



COURT REFUSES TRANSLATION

A request from the two lawyers defending Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang to have the ruling translated was refused

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EVEREST DAY CELEBRATED IN MACAU

The Consulate General of Nepal is organizing a hiking program today in Macau

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CHAGALL EXHIBITION OPENS

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Financial leasing supervision eased

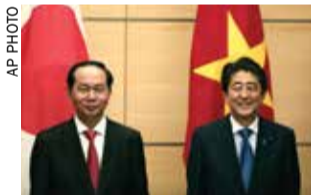
P4 AL PLENARY



Zidane leaves Real Madrid after third Champions League win

P27 FOOTBALL

WORLD BRIEFS



SOUTH CHINA SEA The leaders of Japan and Vietnam agreed yesterday to bolster cooperation in maritime safety and defense, and expressed shared concerns over China's growing activity in the South China Sea.

THAILAND An appeals court yesterday vindicated a British labor rights activist entangled in a years-long legal confrontation with a fruit-packing company after he publicized alleged human rights violations at its factory. *More on p11*



US-NORTH KOREA Secretary of State Mike Pompeo and North Korea's former military intelligence chief opened high-stakes talks in New York yesterday to try to salvage an on-again, off-again summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. *More on p20*

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RENATO MARQUES



From left to right: Jorge Menezes, Sulu Sou, Scott Chiang and Pedro Leal

CRIME

Taxi driver threatens passengers with violence



THE long history of infractions by Macau taxi drivers has had a new episode. This time, passengers have accused a driver of being aggressive, according to a report by the Hong Kong Apple Daily.

The alleged victims are a Hong Kong couple and their two one-year-old children.

On Sunday, the family took a taxi from the Grand Lisboa towards the Macau Ferry Terminal.

Soon after the family entered the taxi, the driver told the couple to pay MOP200 for the ride. The couple refused. During the taxi ride to the destination, the driver reportedly said, "every Macau [taxi] driver is like this. Is this your first day taking a taxi? If you don't have money, why do you take a taxi?"

During the ride, the driver and the couple got involved in a verbal fight, upon which the driver stopped the taxi by the roadside.

He later continued driving the passengers, and along the way, he made a phone call and informed the recipient of the call to wait at the Macau Ferry Terminal and to practice violence against the family upon their arrival.

He continued to make such threats against the couple, while driving the vehicle with constant sudden breaks and sudden turns.

When they arrived at the Ferry Terminal, the meter indicated MOP35.

However, according to the family's allegations, the driver continued recording the family, having told the passengers he would not take the money.

He then remarked that the family should save the money in order to buy some medicine for themselves.

In the end, the driver reportedly took MOP50 from the passengers, without providing change, while cursing them.

Courts will not provide Portuguese translation of ruling

THE Times has learned that a request from the two lawyers defending Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang to have the 60-page ruling translated from Chinese to Portuguese has been rejected by the court.

The two official languages of the Macau Special Administrative Region are Chinese and Portuguese. Lawyers Jor-

ge Menezes and Pedro Leal are both Portuguese and neither speaks Chinese.

Sou and Chiang were both sentenced to fines worth 120 days on Tuesday, drawing to a close a controversial case that had been subject to numerous appeals and disputes.

Their lawyers told the media on Tuesday evening that they were both surprised and

unhappy over the sentence, adding that they had expected their clients to be acquitted.

Menezes and Leal said that they are studying with their clients the possibility of appealing the sentence. The verdict and sentencing may only be appealed during a 20-day period that began after the trial concluded.

It is not the first occasion

that a request to have court documents translated into Portuguese, an official language of the MSAR, has been refused.

However, in January this year, Menezes was successful in requesting that the Court of First Instance postpone the start of the case until the lawyer could have the relevant case documents translated.

Casinos called to join non-mandatory central provident fund

IT was "strongly suggested" to Macau's gaming operators that they join the government's non-mandatory central provident fund system in order to secure the retirement pension of their employees.

Government representatives and a representative for employees from the gaming industry met this week at an event organized to discuss the measures put in place to protect the

retirement funds of gaming sector employees.

Un Hoi Cheng, vice president of the Administrative Committee of the Social Security Fund (FSS), said that some gaming operators had already expressed their interest in joining the non-mandatory central provident fund system.

However, according to Un, transferring between the private retirement system and the central provident fund

takes time and FSS will continue to communicate with gaming operators.

Un is also confident that the number of participants in the central provident fund system will increase.

Lawmaker Leong Sun Iok, while attending the talk, highlighted that most gaming operators have their own retirement programs. Leong pointed out that, through this private pro-

grams, employees who are fired with reasonable cause are not entitled to access the portion of money contributed by employers from the private retirement program.

Leong also remarked that this will not happen within the government's non-mandatory central provident fund system, and that employees can still access the money contributed by their employers, ac-

cording to their length of service.

Leong hopes that all gaming operators can participate in the government's system in addition to providing gaming employees with better retirement protection.

Employees who have participated in the joint provident fund scheme can participate in the individual provident fund scheme at the same time.

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AL PLENARY

New regime to ease supervision over financial leasing companies

Julie Zhu

THE amendment of the regime of Macau's financial leasing companies was passed by the Legislative Assembly (AL) yesterday. With the new law, financial leasing companies will not be defined as credit organizations.

Financial leasing companies will stand in for financial bodies which are operating leasing activities, with their activities remaining under the supervision of the Monetary Authority of Macao (AMCM). However, there will be less supervision compared to that over credit organizations.

Minimum capital requirements for financial leasing companies will also be reduced from MOP30 million to MOP10 million.

Further, financial leasing companies will not be required to be established as a Company Limited by Shares.

Both Company Limited by Shares and Limited Company are modes allowed in the establishment of a financial leasing company.

The concept of Special Purpose Vehicles (SPV) has also been added into the regime.

WHAT IS FINANCIAL LEASING?

FINANCIAL LEASING is an alternative way of financing whereby a licensed leasing company purchases an asset on behalf of its customer in return for a contractually agreed series of payments which usually include an element of interest.



Lionel Leong (center) yesterday at the AL. Suspended lawmaker Sulu Sou watches from the audience seats

Authorized banks in Macau and financial leasing companies can establish SPVs in Macau, with these banks and companies not needing to apply for a new concession for their SPVs. They only need to notify the monetary authority in advance, after which they may open SPVs.

The lawmakers were mainly concerned about the supervision of such companies, as well as their business operation range.

Lionel Leong, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, in reply to the lawmakers, emphasized that this regime's amendment aims to improve Macau's competence in the global competition.

"Financial leasing has been very popular recently around the world, including [in] mainland China, which is doing very [well]," said Leong.

Leong noted that Macau's regulations stopped many investors from opening financial leasing companies in Macau. Due to this, only two financial leasing companies were established in Macau.

"In the past, a financial leasing company was a credit organization, and its supervision was strict," said Leong, adding that once this law amendment comes into effect, "[financial leasing companies] will no longer take deposits because it is not a credit body," said Leong.

The Secretary also noted that many other laws would be amended in order to better implement the financial leasing company regime.

Leong remarked that the local government has spoken with China's related authorities concerning Macau's financial leasing development and regulations.

Representatives from the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), when giving an explanation to lawmakers, noted that the "capital of financial leasing companies does not come from taking deposits. "[Financial] risks [of financial leasing companies] do not come from their debt-paying ability. Therefore, regulations for the credit organization will not be useful [to financial leasing companies]."

Regarding the financial guarantee functions of financial leasing companies, the same DSAJ representative said they "do not have a financial guarantee function like a credit organization does."

However, according to the DSAJ representative, financial leasing companies can guarantee their own SPVs financially, and may possibly also receive lower loan interest rates from banks.

In addition, she explained that local banks, whose parent companies are not from Macau, can also open SPVs.

Concerning the transfer of capital belonging to financial leasing companies, details should be referred to each contract between the companies and other business operations involved between parties.

Financial leasing companies can loan, and the government will not be subject to loan limitation restrictions.

Furthermore, the same DSAJ representative noted that all of Macau's financial regulations, which are applied to all financial organizations, would also be applicable to financial leasing companies.

Currently, the city's relevant authority has already prepared a law relating to ferry registration, and it is planned for the legislation to be introduced later this year.

Moreover, during yesterday's AL, another law suggesting tax benefits for financial leasing companies was passed, legislating property stamp tax and revenue tax benefits in order to attract investors to Macau in order to establish financial leasing companies.

