



PROPERTY TRANSACTION VALUES SURGE
 During Q1, the total value of transactions was MOP32.8 billion, up by 52 percent quarter-to-quarter

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HK SPENDS USD1.2B DEFENDING CURRENCY

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INDOCTRINATION CAMPS EVOKE CULTURAL REVOLUTION
 Authorities have ensnared many Muslim Chinese – and even foreign citizens – in mass internment camps

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Smart city in public eye

P5



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WORLD BRIEFS



PHILIPPINES More than half of the Philippine Senate asked the Supreme Court yesterday to review its decision to oust its chief justice, calling the ruling a "dangerous precedent" that infringed on Congress' constitutionally given power to impeach senior officials.

JAPAN Three Japanese who were forcibly sterilized under a government policy decades ago filed lawsuits yesterday demanding an apology and compensation, in a growing movement seeking official redress.



INDIA Prime Minister Narendra Modi's Hindu nationalist party ended Congress party rule in a key southern state yesterday, but its poll victory was marred by questions over who has the right to form the government.

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Wynn Resorts points to changes after founder's resignation

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Extra
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 Weekend Guide
 INSIDE

Customs officer found driving a taxi while on sick leave

An officer of the Macau Customs Service was found working as a part-time taxi driver while on sick leave, according to a statement released by the Office of the Secretariat for Security. The case was revealed recently by the Commission Against Corruption. The officer is said to have been working part-time in this role since March 2014, and been on sick leave for this entire time. According to the Customs Service, from July 2014, the officer's sick leave was approved by the government's medical board. The officer returned to work at the beginning of May.

5G service in research stages

Macau hopes to launch the 5G service around the same time as Macau's neighboring regions, according to the director of Macau Post and Telecommunication Bureau (CTT), Lau Wai Meng. Yesterday, Lau revealed that CTT is currently conducting a study on the 5G service, especially regarding legal and technological matters. The purpose for this is to enable telecommunication operators to expand the range of their services. "During the promotion of 5G, the law has to be taken into consideration. We hope to give some time for the telecommunication operators to prepare for 5G service launch," said Lau.

Four locals listed as intangible heritage inheritors

Four Macau residents have been selected by the Ministry of Culture and Tourism to be intangible cultural heritage representative inheritors, according to the official announcement of the Chinese ministry. One of the four inheritors is from Cantonese Naamyam, another from Belief and Customs of A-Ma, while the remaining two are from Belief and Customs of Na Tcha. Hong Kong also has one inheritor included in this latest list. On Wednesday, the ministry announced a list of artists who have the official responsibility of carrying forward the country's intangible cultural heritage.

Property transaction value surges in first quarter of 2018

A total of 5,501 building units and parking spaces were purchased and sold in the first quarter of 2018, according to the stamp duty record. According to information released yesterday by the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC), the total value of transactions was MOP32.8 billion, up by 52 percent quarter-to-quarter.

The purchase and sale of residential units totaled 3,627, an increase of 1,009 units or 38.5 percent quarter-to-quarter. Analyzed by month, the transaction volume in January rose sharply by 85 percent while the growth in February slowed to 3.6 percent. The transaction volume in March plunged by 57.6 percent after the launch of measures to manage the residential property market.

According to DSEC, the transaction volume of pre-sale residential units surged by 808 quarter-to-quarter to 1,611 units and the transaction value grew by 69.7 percent to MOP12.49 billion, attributable to the release of large-scale housing estates in that quarter. Moreover, the purchase and sale of existing residential units increased by 201 to 2,016, with purchase prices amounting to MOP11.82 billion, up by 13.5 percent. The number of office units purchased and sold rose significantly by 86 to 122, and total property value leapt by 814.8 percent to MOP2.65 billion.

With respect to the average price per square meter of space that could be utilized within



dwelling, the overall average price of residential units increased by 6.3 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP112,304, with the average prices of those in the Macau Peninsula (MOP99,312) and Coloane (MOP137,768) rising by 1.8 percent and 9.9 percent respectively. Meanwhile, the average price of residential units in Taipa (MOP117,364) dropped by 3.7 percent. The average price of existing residential units (MOP93,450) and pre-sale residential units (MOP137,898) went up by 3.8 percent and 0.2 percent respectively.

The existing residential units purchased and sold were mainly located in Baixa da Taipa, with 231 units (11.5 percent of total). 217 units were in NATAP and 185 in Area Preta & Iao Hon. The average price per

square meter for each area was MOP100,741, MOP106,466 and MOP83,127 respectively.

As for pre-sale residential units, 844 purchased units (representing 52.4 percent of total) were in Coloane, 337 in Fai Chi Kei and 214 in NATAP; while the respective average price per square meter was MOP138,467, MOP116,589 and MOP146,501.

The average price of office units grew by 75.3 percent quarter-to-quarter to MOP194,311 per square meter, attributable to the increased number of transactions involving relatively high-priced office units. Meanwhile, the average price of industrial units decreased by 6.1 percent to MOP52,243 per square meter.

In the first quarter of 2018, there were 3,499 real estate

purchase and sale contracts signed, and the number of properties involved (3,954) rose by 18.6 percent quarter-to-quarter. Meanwhile, 3,312 mortgage contracts were signed, and the number of properties involved (4,160) fell by 2 percent.

Regarding construction in the private sector, there were 20,707 residential units in the design stage, 9,030 under construction and 1,375 under inspection at the end of the first quarter. Throughout the quarter, 338 residential units were issued a construction permit, comprising a total floor area of 40 thousand square meters, while 247 residential units with a total floor area of 19 thousand square meters were issued a license for use. Forty percent of them were one-bedroom units.

An academic exchange event about Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) between Macau and Thailand health authorities recently took place in Bangkok, Thailand. During the event, fifteen practitioners from Thailand, mainland China and Macau provided clinical services to the Thai community and conducted an exchange of ideas and experiences in clinical techniques.

The services provided included pulse diagnosis, massage, acupuncture and moxibustion,

Health Bureau promotes Chinese Medicine in Thailand

cupping, and recommendations for different treatments in TCM health care to the Thai community. The event garnered nearly 200 attendees.

In his opening remarks, the director of the Health Bureau, Lei Chin Ion, stated that in the past, the MSAR government has been progressively promoting the development

of Traditional Chinese Medicine. Lei expressed his hope that in the future, more such initiatives would be undertaken with a view to reaching new Asian communities and promoting Chinese Medicine internationally in order to boost the clinical practices of Chinese Medicine throughout the world.



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GAMING

Casino entry levies: social responsibility or discrimination

Renato Marques

THE so-called “casino entry levies,” that is, the fees or limitations enforced in some jurisdictions for patrons to access the casino floor, was one of the topics discussed yesterday during the last day of this year’s Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia event.

The historical background of such restrictions was analyzed by Robert Cantwell, partner at Lathrop Gage and expert on the US market, and Óscar Madureira, Lawyer at Rato, Ling, Lei & Cortes – Advogados (Lektou), who brought an Asian perspective to the discussion.

Although presenting different perspectives, both the panelists and the moderator, Kahlil Philander, assistant professor at the University of Washington, agreed about the fact that the enforcement of levies to access casino floors does not prevent people from accessing the casino to gamble.

Another of the aspects in which all the experts agreed is the fact that, as Madureira said, there is not enough data or relevant studies to support any of the existing theories around levies.

As Cantwell noted from his experiences in Missouri and Indiana, USA, “although there is an entry fee, it’s generally of USD2 or USD4 and patrons most of the time are not even aware of such a fee as casinos themselves manage that fee [including it in some service charge or others].”

He also mentioned that the idea behind such fee was “not to prevent local people from engaging in gaming but [to operate] as a kind of compensation to local communities to allow gaming activities in their area.” Cantwell explained that the money collected from the fee would be returned to several community projects, noting that, as such, it “did have some form of social aspect [attached].” Either way, eventually the fee system “faded into a membership system where you can be a member just for USD10 [that you can use] to buy something within the property.”

Madureira stated, “I’m not that confident that these kind of measures produce the effect they were designed to. From all who were [consulted] about this topic I can’t get a clear idea that this can prevent in any way or reduce people’s appetite to go to the casino.” He noted that arguments citing countries like Singapore, where the enforcement of entry fees upon locals are said to have the desired deterrent ef-

RENATO MARQUES



Robert Cantwell (left), Óscar Madureira and Kahlil Philander

fect, may be biased, suggesting, “maybe they just got bored [of going there] as they have only two properties,” he said.

Madureira also noted that using such a system in Macau “would definitely not work” for “historical reasons and others that are related to the free flow of people around the properties, among others.”

Going a bit further, Madureira added, “this is not the most appropriate way to take care of the issues [involving responsible gaming].”

Deepening the discussion, Phi-

lander raised the question of whether levies are even ethical.

On that topic, Cantwell believed that “although it might not produce any consequence, the idea behind the creation of levies is an ethical one in the sense that it aims to give back to the communities and try to help in some way with the problems [eventually] created by gaming.” However, he agreed that levies, especially “high enough levies that can keep some people away,” might be discriminatory, by preventing access to gaming only for the less wealthy, while

wealthier members of the public would not be deterred regardless of their “gaming behavior” or “susceptibility to addiction.”

On that topic, Madureira believes, “when the authorities put these measures into place, they were seeking to put some ethics into the system,” adding, “there is no commercial objective in this. There is no integrated resort in the world that can profit in any way from these [levies],” as although the amount can be large it is “irrelevant compared with the Gross Gaming Revenue that

these properties are raising.”

Addressing the preventive measures taken by several jurisdictions to reduce problematic gambling, Madureira noted the “good spirit” of the authorities when creating the measures, but also acknowledged that some measures were almost impossible to be fully enforced – in particular, the proposed casino entry ban or self-instigated ban to enter casinos. “Of course we receive all these lists and updates from the Gaming Inspection, and Coordination Bureau but it’s impossible [to guarantee] that all these people [are scrutinized] at the entrance. Sometimes we have 50,000 people entering the casino floor in one day so it’s impossible [to check them one-by-one].” Madureira added that although facial recognition technology is playing an important role, it is still not fail-proof.

The idea behind the creation of levies is an ethical one in the sense that it aims to give back to the communities.

ROBERT CANTWELL

As for Cantwell, he noted the success of the gambling licensing system employed in the US and considered it a potential solution in the future for Macau. However, Madureira was of the view that each solution was unique to each jurisdiction and closely tied to the local culture, and as such, a different solution “should be adopted according to each culture and market.”

Industry is ‘world-class standard’ on anti-money laundering compliance

A keynote speech and debate was held yesterday afternoon at the Venetian Cotai Expo, concluding the circle of forums and conferences held concurrently with the Global Gaming Expo (G2E) Asia event.

Tom Roche, partner & head of the Global Gaming Group, Ernst & Young Hong Kong said, “In my view, we are probably the world-class standard on anti-money laundering compliance,” adding that besides being a highly regulated activity, it has been always under close scrutiny from the media. Due to that, “Our industry has, over time, put a lot of resources and experts towards [developing] the compliance program of anti-money laundering.”

Roche noted that for the time being, Macau has adopted several measures to comply with the international rules received “a very positive review.”

Roche elected Singapore as the “highest

level” in the field of compliance with anti-money laundering requirements, while noting other Asian jurisdictions that face challenges in the area of compliance. He mentioned Vietnam and Laos, which have made efforts to comply with the standards, and other cases such as Cambodia, where “there is still a long way to go.”

Another of the challenges presented to the industry according to Roche is the possibility of the introduction of cryptocurrencies, predicted to be a game changer in the process.

