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WORLD BRIEFS



MALAYSIA The wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (pictured) has slammed police raids on their properties, saying Saturday they appeared targeted at vilifying the family to provoke public anger. More on p12

INDONESIA Prosecutors are demanding death for a radical Islamic cleric accused of ordering attacks including a January 2016 suicide bombing.



KOREA North Korea on Saturday reiterated its demands for South Korea to send back 12 restaurant workers who came to the South in 2016, saying such a move would demonstrate Seoul's willingness to improve relations. More on p12

INDIA At least six police officials were killed and another was critically injured yesterday when Maoist rebels targeted their vehicle with a bomb in eastern India, police said.



SAUDI ARABIA Just weeks before Saudi Arabia is set to lift its ban on women driving, the kingdom's state security said Saturday it had detained seven people who are being accused of working with "foreign entities."

More on backpage

AFTER MILITARY THREATS FROM CHINA

Taiwan gov't steps up security measures

P11



Scholar: Japanese competition might be limited to Osaka at first

P4 GAMING

Macau to help Guizhou combat poverty

THE MSAR government has announced that it will join the central government's poverty-combating projects, which will begin by focusing on the province of Guizhou, specifically Congjiang.

On Saturday, influential figures, including government officials, gathered at the East Asian Games Dome to attend a briefing led by Liu Yongfu, a mainland Chinese official in charge of the nationwide poverty-relief programs.

As cited in a TDM report, the gathering followed the announcement that the MSAR government will join forces with the central government to lift people in Guizhou out of poverty.

The meeting discussed how the central government would seek to eradicate the issue of poverty in rural areas by 2020.

The main effort will be "to bring some enterprises to Guizhou to see what resources and financial opportunities it provides and, in the meantime, the mainland will roll out supporting policies in return to increase efficiency and mutual benefits," Liu said.

The Chief Executive is set to start a visit to the southwest



Liu Yongfu (left) met with Chui Sai On

ern province tomorrow to learn about its current situation and explore opportunities for cooperation. Chui will lead a delegation to the southwestern province with Zheng Xiaosong, head of Beijing's liaison office in Macau, and will meet with their Guizhou counterparts, attend

talks and go on trips to inspect the province.

Both sides are expected to reach several agreements, covering poverty reduction, education, medical services and talent nurturing.

Further details about the program and its costs remain unknown.



Food street opens at Trust Legend residential

SOME ten local food stores at the real estate property Trust Legend opened last week, forming a food street on the ground floor. The opening ceremony was attended by the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam.

According to Hugo Chiang, business director of Trust Legend, one of the intentions behind the development of the food street was to facilitate the growth of local SMEs by offering lower rent to these entrepreneurs, compared to market prices.

"It is just at the starting stage. Hopefully, we can provide [the shops with] some help at the beginning, to let some young shops grow," said Chiang, who headed the project.

"I can't give you the exact amount of their rent, but it is about half or one-third of the market's rent," Chiang explained.

He also implied that the leasing

period is still variable as it is just the beginning of the project and the developer still needs to promote the food street.

"Before we had this idea, [we] already received offers, mainly catering-related offers. Later, when Macau gained the title of a city of gastronomy, we became even more insistent that we should continue it like this," Chiang continued.

The head of food establishments believes that the centralized operation of restaurants may not necessarily lead to vicious competition.

Chiang expressed his hopes of expanding the business to tourists without losing the local market.

"Later on, the government will build Mong Ha public houses and Mong Ha sports complex, [...] which will bring new synergy to the food street," the department head added. **LV**

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

A BASIC GUIDE TO VETERINARY ACUPUNCTURE

Veterinary acupuncture is based on the Chinese principles that have been used for centuries to heal various medical problems in humans. In pets, the acupuncture started to be used in the early 1970s. The treatment involves needles, which are positioned in various points in the body, aiming at reducing the pain and the symptoms of the pet.

Acupuncture principles

Acupuncture is a treatment that may be applied in pets as well and is an alternative healing method.

This type of treatment has been developed by the Chinese people and is based on the belief that there are certain points in the body that may control entire regions. Consequently, if for instance the liver of the pet is affected, inserting a needle in the corresponding point in the pet's body will heal the liver. There are some longitudinal points that should be used when inserting the needles.

Hypodermic needles are used. The treatment may be applied in various pet illnesses and it may be recommended to pets of all ages. However, pets under the age of 4 weeks or pets that are underweight may not be able to bear

the needles, so the treatment should be avoided or performed under general anesthesia. According to the principles of acupuncture, the insertion of the needles will not only reduce the symptoms, but will also stimulate the body to heal.

Acupuncture for pet illnesses

The pet illnesses that are most frequently treated with acupuncture include terminal illnesses or illnesses that cannot be treated otherwise. However, some vets will recommend acupuncture even in cases when other types of treatments are possible, offering a non toxic alternative.

Acupuncture in pets may be used in:

- Cancers
- Kidney failure and liver problems to avoid toxic drugs
- Arthritis
- Allergic reactions
- Asthma
- Stress
- Lack of appetite

Acupuncture may be used in conjunction with other traditional treatments, but may be a self

standing treatment as well.

The meridians

The longitudinal points or meridians are the points where the needles will be inserted. For each point, there is a corresponding body region.

The meridians should be located and the needles should be inserted only in the points that are corresponding to the areas affected in the pet's body.

In cats and dogs, the longitudinal points are located on the head, back and limbs and there are 44 points in total. An acupuncturist is familiar with all of these points and their correspondents.

The hypodermic needles and the acupuncture treatment

The treatment will require small gauge hypodermic needles, which are inserted in the longitudinal points established by the acupuncturist.

The needles are removed after a few minutes and the pet shouldn't feel any pain. However, if the pet is very skinny, he may be more sensitive to the needles.



The pet may experience bleeding, but only in reduced amounts.

A full acupuncture treatment requires 4 to 8 sessions, depending on the pet's condition. In some cases, more sessions will be recommended.

For any questions regarding the health of your pets please contact us at info@rvcmacau.com

Hope this helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan

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MECC lauds progression of city's multiculturalism

Julie Zhu

THE Macau European Chamber of Commerce (MECC) held its 2018 Gala Dinner at the Grand Lisboa last Friday.

The fifth annual occurrence of its kind, the British-Irish themed dinner celebrated the endeavors of the European Union (EU) and Macau communities in strengthening their bilateral ties.

Continuing its tradition, MECC presented the MECC Awards for Euroexcellence in Food and Beverage, Luxury and Innovation to recognize Macanese companies which uphold high European standards and quality, contributing to the sustainable development of Macau.

First presented in 2015, the awards encourage local enterprises to engage in Sino-Western collaboration, create new international business opportunities, and sustain Macau's rich history of cross-cultural exchange.

Vitor Sereno, Honorary Chairman of MECC and Consul General of Portugal to Macau and Hong Kong said, "Relations between



Vitor Sereno speaks during the event

Macau and the EU have been long and successful; in addition to political, trade and economic ties, we have also witnessed an expansion of relations in culture, education and environment. The environment is one of the areas with the most potential for cooperation, since Macau has [an in-

creasing number] of infrastructure projects in various sectors. EU companies can play a major role in providing expertise and services for Macau projects and boosting overall competitiveness. Since Macau has been designated as the platform between China and the Portuguese-speaking countries,

lots of efforts [have been] made to strengthen the city's legal system and cultivate professionals."

"For the future, the EU and its companies should continue to work closely with Macau government to diversify the economy, improve sustainability and promote bilateral trade and invest-

ment flows."

Carmen Cano de Lasala, head of the Office of the EU to Hong Kong and Macao, noted that Europe remains a key partner to Macau, China and other Asian partners. She noted that the EU is more indispensable than ever and ready to engage with the world, including Macau.

In addition, she said that the EU appreciates the MSAR's efforts to pursue economic diversification and reiterated Macau's willingness to play a positive role by providing expertise to EU businesses.

Kevin Thompson, president of the Board of Directors of MECC, said in his speech: "This year a significant milestone will be reached, an economic boost projected with the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge. With the hardware for connectivity in place, it is vital that the software keeps pace and that we continue to attract innovative European businesses, cultivate talent and generate an exchange of ideas amongst all Macau's business communities."

The winners of this year's MECC Awards for Euroexcellence were the Educational Restaurant of the Institute for Tourism Studies (MECC Award for Euroexcellence in Food and Beverage), Mandarin Oriental (MECC Award for Euroexcellence in Luxury), and MGM Cotai (MECC Award for Euroexcellence in Innovation).

Gongbei hopes for reduced congestion



Pedestrians cross a street in the Gongbei district of Zhuhai

ZHUHAI authorities are implementing new traffic arrangements in the vicinity of the Gongbei border gate, hoping to improve the area's long-term congestion.

The change mainly concerns the change in directions of roads, as well as taxi ranks.

Currently, three of the main roads in front of the Gongbei border gate flow in two directions.

Starting from Saturday, all three became one-way lanes. Moreover, parking meters alongside the roads will be removed, thus banning cars from parking there.

Until Saturday, the Gongbei border gate had two taxi ranks right in front of the Gongbei plaza. Furthermore, both taxi ranks were situated next to the only two crossings heading towards the Gongbei border gate.


After the change, passengers are no longer able to take taxis at the old taxi ranks. In turn, the Zhuhai government has built a taxi station on the east side of the Gongbei border gate.

Altogether there will be three taxi stations available at the Gongbei border gate, including one underneath the Gongbei plaza, and another at the Zhuhai railway station.

Additional traffic lights have also been installed, in addition to electrical devices, which will be put into operation on Saturday, capable of detecting traffic violations.

Any driver that enters the one-way roads incorrectly will be fined RMB200, and will see three points marked on their driving record as an indication of having incurred a traffic infraction.

However, the Zhuhai police force is giving the mainland public an adaptation period of 15 days to allow people to get familiar with the new policy before the cameras are put into use. **JZ**



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1,400 students to graduate from UM

More than 1,400 students will graduate from Bachelor's degree programmes at the University of Macau (UM) and will receive their graduation certificates on Thursday, including 42 outstanding students who have completed programmes offered by the Honours College. UM will also present academic awards and scholarships to 63 outstanding graduating students. The university released a statement indicating that graduating students are required to collect their admission tickets for family members and friends at UM's Registry by May 23. The admission tickets can also be collected at registration desks on the day of the ceremony between 2 p.m. and 3 p.m.

Local artist participates in HK art fair

The Affordable Art Fair in Hong Kong featured 115 works from Chinese and other international galleries during a three-day fair concluding yesterday. During the fair, Macau-based artist Fortes Pakeong Sequeira did a live-sketch as part of his work entitled "Living Painting," according to media reports. Visitors were invited to make their own additions to a community art piece entitled "Playground" by Hong Kong artist Vanessa Wong. The fair also featured an exhibit known as Young Talent Hong Kong, which began in 2013 and aims to "provide a platform for emerging talent to show their works and further their career through exposure to a diverse audience."

MGTO head wants to foster non-gaming offer

The MSAR should imitate Las Vegas by aiming for non-gaming attractions to contribute 40 percent of revenue, the director of the Macau Government Tourism Office (MGTO), Helena Senna de Fernandes, remarked during a panel discussion at G2E Asia last week. "Whatever the mix is going forward, there has to be a balance for the operators and I don't think Macau can reasonably expect to reach 60 percent like Las Vegas, but I think 40 percent non-gaming is the goal in the mid-term," the official said, as cited in Gaming Today. Last year, the city only recorded around 12 percent non-gaming revenue.

GAMING

Scholar: Japanese competition might be limited to Osaka at first

Daniel Beitler

THE seventh edition of the Annual Review of Macau Gaming Law was held last week at the Rui Cunha Foundation, with gaming law scholar Jorge Godinho reviewing major gaming-related developments of the previous 12 months.

Godinho, who was acting as event moderator, outlined several developments concerning gambling concessionaires ahead of their upcoming license negotiations and said that emerging casino projects in Japan were unlikely to hurt Macau's economy, especially as competition might initially be limited to Osaka.

The gaming law scholar also introduced several local and international experts, who spoke on other topics, notably the rise of esports and sports betting in the United States, and the potential for Brazil develop a casino sector.

