



CHUI KICKS OFF TWO-DAY VISIT TO THAILAND
The Chief Executive met with the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Don Pramudwinai, in Bangkok

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WORKERS BLACKLIST CONCERNS LAWMAKERS
The blacklist is allegedly shared among gaming concessionaires and includes names and data related to industry workers

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AGNES LAM INAUGURATES OFFICE

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WORLD BRIEFS



US-N. KOREA Three Americans detained in North Korea for more than a year are on their way back to the U.S. with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo, ahead of the historic summit. **More on p11,12**

JAPAN China, Japan and South Korea warmed their chilly relations yesterday, brought together by a common goal: ending North Korea's nuclear program. **More on p13**

SOUTH CHINA SEA Vietnam has requested that China withdraw its military equipment from South China Sea outposts, saying its deployment seriously violates Hanoi's sovereignty, increases tension and destabilizes the region. **More on p11**



PHILIPPINES The embattled Philippine chief justice returned to office yesterday after taking two months of leave amid efforts by President Rodrigo Duterte's administration to oust her from the Supreme Court.

MYANMAR Four human rights groups urged the U.N. Security Council to refer Myanmar to the International Criminal Court for alleged crimes against humanity.

INDIA A homemade bomb exploded yesterday in India's remote northeast, killing two paramilitary soldiers and wounding two civilians, police said.

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SURVEY ON HKZMB IMPACT

Many willing to work in HK, live in Macau

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Migrant groups disappointed over restrictive childbirth subsidy rules

P3 MDT REPORT

Macau Tower lit in blue for Europe Day

An illumination ceremony was held on Tuesday night at the Macau Tower to mark Europe Day 2018, in the context of the 2018 European Union-China Tourism Year (ECTY 2018) and the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the EU Office to Macau.

Co-organized by the Global Tourism Economy Forum and the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macao, the landmark Macau Tower was temporarily illuminated in blue, the color of the union's flag, in order to "represent a symbolic bridge of light."

Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak - who stood in as acting chief executive in Chui Sai On's absence - shared a platform with the head of the EU Office to Hong Kong and Macau, Ambassador Carmen Cano de Lasala, to officiate the ceremony.

Speaking on the successes of the political and economic union, Ambassador Lasala said "this ambitious and remarkable project has shaped the course of European history and redefined Europe's place in the world. [...] We are determined that our projects are to be a force for good in the world and we look forward to working with all of our partners to this end."

"Today, we are pleased to cele-



brate this day with our trusted partner, Macau," she added. "We are delighted that one of the landmarks of Macau, the Macau Tower, will be lit in the European colors - the EU blue. This is a sign of our friendship and our commitment to deepen our relations even further."

Secretary Wong's comments at the ceremony were, in contrast, focused more on practicalities.

"During this festive moment [...] I take the liberty to convey best wishes to the EU and the

people of its member states," he said.

"Last year, the EU and the United Kingdom successfully resolved Brexit-related issues which ensured the stability of political and economic development in Europe," added the Secretary for Security. "Meanwhile, healthy growth in economy and investments, [and the] decrease in unemployment rate and deficit among members states of the EU proved that Europe had overcome uncertainties caused

by various political and economic challenges. The recovery of Europe will provide a powerful catalyst for global economic development."

We are delighted that one of the landmarks of Macau, the Macau Tower, will be lit in the European colors.

CARMEN CANO DE LASALA

The 22nd EU-Macao Joint Committee Meeting was held in Macau earlier this year, where the two parties agreed to step up cooperation in areas such as combating human trafficking, traditional herbal medicinal products regulation, environmental protection and tourism.

"We felt the EU's strong passion and interest in joining regional economic integration

development in Macau," said Secretary Wong in reference to the meeting.

A collaboration between numerous institutions including the European Commission and a host of tourism boards and cultural offices, ECTY 2018 seeks to promote tourism ties between Europe and the greater China region.

According to a speech made by Chinese Premier Li Keqiang in January this year, ECTY 2018 is an initiative that seeks to "drive common development, win-win reciprocity and inject new impetus into the development of the comprehensive strategic partnership between China and the EU."

In March, more than 50 landmarks and iconic sites across 18 EU countries were illuminated in red to coincide with the celebration of the lantern festival in China. Tuesday's illumination was a symbol of the cultural reciprocity embodied by ECTY 2018.

Also present at the illumination ceremony was the president of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, as well as former chief executive Edmund Ho, in his role as chairman of the Global Tourism Economy Forum. **DB**

13,000 student vacancies planned for New Urban Zone

Julie Zhu

THE government will try to provide positions for 13,000 school students at New Urban Zone A, according to Li Canfeng, director of the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT), who announced the news yesterday on the sidelines of the Urban Planning Committee meeting.

"Overall, [the government] will try to make available [enough room] to [accommodate] 11,000 school [students]," said Li, adding that additional efforts will be made to provide another 2,000 school vacancies for students.

"The government hopes to do more in terms of providing school vacancies. [...] Especially concerning secondary schools, where



Li Canfeng

the education department wishes us to create more vacancies," Li added.

Yesterday, the Urban Planning Committee discussed the feasibility of two lots on the New Urban Zone being used for education purposes. In addition, another two lots in the

same zone will also be used by the education sector.

Together, the four plots will be capable of providing up to 13,000 school vacancies.

The education authority will decide which schools will be granted the positions, and will also be in

charge of designing the new facilities.

The committee members also discussed, amid different matters, the plans for the No.1 of R. da Barca.

This property had previously drawn the local community's attention because a few people hoped that the architecture could be preserved as a cultural relic.

However, the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC) deemed the building not to be a cultural relic.

Li Canfeng said that the planning of the reconstruction of this building should no longer be postponed because the IC has already disqualified the building's cultural relic value.

According to the planning, the current reconstruction plans for No.1 of R. da Barca should gua-

rantee that the original architecture is preserved.

One member of the committee voiced their view that the façade of the building should be preserved as well.

However, several other members expressed their opposition to the protection and preservation of the building.

"If looking at the opinions of the public, then the neighborhood indeed really abhors this location. I think there should be a balance between [preserving the architecture] and [reconstructing the architecture] because the neighborhood holds many [negative] opinions. You [the government] either protect it [the building] or not, otherwise the community will grow to be antipathetic," one member

voiced.

"If you look at the environment around the building, you notice how bad it really is."

Another member, surnamed Leong, said that "it [the planning of the restoration works] can't be postponed anymore. I don't have any reasons to protect it. The cultural heritage committee and the IC [have] already said that the [building] is not a cultural relic. Why are we [still] discussing the preservation of the building?"

Another member, surnamed Chan, commented by saying "I don't know what we should be preserving if the window has already collapsed, [...] it is smelly inside."

The committee will continue discussing the future of the property.

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Grace Yu, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Rodrigo de Matos (cartoonist), Viviana Segui
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao army@macaudailytimes.com

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ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com
SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com
ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84
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THE Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge may increase Hong Kong residents' willingness to live in Zhuhai or Macau, while still working in Hong Kong.

According to a telephone survey conducted by the Hong Kong Institute of Asia-Pacific Studies of the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CUHK), "39.8 percent of the respondents doubted the feasibility of commuting to work in Hong Kong while living in Macau, while 35 percent considered it feasible. The rest (25.2 percent) did not know or felt hard to tell."

The survey successfully interviewed 703 respondents, all Hong Kong residents living in the neighboring SAR.

"If relocation changed to Zhuhai, more respondents (48.2 percent) doubted the feasibility of commuting to work in Hong Kong, while 28.3 percent agreed to the feasibility. The rest (23.5 percent) did not know or felt hard to tell," according to

Bridge may bring more Hong Kong residents to Macau

CUHK.

Further, 38.5 percent of the respondents would prefer to ride a bus to Macau via the bridge, in contrast to 26.3 percent of them who would prefer to travel by ferries.

Some "51.1 percent of the respondents do not intend to visit Macau more often after the bridge was commissioned, while 31.2 percent intend to do so. The rest (17.7 percent) did not know or felt hard to answer. When the destinations are mainland cities of the western Pearl River Delta, 54.6 percent of the respondents would not expect to visit them more often, while 24.6 percent would do so. The rest (20.8 percent) did not know or felt hard to answer," the survey stated. **JZ**



Groups express disappointment over Tam's unfulfilled promise

Lynzy Valles

TWO migrant group representatives have expressed disappointment over the surge in childbirth fees, which would significantly affect vulnerable groups in the region, particularly domestic workers.

In March, representatives from the Indonesian Migrant Workers Union (IMWU) and Greens Philippines Migrant Workers Union met with the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, who promised them that domestic helpers would only see a three-times hike in the childbirth fee and not nine times as has been implemented.

"He [Tam] said before that domestic workers would not be charged nine times higher, but only three times from the original cost of both normal and cesarean delivery [so] this makes us unhappy," said Wariyanti told the Times.

Although the Social Affairs Bureau (IAS) would provide a subsidy for non-local women who earn below MOP4,050 per month, amounting to two-thirds of the service of the childbirth delivery cost, Wariyanti expressed fears that the application process may still be problematic.

RENATO MARQUES



I understand that they'll have to increase the fees but even for us it's too much. It's almost twice our salary.

JHUNNAFE MIJARES

Benedicta Palcon from the Greens Philippines Migrant Workers Union acknowledged that the subsidies would not be of help as the overall expense would not only equal to MOP2,925, citing other hospital expenses.

The adjusted fees of delivery services for non-resident parents will be officially applied starting from June 1. A dispatch concerning the topic, signed by

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam was also published in the Official Gazette. Low-income migrant workers who earn less than MOP4,050 per month are eligible to apply to the government to get a waiver for two-thirds of the service she would need to pay for childbirth delivery.

The subsidy policy will only apply to families where a marriage certificate is

provided. De facto marriages will be excluded.

The migrant representatives noted that they were expecting a much lower fee for non-residents after Tam's assurance to the migrant workers.

Meanwhile, Wariyanti added another problem that could occur, as many domestic workers do not earn the same amount of salary as written in the contract.

"Many domestic helpers do not earn what is written in the contract. The actual payment is less so it's going to be difficult," she said.

The migrant groups previously said that the government did not consult with their associations before announcing it would hike birthing fees in February.

Meanwhile, a non-resi-

dent worker is currently facing a setback as she plans to give birth in the region in July, adding that she would have to go back to the Philippines to give birth by cesarean section.

Jhunnafe Mijares, working in an integrated resort, lamented she would still have to process documents to allow her to fly home.

"I'm supposed to give birth here, all has been settled after asking for a quotation at the public hospital [...] but after the announcement a few days ago, we resorted to go back home and just give birth there rather than paying over MOP17,000," she said.

