cases (16.8 percent) are related to situations involving social networks and the Internet.

Questioned also about the low rate of cases concluded, which was less than half of the number of cases treated, the coordinator of the GPDP said, "we do

have [a] lack of Human Resources and a great volume of work. This is not a problem of our office alone but of several [public] services," he said, adding that "with the current number of staff and the added difficulties, to respond to many different types of treatment of personal data is not an easy task."

Nevertheless, Yang also remarked that the low rate of conclusion is not only related to the lack of human resources but also with processing aspects, as he noted, "many of the cases are related to administrative infractions and we need to collect evidence and proof of such infractions. This has been a difficulty [for] our services," he noted. In the statistic of the cases treated by the GPDP, it is also possible to note that a total of 60 cases (32.1 percent) were closed on account of a lack of evidence.

Regarding the other three ca-

ses sanctioned by the Office, one involves a public department and the other two involve private companies.

Questioned as to the case related to the public department, the coordinator also noted that the case has been noticed before and that it is related to a public opinion consultation done by the Transportation Infrastructure Office, which the department assigned to a private company.

**With the current number of staff and the added difficulties, to respond to many different types of treatment of personal data is not an easy task.**

YANG CHONGWEI

When the presentation of the results took place, due to what Yang called a "technical mistake," some data "had been covered using some color masking which was not sufficient to avoid [being] seen by the public and [it was possible] to identify some respondents," an infraction considered by the coordinator as "not too serious." This occurrence was targeted with a fine of an undisclosed amount.

The coordinator noted that all five cases were sanctioned with fines ranging from MOP8,000 to MOP16,000, applied in a case that involved a private company that was using data illegally to perform some form of promotion to the people whose personal data they had allowed others to access.

## 'Privacy Week' to pay close attention to new EU data protection law

**T**HIS year's "Privacy Week," an event organized annually by the Office for Personal Data Protection, will aim to provide information on several topics related to data protection and privacy, with a special focus on the European Union's (EU) new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). The new European regulation will be in force from May 25 this year and will replace the EU's Data Protection Directive 95/46/EC in order to "harmonize data privacy laws across Europe," and to "protect and empower all EU citizens data privacy," as well as to "reshape the way organizations across the region approach data privacy."

The assistant coordinator of the GPDP, Iao Hin Chit, said that due to the entry into force of the regulation, it will apply not only to EU citizens and companies but also to other regions that have commercial or personal relations with the EU.

The week, which started on May 7 and will run until May 13, includes several activities as well as a clarification session dedicated to Macau companies and entrepreneurs. On the topic, the coordinator of the GPDP, Yang Chongwei, noted: "The major impact in Macau is that the [local] companies are not based in the EU but have business with EU, being in this way included [in such law] and they might not have a good knowledge about this law." Yang noted that for this reason the GPDP had partnered with the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and the Macau Chamber of Commerce in order to provide to local businessmen with the updated information regarding the new and stricter rules from the EU.

As the Coordinator recalled, "In Macau, we also follow the European system of the Data Protection Rules, which is stricter than the American one."

## Lawmaker renews calls for electric buses

Lawmaker Ho Ion Sang has called upon government's principal officials to present a progress report on the bus service concession at the Legislative Assembly. Ho noted that the government should also answer questions as to how to tackle the challenge of catching a bus during rush hour. The region's three bus service concessions will come to an end at the end of July. The local government has not yet announced any information about the renewal of these concessions. Ho suggests the government promote a full range of electric bus usage for operators.

## Landmark Macau to enhance non-gaming aspects

The Landmark Macau will undergo a renovation, Chong Sio Kin, owner of Landmark Macau, revealed on Monday, according to Chinese press reports. On Monday, the Bank of China (Macau Branch) approved a MOP3.8 billion loan for Chong's company. The property investor said that MOP200 million of the loan would be used for Landmark Macau's renovation to enhance the non-gaming aspects offered by the hotel. Chong also noted that his company would not rule out the possibility of applying to the government to increase the height of Landmark Macau. During the renovation process, the 78 gaming tables in the hotel will continue their operations.

## Five arrested for selling counterfeit luxury goods

The Macau Customs Service arrested five local residents for selling counterfeit goods, Customs reported yesterday. All five suspects are from three different shops located in the tourism district, with their shops selling mainly luxury bags, watches, clothes and jewelry. In total, 488 suspicious fake products have been seized, corresponding to an estimated 3.65 million patacas were goods authentic. Two of the suspects are shop owners. Some claimed that they have been operating their shops for three to four years. Goods were said to have been purchased from mainland China at low prices.

## GAMING

# MGM Chief Executive rips 'hypocritical' investors on diversity

Christopher Palmeri

MGM Resorts International has increased the number of women in management and invested in solar panels to power its casinos. Chief Executive Officer James Murren says investors don't care enough.

"I find it very hypocritical that investors talk about wanting companies with a good conscience, but they're really looking for companies that are going to make them a lot of money in the stock," Murren said at Bloomberg's Business of Equality Summit in New York on Tuesday. "They talk a good game, but they don't invest with their integrity at the forefront. I think there's a huge problem there."

MGM, the largest owner of casinos on the Las Vegas Strip, trades at a lower multiple of



James Murren

earnings than rivals Las Vegas Sands Corp. and Wynn Resorts Ltd., Murren said. "People aren't differentiating between the culture we've developed," Murren said. "If they are, they're

not weighing it the same as how much money do you make in Macau."

Murren, 56, has emerged as one of the more progressive leaders in the casino industry.

“They talk a good game, but they don't invest with their integrity at the forefront. I think there's a huge problem there.”

JAMES MURREN

A lifelong Republican, he supported Hillary Clinton in the 2016 presidential election. The company owns a women's professional basketball team, the Las Vegas Aces, and this year released an album of love songs reimagined for same-sex wed-

dings, something that didn't go over well in Mississippi, where the company owns a casino, Murren said.

The executive, a former casino analyst recruited to the business by the company's billionaire founder, Kirk Kerkorian, said the industry was a "good old boy network" when he joined 20 years ago. Inspired by his wife, Heather Hay Murren, a onetime consumer-products analyst at Merrill Lynch, and "how much harder she had to work" than her male counterparts, Murren said he began promoting more women managers and equal pay.

One-third of MGM casino presidents are women, up from zero in 2000, Murren said. Some 44 percent of managers overall are female, and 68 percent of employees are minorities. Corporate clients looking to book meetings appreciate some of the company's efforts to improve its environmental consciousness, Murren said. Leisure travelers don't seem to care, something that hasn't discouraged him.

"We're going to do it anyway," he said. **Bloomberg**

## Xiaomi poised to become a billionaire factory with Hong Kong IPO

WHEN Xiaomi Corp.'s founders were eating millet congee at an office in Beijing's Zhongguancun neighborhood in 2010, they decided to create a smartphone brand selling handsets at "honest" prices.

Eight years later, Lei Jun and the seven other Xiaomi co-founders have created a company that wants to challenge the global industry dominance of Apple Inc. and Samsung Electronics Co. It's also targeting an initial public

offering that's expected to be the largest since 2014, and which could create five new billionaires.

Xiaomi last week filed for a debut in Hong Kong that will value the company at USD50 billion to \$100 billion, according to six analysts surveyed by Bloomberg. Lei, the chairman and chief executive officer, is the biggest shareholder with a 31.4 percent stake, while his fellow founders control 27 percent of the company, according to the prospectus.

While Lei and Lin Bin, Xiaomi's president, are already billionaires, a USD50 billion valuation would create three new billionaires. A market value of \$100 billion would see five of Lei and Lin's co-founders reach that mark, an example of how rapidly the world's second-biggest economy is forging the mega-wealthy. Among the world's 500 richest people, there are 40 Chinese - the second most after the U.S. - with a combined wealth of \$464 billion, according to the

Bloomberg Billionaires Index.

Just how big these fortunes will be may hinge in part on how many new shares are issued, with estimates of the public float ranging from 15 percent to 25 percent.

However, the market's continuing appetite for tech companies is in doubt. Online health-tech service provider Ping An Healthcare and Technology Co. dropped below the offer price on its first day of trading in Hong Kong last week. **Bloomberg**



BLOOMBERG

### corporate bits

#### THE VENETIAN TEAM MEMBER WINS AWARD



Las Vegas Sands Corp (LVS) has named a team member of The Venetian Macao as the winner of "The Mr. Sheldon G. and Dr. Miriam Adelson Citizenship Award" presented by Sands Cares. May Wu Yee Mei is a

team member at The Venetian Macao, and has been working for the company for 10 years, a statement from the gaming operator informed.

Only 12 finalists from LVS's properties worldwide

were selected and named Sands Cares Heroes of the Year during the first quarter of 2018, and were invited to Las Vegas to attend a ceremony.

Wu has been involved in various volunteer efforts with both Sands China and with outside organisations for the past eight years.

In 2015, she was the recipient of the Excellent Volunteer for Community Service Award by the Association of Volunteer Social Service Macau.

"I hope more team members will be inspired to join the Sands Cares Ambassador programme in the future so that more people in need can benefit from their service," said Wu.

#### FIBER CABLE UNDERWAY FOR HKZMB



HGC Global Communications Limited (HGC) and Hong Kong and China Telecommunications recently announced the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding for the construction of a network interconnection system via the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-

Macau Bridge (HKZMB). This will be the first interconnection between Hong Kong and Mainland China's telecommunication network service providers on the HKZMB and is HGC's fifth cross-border route between

mainland China and Hong Kong.

Once the interconnection is in place, the fiber cable will stretch along the 29.6 kilometer dual 3-lane carriageway including a 6.7 kilometer tunnel and will connect to the Boundary Crossing Facilities in Hong Kong, Zhuhai, and Macau, according to a statement released by HGC. The new link boosts capacity by at least 100Gbps, with a design capacity of 8Tbps.