WYNN & GALAXY

On the Steve Wynn scandal and whether the fallout might influence his former company's chances of acquiring a new license in 2022, Godinho said he agrees with the prevailing view among analysts that Macau will follow the lead of the U.S..

Steve Wynn resigned from his role as Wynn Resorts' chairman in February this year, facing a slew of sexual harassment allegations. Only a month later he announced he would sell his entire stake in the company.

While most gaming observers see his resignation and distancing as conducive to the company's prospects of acquiring a new Macau license, much will depend on what the U.S. investigations yield.

Even though the investigations are ongoing, "the discussion [about whether the sexual harassment claims are true] will never take place because it was stopped immediately before it could grow," speculated Godinho.

"Does this case have implications for Macau? If nothing important happens on the U.S. side, then I would say that nothing will also happen on our side."

Meanwhile, as Steve Wynn moved to unload his position in the company, rival Macau operator Galaxy Entertainment Group announced its acquisition of a 5 percent stake in Wynn Resorts.

"All I will say here is that it's legal under Macau gaming law," remarked Godinho on the matter. "The fact that it's legal un-



Jorge Godinho

der Macau gaming law is the beginning, the middle and the end. This has always been possible under our law."

"It obviously puts Galaxy in an important position if there [are] any M&A [mergers and acquisitions] in the future," he added, but "the rest is speculation, in which I will not engage."

Competition from Japan is mostly just competition from Osaka at the first stage.

JORGE GODINHO

MACAU JOCKEY CLUB

In February this year, to the surprise of almost everyone, the local government granted the Macau Jockey Club a new horseracing concession to last until August 31, 2042, predicated on a MOP1.5 billion investment commitment from the managing company to diversify its operations into non-gaming activities.

For Godinho however, "this was an expected development." "The [horse racing company] was losing money; either they close or there is a solution. The [racing] has existed for a very long time, so there was a plan

to allow the company to finance its operation with other non-gaming activities," he said.

"That's probably the way to go because it would be sad if the horseracing operation closes. We know that the dogs [the Canidrome] are about to close, so if both close we would lose two concessions that have been operating [for decades]."

JUNKET LIABILITY

Regarding several cases from the last few years that involve the disappearance of large sums of money from junket operators, Godinho said that the courts came to a judgment late last year, even if it was rather insignificant.

He said that the courts "decided that, in general, there is liability of the concessionaire for the actions of the gaming promoter [junket]. But then, the court introduced a distinction, introducing the idea that liability only refers to acts that are at the core of the gaming promoting activities."

Thus the issue of liability remains unclear and the cases are likely to continue. Moreover, appeals are still pending with higher courts.

THREAT FROM THE EAST?

Godinho also weighed in on the gaming developments across the East China Sea in Japan, where a bill allowing integrated casino-resorts is on the verge of passing.

"The [bill] is at this moment

pending in the Japanese Diet. This may or may not be passed in this session, in the next three or four weeks," said Godinho.

"After much speculation on the number of integrated resorts, [it has emerged that] there will probably be three, in Tokyo, Yokohama and Osaka. I expect that only Osaka can move forward quickly. Only Osaka has a clear idea of what it wants to do and has the political support [to back the plan]. So competition from Japan is mostly just competition from Osaka at the first stage."

With only Osaka likely to be up and running in the immediate future, Godinho believes that the impact on Macau will be marginal, "similar to the impact of Singapore."

There are other reasons too, he said, that Japan should not be seen as too much of a threat, even in the longer term. With just three casinos located in three different cities, Japan will not be able to rely on the 'cluster' model that has proved so successful in Macau and Manila.

Moreover, "along with the [casino] entry fee, and the high rate of taxation, [Japan] is turning out to be more restrictive than imagined a few months ago."

Regarding Hainan, Godinho says that the fact that traditional games of chance will not be included in the island's tourism offerings means it presents no immediate threat to Macau either.

SEXUAL ABUSE CASE

Kindergarten suspends psychologist and teacher, reinforces safety measures

Renato Marques

A teacher from the K1 class of the D. José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten alleged to have been aware of a case of sexual abuse within the facility has been suspended from her duties, with the same measure handed down to the school's psychologist, the Association for Macanese Education (APIM) stated in a letter to parents.

In the letter, the institution that owns and manages the kindergarten describes the general findings of its internal investigation, which was part of a more extensive report sent from the school to the Education and Youth Affairs office last week.

According to information in the report, both the teacher and the psychologist had been aware for some time of the sexual abuse but failed to provide this information in a timely manner to the school board.



The D. José da Costa Nunes Kindergarten

Comments made by parents in October 2017 and February 2018 expressed some concerns over "suspicious" behavior by a staff member. The issue only came to the attention of

the school board on April 24. Nevertheless, APIM also noted that "at the time of the first reports" there was "little information" and that one of them was not "too evi-

dent," highlighting the fact that parents had described their thoughts with a lot of caution. APIM claimed that had parents been more explicit in detail, it might have helped the school to have a clearer picture from the start of what was going on. The report also clarified that formal complaints to authorities came after the school director was informed of a new report.

In the same letter, the institution noted it has been making an effort to improve safety levels, particularly regarding improved video surveillance.

The letter also noted that in the near future, several administrative measures would be enforced, focusing on both preventative and communication-related mechanisms.

All the changes will be evaluated and shortly thereafter will be presented to parents.

CE's wife becomes Anima honorary president

Winnie Fok, the wife of Chief Executive Chui Sai On, has been formally accepted as an honorary president of animal rights group Anima (Macau), according to information provided by the association's president. Albano Martins told the Times that Fok's position was ratified at an annual general meeting on Saturday. The association invited Fok to become an honorary president as part of their outreach to "important members of the Chinese community." In March, Fok adopted a stray dog, according to Martins, and she now plans to adopt others from Anima.

Red Market library expected to open this year

The refurbishment of the Red Market Library will shortly commence, according to Tang Mei Lin, Head of the Department of Public Library Management of the Cultural Affairs Bureau (IC). The library was damaged during last year's Typhoon Hato. Tang disclosed that the IC has already prepared new books, new furniture and new facilities for the restored library. The library will be open to the public shortly after the restoration works are completed. The IC still hopes that the library can begin operating this year.

AD

Macau Daily Times contest



Air Supply

Question for readers:

What is the name of the lead vocalist?

Please email the answers to: airsupply@macaudailytimes.com Along with your name and contact details.

Tickets-Giveaway

Five sets of two tickets each will be awarded to the four readers who send us more correct answers the fastest. The contest will run for 5 days (Monday to Friday), each day with a different question to be answered. Each ticket is valued at MOP580 for a total prize value of MOP5,800.

Tickets from MOP380 are now available through cotaiticketing.com or 2882 8618

One of the most successful and enduring musical acts of all time, Air Supply will bring their Air Supply Live in Concert 2018 - Macao to The Venetian Macao's Venetian Theatre on June 9, 2018. Tickets are now on sale at all Cotai Ticketing box offices. Originally from Australia, Air Supply formed when singer-songwriter and guitarist Graham Russell and lead vocalist Russell Hitchcock first met back in 1975 during rehearsals for the musical "Jesus Christ Superstar" in Sydney. Seven top five singles later, Air Supply equaled The Beatles' run of consecutive top five hits, while their albums "Lost in Love", "The One That You Love", "Now and Forever", and "The Greatest Hits" have sold in excess of 20 million copies. The group's most famous song

"All Out of Love" has been re-recorded by many different artists over the years, including Hong Kong singer Alan Tam who had a hit with it in 1981. Fans new and old will also love renditions of their other big hits, including "Lost In Love", "The One That You Love", "Making Love Out Of Nothing at All" and many more. This will be the fifth time the duo has played at The Venetian Macao and Sands Macao.

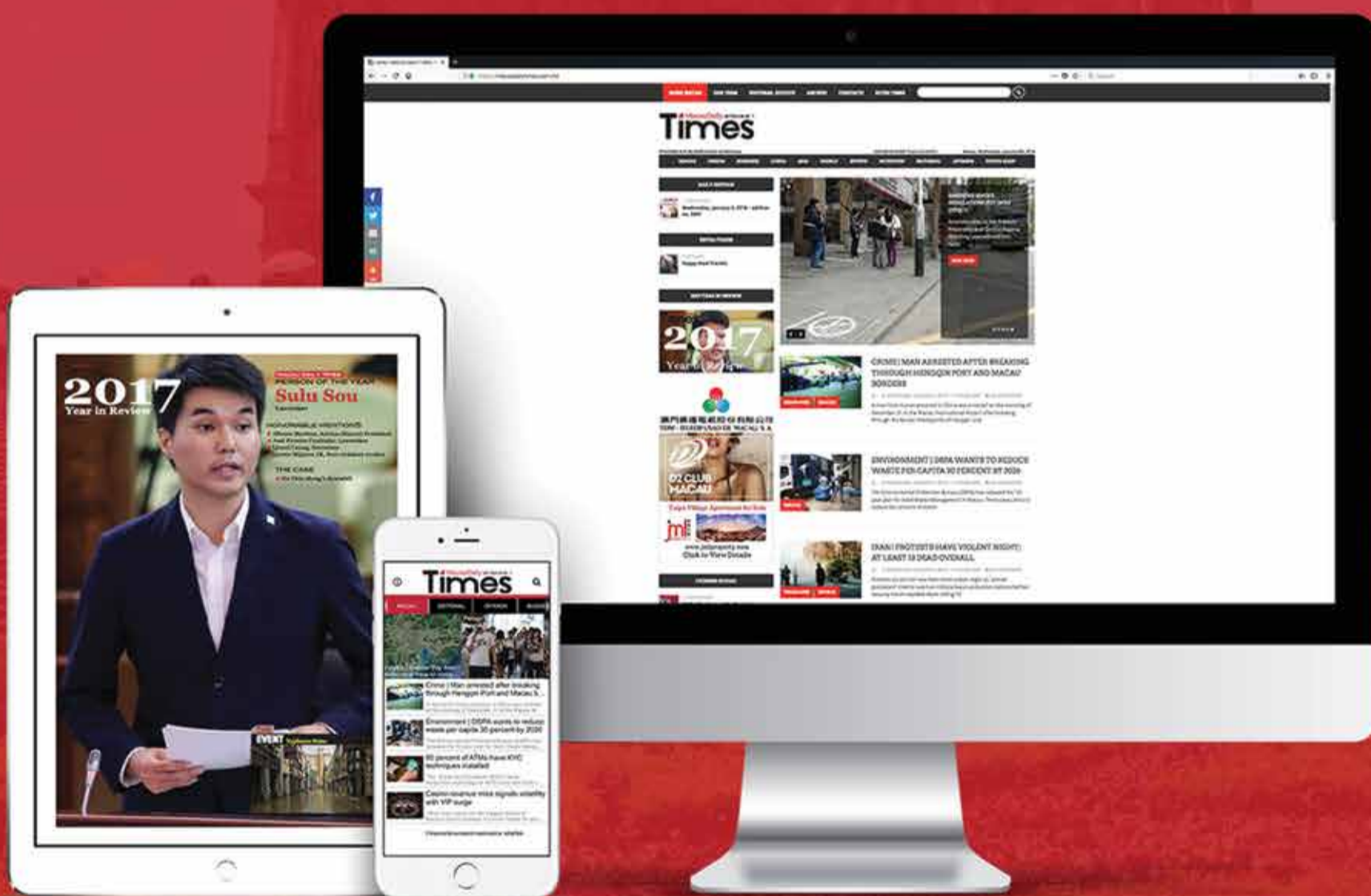
Don't miss the opportunity to catch the sensational Air Supply once again for a night of romance, nostalgia and wonderful music at The Venetian Macao on June 9. ICBC Sands Lifestyle Mastercard cardholders can enjoy 15% discount on ticket prices as well as EARN points when shopping or travelling anywhere in the world and then REDEEM them in Macao within Sands Resorts Macao's integrated resorts.

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News At Hand



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MGM, Fu Hong hold walk to raise mental awareness

TO celebrate the 15th anniversary of the Fu Hong Society of Macau, the non-profit organization held its first edition of "Let's Walk for Love," an activity that aims to promote physical wellbeing and raise awareness of mental health issues.

Co-hosted by MGM China, the charity walk attracted hundreds of volunteers to participate in a three-kilometer walk through Trilho da Taipa Grande.