The migrant worker, wife of Loreto Mijares who was granted a Honorary Title - Prestige Award by the government - admitted that it is problematic to fly

back home at this stage of pregnancy, stressing that she would have to go back home alone.

"It was really a sudden decision and it has affected my schedule work. I have already bought tickets for my parents to come in July to assist us but we have no choice but to forfeit it," said Mijares.

"I understand that they'll have to increase the fees but even for us it's too much. It's almost twice our salary," she added.

Meanwhile, Loreto is still worried that some airlines may not allow her to fly back home, adding that she would have to take another flight to her province.

"At this stage, I already cannot travel alone as it's inconvenient but I have no choice. C-section delivery here has become too expensive," she added.

AGNES LAM AGAINST BIRTH FEE HIKE FOR MIGRANTS

LAWMAKER AND social critic Agnes Lam slammed the new law, which will come into effect by June 1. "I do not feel comfortable with this one. If these people are not working in Macau and the government charges more I have no objection. But for those working here, whether they are permanent or not, our health system should be taking care of them somehow," said Lam, who

spoke on the sidelines of the opening ceremony of her office. "It's not okay for them to ask [non-local women] to go back to their countries and give birth. That's not humane. I do not support this decision, I do not like this policy," Lam added. The legislator stressed that the child birth costs for locals and for those non-residents who are integrated in the society should remain equal.

Chui kicks off two-day visit to Thailand

THE Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, began a two-day visit to Thailand yesterday. Chui met with the Foreign Minister of Thailand, Don Pramudwinai, in Bangkok. The MSAR government leader said that Thailand is an important cooperation partner and highlighted the benefits of both parties under the "One Belt, One Road" initiative.

The CE and Don Pramudwinai yesterday witnessed the signing of the memorandum of understanding for city twinning between Macau and the Province of Phuket.

In other initiatives, the MSAR government will organize the "International Forum for the Development of Traditional Medicine 2018 (Thailand)" in Bangkok, along with a photo exhibition themed "One Country, Two Systems" and "One Belt, One Road".

Speaking to the media, the Foreign Minister of Thailand said that he discussed matters related to the possibility of cooperation in many areas with Chui Sai On, including economy, trade, tourism, public health, traditional Chinese medicine, innovation, entrepreneurship and cultural industries.

Before arriving to Thailand, Chui



Chui Sai On (left) and Don Pramudwinai

Sai On and the Macau delegation concluded a three-day visit to Cambodia to meet with the Prime Minister of Cambodia, Hun Sen.

During a meeting on Tuesday, the two officials also spoke on the potential launch of further direct flight services between Macau and Cambodia, and agreed to strengthen cooperation in human resource training and on the promotion of high quality agricultural products.

The Government Information Bureau announced in a statement that Chui has reviewed the results of the ongoing cooperation between the two regions in tourism, financial services, trade and cultural affairs.

According to the CE, Cambodia could explore new development opportunities through

"Macau's robust communities of returned overseas Chinese and the city's ties with Portuguese-speaking countries."

In a separate meeting with Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior of Cambodia Sar Kheng, Chui stated that Cambodia was a key partner for Macau in helping the city to push forward its contributions to the "Belt and Road" initiative. He also stated that cooperation between Macau and Cambodia had already achieved success in many different areas.

He continued by highlighting the positive contributions to cooperation between Macau and Cambodia made by representatives of the business sector, returned overseas Chinese communities, and young people from both regions.



Partial opening of Border Gate bus terminal delayed

THE local government now expects to put the Border Gate bus terminal into partial operation during the Chinese New Year holiday of 2019.

Secretary for Transport and Public Works Raimundo do Rosário revealed the information earlier this week to the Legislative Assembly's Follow-up Committee on Land and Public Concession Affairs.

Previously, the estimated completion date to the renovation of the border gate bus terminal was in the second quarter of 2019.

Raimundo assured the AL committee that, by the end of this year, the border gate bus terminal renovation will be almost fully completed.

Regarding the progress of other projects that were damaged during last year's Typhoon

Hato, the government reported that the Ilha Verde affordable house project will see its repair works finished in June at the latest.

Previously, the government announced it would incorporate a calculation of rainy days into construction contracts in order to stop contractors from using rainy days as an excuse to delay the completion of projects. The Infrastructure Development Office will soon introduce the new method.

During the meeting, Rosário stated that due to the large number of public engineering projects in Macau, and due to the shortage of human resources, the government is under pressure to complete projects, which in turn leads to less comprehensive supervision of projects.

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 Lucie Chang | Margarida Saraiva
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Organizer: 澳門特別行政區政府文化局 INSTITUTO CULTURAL do Governo da R.A.E. de Macau

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AL PLENARY

Gaming workers blacklist occupies lawmakers' attention

RENATO MARQUES



Paulo Martins Chan (second from left) of the DICJ and Wong Chi Hong (second from right) of the DSAL

Renato Marques

IN a Legislative Assembly (AL) session solely dedicated to hearing the replies from the government on several matters raised by lawmakers, a gaming industry blacklist became the focus of discussion.

The blacklist, shared among gaming concessionaires, allegedly includes names and data of gaming industry workers that for one reason or another had issues with their employers and eventually quit their jobs or were fired.

The matter, raised initially by lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, was then widely debated with several other lawmakers intervening on the topic.

In his spoken enquiry, Leong was questioning the government on the questionable legality of the blacklist. He accused the gaming concessionaires of using such a list to put pressure and fear on their workers, threatening to blacklist their names and jeopardize their chances of ever getting another job in the industry.

From the government side, the reply came from the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) director, Wong Chi Hong, who as on previous occasions denied the existence of such a blacklist.

"All residents have the same rights under the Labor Law," he said, adding, "all data collected [by employers] should be done according to the Personal Data

Protection Act and its transference [to other entities] needs to be done with the consent of the interested [parties]."

The DSAL director further remarked that both the DSAL and the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) have not received any complaints about this alleged list since 2015.

Wong also said, "if a candidate thinks he did not get a job because he had been included in such a list, he can [file a] complaint to DICJ or to DSAL." Refusal to hire a worker because they are included on a blacklist would constitute an administrative infraction "punishable with a fine ranging from MOP20,000 to 50,000 per worker involved."

The bureau director also noted that the DSAL received only nine complaints on this matter between 2009 and 2015.

Not pleased with the reply, Leong hit back saying, "we know that the government insists to say that such a list does not exist but we all understand already if it exists or not, according to the cases we receive [from citizens]." Leong called on the government to assume a different approach and publish some kind of "guidelines" for the concessionaires to avoid what he called "the continuing of the abuse."

"The blacklist has existed for a long time and many workers already had to deal with this," added lawmaker Au Kam San on the topic. "Some concessionaires

even demand that their workers quit from the job instead of being fired, in a way to be able to find another job in the industry."

Au also added that the DSAL investigation is only asking employers whether such a blacklist exists. When they deny its existence, the DSAL archives the cases on the grounds of lack of evidence.

Lawmaker Ella Lei was in agreement with Au, adding that most of the cases are related to absence from work or arriving

late. "It's because of the existence of such a list that the workers are afraid of reporting such cases," she said, adding, "the government can't determine the truth and the workers do not trust the law."

In reply to the accusations, the deputy director of DSAL, Ng Wai Han, noted that the bureau, "hears both parties as well as witnesses and analyzes, when possible, documental proof."

"The employer has to issue a certificate to state the reasons

why the employee was dismissed," she said.

Another of the topics that gathered the attention of several lawmakers during yesterday's session concerned the government's promotion of the "Year of Gastronomy" and its relation with the city and its old and traditional restaurants. Two spoken enquiries instigated the discussion; the first from Chui Sai Peng and Ip Sio Kai and the second from Chan Hong.

“The blacklist has existed for a long time and many workers already had to deal with this.
”

AU KAM SAN

The government's reply was delivered by the deputy director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Cheng Wai Tong, who noted that the government has invested a lot of money and other resources to promote the Year of Gastronomy. With reference to the old shops, Cheng said that the Macau Economic Bureau and the Macao Foundation had created several support funds with a shared capital of MOP218.9 million.

Cheng also said that the government is creating a "database of Macanese Gastronomy," which is "one of the priorities of the work plan of the creation of the 'Gastronomy City' for the upcoming four years."

According to the official, preparatory works on the topic were discussed during a March 15 meeting of a group composed of representatives of the Cultural Affairs Bureau, the Institute for Tourism Studies, the MGTO and the Macanese Gastronomic Brotherhood.

Government to create body to coordinate works on the Greater Bay

THE government is preparing the creation of a public entity - to be either a public department or a bureau - to coordinate the works related with to the Greater Bay Area. The acknowledgement was made yesterday at the Legislative Assembly (AL) by the coordinator of the government's Policy Research Office, Lao Pun Lap, while replying to a spoken enquiry from lawmaker Angela Leong.

Leong was addressing the topic noting the difficulties that could arise for the Macau citizens and entrepreneurs to "compete" in the Greater Bay Area, due to a lack of knowledge of the different laws and procedures applied in each region.

In the government's reply, Lao said that the relevant authorities were preparing the creation of such a "department" and that, at the moment, "preparatory works are being [conducted]. They will be disclosed to the public in a timely manner."

Not advancing much more on the topic, the coordinator reaffirmed once more - as the Chief Executive had done before during his last visit to



Lao Pun Lap

the AL - that the final details will depend on the Greater Bay Area plan that "will [also] be revealed soon."

Agnes Lam, Si Ka Lon, Leong Sun Iok, Ip Sio Kai and Pang Chuan were some of the other lawmakers that sought more details, particularly on the competencies of the new public service, without success.



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Lam suggests providing subsidies for children with therapy needs

Lynzy Valles

THE office of lawmaker Agnes Lam has received 319 cases of complaints and calls for assistance from local residents, most of them involving the region's infrastructure.

Yesterday, Lam's party list, Civic Watch, officially opened its office in a bid to cater to residents seeking the office's assistance.

According to Lam, the number of cases received between October 2017 and April 2018 was unexpected, thus implying that the office would serve as a much-needed platform to reach out to the locals.

"The number of cases is more than I thought. Originally, before we opened the office, I didn't think people would find us," the lawmaker told the press on the sidelines of the office's opening ceremony.

"Most of the cases we are dealing with [are] related to the [city's] infrastructures. More or less about city environment and about people's



Agnes Lam

residential [environment]," she explained.

Apart from the cases that involve road construction and medical issues, Lam noted that several families are seeking assistance on obtaining speech therapy or occupational therapy for their children.

"I help a big group of families who have children that [need] speech therapy or occupational therapy. I arrange meetings [with the government] and help tackle individual cases,"

said the legislator.

