



DOUBTS ABOUT JAPAN'S CASINOS REMAIN

A panel included in the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) addressed the "future of gaming" in Asia

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MORPHEUS TO OPEN ON JUNE 15



GAZA BLOODSHED SPURS GLOBAL WORRY

Israel faced a growing backlash a day after Israeli troops killed 59 Palestinians and wounded more than 2,700

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"THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN'"



WORLD BRIEFS



THAILAND An editor at an English-language newspaper in Thailand said yesterday he has been sidelined for refusing to tone down coverage critical of the country's military government.

PHILIPPINES Legal groups called on Philippine legislators yesterday to defend their constitutional power to impeach officials, which they said was usurped by Supreme Court justices who ousted the chief judge last week.
More on p13



KOREA North Korea is moving ahead with plans to close its nuclear test site next week, South Korea's military said yesterday, an assessment backed by U.S. researchers who say satellite images show the North has begun dismantling facilities at the site.
More on p12

PAKISTAN Three senior Pakistani officials say a U.S. diplomat who killed a Pakistani motorcyclist in a road accident last month has left the country after getting clearance from authorities.

US-IRAN The Trump administration is designating the head of Iran's central bank as a terrorist and hitting him with sanctions intended to further isolate Iran from the global financial system.

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SENTENCE ON MAY 29

MP demands jail term for Sou, Chiang

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Taiwan's
Ma sentenced
for leaking
information

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GLOBAL GAMING EXPO

Japanese integrated resorts market still a big question mark

Renato Marques

As part of the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia event that kicked-off yesterday at the Venetian's Cotai Expo, a forum was held to address the "future of gaming," with specific focus on the Asian markets.

In the first part of the forum, dedicated to North Asia, Japan was in the spotlight, with a panel composed of several gaming specialists addressing what, in their opinions, were the challenges and advantages of the development of integrated resorts in the Japanese market.

Although there were several non-consensual and even contradictory opinions expressed by different specialists, in one topic a consensus was reached: there is still a long way to go until a clear definition on how this new and potentially enormous Asian market will operate in terms of its rules and regulations as well as on whether to integrate the traditional Japanese gambling "Pachinko" rooms into the new system.

Gaming analyst Grant Govertsen said, "the tightening of the market for games like Pachinko [which has had its revenues drop to about one-third of what they used to be in peak years] can serve as a warning for the need of a clear definition of rules and regulations." He noted this as a potential risk for investors interested in investing in a market that he thinks will be

"potentially the biggest Asian market after Macau."

On the opposite side was another well-known gaming specialist, Alidad Tash, senior vice president of Gaming & Strategy at 2NT8 Limited, who said, "I see this as a huge opportunity," and noted that Pachinko parlors are "very anti-social gaming" places where players are immersed into an "overwhelming sensorial environment where the music is [too] loud." He continued, "Everything from this game is completely different from table games." Tash agreed with Go-

vertsen that the Pachinko industry has registered a steady decline recently, saying that it was "in consequence of being under attack from several politicians." His view is that Pachinko constitutes "anti-social, non-attractive gaming" that does not even allow one to collect cash after one wins, forcing winners to trade "gifts like dolls and lighters and others things for money." The Pachinko parlors "generated last year USD30 billion in revenue, four times that of Las Vegas [GGR] and only 9 percent less than Macau."

The message that Tash wanted to send was that if what he considers to be an unattractive, complex gaming system could generate such huge interest, a proper resort and casino should be "even more appealing" for gamblers.

As for the most "unresolved" issue regarding the implementation of casino gambling in Japan, Tash stated that "the percentage of foreigner ownership ... [is] for me the biggest mystery." He added that other issues such as whether using junkets or the implementation

of a "VIP-only" casino system may cause some issues, but that the major issue will be ownership.

"We have [much] experience in Asia where companies do not play well with partners, moreover with multiple partners," he noted, stating that it is likely that if a local share of investment in the projects occurs, it will come from a bundle of multiple partners potentially without a real interest or any experience in the gaming industry.

Eric Landheer, executive director, Summit Ascent Holdings and William Shen, Senior Vice President and Managing Director, Korea & Japan, Caesars Entertainment Corp, agreed, saying "the next year or two will be very important in such definition [of the reaction of the local market and partners] as a [gaming] company can't just go in as a western corporation without a Japanese partner or partners," Shen added.

"I think we will [see] this dance [...] continue for quite some time before we actually get [...] clarity or 'marriages' if you will between international and Japanese partners," Tash added.

Another of the focus points considered of high relevance was that of policy. "Do you have a policy environment that is supported of your development? Do you have a policy environment that will allow you to grow and to have a respectable return of investment?" Landheer said, recalling the process that led his company to establish the first resort in Russia's Far East near Vladivostok. "That's my question; what will be the policy in Japan?"

Moratorium on new licenses in the Philippines opens doors in Cambodia

THE moratorium order recently issued by Philippines president Rodrigo Duterte, which halts the issue of any further land development licenses for gaming, opens doors to new developments in the South Asia region, especially in Cambodia, according to the panel of experts at the second part of the forum dedicated to South Asia. A new regulatory bill regarding Cambodia, not yet approved, was introduced by lawyer Rui Pinto Proença, a partner of MdME Lawyers, a lawyers office in Macau that was involved in the process of creating the bill.

Proença noted that, if the changes are approved, the bill will regulate three different areas in Cambodia: specifically, the areas that already have gaming venues, near the borders with Vietnam and Thailand, but that the bill will create a "[unique] opportunity in Asia, with a 'strip' by the beach," located

only about 10 minutes drive from the airport. This way a clear alternative to the currently-suspended development of casino resorts in Boracay, in the Philippines, is created. Panel member Marie Antonette Quiogue, senior associate at Romulo Lawyers, said there was uncertainty in the laws regarding nature conservation in the areas, which might block potential developments.

Questioned as to which market, whether Vietnam or Cambodia, might offer better conditions for investment, analyst Ben Reichel, executive director at Donaco International Limited, said Cambodia would be more advantageous. This was due to current government measures enforced by the Vietnamese government relating to the access and oversight of gambling activities by locals, which might make Vietnam less attractive in South Asia in the long run.



Rui Pinto Proença

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Prosecutors want prison sentence for Sulu Sou, Scott Chiang

Julie Zhu

THE prosecutor of Sulu Sou's case has demanded that the Court of First Instance give a prison sentence to Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang, rather than applying a penalty.

The trial of lawmaker Sulu Sou continued yesterday morning at the Court of First Instance, with three witnesses present at the court to give their testimony. During the afternoon, no witnesses were called, after the defendants' lawyers gave up on three witnesses who did not arrive for their testimony during that time, with defending lawyer Jorge Menezes further declaring that all facts had already been clearly testified to by the previous witness.

Following the lawyer's request, the trial proceeded with closing statements from the prosecution and the defense. Lawyer Pedro Leal said that "great efforts have been made to end Sulu Sou's political career, but the court has [had] no role in those efforts."

In the morning session, Alin Lam, member of the New Macau Association (ANM), Kam Sut Leng, president of the ANM, and one volunteer who had participated in the demonstration, then followed Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang to Penha Hill, and were all called to give their testimonies on the events of May 15, 2016.

During his intervention, Alin Lam said "it was me [who] temporarily decided" to stop at the white tent [Nam Van Nautical Center]" and "I made a mistake. I made the wrong judgment under the given conditions, therefore the mistake is on me."

According to Lam, he did not hear the police authorities telling the demonstration they were not allowed to stop at the white tent. However, the instruction was included in the documents detailing the route approved by the police authority, when ANM first applied to hold the demonstration.

All three witnesses' testimonies noted that Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang's intention of visiting the CE's official residence was to leave their letters in the CE's official residence mailbox, which was unreachable at the time due to the police force blocking all access to it.

While Lam was answering the prosecutor's questions, the judge interjected almost a dozen times. The judge posed similar questions to the ones asked by the prosecutor, which was in stark contrast to the previous days of the trial, when lawyer Jorge Menezes experienced in-

JULIE ZHU



Sulu Sou (center, left) and Scott Chiang leaving the court

terjections from the judge, who accused lawyers of repeatedly asking the same questions to the witnesses.

Nevertheless, after further questions from Jorge Menezes, Lam declared that the police force never prevented the demonstration from stopping at the white tent, and the police also never prevented the group from walking along the road leading to the CE residence.

Great political efforts have been made to end Sulu Sou's career, but the court has no role in those efforts.

PEDRO LEAL
DEFENSE LAWYER

"The police did not mention at all where [we] could not go," said Lam, who also stated he, along with the rest of the group, obeyed the police request to leave the scene immediately after the police issued a verbal warning.

Another witness, Kam Sut Leng, claimed not to have heard any words spoken by police officers which would indicate that the demonstration could not stop at the white tent.

Lam said that the streets near the CE's official residence were all clear of vehicles, which had been barred by the police.

On Monday, witnesses from the police force said they had to manage passing vehicles due to the crowds.

The judge asked Kam whether she knew that letters to government officials must be delivered to the relevant government department.

Kam answered by saying that, in her understanding, people could mail a letter to any address. Kam also said, in reply to the lawyers' questions, that she, as well as other people, are free to leave letters in any mailbox.

The testimonies of all the morning witnesses were in alignment in that they did not hear Sulu Sou or Scott Chiang appealing to other people to join them in going to the CE's official residence in order to deliver their letters, nor did they think the transportation was jammed.

In her closing speech about the demonstration lingering in front of Pak Wu parking lot, the prosecutor said "even though the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) closed some cases concerning the demonstration, the MP deems that they [Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang] acted provocatively towards the police force and were completely disrespectful towards the verdict of the Court of Final Appeal."

The prosecutor accused the defendants of not informing the relevant government department in advance of the demonstration changing its route.

She further accused the protesters of gathering at Nam Van Nautical Center, which is considered an illegal assembly, as well as of assembling around the Chief Executive's official residence.

The prosecutor then said that

Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang did not leave the scene after the police issued a verbal warning, emphasizing that "the whole procedure consisted [of] an illegal assembly, which goes against the law."

"[The behavior of the two suspects] affected other users [of public spaces], and [the suspects] insisted on going up [to the CE's official residence], even after the police's [direction not to]," the prosecutor said.

"I suggest [the court hand down] a prison sentence, [because] penalties will not have a deterrent effect," the prosecutor said, adding that "the police force performed in excellent fashion, [... the police force did a] work worthy of compliment."

Lawyer Jorge Menezes, in his closing speech, stated that evidence had shown that transportation was not affected due to Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang's behavior, and that both obeyed the police order to leave the scene.

In many of Jorge Menezes' statements, he pointed out that it was the police force's poor decision to put up barricades that led to all the problems.

"Macau is a society ruled by law, not ruled by men. The police force also has to obey the law. [...] If the police are regarded as

being higher than the city's residents, then it is wrong because everybody is equal. [...] This demonstration and assembly law was not meant to restrict the people, but to protect them, [...] to protect people's rights of demonstration and assembly," said Jorge Menezes.

"It seems the police force was not cooperative. Their [the police officers'] superior's order [to command Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang to leave the relevant place] is not legal. [Macau] enforces the rule of law, [but the police force] restricted the public at the first opportunity it got, which was a wrong decision," the lawyer declared.

In his final statement, lawmaker Sulu Sou noted that communicating with the police force has always been his top priority. However, he said that what had happened "was unfortunate" because it was "avoidable."

"There is absolutely no personal interest in me participating in social activities. I hope to expand the public's interests. [...] It disappoints me knowing that governmental high officials [are not being held accountable for their responsibilities]," said Sou, adding that he will continue supervising the government.

The verdict has been scheduled for May 29.

CONCERN ABOUT RULE OF LAW

AFTER HIS trial, Sulu Sou told the media that "we are worried about [people] not executing their legal and reasonable civil rights." Sulu Sou remarked he would not comment on the case or the trial. "I am always confi-

dent, as long as the court [makes] an independent and fair judgment," he said, adding that "each side has its own stance and [way of] looking at things. We respect that. The court has the ultimate right to judge."

Lynzy Valles

GAMING

MELCO Resorts & Entertainment's USD1.1 billion project, Morpheus, is slated to open its doors on June 15, the gaming operator's chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho announced yesterday.

Dubbed as its "love letter" to both the SAR and China, the new hotel at City of Dreams is the gaming operator's newest addition to its properties. It is hoped the hotel will become an icon of Macau.