"In our community, we have many people suffering from [poor] mental health. With this event, we want to raise awareness among the community," said Fatima Ferreira, president of the General Assembly of Fu Hong Society of Macau.

Ferreira implied that the number of residents affected by poor mental health is gradually increasing. "Everyday, we can have new cases," she noted.

"Let's Walk for Love" is just one of the activities the organization is holding to commemorate its 15th anniversary.

The society will be hosting a

series of programs on disability art and art performance, fundraising drives, an attempt at a Guinness World Record, as well as expanding its other services, including the opening of Pou Lei Centre -and Happy Art Studio in July and August, amongst other activities.

Yesterday's event also attracted some 200 MGM employees, volunteers and relatives to participate in the charity walk.

Speaking at the opening ceremony of the event, Grant Bowie, CEO and executive director of MGM China, said, "[Fu Hong Society has] allowed us in Macau to celebrate the talent and capabilities [and] has allowed their members to shine."

"I think it's important for us to Macau to realize that the government [should] invest a lot in our community," he added, citing the facilities it offers to allow for crowds to gather.

"Let's Walk for Love" also featured a singing performance, face painting booths for participants, as well as souvenirs booths for products created by persons with disabilities. **LV**



Company waiting for approval of smoking rooms

MGM China CEO and executive director Grant Bowie confirmed that the gaming operator has submitted a request to the Land, Public Works and Transport Bureau and the Health Bureau seeking permission to operate smoking rooms.

"We're working with the government. Yes, we would like to see it speed up but we understand that there are a lot of rooms that need to be approved," he told the press on the sidelines of the "Let's Walk for Love" event.

Bowie also expressed his confidence in the continuous growth of the city's gaming revenue.

"In Macau, we're very fortunate that our revenues seem to be very stable. We're confident and comfortable as we move forward. I think the reports had been indicating this month has been slightly lower but that's actually normal after a holiday period," the executive added.



IFT and MCA hold cooking competition

The Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) and the Macau Culinary Association (MCA) co-organized the 9th Macanese Cooking Competition and the 6th Young Macanese Cooking Competition for universities students last week, exploring the culture and history of local traditional Macanese cuisine. The Young Macanese Cooking Competition is an additional contest allowing culinary exchange between university students in the SAR, according to a statement released by the IFT. The panel of judges contained several experts from the culinary sector. Handika Setiawan of MGM Cotai was awarded first prize in the professional group while Zhitian Tang of Sands Cotai Central and Jeff Mak from Wynn Palace Cotai were awarded first and second runner up respectively.

ALBERGUE SCM
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 "Chinese Musical Instruments"
 Museum Collection of the Macau Scientific and Cultural Center

Speaker & Author
Dr. Enio de Souza

Presentation
Arch Carlos Marreiros
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Dr. Jorge Rangel
 President of International Institute of Macau

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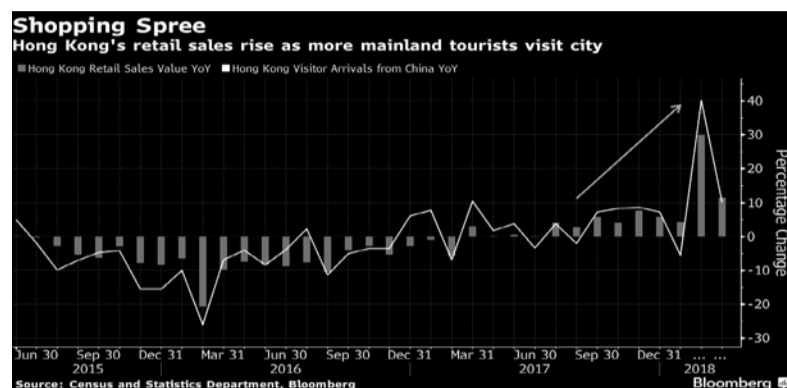
Hong Kong's retail stocks surge

Kana Nishizawa

FUELED by a sizzling economy and a cheaper local currency, Hong Kong's retailers are back in fashion with investors - despite familiar warning signs for those who have been here before.

Consumer companies helped lead Hong Kong's recovery from this year's market rout. Cosmetics seller Sa Sa International Holdings Ltd. and jeweler Luk Fook Holdings International Ltd. are among the top gainers for local companies on the Hang Seng Composite Index, outperforming the broader gauge by more than nine times since the index hit its bottom this year on Feb. 9. An on-year jump in retail sales and an increase in shoppers from mainland China in the first quarter have powered earnings.

Investors have seen this before - retail sales surged from 2010 to 2014 before slumping as China's currency tumbled, a sinking stock market slowed consumer spending and China's campaign on corruption chilled desire for luxury goods. It's a similar picture



this time, according to Asset Management One, which sees beneficial currency tailwinds reversing in the second half of the year as China's yuan weakens against the dollar, making Hong Kong goods less cheap for mainland shoppers.

"Currency moves may have helped but that's not something that is expected to continue," said Toshihiko Takamoto, a Singapore-based money manager at Asset Management One. "Some of those stocks are getting the spotlight because they've been ignored for a while - it's more of a cyclical boom rather than a structural change to Hong Kong's tourism industry."

While Goldman Sachs Group

Inc. more than doubled its estimate on Hong Kong retail sales growth for this year, it's sounding long-term caution. Mainland tourist spending could be capped by holidaymakers shifting to experiences beyond shopping, and competition from other destinations, it said.

Then there's the specter of rising borrowing costs threatening the local housing market and slowing spending in Hong Kong, which last week reported its fastest economic growth since 2011 in the first quarter - in part on resilient property prices.

Hong Kong's rates have lagged behind those in the U.S. despi-

te the city's currency peg to the dollar, thanks to an abundance of liquidity, fueling gains in property prices.

"But how long can this story continue to last, especially for the second half of the year?" said Ken Wong, a Hong Kong-based Asian equity portfolio specialist at Eastspring Investments. If borrowing costs rise, "that could have a bit of a damper on what we've seen. We haven't seen that yet, and hence that's why the first quarter tended to be so good - for the economy, landlords and for some of the higher end goods."

Analysts are optimistic about Sa Sa, projecting its earnings to grow for the first time since 2014 this fiscal year as the stock trades near its highest in more than three years. The world's biggest listed jeweler Chow Tai Fook Jewellery Group Ltd., whose shares are up 26 percent this year, is expected to report its biggest increase in yearly profit since 2012. The company said last month its same-store sales in Hong Kong and in Macau grew 17 percent on year in the first quarter. Both firms are expected to report

results next month.

Sa Sa sank 4.6 percent on Friday, while Luk Fook slipped 0.7 percent. The Hang Seng Composite Index rose 0.3 percent.

Some investors are betting Hong Kong's retail boom will be durable, driven by rising Chinese disposable incomes. But the yuan has weakened against the dollar since hitting to a 2 1/2-year high in April. Hong Kong's stock market has stalled since reaching a record high in January, dragged down by global volatility in technology shares and China-U.S. trade tensions.

Retailers also face higher rental costs. Shopping mall landlord Hysan Development Co. said it expects to raise rent for more than 80 percent of tenants renewing their leases, the Hong Kong Economic Times reported in March, citing the company's chief financial officer.

While the property market isn't slowing, banks are moving away from popular fixed-rate mortgages in anticipation of a more expensive environment.

"There's been wealth effect from Hong Kong's high housing prices," said Shen Jianguang, chief Asia economist Mizuho Securities in Hong Kong. "If that starts to adjust, that would have a big impact on retail sales." **Bloomberg**

Joe Nocera, Bloomberg Opinion

DID you read about the big shareholder activist win last week? Let me fill you in.

A few months ago, not long after the company's chief executive resigned in disgrace, and its share price was in danger of collapsing, the activist gained control of 9 percent of the stock, worth about USD2 billion. This made her the company's largest shareholder. With the company's board packed with the ex-CEO's cronies, she decided to mount a proxy fight, aimed at ousting one director, a 66-year-old real estate executive.

The proxy fight began in earnest a month ago. The company continually denigrated the activist in its communications to shareholders. But she stood firm, calling all the company's big investors, explaining why she thought the board needed new directors who could establish a different tone.

By May 9, all three of the big independent proxy advisory firms were siding with her, urging investors to withhold their vote from the director she had targeted. Voting against him "will send a clear signal that the board needs to be refreshed, not only with new members but with new ideas and perspectives," wrote one of the firms, Egan-Jones Ratings Co.

ANALYSIS

Elaine Wynn, the ultimate shareholder activist

Last week, two days before the company's annual meeting, the director she was attempting to oust stepped down, saying that he didn't want his candidacy to become a "distraction." The final vote was never revealed during the annual meeting, though rumors were rampant that the shareholder activist had won in a landslide. Indeed, so many investors voted with the activist that a second board member - the longest serving director - also resigned, even though he hadn't been targeted. Take a bow, Elaine Wynn.

Now, I realize that Wynn is not your usual shareholder activist. She is the ex-wife of Steve Wynn, who founded Wynn Resorts Ltd. in 2002 and is often referred to as "the father of modern Las Vegas." In happier times, she was also a Wynn Resorts board member, and played an important role helping to design its hotels. She knows the company about as well as anybody.

For years, she had been embroiled in a lawsuit, trying to regain the right to vote her 9 percent of the stock, something she had ce-

ded to her ex-husband at the time of their second divorce. After he resigned in disgrace in February, accused of multiple incidents of sexual abuse - including paying off a woman he had forced to have sex with him - Steve Wynn settled the lawsuit, paying Elaine Wynn \$25 million and returning her voting rights. In exiting the company, he also sold his 12 percent stake, which meant she was now Wynn Resorts' biggest shareholder.

During the proxy fight, the company referred to Elaine Wynn as the "ex-wife," as if she was some kind of vengeful former spouse, bent on damaging the company instead of improving it. In fact, she was trying to save it.

She worried, for instance, that without a refreshed board - one that was not wedded to the legacy of her former husband - regulators in Massachusetts would not allow the company to open its unfinished \$2.5 billion casino near Boston. She was upset when she read that the new CEO, Matt Maddox, had told Bloomberg News that he was considering selling that casino. It didn't help that



Maddox was a longtime Steve Wynn crony - or that his 2017 compensation was \$24.8 million, an extraordinary amount for someone who wasn't then the CEO. (The board member she targeted, John Hagenbuch, was on the compensation committee.)

More broadly, she understood that Wynn Resorts needed to modernize its governance practices. So long as the majority of board members were tied to Steve Wynn, it was going to have problems with regulators, not just in Massachusetts, but in Nevada and elsewhere. And there was something quite inappropriate about having Steve Wynn's friends on the board leading the investigation into the sexual abuse charges against him.

The Wynn Resorts board

needed fresh thinking. It needed younger voices, and more diverse voices. (The company now has four women on the board, up from one. It has no minorities.) It needed board members who could re-evaluate the company's top executives, most of whom also had long-standing ties to her ex-husband. It needed to modernize.

With Elaine Wynn's victory, that process is underway. Several other longtime board members have either stepped down or announced that they will not run for re-election when their terms are up. After he received several low-ball offers from rival gaming companies, Maddox decided not to sell the Massachusetts casino after all - though the Wynn name will be removed. The company's stock

has not recovered entirely, but it rose steadily during the proxy fight. Elaine Wynn thinks the company has excellent assets, and that with the right leadership, it can easily weather the fallout of the various investigations into her ex-husband's behavior. That is what her proxy fight was about.

It is also what makes her shareholder activism different. At 76, Elaine Wynn isn't thinking about a short-term stock pop, or some clever exercise in financial engineering. Her ego does not require her to go on the board herself, and play the conquering hero. She is thinking about the company's long-term prospects. She is also thinking about her legacy.

"My mission is to resurrect the integrity of this extraordinary company that is really the capstone of my professional career," she told New York Times columnist James B. Stewart shortly before the annual meeting. That's what you call having skin in the game.

Far too often shareholder activists, with their cut-and-run mindset, can harm a company even as they are enriching themselves. Wynn Resorts' directors should be thankful that the person who took aim at them wasn't Carl Icahn or Nelson Peltz, but Elaine Wynn. She is saving them from themselves.