According to HGC, the fiber cable deployed at the 'Hong Kong Link Road' section of the HKZMB is now in service, offering fiber and transmission capacity even before the official opening of the bridge.



# Portuguese-speaking entrepreneurs meet in Mozambique

**T**HE first Economic Conference of the Market of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CPLP) begins today in Maputo, Mozambique, with the participation of about 350 people, including entrepreneurs, representatives of business associations, public foreign trade bodies, heads of state and members of the government of the CPLP countries, according to the organizing body.

The event, organized by the Business Confederation of the Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries (CE-CPLP), aims to improve the movement of people and goods, services and capital among community members, making this "new market" more con-



Maputo, the capital of Mozambique

sistent and boosting relations between associations and business entities.

The conference will last two days and address topics such as "Characterization of the CPLP market, Strengths and weaknesses

of each member country," "Foreign trade agencies of the countries of the community," "Mobility and recognition of professions within the CPLP," and "National electricity companies of affiliated countries."

CE-CPLP President, Salimo Abdula, recently announced that the entity will propose to the governments of the member countries of the organization the creation of an arbitration tribunal for the resolution of business disputes.

"Since CPLP countries speak the same language and have close legal systems, an arbitral tribunal for the organization would be more effective in settling disputes between community entrepreneurs," said Abdula, announcing the program of the 1st Economic Conference of the CPLP Market.

The CE-CPLP President also said that the organization's entrepreneurs will insist on the need for member states of the organization to introduce free movement of people and goods, to strengthen trade and social ties.

The Community of Portuguese Speaking Countries was established in 1996 and has nine members, namely Brazil, Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Equatorial Guinea, Mozambique, Portugal, Sao Tome and Principe and East Timor. **MDT/Macauhub**

## ANGOLA

# EU to support agricultural development

**T**HE European Union (EU) will support the agricultural sector in the Angolan enclave province of Cabinda as part of its new development aid plan, in partnership with the ministries of economy and planning, Angolan ambassador Tomas Ulicny said in the city of Cabinda.

The ambassador, who was in Cabinda for two days, stressed that this commitment to agriculture in the region "is very important because there is potential here to develop this activity," according to the Angop news agency.

He also pointed out that the provincial government projects, within the context of the promotion of agricultural activity, are "on the right path and could contribute to the achievement of the objectives," which can help in the growth of the economy, as well as the supply of rural products to the province, in response to the fight against hunger and poverty.

According to the ambassador, the private sector will be the top priority in the next phase of European support, given the diversification of the economy, as Angola can no longer depend on revenues from the sale of oil products to cover 95 percent of the State Budget. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Round Table  
 Lucie Chang | Margarida Saraiva  
 Lesley Lau | Peggy Chan

Date  
**May 10th, 2018 (Thursday)**

Time  
**19:00**

Language  
**Cantonese**  
 (Power point in English)

Venue  
**Auditorium, 1st floor |  
 Macau Museum of Art  
 Av. Xian Xing Hai, Macau**

CPD Hours  
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# North Korean leader meets Xi ahead of Trump summit

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**N**ORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in a northern Chinese port city and pledged his continuing commitment to denuclearization ahead of his expected summit with U.S. President Donald Trump, state media said yesterday.

The meeting Monday and yesterday in Dalian is the second between Xi and Kim in recent weeks, following Kim's March visit to Beijing — his first since taking power six years ago.

In comments carried yesterday night by Chinese state media, neither leader was quoted as directly referring to either the planned Trump meeting or Kim's summit with South Korean President Moon Jae-in late last month.

However, state broadcaster CCTV quoted Xi as saying China "supports North Korea to stick to denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and supports North Korea and the U.S. in solving the peninsula issue through dialogue and consultation."

Trump tweeted yesterday that he planned to speak with Xi later in the day to discuss trade and North Korea, where he said "relationships and trust are building."

Kim was quoted as telling Xi that North Korea remains committed to denuclearization and has no need to possess nuclear weapons if a "relevant party" drops its "hostile policy and security threats" against it, in a clear reference to the United States.

"I hope to build mutual trust with the U.S. through dialogue," Kim was quoted as saying. A political resolution of tensions on the peninsula and denuclearization should proceed in stages, with all sides moving in concert,



Chinese President Xi Jinping (right) speaks to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un in Dalian

he said. The Trump administration has demanded that North Korea immediately commit to denuclearization.

North Korea announced Kim's visit to China fairly quickly, probably in coordination with China's state media. The first reports were brief, however.

North Korea has been very cautious about coverage of Kim's recent summits, but has featured them prominently on TV and in newspapers a day or so after they are safely over and Kim has returned to the capital.

Though rumors are likely widespread, there still has been no explicit confirmation in North

Korea's media of the expected summit with Trump.

The recent South Korean summit and the potential U.S. talks have received more attention internationally, but China's role as an economic lifeline for North Korea makes the talks between Xi and Kim all the more crucial.

Kim needs to make sure that whatever negotiations he has with Trump align to some degree with Beijing's positions, which could certainly complicate his task ahead.

China's official Xinhua News Agency said Xi hosted a welcome banquet for Kim on Monday and the two leaders strolled

along the coastline at a government guesthouse and had lunch together yesterday.

"At a crucial time when the regional situation is developing rapidly, Kim said he came to China again to meet with [Xi] and inform him of the situation," Xinhua said.

CCTV showed Xi wearing a western business suit and Kim in his standard high-collared Mao suit. They stood on a beach, sat under an awning on an outdoor deck, strolled through lush gardens and sat at a conference table.

"In a cordial and friendly atmosphere, the top leaders of

the two parties and the two countries had an all-round and in-depth exchange of views on China-DPRK relations and major issues of common concern," Xinhua said, using the initials for North Korea's official name, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

China is North Korea's only major ally, although trade has plummeted in recent months as Beijing enforces United Nations economic sanctions in response to the North's nuclear bomb and ballistic missile tests.

China has also been eager to assert its importance in the process of lowering tensions on the Korean Peninsula. It has called for a halt to weapons tests and large-scale military exercises and a return to six-nation denuclearization talks it previously hosted in Beijing.

**I hope to build mutual trust with the U.S. through dialogue.**

KIM JONG UN

It was not known how long the Xi-Kim meeting had been planned or why Dalian was chosen. Hong Kong's South China Morning Post newspaper cited two unidentified sources as saying that Xi had flown to Dalian on the coast east of Beijing to preside over the official launch of sea trials for China's first entirely self-built aircraft carrier.

Chinese internet users posting on social media described heavy security in the city and extensive flight delays on Monday. Others said they spotted a set of Red Flag limousines used by state leaders.

As with Kim's March visit to Beijing, his presence in Dalian was not officially confirmed until he had left China. Reports said his jet flew out of Dalian airport yesterday afternoon. **AP**

## Dimon says yuan may rival dollar's role in 20 years

**C**HINA has a long list of financial reforms to tackle before the yuan can rival the global role of the dollar, according to JP-Morgan Chase & Co. Chief Executive Officer Jamie Dimon.

"Eventually, it will be comparable - eventually is 20 or 30 years," Dimon said when asked in an interview with Bloomberg Television's Stephen Engle whether China's yuan would rise to have a role akin to the dollar in the global financial system.

"It's not comparable if it's not convertible."

China's moves up to now, such as winning official reserve-currency status for the yuan at the International Monetary Fund, amount to "small" changes, according to Dimon. He regarded this year's inclusion of some domestic Chinese equities into MSCI Inc. international stock indexes as a "nice thing - it gets the world more educated about China - but in terms of actual dollar amount" of inflows

it's "not going to be Earth-shattering to China or to anybody else."

"They're going to have to have a convertible currency" for overseas investors to participate fully in China's domestic stock market, Dimon said. "That's quite a ways away."

When it comes to China's bond market, now about USD10 trillion, Dimon listed a number of needed reforms, especially for corporate securities. Those reforms include the

introduction of "proper" research methods and "proper" credit agencies. Open trading and the promotion of the Rule of Law principle are also necessary reforms, according to Dimon.

"They're on the way but they still have quite a way to go" to create a "really healthy bond market," he said. "Until you can buy and sell securities freely - if you have the U.S. dollar you can buy and sell securities freely - then that's a big thing." **MDT/Bloomberg**



# Ex-political high-flyer handed life sentence for graft

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

A Chinese court sentenced former political high-flyer Sun Zhengcai to life in prison yesterday for taking more than USD26 million in bribes, making him one of the biggest names to fall in President Xi Jinping's campaign against corruption and disloyalty.

Sun's sentence handed down by the intermediate court in the northern port city of Tianjin appears to end a career that had once been seen as propelling him to the apex of power in the ruling Communist Party.

In addition to being imprisoned, Sun was deprived of political rights for life and all his personal property was confiscated. State broadcaster CCTV showed Sun in court accepting the sentence and stating that he would not appeal.

Sun had been elevated to the party's elite 25-member Politburo and was the top official in the western megacity of Chongqing before suddenly being removed in July.

He pleaded guilty to the charges and expressed repentance, according to Tianjin's No. 1 Intermediate People's Court, which imposed his sentence less than one month after the trial opened in a relatively swift resolution of the case.

In return for the bribes, Sun and his associates allegedly provided assistance to unspecified organizations and individuals



In this March 13, 2017, file photo, the then-party secretary of Chongqing, Sun Zhengcai, attends the closing session of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC)

with engineering contracts, business operations and other matters, the court said.

Experts say announced figures in corruption cases are often only a fraction of the real amounts involved, part of an effort by the party to avoid stirring public outrage.

Despite Sun's conviction on criminal charges, Chinese leaders and party-run media have made it clear that Sun's offenses were largely political in nature.

At a party meeting last year, a senior official stated that Sun and other senior figures prosecuted in Xi's anti-corruption crackdown were "conspiring

openly to usurp party leadership."