The gaming expert also noted that the “global characteristics” of the gaming industry are critical as well as its “reputation,” noting that “any scandal [occurring] anywhere in the world will impact all other jurisdictions.”

On the matter of good practices enforced within Macau, most recently, the “data accuracy of the KYC system” applied to ATM

RENATO MARQUES



Tom Roche

machines and the “Extensive Internal Audit Reviews” of the gaming concessionaires have been among the most highly praised. Roche concluded that the most important factor in compliance is the regular review of risk assessments, to ensure that the industry stays up to date.

FSS holds meeting with fund management entities

SEVEN fund management entities are providing the investment instruments for the contributions of the non-mandatory central provident fund system, the Social Security Fund (FSS) said yesterday in a statement.

To ensure that the system is smoothly implemented, the FSS held a meeting with the entities earlier to review the latest implementation plans of the non-mandatory central provident fund system and listened to their suggestions for improvement.

During the meeting, the fund required the entities to do a good job of training the people selling the central provident fund products, to regulate the relevant personnel to ensure that standards of professional ethics would be upheld, to introduce suitable pension fund products to their customers, and to provide adequate, timely and accurate information to them. In particular, the FSS wants the participating entities to inform the residents interested in participating in the con-



tribution scheme that the central provident fund belongs to a cumulative old-age security system which requires saving and accumulation for the long term in order to play its role in securing retirement income.

According to the FSS, some entities are currently in preliminary talks and consultation with employers at large enterprises, financial, education and social service institutions that are considering joining the central provident fund. To encourage more employers to join the central provident

fund system, there is consensus between the FSS and the entities that they will actively assist employers in entering into service agreements, handle the relevant paperwork, and cooperate with authorities to streamline the application process.

Entities must submit information to the FSS on a monthly basis in accordance with relevant requirements such as the requirement to disclose residents the latest fees and returns on pension funds to residents in a timely manner.



Rector Song (left) visits the S. Januário central hospital

EDUCATION

UM Rector visits different sectors of local community

THE recently appointed rector of the University of Macau (UM), Yonghua Song, has been visiting different government departments and sectors of the local community in order "to collect suggestions on the UM's future development."

According to a statement issued yesterday by the UM, Song expressed hopes to work together with all sectors "in order to develop UM into an outstanding university that roots itself in Macau, integrates itself into the Greater Bay Area and relates itself vis-à-vis China and beyond."

The UM Rector had meetings

with the Chief Executive, Chui Sai On, and visited many institutions, including the S. Januário central hospital, the Roman Catholic Diocese of Macau, the Macau Foundation, the Education and Youth Affairs Bureau, the Cultural Affairs Bureau, Macao Daily News, and Teledifusão de Macau (TDM).

During the meetings, Song said that UM will continue to "promote the integration of academia, research and industry to make more technological transfers possible and will also work hard to contribute in such areas as building Macau into a smart city, refining its health care and basic education systems."

AD

ALBERGUE SCM

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Music and Chinese Musical Instruments in Portugal

Seminar and Book Launching
"Chinese Musical Instruments"
Museum Collection of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center

Speaker & Author
Dr. Enio de Souza

Presentation
Arch Carlos Marreiros
President of Albergue SCM

Dr. Jorge Rangel
President of International Institute of Macau

Date
21th May, 2018 (Monday)

Time
6:30pm

Language
English

Venue
Hall D1 – Albergue SCM

Free Admission

Registration QR Code

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Smart city strategy public consultation begins

Julie Zhu

THE public consultation on strategies to develop Macau into a smart city, and on the development of the principal areas within the city, commenced yesterday and will continue until June 30, as announced by the Science and Technology Development Fund (FDCT).

According to FDCT, there are 13 key areas for development. These are: information infrastructures, the application of big data, mobile city, security, environment, high-efficiency energy, development of urban infrastructure, tourism and leisure, open government, regional cooperation, technological innovation, healthy life and equal opportunity, the promotion of smart city education and, finally, training of talented human resources.

The consultation document indicates that a short-term pilot project should be initiated first in order to explore the possible outcomes of the smart city's development strategy. This project will



comprise six small independent programs.

One program proposes the installation of LED lights to replace typical road lights.

This road light program will be in the research phase this year, during which time the selection of spots will also be carried out.

FDCT hopes that a final scheme can be launched as soon as possible.

The second program is called Macau-in-Pocket. This program

proposes an all-in-one mobile application for all governmental departments, in order to grant the public easier access to different government services. The app is planned for release in 2019.

A third program suggests the establishment of a central governmental data office, along with the set-up of an official website for open data.

This program is expected to be in full swing by the end of

the year.

Besides these three programs, two other programs have been developed to promote and educate the public about the concept of smart cities.

Further, it also proposes subsidies and funding programs for smart city projects.

Last, the government plans to launch the "municipal facility Easy Go" to provide GPS services in municipal markets, street markets, vendors, gardens, and

public bathrooms. This program has been scheduled to launch within this year.

When asked how Macau can protect the public's privacy while simultaneously carrying out its smart city development strategy, Chan Wan Hei, member of the Administration Committee of the FDCT, said "we endorse the strong protection of privacy."

"As a matter of fact, according to the agreement signed between Alibaba and Macau, we are not just bringing what they are doing in Hangzhou to Macau. We are doing something different. We will use similar technology, but because we have different infrastructure, we cannot just import what Alibaba is doing in Hangzhou," explained Chan.

"Alibaba use quite a lot of video instead of social media. Alibaba use camera and CCTV to capture [footage] from the transportation monitor. In Macau, we will do [a] similar thing," said Chan.

"Another thing that I need to [add is that] all the data collected in Macau will not leave Macau for sure. That's one of the things written in the agreement we signed with Alibaba," said Chan.

The Chairman of FDCT, Ma Chi Ngai, noted that the city's government is considering whether to establish a smart city development office to be specifically responsible for smart city development matters.

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Wynn Resorts working to strengthen corporate culture

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

THE board of directors and CEO of Wynn Resorts yesterday [Macau time] sought to show shareholders they are working to strengthen the casino operator's corporate culture and moving it forward without its founder.

Shareholders gathered in Las Vegas for the company's annual meeting learned of the many corporate initiatives implemented since the resignation of founder Steve Wynn amid sexual misconduct allegations earlier this year. Shareholders asked CEO Matt Maddox about the company's project near Boston, operations in Macau and its political contributions, but none raised questions over the accusations, which Wynn has denied, or the ongoing internal investigation.

"Deep down, there is one simple truth that drives this company every day, it's the 25,000 people that work here," Maddox told investors. "That's what makes this company great because they are focused on excellence. They are focused on paying attention to the customer [...] and we are committed to making sure that that continues because our guests will return time and time again as long as that simple truth remains."

The initiatives described to shareholders included a new community and culture department, a pay equity study and a six-week paid parental leave policy. The three new female members of the board were also formally introduced.

Company founder Steve Wynn resigned as chairman and CEO after the Wall Street Journal reported in January that several women said he harassed or assaulted them and that one case led to a USD7.5 million settlement with a manicurist formerly employed by the company. Other allegations and a settlement with a different employee have since surfaced.

Pat Mulroy, the chairwoman of



Pat Mulroy speaks during a women's forum at the Wynn hotel and casino in Las Vegas

the internal committee looking into the allegations, told shareholders 114 people have been interviewed and three million documents reviewed as part of the investigation. Mulroy said she expects the investigation to be finished later this year.

"Not only are we looking into the particulars of the allegations that have been raised, but we are also looking at this company with very much of a forward-looking glance," Mulroy told investors. "We are looking at the policies, procedures and protocols and hoping to create best-in-kind structures around preventing or avoiding future discrimination or harassment at this company."

Maddox, responding to an investor's question, quickly quashed the rumored sale of the company's \$2.5 billion casino under construction outside of Boston. He also talked about the ongoing project that's transforming a golf course in Las Vegas into a hotel, lagoon and convention space.

He politely responded with "OK. Thank you," to a request from a shareholder to express his gratitude to Steve Wynn.

"I would like to convey my thanks to him as a shareholder

for over 10 years, and I've been coming to his resorts for almost 30 years," the man said. "The happiness, the joy, the delight of prosperity as a shareholder that I've enjoyed, I just want to convey that to him."

Groups of shareholders filed lawsuits against members of the board after the sexual misconduct allegations came to light, alleging breach of fiduciary duties. In addition, the company has drawn scrutiny from gambling regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts.

The makeup of the board has changed dramatically over the past three months. Directors Ray Irani and Robert Miller resigned, while John Hagenbuch withdrew his name from Wednesday's board election. Director J. Edward Virtue did not stand for re-election at the meeting, and Alvin Shoemaker has said he will not run for re-election after his current term expires next year.

The five men are named defendants in the lawsuits brought by shareholders. Hagenbuch faced a tough re-election after shareholders advisory firms recommended investors withheld their votes for him. Largest shareholder Elaine Wynn, Steve Wynn's ex-wife, earlier launched a

“We are hoping to create best-in-kind structures around preventing future discrimination or harassment at this company.”

PAT MULROY

campaign to urge investors to withhold votes for him. Three women were appointed to the board last month.

"I think changing some of the board is a positive because it's like you get old blood in there and it gets stale," Gary Imbs, a shareholder from Boise, Idaho, said. "So, you need some new blood in there. Is it better? Is it worse? I think it's going to be better. People get complacent. They're getting paid these high salaries, and they feel like they don't have to do anything." AP

Bids for new reclamation project opened

The Infrastructure Development Office (GDI) received seven bids for the reclamation project of the New Urban Zone C. The bids to develop the reclamation area, which covers about 32 hectares, opened yesterday. Construction for the project is expected to start in the fourth quarter of this year. The maximum construction period has been fixed at 720 working days. Zone C is located at sea, in front of Av. do Oceano, between the Sai Van and the Macau-Taipa Bridges. Once the reclamation is complete, the land will be used for residential purposes and for public community facilities.

Pigeon meat discovered tied around man's legs

A local man tried to smuggle 7kg of pigeon meat tied around his legs into Macau, the Macau Customs Service reported yesterday. An additional 11kg of fresh chicken meat was also seized from the same man. In a separate case, a local woman was found on May 12 smuggling 36kg of chicken meat and 5kg of pigeon meat to Macau. This is the second time that particular woman was detected trying to smuggle meat into Macau. In the first quarter of this year, Customs seized more than 700kg of smuggled bird meat.

Chinese instrument seminar to be held next week

A seminar titled "Music and Chinese Musical Instruments in Portugal" will be held on May 21 at 6:30 p.m. at the Albergue SCM. The event will coincide with the book launch of "Chinese Musical Instruments", written by researcher Dr. Énio de Souza. The event is in line with the objective of Albergue SCM to promote the arts to the Macau public. De Souza is a coordinator of the education department of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center Museum in Lisbon. His research interests focus on cultural policy and infrastructure, Chinese music and musical instruments, and festivals. In the 1980s and 1990s, de Souza held various positions at the Macau Cultural Institute – now known as the Macau Cultural Affairs Bureau – among them, head of the performing arts department, within which role de Souza was involved in a strong cultural movement. The seminar will be conducted in English. Admission is free and registration is now open.

Students to simulate EU commissioners meeting

THE University of Macau will mark the 60th anniversary of the Treaties of Rome with a workshop on the European Commission under its Jean Monnet Project "Decision-

making processes: Pedagogical simulations for university students", on 19 May, at the University of Macau.

With the cooperation of the Youth Association of International

Affairs, this will be the first workshop on the European Commission. Students will form teams of two to learn and debate about the European Union and its decision-making

processes. After an introduction session, the participants will debate as though they are within the Commission, discussing issues relating to recent EU-US trade disputes.