Melco will be hiring an additional 1,000 workers to add to its current 8,000 team members for its new venture, which consists of three levels connecting with the City of Dreams podium, house public functions and a casino floor.

Designed by the late Dame Zaha Hadid, Morpheus houses approximately 770 hotel rooms on the higher floors, as well as specialty restaurants, an executive lounge, a sky pool and a VIP gaming room with villas on the top floors.

Morpheus will feature chef Alain Ducasse, who will be opening two exclusive restaurants, including his first Asian restaurant, 'Voyages'.

In addition, the other restaurant, Yi, will be another brand homegrown by Melco; and world-renowned pâtissier Pierre Hermé is creating a lounge serving French delicacies.

"We're going through the proper licensing and inspection right now but assuming everything goes smoothly, we're targeting June 15," said Ho, speaking of an opening date, during a press conference held at the Hyatt.

"Morpheus will bring us more in the markets we want to expand," he added, remarking that the new hotel is integral to the relaunch of City of Dreams.

The architectural masterpiece is the world's first free-form exoskeleton high-rise.

Ho recalled that he started discussing Morpheus with the late Dame Zaha Hadid in 2009, sharing the same vision: "to create a new way of expressing contemporary life."

Meanwhile, Ho declined to reveal the number of gaming tables it requested from the go-

Morpheus to open on June 15



Lawrence Ho

vernment, yet said that Melco did not request any VIP tables, adding that it will focus on the premium mass market.

"For a USD1.1 billion [investment], we asked for a reasonable ratio. I don't want to give the exact number, but it's related to the investment ratio," the chairman reiterated.

Melco will be hiring an additional 1,000 workers

Meanwhile, Ho revealed that The Countdown Hotel will officially be closed by the end of Chinese New Year 2019 for refurbishing – a construction period that will last for 18 months.

The new hotel tower will be named The Liberty, pledging to offer five-star hotel services, yet

will reduce its room count.

"After the opening [of Morpheus], given that we need the hotel rooms, we're going to countdown to the end of Chinese New Year and after that we're going ... [to] do a complete refurbishment," explained Ho.

"It's going to be The Liberty. Its rooms are going to be fewer than the current configuration," he added.

Ho then noted that Melco is still working on the design, adding that the renovation cost would exceed MOP20 million.

Meanwhile, the CEO confirmed the closure of its live poker room at City of Dreams after collaboration with the online poker titan PokerStars, which commenced in 2013.

Featuring 13 tables on the casino's main floor, the room served as a home of poker tournaments including the Macau Poker Cup, the Asia Pacific Poker Tour and the Asia Championship of Poker, amongst others.

"To be honest, it's just not profitable, the poker space was never profitable and for this market, it's just never done well," Ho said.

Despite its big collaboration with the poker titan, Ho added, "at the end of the day, it's taking up gaming tables, taking up space."

However, Melco is set to launch a dedicated e-sports stadium at its USD3.2 billion integrated resort, Studio City, before the end of the year.

The announcement was made by Ho, who added that they will also open Asia's largest Virtual Reality Zone at the property.

"We're planning to do phase two of Studio City and we're very excited that we have a three-year extension plan. By July 2021 we're hoping to complete it," Ho said.

He pledged that waiting for the renewal of licenses will not lower the gaming operator's in-

vestment in the market, noting that they have been showing commitment in the non-betting industry in the city.

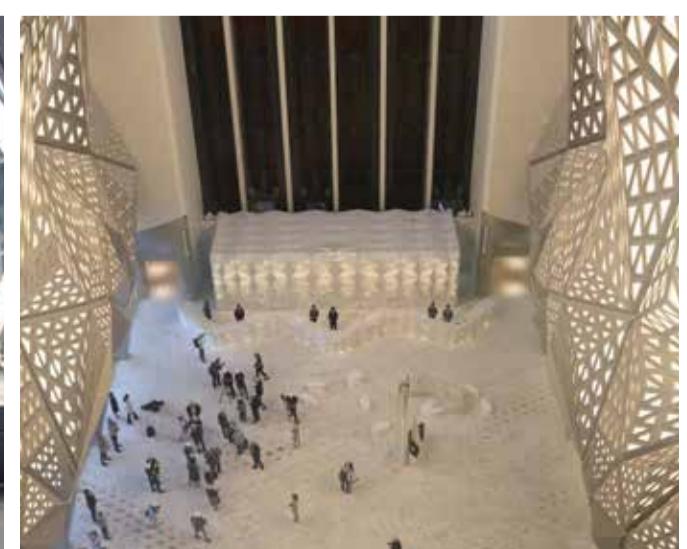
Furthermore, the CEO revealed that the gaming operator will hold a groundbreaking event for Cyprus' first ever casino on June 8.

Ho reiterated that when the project in the island country is completed, it is projected to represent 4 percent of the country's GDP.

"It's no small fee," said Ho.

Regarding a proposal made to Melco Resorts (Philippines) to expand City of Dreams Manila into one hectare of vacant land, Ho said that he is interested in the expansion and is in preliminary discussions with Melco's local partner.

"We are talking to them [Belle Corporation] and looking at it. [...] We are very interested but we are having discussions right now. It's still at the preliminary stage," he said.



Christopher Palmeri

IN a surprise move just two days before its annual meeting, Wynn Resorts Ltd. announced the resignation of two directors, including one who co-founder Elaine Wynn urged shareholders to vote against.

John Hagenbuch, a real estate investor from Ketchum, Idaho, decided that he would no longer stand for re-election at the annual meeting scheduled for today. Robert Miller, a former Nevada governor, also tendered his resignation.

The company is trying to bounce back from a sexual-harassment scandal involving former Chief Executive Officer Steve Wynn, who is Elaine's ex-husband, and board changes have been touted by the company as a sign of progress. Wynn Resorts noted on Monday that the two departures, combined with others announced earlier, mean that 60 percent of the Wynn Resorts board has changed since February.

Elaine Wynn had described Hagenbuch as a crony of her ex-husband.

"I do not want my candidacy to detract from the important progress we have made throughout the organization, including the ongoing refreshment process this board has initiated," Hagenbuch

GAMING

Elaine Wynn succeeds in booting director from casino board

said in a statement. Steve Wynn resigned in February following allegations of sexual harassment that went on for decades. Since then, Elaine Wynn has put pressure on the company to make more sweeping changes. In opposing Hagenbuch's re-election, she said he was a long-time friend of her ex-husband and faced conflicts of interest. The director served on a special

The two departures, combined with others, mean that 60pct of the Wynn Resorts board has changed since February

AP PHOTO



Elaine Wynn, ex-wife of Steve Wynn, listens during a hearing in Las Vegas

committee investigating claims against the former CEO.

Steve Wynn, who sold all his stock in the company but only after the date of record for the annual meeting, chose not to vote his shares. Elaine Wynn, now the company's largest individual stockholder, won support for Hagenbuch's ouster from all three of the big proxy advisory firms, making it very

unlikely the director would have won.

Wynn Resorts argued before casino regulators - and to shareholders - that the company has cleaned house. It has appointed three new female directors to the board and settled long-running litigation with Elaine Wynn and Universal Entertainment Corp., an early investor. Wynn Resorts, which owns luxury casinos in Las

Vegas and Macau, even took the founder's name off a \$2.5 billion resort that it's building in Massachusetts.

Still, outsiders, such as the shareholder advisory firm Egan-Jones Proxy Services, agreed with Elaine Wynn.

A vote against Hagenbuch "will send a clear signal that the board needs to be refreshed, not only with new members, but with new ideas and perspectives to rebuild Wynn's reputation," the adviser said in a report last week.

Elaine Wynn lost her seat on the Wynn Resorts board in 2015 after the board declined to nominate her and shareholders didn't support her campaign to be reinstated.

In a statement after the company announcement Monday, Elaine Wynn said the resignations of Hagenbuch and Miller represented "a good step towards establishing the 'New Wynn,' but there remains more work to be done." Bloomberg

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Gap apologizes to China for T-shirt's 'erroneous' map

THE U.S. clothing retailer Gap has apologized for selling T-shirts with what it says was an "erroneous" map of China in the latest example of corporate kowtowing to Beijing.

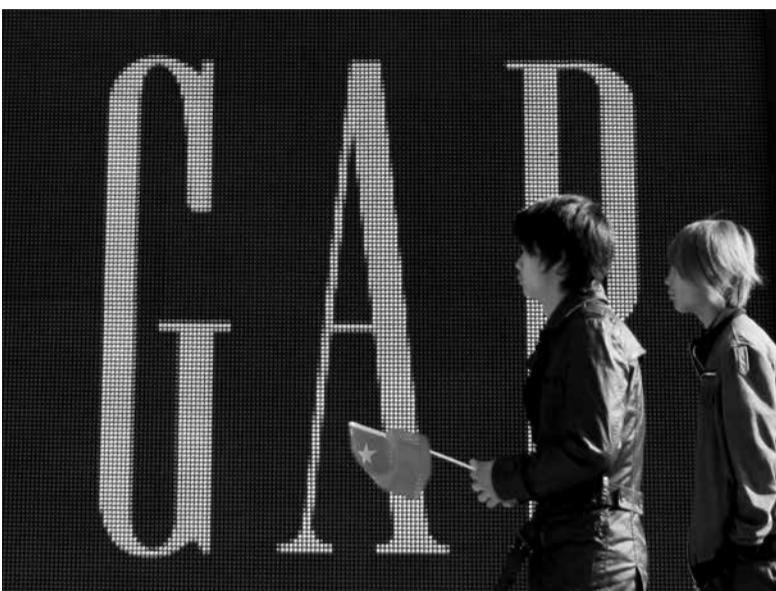
Users pointed out that a map printed on the T-shirts omitted territories claimed by China, including parts of southern Tibet, Taiwan and the South China Sea.

Gap issued an apology late Monday on its Weibo account, saying that some T-shirts sold overseas "had an erroneous design of China's map." The company stated it "respects the sovereignty and territorial integrity of China."

"We are truly sorry about this unintentional mistake," Gap said, promising to carry out "more rigorous reviews" in the future.

Gap took action after photos began circulating on Chinese social media of a T-shirt with a map that didn't include Taiwan, a self-ruled island that Beijing regards as Chinese territory. The map also appeared to leave out southern Tibet and the disputed South China Sea, the state-ow-

AP PHOTO



ned Global Times said, adding that it drew hundreds of complaints on Weibo.

The company also said all the shirts in China have been recalled and destroyed. It was unclear if the shirts in all of Gap's markets worldwide would also be destroyed. Company representatives at Gap's Shanghai office could not be reached immediately for comment.

The photos were taken at a Gap shop in Canada's Niagara region, China's state-owned Global Times said. It said that the Gap China headquarters in Shanghai told it, "The T-shirt in question has not been released in China."

Gap is the latest of several companies that have apologized for perceived slights to China's sovereignty.

Delta Air Lines, hotel operator Marriott, fashion brand Zara are among businesses that have apologized to China for referring to Taiwan, Hong Kong, and Tibet as countries on websites or promotional material. Mercedes-Benz said sorry for quoting the Dalai Lama on social media. The Tibetan spiritual leader is reviled by Beijing.

The US recently blasted China's demand that airlines change the way they refer to Taiwan, HK and Macau

The U.S. has started pushing back against Beijing, with the White House condemning China's efforts to control how U.S. airlines refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as

"Orwellian nonsense."

The U.S. retailer is the latest international company to offer an open apology for the perceived political slight, following suit with Daimler AG's Mercedes-Benz and Marriott International Inc. It comes after the White House recently blasted China's demand that U.S. and other airlines change the way they refer to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau as "Orwellian nonsense."

China has stepped up its policing of international companies from retailers to airlines to demand they respect the government's position on long-standing territorial disputes from Taiwan to Tibet.

Marriott International, Indetix SA-owned ZARA and Delta Air Lines Inc. all also issued apologies for listing Tibet and Taiwan as nations on their websites earlier this year. Mercedes-Benz also apologized in February for using a quote from the Dalai Lama in a post showcasing a sleek luxury model.