Sun had been expelled from the party and dismissed from public office in September because he was suspected of "serious discipline violations," a phrase that usually refers to bribery but increasingly also includes political disloyalty. He was replaced in Chongqing by Xi protege Chen Min'er, who was subsequently promoted to the Politburo.

Sun had been identified most closely with the party's China Youth League faction associated with Xi's predecessor, Hu Jintao, which Xi — who also

heads the ruling party — has effectively sidelined in his consolidation of power.

Xi in March saw through a constitutional amendment removing term limits on the presidency, setting himself up to remain head of state indefinitely.

Sun's failure to obtain approval from senior party figures for his political ambitions was the most likely cause of his downfall, said Ding Xueliang, an expert on Chinese politics at Hong Kong's University of Science and Technology.

In such political cases, investigators generally have little difficulty finding evidence of corrup-

tion, given the opportunities to exploit one's office and the large family networks eager to take advantage, Ding said.

However, bringing political charges would be "extremely explosive" for a party intent on keeping secret its inner processes, factional rivalries and methods of distributing power and privilege, Ding said.

"Charging with corruption allows all the convenience of not releasing sensitive data while permitting the party to destroy [Sun's] reputation," he said.

**Sun had been elevated to the party's elite 25-member Politburo and was the top official in the western megacity of Chongqing**

Sun's case recalls that of Bo Xilai, one of his predecessors as Chongqing party chief, who was once considered among the country's most ambitious politicians and a potential rival to Xi. Bo was sentenced to life in prison in 2013 for corruption.

Other high-profile figures to fall in Xi's campaign include, Zhou Yongkang, a retired member of the party's all-powerful Politburo Standing Committee; and Guo Boxiong, a former top general. Both are serving life prison terms after being convicted of corruption or other misconduct. **AP**

# Exports rebound, trade surplus with US swells

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

CHINA'S exports rebounded in April and its politically sensitive monthly trade surplus with the United States grew for the first time in five months at a time of escalating friction between Beijing and Washington over the imbalance.

Data released yesterday show exports jumped 21.5 percent from the same month the year before, bouncing back from a contraction the previous month thanks to resurgent global demand.

Imports expanded 12.9 percent year-on-year in dollar terms, leaving the country's global trade surplus for the month at USD28.8 billion, a turnaround from a \$5 billion deficit the month before.



China's trade surplus with the U.S. swelled to USD22.2 billion, up from \$15.4 in March and the first increase since November, as exports to the U.S. grew at a double digit pace.

U.S. officials traveled to Beijing last week for talks on resolving the dispute

between the world's two biggest economies. Those meetings appear to have made little progress, but further discussions are scheduled to resume next week.

Chinese President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser, Liu He, who headed the Chinese side during

the Beijing talks, is expected to visit Washington for those meetings, White House Press Secretary Sarah Sanders said Monday. "We are working on something that we think will be great for everybody," she told reporters.

China's trade surplus with the U.S. totaled

\$80.4 billion in January-April, up from \$50 billion in the same period last year. President Donald Trump's demands that China slash its surplus with the U.S. have become a cornerstone of his combative economic policy.

Among the list of hard-line demands that Trump's delegation handed China last week was an ultimatum to cut \$200 billion from its annual trade surplus with the U.S. by 2020. Last year's merchandise trade surplus totaled \$375 billion, according to U.S. data, while Chinese statistics put it at about \$276 billion.

The widening surplus "reflects the difficulty of closing the trade gap between the two countries in the near term, but it is unlikely to obstruct the

constructive progress made recently" in negotiations between Washington and Beijing, ANZ Bank's senior China economist, Betty Wang, said in a research note. The high-level meetings are "constructive moves in the right direction" to resolve the tensions, she said.

After last week's meeting, China's Commerce Ministry said the two sides had agreed to establish a mechanism to try to resolve their dispute, though differences remained.

Trump has threatened to hike tariffs on \$150 billion in Chinese imports. China's communist leaders have countered by outlining \$50 billion in U.S. goods that they would target with retaliatory duties on goods including aircraft and soybeans. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

# Pre-poll plan to balance budget in two years revealed

Rod McGuirk, Associated Press

**A**USTRALIA'S government said yesterday it has turned a corner on mounting debt, proposing a plan to give tax cuts to most Australians while balancing the books within two years.

Treasurer Scott Morrison revealed to Parliament on Tuesday his third annual budget and his last before his conservative coalition stands for re-election within a year.

He promised a modest surplus of 2.2 billion Australian dollars (USD1.65 billion) in the 2019-20 fiscal year — down from an estimated AUD18.2 billion deficit in the current year ending June 30. The return to surplus had been expected a year later.

Australia recorded a decade of surplus budgets before the global financial crisis in 2008. It has accumulated deficits every year since.

"The Australia economy is now pulling out of one of the toughest periods we have faced in generations," Morrison told Parliament.

"As a result of this fiscal discipline, the government has turned the corner on net debt," he

AP PHOTO



Scott Morrison addresses reporters outside Parliament House in Canberra

said in a budget document.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull has said he will call an election early next year. But he could be tempted to call an early election if the budget is well received and his conservative coalition's standing in opinion polls improves. The government consistently trails the center-left opposition Labor Party in polling.

The budget measures will need the support of a hostile Senate to take effect.

The budget calls for net debt

— the sum of financial liabilities less assets — to peak in the current year at 18.6 percent of GDP, or AUD341 billion. That's a year earlier than Morrison forecast in his last budget.

Gross debt, the value of government securities, was expected to peak next year at 29.4 percent of GDP — AUD561 billion (\$421 billion) — then fall to AUD532 (\$399 billion) a decade later.

A mining boom driven by Chinese demand that kept Australia out of recession during the

crisis has gone, although prices for Australian iron ore and coal have recently rebounded.

The AUD1.8 trillion (\$1.4 trillion) Australian economy is expected to grow by 2.75 percent in the current fiscal year then 3 percent annually for the next two years.

Unemployment is expected to fall from 5.5 percent this year to 5.25 percent for the next three years.

"There has been an upswing in trade globally, especially in our Asian neighbors," a budget document said.

"Australia's strong links with the Asian region continue to present opportunities for our businesses to export, with our trading partner growth expected to exceed global growth over the next few years," it added.

Total government revenue for the next fiscal year is expected to be AUD486.1 billion (\$365 billion), up 6.6 percent from the current year.

Government expenses next year were expected to fall 4.2 percent from the current year to AUD488.6 billion (\$367 billion).

Some critics argue the government should be more aggressive

in cutting expenditure and retiring debt.

But the government proposes tax cuts for lower and middle income earners of up to AUD530 (\$400) a year at a cost to the budget of AUD140 billion (\$105 billion) over a decade.

Morrison said the tax cuts showed he respected taxpayers. "When too much tax revenue is coming in because the tax system is actually overburdening them, I think it's wrong to punish them for that," Morrison told reporters.

The government plans to spend more the AUD75 billion (\$56 billion) on infrastructure projects including road and rail in this decade.

The government announced on yesterday plans to spend AUD536 million (\$402 million) over five years on rescue plan for the Great Barrier Reef. It includes programs to reduce fertilizer runoff from farming, remove destructive crown-of-thorns starfish and fund research into coral bleaching.

Environmentalists argue that the funding won't tackle the main threat to the reef: global warming. They are calling for more aggressive action to reduce Australia's greenhouse gas emissions.

The government also announced plans to spend AUD1.3 billion (\$970 million) over a decade to help Australia become a global health industry leader in medical technology and pharmaceuticals. **AP**

## CAMBODIA

# New owner of influential newspaper begins by firing editor

**T**HE new owner of a newspaper considered the sole remaining independent media voice in Cambodia fired its editor on Monday for publishing a story about the publication's sale and the purchaser's alleged links to the government, adding to doubts it will continue to perform the watchdog function of a free press.

The dismissal of Kay Kimsong, editor-in-chief of the English and Khmer-language editions of the Phnom Penh Post, was followed by the resignations in protest of at least four senior editorial personnel.

The developments inside the newsroom were reported by several remaining staff members in near-real time on Twitter. More than 20 current and former staff members signed a statement expressing their "disgust" over

the new owner's ordering that the story be taken down from the newspaper's website.

The newspaper's sale by Australian businessman Bill Clough to Sivakumar S. Ganapathy, a public relations executive in Malaysia, was announced Saturday. The value of the sale has not been announced.

The Post reported that his PR company had done business in the past for the government of Prime Minister Hun Sen, which has curtailed press freedom ahead of a July general election. It pointed out additional connections, some indirect, which he is alleged to have with Cambodian ruling circles.

Kay Kimsong, who had worked at the Post for 10 years, told The Associated Press that the representative of the newspaper's new owner had told him

he made a big mistake by allowing the publication on the front page of the article saying a PR firm linked to the prime minister had bought the Post.

"The owner has complained that I allowed the editorial team to publish the story of the buying and selling of the paper that affected to the interests of the paper as well as the image of the owner," Kay Kimsong said. "I have done nothing wrong. I acted according to journalistic professionalism, but the company said they cannot keep me in my position."

He said he would not challenge his termination in court because the new owner said he would be compensated under the labor law.

The Post was founded in 1992 as Cambodia sought to re-establish stability and democracy after the

tumult of genocidal Khmer Rouge rule in the late 1970s and subsequent fighting between its guerrillas and the communist government that succeeded it. Published fortnightly, it established a high standard of Western-style journalism and employed many early-career Westerners as reporters and editors.

In recent months the Post, which became a daily after Clough bought it in 2008, was reported to also have faced a large bill for back taxes, but Clough's statement on Sunday said the matter had been settled, without giving details.

The Post's main English-language rival, the Cambodia Daily, shut its doors last year after being presented with an onerous tax bill, an action that many believe was politically motivated.