ON THE LAWMAKERS' AGENDA

PEARL HORIZON Six lawmakers have expressed their concerns over the Pearl Horizon issue: Ng Kuok Cheong, Si Ka Lon, Au Kam Sam, Lei Cheng I, Mak Soi Kun and Zheng Anting. The lawmakers suggested that the Pearl Horizon developers assume responsibility for returning the buyers' pre-payments. Zheng suggested that the government amend the city's land law. Au criticized the government for having offered an unfair proposal to buyers as public houses are not private property projects. Both Au and Kam called for the government to place the Pearl Horizon land on open public tender.

GAMING CONCESSIONS

Pereira Coutinho has called on the government to announce the results of its study concerning gaming concessions. The lawmaker criticized the local government for the lack of transparency in the gaming sector, as the public is still not aware of the conditions and requirements pertaining to gaming concessions. Coutinho believes that gaming operators' social responsibilities should be increased. In his opinion, gaming concessions cannot ensure residents' interests concerning housing and social security, and cannot improve the living quality of gaming employees and their facilities. "Why does the government conduct an open tender for the six gaming concessions but [...] not require the gaming operators to undertake new social responsibilities? Or is there a tender to increase the gaming concessions to seven or eight?" asked Coutinho.

SCHOOL BULLY

Agnes Lam has said that the Programme for International Student Assessment (PISA) results indicate that "bullying in Macau's schools is more serious than in other regions across Asia." Nearly 30 percent of the students think that different kinds of bullying behavior exist in schools. "Whether bullying exists in each one of the cases, it still needs to be analyzed until a final judgement is done. However, these numbers at least tell us that students feel the existence of danger," said Lam.

Some disabled residents to qualify for FSS system

BENEFICIARIES Of the region's temporary Provisional Disability Allowance will be transferred to the region's Social Security Fund (FSS) to better provide basic social security for residents with disabilities.

Yesterday, the Legislative Assembly (AL) passed an amendment to the fund's rules, including the disabled in the fund.

According to the bill, in order for the disabled to qualify for the FSS, appli-

cants must have lived in Macau for a minimum of seven years, and must have made no fewer than 36 months of contributions to the funds.

These beneficiaries are particularly required to have either temporarily or permanently lost their ability to work.

Many lawmakers suggested that the government include partially disabled people into the social security fund.

According to Leong Sun Iok, including partially

disabled people into the fund would encourage disabled people to fit better in the society and to have better employment conditions.

Lawmakers Angela Leong and Chan Hong also wondered whether the requirement for 36 months of fund contributions would pose difficulties to the disabled, as many of these people encounter employment difficulties.

"They can't work for too many hours, some can't

have full-time jobs," said Chan.

The Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, in reply to the lawmakers, said the "SAR government has a very effective FSS, it protects not only the elderly, but also cares about the disabled, [and all] the vulnerable groups."

"Everybody should understand, the FSS regime is a social security regime. I had a concern regarding whether [disabled residents] can make a

contribution for 36 months [due to] their ability," said Tam.

However, Tam worries that by not requiring future applicants to comply with the 36 months contribution criteria, unfairness might arise, with the government helping those who are unwilling to contribute.

According to another government representative, starting from January this year, the city's pilot program in supporting the disabled people's employment has already helped five disabled residents become employed.

Until the end of 2017, the city's FSS exceeded MOP74.4 billion.

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Citizens encouraged to be aware of heat wave

The Health Bureau (SSM) has issued a statement in which citizens are encouraged to be aware of the effects caused by the "heat wave" affecting the region over the next few days, with temperatures reaching 35 degrees Celsius. The bureau noted that in an environment of intense heat, when body temperature rises, the body will physiologically adjust to reduce the increased temperature, namely by increasing the frequency of perspiration and breathing. However, "heat stroke" may be caused in instances where the body temperature is very high if the person is undertaking outdoor activities under the intense sunlight, or in cases where there is poor ventilation. It can also be caused when there is a high concentration of humidity in the air or waterproof clothing is worn, which results in an ineffective physiological adjustment of the body to the temperature. The SSM noted in the same statement that no such cases have been registered at the Emergency Services of the Public Hospital as yet.

June 1 proposed as a mandatory holiday

Lawmaker Lei Chan U has proposed that the local government include June 1 as a mandatory holiday. Lei believes that the number of families across the city in which both parents are employed is increasing. Many residents also work on shift schedules, which results in little time for parent-child interaction. He has suggested that the local government conduct research into Macau's family situation and the development of family services. The lawmaker has also questioned the government about its planning and implementation of family-friendly policies.

Consulate to celebrate Mt. Everest Day today

The Consulate General of Nepal in Hong Kong and Macau is organizing a hiking program today to commemorate Mount Everest Day, annually celebrated in Nepal on May 29.

The annual celebration is conducted in memory of the first summit of Mount Everest made by Edmund Hillary and Nepalese Tenzing Norgay Sherpa on May 29, 1953.

As it is held for the first time in Macau today, Consul Sujani Rana is hoping it will be held annually in Macau to promote the activity, as well as tourism between the regions.

This activity is a significant occasion for the promotion of Nepal's mountain tourism.

Usually, the day is celebrated with memorial events, processions, and special events in Kathmandu and the Everest region.

According to Rana, up to 250 Nepalese in the city will participate in the



A climber prepares to descend the Hillary Step as he makes his way down from the summit of Mount Everest

event, along with residents from other organizations.

"Here in Macau, we have invited various government officials and consul generals but until now, we haven't received a reply," said the consul, adding that it has worked together with the Non Resident Nepali Association in the SAR.

"In Hong Kong, we have

already organized this twice. We want to promote tourism of Nepal and tourism of Macau also. We [have] sourced possible places where hiking can be done," Rana added.

She also added that this event usually involves various participants including government officials, and that authorities in Hong Kong also participa-

ted in the event over the past two years.

Meanwhile, the consul said that the number of Nepalese migrant workers in Macau has grown to some 5,000 workers, indicating an increase of consular services in the region.

■ The number of Nepalese migrant workers in Macau has grown to some 5,000

"We provide services to them every second Sunday of the month when [the consulate] visits Macau. These services include passport applications, passport collections and authenticating documents," she explained. LV

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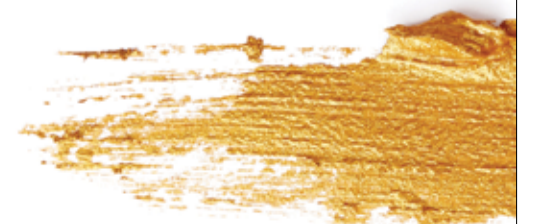
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Chagall exhibition celebrating color opens at MAM

AN exhibition featuring more than 100 works by Russian-French artist Marc Chagall was inaugurated yesterday evening at the Macau Museum of Art (MAM).

Organized by MAM, and co-organized by the Macau Government Tourism Office and the Macao Foundation, the exhibition "Marc Chagall, Light and Colour in Southern France" is both a part of the 29th Macao Arts Festival and the 2018 Le French May.

The exhibition includes a wide variety of pieces created during Chagall's residency in the south of France between the 1950s and 1970s, including paintings, gouaches, lithographs, costumes and tapestries. It also features designs for stained glass windows of a synagogue in Jerusalem and costumes and tapestries made by the artist.

It documents a sample of his creations during the period when his art took on its most distinctive shape and form,

DANIEL BETTLER



inspired by his later years in the French Côte d'Azur, where the deep blue of the Mediterranean Sea and dazzling landscapes gave rise to paintings full of intense and vibrant colors.

The exhibition "allows us to get a glance at this beautiful region [that] he loved, through his very special touch," said

Paule Ignatio, acting consul general of France in Hong Kong and Macau, at yesterday's ceremony.

Marc Chagall (1887-1985) was born to a Jewish family in White Russia (present-day Belarus) at the end of the 19th century, where he developed an intense interest in art at a young age.

Prior to the First World War, Chagall spent his time traveling between Saint Petersburg, Berlin and Paris – the then-capital of the art world. As he became more well-known, he spent an increasing amount of time in the French capital before moving to the United States in the early 1940s to escape religious persecution in Nazi-occupied France.

He settled in the south of France in the 1950s, having finally been granted French citizenship, where he fell in love with the dazzling Mediterranean Sea and bright landscapes of the French Riviera.

Chagall's work is perhaps best defined by the pre-eminence of light and color in his creations, leading some contemporary observers to suggest that the artist revolutionized how the public understands color as a medium for communication.