According to Lam, these parents find it challenging to seek such services due to the lack of professionals, and she thus suggested Macau create a scheme that will provide subsidies to these families to seek treatment in the neighboring regions.

"They can't really seek enough help in the local system. The government is trying hard to get resources but since we don't have enough profes-

sionals and [services], we may need another kind of intervention to help them," Lam said.

Another significant issue that the office is working on is the accountability of government officials.

Lam noted that she has submitted an inquiry to the government on how they could revise the law to assure that those who are in elected positions are accountable.

Some cases sent to the Civil Watch office also involve seeking assistance on apartment purchasing.

"Part of [the overall number of] cases are settled already. It takes a special kind of negotiation and coordination with the government" she explained. Lam said many of the cases are still undergoing this process.

"With some of the cases, we do some kind of mediation, and [help] two parties to reach a solution," Lam added.

Civic Watch pledged during the campaign period last September that it would call on the government to improve the standard of medical care, urging the government to formalize guidelines for medical procedures.

The list also called for improvements to the existing mixed education systems, along with ensuring that students with special education needs are provided for, and suggested that the government review the subsidization scheme for teaching aid purchases, to promote inclusive education.

No intentions to increase capital size of regional fund

The Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM) said in a statement this week that all partners of the Guangdong-Macao Cooperation and Development Fund, of which the Macau Government is a part of and invests a total of RMB20 billion from its Fiscal Reserve, have no intention to increase the capital size. The Fund is jointly initiated by Guangdong and the MSAR and managed by Chinese-state-owned enterprises. Guangdong Hengjian Investment Holding Co., Ltd and Guangdong Namyue Group, are also said by the AMCM to be operating in a market-oriented manner, investing in key high-quality projects including those related to the Greater Bay Area effort. It is intended that such projects will be beneficial to the economy and livelihood of the two regions as well as infrastructure of free trade zones in Guangdong. Reaffirming that there are no intentions for the timebeing to raise that capital, the AMCM noted that "to allow more flexibility for future cooperation, both parties agree that, depending on future conditions, both sides can increase the capital size on the basis of a unanimous agreement until the established limit of RMB100 billion."

LRT contractors to be penalized for unexplained delays

The Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau (DSSOPT) has discussed regulations that would penalize Light Rapid Transit (LRT) contractors who delay the LRT construction without providing a reasonable explanation. In reply to lawmaker Leong Sun Iok's inquiry, DSSOPT pledged that the SAR government would closely supervise the LRT construction in order to ensure the timely and qualified completion of the LRT, as well as to cooperate with the opening of the LRT Taipa section in 2019. The DSSOPT claimed that the LRT construction progress would continue to be pending amid legal cases concerning the project.

CRIME

Overstaying illegal found to have been expelled from Macau four previous times

A Public Security Police Force (PSP) spokesperson revealed that during a police investigation a man was found to be overstaying in Macau. After checking the records, the police learned that there were four cases of expulsion and sentences of prohibition on ente-

ring the region pending over the same man. The penalties reach to the year 2027.

The man, who is over 50 years old, was found in a search of an apartment building in the Iao Hon area on May 5. When asked to provide documents, the man showed only a Chinese

passport, telling the officers that he was in an illegal situation.

Further investigation resulted in an acknowledgement that the man had repeatedly entered and stayed in Macau illegally for at least the last nine years and that four previous sentences of expulsion prohibition

are pending over him for reentering the region for periods lasting from between two to nine years. The last sentence is from this year and it forbids this person from entering Macau until the year 2027.

A local woman, thatus said to be a friend of the man, was found

in the same apartment. The woman was said to have allowed him to stay in her house as she knew him for a long time but she was not aware of his illegal condition.

The woman is now being charged for the accommodation of an illegal person. **RM**

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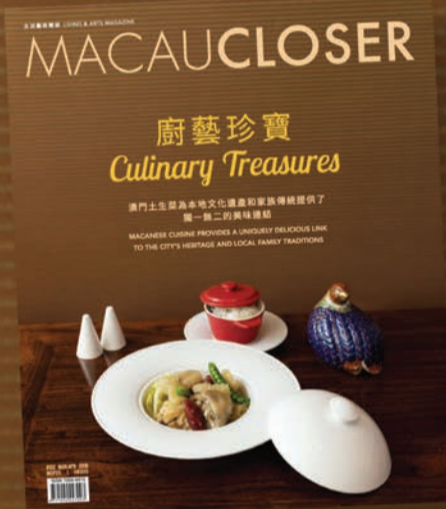
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Wayne Parry, Atlantic City

ATLANTIC City's Ocean Resort Casino says it will open on the same day as the Hard Rock casino.

Bruce Deifik, who owns the former Revel casino, says the Ocean Resort will be ready for guests on June 28. He gathered recently hired employees together at the casino on Monday and announced the opening date.

"It was important for us to share this news with you directly, as the team here at Ocean, both as part of our family and as a part of the wonderful community that is Atlantic City that will continue to play an integral role in our future success," Deifik told the workers.

It was not immediately clear whether the two casinos would stagger their opening ceremonies so they didn't take place at the same time. Hard Rock plans a ceremonial guitar smashing outside its casino.

Revel closed in September 2014 and was one of five Atlantic City casinos to go out of business since 2014. That group also included the former Trump Taj Mahal, which closed in October 2016 and is reopening as the Hard Rock.

Ocean Resort CEO Frank Leone said June 28 will be a significant day for Atlantic City.

"We look forward to

Ocean Resort Casino to open same day as Hard Rock

June 28 as the culmination of all of our planning and know that this will be a special day for Atlantic City as it turns the page on a new chapter of revitalization," he said.

The two casinos will combine to restore about 6,500 of the 11,000 casino jobs that were lost since 2014 due to shut-downs.

They are both racing toward their openings, hiring workers and making physical renovations. Hard Rock will go before New Jersey gambling regulators seeking a casino license on Wednesday; no hearing has yet been set for Ocean Resort.

Hard Rock last week hired its 3,000th employee, and began installing its name in big gold letters on the side of its parking garage, even as the rest of the building facade is being prepared for the Hard Rock logo.

Ocean Resort recently installed new carpeting, is reconfiguring its casino floor to make it easier for guests to get around, knocking down a stone wall that separated it from most of the Boardwalk, and preparing slot machines for installation. AP

AP PHOTO



The exterior of the Ocean Resort Casino in Atlantic City

HARD ROCK SEEKS CASINO LICENSE

NEW JERSEY gambling regulators are expected to decide whether to grant a casino license to the new Hard Rock property. The Casino Control Commission is due to rule on Hard Rock's application for a casino license for

the former Trump Taj Mahal, which the company is rebranding into a music-themed resort. Hard Rock is one of two shuttered casinos reopening on the same day this summer: the former Revel casino also plans to reopen on

June 28 as the Ocean Resort Casino. No hearing has yet been set for Ocean Resort. Together, they plan to restore as many as 6,500 of the 11,000 jobs that were lost when five of Atlantic City's 12 casinos shut down since 2014.

Emirates earnings jump as Gulf carrier rules out Etihad merger

EMIRATES Group reported a 67 percent jump in full-year profit and said there are no plans to merge with Etihad Airways, the Abu Dhabi airline that's restructuring.

The world's biggest long-haul airline boosted net income to 4.11 billion dirhams (USD1.1 billion) in the 12 months ended March 31, as higher oil prices spurred a revival in Middle East travel. Sales rose 8.1 percent to 102 billion dirhams, the Dubai-based airline said in a statement.

Earnings rebounded after a slump in the previous fiscal year as Emirates pared frequencies to destinations including the U.S. and higher crude prices lifted sales from the

region's oil-based economies. The carrier is reaping benefits from closer ties to sister company FlyDubai, pushing any deal with Etihad off the agenda, according to Chairman Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum.

"Many people have reported there will be a merger," Sheikh Ahmed said in an interview with Bloomberg Television. "There is no such thing. Not at all. I think when we talk about synergy today, it is between Emirates and FlyDubai." There have never been talks with Etihad about a merger, he said.

Local press reports have suggested that a deal might be on the horizon after state-controlled Etihad posted a \$1.87 billion loss

in 2016 following the failure of an alliance-building strategy that saw it pour cash into Air Berlin Plc and Alitalia SpA, which later filed for insolvency.

The earnings indicate Emirates is emerging from the toughest operating conditions in its three-decade history. The carrier has become an industry heavyweight by exploiting the Gulf's position at a natural global crossroads, something that Etihad had sought to replicate.

Emirates' profit has returned to the levels of fiscal year 2013-2014. Business conditions "remain tough," with a gradual recovery in key markets feeding initially into air-

freight activity and only to "a lesser extent" into air travel and tourism, Sheikh Ahmed said.

The chairman played down the impact of a staffing shortage that Tim Clark, the airline's president, said last month had led to the idling of planes and paring back of flights. Emirates is short of "small numbers" of cabin crew and doesn't lack pilots as it seeks to better match recruitment to the arrival of new aircraft, Sheikh Ahmed said. The overall headcount fell 2 percent during the year to just above 103,000.

Rising crude prices represent a double-edged sword. "Surging oil prices in the second half of our financial year increa-



sed our operating costs," Sheikh Ahmed said. "It also stoked the embers of economic recovery which contributed to better seat load factors and a modest climb in yields."

Jet-fuel costs rose 18 percent during the year, the carrier said. At the same time its aircraft flew with 77.5 percent of seats occupied, an improvement of 2.4 percentage points. Yields, a measure of fares, increased 2.3 percent. The recovery was also suppor-

ted by the Dnata ground-handling unit, which posted a record profit after expanding through acquisitions.

Emirates is still evaluating its engine choice for the latest batch of Airbus SE A380 superjumbos as an alliance of General Electric Co. and Pratt Whitney seeks to snag the contract from current supplier Rolls-Royce Holdings Plc. A decision will be made "soon," Sheikh Ahmed said. **Bloomberg**



China cutting US soybean purchases in face of tariffs threat

Christopher Rugaber & Dake Kang, Washington

WITH the threat of tariffs and counter-tariffs between Washington and Beijing looming, Chinese buyers are canceling orders for U.S. soybeans, a trend that could deal a blow to American farmers if it continues.

At the same time, farmers in China are being encouraged to plant more soy, apparently to help offset any shortfall from the United States.

Beijing has included soybeans on a list of USD50 billion of U.S. exports on which it has said it would impose 25 percent tariffs if the United States follows through on its threats to impose the same level of tariffs on the same value of Chinese goods. The U.S. tariffs could kick in later this month; China would likely retaliate soon after.

It can take a month or more for soybean shipments to travel from the U.S. to China. Any soybeans on their way to China now could be hit by the tariff by the time they arrive.