White House Press Secretary Sarah Huckabee Sanders said in a statement earlier this month that China's demands on airlines for strict guidelines for references to Taiwan, Hong Kong and Macau are "part of a growing trend by the Chinese Communist Party to impose its political views on American citizens and private companies." MDT/Agencies

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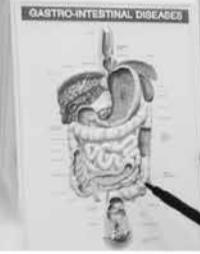
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Int'l infrastructure investment forum to be held in June

THE 9th International Infrastructure Investment and Construction Forum (IIICF) will open on June 7, the Macau Trade and Investment Promotion Institute said yesterday.

The two-day annual event attracts professionals from infrastructure and construction companies, representatives from the political and academic sectors, as well as leaders from multilateral development entities and international financial institutions such as the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and the African Development Bank.

This year's IIICF, with its theme 'New Growth Drivers for Better Infrastructure and Closer Con-

nnectivity,' includes two themed forums and 11 parallel forums focusing on new drivers of development, the integration of the Belt and Road Initiative, and social capital investment.

An array of business activities, such as project promotion and business matching, will also be held during the forum, including the release of the Belt and Road Infrastructure Development Index 2018, and the Annual Report on Development of the Belt and Road Construction.

The IIICF in 2017 was considered fruitful, as 24 commercial agreements, framework agreements and memoranda of understanding were signed.

GAMING

Galaxy, SBM strengthening partnership ahead of Japan bid

GALAXY Entertainment Group and Monaco-based Societe des Bains de Mer (SBM) are strengthening their strategic partnership as a joint-contender for a Japanese casino license, according to Nikkei.

Japan is widely thought to have the potential to become one of the world's most lucrative gambling jurisdictions, with some analysts estimating the market could be worth USD40 billion.

The Integrated Resorts Implementation Bill was introduced to the Japanese legislature last month, proposing the establishment of three gaming licenses. According to Nikkei, if the bill is approved before the end of the parliamentary session on June 20, the bidding process may begin in mid-2019, with the first resort opening around 2024.

Last year, Galaxy and SBM signed a strategic partnership with the goal of pursuing an integrated resort license in Japan.

The two companies held a press conference in Tokyo last week to present Galaxy's development team, which includes Ted Chan, the chief operating officer for Japan development at GEG.

According to Nikkei, the chairman



SBM's casino in Monte Carlo, Monaco

and CEO of SBM, Jean-Luc Biamonti, remarked that the Monaco-based company was "happy to strengthen the collaboration" with Galaxy, and that a presence in Japan was the company's number one priority.

"After Macau, we all knew Japan would be the next holy grail," Galaxy's deputy chairman Francis Lui told Nikkei in a recent interview. "With the experience we have [had] in Macau, and in partnership with Monte Carlo, we can be very much part of it."

Michael Mecca, a senior advisor and former president and chief, told Nikkei "the relationship between two com-

panies is growing in many ways and that we keep exploring new ways to work together."

He said that the companies' experience developing "world-class" integrated resorts positioned them well for a joint bid.

Galaxy is the largest casino operator in Macau with a 22.6 percent share of the city's gross gaming revenue, according to Union Gaming, and is the world's second-largest gaming company in terms of market capitalization. The company acquired a 5 percent stake in SBM in 2015 for 42.4 million euros (MOP410 million) and has since collaborated on several non-gaming projects.

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opinion

COST BE DAMMED, CHINA'S READY TO PAY MORE FOR EDP

Nisha Gopalan, Bloomberg

Prepare for a higher bid after EDP-Energias de Portugal SA rejected a 9.1 billion euro (USD10.9 billion) offer from China's biggest clean-energy company.

The Portuguese utility said yesterday the approach from China Three Gorges Corp. is too low and undervalues the company. EDP shares rose for a second day, having surged above the takeover price in Lisbon on Monday on speculation the bid would be sweetened.

That makes sense. This isn't the type of debt-fueled, private entrepreneur-led overseas acquisition that's drawn Beijing's ire. Three Gorges, operator of the world's biggest hydroelectric dam, is a state-owned company and its target is in line with the country's ambitions to acquire overseas infrastructure and clean-energy know-how. What's more, the Chinese company has the capability to improve its offer.

As I've written before, purchases that advance Beijing's strategic objectives, such as projects tied to President Xi Jinping's belt-and-road initiative, won't have any trouble getting approval.

The 3.26 euro per-share offer is just 4.8 percent higher than EDP's closing stock price on Friday, though the shares had run up on speculation that the company was in play. Gas Natural SDG SA of Spain and Engie SA of France had been cited as potential bidders.

The offer from Three Gorges, which is already the largest shareholder in EDP with a 23 percent stake, values the company at 8.9 times enterprise value to Ebitda, higher than the 7.3 times median for its European peers, according to Bloomberg Intelligence analyst Elchin Mammadov.

Granted, it's a major deal for China, second in enterprise value only to China National Chemical Corp.'s \$46 billion acquisition of Syngenta AG.

Still, Three Gorges has been vocal about its expansion plans and its financial position is strong. Its Shanghai-listed unit, China Yangtze Power Co., almost doubled free cash flow to more than \$5 billion between 2014 and last year, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. It can also count on funding support from the likes of state-owned policy lender China Development Bank, which has been charged with supporting the belt-and-road initiative.

EDP has much to offer. The Portuguese utility has a bigger global bandwidth, with wind farms in countries including the U.S. and Brazil. Three Gorges also has interests in Brazil, having paid \$3.7 billion for hydropower plants in the country in 2013 and acquired further hydro projects from Duke Energy Corp. in 2016. It can expect to wring some cost savings from consolidation.

The U.S., where EDP is the third-largest wind-farm operator by installed capacity, may be the biggest potential stumbling block. Still, even if the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States forces the divestiture of EDP's American wind farms, there's still enough there to justify the interest of Three Gorges, which lacks the Portuguese company's international expertise and its global supply chain spanning developed and emerging markets.

Beijing and Lisbon both appear to want this deal. A moderately more generous offer may be enough for shareholders to join the party. Then only European and U.S. regulators will remain to be convinced.

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA EXTENDS PAID MATERNITY LEAVE

Sands China is increasing the amount of paid maternity leave for all eligible team members effective from May 18, 2018, exten-

ding the total leave period from 56 days to 70 days. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China, said, as cited in a press statement, "the

company hopes team members will enjoy having this additional time at home with their families to welcome their newborns into the world and enjoy the blessings of motherhood."

"We are glad this increased maternity leave gives team members more time to be fully present for these milestone life events," the president added. In addition to the maternity leave update, the gaming operator also recently established a five-day paid paternity leave scheme for its team members, which took effect in February.

MGM INCREASES MATERNITY, PATERNITY LEAVE

MGM has announced an increase in maternity and paternity benefits for all eligible team members, which will take effect from June 1, in support of the government's proposal to amend the labor law. Under the enhanced benefits, the duration of paid maternity leave will be increased from 56 calendar days to 70 calendar days. Meanwhile, the

duration of paid paternity leave is being extended to five working days, up from the current two working days. As cited in a press statement, Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China, said, "The extended duration of paid maternity and paternity leave is our appreciation to the dedication of our team members, as well as part of our commitment to build on our caring and family-friendly culture."

GAMING

Sanctuary cities could get boost from sports betting ruling

Mark Sherman, Washington

IN President Donald Trump's former life as a casino owner, he might have cheered Monday's ruling from the Supreme Court that struck down a federal law that barred every state but Nevada from allowing betting on most sporting events.

But the Trump administration opposed the outcome reached by the high court at least in part because it could signal trouble in its legal fight against so-called sanctuary states and cities. Seven of the nine justices — five conservatives and two liberals — backed a robust reading of the Constitution's 10th Amendment and a limit on the federal government's power to force the states go along with Washington's wishes.

The federal anti-gambling law is unconstitutional because "it unequivocally dictates what a state legislature may and may not do," Justice Samuel Alito wrote in his majority opinion. "It's as if federal officers were installed in state legislative chambers and were armed with the authority to stop legislators from voting on any offending proposals."

There is a direct link between the court's decision in the sports betting case and the administration's effort to punish local governments that resist Trump's immigration enforcement policies, se-

AP PHOTO



■ **The ruling struck down a federal law that barred every state but Nevada from allowing betting on most sporting events**

veral legal commentators said.

"The court ruled definitively that the federal government can't force states to enforce federal law. In the immigration context, this means it can't require state or local officials to cooperate with federal immigration authorities," said Ilya Shapiro, a senior fellow in constitutional studies at the libertarian Cato Institute.

Omar Jadwat, director of the ACLU's immigrants' rights project, said the ruling reinforced decisions from the 1990s, including one that struck down part of a federal gun control law that required local police to de-

termine if buyers were fit to own handguns.

"It reiterates that the real thrust of the 10th Amendment and the principles of law in this area is that the fed government can't tell the states or cities how to legislate," Jadwat said. The amendment says that powers not specifically given to the federal government belong to the states.

The gun law decision split the court's conservatives and liberals in 1997, in keeping with conservatives' complaints about the federal government's overreach and the importance of states' rights. But on Monday, Justices Stephen Breyer and Elena

Kagan joined their more conservative colleagues.

The Justice Department declined to comment on the decision, but it had called on the court to uphold the federal law at issue — the department's usual practice when federal laws are challenged — by arguing that there was no constitutional violation.

In the most recent ruling about sanctuary cities, the federal appeals court in Chicago held last month that the federal government cannot withhold public safety grants from cities that won't go along with Trump's immigration enforcement policies.

In lawsuits challenging the administration, cities argue that turning local police authorities into immigration officers erodes trust with minority communities and discourages residents from reporting crime. The administration says sanctuary jurisdictions allow dangerous criminals back on the street.

The administration's efforts to crack down on places that don't comply with immigration authorities have taken several forms. Trump issued an executive order aimed at withholding federal money from recalcitrant jurisdictions. The administration also has sued California over three laws aimed at protecting immigrants in the country illegally. AP

China donates USD10m to Mozambican agricultural campaign

CHINA has donated USD10 million to Mozambique to support the current agricultural campaign, the Chinese ambassador to Mozambique said in Boane, near Maputo, during a visit by the chairman of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China, Li Zhanshu, to the Mozambique-China Centre for Research and Transfer of Agricultural Technology.

Ambassador Su Jian highlighted agriculture and food security as priority sectors of China's support to Mozambique and recalled that five major Chinese companies are present in the country, notably in agriculture, food security, infrastructure and access roads.



Su also said that Chinese companies have made a contribution to developing Mozambique, thereby helping the Mozambican economy to become sustainable.

The ambassador also said that the visit of the chair-

man of the Standing Committee of the 13th National People's Congress of China is "of paramount importance, happening at a time when bilateral cooperation has been cemented at the highest level."

The first deputy speaker

of the Mozambican parliament, António Amélia, stressed that China has already financed training for more than 50 parliamentary officials in areas such as parliamentary management and information and communication technologies.

Angola's economy contracted 2.5 percent in 2017

ANGOLA'S gross domestic product (GDP) in 2017 recorded a year-on-year contraction of 2.5 percent, as a result of updates to the activities of the Public Administration and Manufacturing Industry, according to the preliminary data of the Annual National Accounts, published on Friday in Luanda by the National Statistics Institute (INE).

The Annual National Accounts for the 2009 to 2016 period and the fourth quarter and full-year of 2017, although preliminary, were presented after a one-year and three-month interregnum, as the last time INE presented accounts was in February 2017, when it published quarterly GDP figures.

INE reported that Angola's gross domestic product (GDP) contracted by 4.3 percent in the fourth quarter of 2017, a negative variation attributable to subsidies (-73.3 percent), to financial intermediation, insurance and pensions (-23.5 percent), fishing (-20.3 percent), public administration and compulsory social security (-17.9 percent) and retail (-13.5 percent).

In the fourth quarter, the activities that contributed most and were important factors for the performance of economic activity were extraction and refining of crude oil and natural gas with 38 percent, followed by civil construction with 14 percent.

Angola's economic growth decelerated between 2013 and 2015, falling to negative growth of -2.6 percent in 2016, a tenth of a percentage point more than in 2017, according to the Annual National Accounts of 2009-2016. MDT/Macauhub

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Trump defends decision to revisit action on telecom giant ZTE

PRESIDENT Donald Trump defended his efforts to help a Chinese telecommunications company that violated U.S. sanctions “get back into business, fast,” despite criticism from Democrats and Republicans that the company poses a national security risk.

“ZTE, the large Chinese phone company, buys a big percentage of individual parts from U.S. companies,” Trump tweeted yesterday [Macau time]. “This is also reflective of the larger trade deal we are negotiating with China and my personal relationship with President Xi.”