Kay Kimsong (left wearing glasses) editor-in-chief of the Phnom Penh Post, speaks to reporters after being fired by the newspaper's new owner

Hun Sen's government has shuttered virtually all independent media and convinced the courts to dissolve the only credible opposition party ahead of July's polls.

A third English-language newspaper in Cambodia, Khmer Times, is owned by a Malaysian and is seen as an uncritical voice that is close to the government.

Sivakumar, in the sale's announcements issued separately by himself and Clough, was described as having a background as an experienced journalist and representing a strong investment group from Malaysia. However,

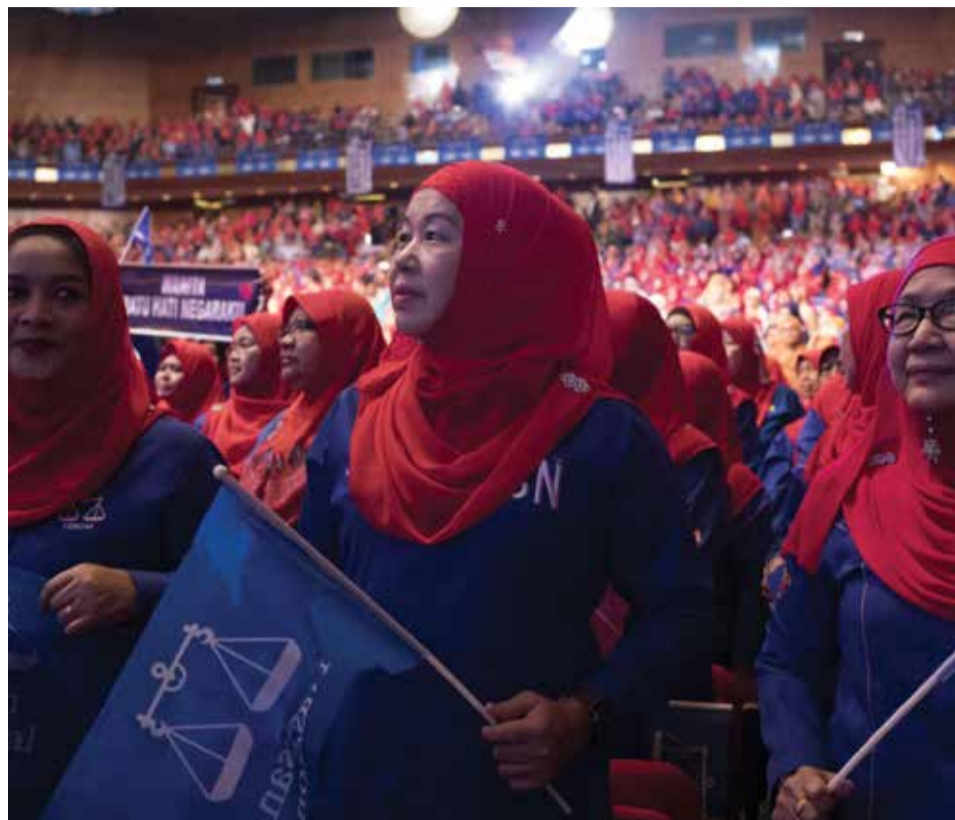
he appears to be virtually unknown in journalism circles in Cambodia and Malaysia. He is the managing director of ASIA PR, a public relations firm in Malaysia.

The two authors of the Post's contentious article both announced their resignations on Twitter.

"After being ordered to remove my story regarding the sale of the Phnom Penh Post from the website by new management, I refused and offered my resignation, which was accepted. I wish the fantastic journalists at The Post all the best," wrote business editor Brendan O'Byrne. **AP**



Flags from different political parties are hung along a street in Kuala Lumpur



Women supporters hold party flags at an event to launch the Barisan Nasional Women Manifesto in Kuala Lumpur

# The bitter feud at the center of Malaysia's election

Anisah Shukry

**I**T'S not just any other election for Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak: The vote today is personal.

His main challenger, Mahathir Mohamad, led the ruling Barisan Nasional coalition for roughly a third of its 61-year run in power, making him Malaysia's longest-serving prime minister. He backed Najib to replace his successor more than a decade ago, but now wants to boot him from office.

Najib, who first joined Mahathir's cabinet in 1986, is trying to silence the 92-year-old once and for all. A solid victory would also help Najib, 64, move beyond a corruption scandal involving state-owned investment fund 1MDB, which has dogged him despite his repeated denials of wrongdoing.

"If Mahathir succeeds in bringing down Najib and the very regime he created, he will have proved himself as the most influential politician in Malaysian history," said Oh Ei Sun, principal adviser to the Pacific Research Centre in Malaysia in Kuala Lumpur. "A Najib win, meanwhile, shows that he has truly stepped out of Mahathir's shadow and legacy, and established himself as a powerful politician in his own right."

## 'OPEN WAR'

Mahathir spent much of his 22 years in power grooming Najib to take his place. Yet shortly after Najib finally took office in 2009, Mahathir turned on him - citing worsening race relations and a

tougher business environment. The attacks continued for years, and Mahathir in January offered himself up as a prime minister candidate for the opposition coalition while de-facto leader Anwar Ibrahim sits in jail.

The two fell out over a myriad policy issues, including Najib's decision to abolish the Internal Security Act, his performance in the 2013 general election and the 1MDB controversy.

**If Mahathir succeeds in bringing down Najib, he will have proved himself as the most influential politician in Malaysian history.**

OH EI SUN  
ADVISER TO THE PACIFIC RESEARCH  
CENTRE

On the campaign trail, both leaders have taken personal swipes at each other. At a rally over the weekend, Mahathir called Najib a "thief" and said "he lives in fear even of my photos." His party had earlier been temporarily banned from campaigning, and authorities had announced they were investigating Mahathir under the country's new fake news law.

Najib believes Mahathir turned away from him because the political veteran is "obsessive about control, about calling the shots," he told Bloomberg in a recent interview. "He wanted me to do his bidding." The final straw, said Najib, was when Mahathir's son Mukhriz Mahathir lost his bid to become vice-president of UMNO. "That was the turning point and he declared open war against me."

Mahathir's press secretary referred questions directly to Mahathir, who couldn't be contacted on Monday.

Polls show a tight contest between Najib's Barisan Nasional and Mahathir's four-party coalition called Pakatan Harapan, which includes Malaysia's biggest ethnic Chinese party. Anger among non-Malays in 2013 prompted Najib's coalition to lose the popular vote for the first time in 44 years.

In Peninsular Malaysia, Pakatan Harapan is set to win 43.7 percent of the popular vote compared with 40.3 percent for Barisan Nasional, according to the latest poll by Merdeka Center. Another survey by Institut Darul Ehsan, a think tank run by the opposition-held state of Selangor, showed 57 percent of Malay respondents saying they preferred Mahathir as prime minister over Najib.

Najib and Mahathir will compete for prime time viewers when they deliver their last appeal on the eve of the poll. Najib's speech will be televised on state-run channels TV2 and Bernama, as well as TV3 and Astro Awani at 10 p.m., while Mahathir is ai-

ming for 10 million viewers by streaming his speech on Facebook at the same time.

Malaysians will cast their votes when polls open at 8 a.m. local time today.

## 'MALAY TSUNAMI'

Yet the "Mahathir factor" alone may not be enough for Pakatan Harapan to win over Malays. Ibrahim Suffian, the executive director of pollster Merdeka Center, which tracks voter sentiments, told a forum Wednesday that while Barisan Nasional saw declining support levels among Malay voters over the past two weeks, it still maintains nearly a two-to-one advantage.

Mahathir will need all the support he can get from Malays, which make up about 60 percent of all voters. The ruling coalition has a firm grip on two states in Borneo that account for a quarter of seats in parliament despite holding only about 20 percent of Malaysia's population, giving it an advantage over the opposition.

In the 2013 election, Najib came to power largely on the back of Malays after the opposition alienated them by campaigning against affirmative action programs that have underpinned the ruling coalition's support for decades. This time around, the opposition is hoping Mahathir and his Malay-based party can deliver a "Malay tsunami" of votes.

"With Mahathir, Pakatan Harapan has come to a stage where it has never been before," said Wan Saiful Wan Jan, who recently stepped down as chief

executive officer of the Institute for Democracy and Economic Affairs to join Mahathir's party. "For the first time, it has the support of the Malay population in a very big way."

Najib has dismissed the notion that Malays would abandon him. "I can assure you there will be no Malay tsunami against the government," he said in April, according to the official Malaysia news agency Bernama. "That strategy, if it works, will only be detrimental to the Chinese community."

## TOUGH TIMES

Still, it's a been difficult time for Najib. Besides dealing with questions over 1MDB, he's faced complaints over rising living costs and brewing discontent with a goods and services tax introduced in 2015. To win over the Malay base, he's pledged to introduce a law for Shariah-compliant property sales, help ethnic Malay farmers resolve their debts and ensure the same cost of goods for those living in Borneo as in Peninsular Malaysia.

Mahathir, meanwhile, has vowed to replace the 6 percent goods-and-services tax with levies on company profits and a sales tax - a move Najib warns would add 416 billion ringgit (USD107 billion) to the nation's debt. He also wants to impose a two-term limit on the prime minister, something that would've checked his own power back in the day.

Two weeks ago, Mahathir shared a video in which he is seen fighting back tears as he explained to a child why he'd come out of retirement to run for office.

"It is because I have to do some work with regards to rebuilding our country," Mahathir said. "Perhaps because of mistakes I myself made in the past and because of the current situation." **Bloomberg**

# Europeans back Iran nuclear deal as Trump weighs US pullout

Lorne Cook, Brussels

**E**UROPEAN countries involved in the Iran nuclear agreement met yesterday to underline their support for the pact just hours before U.S. President Donald Trump was due to announce whether he would continue to abide by it.