"The Chinese aren't willing to buy US soybeans with a 25 percent tax hanging over their head," said Dan Basse, president of AgResource, an agricultural research and advisory firm.

"You just don't want the risk."

China typically buys most of its soybeans from South American nations such as Brazil and Argentina during spring and early summer. It shifts to U.S. soybeans in the fall. As a result, for now, the cutbacks from the United States are relatively small.

But should they persist, it could cause real pain to U.S. farmers. Roughly 60 percent of U.S. soybeans are shipped to China.

There might also be a political impact: Three of the top five soybean-exporting states — Iowa, Indiana and Nebraska — voted for President Donald Trump in 2016.

Illinois, the top soybean exporter, and Minnesota, the third-largest, backed Hillary Clinton.

Basse said that it has been roughly three weeks since China has made any major soybean purchases, an unusually long delay.

Some Chinese buyers might be showing support for their government in the trade dispute by turning away U.S. soybeans, Basse said. The dispute may also make it seem too risky to buy from the United States over the long run.

"The United States could lose the reliable supplier label that

we've had these many years," Basse said.

Data from the U.S. government data show that sales of soybeans have fallen from about 255,000 metric tons in the first week of April, when the trade dispute began, to just 7,900 in the week that ended April 26.

Cancellations have also jumped, to more than 140,000 metric tons in the week ending April 26. In the same week last year, there were no canceled sales at all.

Some analysts argue that the shifts aren't yet particularly significant. China buys most of its soybeans from the United States in the late summer and fall, and then switches to South American sources, mainly Brazil and Argentina, in the spring. So the current market activity doesn't necessarily reflect the pattern that would occur during the main buying season.

"These numbers we're talking about are pretty minor," said John Baize, an economist for the U.S. Soybean Export Council.

The U.S. ships about 35 million metric tons of soybeans to China a year, Baize said. China usually imports about 100 million tons a year and can't import enough from other countries, he said, to abandon the United States as a source.

"Where's China going to buy its beans?" Baize asked.

That may be true in the short run. But Basse suggests that Brazil has enough land that could be used for soybean cultivation that it could soon mostly replace the United States as a supplier to China.

■ Roughly 60 percent of US soybeans are shipped to China

And if the Chinese market were to be closed to U.S. farmers, they might be able to sell some portion of their soybeans to other markets. Baize said that huge multinational companies, such as Cargill and ADM, might, for example, sell more U.S. soybeans to Europe, where they wouldn't face any tariffs, though this likely wouldn't make up for the loss of the Chinese market.

At the same time, China is looking more to its own farmers. Since China announced its potential tariffs on U.S. soy in April, the government has encouraged farmers to cultivate more soybeans. Beginning this

month, Chinese farmers say, Beijing reduced corn subsidies and raised annual soybean subsidies from 2550 yuan (\$400) per hectare to 3000 yuan (\$470) or more per hectare in major soybean-producing provinces in northeast China.

An adjustment had already been planned to help draw down China's substantial corn stockpiles, so the change wasn't necessarily aimed at U.S. soy growers, analysts say.

But the subsidy adjustment did come with political undertones. Officials in major soybean-producing provinces were describing the promotion of local soybeans as "the most important political task in agricultural production at present." Heilongjiang in northeast China announced a pilot project to plant soybeans on over 100,000 new hectares, with an extra 2,250 yuan (\$353) subsidy per hectare.

The moves are prompting farmers like Liu Cong to focus more on growing soy. Liu says he used most of his land to grow corn last year but this year is planting more soybeans.

"This is encouraging for farmers," he said in a phone interview. "We're more motivated."

Zhang Xiaoping, China director for the U.S. Soybean Export Council, says that Chinese buyers have been canceling soybean purchases of last year's U.S. soybean harvest because of the threat of tariffs.

"The buyers literally stopped buying from the U.S.," Zhang said. "Exporters cannot find any buyers in China." AP

Kim-Xi summit sends signal to Trump about Beijing's key role

THE surprise China-North Korea summit this week is intended to ensure that Beijing's voice is heard when North Korean leader Kim Jong Un holds a historic meeting with President Donald Trump.

Chinese President Xi Jinping wants to protect his country's strategic interests on the Korean Peninsula, particularly when it comes to maintaining a friendly regime in Pyongyang as a buffer from the U.S. and South Korean forces stationed across the 38th parallel.

Kim, meanwhile, registered his desire for Chinese support in the talks, particularly his call for a "phased and synchronous" approach to denuclearization, as opposed to Trump's demand for an immediate end to its nuclear programs.

"I think Xi wants to head off a surprise outcome from the Trump-Kim summit," said Bonnie Glaser, senior adviser for Asia at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

Xi and Kim held talks Monday and Tuesday in the northern Chinese port of Dalian, the second time they've met in just over a month, following Kim's unannounced trip to Beijing in late March. That was his first overseas visit since taking power six years ago and a powerful sign of the enduring relationship between the communist neighbors



AP PHOTO

despite years of fraying ties.

The Dalian summit was also significant in that Xi was expected to visit Pyongyang prior to Kim returning to China, showing that Kim has finally agreed to accept the role of "junior partner" in the relationship after a lengthy period of strained relations, said Michael Mazza of the American Enterprise Institute think tank in Washington.

Amid tranquil scenes of the two leaders chatting beside deep blue ocean waters and strolling through lush gardens, state media quoted Xi as telling Kim that

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."

The exact time and location of Kim's meeting with Trump have not yet been announced. U.S. officials say besides working on those details, Pompeo will also press North Korea for the release of three detained American citizens, whose imminent release Trump has been hinting at. His trip comes just days after North Korea expressed displea-

sure with Washington for comments suggesting that massive U.S. pressure had pushed Kim to the negotiating table.

Glaser said Xi wants to ensure that Chinese interests are protected in North Korea's negotiations with Washington. At a minimum, that means ensuring "a seat at the negotiating table assuming that talks begin in earnest," she said.

Such views were echoed in an editorial yesterday in the *Global Times*, a newspaper published by China's ruling Communist Party.

"How to resolve issues on the peninsula, including the nuclear issue, cannot be decided by Washington alone. Washington should respect Beijing's opinions and interests since it has often required Beijing to cooperate with it," the paper said.

Kim is also hoping to enlist China's hope in persuading Trump to be flexible in his demands for a verifiable halt to North Korea's nuclear programs, analysts said.

By hosting Kim twice before the summit, Xi is also asserting, at least symbolically, "China's primacy on the Korean Peninsula," Mazza said.

"More broadly, if some kind of grand bargain is in the offing, Xi wants to ensure that it doesn't lead to a fundamental shift in the strategic environment detrimental to Chinese interests," Mazza said.

China has accounted for about 90 percent of North Korea's foreign trade, but in recent years has enforced United Nations sanctions that have squeezed the North's economy. The pressure increased significantly after North Korea's test of a significantly more powerful nuclear device in September.

"For Xi, the important message is simply that China is a key player for a solution over the Korean Peninsula and this [Dalian] meeting is meant to reaffirm this message, in particular for Donald Trump," said Steve Tsang, director of the China Institute at London's School of Oriental and African Studies.

Kim, meanwhile, probably intended for the Dalian meeting to signal that "China remains an ally of North Korea and thus will be there to support him should Trump set the price too high for a deal," Tsang said. **MDT/AP**

SOUTH CHINA SEA

Vietnam asks Beijing to withdraw missiles from outposts

VIETNAM has requested yesterday China to withdraw its military equipment from South China Sea outposts, saying their deployment seriously violates Hanoi's sovereignty, increases tension and destabilizes the regional situation.

The comments came after CNBC reported last week that China had installed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missile systems on three outposts in the contested Spratly Islands, which are also claimed by Vietnam, among others.

Ministry spokeswoman Le Thi Thu Hang said in a statement that Vietnam has sufficient legal basis and historical



AP PHOTO

US Marines during an amphibious landing exercise at the two-week joint US-Philippines military exercise in the South China Sea

evidence to affirm its sovereignty over the Spratlys and the Paracels in the

South China Sea.

"Vietnam request that China [...] show its res-

ponsibility in maintaining peace, stability in the East Sea, do not carry out mili-

tarization activities, withdraw military equipment illegally installed on features under Vietnam's sovereignty," she said, using Vietnam's name for the South China Sea.

China won't say whether it has deployed missiles to man-made island outposts in the South China Sea but says it has the right to take whatever actions it wishes on territory it claims as its own.

U.S. broadcaster CNBC quoted intelligence sources as saying that China has deployed anti-ship cruise missiles and surface-to-air missiles on Fiery Cross Reef, Subi Reef and Mischief Reef in the contested Spratly island chain. CNBC said the defensive weapons were also spotted in satellite images of Woody Island, where China has a large military presence.

The missiles could strike both U.S. and other foreign navy vessels and military planes that regularly over-

fly the area, actions that Chinese forces often counter or protest.

Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Hua Chunying said last week "peaceful constructions and deployed defensive facilities" aimed to "meet the need of safeguarding national sovereignty and security, which is also the right of a sovereign state."

Hua denied such work constituted militarization and accused the U.S. of increasing military tensions in the area, adding that "they should be prepared for the consequences."

China has constructed seven man-made islands and equipped them with runways, hangers, radar and missile stations, further cementing its vast territorial claims in the busy waterway. The U.S. says that militarization of the South China Sea runs contrary to Chinese President Xi Jinping's assurances to Washington. **MDT/AP**

U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo traveled to North Korea yesterday to finalize plans for a historic summit between President Donald Trump and the North's leader, Kim Jong Un.

U.S. officials said Pompeo will also press North Korea for the release of three detained American citizens, whose imminent release Trump has been hinting at.

Pompeo discussed the agenda for a potential summit in a meeting with Kim Yong Chol, vice chairman of the central committee of North Korea's ruling party.

Later, at a lunch of poached fish and duck hosted by Kim Yong Chol, Pompeo said the senior official had been a great partner in working to make the summit a success.

"For decades, we have been adversaries. Now we are hopeful that we can work together to resolve this conflict," Pompeo said, adding that "there are many challenges along the way."

Kim noted the improved relations between the Koreas, as well as the North's policy to "concentrate all efforts into economic progress" in the country.

"This is not a result of sanctions that have been imposed from outside," he added, citing the will of the Korean people. Trump has said that his pressure tactics brought North Korea to the negotiating table.

The trip, Pompeo's second to North Korea this year, had not been publicly disclosed when he flew out of Washington under cover of darkness late Monday aboard an Air Force 757. Trump announced the mission Tuesday afternoon as he laid out the case for withdrawing from a landmark nuclear deal with Iran, another bitter U.S. adversary.

Minutes later, Pompeo arrived in Japan to refuel before flying on to Pyongyang. Accompanying him were a handful of senior aides, a security detail and two journalists — one from The Associated Press and one from The Washington Post, both given roughly four hours' notice of his departure.