The workshop will be held at the Faculty of Law, Building E32, Room 2008, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. The best two teams will be awarded

cash prizes and can also proceed directly to the Model EU to be held later this year.

The Jean Monnet Project, "Decision-making processes", is a partnership between the University of Macau and the Institute of European Studies of Macau, co-funded by the Erasmus Programme of the European Union.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

The pros and cons of buying a property off-plan

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SAM LEE

At the beginning of the year we saw investors rushing to buy properties off-plan before the implementation of the new stamp duties. The new 5% tax for buyers acquiring a second residential property and a 10% tax for buyers acquiring a third property or more came into effect in February.

Buying properties off-plan is nothing new in Macau, and scenes of agents and buyers rushing around on launch day are often seen on the media. Is it a good idea to buy properties off-plan? Like many property questions, the answer is 'it depends'. Let's look at some pros and cons.

PROS:

- You have more time to prepare. After putting down your initial deposit (usually 10%) to secure the property with the developer, you have some time to get the money together for the second installment whilst the property is being built.
You lock in the price against the potential upside. When you put down your initial deposit

you lock in today's price for the property, and by the time it's completed and you are handed the keys, the property price may have already appreciated in price (or not).

- Leverage. Your deposit money is a small portion of the value of the property, but any increase in the value of the property is of course on the whole property. Thus, a property rising just 20% after your initial 10% deposit equates to a 200% paper return on your investment.
Once completed, you could charge premium rents. Everybody likes a new and shiny building, and because new buildings tend to have better facilities you can normally charge rents at a premium.

CONS:

- The development might not actually get built. Whether it's the developer going bankrupt, running into a corruption scandal (sound familiar?) or denied necessary permits by the government, there is an element of

- risk you can't ignore.
Construction is delayed. Engineering set-backs are not only common, but they're almost expected. This means that your capital is tied up for a longer period and you might get a free ride on an emotional rollercoaster.
Leverage. Your deposit money is a small portion of the value of the property, but any decrease in the value of the property is of course on the whole property. Thus, a property falling just 20% after your initial 10% deposit equates to a 200% paper loss on your investment.
Off-plan properties are brand new and highly standardized so there is little to no room for you to add value as an investor. This makes the purchase much more speculative from an investment perspective.

Obviously this is food for thought when purchasing properties off-plan. There are other proven ways to invest, many of which remove the element of gambling and provide a long-term wealth building strategy.

HK spends USD1.2b defending currency overnight

HONG Kong intervened to defend its currency peg for a second day after the city's dollar fell to the weak end of its trading band. The Hong Kong Monetary Authority bought HKD9.5 billion (USD1.2 billion) of local dollars overnight, the third-biggest intervention since the defense began last month. The HKMA mopped up HKD1.57 billion on Wednesday. Lower rates than the U.S. have made the Hong Kong dollar an attractive target for shorting. The de facto central bank has now spent \$7.95 billion protecting its currency system, which has the effect of tightening liquidity in a city that's grown fat on ultra-low borrowing costs. Hong Kong, which imports U.S. monetary policy, is facing the prospect of significantly higher rates for the first time since the financial crisis. The three-month borrowing rate is 1.75 percent, near the highest since December 2008, and up from 0.8 percent a year ago. The Hong Kong dollar was little changed at HK\$7.8498 per



BLOOMBERG

greenback at 3 p.m. local time.

"The HKMA may need to mop up more liquidity and push the aggregate balance toward HK\$100 billion this week," said Carie Li, a Hong Kong-based economist at OCBC Wing Hang Bank Ltd. "But the Hong Kong dollar will rebound starting next week, as funding needs to increase at month-end. Liquidity will tighten further in June due to an expected interest rate hike in the U.S. and potential funding demand fueled by Xiaomi and China Tower IPOs."

Li said Hong Kong lenders will lift deposit rates as liquidity conditions tighten. "Banks are likely to increa-

se the prime rate around mid-year, which will hurt property market sentiment, especially for mortgage borrowers. The home market may see a correction and slower growth this year."

While rising short-term funding costs have prompted banks to offer deposit rates of as much as 3 percent, there's been little impact so far on the city's housing market as lenders hold off raising the prime rate - which caps mortgages. Sun Hung Kai Properties Ltd. spent a record \$3.2 billion buying a land plot at the city's old airport site this week, signaling confidence demand will hold up in what's already the world's least affordable real estate market. Bloomberg



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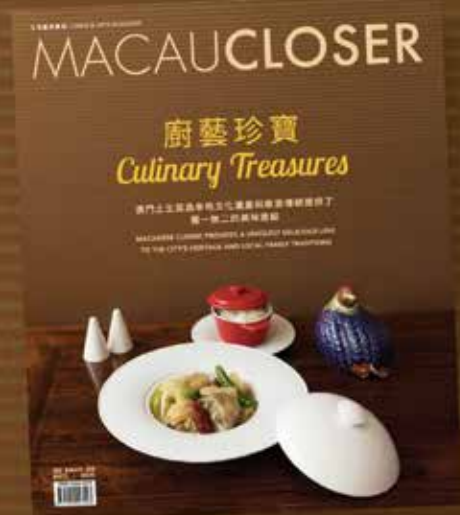
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Bargain-hunting Chinese make Japanese retail king a billionaire

JAPANESE retail tycoon Ryuji Arai can thank a growing flock of Chinese spenders for his swelling fortune.

Bic Camera Inc., the Tokyo-based consumer electronics retailer that sells everything from cosmetics to liquor at discounted prices, has become a sought-after destination for tourists shopping in Japan. Profit has jumped to a record, sending its shares up by more than 50 percent over the past year.

The surge has given 71-year-old Arai a USD1.8 billion fortune, according to the Bloomberg Billionaires Index. Arai, who founded the retailer four decades ago and steered the company to its initial public offering in 2006, is now chairman at the company. He owns a 43 percent stake in the shares through a set of trusts and his asset management company La Holdings.

Bic Camera has won tourists over with bargain prices offered in its stores along with duty-free desks, and by giving overseas shoppers the option to make online reservations for products they wish to purchase. The company is also trying to woo Chinese shoppers by accepting payment methods such as Alipay, Wechat and even Bitcoin - which is helping boost sales, said Bloomberg Intelligence Consumer Analyst Thomas Jastrzab.

"Bic Camera's early adoption



A Bic Camera store in the Shibuya district of Tokyo

of new payment options could give it an edge over more cautious rivals," said Jastrzab.

Not much is known about the reclusive businessman. Bic Camera declined to make him available for comment for this story. He started his first company in his early twenties and later spun out the camera sales division into its own company, according to local media reports. He then went on to form Bic Camera in his early thirties with

the opening of a store in Tokyo's Ikebukuro shopping district.

Arai is an anti-nuclear advocate, and Bic Camera displayed huge banners in 1995 to protest France's plan at the time to resume nuclear tests in the South Pacific, the Yomiuri newspaper reported at the time.

In 2009, Arai stepped down as chairman of Bic Camera after the company became embroiled in a scandal over false earnings reports. After the shares lost al-

most half their value in January that year, they rallied when the company was allowed to retain its listing on the Tokyo Stock Exchange and it restated earnings for the fiscal years 2006 to 2008. The company was fined \$1.3 million. He retook the role of chairman, without any directors role, several years later. Since then, Bic Camera shares have climbed eight-fold.

After relinquishing the chairman role, Arai remained the lar-

gest shareholder of Bic Camera.

Bic Camera has teamed up with Haneda Airport's terminal operator, Japan Airport Terminal Co., to launch stores in airport terminals as well as Tokyo's Odaiba shopping and entertainment district, according to Masanari Matsumoto, a spokesman for the company. Those stores are stocked with goods popular with inbound tourists to let them quickly find what they want, Matsumoto said. Inbound tourists shoppers to the electronics retailer have more than tripled in three years, according to the company.

In recent years, the company has also ramped up sales through its own website and stores on e-commerce sites such as Rakuten and Amazon.com. Online sales accounted for about 10 percent of overall revenue in the six-month period ended Feb. 28, according to company filings.

The company's net income climbed fivefold to a record 13.5 billion yen (\$122.6 million) in the financial year ended Aug. 31, according to figures from the company. Bic Camera predicts profit will increase to 16.4 billion yen this fiscal year.

That strategy has helped Bic Camera become Japan's third-biggest electronics and appliance retailer while offsetting the impact of a declining population at home. Bic Camera will benefit more than other big-box electronics retailers such as its competitors Yamada Denki Co. and Edion Corp. from the recovery in demand for digital consumer electronics, according to a Nomura Holdings Inc. research note last month. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Amazon brings cross-border ambitions to Alibaba's backyard

Spencer Soper

AMAZON.COM Inc. is bringing its competition with Alibaba right to the Chinese e-commerce giant's backyard.

In the coming weeks, Amazon will host an event in the city of Hangzhou - Alibaba's hometown - to connect online merchants with 400 Chinese manufacturers keen to sell electronics, car parts, home goods and more directly to American and European consumers. Amazon experts will provide insights into buying trends so merchants can stock up for the 2018 holiday season, according to an invitation reviewed by Bloomberg. Sponsored by Amazon Global Selling, the event is called "Coming Together For U."

The gathering is part of Amazon's effort to evolve from an e-commerce platform into a global logistics operation. The idea is to help Amazon merchants connect directly with manufacturers in China, a region largely out of the company's reach. Amazon would collect fees for helping merchants source goods directly from factories and ship them to other countries so they can be delivered quickly once orders roll in. Speedy delivery helped Amazon dominate e-commerce in the U.S., and the company wants to do the same globally to fend off Alibaba Group Holding Ltd., eBay Inc. and Wish Corp.

Amazon declined to comment.

With 100 million Prime subscribers worldwide,

Amazon has been putting in place the pieces to be the primary e-commerce platform connecting shoppers in one country with merchants in another. The company is making a big push in India and Latin America and last year launched operations in Australia. The purchase of Dubai's Souq.com gave Amazon a foothold in the Middle East.

Whether they live in Paris, Beijing or Sydney, consumers seeking better prices and products they can't find at home are increasingly willing to buy from merchants abroad. Such cross-border transactions are growing faster than domestic e-commerce sales and by 2020 are expected to reach \$900 billion, or 20 percent of the global market,

according to a 2016 report from DHL Worldwide Express.

Cross-border selling is a major focus of Amazon's logistics aspirations. Last year it hosted an event in New York to pitch 1,500 merchants on currency exchange services and language translation tools to help them sell to overseas customers. Amazon can use its size and reach to consolidate shipments with international freight companies to get volume discounts, using the savings to lure more merchants and goods to the platform.

More than 2 million independent merchants hawk goods on Amazon, paying a commission on each sale. Competition among them helps keep prices low and inventory



fresh, which has helped Amazon attract more than 300 million global customers. E-commerce remains a mostly domestic business. But with shoppers increasingly willing to look abroad for goods, Amazon sees an opportunity to sell more services to online merchants. Revenue from such services surged 39 percent in the first quarter to \$9.3 billion.

But Amazon's effort could spell trouble for some of its merchant partners.

"As Amazon connects

Chinese factories directly to end-consumers on its platform, these independent merchants will be forced to compete directly with their own suppliers," says Ryan Petersen, the chief executive officer of Flexport Inc., an international freight-forwarding company that helps Amazon merchants import products from overseas. "This new competition will be tough for merchants that merely resell Chinese products, rather than creating original products." **Bloomberg**



Omir Bekali cries as he details the psychological stress endured while in a Chinese internment camp during an interview in Almaty, Kazakhstan

‘Thank the Party!’ China tries to brainwash Muslims in camps

Gerry Shih, Almaty

DAY after day, Omir Bekali and other detainees in far western China’s new indoctrination camps had to disavow their Islamic beliefs, criticize themselves and their loved ones and give thanks to the ruling Communist Party.