Senior officials from Britain, France and Germany met in Brussels with Iran's Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs, Abbas Araghchi, as the future of the landmark deal to curb the Islamic Republic's nuclear ambitions hangs in the balance.

In a statement, the Europeans said they "used this opportunity to reiterate their support to the continued full and effective implementation of the [agreement] by all sides."

They were not expected to meet again after Trump's announcement later Tuesday, but EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, who helps supervise the deal's application and settle any disputes, was set for an evening of telephone diplomacy.

The exactly impact of Trump's decision will probably take some time to decipher. The agreement is endorsed by the UN Security Council and cannot be ended by



Donald Trump

any one party alone.

In the short term, should Trump lift his sanctions waiver, Congress has about 60 days to decide its next move. Iran can also trigger a dispute mechanism in the agreement, opening a maximum 45-day window for the airing of grievances and to seek a compromise. This could buy three months of valuable time.

Overall, Trump's threats have baffled the Europeans. They say the deal is working and note that the International Atomic Energy Agency has now certified 10 times that Iran is in compliance with its obligations. They wonder how breaking this deal would improve things and fear it might only create a dangerous vacuum for Iran to resume its nuclear activities.

"If this agreement falls apart and you don't have a substitute, what do you gain? You make things worse because you probably trigger a nuclear arms race in the region," a senior EU official with close working knowledge of the agreement said last week. The official was not permitted to speak publicly about the Iran nuclear dossier.

The deal "is not based on as-

sumptions of good faith or trust. It is based on concrete commitments, verification mechanisms and a very strict long-term monitoring done by the IAEA," the official said.

EU officials also warn that any changes Trump might want to make to this agreement would have to be done on the basis of "more for more." They believe Iran is unlikely to accept new constraints without concessions in return.

**Overall, Trump's threats have baffled the Europeans. They say the deal is working**

That said, it is still possible to ramp up pressure on Iran over its ballistic missile program or its destabilizing role in regional affairs through other sanctions, which would fall outside the scope of the agreement.

Just in case U.S. sanctions linked to this agreement do kick in, the EU is weighing how to protect the interests of European business working with Iran. "We are having conversations obviously and we are working on a number of proposals that could protect European companies and operators," the senior official said, but declined to provide details. **AP**

## ARMENIA

# Protest leader elected Premier after 'velvet revolution'

Sara Khojyan

**A**RMENIAN opposition leader Nikol Pashinyan was elected prime minister by the country's parliament, completing a remarkable rise to power backed by massive street protests that he's termed a "velvet revolution."

Lawmakers voted by 59 to 42 yesterday to name Pashinyan as premier, a week after the ruling Republican Party, which holds a majority of seats, had refused to back his candidacy. This time, 13 Republicans voted with minority parties in favor of Pashinyan, who led the protests that ousted Armenia's longtime ruler Serzh Sargsyan.

"There can be no return to the status quo," Pashinyan told lawmakers before the vote as he pledged to call "free, fair and transparent" elections. There'll be no vendettas against the former regime



Newly elected as a Prime Minister of Armenia Nikol Pashinian

as "an atmosphere of national consensus" is needed to protect citizens' rights and lure investment, he said.

Pashinyan's election as premier was greeted with elation by massive crowds gathered in the capital, Yerevan's main square. The tiny Caucasus republic of 3 million plunged into political crisis last month when Sargsyan sought to extend his rule

by becoming prime minister after a decade as president. He'd overseen constitutional changes to concentrate power in his hands, but resigned after just six days as Pashinyan led tens of thousands of people in peaceful protests amid anger at widespread poverty and official corruption.

Russian President Vladimir Putin sent a telegram congratulating Pashinyan

**Pashinyan's election as premier was greeted with elation by massive crowds gathered in the capital**

on his election, according to a Kremlin statement. Russia is watching events closely because it has deep political and economic ties with Armenia as well as a key military base there.

Other former Soviet republics including Georgia, Ukraine, Moldova and Kyrgyzstan have experienced uprisings against corruption or authoritarianism in recent years, which were condemned by Russia as U.S.-inspired "color revolutions" intended to weaken its influence. The Armenian protests were unusual in forcing the authorities to cede power without bloodshed, and Pashinyan repeatedly rejected the idea that his movement was making a

choice between east and west.

His supporters staged a general strike, blocking major roads in Yerevan and bringing much of the country to a standstill, after the Republicans rejected his appointment in a May 1 parliamentary vote. Amid mounting tensions, Republican leaders reversed position a day later and said they'd support any candidate nominated by at least a third of lawmakers.

The ruling party backed Pashinyan to end the "unprecedented situation" in Armenia and ensure political stability, though it's still opposed to him, said Vahram Baghdasaryan, head of the Republican faction in par-

liament. Society has been divided and "there's an atmosphere of hatred," he said.

Failure by Pashinyan, 42, to win a majority this time would have meant early elections with the Republicans' acting Prime Minister Karen Karapetyan retaining power until the vote. The ruling party didn't nominate a candidate after Pashinyan threatened to blockade parliament if it put Karapetyan forward.

The new prime minister, a former journalist, now has 15 days to form a government and has promised elections once the electoral code is changed to ensure a fair contest. The Republicans hold 58 of 105 seats in parliament while Pashinyan's Yelk (Way Out) alliance won just nine at elections last year that international observers criticized as "tainted by credible information about vote-buying." **Bloomberg**

# 71st Cannes Film Festival opens with drama on screen and off

Jake Coyle, Cannes

**T**HE 71st Cannes Film Festival is opening with the premiere of Asghar Farhadi's "Everybody Knows," starring Penelope Cruz and Javier Bardem, but much of the drama at this year's festival is off screen.

The shadow of disgraced film mogul Harvey Weinstein is looming over this year's Cannes. For two decades, Weinstein had been an omnipresent figure at the festival, where several of his alleged sex crimes took place. This year, Cannes has established a hotline for sexual harassment victims at the festival.

Thierry Fremaux, the festival's director, has said the Weinstein revelations came as a shock to Cannes, forcing the festival to examine its own practices and do more to improve gender equality.

"What emerged in Cannes must be fought in Cannes," Marlene Schiappa, France's secretary of state in charge of gender equality, told French television yesterday.



Jury president Cate Blanchett

This year's jury also includes a number of prominent members of the Time's Up movement, including jury president Cate Blanchett. Also on the jury that will decide this year's Palme d'Or top prize are Ava DuVernay, Kristen Stewart and Lea Seydoux, who says Weinstein had made unwelcome advances on her.

Also on the jury are Burundian songwriter Khadja Nin, Russian

filmmaker Andrey Zvyagintsev, Canadian director Denis Villeneuve, French director Robert Guediguian and Chinese actor Chang Chen.

Over the next two weeks, they will watch the 21 films competing for the Palme, including new releases from Spike Lee, Pawel Pawlikowski and Jean-Luc Godard. Three of the 21 films are directed by women: Nadine Labaki, Eva Husson and

Alice Rohrwacher.

Cannes has come under criticism for years for not selecting more women directors. Only one female filmmaker, Jane Campion, has won the Palme.

## Faced with only showing its films out of competition, Netflix withdrew its films from Cannes

Controversy has characterized much of the lead-up to this year's festival. After two Netflix films played in competition as last year's Cannes festival — prompting protests from French exhibitors — the Cannes board of directors ruled that a film in competition at Cannes must have French distribution. French law prevents a film that plays

in theaters to appear on streaming services for three years.

Faced with only showing its films out of competition, Netflix withdrew its films from Cannes. Several Netflix titles, including Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" and the recently completed Orson Welles film "The Other Side of the Wind," had been expected to premiere this year. Since then, both sides have expressed some regret over their disagreement.

Also likely absent from the festival will be two filmmakers living under house arrest in their home countries. The festival has asked that exceptions be made so that Russian theatre and film director Kirill Serebrennikov and Iranian filmmaker Jafar Panahi can attend the premieres of their films, but that appears unlikely.

In the festival's Un Certain Regard section is "Rifiki," a lesbian romance from Kenya that has already been banned at home.

But Danish provocateur filmmaker Lars von Trier will return to Cannes seven years after being declared "persona non grata" for joking about being a Nazi and having sympathy for Hitler. His film "The House That Jack Built" stars Matt Dillon and Uma Thurman.

Also making a return to Cannes is "Star Wars." The Han Solo spinoff "Solo: A Star Wars Story" is set for an international premiere on May 15. AP

**MALO CLINIC**  
THE ART OF CREATING SMILES

*Sculpting smiles with detail and precision*

Dear patients and friends of Taivex Malo Hospital Dental Clinic/Macau MALO CLINIC, We at Macau MALO CLINIC Dental Care would like to apologize to you all.

The Macau Health Bureau has notified the hospital to stop all operations for 6 months, thus the dental clinic won't be able to provide you with dental services either. We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

Within this time period, patients may choose the following options:

A. Go to one of our 18 MALO CLINIC clinics in Mainland China, all of which, together with Macau MALO CLINIC, operate under MALO CLINIC China Management, following the exact standards and medical protocols as any international MALO CLINIC.

Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.

B. For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.

C. For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

If any urgent situation arises or if you have any enquiries, please feel free to contact us.