According to a statement from MAM, "color, in an aesthetic as well as a symbolic sense, is essential to Chagall, and archi-

itecture within the composition and a vector of spirituality. A thematic renaissance was also to take shape, where mythical beings, sirens, fish and radiant suns adorn his creations, providing a Mediterranean aura to the paintings."

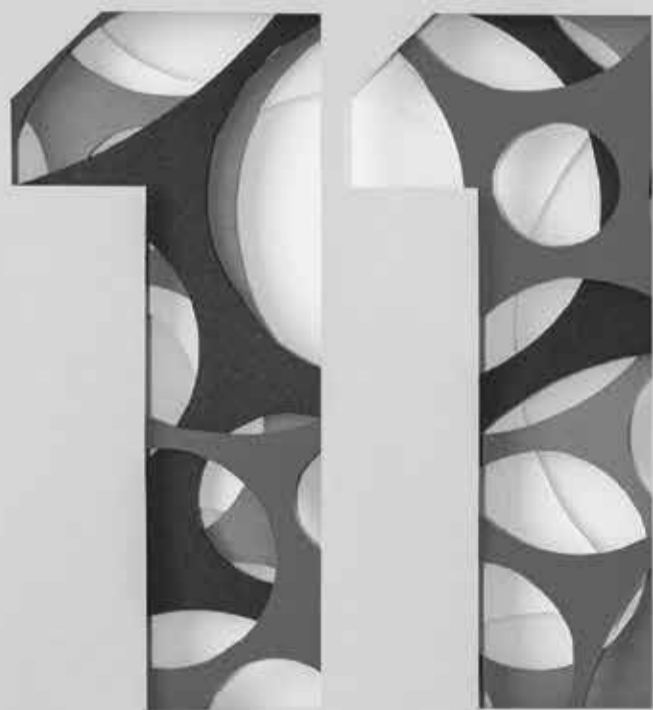
"Marc Chagall travelled a lot during his life but never went as far as Asia. My feeling is that, influenced by many cultures, he would certainly have enjoyed and appreciated Macau as I do," said exhibition co-curator Ambre Gauthier. "Inspired by the Mediterranean atmosphere that one can feel in Macau, I decided to present artworks created during the 20 peaceful years he spent in the south of France."

Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture Alexis Tam, who was not in attendance at yesterday's inauguration ceremony, released a statement claiming that the exhibition would "continue to strengthen the already time-honored Sino-French friendship, while further enhancing Macau's role as a platform for multicultural exchange."

The exhibition will be open to the public, free of charge, until August 26. Cantonese-language guided tours are available every Saturday and Sunday afternoons from June 2 onwards. **DB**

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Clement Cheng



Leo Coelho

Sands China hosts matching sessions for SMEs

SANDS China Ltd hosted its third invitational matching session yesterday for 22 local small and medium enterprise (SME) suppliers, providing these local enterprises with a platform to showcase their products and services.

Held as part of its F.I.T program (Financial Support, Invitational Matching, and Training and Development), the mat-

ching sessions were targeted at potential users and buyers of Sands China properties.

The session focused on food and beverage, facilities, and hotel operation supplies and equipment, showcasing these aspects to some 200 potential buyers and users from departments of the gaming operator.

The initiative is aimed at enhancing communication be-

tween vendors and users and improving the rate of procurement success. Representatives from the procurement departments of Marina Bay Sands in Singapore and the city's other resort operators were also invited.

"Sands China's supplier support program has been a great success, and we are very pleased to see our ongoing collaboration

with local SME suppliers as a result of this social responsibility effort," said Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

Figures from the gaming operator suggested that it has already purchased approximately 1,200 products from local SMEs participating in its first two invitational matching sessions, totalling over MOP24 million.

Meanwhile, local SMEs said

the platform provided them with the opportunity to enhance their networks.

Leo Coelho, sales & marketing manager of a Häagen-Dazs franchisee, remarked that there are only a few platforms for local SMEs to showcase their products and services to a wide audience.

"We have a good opportunity to talk with different departments and people that we would have never met if we weren't here," said Coelho.

"It's a good opportunity to get to know each other and build good networks – not just with Sands itself, but also other companies who joined this event," he added.

Managing director of Signum Macau, Clement Cheng, echoed the same sentiments, noting that it remains a challenge for local SMEs to find an effective medium through which to reach the public.

"This is a good opportunity because usually there isn't a lot of good channels to promote your company. [...] Events like this help us improve and get us in touch with clients," said Cheng.

Meanwhile, the gaming operator has also released its book highlighting the efforts and successes of its SME programs, including stories of some local enterprises which have benefitted from them. **LV**

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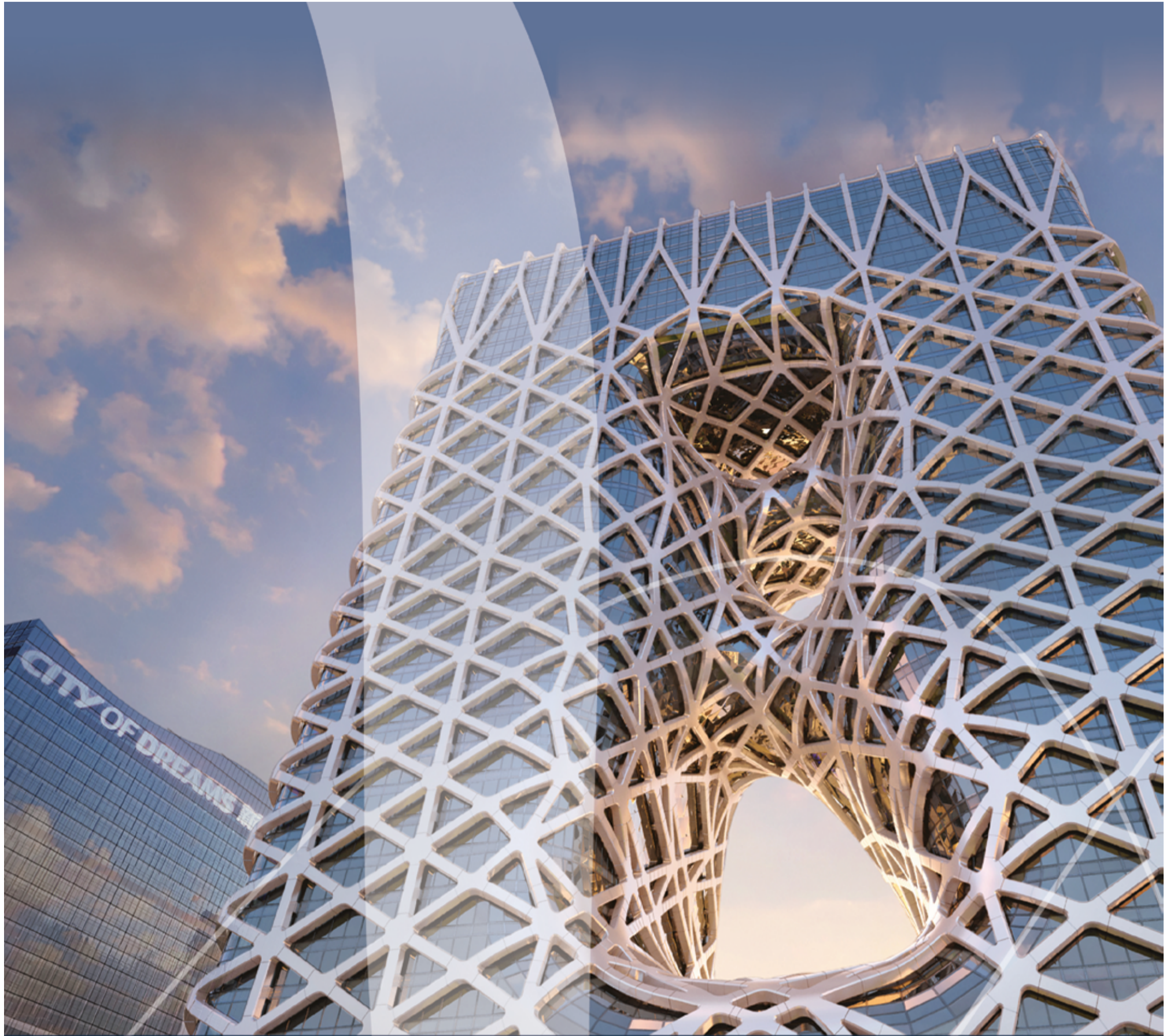
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REAL ESTATE MATTERS Student housing in Macau

Sam Lee is a marketing manager and property consultant at JML Property. JML was established in 1994 and offers Investment Property & Homes. It specializes in managing properties for owners and investors, and providing attractive and comfortable homes for tenants.