David Crary, Wayne Parry

GAMING

FOR sports leagues and gambling industries, the imminent expansion of legalized sports betting promises a bonanza. For the experts and organizations already concerned about pervasive problem gambling, it promises a whole new roster of worries.

Much of the apprehension relates to the prospect of myriad forms of online sports betting — accessible to gamblers at any time and location via their mobile phones. There's particular alarm over the anticipated explosion of so-called "in-game wagering" in which gamblers bet, often at a rapid pace, on play-by-play developments — for example, will the next football play be a run or a pass.

"You lose track of time," said Les Bernal, national director of Stop Predatory Gambling. "The goal of the operators is to get you into a zone where you lose your financial reasoning and think of nothing except betting."

Prior to the U.S. Supreme Court ruling this week, only four states were allowed to offer sports betting and only Nevada offered betting on single games. Now that the court has lifted those bans, there are expectations that most states will offer sports betting within a few years in a play to raise tax revenue.

"We think this is the biggest expansion of gambling in our nation's history, in one fell swoop," said Keith Whyte, executive director of the National Council on Problem Gambling. "Absolutely, categorically, there will be more risk factors for addiction — we've never had that much high-speed, high-stakes interactive access to any sort of betting."

The council wants any company, sports league or government that benefits from sports betting to devote at least 1 percent of the revenue to fund programs preventing and treating compulsive gambling. It also wants betting operators to train staff about problem gambling, set and enforce a minimum age limit, and enable gamblers to set limits on how much time and money they spend betting.

Whyte is skeptical that state lawmakers and the gambling industry — even if they pay lip servi-

Expanded sports betting fuels fears about gambling addiction



ce to problem gambling — will take sufficiently tough action.

"The ball's in their court," he said. "They can rush to grab the money and then deal with a wave of increased addiction, or they can work with us to try to mitigate the harm."

Nationwide, the generally accepted figure for gambling addiction is 2 to 3 percent of the U.S. population, according to Neva Pryor, who runs New Jersey's Council on Compulsive Gambling. But in New Jersey, which until recently had the nation's second-largest casino market, that figure is over 6 percent.

And that's without legal sports betting just a click or call away. "We're going to be adding fuel to the fire of an already serious problem," Pryor said.

Calls from people who have gotten in over their heads betting on sports currently account for 5 percent of all calls to the council's 800-GAMBLER hotline, a figure Pryor expects to increase.

Arnie Wexler, who once held Pryor's current job, knows personally how addictive sports betting can be. His problem was once so bad, he says, that on the rare occasion he and his wife had sex, she would swear she heard a baseball game somewhere. "I told her, 'You're crazy,' but I had a transistor radio hidden under the pillow so I could follow the score," he said.

Now living in Florida, Wexler says problem-gambling treatment programs should be bracing for a surge of business. "This is going to be a volcano two years from now, because two years is typically how long many gamblers take before they start seeking help," he said.

Another recovered problem gambler, Marc Lefkowitz, has similar concerns.

"I'm lucky I quit in 1983," said Lefkowitz, who recently started a gambling treatment program in Long Beach, Washington. "Back then, maybe you could bet by the quarter [of a game]. Now you're betting every minute, and that frequency makes it more addictive."

Chuck Bovis of Indianapolis, on learning of the court decision, thought back to when he gambled heavily on sports in his 20s and 30s. He has quit for the past 18 years with the steady help of Gamblers Anonymous and has done extensive work helping others with gambling problems.

"I would have gone crazy with this," he said of the online betting possibilities. "I probably would have been suicidal."

Natasha Schull, a professor of media, culture and communication at New York University, has written about addictive slot-machine technology and expects online sports betting to adopt some

of the same features to maximize its profitability.

With in-game wagering, she said, a sports contest "ceases to have boundaries as a single event."

"It becomes this constant, continuous thing that's so fragmented with all these things you are predicting and anticipating," she said. "People end up spending more time and money than they wanted to."

Another expert alarmed by the court decision is Kimberly Young, director of the Center for Internet Addiction Recovery in Bradford, Pennsylvania.

She expects that new forms of sports betting will expand and intensify the allure that fantasy sports leagues already have for vast numbers of Americans, especially young men.

"You watch obsessively," she said. "You're ignoring your family, instead of making sports a nice activity for the whole family."

Yet Young sees little likelihood that an upsur-

ge of compulsive betting can be prevented. "If anything, it will just keep going further," she said.

Les Bernal, of Stop Predatory Gambling, worries about the impact of the changes on children — whether or not they're placing bets themselves.

He cites research from Australia, where sports betting is legal, showing that many children view sports and gambling as a unified institution, and consider it normal that gambling ads are shown on sports telecasts.

"This is going to be sanctioned and promoted by state governments who are supposed to be in the business of improving people's lives," Bernal said. "Instead they're going to get an entire generation of young people hooked on gambling and in the process fleece them." **AP**

AD



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US, China agree to cut American trade deficit

THE United States and China have agreed to take measures to “substantially reduce” America’s massive trade deficit with China, but the Trump administration failed to get the Chinese to commit to a specific numerical goal.

Still, the talks, which began Thursday and ended Saturday with the issuance of a joint statement, may have helped to ease tensions at least slightly between the world’s two biggest economic powers. In recent months the two have threatened to impose punitive tariffs on billions of dollars in each other’s exports.

In the statement, Beijing committed to “significantly increase” its purchases of American goods and services, saying that the increase would “meet the growing consumption needs of the Chinese people and the need for high-quality economic development.” The two countries also agreed on “meaningful increases” of U.S. agriculture and energy exports and greater efforts to increase trade in manufactured goods and services. The United States said it would send a team to China to work out the details.

The statement, however, pro-

vided no dollar amounts on how much China might boost its purchases of American products. Lawrence Kudlow, head of the president’s National Economic Council, had told reporters Friday that a reduction in the trade gap of at least USD200 billion by 2020 was a “good number.”

Last year, the United States had a record deficit with China in merchandise trade of \$375 billion, the largest with any nation.

Saturday’s statement also was silent on whether the talks had

It is likely that this agreement, weak and vague though it is, will serve as grounds to at least delay the imposition of tariffs.

ESWAR PRASAD



White House chief economic adviser Larry Kudlow speaks during a television interview outside the West Wing of the White House

made progress in easing a developing tit-for-tat trade war in which each nation threatened to impose punitive tariffs.

Trade analysts said it was highly unlikely that China would ever agree to a numerical target for cutting the trade gap between the two nations, but they said the talks likely were more successful in de-escalating recent trade tensions.

“It is likely that this agreement, weak and vague though it is, will serve as grounds to at least delay the imposition of tariffs,” said Eswar Prasad, an economist and trade expert at Cornell University.

“The Trump administration seems eager to engineer at minimum a temporary peace with China to ensure a smooth runup to the Kim-Trump summit in June,” Prasad said, referring to the June 12 meeting between President Donald Trump and North Korea’s leader.

The Washington talks, which followed a high-level meeting last month in Beijing, were led on the Chinese side by Vice Premier Liu He and on the American side by Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. The U.S. delegation included Commerce Secretary Wilbur Ross and U.S. Trade Representative Robert Lighthizer.

Trump campaigned in 2016 on a pledge to get tough on China and other U.S. trading partners. He views the massive U.S. trade deficit with China as evidence that Beijing is engaged in abusive trading practices and has outmaneuvered previous U.S. administrations.

Last August, Lighthizer began an investigation into Beijing’s strong-arm tactics to challenge U.S. technological dominance. These include outright cyber-theft of U.S. companies’ trade secrets and China’s demands that American corporations hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese markets.

Last month, the administration proposed tariffs on \$50 billion of Chinese imports to protest the forced technology transfers. Trump later ordered Lighthizer to seek up to an additional \$100 billion in Chinese products to tax.

China responded by targeting \$50 billion in U.S. products, including soybeans — a shot at Trump supporters in America’s heartland. The prospect of an escalating trade war has shaken financial markets and alarmed business leaders. **AP**

AD



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Taiwan president, pressed by Beijing, pledges more security

Ralph Jennings, Taipei

TAIWAN'S president said yesterday her government will step up security measures to respond to military threats from China.

President Tsai Ing-wen gave no details in comments posted online but her government has encouraged development of a domestic arms industry in response to pressure from Beijing, which claims the island as its own territory and has sent fighter planes near its coast.

"We will strengthen our work for the whole society's security," Tsai wrote in response to questions from the public. She said her government will "especially look out for these factors from China."

Taiwan and the communist mainland, separated since a civil war in 1949, have extensive trade and investment ties but no official relations.

Tsai, elected in 2016, rejects Beijing's contention they are "one China" and must unite.

The mainland government of President Xi Jinping has responded with shows of force and diplomatic efforts to persuade the few countries that recognize Taiwan as an independent country to switch ties to Beijing.

AP PHOTO



Tsai Ing-wen

The Communist Party's military wing, the People's Liberation Army, has sent fighter planes near Taiwan's coast a dozen times since Tsai's election and an aircraft carrier sailing through

the 110-mile-wide (170-kilometer-wide) strait that separates them.

Beijing has threatened to attack if Taiwan declares formal independence or delays talks on

unification. Government surveys in Taiwan show most of the island's 23 million people prefer to maintain their autonomy.

According to Tsai's office, members of the public left 56

questions about cross-strait relations on her office's Facebook page ahead of yesterday's event.

One asked what she will do to "get rid" of China's "channels to infiltrate into Taiwan." Tsai didn't respond directly but said as a "polite president" she would shake hands with Xi.

The president appeared to be trying to use the online forum to allay public fears and reach out to younger Taiwanese rather than expand on her China policy, said George Hou, an assistant professor of mass communications at Taiwan's I-Shou University.

The flybys and aircraft carrier movement have alarmed people in Taiwan, prompting questions about whether Tsai is handling the situation appropriately.

"She probably considered that she should make some connections with younger friends," Hou said. "China-Taiwan policies haven't changed in the past year. China needs to change."

In October, Tsai promised annual military budget increases of 2 percent, though spending still is modest compared with the mainland. Beijing's military spending is the world's second highest behind the United States at USD228 billion in 2017, according to the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute.

Tsai's government has announced plans to promote development of Taiwan's aerospace industry and suppliers of submarines, missiles and other technology. **AP**

Panda Beer anyone? Craft beers flow in middle-class China

Sam McNeil, Fu Ting,

PANDA Beer, "Little General," "Flying Fist IPA," and "Mandarin Wheat" are among the offerings on tap at a craft beer exhibition this week in Shanghai dedicated to expanding the palette of Chinese consumers and promoting sales of high-end brews.

The 2018 Craft Beer of China Exhibition features breweries like Rasenburg Beer, Myth Monkey Brewing, Lazy Taps, Goose Island and Boxing Cat Brewery that are sharing tips on the latest technology and sales trends as Chinese shift from legacy brews to more experimental, refined, and expensive flavors.

From taps at the expo flowed creative mixes of flavors and traditions, a swirling cocktail of Chinese ingredients, barley,

hops and spices from around the world.

"After drinking it [craft beer], it feels much better than the domestic industry beer, and then you just can't leave it," said Yu Shiqi, a 40-year old craft beer consumer at the expo who dreams of brewing his own.

There's money to be made in China, which drinks a quarter of all beer worldwide, and small-batch brewers and giant multinationals are cashing in. Though craft beer is

far from upstaging local beer behemoths like Tsingtao that dominate the USD28 billion national beer market, it is rising in popularity as small breweries open up in China's major metropolitan areas like Beijing, Shanghai and Shenzhen.

Craft beers are typically more expensive than mass-market, low-alcohol content brews like Budweiser and China's Yanjing. But as China's middle class grows, so too does its tastes for finer products.

A couple of years ago, craft beer made up only 0.3 percent of total beer consumption. It has since risen to about 5 percent, said Darren Guo, one of the exhibition's organizers, who expect to see 30 percent growth in the craft beer market every year until 2020. "Beer culture is pretty much on the beginning or starting level."

Laurel Liu, sales director of Beijing-based Jing-A brewery, says she gets calls from small towns asking how to start up a craft brewery.

"You don't even expect them to have craft beer there but now they do," Liu said. "I'm really surprised and happy to see now that craft beer in China is a thing and it's really easier to access these products now."