When Bekali, a Kazakh Muslim, refused, he was forced to stand at a wall for five hours at a time. A week later, he was sent to solitary confinement and deprived of food for 24 hours. After 20 days, he wanted to kill himself.

“The psychological pressure is enormous, when you have to criticize yourself, denounce your thinking — your own ethnic group,” said Bekali, 42, who broke down in tears while describing the camp. “I still think about it every night, until the sun rises.”

Since last spring, Chinese authorities in the heavily Muslim region of Xinjiang have ensnared tens, possibly hundreds of thousands of Muslim Chinese — and even foreign citizens — in mass internment camps. This detention campaign has swept across Xinjiang, a territory half the area of India, leading to what a U.S. commission on China last month said is “the largest mass incarceration of a minority population in the world today.”

The internment program tries to rewire the political thinking of detainees, erase their Islamic beliefs and reshape their

very identities. Chinese officials have largely avoided comment, but some have said in state media that ideological changes are needed to fight separatism and Islamic extremism. Radical Muslim Uighurs killed hundreds in China in years past.

Three other former internees and a former instructor in different centers corroborated Bekali’s depiction. Taken together, the recollections offer the most detailed account yet of life inside so-called re-education.

The program is a hallmark of China’s emboldened state security apparatus under the deeply nationalistic, hard-line rule of President Xi Jinping. It is partly rooted in the ancient Chinese belief in transformation through education — taken once before to terrifying extremes during the mass thought reform campaigns of Mao Zedong, the Chinese leader sometimes channeled by Xi.

“Cultural cleansing is Beijing’s attempt to find a final solution to the Xinjiang problem,” said James Millward, a China historian at Georgetown University.

The internment system is shrouded in secrecy, with no publicly available data. The U.S. State Department estimates those being held are “at the very least in the tens of thousands.” A Turkey-based TV station run by Xinjiang exiles said almost 900,000 were detained, citing leaked government documents. Adrian Zenz, a researcher at the European School of Culture and Theology, puts

the number between several hundreds of thousands and just over 1 million, and government bids suggest construction is ongoing.

Asked to comment on the camps, China’s foreign ministry said it “had not heard” of the situation. Chinese officials in Xinjiang did not respond to requests for comment. However, China’s top prosecutor, Zhang Jun, urged Xinjiang’s authorities this month to extensively expand what the government calls “transformation through education” in an “all-out effort” to fight extremism.

China-born Bekali moved to Kazakhstan in 2006 and received citizenship three years later.

On March 25 last year, Bekali visited his parents in Xinjiang. The next day, police took him away.

They strapped him into a “tiger chair” that clamped down his wrists and ankles. They hung him by his wrists against a barred wall. They interrogated him about his work inviting Chinese to apply for Kazakh tourist visas.

“I haven’t committed any crimes!” Bekali yelled.

Seven months later, Bekali was taken out of his cell and handed a release paper. But he was not free.

Bekali was driven to a fenced compound in Karamay, where three buildings held more than 1,000 internees.

They would wake up together before dawn, sing the Chinese national anthem, and raise the

Chinese flag at 7:30 am. They sang songs praising the party and studied Chinese language and history. They were told that the indigenous sheep-herding Central Asian people of Xinjiang were backward before they were “liberated” by the Communist Party in the 1950s.

“The psychological pressure is enormous, when you have to criticize yourself, denounce your thinking - your own ethnic group.”

OMIR BEKALI
KAZAKH MUSLIM

When they ate meals of vegetable soup and buns, they first had to chant: “Thank the Party! Thank the Motherland! Thank President Xi!”

Bekali was kept in a locked room almost around the clock with eight other internees, who shared beds and a wretched toilet. Cameras were installed in toilets and outhouses. Baths were rare, as was washing of

hands and feet, equated with Islamic ablution.

In 4-hour sessions, instructors lectured about the dangers of Islam and drilled internees with quizzes that they had to answer correctly or be sent to stand near a wall for hours on end.

“Do you obey Chinese law or Sharia?” instructors asked. “Do you understand why religion is dangerous?”

The detainees had to criticize and be criticized by their peers. One by one, they would also stand up before 60 classmates to present self-criticisms of their religious history.

“I was taught the Holy Quran by my father and I learned it because I didn’t know better,” Bekali heard one say.

“I traveled outside China without knowing that I could be exposed to extremist thoughts abroad,” another said. “Now I know.”

After a week, Bekali went to his first stint in solitary confinement. He yelled out to a visiting official.

“Take me in the back and kill me, or send me back to prison,” he shouted. “I can’t be here anymore.”

He was again hauled off to solitary confinement. It lasted 24 hours, ending late afternoon on Nov. 24, when Bekali was suddenly released.

At first, Bekali did not want the AP to publish his account for fear his sister and mother in China would be detained.

But on March 10, the police took his sister, Adila Bekali. A week later, they took his mother, Amina Sadik. And on April 24, his father, Ebrayem.

Bekali changed his mind and said he wanted to tell his story.

“Things have already come this far,” he said. “I have nothing left to lose.” **AP**

TRADE WAR

Beijing vows to defend its own interests in Washington talks

Kelvin Chan, Hong Kong

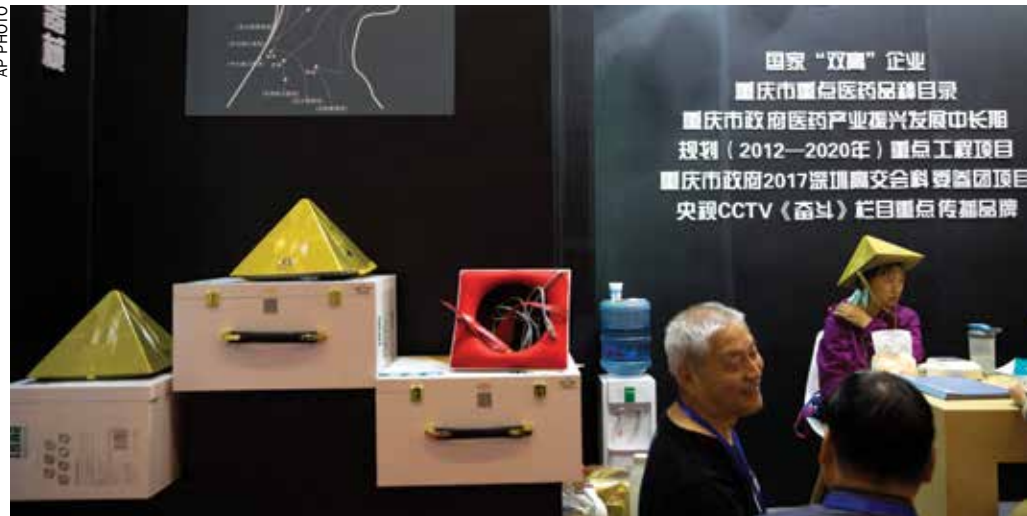
CHINA said yesterday it doesn't want to see increased trade tensions with the U.S. as the two countries hold talks in Washington this week, but it's prepared for any outcome and will defend its own interests.

The comments by a Chinese Commerce Ministry spokesman came after President Donald Trump tweeted that there has been "no folding" in the discussions.

Spokesman Gao Feng also told reporters that China hopes the U.S. will take "concrete action" to resolve a case involving Chinese tech company ZTE, which Washington hit with a crippling ban on buying from U.S. suppliers after it violated U.S. sanctions.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin and Chinese Vice Premier Liu He are leading the two-day talks in Washington starting today [Macau time] aimed at averting a trade war between the world's two biggest economies.

"We do not want to see the escalation of the trade frictions between China and the U.S.," Gao said at a weekly briefing. "Of course, we are



A woman tries on a pyramid-shaped device purported to improve blood circulation in the brain during the 21st China Beijing International High-tech Expo in Beijing yesterday

Nothing has happened with ZTE except as it pertains to the larger trade deal.

TRUMP TWEET

also prepared for all possibilities."

The Trump administration has threatened to impose tariffs on up to \$150 billion in Chinese imports to punish Beijing over trade practices requiring American companies to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market. China has counter-punched by targeting \$50 billion in U.S. products.

ZTE's seven-year U.S. business ban, ordered last month, led the company to say it was ceasing operations because it cannot get the parts it needs for manufacturing telecommunications equipment and smart phones. Earlier this week, Trump surprised many by hinting in a tweet that he wanted to find a way to keep the company afloat.

The two countries are re-

portedly attempting a swap: Relief for ZTE in return for Beijing dropping plans to impose tariffs on U.S. farm products.

"We will resolutely defend our own interests and will not trade our core interests," Gao said, when asked about the reports.

Trump tweeted yesterday, "Nothing has happened with ZTE except as it pertains to the larger trade deal."

He also said the U.S. has not yet seen China's demands yet and added, "There has been no folding as the media would love people to believe." AP

China rejects appeal on behalf of Nobel Prize winner's widow

CHINA rejected an appeal from dozens of writers and artists for the release from house arrest of the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang told reporters yesterday that Liu Xia's right to travel was an issue for the Chinese government alone to determine.

"It is a matter [that] falls within China's judicial sovereignty. She is a Chinese national [and] we of course handle the relevant issue in accordance with our laws and regulations," Liu said at a regularly scheduled news conference.

Lu's comments came after writers and artists including South African novelist and Nobel winner J.M. Coetzee, Rita Dove, Paul Auster, Khaled Hosseini and Michael Chabon read excerpts of Liu Xia's poetry as part of a video campaign. Liu Xiaobo died of cancer last year while serving a prison sentence for incitement to subvert government power.

Liu Xia, who suffers from depression and is believed to be in declining health, has never been charged with a crime, but has been kept guarded and isolated since her husband was awarded the 2010 prize.

In a news release about the video readings, Amnesty International said: "The excerpts celebrate some of Liu Xia's most powerful works while calling on the Chinese government to end their cruel campaign of retaliation against her for her late husband Liu Xiaobo's calls for democratic reform."

Germany said earlier this month it would welcome Liu after a recording was released of her crying in desperation and indicating she has given up hope of being able to leave China.

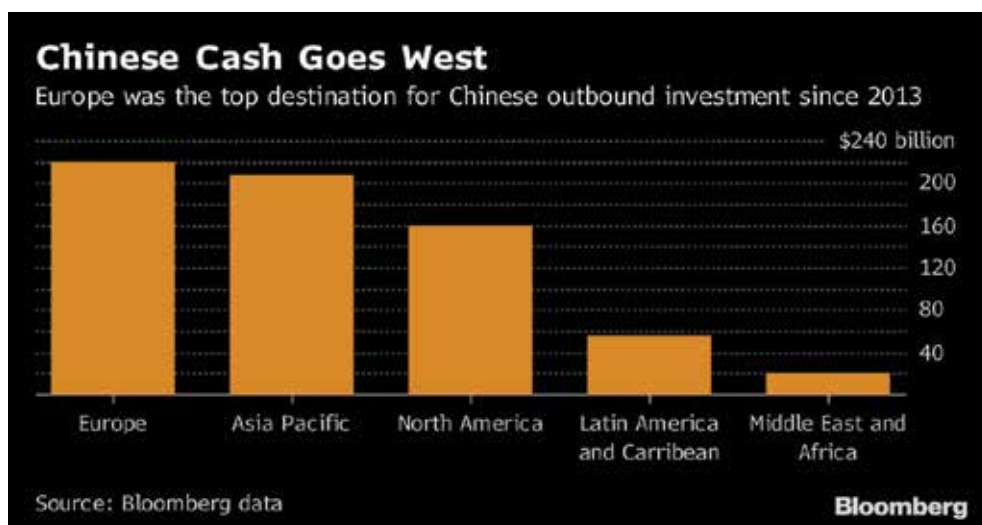
"If I can't leave, I'll die in my home," Liu said during the recent phone call with her close friend Liao Yiwu, a writer who documented their conversation. AP

Chinese firms eye Frankfurt listings to boost European fortunes

A little-known Chinese-backed venture in Germany is emerging as a listing venue for mainland companies seeking to expand in Europe.