Trump over the weekend unexpectedly tweeted that he and Chinese President Xi Jinping were “working together” to give ZTE “a way to get back into business, fast,” saying too many jobs in China were at stake after the U.S. government cut off access to its American suppliers.

The surprising overture to China marked a dramatic departure from Trump’s rhetoric toward China during the campaign, when he said he would no longer allow China of “rape our country” and steal U.S. jobs.

The U.S. Commerce Department last month blocked ZTE Corp., a major supplier of telecom networks and smartphones based in southern China, from importing American components for seven years. The U.S. accused ZTE of misleading American regulators over sanctions against North Korea and Iran.

Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross said during an appearance at the National Press Club in Washington that “ZTE did do some inappropriate things. They’ve admitted to that.”

But he added: “The question is: Are there alternative remedies to the one that we had originally put forward? And that’s the area we will be exploring very, very promptly.” He did not say what other options were being discussed.

Trump’s unexpected announcement came as the two countries prepared for additional trade talks in Washington this

week. Given past vows to stop the flow of U.S. jobs to China and what he’s called unfair trade practices, Trump’s seeming concern about Chinese jobs was something of a backflip.

The move was panned by lawmakers on both sides of the aisle. Sen. Marco Rubio, R-Fla., tweeted that it would be “crazy” to allow ZTE to operate in the U.S. without tighter restrictions.

“Problem with ZTE isn’t jobs & trade, it’s national security & espionage,” he wrote earlier this week.

Top Senate Democrat Chu-

ck Schumer accused Trump of “backing off” and “doing a 180 on China.”

“What about jobs in America, Mr. President? What about the millions of jobs that are lost because of what China has done?” he asked, adding: “Why on earth would President Trump promise to help a Chinese telecom company that has flouted U.S. sanctions and whose practices are a risk to our national security?”

At the White House, spokesman Raj Shah said Trump’s request for Ross to re-examine the issue was part of a “give

and take” with the Chinese.

“It’s a significant issue of concern to the Chinese government, you know, and in our bilateral relationship there’s a give and take and we discuss these issues,” he said. “Obviously this is part of a very complex relationship between the United States and China that involves economic issues, national security issues and the like.”

Shah also pushed back on the idea that Trump was retreating from his campaign promise to be tough on China.

“This president has taken

ANALYSIS

Bid to help Chinese firm draws fire but raises hopes

Paul Wiseman, Washington

A long-running dispute between American regulators and Chinese telecom company ZTE may have handed President Donald Trump some unexpected leverage in avoiding a trade war with Beijing.

The overture came just as Vice Premier Liu He is flying to Washington for talks aimed at heading off a mutually harmful battle between the world’s two biggest economies and just before U.S. companies plan to plead during three days of hearings for a resolution to the dispute.

Trade analysts say it is highly unusual for a president to intercede in a case brought by the Commerce Department and to mix regulatory sanctions with trade negotiations. But they also note that Trump’s offer to rescue ZTE, which makes cellphones and other telecommunications equipment, has the potential to clear the way for progress.

“It’s a way to unlock negotiations,” said Wendy Cutler, a former U.S. trade negotiator specializing in Asia and now vice president at the Asia Society Policy Institute.

“Trump’s tweet creates an atmosphere where there’s more hope for reaching an agreement on trade,” said David Dollar, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution and a former official at the World Bank and the U.S. Treasury Department.

The United States also needs China’s support as it prepares for talks with North Korea that are intended to persuade the Pyongyang regime to abandon nuclear weapons.

Commerce and ZTE last year settled charges that the Chinese company sold sensitive telecommunications equipment to Iran and North Korea in violation of U.S. sanctions. ZTE agreed to plead guilty and pay about

USD1 billion in fines.

Last month, Commerce accused ZTE of violating the agreement and blocked ZTE from importing American components for seven years. The department said ZTE had misled regulators: Instead of disciplining all employees involved in the sanctions violations, Commerce said, ZTE paid some of them full bonuses and then lied about it.

The seven-year ban was tantamount to a death sentence for ZTE.

“It was basically going to put them out of business,” Dollar said. “They rely on American technology.”

Last week, the company announced that it was halting operations.

Early this month, a high-level U.S. delegation — including Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin, Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross, top American trade negotiator Robert Lighthizer and White House adviser Peter Navarro — traveled to Beijing to address the trade dispute. There, they heard an outcry about U.S. regulators putting ZTE out of business.

“They were a little bit blindsided,” said Paul Triolo, a technology specialist at the Eurasia Group consultancy. “The Chinese reaction was pretty vociferous. ... The U.S. government shooting down the No. 2 telecommunications supplier in China at this sensitive time — it didn’t look good.”

Now, analysts see the outlines of a potential deal: In return for Trump’s lifeline to ZTE, Beijing might agree to buy more U.S. products or take other steps to shrink America’s gaping trade deficit with China — \$337 billion last year.

The Wall Street Journal reported Monday that the two countries were in talks about such a potential swap: The U.S. would spare

China to task for its unfair trade practices,” he said.

ZTE, a company with more than 70,000 employees that has supplied some of the world’s biggest telecom companies, said in early May that it had halted its main operations as a result of U.S. action.

The widening trade dispute between the world’s two biggest economies has taken a toll on both sides. U.S. companies that export to China have had goods held up in China’s ports. The block on ZTE was a heavy blow for the company but also hurt the U.S. companies it buys from. According to IDC data, ZTE sources more than 40 percent of its components from the U.S., creating a multibillion-dollar revenue stream for suppliers like Qualcomm and Intel.

China objected to ZTE’s punishment at trade talks in Beijing this month, and the American delegation agreed to report them to Trump. ZTE has asked the department to suspend the seven-year ban on doing business with U.S. exporters. By cutting off access to U.S. suppliers of essential components such as microchips, the ban threatens ZTE’s existence, the company has said.

China welcomed Trump’s comments. MDT/AP

ZTE, and Beijing would drop plans to impose tariffs on U.S. farm products. Neither the White House nor the Commerce Department would comment.

The ZTE case also drives home how entwined the U.S. and Chinese economies are. The Commerce sanctions didn’t just imperil ZTE; they also hurt the American companies that sell components to the Chinese company.

And so investors breathed a sigh of relief after Trump’s tweet, buying stock Monday in Maynard, Massachusetts-based optical components maker Acacia Communications, which last year collected 30 percent of its revenue from ZTE; San Jose-based optical communications company Oclaro; and Sunnyvale, California-based fiber optic cable manufacturer Finisar.

Still, critics charged that Trump shouldn’t have intervened in the legal case against ZTE.

“This would be a truly awful deal for the U.S.,” Derek Scissors, a China specialist at the conservative American Enterprise Institute, wrote in a blog post. “If the accusations last year and last month are accurate, ZTE violated Iran sanctions, then further attempted to deceive the U.S. government.”

Xi “would be using barriers against American agriculture to blackmail the Trump administration into accepting ZTE’s behavior,” Scissors said.

Trump has thrust trade policy to the center of his agenda. In addition to sparring with China, his team is in talks to rewrite the North America Free Trade Agreement with Mexico and Canada.

The timing of the NAFTA negotiations is tight: House Speaker Paul Ryan has said Congress must have an agreement by Thursday to have any hope of approving it this year. AP

X-TAIWANESE President Ma Ying-jeou was sentenced to four months in jail for leaking details of a criminal investigation while still in office, although the former Kuomintang leader could still avoid jail time by paying a fine or winning on appeal.

Taiwan's High Court yesterday found Ma, 67, guilty of violating the Communication Security and Surveillance Act, according to Lin Ruey-bin, high court division chief judge. Ma had been found not guilty of the charges by a Taipei district court last year, a verdict prosecutors appealed. Ma said he would appeal the decision in a statement released by his office after the verdict.

Ma could also avoid time in jail by paying a TWD120,000 (USD4,000) fine, pending approval from prosecutors.

The judge found that Ma had improperly disclosed a wiretapped June 2013 conversation between the former legislative speaker, Wang Jin-ping, and a Democratic Progressive Party lawmaker who had recently been acquitted of breach-of-trust allegations. Ma accused Wang of pressuring prosecutors not to appeal against the acquittal of the lawmaker, Ker Chien-ming.

While Wang was never indicted for wrongdoing, Ker sought charges against Ma for the leak. The former president was found to have broken the law by discussing details of the call with the then-premier and his deputy secretary general, according to the

BLOOMBERG

■ Ma could avoid time in jail by paying a USD4,000 fine, pending approval from prosecutors



Ma Ying-jeou

TAIWAN

Former president Ma sentenced for leaking information

court.

Ma, who governed from 2008 to 2016 and championed closer ties with China, became Taiwan's third consecutive president to face criminal charges after leaving office.

His predecessor, Chen Shui-bian, of the rival Democratic Progressive Party, was granted medical parole in 2015 while serving a 20-year prison sentence following his corruption conviction.

Lee Teng-hui, who oversaw Taiwan's transition to direct democracy as president from 1988 to 2000, was found not guilty of money laundering and embezzling government funds in November 2013.

Ma met with Chinese President Xi Jinping in 2015 in what was seen as a watershed moment for relations between the Communist Party and the Nationalists who had fled to Taiwan amid civil war in 1949. **MDT/Agencies**

Australia's leader backs foreign minister's work on China

AUSTRALIA'S prime minister yesterday rejected a former diplomat's opinion that the country needs a new foreign minister to thaw relations with China.

Geoff Raby, who was Australia's ambassador to Beijing from 2007 to 2011, used a scathing column in The Australian Financial Review newspaper to call for Foreign Minister Julie Bishop to be replaced.

"Since Australia decided to adopt a policy of strategic mistrust towards China, any resemblance of influence has waned to the point where relations are now in the freezer," wrote Raby, who now owns a business consultancy in Beijing.

Prime Minister Malcolm Turnbull backed Bishop, the deputy leader of his conservative Liberal Party, who has served as foreign minister since 2013.

"I was disappointed by that article. It's utterly wrong. Julie Bishop is doing an outstanding job," Turnbull told reporters.

"Every time she goes out on the world stage, she makes Australians proud. She's a formidable foreign minister, a great diplomat and a great colleague," he added.

Raby wrote that Bishop had not visited China, Australia's most important trade partner, in more than two years.

"She angered China by making the most strident public comments on the South China Sea of any foreign minister and last year, in an utterly bizarre speech in Singapore, said China was not fit for regional leadership," Raby wrote. He was referring to a speech Bishop gave in Singapore in which she said China can reach its full economic potential

only by embracing democracy.

"The prime minister needs to replace Ms. Bishop with someone better equipped for the demands of the job," Raby added.

Bishop later described Raby as "profoundly ignorant ... about the level of engagement between Australia and China at present and the state of the relationship."

"My Chinese counterpart and I are planning a meeting very shortly," Bishop told Australian Broadcasting Corp., referring to Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi. "So clearly the engagement at the highest levels is continuing."

While Bishop said she has not been to China since February 2016, she noted that Wang and Chinese Premier Li Keqiang visited Australia last year. Li visited to ask the go-

vernment to ratify an extradition treaty so that Chinese fugitives from China's anti-corruption campaign could no longer use Australia as a safe haven. But the treaty was shelved a week later because it was doomed to be blocked in the Senate over human rights concerns.

Bishop also said she had meetings with Wang on the sidelines of multinational forums including the United Nations General Assembly, East Asia Summit and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Turnbull said last month that "there is certainly some tension" in the bilateral relationship over his government's proposed legislation to ban foreign interference in Australian politics.

There had been "some misunderstandings and mischaracterization" of



Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop (left) and Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi in 2016

the legislation in the Chinese media, Turnbull told Melbourne Radio 3AW.

A top Australian diplomat told a Senate committee in March that the bilateral relationship was going through "complex and difficult issues," but rejected a media report of a diplomatic deep freeze.

Frances Adamson, secretary of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, described The Australian newspaper's headline — "Cold war: China's freeze on ties" — as "just wrong."

Bishop backed Adamson's assessment at the time.

China protested in December against Turnbull's announcement that Australia will ban foreign interference in its politics — either through espionage or financial donations. The move was motivated largely by Russia's alleged involvement in the 2016 U.S. election and China's growing influence on the global political landscape.