More money was spent on beer in China than the USA in 2017, according

AP PHOTO



Attendees inspect brewing equipment at the 2018 Craft Beer of China Exhibition in Shanghai

to beer industry research firm Drink Sector. Craft breweries were "rapidly increasing" although foreign imports continue to dominate the high-end beer sector.

The Belgian-Brazilian firm Anheuser-Busch InBev, the makers of Budweiser, has invested heavily in China, building breweries and acquiring craft breweries like Shanghai's Boxing Cat. Anheuser-Busch also owns Goose Island, which is based in Chicago.

Michael Jordan, brewmaster at Boxing Cat, and his staff experiment with flavors like egg tart, green tea, peppercorn, chai, kiwi, hibiscus and sweet potato.

Jordan chalks up some of the success of craft brewing in China to President Xi Jinping sharing a pint of IPA, or Indian Pale Ale, in 2015 in the UK with then-prime minister David Cameron.

"The 'Xi phenomenon' really kind of opened people's eyes to IPA," he said. **AP**

I'm really surprised and happy to see now that craft beer in China is a thing and it's really easier to access these products now.

LAUREL LIU
SALES DIRECTOR



In this April 28 photo, former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak (left in front) and his wife Rosmah Mansor prepare to leave for an election nomination center in Pekan

MALAYSIA

Wife of ex-leader slams 'public trial' of family

THE wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak has slammed police raids on their properties, saying Saturday they appeared targeted at vilifying the family

to provoke public anger.

In her first statement since Najib's long-ruling coalition was ousted in May 9 elections, Rosmah Mansor said authorities conducting a corruption

and money-laundering investigation should avoid a "pre-mature public trial" of her family.

Thousands of Malaysians followed a livestream on social

media of Thursday night's raid at a Kuala Lumpur condominium, where police confiscated 284 luxurious Hermes Birkin handbags and 72 suitcases filled with cash, jewelry and other valuable items.

Rosmah said the family will cooperate in the investigation into the 1MDB state investment fund, but that authorities should not "be feeding social media trolls."

"It is our hope that the authorities would observe the rule of law and due process, to avoid a premature public trial," she said in a statement released through her law firm.

Rosmah was reviled by many Malaysians as an avaricious first lady who loves Birkin bags and leads an opulent lifestyle, but television footage of the police haul has Malaysia gasping with shock. It is possibly the most sensational image of elite corruption in Asia in the three decades since former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos and her infamous collection of designer shoes.

Najib started 1MDB in 2009, but the fund accumulated billions in debts and is being investigated abroad. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered USD4.5 billion from the fund, some of which also landed in Najib's bank account, and that some \$23 million was used to buy a rare diamond pink necklace for Rosmah. Najib denies any wrongdoing.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened a probe into 1MDB after a stunning victory in this month's polls that led to the first change of power since independence from Britain in 1957. Mahathir, 92, was prime minister for 22 years until 2003 but

emerged from retirement to join hands with former political foes amid anger over the 1MDB scandal.

Najib and Rosmah have been barred from leaving Malaysia. The government has also told the current attorney general, who cleared Najib of wrongdoing in 2016, to go on leave, and has relieved the country's treasury chief, who is also the 1MDB chairman.

Police confiscated 284 luxurious Hermes Birkin handbags and 72 suitcases filled with cash, jewelry and other valuable items

Malaysia's Anti-Corruption Commission has summoned Najib for questioning on Tuesday over the 1MDB case.

Najib slammed the police raids as "irresponsible and cavalier," his lawyer Harpal Singh Grewal said Saturday.

He declined to comment about the Birkin bags and luggage seized. He said police took personal belongings such as cellphones, iPads, clothing and baby shoes from two of the three apartments at the condominium that were raided and occupied by two of Najib's children, Singh said.

He said there was "no relevance and no prima facie evidence for this seizure to take place." AP

North Korea demands return of restaurant workers

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

NORTH Korea on Saturday reiterated its demands for South Korea to send back 12 North Korean restaurant workers who came to the South in 2016, saying such a move would demonstrate Seoul's willingness to improve relations.

The statement by North Korea's Red Cross came a week after Seoul said it would look more closely into the circumstances surrounding the women's arrival following a media report that suggested some of them might have been brought to the South against their will.

Earlier in the week, North Korea canceled a high-level meeting with the South over U.S.-South Korean military exerci-



A defector tears a paper with a portrait of Kim Jong Un during a rally against the possible repatriation of N. Korean restaurant workers

ses and threatened to call off a planned summit between its leader, Kim Jong Un, and President Donald Trump.

The cancellation cooled what had been an unusual flurry of diplomatic moves

from Pyongyang following a provocative year of nuclear and missile tests.

Kim met with South Korean President Moon Jae-in in a historic summit on April 27 where they issued a vague vow for the

"complete denuclearization" of their peninsula and pledged permanent peace. More substantial discussions over the North's nuclear weapons are expected between Kim and Trump in a meeting planned for June 12 in Singapore.

The North's Red Cross accused South Korean officials of evading responsibility and betraying the spirit of last month's inter-Korean summit.

It said Seoul should "severely punish those involved in the case, send our women citizens to their families without delay and thus show the will to improve the North-South ties."

Seoul had previously said it sufficiently confirmed the women's free will in escaping from the Nor-

th and resettling in the South. North Korea had been accusing South Korea of abducting the women, who were working in China.

Television network JTBC aired an interview earlier this month of a man it said was the manager of a restaurant in China where the women had been working. The man, who's now also in South Korea, said he carried out the escape under plans arranged by South Korea's National Intelligence Service and that the women were brought along without knowledge of where they were going.

JTBC also interviewed four women who it said were among the group that arrived in the South. They said they didn't know where they were

headed to until they reached the South Korean Embassy in Malaysia and that they wish to see their parents again.

When the restaurant workers arrived in 2016, South Korea's then-conservative government said they represented the largest group defection by North Koreans to the South since Kim took power in 2011. Later in 2016, South Korea rejected a highly unusual overture by the North to temporarily send the restaurant workers' relatives to the South to meet with them.

South Korea's liberal government, elected last year, has reached out to North Korea in recent months in attempting to settle the international standoff over the North's nuclear program. AP

AP PHOTO



Director Hirokazu Kore-eda holds the Palme d'Or for the film 'Shoplifters'



Director Spike Lee (center) poses with actress Laura Harrier, left, and editor Barry Alexander Brown after winning the Grand Prix award for the film 'BlacKkKlansman'

FILM

'Shoplifters' wins Palme d'Or, grand prize to Spike Lee

Jake Coyle, Thomas Adamson

Atumultuous Cannes Film Festival concluded Saturday with the Palme d'Or awarded to Japanese director Hirokazu Kore-eda's "Shoplifters," a tender portrait of a poor, impoverished family, while Harvey Weinstein accuser Asia Argento vowed justice will come to all sexual predators.

At the closing ceremony for the 71st edition of the French Riviera extravaganza, the Cate Blanchett-led jury selected one of the festival's most acclaimed entries, one hailed as a modest masterpiece from a veteran filmmaker renowned for his delicate touch. "Shoplifters" is about a small-time thief who takes a young girl home to his family; after seeing scars from abuse, they decide to keep her and raise her as their own.

While many speculated that the Cate Blanchett-led jury might award only the second Palme d'Or to a film directed by a woman, the most likely contender — Lebanese director Nadine Labaki's "Capernaum" — was instead given Cannes' jury prize. The film drew

a rousing standing ovation at its premiere last week but less enthusiastic critic reviews for its tale of a 12-year-old boy living in poverty who sues his parents for bringing him into such a cruel world.

■ A 'Palme d'Or Speciale' - a special first time award, was given to Jean-Luc Godard

Spike Lee's "BlacKkKlansman," the highest profile American film in competition at Cannes, was awarded the grand prize. The film ignited the festival with its true tale of a black police detective who infiltrated the Ku Klux Klan. Lee connected the film to modern day with real footage from last year's violent white supremacist march in Charlottesville, Virginia.

"I take this on the behalf of the People's Republic of Brooklyn,

New York," said Lee, accepting his award.

The 12-day festival was the first since the downfall of Weinstein, who was for decades an annual fixture in Cannes. In the aftermath, this year's festival was shaken by debate over gender equality in the film industry and at Cannes. In a striking rally, 82 women — the same number of female filmmakers to ever be selected to Cannes competition lineup — stood on the Palais red-carpet steps in what Blanchett called "a symbol of our determination to change and progress."

Some changes were swift. Just days later, with Blanchett's jury looking on, Cannes' Artistic Director Thierry Fremaux signed a pledge to make the festival's selection process more transparent and promised other measures to improve the festival's record of including female filmmakers.

It was also a part of Saturday's closing ceremony. Argento raised a fist high on the red carpet. The actress has said Weinstein raped her at the Cannes Film Festival in 1997. (Weinstein has denied all accusations of non-consensual sex.)

"In 1997, I was raped by Harvey Weinstein here at Cannes. I was 21-years-old. This festival was his hunting ground," said Argento at the ceremony. "I want to make a prediction: Harvey Weinstein will never be welcomed here ever again."

"And even tonight, sitting among you, there are those who still have to be held accountable for their conduct against women for behavior that does not belong in this industry," said Argento. "You know who you are. But more importantly, we know who you are. And we're not going to allow you to get away with it any longer."

Following last year's Cannes, jury member Jessica Chastain was critical about the female representation on view in that year's films. Blanchett told reporters Saturday that her concerns were primarily behind the camera. Three of this year's 21 films in competition were directed by women.

"All of us, men and women alike on the jury would love to see more female directorial voices represented," said Blanchett. "I feel that there's a very strong drive within the organization of the Can-

nes Film Festival to make sure they explore, with a curious hat on, female perspectives. There perhaps weren't as many female driven narratives as I would have liked but there certainly some powerhouse female performances."

Polish filmmaker Pawel Pawlikowski took best director for his follow-up to the Oscar-winning "Ida," "Cold War." Like "Ida," "Cold War" is a black-and-white period film that delves into Polish history. The first Polish film in Cannes's competition in 37 years, "Cold War" is about an up-and-down romance in post-war Poland and Paris, behind and outside the Soviet Iron Curtain.

Pawlikowski has been critical of Poland's current right-wing government.

"I'm showing history through people, through emotions with all its complexities and paradoxes. To show history like that is really important these days, to go against the tendency to push everything into ideological narrative," he said. "The fact that it's appreciated here will make a difference in Poland. Poland is an interesting country. It's not how it appears to outsiders these days, believe me."

Best actress went to Samal Yeslyamova for Kazakh writer-director Sergey Dvortsevov's "Ayka." Taking best actor was Marcello Fonte for Matteo Garrone's "Dogman," an award presented by fellow Italian actor Roberto Benigni.

The prize for best screenplay was split between Italian writer-director Alice Rohrwacher's time-warped fable about a poor farm boy in rural Italy "Happy as Lazzaro" and Nader Saeivar and Jafar Panahi's script for "Three Faces."

A "Palme d'Or Speciale," a special first-time award, was given to Jean-Luc Godard for "continually striving to define and refine what cinema can be," said Blanchett. Godard's "Image Book" is a film essay collage that contemplates the West's relationship to the Arab world. The 87-year-old French filmmaking legend called into his Cannes press conference via FaceTime. **AP**

AD



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Company in Cuba plane crash had received safety complaints

Michael Weissenstein,
Bert Wilkinson

THE Mexican charter company whose 39-year-old plane crashed in Havana had been the subject of two serious complaints about its crews' performance over the last decade, according to authorities in Guyana and a retired pilot for Cuba's national airline.

Mexico's government said late Saturday that its National Civil Aviation Authority will carry out an operational audit of Damojh airlines to see if its "current operating conditions continue meeting regulations" and to help collect information for the investigation into Friday's crash in Cuba that left 110 dead.

The plane that crashed, a Boeing 737, was barred from Guyanese airspace last year after authorities discovered that its crew had been allowing dangerous overloading of luggage on flights to Cuba, Guyanese Civil Aviation Director Capt. Egbert Field told AP.

The plane and crew were being rented from Mexico City-based Damojh by EasySky, a Honduras-based low-cost airline. Cuba's national carrier, Cubana de Aviacion, was also renting the plane and crew in a similar arrangement known as a "wet lease" before the aircraft veered on takeoff to the eastern Cuban city of Holguin and crashed into a field just after noon Friday, according to Mexican aviation authorities.