Appliance maker Qingdao Haier Co. plans to list up to 460 million shares on the Frankfurt-based China Europe International Exchange this year, becoming the first Chinese company to offer what's known as D-shares. Qingdao's planned issue size suggests it's aiming to raise about 1 billion euros (USD1.2 billion), a strong vote of confidence in what's been a largely ignored project between bourses in China and Germany.

A joint venture between the Shanghai Stock Ex-



change, Deutsche Boerse AG and the China Financial Futures Exchange, Ceinex has struggled to attract investors since it started in 2015, with average daily trading of

16.6 million yuan (\$2.6 million) as of March 31. It has 70 securities, mostly exchange-traded funds, available on Deutsche Boerse's venues. Ceinex has said it's trying to at-

tract Chinese businesses, and that Haier's listing could come as early as July. Liquor distiller Kweichow Moutai Group Co. said last year that it plans a D-share listing of

one of its units but didn't give timing.

Having Chinese companies list in Frankfurt could help change regional perceptions, according to Lars-Gerrit Luessmann, partner at law firm Taylor Wessing.

"Creating trust is certainly one of the reasons why Chinese companies are considering this step, because there is enough money in Asia," he said. "You want to show the market that you can play by its rules, and that as a buyer and business partner you are transparent and trustworthy."

There are several hurdles facing D-share listings. Stefan Mueller, chief executive officer of the Ger-

man Institute for Asset and Equity Allocation and Valuation, said a lack of transparency in Chinese corporate governance may deter investors, while Wu Kan, Shanghai-based fund manager with Shanshan Finance Co., said that a dearth of liquidity in Ceinex listings is likely to be an obstacle.

In a statement about Haier's planned D-share listing last month, Ceinex said it offers international investors access to trade and invest in high quality Chinese companies. A spokesman for Deutsche Boerse said D-share listings are bound by capital market rules applicable in Germany or the EU. Bloomberg

AP PHOTO



ANALYSIS

US has a daunting to-do list to get ready for North Korea summit

Catherine Lucey, Zeke Miller & Matthew Lee, Washington

WHO sits where? What's on the agenda? Will they eat together? What's the security plan?

President Donald Trump and his team have a daunting to-do list to work through as they prepare for next month's expected summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

Trump's plan to meet with Kim may have come as a surprise decision, but his team hopes to leave nothing to chance when they come together in Singapore. They're gaming out policy plans, negotiating tactics, even menu items.

"We're working on the details, the actual blocking and tackling at the meeting," Secretary of State Mike Pompeo said last Sunday on CBS' "Face the Nation." "We have been working on them for weeks."

With two unpredictable leaders, it's hard to anticipate every possibility. But White House aides are expecting hard-ball negotiating tactics — already in evidence this week as the North Koreans cast fresh doubt on the

sit-down.

Leader summits on this level are a massive undertaking. Much like icebergs, only a small fraction of the work is visible above the waterline. And when the meeting involves the heads of two technically still-warring states, the list of logistical concerns expands, including sensitive items like the number and deployment of security officers. Officials on both sides are still determining the format for the meeting or meetings, whether Trump and Kim will share a meal, and the extent of any one-on-one interactions.

All of that comes as the U.S. formulates its strategies for the talks, including what the U.S. is prepared to give up and how precisely to define "denuclearization" on the Korean Peninsula — Trump's stated goal.

"I would say there are hundreds if not thousands of hours put into summit preparations," said Patrick McEachern, a public policy fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a former State Department official.

Scott Mulhauser, a former chief of staff at the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, said that in the lea-

dup to summit meetings, staffs try to anticipate the various negotiating positions their counterparts might take, adding that "if you're not gaming that out, you're not preparing adequately."

Trump is relying heavily on his top diplomat, Mike Pompeo, in preparing for the summit. Pompeo has met with Kim twice in Pyongyang, once as secretary of state and once as CIA chief, and has spent more time with the reclusive leader than any other American official. The amount of face time Pompeo has had with Kim rivals even that of most Asian leaders, apart from the Chinese.

Pompeo assembled a working group to handle negotiations with North Korea led by a retired senior CIA official with deep experience in the region. That team, based at CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia, remains the center of the administration's North Korea expertise.

Planning for the summit started quickly after Trump announced on Twitter his plans to meet with Kim, but kicked into higher gear after John Bolton became Trump's national se-

curity adviser last month. In addition to Pompeo's two trips to Pyongyang, U.S. officials have also been coordinating with the North Koreans through what's known as the "New York channel" — North Korean diplomats posted to their country's mission to the United Nations.

■ Much like icebergs, only a small fraction of the work [of leader summits] is visible above the waterline

A key question is the format for the meeting if the two countries are able to proceed to full-fledged nuclear negotiations, U.S. officials have said. That includes decisions about whether to keep the talks limited to the U.S. and North Korea or whether to bring other governments into the process, such as South Korea, China, Russia and Japan. Also key

is what the U.S. will negotiate away.

"One thing that is unclear to us is what the U.S. is willing to negotiate in exchange for North Korea's promises on denuclearization," said Jean Lee, director of the North Korea program at the Woodrow Wilson Center and a former Associated Press bureau chief in Pyongyang. "The North Koreans are going to be armed and very ready to negotiate. The Trump administration needs to be ready as well."

One initial hurdle that Pompeo managed to clear during his second visit to Pyongyang was the venue for the summit. North Korea was adamant that Kim not be put in any kind of situation where his security could be at risk, U.S. officials said. North Korean officials pushed very hard for the meeting to be in Pyongyang, so Kim would not have to leave the country and they could have 100 percent control over access and communications, according to the officials.

When North Korea objected to Trump's preferred choice of the demilitarized zone on the border between North and South Korea, the U.S. countered with Singapore. Some White House officials also opposed the DMZ choice, believing the optics on Korean rapprochement would distract from the focus on denuclearization.

U.S. officials said they believed one reason the North Koreans agreed to Singapore was that Kim had just returned from a successful trip to China the day before Pompeo arrived for his second visit. Many analysts, including U.S. officials, believe that Kim's flight to the Chinese port of Dalian — the first trip abroad by aircraft by a North Korean leader in decades — was likely a test of the country's ability to safely transport Kim by air. Kim's previous trips to China had all been by train, as was the custom of his father.

The North formally signed off on Singapore while Pompeo was in Pyongyang. Even before Trump announced the summit site by tweet a day after Pompeo's return, White House officials who traveled with Pompeo to Pyongyang were already on the ground in Singapore to begin working out summit logistics.

Very few people have had much direct contact with the North Koreans, so there are few people for the Trump administration to check with for guidance.

Bill Richardson, the former New Mexico governor and U.N. ambassador who has negotiated with the North Koreans, had one suggestion. He said that in the meeting setting, the North Koreans will be very formal, so building a rapport between the two will be vital.

His main advice: "Try to find some private time between President Trump and Kim Jong Un." **AP**

MEKONG RIVER

Study says China-backed dam would destroy fisheries

Stephen Wright, Bangkok

A Chinese-backed plan for Cambodia to build the Mekong River's biggest dam would destroy fisheries that feed millions and worsen tensions with Vietnam, the downstream country with most to lose from dams on the waterway, according to a three-year study commissioned by the Cambodian government.

The report, posted this month on the website of the U.S.-based organization that conducted the study, said the Sambor dam would "generate large power benefits to Cambodia, but at the probable cost of the destruction of the Mekong fishery, and the certain enmity of Vietnam."

It said the dam designed by China Southern Power Grid Co. would have a 620 square kilometer reservoir and dwarf the biggest dam currently being built on the Mekong, the Xayaburi dam in Laos, which was bitterly opposed by environmentalists for years.



The experts at the Natural Heritage Institute who authored the report, submitted to the Cambodian government late last year, recommended it defer the project while studying "better" alternatives such as using solar power to augment existing hydroelectric dams.

Alternative sites upstream

where the Mekong separates into several channels are possible but either financially unfeasible or only marginally less destructive than the site currently envisaged for the 2,600 megawatt dam, the study said. Possible mitigation measures are either unproven or have a poor track record, it said.

The dam would block fish mi-

gration from the giant Tonle Sap lake in Cambodia which is crucial for reproduction and replenishing what scientists say is the world's most productive fresh-water fishery. It would also prevent riverbed sediment that fertilizes the Mekong Delta rice bowl from moving down river, a particular problem for Vietnam

where delta farmlands are being destroyed by saltwater incursion from the sea.

"The dam and the reservoir would create a barrier that would be devastating for the migratory fish stocks," the study said.

It also warned that a population of about 80 critically endangered Irrawaddy river dolphins would likely be wiped out because the deep river pools they use as a dry season refuge would become filled with sediment blocked by the dam.

Cambodia's government, closely allied with China, its northern neighbor, and the recipient of substantial Chinese aid and investment, has not publicly commented on the report.

Seven dams that China built on the Mekong headwaters in its territory are already a headache for Southeast Asian countries, reducing the amount of sediment floating downstream by as much as half, according to researchers.

The Chinese dams were blamed for exacerbating a Southeast Asian drought in 2016, but countries in the region are pressing ahead with plans for Chinese companies to build a slew of other Mekong dams to meet growing demand for energy. Laos, one of the poorest countries in Asia, is pinning development hopes on becoming a source of power for its neighbors. AP



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AP PHOTO



OBITUARY

Remembering Tom Wolfe, 'a magician' with words

Hillel Italie, New York

YOU only had to look at him — in his white suits and two-tone shoes — or read such books as “The Bonfire of the Vanities” and “The Right Stuff” to know that Tom Wolfe was like no other.

“He was a magician,” Wolfe’s friend and fellow “New Journalist” Gay Talese told The Associated Press this week. “He would take a sentence and work that sentence in loops and do all kinds of things with words. He’d take you out for a spin and after a while you’d wonder if he knew where he was headed. But he always knew exactly where he was headed.”

Wolfe, who died Monday at age 88, was a rule breaker and traditionalist and a man of other contradictions. He mingled happily with hippies and published in Rolling Stone, but was a supporter of Ronald Reagan and otherwise old-fashioned in his tastes. He mocked the insular nature of American fiction, but was gracious in person, making a point before literary luncheons of reading the works of his fellow guests.

In recent years, he was badly stooped, but still stylish as he moved about with the help of a high cane with a wolf’s head on top. Ever curious and energetic, he had figured out the world long before.

Whether sending up the New York art scene or hanging out with acid heads, Wolfe inevitably presented man as a status-seeking animal, concerned above all about the opinion of his

peers. Wolfe himself dressed for company — his trademark a pale three-piece suit, impossibly high shirt collar, two-tone shoes and a silk tie.

And he acknowledged that he cared — very much — about his reputation.

“My contention is that status is on everybody’s mind all of the time, whether they’re conscious of it or not,” Wolfe, who lived in a 12-room apartment on Manhattan’s Upper East Side, told the AP in 2012.