When the flight arrived yesterday morning in Pyongyang, North Korean officials were on hand to greet Pompeo. A motorcade took Pompeo and his delegation to the Koryo Hotel, the main hotel for foreigners in Pyongyang.

The trip came just days after North Korea expressed displeasure with Washington for comments suggesting that massive U.S. pressure had pushed Kim Jong Un to the negotiating table.

Pompeo, who first traveled to North Korea as CIA chief in early April, is only the second sitting secretary of state to visit the reclusive nation with which the U.S. is still technically at war. The first was Madeleine Albri-

US-NORTH KOREA

Pompeo in Pyongyang to finalize summit, seek Americans' release

ght, who went in 2000 as part of an unsuccessful bid to arrange a meeting between then-President Bill Clinton and Kim Jong Un's father, Kim Jong Il.

"Plans are being made, relationships are building, hopefully a deal will happen and with the help of China, South Korea and Japan a future of great prosperity and security can be achieved for everyone," Trump said at the White House as he announced Pompeo's visit.

Pompeo's first trip to Pyongyang, over Easter weekend before he was confirmed as secretary of state, was a closely held secret. News of it did not emerge until just before his Senate confirmation vote less than two weeks ago. Shortly afterward, the White House released photographs of Pompeo and Kim. It was not clear whether Kim would meet Pompeo on this trip. **AP**



US Secretary of State Mike Pompeo

ANALYSIS

Kim breaks with his flight-phobic father, travels by plane

Hyung-Jin Kim, Seoul

UNLIKE his dictator father, who famously shunned air travel, North Korean leader Kim Jong Un jetted off to the northeastern Chinese city of Dalian this week, becoming the first North Korean ruler to fly abroad in 32 years.

Since taking office in late 2011, Kim has occasionally flown inside North Korea. The recent foreign trip, albeit not far from the North Korean border, comes ahead of his expected summit with U.S. President Donald Trump aimed at ending the North Korean nuclear problem.

Was Kim trying to test his jet's flight capacity because his summit with Trump could happen in Singapore? Did he simply want to show that he's different from his flight-averse father? Or perhaps he had urgent matters to discuss with Chinese President Xi Jinping that precluded the time-consuming train he took in March to Beijing to meet Xi.

Here are several things to know about the Kim family's travel habits:

THE GOSHAWK

Kim's official plane is a remodeled version of the Soviet-made IL-62. North Korea calls it "Chammae-1," named after the goshawk, North Korea's national bird.

South Korean media say the plane can fly at a maximum speed of 900 kilometers per hour and carry about 200 people. Its maximum flight range is about 9,200 kilometers but it has reportedly never flown that far.

Some experts say one reason why North Korea apparently wants to have a Kim-Trump summit in Pyongyang, the North's capital, is that Kim's plane might not be able to fly to faraway places like Switzerland, Sweden or Washington.

Kim's younger sister, Kim Yo Jong, used "Chammae-2," the same kind of aircraft as her brother's, when she visited South Korea in February to attend the opening ceremony of the Pyeongchang Winter Olympics. She became the first member of North Korea's ruling Kim family to visit South Korea since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War.

PREVIOUS AIR TRAVEL

Schooled for several years in Switzerland, Kim is believed to have traveled by air many times during his teenage years.

After he became North Korea's leader, state media said he was aboard Chammae-1 when he reviewed air force planes taking part in combat aeronautics contests and inspected construction work in Pyongyang. North Korean media photos also showed Kim looking out the windows of his plane; walking down the stairs from the plane, and walking with his wife, Ri Sol Ju, on a red carpet placed on an airstrip.

Other photos showed Kim in the cockpit of a fighter jet.

DIFFERENT FROM HIS FATHER

Before Kim's Dalian trip, no North Korean leader had publicly gone abroad by air since Kim's grandfather, North Korea founder Kim Il Sung, flew to the Soviet Union in 1986.

Kim Jong Il flew by plane to a conference in Indonesia with Kim Il Sung, his father, in 1965. But after that he reportedly never flew because of a fear of heights. During his 1994-2011 rule, Kim Jong Il made about a dozen known overseas trips, mostly to China, and conducted countless inspections of military posts, factories and other places — all by train.

Analysts say Kim Jong Un's air travel may



North Korean leader Kim Jong Un (center) arrives at an airport in Dalian, China this week

be aimed at showing he's a confident, normal leader who meets international standards.

South Korean media say Kim Jong Il had several luxurious trains equipped with reception halls, conference rooms and high-tech communication facilities. To guard against possible attacks, his train reportedly traveled with two other trains, with one running ahead of his to check the safety of the rail line while another carried security agents and followed behind. According to state media, Kim Jong Il died of a heart attack during a train trip.

When Kim Jong Un visited Beijing, which is much farther than Dalian, in March for talks with Xi in his first overseas trip since his inauguration, he took a deep green special train reminiscent of his father's. Last month, he took a black Mercedes limousine to return home after a meeting with South Korean President Moon Jae-in at a village along the Koreas' border. **AP**

Li, Abe, Moon agree to cooperate on North Korea

Mari Yamaguchi, Tokyo

CHINA, Japan and South Korea agreed yesterday to cooperate on ending North Korea's nuclear program and promoting free trade, two hot-button issues challenging their region.

The agreements came at the first summit for the Northeast Asian neighbors after a hiatus of more than two years, bringing together Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe, Chinese Premier Li Keqiang and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Abe said they discussed how they can get North Korea to give up its nuclear weapons, but he didn't provide any details. China and Japan, in particular, have differences over how best to achieve North Korea's nuclear disarmament.

The meeting comes amid a flurry of developments on the Korean Peninsula. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un met Moon on April 27 and Chinese President Xi Jinping earlier this week, in a surprise visit to the



Chinese Premier Li Keqiang (right), Japanese Prime Minister Shinzo Abe (left) and South Korean President Moon Jae-in meet in

Chinese coastal city of Dalian. U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo flew to Pyongyang, North Korea's capital, to finalize details of a summit planned between President Donald Trump and Kim.

"We must lead the ongoing momentum toward complete denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula and achieve peace and stability in Northeast Asia,"

Abe told a joint news conference in Tokyo.

Japanese Deputy Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasutoshi Nishimura said the three leaders also agreed to work toward two free trade agreements, a free trade pact among themselves and the proposed Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership with Southeast Asian nations.

Trump has threatened all three

countries with tariffs in a bid to seek trade concessions from them. His moves have raised fears of a trade war between the U.S. and China.

Li, the No. 2 official in China after President Xi Jinping, said earlier that free trade is a good way to promote a global economic recovery.

"We are willing to work with Japan and South Korea to jointly

maintain regional stability and push forward the development of the three countries," he said before the meeting started.

The leaders also agreed to hold trilateral summits on regular basis and set up a secretariat. The summits, which started in 2008, are supposed to be held annually, but yesterday's was the first since November 2015.

Analysts say Japan is trying to showcase improved ties and cooperation with China and South Korea so its views will be represented in any negotiations with North Korea.

Abe reiterated Japan's position that it would normalize ties with North Korea only if the latter took concrete steps toward abandoning its nuclear and missile programs and resolved the issue of Japanese abducted by North Korean agents.

Japan's leader was to hold talks separately with Moon and Li later yesterday. Japanese officials said they plan to propose a free and peaceful East China Sea, but do not plan to raise contentious issues such as South Korean "comfort women" forced to provide sex to Japan's wartime military.

Moon is to leave Japan after half a day. After that, Abe will host a dinner and lunch for Li and join him on the northern island of Hokkaido on the final day of his four-day Japan visit. **AP**

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IRAN

Supreme leader, lawmakers lash out at US on nuclear deal

Nasser Karimi &
Amir Vahdat, Tehran

IRAN'S supreme leader chastised President Donald Trump yesterday over his decision to pull America out of the 2015 nuclear deal, while lawmakers lit a paper U.S. flag on fire inside parliament, shouting, "Death to America!"

The government backlash reflected broad public anger in Iran over Trump's decision, which threatens to destroy the landmark agreement. While Iranian officials, including the parliament speaker, say they hope Europe will work with them to preserve the deal, many are pessimistic.

In comments before school teachers, Khamenei told Trump: "You cannot do a damn thing!" The exhortation from Khamenei, who has final say on all state matters, follows a pattern of Iranian leaders declaring their nation's ability to resist foreign pressure or interference.

Khamenei described Trump's speech as having "over 10 lies," without elaborating on them. He also said Trump's remarks threatened both Iran's people and its theocratic government.

Earlier, the lawmakers, including a Shiite cleric, held the flaming flag alight as their colleagues joined their chants. They also burned a piece of paper representing the nuclear deal and stomped on the papers' ashes.

While U.S. flag-burning is common in Iran and harsh criticism of America has been a staple of Iranian parliamentary politics for years, it was the first time political observers could remember anything being burned inside the parliament itself.

The 2015 agreement imposed restrictions on Iran's nuclear program in return for the lifting of most U.S. and international sanctions.

However, the deal came with time limits and did not address Iran's ballistic missile program or its regional policies in Syria and elsewhere. Trump has repeatedly pointed to those omissions in referring to the accord as the "worst deal ever." Proponents of the deal have said those time limits were meant to encourage more discussion with Iran in the future that could eventually address other concerns.

President Hassan Rouhani said he'd be sending Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Javad Zarif to the countries still in the deal — China, France, Germany, Russia and the United Kingdom.

Iran hopes the European Union will pass laws to protect European firms from any potential



President Hassan Rouhani addresses the nation in a televised speech in Tehran

U.S. sanctions. EU officials have suggested they'll do what they can to salvage the agreement.

Still, Rouhani made a point of stressing that Iran, at any time, could resume its nuclear program.

"So if necessary, we can begin our industrial enrichment without any limitations," the Iranian leader said. "Until implementation of this decision, we will wait for some weeks and

will talk with our friends and allies and other signatories of the nuclear deal, who signed it and who will remain loyal to it. Everything depends on our national interests."

European businesses most affected by Washington sanctions

MAJOR companies, particularly in Europe, could see billions of dollars in commercial deals canceled because of the U.S. decision to reinstall sanctions on Iran, though the ultimate impact remains unclear due to the possibility of renegotiations and exemptions, experts say.

President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal and re-impose sanctions on Iran means companies worldwide must stop doing business with the country or run afoul of the U.S. government.

Companies and countries with commercial deals with Iran would have either 90 or 180 days to wind down those activities, depending on the type of products being sanctioned. And firms would not be able to generate new business.

Certain exemptions and waivers can be negotiated, but the U.S. did not say what products or countries might qualify.