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If you browse through news related to international property, you often come across articles about the 'student housing market', which generally refers to the rental market for university students.

You hear about investors converting family homes into student accommodation, institutional players building massive student complexes and landlords specifically targeting student rentals.

But in Macau you don't seem to hear much about the student market. Why is this?

First of all, the student rental market just isn't very big in relative terms. Some universities overseas enroll tens of thousands of students and are large enough to be an independent economic ecosystem where the entire town revolves around the students and services catered for them.

By contrast, our largest university, the University of Macao, has just shy of 10,000 students total. Since Macau is so small, most of the 6350 local students stay at home with their parents. There are about 3,600 mainland and international students and a good bulk of them stay at the student residences provided by the university and only enter the retail residential market in their 3rd or 4th years, if at all.

Unlike some foreign markets where there are customized accommodation options that welcome students, the students who do need to find a place to rent on their own receive no special treatment.

In fact, when they are in their third or fourth year, which is when they are most likely to need a place because they want a quieter space to focus on their stu-

dies before graduating, they find that landlords prefer not to take student tenants because they are worried about not receiving rents or the students drinking and smoking in the apartment.

So is there room for creative landlords to target the student market and create a win-win situation? Perhaps. We are already seeing short-term accommodation options targeted towards exchange students and short-term interns coming on the market who otherwise have a very hard time with traditional landlords.

Some tenants sub-lease entire apartments and rooms to students, often illegally because the landlords don't know about it.

Although there is room for improved efficiency for student accommodation options, in general Macau is a vibrant and welcoming city for all students.

Wynn Resorts cuts ties to salon manager after founder's exit

Christopher Palmeri

WYNN Resorts Ltd. cut ties this month to Claude Baruk, the celebrity hair stylist whose salons in Las Vegas figure in the Steve Wynn sexual-harassment allegations.

The salons at the company's two Las Vegas casinos will no longer be branded with Baruk's name, spokesman Michael Weaver said in an email. He declined to comment further.

Baruk, a French-born stylist and colorist, operated the salons at the resorts since 2013. In February, he won the Celebrity Hairstylist of the Year honor at the Hollywood Beauty Awards. He couldn't be reached for comment.

Wynn Resorts' founder stepped down in February amid sexual misconduct allegations. Since then, the casino company has shaken



up its operations. It's added three new female board members, said goodbye to four male directors, and held its first women's leadership forum to support diversity and gender equality in the workplace.

Investigations, both internal and external, into the Steve Wynn allegations continue. Board member Pat Mulroy said at the company's annual meeting this month that 114 people had been interviewed and more than 3 million pages of

documents examined. Regulators in Nevada and Massachusetts also are investigating.

Baruk was named in a lawsuit in March by an unidentified woman who said she worked as a manicurist at the salon. Steve Wynn would often come in and try to position himself so that she would touch his genitals, she said. The woman said she complained to her supervisor, Wynn management and Baruk, who she said ignored her. **Bloomberg**



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Contract for Vegas casino employees nears expiration

Regina Garcia Cano, Las Vegas

THE two largest resort operators in Las Vegas would lose more than USD10 million a day combined if housekeepers, cooks and others go on strike, a possibility starting today, the union representing thousands of casino workers said.

The Culinary Union detailed how it thinks a one-month strike would impact MGM Resorts International and Caesars Entertainment, which operate more than half the properties that would be affected if 50,000 workers walk off the job. Workers last week voted to authorize a strike as disputes over workplace training, wages and other issues have kept the union and casino operators from agreeing on new contracts.

The union conceded that it is difficult to estimate how the strike at more than 30 casino-hotels would affect Las Vegas overall because the last citywide strike took place in 1984, when the city had 90,000 fewer hotel rooms and only about 12.8 million annual visitors. Last year, more than 42.2 million people visited.

But it says MGM and Caesars would see a 10 percent reduction in revenue because of the loss of group and independent travelers. A strike also could happen as fans head to Las Vegas for the Stanley Cup Final.

“Furthermore, one might assume a 10 percent worsening of operating margins due to

AP PHOTO



Culinary Union workers demonstrate along Las Vegas Boulevard outside the Cosmopolitan Hotel and Casino

the use of less experienced and less skilled replacements [...] to keep the doors open, rooms cleaned, food cooked, and cocktails served, not to mention other factors such as the disruptions to management staff's regular work,” the union wrote.

Using the companies' earnings reports for the first three months of the year, the union's estimates show a one-month strike could reduce MGM's earnings before interest, taxes and other items by more than \$206 million and Caesars' by over \$113 million.

Contracts expire at midnight Thursday [US time] for bartenders, housekeepers, cocktail

and food servers, porters, bellmen, cooks and other kitchen workers at properties on the Las Vegas Strip and downtown Las Vegas, including Caesars Palace, Bellagio, Stratosphere, Treasure Island, The D and El Cortez.

Dealers are not part of the Culinary Union. Casino-resorts that would not be affected by the strike include Wynn Las Vegas, Encore, The Venetian and Palazzo.

MGM, which employees 24,000 of the workers, said it met with union negotiators Monday and has more talks scheduled. The company says it remains confident that it “can

resolve the outstanding contract issues and come to an agreement that works for all sides.”

Caesars said it “expects to agree to a new 5-year contract with the Culinary Union on or about June 1 when the current contract expires.” About 12,000 of its workers are part of the negotiations for new five-year contracts.

The union said it is asking for training on new skills and job opportunities as the companies adopt technology that can displace workers. It also wants an independent study to analyze the workload of housekeepers and contract language that would protect workers if pro-

erties are sold.

“What is going to happen to my position?” said Fernando Fernandez, a guest runner at Caesars Palace. “I think they are going to be disappearing it, because robots are going to be available to deliver everything.”

He said he wants training to fix or program the robots that he believes could eventually replace him.

■ **The union conceded that it is difficult to estimate how the strike at more than 30 casino-hotels would affect Las Vegas overall**

The union says it has asked MGM for average annual wage increases of 4 percent for each of the five years. A document says the company has countered with an approximate 2.7 percent increase.

Caesars workers are asking for an increase of 4.2 percent effective today, and annual increases of about 4 percent thereafter. Another document shows the company has offered an approximate 2.8 percent increase for each of the five years.

The average hourly wage of union workers is \$23, including benefits such as premium-free health care, a pension and a 401(k) retirement savings plan and \$25,000 down-payment assistance for first-time homebuyers. **AP**

Turmoil at Korean dynasty deepens as misdeed allegations mount

Jihye Lee, Kyunghee Park

ADD tax evasion and embezzlement to the mounting list of allegations that one of Korea's richest families is facing, deepening the turmoil at a business dynasty that's already been disgraced by a string of scandals involving rage-driven abuses of power.

About 30 investigators descended on the head office of Korean Air Lines Co. yesterday and seized documents as part of a probe into the allegations, spelling more trouble for the controlling family headed by Chairman Cho Yang-ho. A Korean Air spokesman confirmed the raid but didn't elabo-

AP PHOTO



rate, while a spokeswoman for the Seoul Southern District Prosecutors' Office said the investigation was continuing.

The latest raids come on the back of stepped

up scrutiny by President Moon Jae-in's administration into family-run conglomerates, known in Korean as chaebol. Moon won elections last year, riding on a public sen-

timent that's decidedly turned against the scandal-plagued chaebol and led to the impeachment of his predecessor. In his campaign, Moon had pledged to wipe out cozy ties between government and business.

Korean Air, the flagship of Hanjin Group, is no stranger to scandals. The controversies have mostly involved public bad behavior by Cho's family members. About four years ago, Cho's eldest daughter forced a plane to return to the gate at New York's John F. Kennedy Airport in what's now called the infamous “nut rage” incident. This year, his youngest daughter allegedly

threw water in the face of an advertising agency worker during a business meeting. Cho has fired both of them since from their positions in the group. Walter Cho, the

■ **In his campaign, Moon had pledged to wipe out cozy ties between government and business**

only son, is the president of Korean Air.

Yesterday's raid followed a complaint by authorities that Cho, 69, didn't pay taxes when he inherited some overseas assets from his late father, Yonhap News reported earlier. Prosecutors are also looking into whether the Cho family embezzled more than 20 billion won (USD19 million), it said.