Mexican authorities said Damojh had permits needed to lease its aircraft and had passed



Cuba's President Miguel Diaz-Canel (third from left) walks away from the site where a Boeing 737 plummeted into a yuca field with more than 100 passengers on board

a November 2017 verification of its maintenance program. They announced a new audit late Saturday.

Cuban Transportation Minister Adel Yzquierdo Rodriguez told reporters Saturday afternoon that Cubana had been renting the plane for less than a month under an arrangement in which the Mexican company was entirely responsible for maintenance of the aircraft. Armando Daniel Lopez, president of Cuba's Institute of Civil Aviation, told the AP that Cuban authorities had not received any complaints about the plane in that month. He declined to comment further.

Yzquierdo said it was routine for Cuba to rent planes under a variety of arrangements because of what he described as the country's inability to purchase its own aircraft due to

the U.S. trade embargo on the island. Cuba has been able to buy planes produced in other countries, including France and Ukraine, but has pulled many from service due to maintenance problems and other issues.

"It's normal for us to rent planes," he said. "Why? Because it's convenient and because of the problem of the blockade that we have. Sometimes we can't buy the planes that we need, and we need to rent them." He said Cuba didn't have pilots certified to fly the Boeing, so it had hired the Mexican crew with the expectation that they were fully trained and certified by the proper authorities.

Yzquierdo also said the jet's "black box" voice recorder had been recovered and that Cuban officials had granted a U.S. request for investigators from

Boeing to travel to the island.

Eyewitness and private salon owner Rocío Martínez said she heard a strange noise and looked up to see the plane with a turbine on fire. "It had an engine on fire, in flames, it was falling toward the ground," Martínez said, adding that the plane veered into the field where it crashed, avoiding potential fatalities in a nearby residential area.

Field told AP that the Boeing 737 with tail number XA-UHZ had been flying four routes a week between Georgetown, Guyana, and Havana starting in October 2016. Cubans do not need visas to travel to Guyana, and the route was popular with Cubans working as "mules" to bring suitcases crammed with goods back home to the island, where virtually all consumer products are scarce and more

expensive than in most other countries.

After Easy Sky canceled a series of flights in spring 2017, leaving hundreds of Cubans stranded at Guyana's main airport, authorities began inspecting the plane and discovered that crews were loading excessive amounts of baggage, leading to concerns the aircraft could be dangerously overburdened and unbalanced.

In one instance, Guyanese authorities discovered suitcases stored in the plane's toilet. "This is the same plane and tail number," Guyanese Infrastructure Minister David Patterson said. He and other Guyanese authorities said they did not immediately know if the crew suspended last May was the same one that died in Friday's crash. Damojh operates three Boeing 737s, two 737-300s and the 737-201 that crashed Friday, according to Mexican officials.

Ovidio Martínez López, a pilot for Cubana for over 40 years until he retired six years ago, wrote in a post on Facebook that a plane rented from the Mexican company by Cubana briefly dropped off radar while over the city of Santa Clara in 2010 or 2011, triggering an immediate response by Cuban aviation security officials. As a result, Cuban officials suspended a captain and co-pilot for "serious technical knowledge issues," and Cuba's Aviation Security authority issued a formal recommendation that Cubana stop renting planes and crews from Damojh, Martínez wrote.

"They are many flight attendants and security personnel who refused to fly with this airline," Martínez wrote. "On this occasion, the recommendation was overlooked and they rented from them again." Mexican officials said the Boeing 737-201 was built in 1979. **AP**

Maduro favored as Venezuelans vote amid crisis

VENEZUELAN President Nicolas Maduro is expected to win a second six-year term in yesterday's election, despite a deepening crisis that's made food scarce and inflation soar as oil production in the once wealthy nation plummets.

More than 1 million Venezuelans have abandoned their country for a better life abroad in recent years, while those staying behind wait in line for hours to buy subsidized food and withdraw cash that's almost impossible to find.

While polls show Venezuelans overwhelmingly blame Maduro for their mounting troubles, he's still heavily favored to win

thanks to a boycott of the election by his main rivals amid huge distrust of the nation's electoral council, which is controlled by government loyalists.

Maduro ended his campaign Thursday dancing on stage before a cheering crowd in Caracas while blaming Venezuela's increasingly dire outlook on a U.S.-orchestrated "economic war."

"I extend my hands to all Venezuelans so that we can move forward together with love and take back our homeland," said Maduro, the hand-picked successor to late President Hugo Chavez, who launched Venezuela's leftist revolution.

"I have seen the future of Venezuela and a historic victory awaits us."

On Friday, the Trump administration added Diosdado Cabello, a key Maduro ally, to a growing list of top officials targeted by financial sanctions, accusing the socialist party boss of drug trafficking and embezzlement.

Maduro's main rival, independent candidate Henri Falcon, has faced the dual challenge of running against a powerful incumbent while trying to convince skeptical Venezuelans to defy the boycott called by the main opposition coalition.

Blasting Maduro as the

"candidate of hunger," he has campaigned on a promise to dollarize wages pulverized by five-digit inflation, accept humanitarian aid and seek assistance from the International Monetary Fund — all proposals Maduro has rejected as tantamount to surrendering to the U.S. "empire."

"I swear that I will liberate Venezuela from this dictatorship," Falcon shouted to supporters at his final campaign rally Thursday in his home city of Barquisimeto. "I swear it in the name of God."

Also on the ballot is television evangelist Javier Bertucci, who has cut into



Falcon's support by providing free soup at rallies.

Around 80 percent of Venezuelans believe Maduro has done a bad job, yet turnout is expected to be the lowest since Chavez was elected in 1998, with only 34 percent saying they are certain they will vote, according to recent polling by Datanalysis.

The election has drawn

broad criticism since some of Maduro's most-popular rivals were barred from running, and several more were forced into exile. Echoing the views of Venezuela's tattered opposition movement, the United States, European Union and many Latin American countries have already said they won't recognize the results. **AP**



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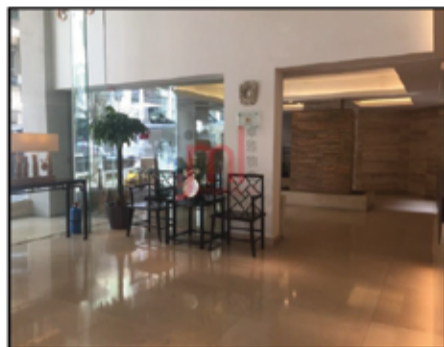
FOR RENT



Warehouse, Keck Seng

(Ref: 18050678)
3,755 sq.ft. HKD 40,000

Third Floor Warehouse for Rent. Space unique both inside and outside. Internal area consists of a wet room, bathroom, open kitchen. Existing partitions for 7 possible separate offices/rooms. Viewings can be arranged anytime. Immediate occupation possible. Internal Gross Area: 2,725 sq ft Outside Gross Area: 1,063 sq ft



Fountainside

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

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



Riveria Tower 2, Unit N

(Ref: 18030671)
1,173 sq.ft. HKD 15,500

The newest residence is located at A-Ma Temple area. 3 Bedroom / 2 Bathroom with stunning sea view. Convenient location, Planned LRT station will be located on the same street. Clubhouse Facilities. Available From - June 2018



Tai Nin - Macau

(Ref: 18050679)
850 sq.ft. HKD 8,800

Lovely furnished one bedroom apartment near Senado Square. Bright open planned living room, dining room and kitchen. Great size double bedrooms built in wardrobe in bedroom. Fourth floor of a walk up building very close to cafes, shops, banks, bus stop, a unique chance to live in Central Macau.

FOR SALE



Jubilee Court, Macau

(Ref: 18030672)
2,200 sq.ft. HKD 15.98M
Rate: HKD 7,263

Great size four bedroom apartment in downtown Macau, across the road from Star World and next to the Landmark this apartment is well located. Two double bedrooms have built wardrobes and walk in shower rooms. The other two bedrooms share a bathroom. Plenty of bespoke storage throughout the property.



Panorama Penthouse Apartment

(Ref: 18015542)
4,851 sq.ft. HKD 28M
Rate: HKD 5,772

Lower level comprising open plan lounge and dining area. This level also includes an indoor pool, 4 bedrooms & 4 bathrooms. The upper mezzanine level has a room ideal for use as a study, this area also provides access to the roof area dedicated to this apartment. Asking price includes use of one parking onsite parking space.



Bauhinia Court, Hellene Gardens

(Ref: 18015543)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 6.8M
Rate: HKD 4,798

Stunning 3 bedroom top floor apartment with twin-carpark that accommodates 3 cars. The master bedroom has green views over the mountains and has a large fitted wardrobe the length of one wall, with modern en suite bathroom. The other two guest rooms are a good size sharing the charcoal / white modern shower room. All rooms fully air conditioned including the kitchen.



Va Nam Top Floor

(Ref: 18045550)
750 sq.ft. HKD 4.18M
Rate: HKD 5,573

This property is centrally located in Taipa and enjoys exclusive access to the corresponding rooftop area. The internal area does need some TLC which makes it a unique opportunity for investors to renovate and force appreciation. The property is currently tenanted but can be viewed with prior arrangement.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2,000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5M
Rate: HKD 5,750

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



The Buckingham, Unit C, Taipa

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

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



Violet Court, Hellene Gardens, Coloane

(Ref: 18035546)
2,530 sq.ft. HKD 20M
Rate: HKD 7,905

Its unusual to find such a beautifully designed apartment in Macau especially with stunning views over Hac Sa beach. The interior renovation has been thoughtfully designed by the owners cousin a well known architect in Portugal. The quality of this apartment is second to none and a real show piece.



Choi Long Meng Chui, Taipa

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

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

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Contact Property Consultants Today.

Juliet Risdon (English Speaker)

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what's ON



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

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

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun lam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

TIME: 10am-5pm daily (closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

VENUE: St. Joseph's Seminary and Church, Rua do Seminário

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

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

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D

sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D

sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

MONKEY KING

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

VENUE: Sands Cotai Theatre

ADMISSION: MOP380, MOP480, MOP680, MOP980, MOP1280

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KONG SENG TICKETING: (853) 2855 5555

Offbeat

AP PHOTO



PEACOCK TAKES OUT USD500 IN WINE AFTER CRASHING LIQUOR STORE

Six young squirrels whose tails were stuck together by tree sap are recovering after a Nebraska wildlife expert untangled them.

A Nebraska Humane Society worker rescued the squirrels from a pine tree in Omaha last week. Nebraska Wildlife Rehab executive director Laura Stastny told the Omaha World-Herald that the sap-covered tails became knotted as the youngsters wrestled in their nest. Stastny says they are about 8 weeks old.

Resident Craig Luttmann spotted the rodents' predicament, describing it Thursday as "kind of like a tug of war, going in completely opposite directions."

Stastny gave the squirrels a mild painkiller before removing the sticky fur and untangling them. She says some of them suffered injuries to their tails, but that she expects all six to be released in a few weeks.

TV canal macau



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

cinema



CINETEATRO

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 OF 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

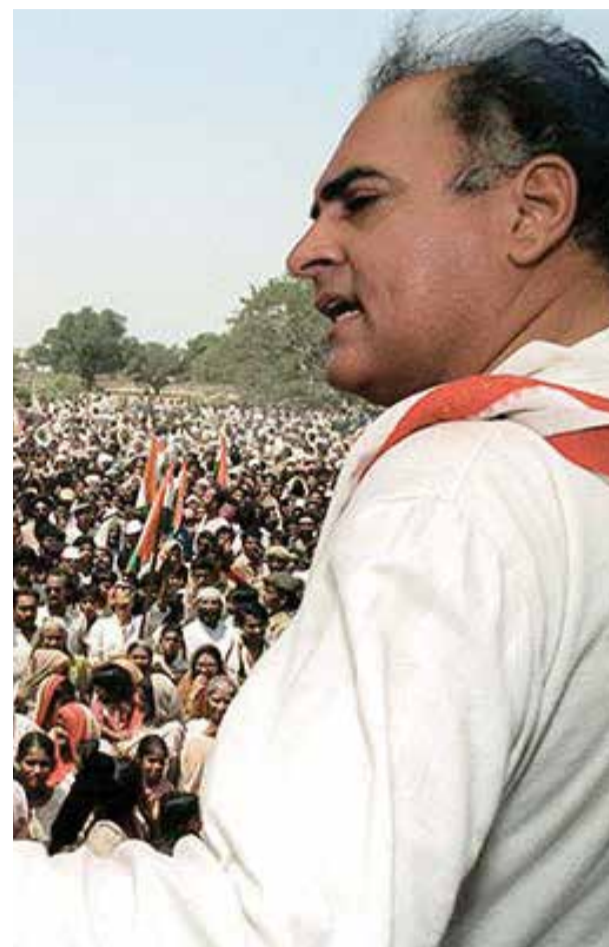
Director: Nick Cheung

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

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 111min

this day in history



1991 BOMB KILLS INDIA'S FORMER LEADER RAJIV GANDHI

Rajiv Gandhi, the 46-year-old former Indian prime minister, has been assassinated.