Since the Iran nuclear deal was struck in 2015, it was mainly European companies that moved back in to strike deals with Iran, making Trump's decision particularly painful for the region.

"U.S. Iran sanctions are hardly hitting any U.S. companies, but aim primarily at European ones," Carl Bildt, the former leader of Sweden who is now co-chair of the European Council on Foreign Relations, said in a tweet. The EU has in the past found this utterly unacceptable, he added, though it was unclear still how European leaders would respond.

Among U.S. companies, plane maker Boeing has signed the biggest deals, and U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin said Tuesday that its existing licenses — as well as those of its European competitor, Airbus Group — would be invalidated.

In December 2016, Airbus signed a deal with Iran's national carrier, IranAir, to sell it 100 airplanes for around USD19 billion at list prices. Boeing later struck its own deal with IranAir for 80 aircraft with a list price of some \$17 billion, promising that deliveries would begin in 2017 and run until 2025. Boeing separately struck another 30-airplane deal with Iran's Aseman Airlines for \$3 billion at list prices.

Boeing has yet to deliver any aircraft to Iran under those deals and said that it will "continue to follow the U.S. government's lead."

Airbus, which is subject to the U.S. license because it makes at least 10 percent of its aircraft components in the U.S., says it will abide by the new U.S. sanctions but it could take "some time" to determine the full impact on the industry. It has already delivered two A330-200s and one A321 to Iran.

The U.S. says the sanctions will also sharply curtail sales of oil by Iran, which is currently the world's fifth-largest oil producer. In the case of oil sales, there will be a 180-day period for countries to wrap-up existing contracts and achieve "significant reductions" in their purchases of crude from Iran.

Mnuchin declined to spell out what the administration would consider as a "signifi-

Earlier yesterday after the flag burning, parliament speaker Ali Larijani said responsibility for saving the deal fell on the EU and other world powers still in the accord.

"The period is only a window in which the EU can prove if it has enough weight for settling down international issues or not?" he said.

Larijani also urged the country's nuclear department to prepare for "resumption of all aspects of nuclear activities."

The Iranian rial is already trading on the black market at 66,000 to the dollar

Many Iranians are worried about what Trump's decision could mean for their country.

The Iranian rial is already trading on the black market at 66,000 to the dollar, despite a government-set rate of 42,000 rials. Many say they have not seen any benefits from the nuclear deal.

Iran's poor economy and unemployment sparked nationwide protests in December and January that saw at least 25 people killed and, reportedly, nearly 5,000 arrested. AP



cant reduction" in purchases of Iranian oil. U.S. law gives the Treasury secretary the power to administer sanctions imposed by the president.

So far, French oil company Total SA has been the most aggressive Western oil company to move back into Iran, signing in July a \$5 billion, 20-year agreement with Iran. A Chinese oil company also has a deal to develop the country's massive South Pars offshore natural gas field.

Total did not respond to requests for comment.

The price of oil rose sharply yesterday to its highest since 2014 on expectations that the new sanctions will crimp Iranian energy exports. AP

Families wonder how Iran decision will impact US detainees

FAMILIES of several Americans currently detained in Iran are hoping President Donald Trump's decision announced yesterday [Macau time] to withdraw from the Iran nuclear deal will not make it harder to get their loved ones freed.

At least five Iranians, all dual-American citizens or green-card holders, have been sentenced to prison in Iran on espionage-related charges, as has Chinese-American Xiyue Wang, a Princeton University graduate student in history.

Wang's wife Hua Qu said her family did not want to be in the middle of the dispute over the nuclear deal, calling it "a humanitarian issue for our family."

"My hope is to be reunited soon with my husband, the father of our child," she said. "We urge the American, European, Chinese, Russian, and Iranian governments to find a humanitarian solution, clemency or otherwise, to help bring Xiyue home."

She said their lives have been very difficult since her husband



Pictures of Bob Levinson before he disappeared from an Iranian island in March 2007 (image from video)

was detained in August 2016. She's concerned Wang, 37, may go on a third hunger strike while being held as the only non-Iranian in the prison where he is incarcerated. Their son is now 5.

The family of Bob Levinson, who disappeared from an Iranian island in March 2007, issued a statement that said Trump's announcement should mean Levinson's return "needs to be a priority in

any new negotiations with Iran." Levinson's son David told The Associated Press that although the family isn't political and has no opinion on the Iran deal, "we do hope what this initiates and

what it sparks is a renewed conversation about Bob Levinson, and that in the future in any negotiation between Iran and the United States that he becomes a priority and is at the forefront of any discussions."

He added, "If our administration believes in America first, they can make a strong statement and a strong step in the right direction by advocating for the release and return of an American citizen."

For years, U.S. officials said Levinson had been working for a private firm, but The Associated Press reported in December 2013 that he had actually been on a mission for CIA analysts who were not authorized to run spy missions.

Photos and videos released in 2010-11 showed a gaunt and bearded Levinson wearing an orange jumpsuit.

Iranian Foreign Minister Mohammad Zarif said last month the U.S. government would have to change its attitude and engage in a respectful way before meaningful negotiations can take place.

Zarif said Iran could be open to discussing a prisoner release if Washington's approach changed, particularly if it is on health or humanitarian grounds.

One of the prisoners, 81-year-old Baquer Namazi, is said to be in poor health. AP

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what's ON



IN LOVE WITH MACAU – CALLIGRAPHY AND PAINTINGS OF MACAU

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

UNTIL: August 12, 2018

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

VISUAL THINKING – CONTEMPORARY PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBITION

TIME: 2pm-7pm (Closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: May 19, 2018

ADMISSION: Free

VENUE: Center for Creative Industries, G/F Macau Cultural Centre Building, Xian Xing Hai

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 3282

TAIPA ANCHORAGE: NAMES OF THE PAST AND THE PRESENT

TIME: 10am-7pm (Closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: June 18, 2018

VENUE: Taipa Houses – Nostalgic House

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

MONKEY KING

TIME: 4pm & 8pm daily (except on Thursdays)

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

COTAI TICKETING: (853) 2882 8818

KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

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

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

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

A STICKY MESS: LIQUID CHOCOLATE SPILLS ONTO POLISH HIGHWAY

A tractor-trailer has overturned on a Polish highway, spilling tons of liquid chocolate that are solidifying into a huge sticky mess.

The private broadcaster TVN24 showed images of an overturned truck surrounded by brown chocolate covering six lanes on the A2 motorway, blocking traffic in both directions.

Rescue officials said the liquid chocolate was solidifying as it cooled and would require large amounts of hot water to clear away.

Senior brigadier Bogdan Kowalski with the fire brigade of Slupca, a town in western Poland, said, “the cooling chocolate is worse than snow.”

TVN24 reported from the site of the accident that the driver was taken to a hospital with a broken arm. The accident occurred in the morning when there was little traffic and nobody else was hurt.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

03 - 09 MAY



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 1

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

Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo

Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 149min



SUBMERGENCE

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Wim Wenders

Starring: Alicia Vikander, James McAvoy, Charlotte Rampling

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min



THE MERCY

ROOM 2

6:30, 7:30pm

Director: James Marsh

Starring: Colin Firth, Rachel Weisz

Language: English (Chinese)

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



1994 MANDELA BECOMES SA'S FIRST BLACK PRESIDENT

Nelson Mandela has become South Africa's first black president after more than three centuries of white rule. Mr Mandela's African National Congress (ANC) party won 252 of the 400 seats in the first democratic elections of South Africa's history.

The inauguration ceremony took place in the Union Buildings amphitheatre in Pretoria today, attended by politicians and dignitaries from more than 140 countries around the world.

As part of the ceremony he pledged his allegiance to South Africa and his determination to continue his work for reconciliation.

“I do hereby swear to be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and do solemnly and sincerely promise to promote that which will advance and to oppose all that may harm the republic... and to devote myself to the well-being of the republic and all its people.”

Jubilant scenes on the streets of Pretoria followed the ceremony with blacks, whites and coloureds celebrating together.

When the new president, flanked by First Deputy President Thabo Mbeki and Second Deputy President FW de Klerk, appeared on the Botha Lawn beneath the Union Buildings the crowd went wild.

More than 100,000 South African men, women and children of all races sang and danced with joy.

Addressing the crowd President Mandela paid tribute to outgoing president Mr FW de Klerk: “He has made for himself a niche in history.

“He has turned out to be one of the greatest reformers, one of the greatest sons of South Africa.”

He also spoke of the “human disaster” of apartheid.

“We saw our country tear itself apart in terrible conflict... The time for healing of wounds has come... Never, never again will this beautiful land experience the oppression of one by another.”

And urging forgiveness he said in Afrikaans: “Wat is verby verby” - “What is past is past”

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Following the inauguration ceremony, President Mandela entrusted his deputy, Thabo Mbeki, with the day-to-day business of the government. Mandela himself concentrated on the ceremonial duties of a leader, building a new international image for South Africa.

Mandela stepped down as South Africa's president after the ANC's landslide victory in the national elections in the summer of 1999, in favour of Mr Mbeki.

He then continued travelling the world, meeting leaders, attending conferences and collecting awards.

Mandela died on December 5, 2013.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19
If you're not active today, you may wonder what you can do to change that.

Taurus April 20-May 20
This is not a good time to take risks. In fact, you should probably play it as safe as you can.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21
You have got to move today - in one way or another. Take action at work, ask out that hottie or plan for a big change in your life.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Focus on your own needs today - things are getting harder, but you can nurture your own talents so that things start to get a lot better quickly.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22
You could have fun doing almost anything today - so make sure that you're staying focused. The drudge work you've been putting off could be made into a game or a group activity.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22
Your inner being is pushing you to do something new and untested, but you know perfectly well that it won't work out - and why, for that matter.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22
You are exploring more than just your immediate surroundings. You're checking out the psychic landscape and drifting far and wide over this world - and any other that seems appealing.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Something seems risky - because it is! Your personal energy is better spent on things that are safe and cozy, like home chores or snuggling with your sweetie.