The Chinese foreign ministry said then that Turnbull's remarks were prejudiced against China and had poisoned the atmosphere of China-Australia relations. **AP**

INDONESIA

Family that bombed churches well off, friendly

Niniek Karmini, Surabaya

THE Muslim family that carried out suicide attacks on three churches in Indonesia's second-largest city, killing a dozen people as well as its two young daughters, lived comfortably in an upper-middle class suburb and was on friendly terms with a Christian neighbor.

The coordinated bombings on Sunday, followed on Monday by a suicide attack by another family on police headquarters in Surabaya, have horrified Indonesians who typically see their Muslim-majority country as diverse and tolerant.

Neighbors said there were no signs members of the family were planning the acts of violence that President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo condemned as "barbaric" and "beyond humanity." They had lived in the leafy Wonorejo Asri residential community since 2010 and had a good income from the father's business selling herbal medicines, the neighbors said.

According to police, on Sunday morning the two sons, aged 16 and 18, rode a motorcycle into a church courtyard and detonated their explosives. Puji Kuswati, the mother, attacked worshippers at another church with her daughters, aged 8 and 12, who police said were all wearing suicide vests. The father, Dita Oepriarto, detonated a car bomb outside a third church. Police initially gave his name

AP PHOTO



A Muslim woman weeps during the wake for Sri Pudji Astutik, one of the victims of Sunday's church attacks, at a funeral home in Surabaya

as Dita Futrianto but corrected that based on his national identity card. All six died.

Raith Yunanto, who lives two houses from the family, said they were always welcoming to her, a minority Christian. She said she went shopping with Kuswati at the local market and they often exchanged different types of food and fruit.

"There was nothing strange about the family, they were like other devout Muslim families," she said. "Their attitude and manner of dress were just like common Muslim people."

"It's difficult for us to accept how they can commit such a barbaric act against Christians," Yunanto said. "The couple visited me when I gave birth and when my children were sick."

She said she last saw members of the family when the daughters were riding bicycles with other children in front of her house on Saturday afternoon, the day before the bombings.

The eldest son, she said, was seen coming home from school activities wearing a colourful batik shirt that's symbolic of diversity in Indonesia, a country of more than 260 million with dozens of ethnic groups and languages.

Dendri Oemarti, Oepriarto's younger sister, was wracked with grief when she spoke to The Associated Press on Monday and said her elderly parents were in a state of shock.

"What he has done has hurt us so deeply," she said as tears flowed down her cheeks.

"What thoughts have influenced him? I do not understand. I do not know what changed my good brother to be so sadistic."

Oemarti said she was very angry when she first heard about the church attacks and that children had been used to carry them out.

"I fainted when my sister, Dina, told me that the attack was done by our own brother," she said.

The last time she met her brother and his family was during Ramadan in 2017. She said their lives were busy and they only met about once a year and didn't talk about religion.

Police initially said the family went to Syria to join the Islamic State group but later retracted that statement.

Oepriarto, they said, was the leader of the Surabaya cell of Jamaah Anshorut Daulah, an Indonesian network of extremist groups that is affiliated with IS.

According to police, Oepriarto was friends with the family that carried out Monday's poli-

ce headquarters bombing and a third family, three members of which died when homemade bombs exploded in their apartment on Sunday night.

The family's nextdoor neighbor, Abi Akbar, said Oepriarto and his sons, Yusuf and Firman, like nearly all Muslim men in the neighborhood, usually attended dawn prayers at an unremarkable local mosque.

But Akbar, 23, also said he had heard older men in the community comment that Oepriarto wasn't a mainstream Indonesian Muslim and objected to secular rituals such as raising the national flag or singing the Indonesian national anthem.

In retrospect, Akbar said, one thing was different at dawn prayers on Sunday. Instead of customarily kissing their father's hand after prayers, the boys and father hugged for a long time.

"They hugged like they were going to be separated," Akbar said. "But at that time we were not suspicious of anything because they are a family that is well known and normal."

Just a few hours later Oepriarto and his family and 12 other people were dead. More than 40 were injured.

Kenzi Tapy Gani, a 21-year-old university student who lived near the family, described Oepriarto as a "friendly and nice guy."

"We really didn't see it coming," he said. AP

Neighbors said there were no signs members of the family were planning the acts of violence

KOREAS

North to invite eight reporters from the South for nuke site closure

NORTH Korea will invite eight South Korean journalists as part of an international media group to witness the closure of its nuclear test site next week, the South's government said yesterday.

The site's closure would set up next month's historic summit between North Korean leader Kim Jong Un and President Donald Trump, which is shaping up to be a crucial moment in the global diplomatic push to resolve the nuclear standoff with the North.

Still, analysts say the closure wouldn't represent a material step toward full denuclearization.

North Korea's Foreign Ministry announced Saturday that journalists from

South Korea, the United States, China, Russia and Britain will be invited to observe the destruction of tunnels and the removal of observation and research facilities at the country's northeastern testing ground. It said the dismantling would take place between May 23 and 25.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said it was informed by the North yesterday that eight South Korean journalists will be invited. The North did not reveal the number of spots it will give to non-Korean journalists, according to the ministry.

The eight South Korean journalists — four each from a wire agency and a broadcaster that have yet to be determined — will

take a chartered flight from Beijing to the North Korean coastal town of Wonsan on May 22, the ministry said. The reporters will then be transported by a chartered train to the nuclear test site in Punggye-ri.

Kim has already declared his nuclear weapons and missile program as finished and the nuclear testing site's mission as completed. Some analysts question whether the dismantling of the site is aimed at destroying evidence.

While South Korea's presidential office had said that Kim told South Korean President Moon Jae-in during their summit last month that internatio-

nal experts will be invited to witness the closure, the North's Foreign Ministry statement on Saturday did not include any references to allowing experts at the site.

The two Koreas will hold a high-level meeting Wednesday at a border truce village to discuss setting up military and Red Cross talks aimed at reducing border tensions and restarting reunions between families separated by the Korean War.

Seoul's Unification Ministry said yesterday that the meeting will discuss ways to carry out peace commitments made during the inter-Korean summit. The discussions may also include setting



Protests near U.S. Embassy in Seoul yesterday

up working-level talks between the countries' sports officials over plans to field combined teams in some sports at the Asian Games in August.

After their April 27 meeting, Kim and Moon issued a vague vow for the "complete" denuclearization of the Korean Peninsula. They also agreed to stop all hostile acts over "land, sea and air" that can cause military tensions and clashes, establish a liaison office in the North Korean border town of Kaesong, and to resume temporary reunions between war-separated families.

South Korea, which

brokered the planned talks between Trump and Kim, says Kim has genuine interest in dealing away his nuclear weapons in return for economic benefits.

But there are lingering doubts about whether Kim will ever agree to fully relinquish his nukes. Pyongyang for decades has been pushing a concept of "denuclearization" that bears no resemblance to the American definition, vowing to pursue nuclear development unless Washington removes its 28,500 troops from South Korea and the nuclear umbrella defending South Korea and Japan. AP

Jim Gomez, Manila

LEGL groups called on Philippine legislators yesterday to defend their exclusive constitutional power to prosecute and try impeachable officials that they say was usurped by Supreme Court justices who ousted their chief judge last week.

Wearing black arm bands, leaders from legal and human rights groups staged a protest in front of the heavily guarded Supreme Court in Manila, carrying a streamer that read, "We dissent, resist authoritarianism, oppose attacks on judicial independence." A protester held up the scales of justice, with a mock sword piercing her white gown.

The protesters said the magistrates' 8-6 vote Friday to remove Chief Justice Maria Lourdes Sereno from the 15-member tribunal violated the country's constitution. They said it robbed the Senate and the House of Representatives of their constitutional power to prosecute and try top officials like Sereno and sparked legal dilemmas. Sereno was ousted for allegedly failing to file statements of assets and liabilities.

"It practically castrated the Senate by taking away its power to impeach. Now it's a few unelected justices who are deciding

PHILIPPINES

Congress urged to reject chief justice's ouster

AP PHOTO



which impeachable officials should be removed," human rights lawyer and former House of Representatives member Neri Colmenares told The Associated Press in an interview during the protest. "This is one of the worst days and one of the lowest moments not only of the Supreme Court but also as members of

Congress."

Jose Manuel Diokno, chairman of the nongovernment Free Legal Assistance Group, said the petition to oust Sereno that was filed by Solicitor-General Jose Calida, called "quo warranto," set the judiciary on a collision course with the House and Senate. It pre-empted months of

impeachment actions against Sereno in Congress, he said.

The entire House was set to vote on impeachment charges accusing Sereno of corruption, breach of public trust and other serious crimes. Sereno has denied any wrongdoing but President Rodrigo Duterte and his officials said she breached the law prior to her entry in the Supreme Court and should not have been designated chief justice by



This is one of the worst days not only of the Supreme Court but also [...] of Congress.

NERI COLMENARES
HUMAN RIGHTS LAWYER

Duterte's predecessor, Benigno Aquino III, in 2012.

Sereno was ousted by her fellow justices before the House was able to vote on the impeachment charges and send them to the Senate. The Senate was preparing to turn itself into an impeachment court to try Sereno, who has gone on a two-month leave from the court to prepare for her impeachment defense.

Even Duterte's allies in the 24-member Senate did not agree with the ruling that ousted Sereno. Senate President Aquilino Pimentel III said Sereno can be removed only by the House and Senate in an impeachment process.

Asked by reporters what steps the Senate would take after the Supreme Court ousted Sereno, Pimentel told them to direct their questions to the House. "The Senate is ready. If [charges] are filed, we will constitute ourselves as an impeachment court," Pimentel said. "The Senate as an impeachment court is passive. We will wait for action by the House."

In reply to another question, Pimentel said any senator is free to file a resolution against the Supreme Court ruling, which can be used to support any appeal against the Supreme Court decision that booted Sereno. AP

AD

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Save on your grocery bills by swapping expensive pre-packaged items for 'whole' foods and pantry staples. Plus, Thermomix has an advanced heating system that cooks with minimized energy consumption, so you can enjoy savings on your household bills!

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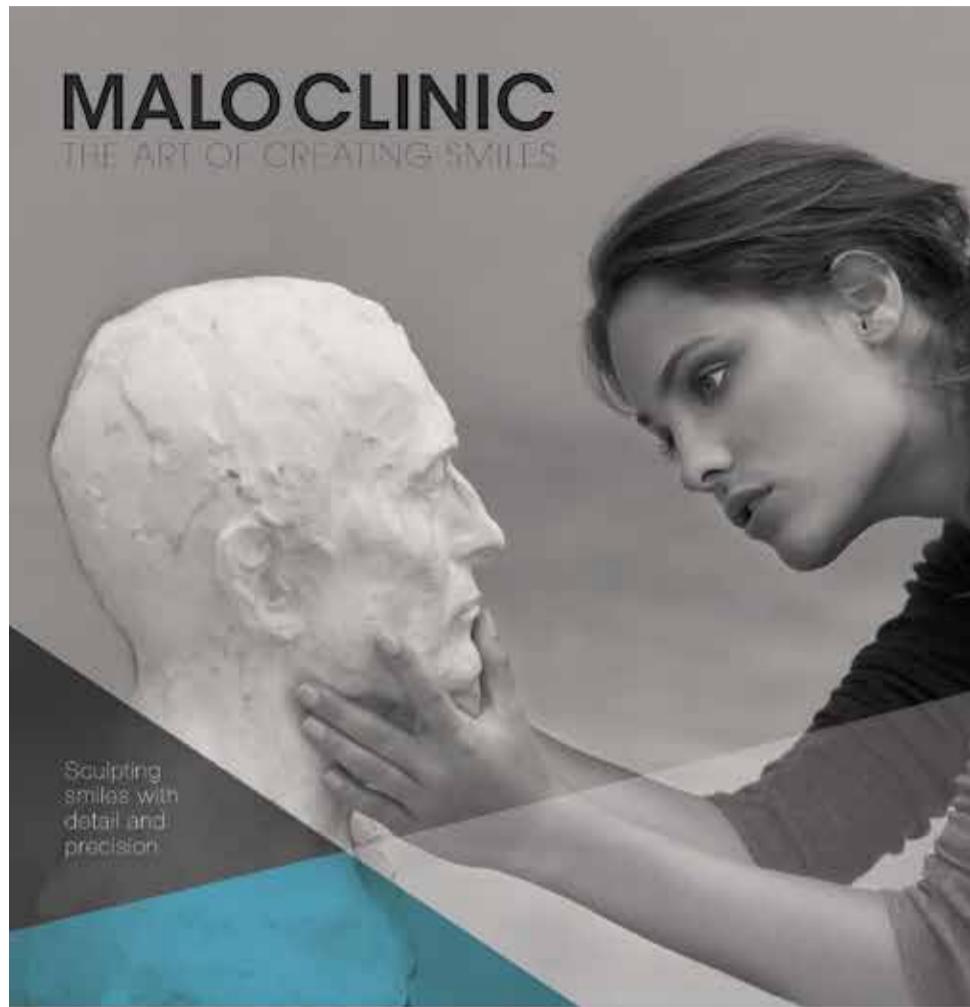
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Phone Number : +853 6668 1771.