He was campaigning for the Congress Party on the second day of voting in the world's largest democratic election when a powerful bomb, hidden in a basket of flowers, exploded killing him instantly.

At least 14 other people were also killed in the attack in the town of Sriperumbudur, about 30 miles from Madras, the capital of the southern state of Tamil Nadu.

No-one has admitted carrying out the murder but it is being blamed on Mr Gandhi's arch enemies, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), a violent guerrilla group fighting for a separate homeland for Tamils on the island of Sri Lanka.

Rajiv Gandhi's death has shocked the world and marks the end of the Nehru dynasty that had led India for all but five years since independence from Britain.

After his brother Sanjay was killed in an air crash in 1980, he gave up his job as an airline pilot and was elected to Sanjay's parliamentary seat.

He became prime minister after his mother, Indira Gandhi, was assassinated by her own Sikh bodyguards in 1984.

Often seen as a reluctant leader, he and his Congress Party won a record majority later that year.

He encouraged foreign investment, a freer economy and rejuvenated his own party, ridding it of his mother's unelected cronies.

After he lost the election in 1989, Rajiv Gandhi resigned.

This time, the Congress Party was expected to win the largest number of parliamentary seats - but not overall control - against the Hindu BJP Party and the Janata Dal, now split into two parties.

The campaign has been marred by sectarian violence between Hindus and Muslims in what has proved to be the most violent election in Indian history. Two hundred people have already been killed.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

It later emerged that a female Tamil Tiger (LTTE) suicide bomber had assassinated Rajiv Gandhi.

In 1987 Mr Gandhi, then prime minister, had sent Indian peacekeeping forces to Sri Lanka in a disastrous attempt to impose peace in the country. The move proved unpopular both at home and abroad and his troops pulled out in 1990.

A year after Mr Gandhi's death, the Tamil Tigers were outlawed in India. PV Narasimha Rao, succeeded Gandhi as Congress leader and became India's prime minister later that year.

After a number of bribery scandals, the party was heavily defeated in the 1996 elections. But its popularity was revived in 1998 by Mr Gandhi's Italian-born widow Sonia who took over as leader and returned the party to power in the 2004 elections.

She refused to become prime minister herself, however, and the job went to former finance minister Manmohan Singh.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 It's going to be one of those days - the kind when anything can happen.

Taurus April 20-May 20 A family situation that's been on simmer for a while now stands every chance of boiling over today.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 If you've got public appearances to make, regardless of whether they're business or personal in nature, better arrange to have a bodyguard handy.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 You've never been called stingy, have you? That goes double when it comes to giving what you can to help children, animals or anyone else who's legitimately in need.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 Your deepest feelings - including, and especially, anger - will be easy for others to see at the moment, so if you want to keep them under wraps you have only one option: Make yourself scarce.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 You're not easy to surprise. You've heard it all, memorized most of it, and read up on the rest. At the moment, however, the universe has arranged a surprise for you - yes, an actual surprise.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 In the meantime, expect the unexpected, and don't get comfortable. Change is definitely en route. Your job is to make the end result positive for all parties concerned, especially yourself.

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 If there's anything you appreciate in your loved ones, it's consistency. So when someone you're close to says or does something that's entirely out of character, it may throw you, temporarily, at least.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 If anyone is known for doing absolutely everything they can for the ones they love, it's you. So now, when a loved one comes to you for help, there's no reason to believe that you'll act any differently.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Although it's not easy to surprise you, today will prove the exception to that rule. There's at least one major surprise en route in the department of communications.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Impulse and impetuosity are right at the very top of your sign's list of qualities. At the moment, however, you'll be dealing with the ups and downs of those traits in the department of finances.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 If anyone is famous for being able to withstand anything and everything with compassion, understanding, and sensitivity, it's you. You're usually quite able to keep your temper under wraps,

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle with some numbers filled in.

WEATHER

Table with columns: MIN, MAX, CONDITION

CHINA

Table listing weather conditions for various Chinese cities like Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

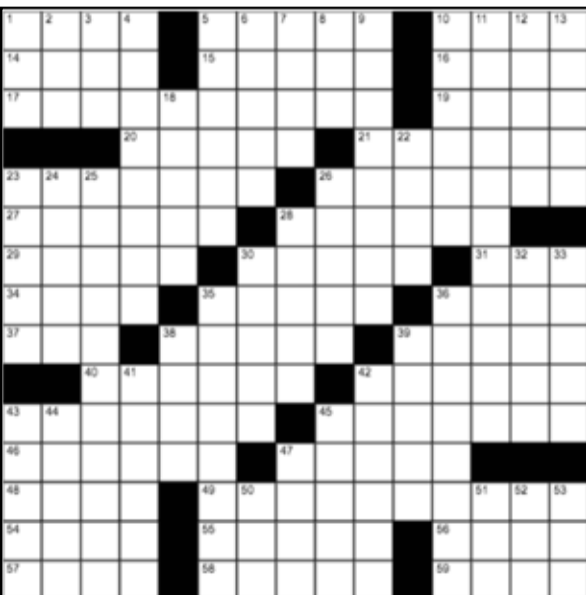
WORLD

Table listing weather conditions for world cities like Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, London, New York.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Upper limbs, weapons; 5- Heep of "David Copperfield"; 10- Swedish auto; 14- Queue before Q; 15- Blair of "The Exorcist"; 16- Pipe; 17- Next largest scoop after tea; 19- Environmental sci.; 20- Late bloomer; 21- From the beginning; 23- Knock down; 26- So far; 27- Assessor; 28- Need for liquid; 29- Goose genus; 30- Gravy, for one; 31- Map lines: Abbr.; 34- Cauterize; 35- Evade work; 36- Ancient Semitic for "Lord"; 37- Timecard abbr.; 38- Reeves of "The Matrix"; 39- Soft feltlike fabric; 40- Having sound; 42- Spoiled; 43- Ancient galley; 45- Go back; 46- Continues a subscription; 47- European capital, in song; 48- Egg-shaped; 49- Hollywood; 54- Teachers' favorites; 55- Prepares for publication or release; 56- Take ___ Train; 57- Gen. Robt. ___; 58- Charged toward; 59- Ferrara family;

DOWN: 1- Invoice abbr.; 2- Genetic messenger; 3- Crowd; 4- Deep-fryer's concern; 5- Northern Ireland province; 6- Grow to maturity; 7- Are you ___ out?; 8- Tumult; 9- Pick by hand; 10- Shorthand pros; 11- Nah!; 12- From the beginning; Lat.; 13- Beneath; 18- Organic compound; 22- Versailles verb; 23- Sudden burst of light; 24- Cruise ship; 25- Kill; 26- Swahili for "freedom"; 28- Spoil; 30- Classic Alan Ladd western; 32- Stuns; 33- Snow conveyances; 35- Tailor; 36- Hair clasp; 38- Recognized; 39- Breakfast roll; 41- Ultimatum words; 42- Least significant; 43- Figure of speech; 44- Live it up; 45- Dreadlocks wearer; 47- Nabokov novel; 50- Mrs. McKinley; 51- Startled cries; 52- Rainy, say; 53- Scot's refusal;



Crossword puzzles provided by BestCrosswords.com

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



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for various properties in Macau and Taipa.

FOOTBALL

Uncertainty shrouds Chelsea despite FA Cup win over United

Rob Harris, London

CHELSEA'S players saved their season but maybe not their manager. Collecting the FA Cup, after beating Manchester United 1-0 on Saturday, is looking like Antonio Conte's final act with Chelsea. "After two years, the club knows me very well," Conte said. "And if they continue to want to work with me they know I can't change. My way is always the same."

Having won three Serie A titles at Juventus before capturing the English Premier League trophy for Chelsea, Conte reminded the Chelsea hierarchy: "I'm a serial winner."

It was a bullish sign-off to a lackluster season that saw the Italian's relationship with Chelsea's leadership become increasingly strained as the team went from champions to fifth in the Premier League.

"Our job is not simple," Conte said. "I understand that the club can make a decision."

Wembley match-winner Eden Hazard also has a decision to make: Whether to pursue a transfer.

After raising doubts about his Chelsea future ahead of the final — demanding "good players" are signed in the off-season — Hazard produced the only goal from the penalty spot in the 22nd minute.

On the pitch, amid the celebrations, Hazard said nothing to demonstrate his commitment to the club.

"I'm just happy," Hazard said. "You see the fans celebrating with the trophy. We



Chelsea's team captain Gary Cahill lifts the trophy after winning the English FA Cup final

didn't play a great season but at least we finished well." Although not in the style craved by Hazard. "If we want to win a lot of games we have to play better," Hazard said, "because today we played defensively."

Such was the focus on the gloomy Premier League campaign and looming off-season of uncertainty in the post-match interviews, it was easy to forget Chelsea had just picked up a trophy.

"This was to save our season," Chelsea captain Gary Cahill said. "I'm not saying we've had a magnificent season by any stretch. But we are used to winning, not in an arrogant way, but we have to try to win things."

Conte's first cup final victory in coaching meant former Chelsea manager Jose Mourinho finished his second season at United empty-handed, paying the price for an insipid first-half display and coming to life only after the break.

United took until the 56th minute to register a shot on target when Marcus Rashford struck at goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois, who later rushed off his line to block the forward.

United's deficiencies were encapsulated by another patchy performance from midfielder Paul Pogba, who squandered a late chance to equalize by heading wide.

Mourinho, though, couldn't find any faults. "I don't think

(Chelsea) deserved to win," said Mourinho, who won the League Cup and Europa League last year. "I am quite curious because if my team played like Chelsea did I can imagine what everyone would be saying."

KNOW THE LAW

Conte seemed unfamiliar with the 2016 change to the "triple punishment" law, reducing the type of incidents that result in a penalty kick, a red card and suspension.

Conte remonstrated to the officials after Phil Jones was only booked, not sent off for bringing down Hazard for the penalty. Referee Michael Oliver was right because a "genuine

attempt has been made to play the ball," as football laws state.

MAN UNITED: WHAT NEXT?

This was only Mourinho's third loss in 15 career cup finals and the first defeat in regulation time.

Despite Mourinho being able to spend around 300 million pounds (\$404 million) on players, the only progress he can point to is finishing second in the league for the club's highest finish since Alex Ferguson retired as a champion in 2013.

More investment is required in the off-season, particularly to acquire fullbacks. Wingers Ashley Young and Antonio Valencia have been deployed there.

CHELSEA: WHAT NEXT?

The rapid turnover of managers hasn't prevented Chelsea from collecting trophies. It's now 15 in 15 years under Roman Abramovich's ownership.

The Russian billionaire could well be searching for his 11th permanent manager if he decides to fire Conte with a year remaining on his contract.

Chelsea's priority is finding a new striker, particularly if Hazard leaves, despite lacking the appeal of appearing in the Champions League. Chelsea failed to adequately replace Diego Costa last year, scoring 62 goals in the league compared to 85 in the previous title-winning campaign.

MISSING

The president of the Football Association wasn't available to present the FA Cup. Prince William had a more pressing engagement, serving as best man for brother Prince Harry in the lunchtime wedding to Meghan Markle at Windsor.