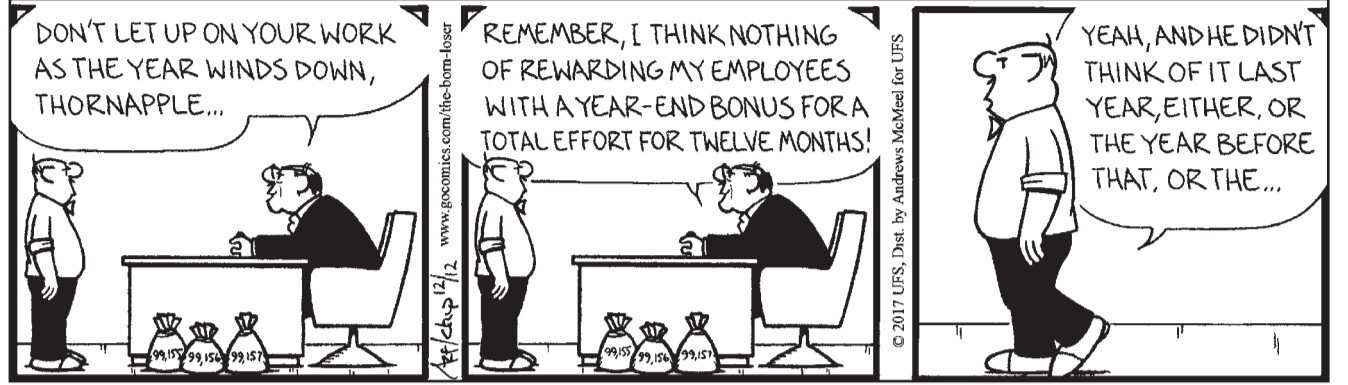
Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21
Try not to get too wrapped up in ego issues, but it's hard to miss the waves of admiration coming your way today.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19
Your idealistic side is making itself known in a dramatic fashion today, so make sure that you're pushing for what's right.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18
You've got friends who can do almost anything - so don't be afraid to tap into your network! It's a really good day for polishing up your resume or your profile.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20
Exercise your authority early today, so you don't have to deal with conflict or chaos later on. Things should start to ease up pretty soon.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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

WEATHER

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Round Table title; 4- Plan; 10- At the drop of ___; 14- Half a fly; 15- Let go; 16- Fabled fliers; 17- Comics bark; 18- Livelihood; 20- Ingot; 21- High-ranking NCO; 22- Coquet; 23- Like spinach; 25- Twangy, as a voice; 28- Hung. neighbor; 29- New Haven students; 30- Made a hole; 31- Dies ___; 32- Cosmopolitan; 35- Acapulco gold; 36- Skid row woe; 37- An inexact result; 44- Breezes through; 45- Flat-topped hills; 46- Bridge; 48- "Runaway" singer Shannon; 49- Windows predecessor; 50- Michael of R.E.M.; 51- Writer Jong; 53- Rich soil; 55- Maple Leafs' org.; 56- Nonchalant; 59- T.G.I.F. part; 60- Romanov ruler; 61- South American aquatic rodent; 62- What have we here?; 63- E-mailed; 64- Compliant one; 65- Bert Bobbsey's twin;
DOWN: 1- Building for horses; 2- Sharon, e.g.; 3- Chorus; 4- Abdomen; 5- Collections of anecdotes; 6- Hair knot; 7- Blast of a trumpet; 8- CD earnings; 9- Alphabet trio; 10- Shrinking Asian sea; 11- Capital of the Solomon Islands; 12- Accountant's entry; 13- Deadly fly; 19- Cowboys' org.; 24- Lens settings; 26- Harden; 27- Reebok rival; 30- Sweeping implements; 31- Be emphatic; 33- Drift, make a mistake; 34- Giant Mel; 37- Needle-shaped; 38- Large web-footed bird; 39- Crossed (out); 40- Quarantine; 41- Stonework; 42- Personal view; 43- Volatile petroleum distillate; 44- Experts; 47- Wrestling hold; 49- It's not PC; 50- Campaign tactic; 52- Bud of "Harold and Maude"; 54- Play to ___ (draw); 57- Family card game; 58- Massage

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

A large crossword puzzle grid with some numbers and letters pre-filled.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

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



Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with property details and the JML logo.



Quarterback Sam Darnold (center) and his mentor and former quarterback Jordan Palmer (right) are shown gathering data from throwing a football using the Wilson Connected Football System

AMERICAN FOOTBALL

Jets' Darnold using high-tech training that could help QBs

Dennis Waszak Jr, New York

SAM Darnold zipped pass after pass down the field, knowing each one of them counted.

Literally. The New York Jets rookie quarterback was at his old stomping grounds of San Clemente High School in California last month, just a few weeks before being the No. 3 overall pick in the NFL draft, tossing "smart" footballs equipped with computer chips calculating his every throw.

It was high-tech training that Darnold and Jordan Palmer, his mentor and a former NFL quarterback, believe will help him — as well as other signal callers around the country — improve skills through unique and meticulous data.

Darnold and Palmer are serving as advisory staff members for Wilson, which makes the official balls used by the NFL. The Chicago-based company has been incorporating technology and performance-based data with its Wilson X Connected Football, which debuted two years ago. Now, Darnold and Palmer are helping develop the next-generation version that will enhance film sessions and, possibly, on-field production.

"I think it's really cool to come out here with Wilson and give them my feedback on what it really takes to be a quarterback and what I'm looking for in this data," Darnold said in a video provided by Wilson, "and help kind of build the prototype that is going to push this game to the next level."

Wilson hopes to have the 2.0 version of its Connected Football technology available for a wide release to college and pro teams later this year. In the meantime, the company is gathering feedback from some players and coaches at both levels, including Darnold and Palmer.

"Before this technology, it was really just based on the eye, the naked eye," Darnold said, "being able to look at the film and based on a throw, you might look at your feet, your hips or something like that, to tell you what might have happened, what might have gone wrong."

"Now with this technology, it gives us hard evidence, hard data to be able to look back on and figure out exactly what happened and what might have gone wrong and what we can

improve on and keep improving as a quarterback."

Darnold's involvement with the Wilson technology began over a year ago when he was working with Palmer, who played in the NFL for parts of eight seasons and has become one of the country's elite quarterback trainers. One of the biggest criticisms of Darnold at USC before last season was a glaring flaw in his mechanics: an elongated motion with which he'd drop his right arm a bit when he wanted to air out a pass.

After one of Palmer's buddies told him about the first-generation Wilson X Connected ball, he decided to use it — and it confirmed his theory.

"I knew kind of how to fix it because it's really just retraining muscle memory," Palmer said in

a phone interview. "I knew that, but to try to get it to where it was digestible and understandable, where I could prove definitively that he shouldn't do that, I just needed data to back that up."

Palmer set up receivers in different spots on a field and had Darnold throw to them to see what distance Darnold lowered his arm more than normal.

"He didn't do it on every throw," Palmer said. "We determined around 32 yards was when he felt like he needed to rip it, so he would drop the ball a little bit lower."

Meanwhile, the Wilson football was gathering results from four data points: spin (RPMs), spiral efficiency, velocity and time of release — when Darnold's left hand came off the ball as he was starting to throw to when the ball left his fingertips.

"What we determined is that it's the same velocity, same spiral efficiency and the same spin, but the time of release was slower when he dropped it," said Palmer, whose older brother Carson played quarterback for 15 NFL seasons. "So, it was basically like, 'OK, so you have a slowed release and you're not gaining any velocity on this.' So, that was eye-opening to where he went, 'Wow. So, let's go ahead and fix this.'"

Darnold and Palmer kept training with the football and used the data to fine-tune the mechanics of one of the most highly touted players in the country. The two were then asked by Wilson to help the still-developing training system get even better. While it wasn't immediately certain if Darnold will use the upcoming advanced technology with the Jets during the NFL season, he and Palmer have continued during the off-season to give their thoughts and suggestions on the new product.

"It's really kind of a peek into the garage," Palmer said.

The chip inside the new Wilson Connected ball has higher-caliber sensors than the original, and the system is being designed to work within a team environment. **AP**

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News at hand



"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"

Kristie Rieken, Houston

BASKETBALL | NBA

Paul finally gets into conference finals as Rockets advance

CHRIS Paul is an ultra-intense competitor, often the most passionate player on the court.

But even for his Houston Rockets teammates, what they saw from him yesterday [Macau time] was on another level.

Paul scored a playoff career-high 41 points with eight 3-pointers to finally reach the conference finals, helping the Rockets eliminate the Utah Jazz 112-102 in Game 5.

"He said you get out of the way [...] I'm going to put us on my back," James Harden said. "You could see it in his eyes. He had that look in his eyes. If he has that look in his eyes [...] he's a problem."

The Rockets will meet Golden State after the Warriors closed out their series against the New Orleans Pelicans later on. Top-seeded Houston will host the series opener Monday night.

It will be Houston's second trip to the Western Conference finals in four years and the first ever for Paul. The point guard has been panned for failing to get past the second round in his nine previous trips to the postseason.

"He's been under a lot of unfair scrutiny throughout the playoffs and tonight he showed that he wanted it," Utah star rookie Donovan Mitchell, who is close with Paul, said. "He does it every night, but taking over the way he did was very impressive."

Paul, a nine-time All-Star in his first season with Houston after an offseason trade from the Los Angeles Clippers, also had 10 assists and seven rebounds. His previous career-best in the playoffs was

35 points, which he accomplished three times

The 33-year-old scored 20 points in the fourth quarter, answering everything the Jazz tried to do in order to close out the game and series.

"He was playing with a chip on his shoulder," Luc Mbah a Moute said. "In that fourth quarter, he just took over."

Paul had been in the conference semifinals four other times before finally getting over the hump this season. He lost to the Spurs 4-3 in 2008 while with New Orleans and was swept by San Antonio in 2012 with the Clippers. He also lost 4-2 to the Thunder while with Los Angeles, and his Clippers had a 3-1 lead in 2015 before Houston won the next three games.

The Rockets were able to close out the series despite Harden, the front-runner for MVP, being under the weather. Coach Mike D'Antoni disclosed that Harden wasn't feeling well yesterday, and he looked a little worn down postgame. But when asked what was wrong with him, Harden said he was fine.

Paul said he was just trying to pick up the slack with Harden not feeling like himself.

"Whatever it took to win," Paul said. "James was under the weather so we were just trying to pick him up."

Houston lost to the Warriors 4-1 when they last re-

ached the conference finals in 2015. They believe they're much better suited to match up with Golden State this time around, but know it won't be easy to dethrone the defending champions.

"They've been built to beat everybody," general manager Daryl Morey said. "They're going to be a tough matchup. We'll have to bring our A-plus game and I think our guys are ready."

While the Rockets took a minute to appreciate what they've done so far, they were quick to point out that they're far from finished chasing their goals this season.

"We just advanced in another series which is an accomplishment, but that's not our main goal," Trevor Ariza said. "We are still taking steps toward that, but this is an accomplishment."

Houston is in the conference finals for the seventh time in franchise history and looking to win its first title since taking back-to-back championships in 1994-95.

Harden loves that he has so many players around him that have led to the team's success this season and thinks that will be valuable moving forward.

"In order to get where we want to go we needed the right piece, and that's what they're here for," he said. "I know if we give the effort that we know we can it's pretty tough to beat us." AP



Houston Rockets guard Chris Paul (3) is fouled by Utah Jazz guard Raul Neto during Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series

GOLF

Fowler back at Players, still looking to catapult career

RICKIE Fowler is back at the site of his greatest victory, the one that was supposed to catapult his career.