Wolfe’s legacy was tangible to countless newspaper and magazine writers. As he helped define it, the “new journalism” combined the emotional impact of a novel, the analysis of the best essays, and the factual foundation of hard reporting. He mingled it all in an over-the-top style that made life itself seem like one spectacular headline.

“She is gorgeous in the most outrageous way,” he wrote in a typical piece, describing actress-socialite Baby Jane Holzer.

“Her hair rises up from her head in a huge hairy corona, a huge tan mane around a narrow face and two eyes opened — swock! — like umbrellas, with all that hair flowing down over a coat made of... zebra! Those motherless stripes!”

He enjoyed the highest commercial and critical rewards. His literary honors included the American Book Award (now called the National Book Award) for “The Right Stuff” and a nomination for the National Book Critics Circle prize for “The Bonfire of the Vanities,” one of the top 10 selling books of the

1980s. Wolfe satirized college misbehavior in “I Am Charlotte Simmons” and was still at it in his 80s with “Back to Blood,” a sprawling, multicultural story of sex and honor set in Miami.

Wolfe, the grandson of a Confederate rifleman, began his journalism career as a reporter at the Springfield (Massachusetts) Union in 1957. But it wasn’t until the mid-1960s, while a magazine writer for New York and Esquire, that his work made him a national trendsetter.

Wolfe traveled during the ‘60s with Ken Kesey and the Merry Pranksters for his book on the psychedelic culture, “The Electric Kool-Aid Acid Test.” One of his best-known magazine pieces, “Radical Chic: That Party at Lenny’s,” took a pointed look at fund-raising for the Black Panther Party by Leonard Bernstein and other wealthy whites. And no one more memorably captured the beauty-and-the-beast divide between the Beatles and the Rolling Stones: “The Beatles want to hold your hand,” he wrote, “but the Rolling Stones want to burn down your town!”

“My contention is that status is on everybody’s mind all of the time, whether they’re conscious of it or not.”

Wolfe had many detractors — including fellow writers Norman Mailer and John Updike and the critic James Wood, who panned Wolfe’s “big subjects, big people, and yards of flapping exaggeration. No one of average size emerges from his shop; in fact, no real human variety can be found in his fiction, because everyone has the same enormous excitability.”

But his fans included millions of book-buyers, literary critics and fellow authors.

“He knows everything,” novelist Kurt Vonnegut once wrote of Wolfe. “... I wish he had headed the Warren Commission. We might then have caught a glimpse of our nation.”

Thomas Kennerly Wolfe Jr. was born in Richmond, Virginia. He had an unsuccessful pitching tryout with the New York Giants before heading to Yale University, from which he earned a Ph.D. in American studies. His career didn’t immediately take off; Wolfe once took The Associated Press writing test and “dismally failed,” he later recounted, noting that he was faulted for embellishing the test material, a primal sin at the AP.

But in 1957, he joined the Springfield paper and instantly fell in love with journalism. Two years later he jumped to The Washington Post, where he won Washington Newspaper Guild awards in 1960 for his coverage of U.S.-Cuban affairs and a satiric account of that year’s Senate civil rights filibuster.

New York was his dream and by 1962 he was working at the now defunct New York Herald-Tribune, with colleagues inclu-

ding Jimmy Breslin and Charles Portis, who later wrote the novel “True Grit.” The next year, Wolfe was assigned to cover a “Hot Rod & Custom Car” show. He completed a story, the kind “any of the somnambulistic totem newspapers in America would have come up with.”

But he knew there was a much richer, and longer story to tell, one about a thriving subculture that captured the post-World War II economic boom and the new freedom to “build monuments” to one’s own style. No newspaper could contain what Wolfe had in mind, so he turned to Esquire magazine, wrote up 49 pages and helped give birth to a new kind of reporter.

“For the who-what-where-when-why of traditional journalism, he has substituted what he calls ‘the wowie!’” according to a 1965 Newsweek story.

That same year, his first book appeared: “The Kandy-Kolored Tangerine-Flake Streamline Baby,” a collection of 23 Wolfe articles that included the title piece, his seminal work on custom cars. In 1968, another collection — “The Pump-House Gang” — appeared, as did his book on the Pranksters.

It wasn’t until the early ‘80s that Wolfe turned his attention to fiction. His topic: New York City in the late 20th century, a melange of sexual tension, class struggles and racial animus. “The Bonfire of the Vanities” first appeared as a serial in “Rolling Stone” magazine in 1984-85, with Wolfe writing the book one chapter at a time.

When it was released as a novel in 1987, “Bonfire” became an immediate sensation even as it was criticized for its portrayal of blacks. One black character, the publicity-seeking Reverend Bacon, was based on a then-little known Al Sharpton. But a film version starring Tom Hanks and Bruce Willis was so disastrous that it inspired a nonfiction account of the wreckage, Julie Salamon’s “The Devil’s Candy.”

“A Man in Full” turned Wolfe’s smirk to Atlanta society. His 2004 novel, “I Am Charlotte Simmons,” looked at life on a fictional elite college campus rife with drinking, status obsession and sex. The book received poor reviews and was a commercial disappointment, leading Wolfe to switch publishers in 2008 from Farrar, Straus & Giroux — where he had been for 40 years — to Little, Brown and Company. Other recent works, including the nonfiction “The Kingdom of Speech,” were not well received. But he was never without ideas for future projects.

“There are still so many things I don’t know about the city and I’d just like to see what’s out there,” he told the AP in 2012. “The Latin American population has increased enormously since ‘Bonfire’ and Wall Street has changed enormously. I’ll follow my usual technique of just taking in a scene and seeing what happens.” AP

CONGO

Ebola spreads to city, entering three health zones in the country

Saleh Mwanamilongo & Carley Petesch, Kinshasa

CONGO'S Ebola outbreak has spread to a city, the capital of the northwestern Equateur province, a worrying shift as the risk of infection is more easily passed on in densely populated urban areas.

Two suspected cases of hemorrhagic fever were reported in the Wangata health zones, which includes Mbandaka, a city of nearly 1.2 million people about 150 kilometers from Bikoro, the rural area where the outbreak was announced last week, said Congo Health Minister Oly Ilunga.

One sample proved positive for the deadly Ebola virus, he said. This brings to three the number of confirmed Ebola cases. A total of 44 cases have now been reported, including 23 deaths, the World Health Organization reports. Among those are three confirmed, 20 probable and 21 suspected cases.

"We are entering a new pha-



se of the Ebola outbreak that is now affecting three health zones, including an urban health zone," he said, adding he is worried because Mbandaka is densely populated and at the crossroads of Equateur province. Ebola is spread by contact with the bodily fluids of people

exhibiting symptoms.

"Since the announcement of the alert in Mbandaka, our epidemiologists are working in the field with community relays to identify people who have been in contact with suspected cases," he said.

He said the lists of those ex-

posed to suspected Ebola cases would receive, for the first time in Congo, a new component of response to an Ebola outbreak: vaccinations. Health experts are already tracing 500 contacts, he said.

A total of 44 cases have now been reported, including 23 deaths

The World Health Organization sent 5,400 doses of the experimental Ebola vaccine to Congo yesterday [Macau time], according to the health minister. WHO has said it will send thousands more in the coming days, as needed.

Before this announcement, all confirmed Ebola cases were reported in the Bikoro health zone, where health facilities are

limited and affected areas are difficult to reach.

"This is a concerning development, but we now have better tools than ever before to combat Ebola," said Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, WHO Director-General. "WHO and our partners are taking decisive action to stop further spread of the virus."

WHO said it has deployed 30 experts for surveillance in Mbandaka. WHO is also working with Medecins Sans Frontieres and other organizations to stem the outbreak and treat Ebola patients in isolation wards.

The vaccine, from U.S.-based pharmaceutical firm Merck, is unlicensed but has been shown to be highly effective against Ebola. It was tested in Guinea in 2015 during the outbreak that killed more than 11,300 people in West Africa from 2014 to 2016.

This is the ninth Ebola outbreak in Congo since 1976. While none has been connected to the one in West Africa, the experimental vaccine is thought to be effective against the Zaire strain of Ebola found in Congo.

WHO said it will use the "ring vaccination" method. It involves vaccinating voluntary contacts, contacts of those contacts and health care and other front-line workers. **AP**

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FRIDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:50 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:25 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:55 | Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated) |
| 19:45 | Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated) |
| 19:50 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:15 | Portuguese Mini Serie |
| 22:10 | Brazilian Soap Opera |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | European League Highlights |
| 01:25 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 02:15 | RTPi Live |

SATURDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:30 | Comedy |
| 11:35 | Miscellaneous |
| 12:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT) |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:55 | Miscellaneous |
| 17:50 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:35 | Miscellaneous |
| 18:35 | Miscellaneous |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT) |
| 21:00 | Grimm Sr. 3 |
| 22:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:35 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 01:10 | RTPi Live |

SUNDAY

| | |
|-------|--|
| 10:25 | Kids Serie |
| 11:00 | Sunday Mass (Live) |
| 12:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 13:00 | TDM News (Repeated) |
| 13:30 | News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast |
| 15:00 | Miscellaneous |
| 16:55 | Brainstorm |
| 17:40 | Got Talent Portugal |
| 19:20 | Portuguese Serie |
| 20:30 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report |
| 21:00 | Non-daily Portuguese News |
| 22:00 | Documentary |
| 23:00 | TDM News |
| 23:30 | Miscellaneous |
| 00:15 | Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated) |
| 00:50 | RTPi Live |

Offbeat

DOMESTIC DISPUTE IN GERMANY: MAN ARGUING WITH A PARROT

Police were called to investigate a domestic disturbance in a southern German town — and found a man arguing with a parrot.

A resident in Loerrach, near the Swiss border, called the emergency number this earlier this week to report his concerns about loud shouting from a next-door apartment that had been going on for some time.

Police said afterwards that officers sent to the scene found there was a loud argument going on — but it was between a 22-year-old man and a parrot. The man told them he had been annoyed with the bird, which belonged to his girlfriend.

The parrot responded to being shouted at with loud noises of its own. Police said it couldn't speak but could bark like a dog. Since no one was hurt, the officers left.

cinema



CINETEATRO

17 - 23 May

ATTACK ON TITAN SESASON 2 MOVIE

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:30pm
Director: Masashi Koizuka
Language: Japanese (Chinese)



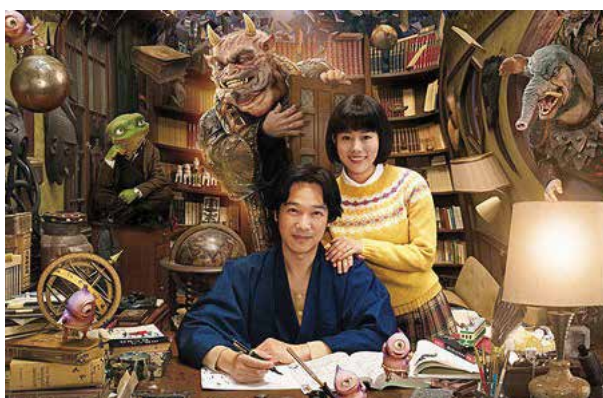
THE KILLING OF A SACRED DEER

ROOM 2
2:30, 4:45 7:00pm
Director: Yorgos Lanthimos
Starring: Colin Farrell, Nicole Kidman, Barry Keoghan
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 121min



AVENGERS: INFINITY WAR

ROOM 2
2:30, 6:00, 9:00pm
Director: Anthony Russo, Joe Russo
Starring: Robert Downey Jr, Chris Evans, Chris Hemsworth
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 149min



DESTINY: THE TALE OK KAMAKURA

ROOM 3
2:15, 4:45 7:15pm
Director: Takashi Yamazaki
Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata
Language: English (Chinese)



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)
Duration: 111min

this day in history



1972 DUKE TOO ILL FOR TEA WITH THE QUEEN

The Duke of Windsor was not well enough to attend tea with the Queen when she came to visit his home in Paris this afternoon.