The elder Cho this month stepped down as the chief executive officer of Jin Air Co., the group's low-cost carrier, after the transport ministry found out that his youngest daughter, a U.S. citizen, held a position barred for foreign nationals.

Cho's wife was questioned by police over assault and abuse allegations. Yonhap reported this week separately. **Bloomberg**

ZHANG WENZHONG

Chinese retail tycoon's fraud conviction thrown out

Joe McDDonald, Beijing

CHINA'S supreme court threw out a retail tycoon's fraud conviction yesterday in an unusual show of leniency toward entrepreneurs amid a string of high-profile detentions that has rattled the Chinese business world.

Zhang Wenzhong, former chairman of one of China's biggest retail chains, Wumart Stores Inc., was released in February after serving 12 years in prison on charges that included improperly obtaining technology development subsidies.

The Supreme People's Court ruled that while Zhang, a computer scientist who studied at Stanford University and founded Wumart in the 1990s, violated rules in applying for the subsidies, he did so unintentionally and his company was eligible to receive them.

Zhang and another executive who was convicted had no "subjective intention" to commit fraud, the court said. It said



Customers enter a Wumei convenience store, part of the Wumart Stores retail company, in Beijing

their convictions were a "misapplication of the law and should be corrected."

The ruling was a rare success by a high-profile defendant in the midst of a marathon anti-corruption crackdown led by President Xi Jinping.

It reflected the ruling Communist Party's desire to "strengthen the protection of the legitimate rights and interests of entrepreneurs," said a Supreme Court official quoted by the website of the Shanghai newspaper The Paper.

In a possible effort to reassure entrepreneurs about their status in the state-dominated economy, the unidentified official acknowledged they face uncertainty about evolving rules and sometimes need to make unorthodox arrangements.

"In some places, there has been an unfair and unreasonable treatment of private enterprises," the official was quoted as saying. The official said when authorities find "irregular practices" they should be examined in a "developmental perspective."

A series of Chinese businesspeople have been prosecuted or detained for questioning since 2016 about possible offenses including fraud, embezzlement and bribery.

On Wednesday, a lawyer for the imprisoned founder of China's biggest privately owned insurance company said he will appeal an 18-year prison sentence on fraud charges. Wu Xiaohui of Anbang Insurance, which owns New York City's Waldorf Hotel, was convicted of improperly raising billions of dollars from investors and diverting company money to his own use.

The founder of a Shanghai-based company that was buying a stake in Russia's biggest oil producer, Rosneft, was detained in March, according to news reports. A Chinese-born Canadian

businessman disappeared from Hong Kong in early 2017 and news reports say he might have been abducted by mainland police for possible trial.

Zhang was accused of improperly obtaining 31.9 million yuan (USD4.9 million) from a government program for a logistics and information management project. Prosecutors said only state-owned companies were eligible and Zhang colluded with a subsidiary of a government enterprise, China Chentong, to obtain the money.

The supreme court said the rules had changed by the time Wumart applied and private companies were eligible.

"It is in accordance with the industrial and development policies of that time," the court said.

It gave no indication why a lower court that upheld Zhang's conviction in 2009 failed to notice the rule change that would have freed him.

Zhang stepped down as chairman of Wumart's parent company after being detained in 2006.

The supreme court also overturned Zhang's conviction on charges he and other investors improperly used 40 million yuan (\$6.1 million) from a customer's account at an insurance company to trade stocks.

The facts of that case were unclear and "lacked sufficient evidence," the court said. **AP**

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Trial begins for ex-CIA man accused of

Matthew Barakat, Alexandria (VA.)

PROSECUTORS say a former CIA case officer betrayed his country by giving a Chinese spy information about human assets and other top-secret information in exchange for USD25,000.

But defense lawyers say their client is a loyal American who was merely stringing the Chinese along to try to get them to expose details of their own intelligence operation.

A jury heard opening statements yesterday [Macau time] in the trial of Kevin Mallory, 60, of Leesburg, who was working as a self-employed consultant when he returned from Shanghai with more than \$16,000 in undeclared cash.

Defense attorney Jeremy Kamens said Mallory had grown suspicious about a Chinese think tank's job offer and hatched a plan to feed them phony documents. He told people at the CIA, but prosecutors said that was just to cover his tracks.

Prosecutor Jennifer Gellie told jurors that Mallory's scheme unraveled when he was selected for secondary screening at O'Hare Airport in April 2017 on a flight

back from Shanghai with his son. There customs agents found \$16,500 in unreported cash, and they questioned Mallory about the nature of his trip.

The customs agents allowed Mallory entry after assessing a \$188 tariff on some electronics Mallory said he had purchased. But Gellie said the encounter prompted Mallory to reach out to some old CIA contacts to concoct a cover story for his espionage.

Gellie said Mallory agreed in May 2017 to be questioned about his contacts, and that he was caught off guard during that interview when a Samsung phone given to him by the Chinese displayed text conversations between Mallory and the Chinese recruiter — Mallory had expected the phone's secure messaging features would keep the conversation hidden, Gellie said.

In one text message, Mallory wrote "your object is to gain information, and my object is to be paid."

Agents later searched Mallory's home and found two small computer discs — one balled up in tin foil in a closet box filled with junk.

COURTESY CNN



Court drawing of Kevin Mallory

Gellie said the drives contained secret and top-secret documents, some of which had been sent to the Chinese recruiter on that Samsung phone. One document contained informa-

tion about human assets, Gellie said.

"Kevin Mallory chose to pass closely held government secrets to a Chinese government agent," Gellie told the jury.

Kamens, though, said Mallory reached out to his old CIA contacts months before he was supposedly spooked by the airport inspection. During testimony, a CIA analyst and a CIA contrac-

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espionage

tor testified that Mallory contacted them in February 2017, two months before the Shanghai flight. One of the two testified that Mallory wanted him to reach out to China contacts in the CIA because he was concerned that the think-tank offer was not on the level. The other testified that he could not recall exactly why Mallory reached out.

"The only reason we are sitting in this courtroom is Mr. Mallory knocked on the front door of the CIA" to tell them about the offer he received from the Chinese.

Defense lawyers say he is a loyal American who was stringing the Chinese along to try to get them to expose [...] their own intelligence ops

The trial is being heard in the Eastern District of Virginia, which is home to the CIA and Pentagon and often plays host to national security and espionage cases. Still, espionage trials are a rarity, given that both sides have strong incentives to reach plea deals. The government is concerned about exposing secrets, while defendants are worried about potentially stiff sentences.

The last espionage-related trial in the Alexandria courthouse came in 2009, when Pentagon official James Fondren was convicted and sentenced to three years in prison for charges involving espionage and making false statements to the FBI. Fondren was convicted of providing classified documents to Tai Shen Kuo, a Taiwanese national who was working for communist China.

Mallory, though, is charged under a different statute that allows for stiffer penalties. The last trial under this specific statute came in 2003, when defense contractor Brian Patrick Regan was convicted and sentenced to life in prison for offering intelligence to Iraq and China.

Mallory faces up to life in prison. **AP**

Wife of detained lawyer Yu Wensheng barred from travelling

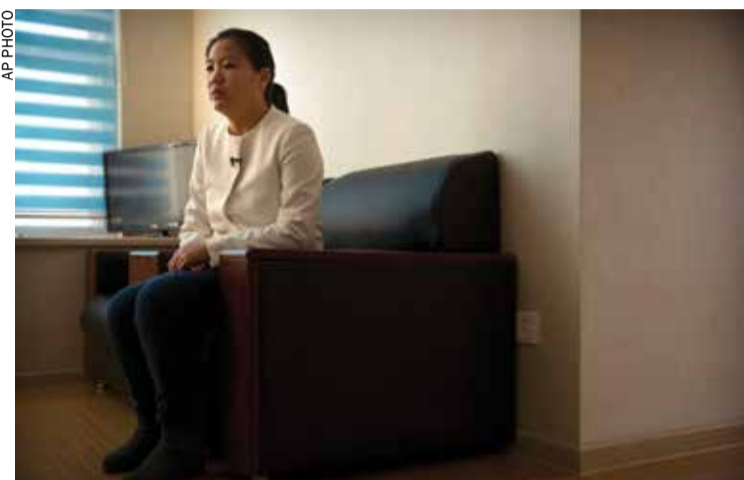
THE wife of a detained Chinese human rights lawyer said that she has been prevented from leaving her neighborhood, the latest apparent case of extra-legal harassment of those who fall afoul of the ruling Communist Party.