Office phone: 8862 2208 / 8862 2206    Cellphone: 00853-6826 9099    Wechat: MALODENTAL853    Email: service.mtmc@maloclinics.com.cn    Website: http://www.maloclinics.com.cn  
(Can be contacted at any time)

Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all. Thank you all for your understanding and support. We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

Guatemala | Quito | Giza | Avoca | Coimbra | Sibers | Capota | Lubon | Almada | Portofino | Paris | Funchal | Wirebor | Victoria  
Wienbergbach | Oslo | Warsaw | Catania | Athens | Issarona | New York | Rotterdam | Jersey City | Elizabeth | Miami | Portland  
Toronto | Montreal | Toluca | Riverside | Broward | Bogotá | Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Brisbane | Hobart | Gold Coast | Lusaka  
Tel Aviv | Ramat Hasharon | Dubai | Kazan | Chennai | Macao | Hong Kong | Beijing | Shanghai | Guangzhou | Shenzhen | Taipei  
Zhengzhou | Chengdu | Qingdao | Hefei | Qiyang | Tuzhou | Hangzhou | Tokyo | Sapporo | Bangkok | Phuket | Singapore

**BBAM**  
澳門英國商會  
British Business Association of Macao

**Business Luncheon**  
Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> May  
with  
Guest Speaker:  
**Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes**  
Director, Macau Government Tourism Office

**MACAO YEAR OF GASTRONOMY:**  
An up-date on Macao designated  
as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy

The designation of Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy showcases Macao's vast culinary heritage and vibrant contemporary gastronomic scene. Macao Government Tourism Office launched the "2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy" with a line-up of promotional activities and celebrations.

To complement this, an array of action plans is designed to preserve and revive the city's cultural legacy with elements of gastronomy as key enhancers.

Venue: The Vista, Level 3  
MGM Macau  
12.30: Drinks  
12.55 pm: Lunch  
1.30 pm: Presentation by Ms Senna Fernandes  
2.30 pm: Close

**Strict No-Show/Late Cancellation Policy applies for this event**  
**Deadline to book and request vegetarian menu: Friday 18<sup>th</sup> May**

BBAM/ Members – MOP/HKD 420 - Non-Members – MOP/HKD 600

Inquiries and RSVP to  
bbam@britchammacao.org or phone +853 8798 9697

## what's ON



THE WEIGHT OF CONTEXT – WORKS BY LEONG FEI IN  
TIME: 11am-7pm (Closed on Mondays and mandatory  
holidays)

UNTIL: May 13, 2018

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

Rodrigo Rodrigues

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2836 6064

LA PARISIENNE – CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE  
HISTORY

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

Address: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

“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

THE EXHIBITION “SWISS STYLE NOW”

TIME: 10am-9pm

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

## Offbeat

TWINS BORN ON ‘STAR WARS’ DAY  
NAMED AFTER MOVIE CHARACTERS

The force is with them.

A Utah couple became parents of a boy and a girl on “Star Wars” day, Friday, May 4. The day is celebrated by “Star Wars” fans because it sounds like the movie’s line, “May the force be with you.”

Kendall and Ross Robbins said Monday they named the children Rowan Luke and Kai Leia and decorated their nursery in a “Star Wars” theme.

Their middle names are two of the main figures in the movie franchise. The couple says they chose to be induced on May 4 and had other middle names picked out just in case, but didn’t need to use them.

As Kendall Robbins says, “the force is strong with them.”

The twins’ home nursery is decorated in a “Star Wars” theme.

The story was first reported by KSTU-TV in Salt Lake City.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
15:40	Miscellaneous
17:30	Miscellaneous
18:25	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:15	TDM Interview (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Portuguese Program
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Champions League Highlights
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	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

1972 ISRAELI COMMANDOS  
STORM HIJACKED JET

Twelve Israeli soldiers disguised as maintenance staff have stormed a hijacked Sabena Boeing at Lod airport in Tel Aviv and released the 100 people on board.

Two of the Arab hijackers were shot dead and their two female companions were captured, although one of them was injured in the attack.

Six of the passengers were also wounded in the gun battle. The 90 passengers and 10 crew had been held hostage for 23 hours.

The end to their ordeal came when two vans, said to be carrying repair men, drove onto the runway and approached the plane.

The men got out and pretended to begin work on the airliner but suddenly climbed onto the wings and opened the emergency doors.

The British pilot, Captain Reginald Levy, said: “Everyone of us is lucky to be alive. I have had some tough times but this was my toughest.”

The airliner was hijacked after leaving Vienna, where it had made a stop on a flight from Brussels to Tel Aviv.

Capt Levy said: “Two of the men burst into the cockpit and said they were taking over the jet.”

He was ordered to fly the plane to Lod, where the gunmen offered to free the passengers in exchange for 100 Arab prisoners held by the Israelis.

While the plane was sitting on the tarmac, the Israelis managed to let down the tyres and empty the fuel tanks to prevent it taking off again.

Israeli Defence Minister Moshe Dayan took charge of negotiations with the hijackers, initially offering to free the Arab prisoners in return for the release of the hostages.

Later Israeli officials said there was never any intention to release the prisoners. It was simply a delaying tactic.

The gunmen belonged to the Black September Organisation of Palestine guerrillas, a splinter group of the PLO.

One of the rescued passengers, Mor Weiss, from Brooklyn, told The Times: “The soldiers opened the four doors, two on either side at the same time. Immediately the Arabs started shooting wildly.

“The troops fired back and I saw the younger of the two male hijackers fall with a bullet through his forehead. Seconds later the other one was shot.”

Mr Weiss said he had been picked on because he was wearing a skull cap. He was sent to the back of the plane and made to sit with a stick of dynamite between his feet.

Captain Levy, who comes from Slough, told a news conference, the drama had happened on his 50th birthday. His wife had accompanied him on the flight so they could have a celebratory birthday meal in Tel Aviv.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The two women hijackers were jailed for life in August 1972. They were found guilty after boarding the Sabena aircraft with explosives packed into the lining of corsets they were wearing and also carrying a pistol and grenade concealed in cans of talcum powder.

They were jailed for life - although one of the three judges voted for the death penalty.

On 29 May 1972 three Japanese gunmen opened fire on crowds at Lod International Airport in Tel Aviv, killing 26 people and injuring dozens more.

The Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine said they had recruited the gunmen from the Japanese Red Army. Two died in the attack, the third, Kozo Okamoto, was tried and sentenced to life imprisonment.

Lod, or Lydda airport, has since been renamed Ben Gurion Airport and has some of the strictest airport security in the world.



YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's odd that keeping your nose to the grindstone is such hard work, considering the amount of free time you've had lately. Remind yourself there's a payoff.

Taurus April 20-May 20 You have in your possession a luxury item that no amount of money can buy. When you take a quick inventory of all you own, don't forget to look for what's hidden under your spiritual pillows.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Don't be stoic. The more you keep talking, the more likely you are to come up with good ideas. Consider it brainstorming. Letting the world around you ask the leading questions is one of your hidden strengths.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 Remember that old offer of lunch or the email asking about friends and family? It's a good time to follow through with just that type of dropped connection. You never know when you'll charm exactly the right person.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Being stubborn has its advantages. You won't settle for anything less than success. Even the economy is no match for your determination to succeed. Let yourself dig your heels in.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Spending money on anything other than necessities is becoming a foreign concept to you. You're so used to the bare minimum that you're becoming a bit dull. Treat yourself to something interesting and unusual.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You produce the best when under pressure. If the world isn't tightening the screws, then you need to challenge yourself. Do what it takes to build a head of steam, because there is plenty of money to be made that way.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 Being abrasive won't solve anything, but it sure feels good at the moment. You'll let your temper get the best of you. Don't forget you'll be paying dearly later.

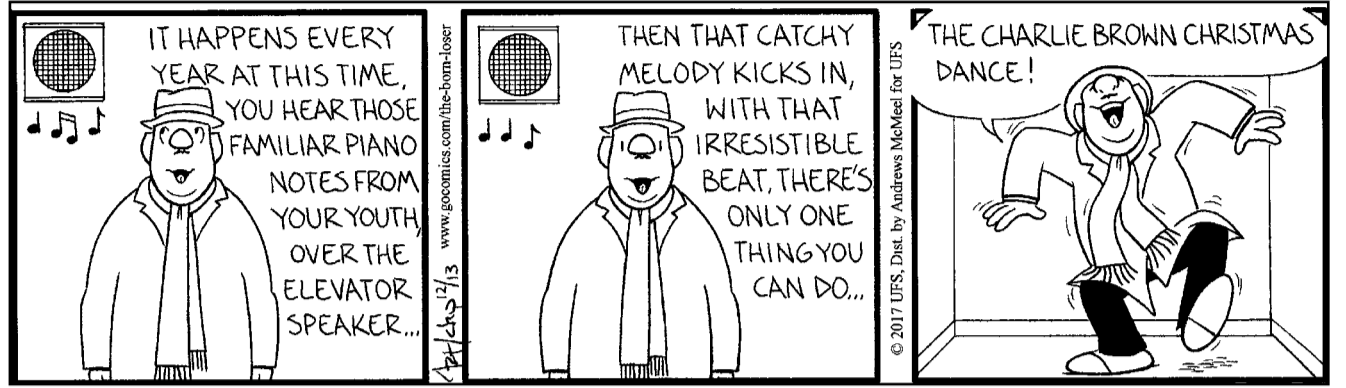
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Sometimes the mundane aspects of life are the most satisfying. You're raking your financial yard or tidying up the books today. It may not be glamorous, but it's definitely gratifying.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 If you expected money to be faithful, you've since learned better. It is as fickle as teenage love. Another person's wallet is just as comfortable as yours is. Don't take it personally.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Your biggest discovery to date is that you're not downright eccentric, but you're definitely no longer mainstream. That's a marketable quality if you play it right.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 It's too easy to say that you and a partner are from different planets. Sure, you may communicate differently but you're saying the same thing. Both of you have to put your money where your mouths are now.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

8 6 7 5 1 2 3 4 9 grid

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

WEATHER

MIN MAX CONDITION

CHINA

Beijing 13 29 clear; Harbin 5 21 cloudy/clear; Tianjin 15 30 clear; Urumqi 7 21 clear; Xi'an 14 22 overcast; Lhasa 6 20 cloudy; Chengdu 16 18 drizzle; Chongqing 20 26 drizzle; Kunming 13 26 cloudy/clear; Nanjing 13 24 cloudy; Shanghai 15 25 cloudy/clear; Wuhan 14 27 cloudy/overcast; Hangzhou 14 26 cloudy/clear; Taipei 22 25 drizzle; Guangzhou 22 26 moderate rain; Hong Kong 23 26 shower/heavy rain