AD



Dear patients and friends of Taivex Malo Hospital Dental Clinic/Macau MALO CLINIC,

We at Macau MALO CLINIC Dental Care would like to apologize to you all.

The Macau Health Bureau has notified the hospital to stop all operations for 6 months, thus the dental clinic won't be able to provide you with dental services either.

We apologize for any inconvenience this may have caused you.

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

- A. Go to one of our 18 MALO CLINIC clinics in Mainland China, all of which, together with Macau MALO CLINIC, operate under MALO CLINIC China Management, following the exact standards and medical protocols as any international MALO CLINIC.
- Macau MALO CLINIC will provide the transport to and from our clinics in Guangzhou or Shenzhen. Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings in all MALO CLINICS in China, as well as follow-up and medical records will be provided to our colleagues in China.
- B. For all patients who will be in Portugal during this period, Macau MALO CLINIC will manage the necessary bookings, follow-up and patients' medical records to our colleagues in any MALO CLINIC in Portugal.
- C. For those patients who are willing to wait for MALO CLINIC in Macau to proceed with the treatments, we are putting all our efforts in finding a partnering healthcare organization at the moment in order to continue our practice.

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

Office phone: 8802 2208 / 8802 2206 Cellphone: 09853-6826 9099 Wechat: MALODENTAL853 Email: service.mtkc@maloclinics.com.cn Website: http://www.maloclinic.com.cn
(Can be contacted at any time)

Once again, we would like to apologize for all the inconvenience this has put on you all.

Thank you all for your understanding and support.

We hope to find solutions for everyone's cases as soon as possible so that we may keep providing quality dental service to you all.

Yours Sincerely,

WORLDWIDE
Guimaraes | Oporto | Gaia | Aveiro | Coimbra | Sintra | Cascais | Lisbon | Almada | Portimao | Faro | Funchal | Windsor | Verona | Mönchengladbach | Oslo | Warsaw | Gdańsk | Athens | Ioannina | New York | Rutherford | Jersey City | Elizabeth | Miami | Portland | Toronto | Montreal | Trois-Rivières | Brossard | Bogotá | Melbourne | Sydney | Perth | Brisbane | Hobart | Gold Coast | Lumina | Tel Aviv | Ramat-HaSharon | Dubai | Karachi | Chennai | Macao | Hong Kong | Beijing | Shanghai | Guangzhou | Shenzhen | Taiyuan | Zhengzhou | Chengdu | Qingdao | Hainan | Shenyang | Fuzhou | Hangzhou | Tokyo | Sapporo | Bangkok | Phuket | Singapore



AP PHOTO



UK

Markle seeks respect for dad after report he'll skip wedding

Gregory Katz, London

BRITAIN'S Prince Harry and Meghan Markle are requesting "understanding and respect" for Markle's father after a celebrity news site reported he would not attend the royal wedding to walk his daughter down the aisle, Kensington Palace said yesterday [Macau time].

A palace statement on "this difficult situation" did not confirm the TMZ report that Thomas Markle had decided not to attend Saturday's wedding at St. George's Chapel on the grounds of Windsor Castle. The palace said earlier it would not comment on the report, and its statement did not clarify if the bride's father would or would not be at the wedding.

"This is a deeply personal moment for Ms. Markle in the days before her wedding," the palace statement said. "She and Prince Harry ask again for understanding and respect to be extended to Mr. Markle in this difficult situation."

TMZ said Thomas Markle was upset over the way his decision to have staged paparazzi photos taken of him preparing for the wedding has been

received and decided to miss the wedding to avoid embarrassing his daughter and the royal family.

The site also said he suffered a heart attack less than a week ago, and was returning to the hospital Monday with more chest pains.

The palace had announced last week that Thomas Markle and his ex-wife, Doria Ragland, would play important roles in the wedding. Both were expected to meet Queen Elizabeth II and other senior royals in the days before the wedding.

Thomas Markle and Ragland divorced when their daughter was 6-years-old, but they both played an active role raising her. He spent many years supervising the lighting and camera crew for the "Married...With Children" television show and often brought young Meghan to the set at Sunset Gower Studios. Since retired, he has been living in Mexico. The Associated Press has been unable to reach him for comment.

Thomas Markle was set to walk Meghan down the aisle during the church ceremony, and Ragland plans to ride to the chapel with her daughter. Both were to be entertained this week by the queen

and other senior royals, including Prince Charles and Prince William.

TMZ said the father had a change of heart over the weekend after the British press reported he was paid to pose for photos that showed him getting measured for his wedding suit and making other preparations.

According to TMZ, he told the website he regretted allowing the pictures to be taken and acknowledged they looked "stupid." The website reported that he said money was not his primary motivation for agreeing to be photographed and he was opting to miss the wedding to avoid embarrassing his daughter and the royal family.

Meghan Markle's half-sister, Samantha, tweeted that she is to blame for the photo debacle.

"The bad press over my father doing staged photos is my fault," she tweeted. "The media was unfairly making him look bad so I suggested he do positive photos for his benefit and the benefit of the royal family."

Meghan Markle is estranged from her half-sister, who has not been expected to attend the nuptials, and from her half-brother. **AP**

Josh Lederman & Matthew Lee,
Washington

PRESIDENT Donald Trump's prospects for brokering the Mideast peace "deal of the century" plunged ever deeper as the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem opened amid bloodshed in Gaza. The day fueled global concern that U.S. policies are tipping the broader Middle East into deeper, intractable conflict.

At the same time, Trump is winning international support for his efforts to strike a deal with nuclear-armed North Korea. But his contentious decisions in the Middle East are roiling a region where U.S. administrations have traditionally sought perhaps their biggest diplomatic prize: an elusive peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians.

The embassy move, which Trump hailed a "great day" for Israel even as dozens of Palestinians were killed in Gaza, damaged Washington's stature as a mediator between those parties. And it's but the latest in a series of U.S. decisions that may have set off a domino effect of unpredictable consequences.

CHINA CALLS ON ISRAEL TO EXERCISE RESTRAINT

CHINA IS calling on Israel to exercise restraint along its border with Gaza a day after 58 Palestinians were killed in a protest. Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang said yesterday that China "opposes violent acts targeting innocent people" and urges all sides to avoid escalating tensions. Lu said China believes

Gaza bloodshed spurs global worry about US Mideast policies

"Traditionally we've tried to play a role of fireman in the Middle East. Now we're playing the role of arsonist," said Ilan Goldenberg, a former State Department and Pentagon official who runs the Mideast program at the Center for a New American Security.

Trump's withdrawal last week from the Iran nuclear deal, against the protestations of European allies, appears to have emboldened both Israel and Iran to move more forcefully toward full-on confrontation. In Syria, Trump's eagerness to pull out U.S. troops as soon as the Islamic State group is defeated has forced a reckoning by Iran's enemies about the possibility that Tehran will fill the void.

Dan Shapiro, a former U.S. ambassador to Israel, said Washington is not responsible for the fact that Iran acts as "the major source of tension and instability in the region." But he said the question is

AP PHOTO



Israeli Arab Knesset members and left wing activists participate in protest against the opening of the new US embassy in Jerusalem

whether Trump's administration, having pulled out of the nuclear deal, has a strategy to deal with Iran in its absence.

Shapiro, who is now at the Institute for National Security Studies in Israel, said that while some U.S. allies like Israel and Saudi Arabia have celebrated the pullout, the reaction "will soon be followed by some degree of concern about whether the administration is sufficiently focused, prepared, staffed and able to devote the necessary attention when it's also managing another major foreign policy challenge in North Korea at the same time."

U.S. officials insist the administration remains committed to restarting the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace process. In a speech at the embassy opening, Trump's

son-in-law, senior adviser Jared Kushner, said the U.S. "is prepared to support a peace agreement in every way we can."

Left unsaid was the fact that Kushner's team has had to shelve Trump's long-awaited peace plan indefinitely amid the Palestinian uproar over the embassy move, several U.S. officials have said. Since Trump in December recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital and announced the embassy would move, the Palestinians have effectively cut off all ties with the White House, a diplomatic chill that augurs poorly for the possibility that Trump can now introduce a plan the Palestinians would accept or deem fair.

"We're going through a rough patch," U.S. Ambassador to Israel David Friedman said yesterday

on Fox News. "It'll last as long as it lasts. I can't predict, but we will be back in a position I'm confident where we'll be discussing peace."

White House spokesman Raj Shah said the peace plan will be released "at the appropriate time."

That time, by all accounts, is not now. Responding to the embassy opening, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat dismissed Washington as "no longer a partner and a broker."

"We will not sit with them," Erekat said. "They have become part of the problem not part of the solution, a big part of the problem. Trump's administration is the biggest problem."

The White House response to the deaths of dozens of Palestinians at the hands of Israeli troops during mass protests on the Israel-Gaza border won't help. The administration called the deaths "tragic" but said they were the fault of Hamas, which controls Gaza and has fomented the protests. It voiced strong support for Israel's right to self-defense.

The renewed Gaza violence has created the unsettling but real possibility that Israel — far from enjoying a new era of peace with its neighbors — could soon find itself fighting wars on two fronts: with the Hamas militants who run the coastal Gaza Strip, and with Iranian troops and Iran-backed Hezbollah fighters in Syria. AP

CANNES

Spike Lee lambasts Trump over white supremacists

IN a passionate, expletive-ridden monologue at the Cannes Film Festival, director Spike Lee lambasted Donald Trump for the U.S. president's response to last year's violent white supremacist protest in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Lee spoke to reporters yesterday after his "BlacKkKlansman" premiered at Cannes to a rousing standing ovation.

The 1979-set film, loosely based on a true story, is about black police detective Ron Stallworth (played by John David Washington, Denzel's son) and a Jewish detective (Adam Driver) who together infiltrated a Ku Klux Klan cell in Colorado. Topher Grace plays former KKK leader David Duke.

The 61-year-old filmmaker said that following the violence in Charlottesville, the U.S. president had

the opportunity to denounce the Ku Klux Klan and the alt-right. But Trump instead chose to say there was "blame on both sides" in the unrest between the neo-Nazi groups and counter-protesters.

He said Trump — whom he refused to call by name — had "a chance to say we are about love and not hate," and sharply criticized him for not denouncing the KKK.

"It was a defining moment and he could have said to the United States and the world that we're better than that," said Lee.

"BlacKkKlansman," produced by Jordan Peele [director of "Get Out"], concludes by connecting the period tale with today. It ends with actual footage from Charlottesville, as well as Trump's televised response. The final image is an upside-down Ameri-

can flag that fades to black and white.

Focus Features will release the film in August, on the year anniversary of Charlottesville.

Having already wrapped the film, Lee added the Charlottesville coda after the unrest last summer.

"Right away, I knew that this had to be the coda for the film, but I had to do something first," said Lee. Before inserting footage of the car that plowed through crowds in Virginia, killing counter-protester Heather Heyer, Lee said he telephoned Heyer's mother.

"I was not going to put that murder scene in the film without her blessing," said Lee.