Instead, the trophy was presented by Jackie Wilkins, the widow of former Chelsea and United midfielder Ray Wilkins, who died last month at the age of 61. **AP**

FOOTBALL | WORLD CUP

Platini says 1998 draw 'trickery' helped France

FRANCE football great Michel Platini insists "a little trickery" in the 1998 World Cup draw ensured his home country would avoid playing Brazil until the final which it won in Paris.

Not so, according to Sepp Blatter, who as FIFA's then CEO-like general secretary conducted the draw in Marseille in December 1997.

Almost 20 years after France hosted and won the World Cup, the two men who organized it recalled

very differently Friday if Les Bleus were helped by a fixed draw to dodge playing defending champion Brazil for as long as possible.

"When we organized the calendar, we did a little trickery," Platini, who led the French organizing committee for several years, told radio station France Bleu.

Platini said it ensured France and Brazil would be in opposite halves of the knockout draw if each won its group.

Indeed, Brazil was top-seeded in Group A — by

rights as the 1994 World Cup winner — and France was placed in Group C before the draw. Both did top their groups and advanced to the final won 3-0 by France.

Blatter, however, explained Friday this was standard FIFA practice before and after 1998 to prepare the draw like this — setting up a potential dream final between host and defending champion.

"This is absolutely normal what has been done," Blatter told The Associated

Press in a telephone interview, recalling the fifth and final World Cup he prepared as FIFA's top administrator before becoming president.

"I am very surprised that Platini came out and said this. There was not any 'magouille,'" said Blatter, citing the French word used by Platini which can also imply corruption. "There is nothing strange."

Platini's comments Friday suggesting he was involved in underhand behavior seemed unusual

after almost three years of defending his name from allegations of financial misconduct.

FIFA's ethics committee banned Platini and Blatter in 2015 though both vigorously denied wrongdoing.

Blatter authorized FIFA in 2011 to pay Platini \$2 million in non-contracted salary for his work as a presidential adviser begun after the 1998 World Cup through 2002. The case also involved pension contributions requested by Platini which he was not

entitled to, and could have paid him more than \$1 million.

Blatter told the AP that French media was asking Friday of Platini "Why the hell do you say this now?"

The 2006 World Cup was the last time that the defending champion was pre-allocated to a group in the draw. At the 2010 World Cup draw, host South Africa was sure to be in Group A and defending champion Italy entered the draw with the other seven top-seeded nations. **AP**

FOOTBALL

Juventus mark Buffon's last match and raise Serie A trophy

IT was a day of celebration but also of tears as Juventus captain Gianluigi Buffon played his last match for the Bianconeri after 17 years at the club.

Juventus beat already-relegated Hellas Verona 2-1 in the final round of Serie A on Saturday, an hors d'oeuvre to the main course that was bidding an emotional farewell to Buffon and receiving the league trophy for a record-extending seventh successive time.

Buffon, widely regarded as one of the best goalkeepers ever, announced on Thursday he was leaving Juventus although the 40-year-old World Cup winner has put off retirement to consider offers to play overseas.

"Today, it was right that Gigi Buffon was honored for all he has done, there was no better way to finish this year," said Juventus coach Massimiliano Allegri, who has worked with Buffon since joining the club in 2014.

"I was moved for him. In the



Buffon greets supporters prior to the match between Juventus and Hellas Verona

se four years I have seen him do impressive things and he deserved a goodbye like this. There was a wonderful atmosphere."

Buffon was last onto the podium after the match to lift the Serie A trophy as fans and teammates alike chanted his

name and applauded.

The tributes — and the tears — started even before kickoff.

Buffon ran out for the warmup first as defender Andrea Barzagli held back his teammates for a few seconds to let the 'keeper enjoy the reception on his own.

The former Italy captain spent several minutes under one of the stands behind the goal and had tears in his eyes as he hugged many fans.

Buffon was substituted in the 63rd to an emotional standing ovation

A huge banner of Buffon was unveiled before kickoff, while there were continuous chants and songs about him during the match.

Buffon, who could be seen at times wiping away tears, had hardly a save to make.

His counterpart Nicolas was far busier and saved a late penalty from Stephan Lichtsteiner, who was also playing his

farewell match for Juve.

Juventus broke the deadlock four minutes after the interval when a corner was played short and Douglas Costa dribbled into the area. His effort was saved by Nicolas but Daniele Rugani tapped in the rebound.

Miralem Pjanic doubled Juve's lead three minutes later with a trademark free kick.

Buffon was substituted in the 63rd to an emotional standing ovation. He was hugged by all of his teammates and staff as he struggled to hold back the tears. Buffon was called back by the fans and he spent the final 15 minutes of the match walking around the stadium and being festooned by scarves.

Alessio Cerci scored for Verona in the 76th to end Juve's bid to set a new Serie A record of 23 clean sheets in a season.

Buffon moved to Juventus in 2001 and made 656 appearances. He won his ninth Serie A title with Juventus this season, leading the Bianconeri to a fourth successive league and cup double.

After leading the team in its celebrations in the stadium, Buffon was also central to the party atmosphere outside Allianz Stadium as Juventus set off on another trophy-laden parade through the streets of Turin on an open bus. **AP**

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opinion

Rear Window
 Severo Portela



DAVID VS GOLIATH

The repeated biblical story of how the underdog David came to beat the mighty Goliath is a good metaphor for improbable victories as well as a good measure of common decency: average good people cheer David, whilst the average bad person roots for Goliath. Pardon the symbolic reference and the over-simplification but the idea is raised to consider the strong possibility that a fully independent Court of First Instance may just fine defendants Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang with a modest monetary penalty rather than a prison sentence as demanded by the Public Prosecutor. Both pro-democracy activists are standing trial for a charge of qualified disobedience and are now in limbo awaiting the verdict scheduled for the May 29. Allegedly, Sulu Sou is the object of four similar cases.

This David versus Goliath is just a metaphor, an allegory, a tool to underline the civil and political circumstances of a directly-elected legislator who came to be stripped of his rights to defend himself. In a murky procedure in a special session of the Legislative Assembly, a vote was called for the suspension of Sulu Sou's mandate. This was on grounds of being charged with qualified disobedience by police officers and the Public Prosecutions Office.

Despite the high exposure the case against Sou and Chiang drew since the AL took the road that led to an illegal impeachment for their exercise of freedom of peaceful assembly - albeit deemed otherwise by the security apparatus - reports of both days of the trial make for fascinating reading. One has to wonder in awe over some of the facts duly testified by prosecution witnesses which, in our opinion, would make the case for Sulu: first of all, the scant size of the crowd of demonstrators at 10 to 20, and how those numbers are dwarfed by journalists and police. Secondly, a traffic jam was prevented, and well, by those very authorities. Thirdly, an absurdity we take as dangerously ideological, by the narrative of the situation leading to this case awaiting a verdict, it looks like the police were the community organizers of the march, the rules of which were displayed only on a need-to-know basis. It was not a legal exercise in the right to demonstrate peacefully and be protected by the police authorities. The truth is, the same upside-down rationale looks like paving the way to an electoral regulatory framework which is tough on the freedom of expression and movement and in which we lose sight of... the elections, indeed.

For the record we should recall that the unqualified episode on Nam Van Lake's Legislative Assembly floor begun under suspicion of being a fishy trick to harass the maverick legislator Sulu Sou. Since day one it has proven to be the real thing, and has developed into a violation of the very house rules whose disregard for which could be used later as a license to abuse the rule of law. Since then we have seen a string of regulatory events of legislative revisionism submerging the MSAR, be it judiciary law, electoral law, assembly and association, freedom of expression, or privacy of communications. It looks like a tidal-wave from which some recent watchers have cried wolf. The fact is, that 'wave' has a rationale, is logical, has coherence and harmony...and was launched and prepared using violations like the suspension of Sulu Sou and further subtle episodes of erosion of what is known as the second system. You wake up and there is a secondary system.

And some final notes, there is an urgency with which MSAR must move towards an environmentally sound model based upon a sustainable digital economy and an upgraded gaming sector which should emerge from the re-auction of casino concessions. And some trivia from the videogame Tony Lam produced named Fight the Horror: demons and ghosts wandering over Macau.

THE BUZZ WYNN COMPLETES USD68 MILLION POLLUTION CLEANUP AT CASINO SITE

Wynn Resorts has removed nearly 1 million tons of contaminated sediment from the former chemical plant site where it's building a USD2.5 billion Boston-area casino.

The final price tag was about \$68 million, or more than double the \$30 million previously estimated by the Las Vegas company. Besides cleaning the 33-acre site in Everett, the company also cleaned up the Mystic River over 18 months.

Wynn says the higher costs come from "increased quality measures" as well as the addition of restaurants and other design changes.

The casino recently was rebranded Encore Boston Harbor following allegations of sexual misconduct against company founder Steve Wynn. Wynn has denied the allegations.

Wynn says it will spend another \$14 million creating a 6-acre harborwalk and park

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	15-30 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	20-40 Good	😊
Ambient	20-40 Good	😊

SOURCE: DSI/MG

British royal family thanks those who celebrated wedding

Gregory Katz, London

THE royal family, blessed with fantastic weather and a buoyant public mood at the royal wedding, has thanked people who attended or watched Prince Harry marry Meghan Markle.

The family tweeted its thanks late Saturday night while Harry and his bride were attending a private soiree hosted by Harry's father, Prince Charles.

"Thank you to everyone who came to Windsor and those who followed from around the UK, the Commonwealth, and the world," the royals said.

The happy couple arrived in style - with Harry at the wheel of a rare, 1968 Jaguar sports car converted to electric power. He wore a tightly fitting tuxedo - shades of James Bond - while Markle wore a white Stella McCartney number.

Kensington Palace did not release details, but photographs showed Markle, now known formally as the Duchess of Sussex, wearing a large, emerald-cut aquamarine ring that had belonged to Harry's mother, Princess Diana, to the reception.

The prominent display of the ring, which Diana wore



AP PHOTO

often, was one more sign of the royal couple's desire to honor Harry's late mother, who died in a Paris car crash in 1997.

Diana's older sister gave a formal reading during the ceremony and many of her relatives were in attendance despite Diana's bitter divorce from Prince Charles, Harry's father.

Harry and Markle spent their first night as a married couple at Windsor Castle. They are breaking with tradition by delaying a honeymoon, and are expected to return to their living quarters at Kensington Palace in central London.

Harry and Markle will fulfill their first royal engagement as a married couple tomorrow when they attend a garden party at Buckingham Palace to honor

Prince Charles and his charity work. Charles will mark his 70th birthday later this year.

Before the wedding, Markle said she wanted to take up royal duties immediately. She has long been active in support of a number of causes and charities.

Palace officials have been vague about Harry and Markle's honeymoon plans, but they are expected to take a honeymoon in the near future.

No destination has been announced, and the couple may choose a place where they can relax without being trailed by photographers.

Harry took Markle on holiday in Botswana when they were dating and it is possible he will choose one of his favorite African locations for the idyll. AP

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAQ's Muqtada al-Sadr, the maverick Shiite cleric whose political coalition beat out Iran's favored candidates to come in first in national elections, says he wants to form a government that puts Iraqis first.



AP PHOTO

EU The European Commission has referred Britain, France, Germany, Hungary, Italy, and Romania to the EU's highest Court of Justice for exposing their citizens to too much air pollution.

GREECE A city official says the mayor of Greece's second-largest city has been hospitalized with head, back and leg injuries after being set upon by nationalist extremists.



AP PHOTO

SPAIN's maritime rescue service says it picked up 162 migrants who were attempting to make the perilous trip across the Mediterranean Sea to Europe on the weekend.

CUBA The Mexican charter company whose 39-year-old plane crashed in Havana had been the subject of two serious complaints about its crews' performance over the last decade, according to authorities in Guyana and a retired pilot for Cuba's national airline.

More on p14



AP PHOTO

CHILE A bishop apologized Saturday for not promptly investigating a reported case of sexual abuse in his diocese, a day after every bishop in the South American country offered to resign over what Pope Francis said was their negligence in protecting children.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

Xinhua/Ju Huanzong



Volunteer Liu Hui (front) collects vegetables in the Yuegong-1, or Lunar Palace 1, at Beihang University in Beijing, capital of China. Chinese volunteers have completed a one-year test living in a simulated space lab in Beijing, setting a new record for the longest stay in a self-contained cabin.