He was said to be "dreadfully disappointed" after doctors told him he was not to come downstairs because of ill health.

They made their decision just hours before the Queen, with Prince Philip and Prince Charles, was due to see her uncle for the first time in five years - and the first time in his own home.

The Queen did spend 15 minutes talking alone with her "Uncle David" in his first floor sitting room after the Duchess of Windsor hosted tea in the downstairs drawing room.

The Royal party had arrived from the races in Longchamp, a day after a tour of the Provence region as part of a state visit to France.

Earlier this year, the duke had a hernia operation and although at first he seemed to have recovered well, his health then took a turn for the worse. He has not left the house for six weeks.

There has been some speculation that the Queen may have discussed one of her uncle's strongest wishes - that the title of Royal Highness would be formally conferred on his wife.

But Buckingham Palace has said there is no question that the American divorcee can ever receive such a title.

The Duke of Windsor, once King Edward VIII, abdicated in 1936 after constitutional objections to his plans to marry the twice-divorced Wallis Simpson. He was succeeded to the throne by George VI, father of the present Queen.

The couple tied the knot in France in 1937 and have lived there ever since in virtual exile although they have made various visits to the Royal family in London over the years.

The Duke spent some time in the Bahamas as governor during World War II.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Ten days later, the Duke of Windsor died at his home in Paris. Doctors revealed he had been suffering from throat cancer for some time.

He left an estimated fortune of £4m.

The Duchess of Windsor attended his funeral in Frogmore, England. She lived as a recluse in Paris until her death in 1986 and was buried next to her husband in England.

Her impressive collection of jewellery was auctioned a year later in Paris raising more than £31m for the Pasteur Institute, a centre for biological research.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You've got a lot of living to do and you may have been going a little overboard lately - but knowing impulsive you, it's probably surprising that you haven't gone further than you have!

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Someone is about to ask if you can keep a secret - a big, important one, in their book. Be merciful. No matter how hard your curiosity tugs at your shirtsleeve, tell them - honestly.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Whether you know it or not, the higher-ups you've been dealing with are quite pleased with you - that may go double for one particular female authority figure. Be patient;

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

If you thought you were having fun before, prepare yourself - especially in the department of romance, your favorite. The heavens have arranged for someone from the past.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Right now, even as you read, something delicious is energizing the heavens, bringing up a secret surprise you won't be able to help but enjoy. The stars have connected to make you even hotter.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

There's only one way to let your family know how much you love them - according to them, at least - at this exact moment in time. Unfortunately, that means they'll be strongly hinting about.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your sign has always been known for magnetism. When you walk into a room, it's quite odd for you to leave without several phone numbers - none of which you had to ask for.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

First thing this morning, you'll want to make plans to socialize tonight. Don't worry about finding playmates who'll be up for it, either, regardless of what time you all have to get up the next morning.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

When you feel strongly about something, you're never shy about letting the world know. That goes double for now. In fact, right now, anyone who challenges you really should be warned first.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Unbelievable as it may seem, you're actually tired of keeping a secret - mostly because you want the world to know that you and a certain someone have something good going on.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

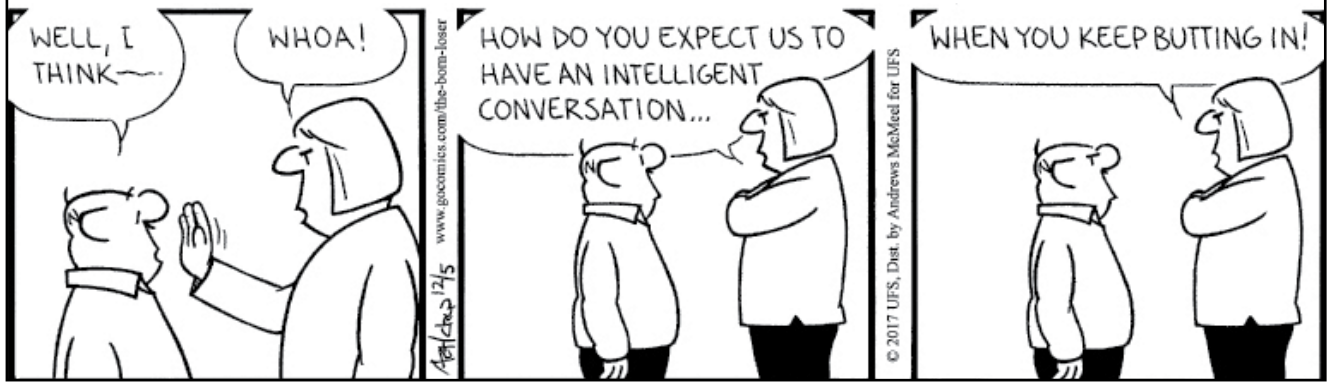
The universe is absolutely bent on finding someone who's not temporary and not simply just adequate. The heavens are searching for your perfect lover. In the meantime, expect to be quite busy with family situations.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

There's only one person you can think of who's equipped to give you the advice you need now - especially since it's such a private matter. So go see them, or at least give them a call.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|--|
| | 1 | | | | 2 | 9 | | |
| 7 | 2 | | | | | 5 | | |
| | | 1 | 4 | 9 | | | 3 | |
| 9 | | 1 | | | | | | |
| 6 | | 8 | 3 | | | 2 | | |
| | | | 6 | | 3 | | | |
| 2 | | 7 | 9 | 6 | | | | |
| 3 | | | | 1 | | 5 | | |
| 9 | 4 | | | | 2 | | | |

Medium

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

Hard

| | | | | | | | | |
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| 5 | 2 | 6 | | | | | | |
| | | 3 | | | | 1 | | |
| 4 | 3 | 8 | | | | | | |
| | | 7 | 2 | | | | | |
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| 1 | 8 | 4 | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | 2 | 5 | |
| | | | | | | 6 | | |

WEATHER

| | MIN | MAX | CONDITION |
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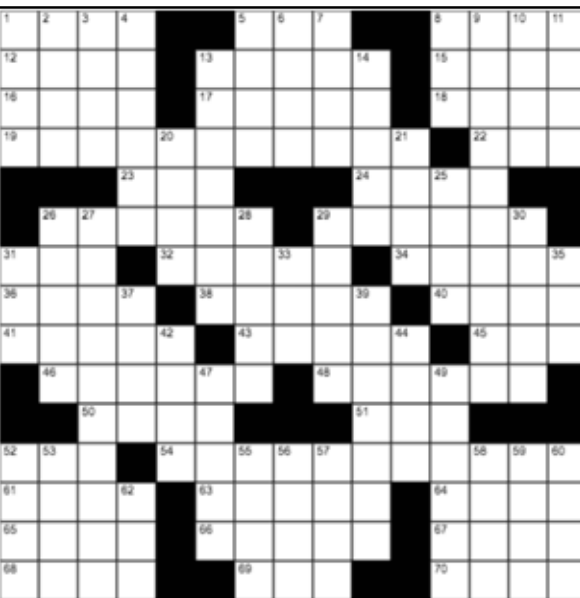
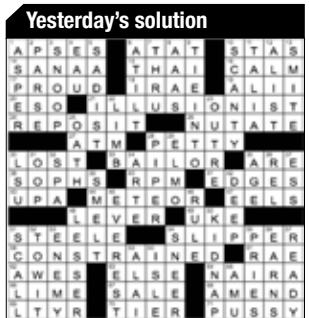
| CHINA | | | |
|-----------|----|----|------------------------|
| Beijing | 18 | 28 | cloudy |
| Harbin | 10 | 24 | clear/cloudy |
| Tianjin | 17 | 29 | overcast/cloudy |
| Urumqi | 12 | 22 | cloudy |
| Xi'an | 18 | 28 | shower |
| Lhasa | 7 | 22 | overcast/cloudy |
| Chengdu | 21 | 26 | drizzle/shower |
| Chongqing | 22 | 32 | drizzle |
| Kunming | 14 | 28 | cloudy/clear |
| Nanjing | 22 | 30 | overcast/thundershower |
| Shanghai | 24 | 31 | drizzle |
| Wuhan | 24 | 30 | drizzle/moderate rain |
| Hangzhou | 25 | 33 | cloudy/shower |
| Taipei | 23 | 30 | cloudy |
| Guangzhou | 26 | 34 | cloudy/thundershower |
| Hong Kong | 27 | 32 | cloudy/thundershower |

| WORLD | | | |
|-----------|----|----|---------------------|
| Moscow | 13 | 24 | drizzle |
| Frankfurt | 8 | 19 | clear/drizzle |
| Paris | 7 | 20 | clear |
| London | 4 | 15 | cloudy/clear |
| New York | 18 | 21 | moderate/heavy rain |

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Wyo. neighbor; 5- We ___ the World; 8- Doing nothing; 12- Dies ___; 13- Trap; 15- Soaks (up); 16- Young cow; 17- Feudal estate; 18- Breakfast staple; 19- Approximations; 22- Fannie ___; 23- Fond du ___, Wis.; 24- ___ boy; 26- Probably; 29- Italian ice cream; 31- Tolkien ogre; 32- Do not disturb; 34- Martini garnish; 36- Gloomy; 38- Role for Clark; 40- Deck quartet; 41- Chair designer Charles; 43- Take ___ for the worse; 45- This was produced by Van Gogh, for example; 46- Intensify; 48- Spanish rice dish; 50- Workers' rights org.; 51- Hosp. procedure; 52- Lord, is ___?; 54- Yellow jack; 61- Snack in a shell; 63- Lasso; 64- Shrivelled, without moisture; 65- Coup d'___; 66- Delicious; 67- High schooler; 68- Dissolve; 69- Rock's ___ Speedwagon; 70- Roughly;

DOWN: 1- Good one!; 2- Historical times; 3- Latvian, e.g.; 4- Ballpoint insert; 5- Med. school subj.; 6- Hindu queen; 7- Switch ending; 8- British verb ending; 9- Doctrinal; 10- Annika Sorenstam's org.; 11- Latin being; 13- Dollar; 14- Bert's roomie; 20- Letters, e.g.; 21- WWII battle site; 25- Room in a casa; 26- Of great breadth; 27- Worldwide; 28- Patriot Allen; 29- Costume; 30- ___ barrel; 31- Lyric poem; 33- Stake; 35- Superlative suffix; 37- Film spool; 39- Telferage; 42- Peppy; 44- Soft ball brand; 47- Movie critic Roger; 49- Deceives; 52- News bit; 53- London gallery; 55- Perjurer; 56- Use a surgical beam; 57- Director Preminger; 58- Change course; 59- "___ Tu" ('70s hit); 60- Gambling mecca; 62- Giant Mel;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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- PSP 28 573 333
- Customs 28 559 944
- S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
- Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
- Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
- IACM 28 387 333
- Tourism 28 333 000
- Airport 59 888 88
- Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
- Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
- Telephone - Report 1000
- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
- Macau Daily Times 28 716 081



AD

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FOOTBALL | EUROPA LEAGUE

Atletico finishes strong after poor start to season

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

IT all turned out just fine for Atletico Madrid.

After enduring a poor start to the season, Atletico ended it on a very high note.

Diego Simeone's team is celebrating the Europa League title and still has a chance to finish second in the Spanish league, a feat it hasn't achieved since 2014.