Xu Yan tweeted that she had been followed from her apartment by police officers who stopped her leaving by taxi by telling the drivers not to take her.

"I asked 'Why am I being restricted?'" Xu wrote. She said the officers said they didn't know, nor were they aware of who had authorized the measures or how long they were to be enforced.

Xu's husband, Yu Wensheng, was grabbed by police on Jan. 19 while preparing to take his 13-year-old son to school and has been charged with the loosely defined crime of inciting subversion against the one-party authoritarian Communist state.

During a visit to Beijing last week, German Chancellor An-



Xu Yan, the wife of detained Chinese human rights lawyer Yu Wensheng

gela Merkel met privately with Xu and Li Wenzhu, the wife of another detained lawyer, Wang Quanzhang.

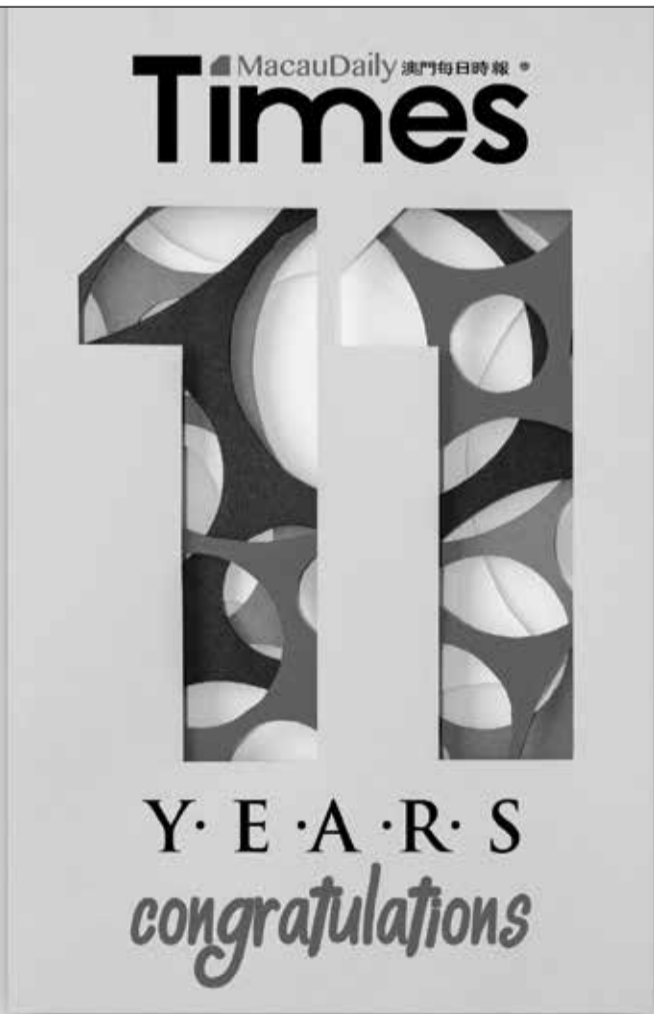
Yu's detention extends a crackdown on independent legal activists by the ruling party launched in July 2015. His seizure came a day after he posted a letter online calling for reforms to the constitution and open presidential elections.

China's vast domestic security apparatus has frequently

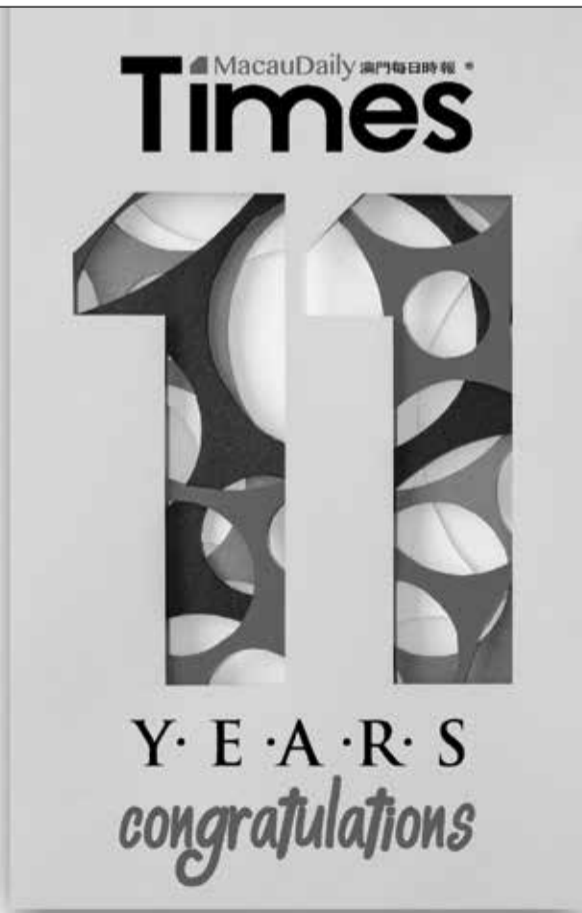
detained or harassed family members of those accused of crimes against the state, most notably Liu Xia, the widow of Nobel Peace Prize winner Liu Xiaobo, who died last year of liver cancer while serving a prison sentence for inciting subversion of state power.

Germany said earlier this month it would welcome Liu Xia after a recording was released of her crying in desperation. **AP**

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Australian says China uses different tone in private talks

Rod McGuirk, Canberra

AN Australian official said yesterday that China used a different tone in private talks than it used in a recent public statement that demanded Australia take “concrete actions” to improve bilateral ties.

Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade Secretary Frances Adamson was being questioned by a Senate committee on the vastly different accounts that the Australian and Chinese foreign ministers gave of their bilateral meeting on the sidelines of a Group of 20 minister’s conference in Argentina last week.

Australia has been talking down media reports of diplomatic disruptions over Chinese anger at Australian policies, including a proposed legislative ban on foreign interference in politics.

Australian Foreign Minister Julie Bishop described her meeting last week with her Chinese counterpart Wang Yi as “very warm and candid and constructive.”



China's Foreign Minister Wang Yi (second from right) and Australia's Foreign Affairs Minister Julie Bishop at the G20 meeting in Argentina last week

Wang said through a Chinese Foreign Ministry spokeswoman that he told Bishop that Australia needed to “take off tinted glasses and see China’s development from a positive perspective” if it really wanted to get relations back on track. “Tinted glasses” is Chinese diplomatic shorthand for what it sees as Western bias.

But Adamson told the committee Thursday that China took a different tone in private talks

with Australian officials.

“I think the [Chinese] public characterization of the meeting in tone is consistent with the recent tone adopted in the Chinese media,” Adamson told the committee.

“But I do draw a distinction between that tone as depicted publicly and the tone that we discern through direct conversations with the Chinese,” she said.

“I think the Chinese very much

want to encourage a respectful public discourse about their role in the region, about our bilateral relationship, and this is not unique to Australia,” she added.

Bishop maintains that she makes the same statements in public as she makes in private meetings with foreign officials.

The spat is impacting Australia’s trade as well as diplomatic relationship with its most important economic partner. Aus-

tralia is regarded the developed country most dependent on China, which is the largest market for Australia’s most lucrative exports, iron ore and coal.

Australia-based Treasury Wine Estates, one of the world’s largest wine companies, told the Australian Securities Exchange this month that it was experiencing delays in getting Australian wine through Chinese customs.

Graham Fletcher, the department’s first assistant secretary, told the committee that he was aware of “three or four companies” in the Australian wine industry that were experiencing similar delays.

Chinese Premier Li Keqiang signed an agreement when he visited Australia in March last year that would give Australian ranchers greater access to the Chinese chilled beef market.

Australian beef producers are frustrated that the agreement has yet to take effect. Fletcher told the committee that the agreement had not progressed “as quickly as we wanted.”

Australian Trade Minister Steven Ciobo visited Shanghai this month but did not meet his Chinese counterpart.

Adamson, a former ambassador to Beijing, told the committee a meeting “wasn’t convenient, wasn’t suitable” for the Chinese. **AP**

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THAILAND

Appeals court dismisses case against British activist

A Thai appeals court yesterday vindicated a British labor rights activist entangled in a years-long legal confrontation with a fruit-packing company after he publicized alleged human rights violations at its factory.

The legal victory for Andy Hall was welcomed by Amnesty International but is not necessarily the end of protracted court battles that forced him to leave Thailand in 2016.