Lee called Charlottesville an "ugly, ugly, ugly blemish on America," but he also repeatedly stressed to the international Can-

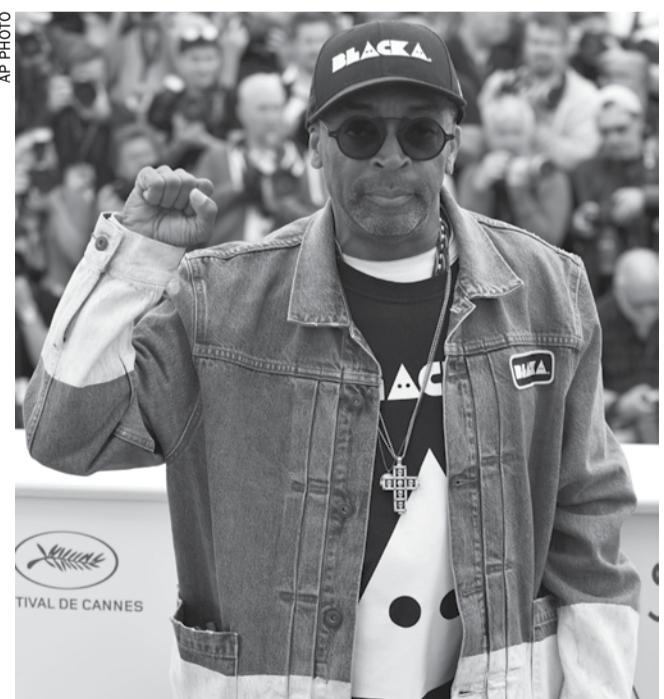
nes media that the racism depicted in "BlacKkKlansman" isn't unique to the United States.

"This right-wing [expletive] is not just America. It's all over the world. And we have to wake up," said Lee. "We can't be silent. It's not black, white, or brown. It's everybody. We all live on this planet, and this guy in the White House has the nuclear code. I go to bed thinking about it."

At the premiere, Lee was outfitted in a shiny purple-and-orange tuxedo and wore one ring declaring "love" on one hand, and "hate" on the other, paying homage to the jewelry won by the character Radio Raheem in his previous film "Do the Right Thing." He bounced into the premiere at the Palais announcing: "Brooklyn's in the house!"

Lee has frequently debu-

AP PHOTO



Spike Lee in Cannes yesterday

ted films at Cannes, including "Do the Right Thing" in 1989.

He hopes "BlacKkKlansman" "shakes people from

their slumber."

"I know it in my heart," said Lee. "We're on the right side of history with this film." AP

what's ON

...

LA PARISIENNE – CABARET FRANCAISE

TIME: 8pm (Tuesdays to Fridays)

2pm & 8pm (Saturdays)

2pm & 5pm (Sundays)

UNTIL: June 17, 2018

VENUE: Parisian Theatre, Parisian Macau

ADMISSION: MOP188, MOP388, MOP488

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2882 8818 / 2855 5555

DISCOVER MACAU: MUSEUM OF TAIPA AND COLOANE HISTORY

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

ADDRESS: Rua Correia da Silva, Taipa

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8988 4000

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

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

CATALOGUE EXHIBITION IN CELEBRATION OF THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF MACAO MUSEUM

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Fridays)

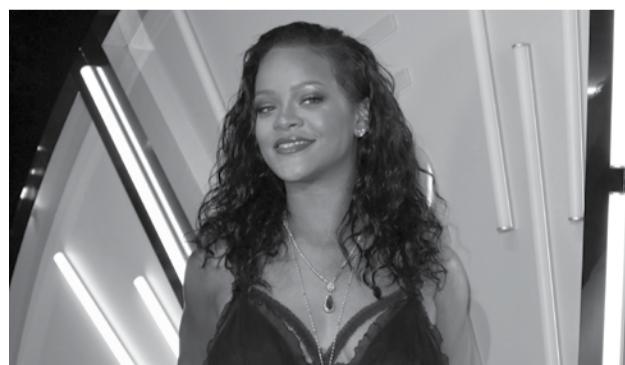
UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

Offbeat

MAN CHARGED WITH STALKING RIHANNA, BURGLARIZING HER HOME

Authorities say a man who broke into Rihanna's Hollywood Hills home and spent 12 hours there has been charged with stalking the singer, who was not at home at the time.

Los Angeles County prosecutors say 26-year-old Eduardo Leon of Fullerton was charged yesterday with felony counts of stalking, burglary and vandalism, and a misdemeanor count of resisting arrest.

He appeared in court and pleaded not guilty to all of the charges.

Rihanna is accused of climbing over a fence and breaking into the house on May 9. Authorities say her assistant found him and called police.

TV canal macau

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

this day in history**1974 DOZENS DIE AS ISRAEL RETALIATES FOR MA'ALOT**

Israeli planes have bombed seven Palestinian refugee camps and villages in southern Lebanon killing at least 27 people and leaving 138 injured.

The attack was in retaliation for yesterday's hostage crisis at a school in Ma'alot near the Lebanon border in which 18 teenagers were killed and 70 were wounded.

Worst hit by the Israeli fighter-bombers were the crowded refugee camps of Ein El Helweh near the city of Sidon and Nabatieh.

An official announcement from the Israeli Defence Force said the planes had been aiming at offices and training bases used by the Popular Democratic Front, led by Nayef Hawatmeh, and the Popular Front under Ahmed Jibril.

The PDF was behind the killing of the schoolchildren at Ma'alot - and the Popular Front planned the shooting of 16 civilians in Kiryat Shemona on 10 April.

Two nights ago, three Palestinian Arabs dressed as Israeli soldiers took over the school at Ma'alot.

There were more than 100 children aged between 14 and 16 sleeping there on the floor after a day's hiking in the region. Some managed to escape through an open door.

The Israeli Government agreed to the hostage-takers' demands to release 26 political prisoners, including a Japanese national involved in the Lod airport massacre.

But negotiations fell apart when the hostage-takers did not receive a coded message they were waiting for from Damascus.

On 15 May at 1745 local time - 15 minutes before they had said they would kill all the children if their demands were not met - Israeli soldiers raided the school building.

Eighteen children and the three Palestinians were killed in a bloody gun battle.

There were emotional scenes today at the funeral of the children in their home town of Safed.

Many of the 10,000 mourners wailed and some shouted: "Death to the terrorists!"

The Ma'alot tragedy has severely hampered peace efforts by US Secretary of State Dr Henry Kissinger. He has flown from Jerusalem to Damascus to meet Syrian leaders in the hope of reaching some kind of compromise over Israel's occupation of the Golan Heights.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It was attacks like the one at Ma'alot that led Israeli troops to invade Southern Lebanon in 1978. They pulled back to a self-declared "security zone" in 1985 from which they withdrew in May 2000.

The Popular Democratic Front, now known as the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, continued its operations during the late 1970s, and saw a steady increase in its membership.

But it began to distance itself from the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), and continued to oppose any kind of peace process.

In the late 1990s its leader, Naif Hawatmeh, sought reconciliation with mainstream Palestinians. In February 1999, he shocked hardline Palestinians by shaking hands with the Israeli President Ezer Weizman at the funeral of King Hussein of Jordan.

cinema**CINETEATRO**

13 - 16 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 TROUGH

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)

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

It's time to relax and have some fun - not alone, but not in a crowd of thousands, either. You want to have some fun, but you probably also want to spend your time with just one quality person.



Taurus

April 20-May 20

You're due to catch someone's eye - and touch their heart, too - in a very, very nice way, thanks to the heavens, who are in a tender, romantic mood. As a result, your already sensual nature will be running on high.



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Thinking about going somewhere? With a partner? Well, it's no surprise - and what a great time to start planning! A romantic, partner-oriented vibe inspires you to begin quite the passionate love affair.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Family matters could be tricky, but that won't keep you from getting involved, and possibly being able to solve something that's been ignored for far too long. This ability to mediate will come to you courtesy of the moon.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

When you least expect it, a burst of anger could change the tone of a conversation that started out sane, respectable and downright civil. Your mission, then, should you choose to accept it.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

You've probably already got more penciled into your book for the weekend than you can possibly pull off - that is, unless you're careful with your time - and, of course, we all know you are.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Communication is the name of the game - secret stuff, though, at least for starters. That one little clandestine meeting you've been pondering? The one that your intuition is pretty sure couldn't hurt a thing?



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Things have been kind of crazy lately, and your loved ones haven't been sure what to do with you. That's why your phone has been ringing off the hook. You've done your job.



Pisces

Feb. 19-Mar. 20

Today's energy is in a peace-loving, cooperative mood, inspiring one and all to make amends and deliver or accept apologies. If you've been feeling the need to try to put an end to a dispute,

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

An elder relative or authority figure who's had their eye on you for awhile now is just about ready to let you know how well you've done - especially based on recent stressful situations that you've passed through with flying colors.



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, and asking for recommendations.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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	5				7	3						
			7	6	9							
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		6	9	5	1							

Easy+

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	4	1										3

Medium

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Hard

6		9		2	5							
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				7								
2	4							7	8	3		

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cobb, e.g.; 6- Give guns again; 11- Female fowl; 14- Writer Jong; 15- ____ vincit amor; 16- Blood letters; 17- Vacant; 18- Shed ____; 19- Belief system; 20- Old Fords; 22- Carrying; 24- Stony; 28- Coupling; 30- Choose by divine election; 31- "The Family Circus" cartoonist Bil; 32- Putting to work; 33- Anxiety; 37- Fa follower; 38- Quit; 39- Summer sign; 40- Of times past; 43- Sublease; 45- Goatlike antelope; 46- Contiguous with; 47- Deal with poison ivy, in a way; 50- Deceive; 51- On one's toes; 52- French actor Jacques; 53- Female rabbit; 54- Pays to play; 57- Gloomy, in poetry; 62- Off-road wheels, for short; 63- Toothed wheels; 64- Ahead of time; 65- Common article; 66- Spine-tingling; 67- Thick;

DOWN: 1- Date; 2- Human limb; 3- Guff; 4- Do something; 5- Lasting all day; 6- Highways, e.g.; 7- CPR experts; 8- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 9- Narrow inlet; 10- Cocktail; 11- Port-au-Prince is its capital; 12- Clampett player; 13- Chinese menu phrase; 21- Boy king; 23- Utah city; 24- Temporary stop; 25- Belgian painter James; 26- Works hard; 27- Tin Tin; 28- As such; 29- Bern's river; 31- Australian marsupial; 33- Place on a scale; 34- "Dallas" matriarch; 35- lift?; 36- Lugged; 38- Modish; 41- Boris Godunov, for one; 42- Amount of power needed to light a bulb, e.g.; 43- Lived; 44- Night school subj.; 46- Mouthpiece of a bridle; 47- 1978 Nobel sharer; 48- Fabric; 49- Actor Christopher; 50- Pool stroke; 52- TV's Hatcher; 55- Society-page word; 56- Sailor; 58- Arctic explorer John; 59- East ender?; 60- Capp and Capone; 61- Deli bread;

Yesterday's solution



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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	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		



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3,398 sq ft / HKD 21M
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Three Bedroom Apartment
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Macau
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Available From - June 2018
HKD 15,500 / 1,173 sq ft
Ref: 18030671

Caçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court
Macau
2,000 sq ft / HKD 11.5M
HKD 5,750sq ft
Fabulous Designer Kitchen
Ref: 18035547

Fountainside
Macau
3 Bedrooms Apartment
Modern Interior
HKD 25,000 / 1,712 sq ft
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News At Hand

D2 club 4th Year anniversary
White Sensation

June 9th 2018
dress code: white

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BBAM
澳門英國商會
British Business Association of Macao

Business Luncheon

Thursday 24th May
with
Guest Speaker:
Ms Maria Helena de Senna Fernandes
Director, Macau Government Tourism Office

MACAO YEAR OF GASTRONOMY:

An up-date on Macao designated
as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy

The designation of Macao as a Creative City of Gastronomy showcases Macao's vast culinary heritage and vibrant contemporary gastronomic scene. Macao Government Tourism Office launched the "2018 Macao Year of Gastronomy" with a line-up of promotional activities and celebrations. To complement this, an array of action plans is designed to preserve and revive the city's cultural legacy with elements of gastronomy as key enhancers.

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

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

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

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

MACAU CLOSER

生活藝術雜誌 LIVING & ARTS MAGAZINE

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廚藝珍寶
Culinary Treasures

Jerome Pugmire, Paris

Thursday, 2:45am
Marseille v Atletico Madrid
H 6, D 3.84, A 1.73

AFTER a 25-year wait, Marseille has a chance to win another European trophy.

The French club, which won the inaugural Champions League title, will face Atletico Madrid today [Thursday, 2:45am] in the Europa League final. Both the title and a spot in next season's Champions League will be on the line in Lyon.

Marseille is the only French club to have won the Champions League, and the players are constantly reminded of that night in 1993 when Marseille beat AC Milan 1-0 on a header from defender Basile Boli.

"When you arrive here at the club," Marseille defender Rolando said, "the first thing you see is [a photo of] Boli's header."