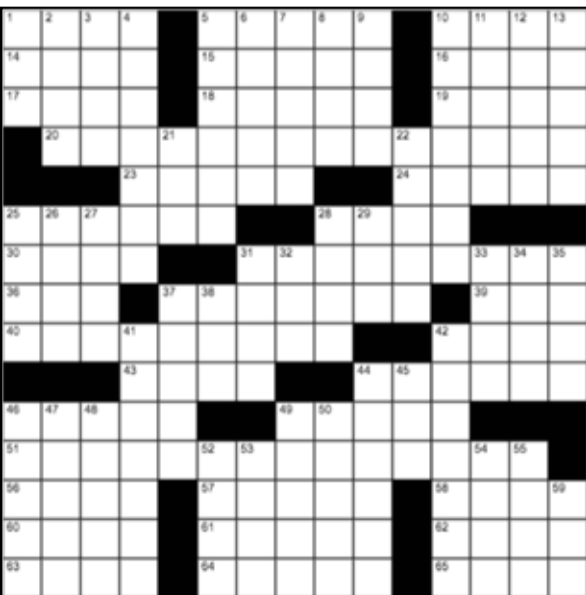
WORLD

Moscow 8 17 clear/cloudy; Frankfurt 13 25 clear; Paris 11 25 drizzle; London 6 22 drizzle/cloudy; New York 14 22 clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Gymnast Korbut; 5- Data; 10- Group of tents; 14- Paper quantity; 15- Trio; 16- Skin cream ingredient; 17- Org.; 18- Corbeled bay window; 19- Baseball stats; 20- Haunt of Robin Hood; 23- Article of bedding; 24- Mislead; 25- Portion of time; 28- Helper; 30- "East of Eden" director Kazan; 31- Coating of silver; 36- End for Siam; 37- Bee entrant; 39- Word used to precede a woman's maiden name; 40- Objects that serve as a guides; 42- Word with French or English; 43- Long fish; 44- Shorthand pros; 46- \_\_\_ and the Night Visitors; 49- Highway stop; 51- Process of capitalizing; 56- Mrs. Dick Tracy; 57- Feudal estate; 58- Caesar's partner; 60- Opposite of sans; 61- Combined; 62- Islamic call to prayer; 63- Zaire's Mobutu \_\_\_ Seko; 64- Satisfies; 65- Meadowlands;

DOWN: 1- ... man \_\_\_ mouse?; 2- Discounted by; 3- Deep wound; 4- Loss of memory; 5- Put away; 6- Spasm; 7- Running wild; 8- Prepared to drive; 9- Ego; 10- Porter; 11- "The Zoo Story" playwright; 12- Damp; 13- Basil-based sauce; 21- Letter after pi; 22- More mature; 25- Rind; 26- Joy Adamson's lioness; 27- Nothing, in Nice; 28- \_\_\_ well...; 29- \_\_\_ been had!; 31- Sun. speeches; 32- Kind; 33- Party to; 34- Pianist Peter; 35- Mil. leaders; 37- Refine; 38- Comrade; 41- Burst open; 42- Spiral; 44- Gazes fixedly; 45- Asian occasion; 46- Take the role of; 47- "Circle of Friends" author Binchy; 48- Church recesses; 49- North Dakota city; 50- Form of oxygen; 52- French friends; 53- Turner of "Peyton Place"; 54- Seep; 55- Final Four org.; 59- Ques. response;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



AD

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



Britain's Mark Williams in action during day seventeen of the 2018 Snooker World Championship

SNOOKER

# Mark Williams wins third world title at 43

Sheffield, England

**M**ARK Williams won the world snooker championship for the third time, 15 years after his last, after beating John Higgins 18-16 in one of the

great finals at the Crucible Theatre on Monday.

At 43, Williams became the oldest winner of the sport's biggest prize since 1978 when fellow Welshman Roy Reardon won his sixth and final world title.

Williams was talked out of retirement last year by his wife following a slump in form that was so profound that he didn't even qualify for the Crucible.

"I watched it in a caravan with a beer," Williams said, typically

deadpan.

Twelve months later, he was lifting the trophy surrounded by his wife Joanne and kids, and pocketing a first prize of 425,000 pounds following the closest final in 13 years.

One of the more laid-back players on the circuit, Williams started the two-day final jaded after a late finish to his semifinal against Barry Hawkins on Saturday. He was eating in a kebab house at 2:15 a.m. local time on Sunday and was seen snacking on crisps and chocolates — offered by a spectator sitting behind him — during the first session against Higgins.

## Williams' run of 69 started by improbably cutting a red into the middle pocket

Still, Williams built a 14-7 lead, only for Higgins to pull himself back to 15-15 with stunning counterattacking potting to set up a dramatic finale between two players who graduated from the same "Class of '92," along with snooker's box-office star Ronnie O'Sullivan.

Williams went 17-15 up, before

missing an easy pink that would have clinched him the title. Higgins responded by compiling a breathtaking break of 62 to win the frame by two points for 17-16.

Williams' run of 69, started by improbably cutting a red into the middle pocket, finally saw him home.

"To play John in a final is an experience in itself," Williams said. "You've got to expect a comeback because when you're 50 or 60 in front, he's the best I've ever seen at clearing up and that includes Ronnie O'Sullivan.

"I was thinking, 'I'm not going to get over the line here.' I knew if I didn't get enough he was going to clear up again, but I'm over the moon."

Higgins also lost last year's final to Mark Selby and remains on four world titles, behind Stephen Hendry (7), Steve Davis, Reardon (both 6), and O'Sullivan (5) in the modern era.

"I was 14-7 behind and I was worried if I would [not] take it to the fourth session," Higgins said. "I didn't want to lose with a session to spare."

Williams, the world champion in 2000 and 2003, said at the start of the tournament that he would go naked to his press conference if he won the title, and he stuck to his word — well, almost.

He turned up with just a towel around his waist. **AP**

AD

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In this April 29, 2018 file photo, Spain's Rafael Nadal reacts to falling confetti after winning the Barcelona Open Tennis Tournament final

# Rafael Nadal in middle of football controversy in Madrid

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**R**AFAEL Nadal has put himself in the middle of a soccer controversy in Madrid.

A longtime Real Madrid supporter, Nadal appeared with an Atletico Madrid jersey during the club's Europa League match against Arsenal last week, making headlines across Spain and attracting a wave of social media reactions from fans from both teams.

Nadal couldn't avoid the issue when he arrived in the Spanish capital for this week's Madrid Open.

"Well, there is a problem with

today's society, that to be a true supporter of one team, it seems that you have to be anti another team," Nadal said Monday. "I just support Real Madrid. I have a lot of friends that are from Atletico. They are playing in a competition in Europe against an English team. I just went there to support Atletico Madrid. They invited me. I just wanted to enjoy the day, to see a great football match."

Nadal was captured on camera with the jersey around his neck during the team's 1-0 win at Wanda Metropolitano Stadium last week, a result that allowed Atletico to reach the final of Europe's second-tiered club competition.

"The [club's] president gave me a T-shirt as a gift," Nadal said. "At night it was a little bit chilly, a little bit cold, and I just used it as a scarf. That's all. But it's always the same stuff. Maybe there's too much hypocrisy, or I would say you people in the media have to write too many things, so you have to explore some stupid things."

Nadal also discussed Sunday's "clasico" between Barcelona and Real Madrid, which ended in a 2-2 draw after several questionable calls made by the officiating crew at Camp Nou Stadium.

"I don't have to talk about football referees," Nadal said. "The poor referee will have a lot on

his back because you have been speaking about them for hours and hours. I'm not going to contribute to that show. I think it was a great football match, nice to see. I really enjoyed the football."

Nadal said he favors after-game sanctions to try to make the referees' life easier.

"Maybe I am very passionate about football, and I'm not criticizing football," he said. "But at the end of the day, the referees have a very hard job. It's very difficult to make decisions when you are under pressure. There are sometimes many players that try to trick other players [...] It's just a show." **AP**

# Yankees and Red Sox to play in London in 2019



Rob Harris, London

**T**HE New York Yankees and Boston Red Sox will face each other in two regular-season games at the Olympic Stadium in London next year.

"We are bringing you one of the best rivalries in baseball," MLS Commissioner Rob Manfred said yesterday.

Boston will be the home team for both of MLB's first games in Europe on June 29 and 30, 2019. The stadium will have a capacity of 55,000 in a baseball configuration.

MLB said it also "com-

mitted to playing in London in 2020 and our intention is to establish a long-term footprint in the city" as American sports further embrace British fans.

The NFL has played regular-season games in London since 2007, holding 18 games at Wembley and three at Twickenham. Three more NFL games are scheduled for this year, including one at Tottenham's new stadium.

The NBA and NHL have also held regular-season games in London.

"The stadium infrastructure in this city gives

Major League Baseball every opportunity to put on a first-class event," Manfred said. "We hope this series will be the beginning of a relationship with London that persists and a continuation of increasing exposure for Major League Baseball in Europe."

MLB has put renewed emphasis on international games since Manfred became commissioner in 2015.

Cleveland and Minnesota played a two-game series last month in San Juan, Puerto Rico, and the Los Angeles Dodgers and San Diego played in a three-game series in Monterrey, Mexico, last week. MLB announced yesterday that Oakland and Seattle will open next season at the Tokyo Dome on March 20-21. **AP**

CRICKET

# Paine to lead Australia squad to England

**T**IM Paine has been picked to lead Australia's squad for next month's limited-overs series in England, adding to the ODI job to the test captaincy he was rushed into after Steve Smith and David Warner were suspended during the controversial recent tour to South Africa.