A criminal defamation and other cases against Hall stemmed from a 2013 report he researched for Finnish consumer organization Finnwatch that alleged labor abuses at Natural Fruit's pineapple canning operation. It employed migrant workers from Myanmar who said the company abused them and broke labor regulations.



British labor rights activist Andy Hall talks to reporters at the Supreme Court in Bangkok

Sunya Joongdee, a lawyer for Hall, said yesterday's court ruling dismissed the criminal defamation case, which also resulted in the collapse of a case under Thailand's computer crimes law. It outlaws publishing what is deemed false information online.

He said the court accepted that Hall's interviews with

migrant workers revealed allegations of rights violations that should be made public. Hall was found guilty of criminal defamation in 2016, fined and given a suspended prison sentence.

Natural Fruit, owned by businessman Wirat Piyapornpaiboon, can appeal to the Supreme Court. Other cases brought

by both sides as the legal battle escalated are still before the courts.

On Twitter, Hall said he had previously lost hope of justice but now a "flame was reignited in my heart."

"There is still the possibility that today's verdict could lead in some way to peace and reconciliation," he said.

Amnesty International's Thailand campaigner, Katherine Gerson, said the ruling should be followed with repeal of the criminal defamation law to prevent companies using the courts to harass activists who campaign against abusive corporate practices.

"This successful appeal is very welcome, and it underlines how the original conviction against Andy Hall was an abuse of justice that should never have been allowed," she said in a statement. **AP**

Pakistani prisoner on death row dies in Indonesia

A terminally ill Pakistani prisoner on death row in Indonesia passed away in a hospital yesterday, shortly after rights activists in Pakistan sought his release on humanitarian grounds.

Zulfiqar Ali, who was arrested in November 2004 and convicted on drug smuggling charges, died at Medistra Hospital in southern Jakarta, said Rika Apriyanti, a spokeswoman for the Correctional Directorate at the Justice and Human Rights Ministry.

She said Ali's body had been handed over to his wife and would be flown back to Pakistan.

Ali's death came after the rights group Justice Project Pakistan, which opposes capital punishment, appealed to the Indonesian government to free Ali. The group said his trial was unfair and he had been wrongfully convicted.

Ali was to have faced the firing squad in July 2016 along with 13 other convicts, mostly foreigners. However, his execution and that of nine others were canceled at the last minute after authorities apparently decided that legal requirements had not been fully satisfied.

Sarah Belal, the executive director of Justice Project Pakistan, said they could not save Ali's life but wanted to help him "die a free man."

Pakistani President Mamnoon Hussain had asked Indonesian President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo to pardon Ali. **AP**

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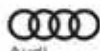
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Kim Jong Un complains of US 'hegemonism' as summit nears

Eric Talmadge, Hyung-Jin Kim

NORTH Korean leader Kim Jong Un complained of "U.S. hegemonism" to Russia's visiting foreign minister yesterday, as one of his top lieutenants was in New York trying to pave the way for a summit with President Donald Trump in Singapore next month.

Kim told Sergey Lavrov that he hopes to boost cooperation with Russia, which has remained largely on the sidelines in recent months as Kim has made a major diplomatic outreach to the United States as well as to South Korea and China.

"As we move to adjust to the political situation in the face of U.S. hegemonism, I am willing to exchange detailed and in-depth opinions with your leadership and hope to do so moving forward," Kim told Lavrov.

Kim has previously made harsher comments and even threatened to launch nuclear attacks on the United States numerous times. But his comments yesterday come at a sensitive moment, when a senior North Korean official is in New York for talks with Secretary of State Mike Pompeo on the planned summit.

Since January, Kim has significantly toned down his rhetoric against Washington and Seoul and tried to reach out to them following a year of heightened



Kim Jong Un (center) and Russia's Foreign Minister Sergei Lavrov shake hands during a meeting in Pyongyang

nuclear tensions that saw increased fears of war on the Korean Peninsula.

But continuing differences between the two countries led Trump to abruptly cancel the planned summit last week, and then quickly announce that it might still be held as scheduled on June 12.

Despite having a border with North Korea and relatively cordial relations that President Vladimir Putin has seemed to want to develop further, Russia has kept a surprisingly low profile as Kim has emerged onto the world stage this year, meeting twice with Chinese President Xi

Jinping and South Korean President Moon Jae-in.

Lavrov's visit to Pyongyang suggests that Russia wants to become involved and make sure North Korea informs it of its intentions and is mindful of Moscow's concerns.

In their talks, Lavrov relayed Putin's "warmest regards and best wishes" for Kim's "big endeavors" on the Korean Peninsula. He also expressed Moscow's support for an agreement Kim reached with Moon at a summit last month that focused on measures to ease hostilities and increase exchanges between the two Koreas.

Video of the beginning of their meeting also showed Lavrov inviting Kim to Moscow.

According to Russian media, he also discussed ways to expand relations during a meeting with Foreign Minister Ri Yong Ho.

"We welcome the contacts that have been developing in the recent months between North and South Korea, between North Korea and the United States," Lavrov said in comments to the media. "We welcome the summits that already took place between Pyongyang and Seoul as well as planned meetings between North Korean and U.S. leadership."

He vowed Russia's support for denuclearization and a broader effort to create a stable and long-lasting peace in the region, but indicated that Moscow believes sanctions can be eased while the process is in progress, which diverges from the U.S. position that denuclearization must come first.

As we move to adjust to the political situation in the face of US hegemonism, I am willing to exchange detailed and in-depth opinions with your leadership.

KIM JONG UN

"It's absolutely obvious that when a conversation starts about solving the nuclear problem and other problems of the Korean Peninsula, we proceed from the fact that the decision can't be complete while sanctions are still in place," he said.

As Lavrov was visiting Pyongyang, former North Korean intelligence chief Kim Yong Chol was in New York to discuss the agenda for the Trump summit with U.S. officials. **AP**

CORRUPTION

Malaysia working with Singapore to recover lost 1MDB funds

Yudith Ho, Andrea Tan

MALAYSIA said it's working with Singapore to recover money believed to have been embezzled from its state investment company 1MDB, as Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's administration acts on a pledge to cooperate with probes underway around the globe.

Investigators on both sides met near Kuala Lumpur yesterday, where they also discussed collecting evidence, identifying Singapore witnesses and mapping a money trail to detect funds and assets that still exist, according to a statement from a Malaysian task force overseeing 1MDB probes. Singapore has seized hundreds of millions of dollars in asse-

ts and jailed bankers over transactions linked to the scandal-plagued fund.

Mahathir, who took power earlier this month, is trying to uncover the extent of alleged embezzlement and money laundering at 1Malaysia Development Bhd., which was set up by former premier Najib Razak in 2009 to attract foreign investment. Investigators in the U.S. and Europe had complained of a lack of assistance from Malaysian authorities under the previous administration.

A cooperative Malaysia could help investigators around the world piece together how billions may have been embezzled and laundered through major financial centers in the U.S., Europe and Asia - to

finance what the U.S. said were spending sprees by corrupt officials and their associates. Najib's government and 1MDB had repeatedly insisted all its funds were accounted for.

Members of Malaysia's 1MDB task force met with officials from the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation and the Department of Justice last week to discuss the focus and direction of probes. Swiss prosecutors have said they wanted to start talks with Malaysian counterparts as soon as possible to better coordinate various criminal probes into the sprawling case.

In recent years, Singapore ordered two Swiss private banks to shut, fined other large banks, seized assets and banned at least

eight people from the finance industry for their actions on 1MDB-related transactions. Singapore authorities said this month they've cooperated extensively with their Malaysian counterparts on past requests for information on 1MDB.

Prosecutors in Singapore have described 1MDB as the country's largest and most complex money-laundering case. They said its banking and financial systems were used as conduits for billions of dollars siphoned from 1MDB, aided by officers from the fund and bankers in the city state who ignored suspicious and high-risk transactions for their own purposes.

Singapore was represented by nine officials from its Attorney-General's



Malaysian Anti-Corruption Commission officers

Chambers, the Commercial Affairs Department - the financial crime-fighting unit of the police - and the Monetary Authority of Singapore. Malaysian investigators include those from the attorney general's office, police, anti-corruption commission and central bank.

"Our Malaysian counterparts have requested for our assistance in relation to their 1MDB-related investigations," the Singapore police said earlier yesterday in response to Bloomberg News queries.