Marseille loves to taunt French rival Paris Saint-Germain about the fact that the capital club has never won the Champions League, but it is becoming a tiring refrain. The time to stop harping on about past glory and deliver another trophy has come, especially after a pair of UEFA Cup final losses in 1999 and 2004.

There is added significance for Marseille in regard to the venue.

Players from Lyon and Marseille fought during a league game this season and the club presidents have traded heated barbs. And with one match to go in the French season, Marseille trails third-place Lyon by one point with only the top three headed to the Champions League.

Animosity between the fans dates back to 2013, when 17 were injured during a violent altercation at a motorway gas station.

FOOTBALL

After 25 years, Marseille looking to win in Europe again

AP PHOTO



Marseille's coach Rudi Garcia



Atletico's Diego Simeone

Lyon's hooligan fringe has been active in European matches for several seasons, and police will be on alert for potential clashes with Marseille's feisty ultras in the city.

Stephane Bouillon, the top state representative in the Lyon area, said Monday that exceptional security measures will be implemented for the game, with 1,250 police officers deployed. In addition, a helicopter and two vehicles equipped with water cannons will be patrolling the area.

Marseille players have been urging their fans to refrain from vandalism inside the stadium.

"I hope it stays within the boundaries of football and there isn't any damage," Marseille defender Adil Rami said. "I hope we're all intelligent enough not to ruin this party."

Marseille last reached a European final 14 years ago — in the UEFA Cup — but Atletico has enjoyed a far stronger European presence in recent times. This decade alone, Atletico has twice won the Europa League — previously the UEFA Cup — and twice reached the Champions League final.

"This team has the character and personality needed to win," Atletico midfielder Gabi Fernandez said. "The only thing we have in mind is winning."

While coach Diego Simeone's side will be favored, Marseille counterpart Rudi Garcia has instilled a steely resolve in his players. That was evident in the semifinal win over Austrian club Salzburg, when Rolando scored the decisive goal deep in injury time.

"Since the start of the campaign, Garcia has said we're going all the way," Rolando said. "Even though we had to get through the playoffs, he still said 'No, no. We will get there. Get that inside your heads.' He was right."

Garcia cleverly used the Europa League to get fringe players more involved, convincing them to think of themselves as important members of the squad.

"That's our strength: everyone feels important," Marseille midfielder Morgan Sanson said. "He's proved to everyone that this works."

Sanson and diminutive midfield partner Maxime Lopez form a skillful fulcrum in the middle. They forced their way into the side via the long Europa League campaign — this will be Marseille's 19th European game of the

season and 62nd overall.

The 20-year-old Lopez is a product of Marseille's flourishing youth academy. When Marseille lost to Bayern Munich in the 2010 Champions League quarterfinals, Lopez was a club ball boy. He is a Marseille local fulfilling his dream to wear the jersey.

"If we win, I'm going to dye my hair blue," Lopez said. "I wasn't even born in 1993. My father was there, and still to this day he tells me what it was like. It will be a dream if we can repeat this. We know the fervor in Marseille. It's a question of pride for me, my family and the whole city."

Motivation is one thing, but getting past Atletico's defense is quite another. And so is keeping Atletico's strike force quiet.

France striker Antoine Griezmann, who has 27 goals this season, leads Atletico's attack alongside Diego Costa.

Rami, who won the Europa League with Sevilla in 2016, knows what to expect from Costa.

"I've played a few times against him and it's always been a good scrap," Rami said. "I'll try to be ready for this combat."

Atletico's defense also faces a tough time stopping Marseille winger Florian Thauvin, who has 26 goals in all competitions. He forms a strong partnership with attacking midfielder Dimitri Payet, the French league's best passer this season along with Paris Saint-Germain forward Neymar. AP

GOLF

Danielle Kang enjoying 'freedom' after winning Women's PGA

IT has been almost a year since Danielle Kang won the KPMG Women's PGA Championship, and her life looks pretty much the same.

Kang still has the same friends, everyone from fellow LPGA star Michelle Wie to hockey Hall of Famer Wayne Gretzky. She remains active on social media, delighting her Instagram followers with a peek at her life on and off the course. She continues to work on her game.

But there has been one major change for the 25-year-old player since

her first LPGA Tour victory.

"Trying to force a win for the last few years and trying to just get it done, trying to win before my dad passed away, all of that was so hard on me," Kang said. "But finally just having that win just gives me this freedom. I can breathe. I feel free from myself. I can just be myself and just play golf like I used to."

Kang's father, K.S., died of cancer in 2013. She returned to Chicago this week for a promotional event ahead of this summer's Women's PGA

Championship at Kemper Lakes. She took on former Chicago Bulls forward Toni Kukoc in a closest-to-the-pin contest on a small green floating in the Chicago River.

After a few successful practice shots, rain started to fall and wind began to swirl around the surrounding skyscrapers. Each player came up empty during the actual competition.

"It was really difficult to hit the green and make it stay on the green," a chuckling Kang said. "It's very windy, but it's definitely fun."

The conditions were much better when Kang shot a 3-under 68 in the final round at Olympia Fields last July for her first win in her 144th LPGA start. She birdied the final hole to thwart a challenge by defending champion Brooke Henderson.

Kang's previous best finish in a major was a tie for 14th in the 2012 U.S. Women's Open.

"That week, my golf game stands out to me, to be honest," Kang said. "I know a lot of different shots that I hit. I have memorable shot

AP PHOTO



Danielle Kang hits golf balls at River Point Park onto a huge floating green on the Chicago River

moments, and it wasn't just on Sunday."

The victory was one of a career-high six top-10 finishes for Kang in 2017. She also earned more than USD1 million in a season for the first time, and went 3-1-0 in her first appearance for the U.S. in the Solheim Cup.

It has been a mixed bag so far this year. She finished in a four-way tie for second in the Women's World Championship in March, one stroke behind Wie. But she has struggled in five starts since Singapore, missing the cut twice and finishing outside the top 50 three times. AP

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



CARS OF THE FUTURE

I firmly believe that Macau should be a showcase for "living in the future". The region needs a place that is innovative and creative and shows what life can be like, and there are several benefits in Macau being that place. For example, it would greatly improve the quality of life of locals, and can be a foundation for diversifying the economy – we can sell expertise in new technologies and improved living to other places in the region. We are rich enough to live in the future in Macau, and it is small enough that implementing the future here is affordable. We also have the large number of tourists needed to generate demand for what we have in other parts of Asia.

One obvious major change that is coming is autonomous driverless vehicles. They will completely transform transportation for the movement of people and goods and I have talked about this change in these pages already – Driverless Macau, 2016 – but it is now much closer to reality. We need to remember the old adage that people over-estimate the changes that will occur in the coming year and under-estimate the changes that will occur in the next 5 years.

Some mines in Australia and elsewhere have been operating fleets of remotely controlled dump trucks for some years, and autonomous trains as well. (I understand that now more than half of the ore trains traveling on the Hamersley & Robe River Railway have no people on board.)

In North America and elsewhere, well over 25 cities have permitted driverless taxi experiments for a number of years. The major companies developing these technologies have collectively driven millions of public road test miles. Waymo and Uber alone have driven more than 5 million and 2 million test miles, respectively, with a driver just sitting in the vehicle to take over in case of emergencies. During this extensive testing there have only been a handful of accidents and a couple of fatalities. This performance is significantly better than the comparable performance of human drivers.

In Asia we are also just starting to get into the act, and driverless taxi experiments have been authorized in both Shanghai and Beijing, and some limited testing has begun in Singapore. Baidu, among other Asian companies, is investing extensively in driverless vehicles and other Artificial Intelligence technologies, but they are still a long way behind their American counterparts.

Waymo has recently been awarded the first license to operate truly driverless taxis in Phoenix, Arizona and they currently seem to be in the process of buying a fleet of vehicles to start operations soon. I am sure that we will see a spurt of cities authorizing similar services in the next few years.

In Macau, if they ever get it completed, the light rail system will supposedly operate driverlessly, but the MTR in Hong Kong was designed to have remotely operated trains in the 1980's, and has done so ever since (the on-train staff have only ever controlled closing the train doors!).

In Macau we have a perfect opportunity to be among the first cities in Asia to permit driverless taxi experiments, but we seem to be hung up with trivial changes to existing taxi regulations to revoke the licensing of "bad apple" drivers. We could also be among the first cities to have a few driverless Grand Prix races but this has never been discussed. When are we going to get government officials and other community leaders with real vision who are willing to push through innovation and change and make us truly a "city of the future"?

THE BUZZ AP TO OFFER ELECTION VOTER SURVEY TO REPLACE EXIT POLLS

The Associated Press says it will begin conducting an elaborate election voter survey designed to replace the traditional in-person exit poll.

Exit polls have been criticized in recent years for inaccuracy and failing to keep up with changes in how Americans vote. The AP's new system will rely on online surveys and telephone questioning, replacing the person with a clipboard who buttonholes voters after they come out of

polling places.

The AP said yesterday that its new VoteCast service will be more reliable because far more people will be interviewed than for existing exit polls.

It's a bold and potentially risky move for the news cooperative, which has until recently pooled resources with television networks to conduct polling in major elections.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	25-45 Good
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good
Ambient	25-45 Good

SOURCE: DSGM

WORLD BRIEFS



SYRIA Government forces are in full control of the last rebel enclave in Syria's largest province after "overpowering terrorism" following the evacuation of thousands of armed men and civilians, an officer told state-run TV yesterday.

ETHIOPIA A Swedish doctor who had been imprisoned in his native Ethiopia on charges of corruption and terrorism has been freed.

GERMANY A court has dismissed a television comedian's appeal of a ruling that prohibits him from repeating elements of a crude poem he wrote about Turkish President Recep Tayyip Erdogan.

SLOVAKIA President Andrej Kiska says he will not seek a second term in office in next year's presidential election. The 55-year-old Kiska announced his decision yesterday, saying he wants to spend more time with his family.



VENEZUELA A dozen countries from the Americas and Spain are urging the Venezuelan government to cancel the presidential election scheduled for May 20.

MEXICO Prosecutors say police and soldiers have detained the chief operator for the Sinaloa drug cartel in the northern border city of Nogales, across the border from Arizona.



US Tom Wolfe, the white-suited wizard of "New Journalism" who exuberantly chronicled American culture from the Merry Pranksters through the space race before turning his satiric wit to such novels as "The Bonfire of the Vanities" and "A Man in Full," has died. He was 88.

Modigliani painting fetches obscene amount at auction

AP PHOTO



The 1917 oil painting, "Nu couche (sur le cote gauche)" by Amedeo Modigliani

Verena Dobnik, New York

A 1917 painting by Amedeo Modigliani of a reclining nude woman that was once considered obscene in Paris sold for over USD157 million at an auction in Manhattan yesterday [Macau time].

"Nu couche (sur le cote gauche)" was the highlight of Sotheby's "Impressionist & Modern Art" sale featuring Pablo Picasso works spanning seven decades, and paintings by Claude Monet, Edvard Munch and Georgia O'Keeffe.

Modigliani shocked Europe at the turn of the 19th century with his series of 22 nudes reclining in every possible posi-

tion. When the Italian-born, Jewish artist's nudes were unveiled at a Paris gallery, police demanded that it be shut down, offended by the unflinching strokes of his oil brush that thrust art's nude figure into the modern era.

In the past half-dozen years, prices for Modigliani's works have soared, from \$26 million the current owner paid for "Nu couche (sur le cote gauche)" in 2003 to as much as \$170 million.

Picasso's "Le Repos," an image of his lover and "golden muse," Marie-Therese Walter, sold for \$40 million. It was one of 11 Picasso works that were offered yesterday.

Claude Monet's "Matinee

sur la Seine" (Morning on the Seine), part of a lineup of river landscapes he painted while on a boat, capturing the changing light from sunrise to a lightning storm, brought in \$20.6 million.

Both Munch's "Summer Night" and O'Keeffe "Lake George with White Birch" each fetched over \$11 million.

Modigliani's painting, which had the highest pre-auction estimate at \$150 million, was still well short of the record for the most expensive painting ever sold.

Leonardo da Vinci's "Salvator Mundi" sold last year at Christie's for \$450 million. AP

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Arthur Mola/Invision/AP



Solo smile. Actress Emilia Clarke poses for photographers during a photo call for the film 'Solo: A Star Wars Story' at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, yesterday.