He returns to the Players Championship with just one PGA Tour win since that dramatic closing performance on the Stadium Course at TPC Sawgrass in 2015.

He finished birdie-eagle-birdie-birdie to force a playoff with Sergio Garcia and Kevin Kisner, and then won on the fourth extra hole. Fowler showed the kind of back-nine resolve that's been missing too often during his young career.

The 29-year-old Fowler



flashed it again during the final round at the Masters last month, making five birdies over the final 11

holes and putting pressure on winner Patrick Reed. But, once again, Fowler came up oh-so short.

"I feel like we've had some good chances," Fowler said yesterday. "It would have been nice to have a few better finishes. [...] I feel like we're in a great spot. Just get a couple things straightened out, minor tweaks, and it will be a fun week."

Fowler will try to become the seventh to win the Players multiple times, joining Jack Nicklaus, Fred Couples, Steve Elkington, Hal Sutton, Davis Love III and Tiger Woods. Those six all have something Fowler is still chasing: A major.

"To be talked about as one of the best players or however you want to

put it without a major, I think it's a compliment," Fowler said. "Obviously I have some work to do to get off that list. I think we've done a great job this year of showing that I'm ready to go win a major."

"I'm ready to go out there and be the last man standing. I think this is a year we have some great chances."

Between the links-style setup at Shinnecock Hills (U.S. Open) in New York and the always-challenging Carnoustie (British Open) in Scotland, Fowler's stellar ball-striking should make him one of the favorites.

"It's time to get myself off that list," Fowler said.

Close friend and contemporary, Jordan Spieth, a three-time major winner at age 24, believes Fowler's breakthrough is near.

"If you win here, you can win anywhere else," said Spieth, who has missed three consecutive cuts at the Players. "There is no added thing that any other tournament brings that this tournament doesn't have. Therefore, guys like Rickie, who kind of catches some slack for having not won a major yet, essentially he's won what's harder to win than a major: The Players." AP

opinion

Girl About Globe

Linda Kennedy



A SCOTTISH GAMBLE FOR MACAU?

Here's the plan: a new casino hotel, called The Glaswegian Macau. A sister hotel to The Venetian, The Parisian, and a rival to the upcoming Cotai Sands rebrand, The Londoner.

Let me explain. I'm a Scot living in Hong Kong. Whenever I visit Macau, I can't help but think of new ways for Scotland, once so prominent in the development of Hong Kong, to promote itself in today's Asia. In particular, how my native city, Glasgow, could champion its charms.

For those unfamiliar with Scotland's urban hierarchy, Glasgow is its biggest city but not its most famous. That falls to Edinburgh - Glasgow's rival and Scotland's capital - with its imposing castle and elegant New Town.

Someone from Edinburgh is called an 'Edinburgher' but what prospects, really, are there for a Scottish hotel involving the word 'burgher'? Everyone would think they were booking an overnight in McDonald's, and no end of confusion would crop up about fruit machines. Bunches of cherries and plums...in a McDonald's?

A Glaswegian is the term given to someone who comes from Glasgow. So, The Glaswegian. It's the obvious choice.

A brief history of Glasgow, then, lest any casino hotel investors be reading.

Glasgow was once famed for its ships, built alongside the River Clyde. Glasgow gloried in its art tearooms, pioneered in the 1890s by scone moguls like Miss Kate Cranston, who started Miss Cranston's Tearooms. And it's fair to say Glasgow has always been renowned for its cloudy skies and wet weather.

What would a hotel named The Glaswegian offer tourists in a Macau keen to diversify and attract different visitors?

The Venetian Macau has an indoor shopping mall arranged around a replica of Venice's canals, beneath a reliably blue sky. The Glaswegian Macau could have its own eminent water feature: a shallower version of the River Clyde, under a roof painted with murals of grey clouds.

The Venetian has gondolas: The Glaswegian could offer comparable floating fun. On the real River Clyde in Scotland, there's a paddle steamer called The Waverley, which took factory workers to the seaside many years ago, and where the description of inebriated persons as 'steaming' originated (passengers started drinking as soon as the steamer set off). A miniature Waverley could sail along the indoor River Clyde though, with Chinese holidaymakers aboard, it might just be green tea steaming.

What of other casino elements? In Glasgow, the biggest gamble anyone takes is leaving the house without an umbrella, or coat. In The Glaswegian, the betting could be real, in a new gambling game, 'Dark Sky' rather than blackjack. You would decide whether or not to walk along the banks of the indoor River Clyde with an umbrella or a cardigan. The house would control the weather. Would it rain or would it not?

There would be conventional gaming too, and the tearooms historically linked to Glasgow could help enhance gambling's attractions to women. The Glaswegian would have the Toasted Scone and Jam Casino. And Miss Cranston's Casino.

To sum up the potential patrons of The Glaswegian Macau:

Visitors seeking distinctive gambling games, with strong fundamentals of physical fun.

Women.

Cake-lovers.

Actual Scots - keen to holiday somewhere different, like a version of their city where they might win money from getting completely soaked. The appeal to this demographic could deepen if drinks at The Glaswegian were to be cut-rate, because Scotland just controversially introduced a minimum unit cost for alcohol. Cheap booze to get 'steamin' on the Waverley? The whole of Glasgow will come, leaving the actual city delightfully uncrowded when Asian visitors, inspired by The Glaswegian Macau, decide to skip Edinburgh and visit Glasgow, Scotland.

THE BUZZ OIL JUMPS AFTER US LEAVES IRAN DEAL

Oil prices surged yesterday after President Donald Trump said the United States will withdraw from a 2015 nuclear accord with Iran and re-impose sanctions.

Benchmark U.S. crude oil jumped USD1.94, or 2.8 percent, to \$71.00 per barrel in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract fell \$1.67, or 2.4 percent, to \$69.06 per barrel [yesterday]. Brent crude, which is used to price international oils, gained \$2.01, or 2.7

percent, to \$76.86 per barrel in London. It lost \$1.32, or 1.7 percent, to close at \$74.85 per barrel.

Iran, the world's fifth-largest oil producer, will have to decide whether to follow the U.S. and withdraw or try to salvage what's left with the European countries. Supply constraints could push oil prices higher, as evident in an increase yesterday. That could hurt growth in net importing countries like Japan and Germany. (More on p14-15)

Malaysians vote in election defined by graft scandal, tax



A Muslim woman shows her inked finger after casting her ballot during the voting day of general elections in Kuala Lumpur

Eileen Ng & Stephen Wright, KL

MALAYSIANS flocked to vote in a fiercely contested election yesterday that pits an opposition led by former authoritarian leader Mahathir Mohamad against the ruling coalition of Prime Minister Najib Razak, whose reputation has been battered by corruption allegations and an unpopular sales tax.

Polling booths closed at 5 p.m. and counting is underway. Merdeka Opinion Center, a research organization, estimated that turnout was lower than the 85 percent predicted by the Election Commission, and down from the 2013 poll, but still likely to be high compared with earlier elections. Long queues had formed at some polling stations and the opposition protested that many people were still waiting to vote when stations closed but it was unclear how many.

Analysts say the ruling National Front, in power since independence from Britain in 1957, might lose the popular vote for a second consecutive election. But it could still win a majority in Parliament due to an electoral system that gives more power to rural Malays, the party's traditional supporters.

Faced with a reinvigorated opposition under the

92-year-old Mahathir, the government has used the levers of power to further tilt the playing field in its favor, critics and analysts say. Redrawn electoral boundaries were rushed through Parliament last month, pushing likely opposition voters into seats that already support the opposition and dividing constituencies along racial lines. A recently passed "fake news" law was an attempt to stifle debate and criticism, opponents said.

Enough is enough. We want a clean and just gov't. We want a party for all races.

VOTER

"If Najib wins a very narrow victory with a minority of public support but an electoral majority because the system has been rigged, I think that will create some discontent in Malaysia, which could cause long-term problems," said Amy Searight, a Southeast Asia expert at the Center for Strategic and International

Studies in Washington D.C. "It would be a further sign of the region's democratic decline."

Mahathir, prime minister for 22 years until 2003, emerged from political retirement and joined the opposition in attempt to oust Najib, his former protégé, after a multibillion-dollar corruption scandal at state investment fund 1MDB set up by Najib.

The U.S. Justice Department says USD4.5 billion was looted from 1MDB by associates of Najib between 2009 and 2014, including \$700 million that landed in Najib's bank account. He denies any wrongdoing. An unpopular goods and services tax, introduced by Najib in 2015 to boost government revenue as Malaysia's oil wealth dwindles, has also dented support for the ruling coalition. It hit poor rural Malays particularly hard.

"Enough is enough. We want a clean and just government. We want a party for all races," said Agnes Yap, a bank employee, after she voted in a Kuala Lumpur suburb.

Reflecting Malaysia's racial divides, Yap said the Chinese party in the ruling coalition had been subservient to Najib's Malay party and failed to defend the rights of the country's ethnic Chinese minority. AP

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|----------------|
| Roadside | 60-80 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 30-50 Good |
| Ambient | 65-85 Moderate |

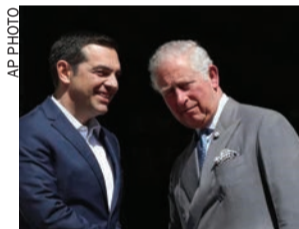
SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



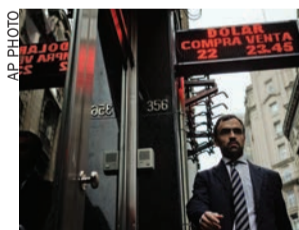
ISRAEL-RUSSIA Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (pictured) traveled to Moscow yesterday to meet with President Vladimir Putin and discuss military coordination amid new strikes in Syria blamed on Israel.

TURKEY's state-run news agency says prosecutors are seeking life in prison terms for more than 200 people, including former generals, who are accused of being the ringleaders of the 2016 failed military coup.



BRITAIN-GREECE Britain's Prince Charles embarked yesterday on an official visit to Greece, the birthplace of his father and kingdom of his paternal great-grandfather.

SPAIN The government has moved to block plans by Catalan separatists to re-elect in absentia the former regional president Carles Puigdemont, who is battling extradition from Germany to Spain.



ARGENTINA President Mauricio Macri said that Argentina has begun talks on a financing deal with the International Monetary Fund following a sharp devaluation of its currency and amid a difficult "global scenario."

US-VENEZUELA The Trump administration has called for Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro to step down. "For the safety and security of all the peoples of Latin America, it is time for Maduro to go," the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations said.