Cricket Australia announced the 15-player squad yesterday for the five-game series, which starts June 13 at The Oval in London and is part of Australia's preparations for an attempted World Cup title defense in England in 2019.

Aaron Finch is vice-captain of the team that will be missing a core group of experienced players.

"Tim is a strong leader and will captain the side for this series, supported by Aaron," national selector Trevor Hohns said. "A decision on a permanent one-day captain will be made in due course."

As well as Smith and Warner, who have been banned for 12 months following a ball-tampering scandal during the third test in South Africa in March, the Australian squad will be missing frontline pacemen Mitch Starc and Pat Cummins because of injuries.

Veteran spinner Nathan Lyon has earned a recall to the ODI lineup for the first time since 2015.

"Nathan is our No. 1 off-spinner and has excelled with the red ball, however, he is not new to white ball cricket and deserves his chance to push for World Cup selection," Hohns said. "England potentially have a number of left-handers in their side and we look forward to seeing what he can produce with the white ball in English conditions."

Starc (foot) and Cummins (back) are undergoing treatment and are expected to return for Australia's subsequent test series against Pakistan.

Australia squad: Tim Paine (captain), Aaron Finch, Ashton Agar, Alex Carey, Josh Hazlewood, Travis Head, Nathan Lyon, Glenn Maxwell, Shaun Marsh, Jhye Richardson, Kane Richardson, D'Arcy Short, Billy Stanlake, Marcus Stoinis, Andrew Tye. **AP**

opinion

**Animal Farm**

Albano Martins



**CERTAINTIES AND METHODOLOGICAL DOUBTS!**

1. In early April, I published my forecast of Macau's inflation for March. The official figures were only to be released on April 20. My forecast was 1.62 percent.

The reason appeared simple, for after the Chinese New Year, prices would return to the normality of a world where people show some respect for each other: festive times have long encouraged greed.

As inflation was 1.46 percent in February, how could I explain such an increase, if the index fell in March? The explanation was obvious, it resulted from the calculation process itself, since inflation is measured by the average CPI variation of the last twelve months: a simple exercise of common sense and a little bit of mathematics.

I concluded that the CPI (General) could fall in March (as it almost always does after the Chinese New Year), but inflation would be much more robust than the 1.46 percentage points recorded in February. However, if I were to be deceived and there was no such fall in the CPI (General), we could have a much weightier March value, in the order of 1.70 percentage points.

I did not follow my gut to put these numbers together, for intuition does not count for much in these exercises.

Inflation data released for March, was - guess what - 1.62 percent!

2. We have come to perceive how the Macau Jockey Club has the Government eating out of the palm of its hand.

The earlier concession contract stated that if the contractual obligations therein were not fulfilled, the concessionaire would be subject to termination of the contract. The truth is that the Government has done nothing for so long, and nobody in the community has been aware of such special treatment!

Obviously, many important obligations were secretly forgiven, since termination clauses were never triggered. Was this for the good of Macau and, of course, of China? I have my doubts!

Indeed, the old contract had a clear termination clause. Today, on the basis of this example of constant non-compliance, the Government has taken another stance. This clause has disappeared. Today it does not clearly state that they will rescind but, so subtly, that they can rescind!

This wording opens the door to more defaults!

My doubting mind persists, however. The capital required was previously three billion, you see, and now, after several decades, the idea is for 1.5 billion! This is not half of what it was, but much less due to purchasing power decreasing over these decades!

Is this called investment, or divestment?

If the concessionaire's debts were 1.3 billion patacas in 2016, and I believe, in 2017 they will have increased, and if in 2023 the required capital will be 1.5 billion, how will they pay these debts in the interim?

If they should break even (conceivably a great step forward for the company, although not expected, at least officially), that means there will be only 200 million patacas remaining after liabilities!

But the losses will continue year after year!

In conclusion, what investment will the Jockey Club actually make to convince the Government that it will transform that decaying and ill-managed space (including plans for the retired horses) into a new pillar of diversification? The contract is silent on this. A curious operation of legal engineering!

The debt of 1.3 billion at the end of 2016 - numbers for 2017 are missing - cannot be erased by any amount of financial engineering and - the legal fraternity must forgive me - any amount of legal engineering.

Unless, the creditors shall forgive the debt! Whoever they shall be. Does the Government know? Is the Government really aware of the situation? Indeed, I have my doubts, many of them! But 24.5 years of concession history has me stumped!

Powerful men dance to a different tune!

**THE 'STAR TREK' ACTOR GEORGE TAKEI TO DISCUSS INTERNMENT CAMPS**

"Star Trek" actor George Takei is scheduled to speak in Boston about his experiences in U.S. internment camps during World War II. In an event at the Boston Public Library today [Macau time], Takei will talk about his family's history in the camps that put Japanese-Americans behind barbed wire between 1942 and 1946.

Takei used his family's story as the inspiration for the Broadway

musical "Allegiance." The show tells the narrative of the fictional Kimura family, whose lives are upended when they and 120,000 other Japanese-Americans are forced to leave their homes following the 1941 attack on Pearl Harbor.

The cast of the SpeakEasy Stage Company's production of Takei's musical also will perform during the event.



**Living on Hawaii volcano offers affordable paradise, risks**

Caleb Jones, Pahoa

**T**HE slopes of Kilauea offer a lush rural setting and affordable land that contrasts sharply with Hawaii's more expensive real estate, but living on one of the world's most active volcanoes comes with risks: A dozen lava vents have opened in streets of the Puna district and 35 structures have burned down.

It was difficult to immediately tell from aerial surveys how many are homes and how many are other uninhabited structures, said Wil Okabe, acting mayor of Hawaii County.

Cheryl Griffith's Leilani Estates subdivision was ordered to evacuate after lava from Kilauea volcano burst through cracks in the ground, destroying homes. But the 61-year-old did not leave.

As lava crawled down Leilani Road in a hissing, popping mass, Griffith stood in its path and placed a plant in the crack in the ground as an offering to the Native Hawaiian volcano goddess, Pele.

"I love this place, and I've been around the volcano for a while," Griffith said. "I'm just not one to rush off."

The Puna district is a region of mostly unpaved roads of volcanic rock about a 30-minute drive from the coastal town of Hilo.

Puna has thick jungle as well as dark fields of lava rock from past eruptions. The gently sloping volcano dips from its summit to Puna's white sand beaches and jagged sea cliffs.

The region has macadamia nut farms and other agriculture along with multimillion-dollar homes with manicured lawns. Other houses are modest, sitting on small lots with old cars and trucks scattered about.

For many people outside Hawaii, it's hard to understand why anyone would risk living near an active volcano with such destructive power.

But the people here are largely self-sufficient and understand the risks of their location.

Amber Makuakane, a 37-year-old teacher and single mother of two, lost her



Residents evacuate as lava continues to overrun Hookupu Street



Lava continues to overrun property

three-bedroom house to the lava. She grew up here and lived in the house for nine years. Her parents also live in Leilani Estates. "The volcano and the lava - it's always been a part of my life," she said. "It's devastating [...] but I've come to terms with it."

Griffith said that is the hardest part of this lifestyle - they won't be able to recoup losses. Moments later, an explosion came from a nearby burning house.

Homeowners use rainwater-catch tanks and cesspools or septic tanks. Many rely on solar power, and some live entirely off the electrical grid.

Sam Knox, 65, who was born in Hawaii and now lives just a few hundred feet from a volcanic fissure, said he decided not to leave, despite the nearby explosions and the lava being hurled into the sky and flowing across his neighbor's property.

"It was roaring sky high. It was incredible. ... Rocks were flying out of the ground," he said. Much of the area filled with lava in just four hours.

Kilauea is one of the world's most active volcanoes

and has been erupting continuously since 1983. There's no indication when this particular lava flow might stop or how far it might spread. Scientists from the U.S. Geological Survey expect the flow to continue until more magma drains from the system.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige, a Democrat, told evacuees Monday that he has called the White House and the Federal Emergency Management Authority to tell officials that he believes the state will need federal help to deal with the erupting volcano.

On Sunday, some of the evacuees were allowed to return briefly to gather medicine, pets, and other necessities. They will be able to do so each day as long as authorities believe it is safe.

Knox has some belongings packed in case he has to make a fast escape. "I decided to stay because I wanted to experience this in my life," he said. "I'm ready to actually evacuate, but if I don't have to evacuate, I'm just going to keep staying here because I don't have no other home to go to." **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	20-40 Good	
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	
Ambient	25-45 Good	

SOURCE: DSMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**

**SYRIA** The first convoy of buses carrying opposition fighters and civilians from a rebel enclave in central Syria have reached a region controlled by Turkish troops and are awaiting permission to enter, a Syrian war monitoring group said.



**ARMENIA** The man who spearheaded weeks of protests in Armenia was chosen yesterday to be the country's new prime minister, and carries the weight of high hopes for a turnaround in the impoverished former Soviet republic. **More on p14**

**GREECE** Five members of international aid groups from Spain and Denmark have been cleared in court on charges of attempting to illegally bring migrants into Greece.

**GERMANY** Journalists walked out of a news conference in Germany after the nationalist Alternative for Germany party decided to refuse questions from a prominent reporter. The reporter had previously asked the party's caucus leader, Andreas Kalbitz, about his ties to a banned far-right group.



**BRAZIL**'s first black Supreme Court justice says he won't run for president, quashing widespread speculation. Joaquim Barbosa announced his decision on Twitter yesterday, calling it "strictly personal."

**US-VENEZUELA** The United States has asked the countries of the Western Hemisphere to suspend Venezuela from the 35-nation Organization of American States. Vice President Mike Pence also urged member states to cut off Venezuelan leaders from their financial systems and to enact visa restrictions.