"We're very happy. We've been doing well year after year," Simeone said. "We've always said the best way to start winning again was to always keep trying."

It was the sixth title for Simeone since he arrived in 2012 to revamp Atletico and make it into perennial title contender. He is now tied with Luis Aragones for the most titles with the club.

"It's about more than a trophy," Simeone said. "It represents the value of hard work, a steady hand and consistency, values to be successful in life."

Life poured onto the streets of the Spanish capital yesterday [Macau time] to celebrate Atletico winning a third Europa League trophy after beating Marseille 3-0 in the final in Lyon.

It was a good way to end a season which began with very high expectations for Atletico but mostly disappointed until the last few weeks.

The main goal was to make it back to the Champions League final after coming very close to winning the title in recent seasons, But it couldn't even get past the group stage.

Atletico easily made it to the knockout stages in the last four seasons, losing the final to Real Madrid in 2014 and 2016, and being a semifinalist last season



and a quarterfinalist in 2015. "We came very close in two Champions League finals, and in the semifinals last season," Simeone said. "We lost one [final] with two minutes left, and another on penalties. But we got ourselves back up." Atletico lost to Sevilla in the

quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey to see another title opportunity slip by, and in the Spanish league it stayed near the top throughout the season but was never really able to mount a title challenge against Barcelona.

Not helpful was a FIFA transfer ban which wasn't lifted until January, when Atletico could finally sign striker Diego Costa.

Atletico needs a draw at home against Eibar on Sunday to hold on to second place ahead of Real Madrid and secure its best finish since it won the league in 2014. Atletico finished third behind either Barcelona or Madrid in all the other years since 2012-13, which was the team's first full season under Simeone.

A draw or a loss by Real Madrid at Villarreal tomorrow will also be enough for Atletico, which is three points ahead of the city rival with one match to play. The teams are even in the head-to-head tiebreaker — they drew 0-0 and 1-1 — but Atletico trails on overall goal difference.

Sunday's Liga game will also mark the end of Fernando Torres' career with Atletico. The former Spain striker earlier announced he will leave the club at the end of the season. **AP**

Marseille, Lyon and Monaco fight for Champions League spot

MARSEILLE no longer has its own destiny in hand.

After losing the Europa League final to Atletico Madrid, the southern French club faces the prospect of missing out on the Champions League for the second time in a matter of days.

Tomorrow's final round of the French league will decide who finishes second and third to gain automatic entry in Europe's elite competition. The side in fourth goes into the Europa League.

All of the matches are played simultaneously to add more drama.

Deposed champion Monaco holds second place with a two-point lead over Lyon. Marseille is one point behind Lyon in fourth.

Marseille would have got a direct Champions League spot by beating Atletico. Now it needs to win at home to Amiens — which has only pride to play for — and hope Monaco and Lyon slip up.

Although Monaco and Lyon are in the driving seat, it might not be so straightforward.

Monaco travels to 19th-place Troyes, which is fighting to avoid relegation. Troyes can yet finish in 18th place, which is the promotion-relegation playoff spot against the third-placed team in division two.

It's not that easy for Lyon, either, seeing it is at home to bitter rival Nice.

Matches between the sides are always tense, hostile affairs and Nice is in contention for a Europa League place next season providing it wins.



AD



In accordance with articles 24 and 25 of the Charter of Anima-Society for the Protection of Animals (Macau), the Annual General Meeting will take place on Saturday, 19th May 2018, at 4:00 p.m. in the Anima office in Macau, Rua do Campo, No78, China Construction Commercial Building, 19 Floor C room, with the following agenda:

1. Discussing and passing of the Report and the Statement of Accounts and the Written Opinion of the Supervisory Body for 2017;
2. Elections.
3. Ratification of Honorary Title assignment
4. Any other subjects

In case it is not present in the first call at least half of the members of the Association, the General Assembly will meet in the same place half an hour later on second call with any number of members.

All members attending the meeting should sign the attendance members list and produce evidence of their identity (through Anima ID card or any ID card or passport).

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PAPER TIGERS VS. PAPER PLANES

The Sulu Sou case has been an embarrassment ever since the youngest directly elected legislator had his mandate suspended last December 4. Twenty-eight legislators ridiculed themselves and showed to the community their lack of respect for the independence of their own institution and sheer contempt for the very idea of popular sovereignty.

Cowardice was then added to silliness when we came to realize that the secrecy of the ballot would remain inviolable. One can only suspect that Messrs. Coutinho, Ng, Au and Miss Lam were the ones not falling for this disgraceful self-serving "Yes Minister" standpoint. As often in Macao, suspicions and conjectures are what we are left with.

For a while, we believed that the farce would have to stop if the very notion of separation of powers was to survive. In January, bowing down to the pressure of an educated few, sponsors of the legislature's resolution aiming at banning a judicial review of the legislative process leading to Mr. Sou's suspension had to back down and withdraw their suspicious attempt at preemptively hiding up their mess.

If people as professional as Vong Hin Fai and Kou Hoi In had been exposed for the utter incompetence of their hasty move, it was reasonable to imagine that due processes would be more strictly enforced in the future. The rescheduling of the trial to May 14 was a positive sign and followed a request coming from the defense, thus allowing both parties to lay down their arguments more thoroughly.

What we have seen on Monday and Tuesday this week during the trial, however, appears to indicate that some lessons were not learnt, leading the defense lawyers to denounce an attempt at turning the whole conundrum into a "political trial": the crime of "aggravated disobedience," for which Messrs. Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang stand accused of, entails a prison sentence of maximum two years... and without a hint of consideration for the proportionality of sentencing, this is what the prosecution is asking for!

While fooled Sin Fong residents or tricked small-time Pearl Horizon investors get a mere slap on the wrist and a few thousand patacas in fines for indeed seriously disturbing public order, young democrats would deserve a 2-year sentence, and for what exactly? Throwing paper planes in an empty garden and walking on the streets instead of the sidewalk for a few minutes in the most idle district of the peninsula?

As everybody has come to realize, the target is not two years, but rather a month or so: if sentenced for more than 30 days, Sulu Sou will lose his seat for the rest of the legislature.

To the dismay of the defense lawyers, the prosecution spared no effort — some of them barely legal — in trying to darken the whole picture: but by desperately trying to prove the "aggravation," the prosecution somehow forgot that it had first to prove the "disobedience"!

On the side of tricks, charges that had been dismissed in pre-trial talks were shamelessly reintroduced in the discussion, without the defense being made aware and against all judicial procedural rules. Had the authorized route not been followed? Absolutely not, as the march actually did end under the Nam Vam Lake Nautical Centre white tent — not going up to the Legislative Assembly does not constitute a "disobedience". I know: I was there and witnessed the talks with the police and the call from the organizers to disband! Thus, a mere 10 individuals went on their own to the Chief Executive official (empty) residence: never blocking the traffic, and never reaching Penha Hill Garden, as barriers had been actually set-up (in advance!) at the very entrance of the Estrada de Santa Sancha. For an order to be disobeyed, it has to be stated first, and a few minutes delay in reaction are not in themselves acts of disobedience.

The question is thus simple: will Messrs. Sou and Chiang be punished for actual crimes, or rather for portraying the Chief Executive as a pig on May 15, 2016? Or should we go back to May 2014?

THE BUZZ VATICAN DENOUNCES OFFSHORE TAX HAVENS AS THREATS TO THE POOR

The Vatican is denouncing offshore tax havens and financial instruments such as derivatives as gravely immoral and unjust, calling them "ticking time bombs" that will hurt the world's poor the most.

In a new document released yesterday, the Vatican's doctrine office teamed up with its social justice department to give a more solid moral foundation to the Holy See's oft-repeated call for a more ethical global financial system.

The document, approved by Pope Francis, calls for banks to create internal ethical committees to ensure decisions work for the common good and not just individual corporate bottom lines.

Notably missing was an articulated call for a global political authority to regulate markets and tax financial transactions, which the Vatican's social justice office had recommended in a controversial 2011 document.

Cannes doc: Whitney Houston was molested by Dee Dee Warwick

Jake Coyle, Cannes

FRIENDS of Whitney Houston allege the singer was molested as a child by her cousin Dee Dee Warwick in a documentary that premiered yesterday at the Cannes Film Festival.

Houston's longtime assistant Mary Jones tells filmmaker Kevin Macdonald that the late singer told her that Warwick, the sister of Dionne Warwick, molested her at a young age. Houston's brother Gary Garland-Houston also says he was molested between the ages of 7 and 9 by a female family member, and says his sister was abused too.

Dee Dee Warwick, who was 18 years older than Houston, died in 2008.

The allegations were made in the documentary "Whitney," which was made with the cooperation of Houston's family. The revelations, which come about three quarters of the way into "Whitney," immediately cast a new light on the troubled life of Houston.

Jones claims that the experience made Houston question her own sexuality and contributed to her late-life drug problems. The singer died at the age of 48 in 2012 from what was ruled an accidental drowning in a bathtub. A coroner's report into her death cited heart disease and



drug use as contributing factors. She never spoke publicly about her own alleged abuse.

"We always wanted our film to be a corrective to that tabloid story," said producer Simon Chinn. "These are specific revelations that I think will get people to a deeper understanding of who Whitney was and in many ways redeem her as a person."

Dee Dee Warwick was the niece of Houston's mother, Cissy Houston. The Warwick sisters sometimes sang in Cissy Houston's gospel group, the Drinkard Singers. Dee Dee Warwick, who was twice nominated for a Grammy Award, sang backup for Wil-

son Pickett, Aretha Franklin and others.

"Whitney," which is to be released in theaters July 7, suggests that the alleged incidents of abuse took place while Cissy Houston was touring. Houston, who had a daughter, Bobbi Kristina Brown, with Bobby Brown, is said to have insisted on taking Bobbi on tour with her.

Bobbi Kristina died 2015. She was found unresponsive in a bathtub and died after being in a coma for six months.

Representatives for Dionne Warwick didn't immediately return messages Thursday. **AP**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Photo by Joel C Ryan/Invision/AP



French kiss. Actor Gary Oldman (left) kisses his wife Gisele Schmidt during a photo call at the 71st international film festival, Cannes, yesterday.

| Station | Air quality |
|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Roadside | 80-100 Moderate |
| High Density Residential Area | 50-70 Moderate |
| Ambient | 80-100 Moderate |

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS

ARAB LEAGUE Arab foreign ministers are holding an emergency meeting three days after the opening of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem and violence along the Gaza border, where Israeli forces killed dozens of Palestinians.



CONGO's latest Ebola outbreak has spread to a city of more than 1 million people, a worrying shift as the deadly virus risks traveling more easily in densely populated areas. More on p15

POLAND-RUSSIA Polish authorities plan to expel one Russian and banned four others for entering for five years on allegations they had engaged in "information warfare" seeking to fuel animosity between Poles and Ukrainians.



FRANCE President Emmanuel Macron says his country will not get into a trade war against the United States over Iran, despite France's disapproval of President Donald Trump's decision to withdraw from the nuclear deal.

EUROPEAN UNION EU leaders yesterday encouraged Balkan countries to continue on the path of reform but were cool on any of the six joining the bloc in the near future.



VENEZUELA's presidential candidates are making their last-minute pitches before Sunday's election, though many people are hardly noticing as they struggle to find their next meal and pay for it with money that is next to worthless under runaway inflation.

BRAZIL Law enforcement officials say gunmen murdered a police officer during an attempted robbery in Rio de Janeiro, bringing to 49 the number of police officers shot and killed so far this year in Brazil's second biggest city.