Malaysia's 1MDB task force said last week an FBI letter in November 2016 to its former anti-graft chief hadn't been responded to. A DOJ request for mutual legal assistance to Attorney General Mohamed Apandi Ali in September 2017 wasn't fulfilled and was postponed with the reason it would interfere with investigations done by Malaysian authorities, and no cooperation was extended, according to the task force. Apandi has been placed on leave by Mahathir. **Bloomberg**

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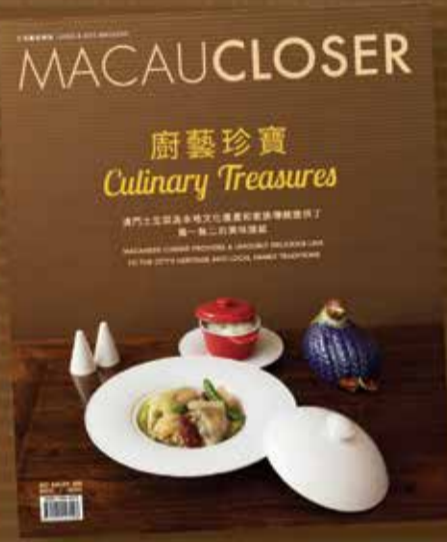

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


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PUERTO RICO

Grid 'teetering' despite USD3.8 billion repair job

Michael Weissenstein, Cain Alto

AFTER months of darkness and stifling heat, Noe Pagan was overjoyed when power-line workers arrived to restore electricity to his home deep in the lush green mountains of western Puerto Rico. But to his dismay, instead of raising a power pole toppled by Hurricane Maria, the federal contractors bolted the new 220-volt line to the narrow trunk of a breadfruit tree — a safety code violation virtually guaranteed to leave Pagan and his neighbors blacked out in a future hurricane.

"I asked the contractors if they were going to connect the cable to the post and they just didn't answer," said Pagan, a 23-year-old garage worker.

After an eight-month, USD3.8 billion federal effort to try to end the longest blackout in United States history, officials say Puerto Rico's public electrical authority, the nation's largest, is almost certain to collapse again when the next hurricane hits this island of 3.3 million people.

"It's a highly fragile and vulnerable system that really could suffer worse damage than it suffered with Maria in the face of another natural catastrophe,"

Puerto Rican Gov. Ricardo Rossello said.

Another weather disaster is increasingly likely as warmer seas turbocharge the strongest hurricanes into even more powerful and wetter storms. Federal forecasters say there's a 75 percent likelihood that the 2018 Atlantic hurricane season, which begins today, will produce between five and nine hurricanes. And there's a 70 percent chance that as many as four of those could be major Category 3, 4, or 5 hurricanes, with winds of 179 kph or higher.

"It's inevitable that Puerto Rico will get hit again," said Assistant Secretary Bruce Walker, head of the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Electricity, which is planning the long-term redesign of the grid run by the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority.

Despite the billions plowed into the grid since Maria hit on Sept. 20, 2017, Puerto Rican officials warn that it could take far less than a Category 4 storm like Maria to cause a blackout like the one that persists today, with some 11,820 homes and businesses still without power.

"The grid is there, but the grid isn't there. It's teetering," said Hector Pesquera, Puerto Rico's commissioner of public safety. "Even if it's a Category 1, it is in

such a state that I think we're going to lose power. I don't know for how long."

Federal officials and Puerto Rican leaders blame decades of mismanagement that left the island's power authority more than \$9 billion in debt after declaring bankruptcy last year. Expensive projects were launched then cancelled. Politicians approved cheap power for well-connected corporations. By the time Maria hit, wooden power poles were rotted, transmission towers had rusted through and overgrown trees menaced thousands of miles of power lines.

In many places across Puerto Rico, federal emergency funds allocated in the aftermath of the disaster made up for years of neglected maintenance, replacing decaying infrastructure with tens of thousands of new poles and hundreds of miles of power lines rushed from the U.S. mainland at a steep premium.

But in other areas, crews without adequate supplies patched together damaged poles and power lines in a desperate push to restore power. In the western highlands, power cables were spliced together and woven haphazardly through trees in blatant violation of basic safety codes. In Pagan's town of Cain Alto and at least one

other location, trees were used as makeshift power poles in the absence of proper equipment.

"We patched things up. We worked with the little material that was available and we recycled material. We took the 1,000 feet of wire that was on the ground and we strung it up in another area," one power authority worker said, speaking on condition of anonymity for fear of retaliation from management. "We took the post that had fallen over or broken and we put it up somewhere else. A lot of the work is defective."

Fredyson Martinez, vice president of the power authority workers' union, said he estimates that roughly 10 percent to 15 percent of the repair work done over the last eight months did not meet basic quality standards.

"The logistics were terrible. I give it an F," he said. "Things need to be fixed."

Federal and Puerto Rican officials are preparing for another catastrophe that cuts power for weeks or month. The Federal Emergency Management Agency is leaving some 600 generators installed in key sites such as hospitals and water pumping stations, more than six times the number before Maria. FEMA has stockpiled 5.4 million liters of water and more than 80,000 tarps, and is distributing them and other emergency supplies to towns across the island so they will be in place for the next disaster.

Still, few people believe the island is truly ready.

"If a hurricane comes tomorrow it will leave the island completely without power again," said Juan Rosario, a community activist and former member of the power authority's board of directors.

Federal forecasters say there's a 75pct likelihood that hurricane season, which begins today, will produce 5 to 9 hurricanes

Up to 4,645 more deaths than usual occurred in Puerto Rico in the three months after Maria, contends a new study published this week by the New England Journal of Medicine, an estimate that far exceeds the official government death toll of 64.

Officials now are warning Puerto Ricans to stockpile enough emergency supplies to survive as long as 10 days without help. Tens of thousands of homes still don't have roofs. FEMA distributed 59,000 enormous plastic sheets to homeow-

ners who lost their roofs in Irma or Maria. More than 100,000 more received smaller tarps to protect specific rooms or belongings. Only 21,000 households have received federal aid to carry out permanent repairs.

Juana Sostre Vasquez's wooden house in the central highlands was ripped off its foundation by Maria. With the help of a son-in-law, the 69-year-old rebuilt, using cinderblocks and cement bought with \$14,000 in FEMA reconstruction aid. Her roof is metal sheeting nailed onto wooden two-by-fours because she couldn't afford to build stronger. She says she's hopeful the next hurricane won't send that sheeting flying.

"The money didn't let us do the roof," she said. "I'm doing it little by little as I save a couple of dollars."

Mike Byrne, the head of FEMA's Caribbean office, says he expects the federal government will eventually have spent a total of \$17.5 billion in emergency funds on fixing the hurricane damage and making Puerto Rico's grid more resilient to future storms.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers ended its power restoration work in May, so future funding is expected to pass through Puerto Rico's bankrupt power company. After receiving \$945 million in federal funds for repairs to the island's electric grid, Oklahoma-based Mammoth Energy Services announced Monday that the power authority had awarded its subsidiary, Cobra Energy, another \$900 million to finish the job and begin fortifying the grid against future storms.

Last week, Cobra's crews were working to rebuild one of a pair of 230-kilo-volt transmission lines climbing from Puerto Rico's main power plants on its southern coast across high mountains to the main users of energy in the capital, San Juan, and other industrial sites and population centers in the north. Because of a decision years ago to stretch the island's main transmission lines through a narrow path across the rugged mountains, one of the transmission lines must be turned off so its powerful current doesn't energize equipment and workers laboring a few feet away.

Cobra transmission director Alan Edwards had more than 50 linemen working on the repair, at nearly \$4,000 per worker per day in federal funds from the Puerto Rico power authority, when he got the call to stop. A flaw was causing a transmission line to overheat dangerously elsewhere in the system, so the line alongside where Edwards' men were working would have to be returned to service, forcing the crews to stop for at least the rest of the day.

"Maybe we're back at it tomorrow, I don't know. May be next week before we can get back out there," Edwards said. **AP**

TV canal macau



FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:25	Miscellaneous
18:55	Brazilian Soap Opera (Repeated)
19:45	Non-daily Portuguese News (Repeated)
19:50	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
01:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:15	RTPi Live

SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:00	Grimm Sr. 3
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
17:40	Got Talent Portugal
19:20	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:00	Non-daily Portuguese News
22:00	Documentary
23:00	TDM News
23:30	Road to the 2018 FIFA World Cup
00:35	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:10	RTPi Live

Offbeat

LA SCALA'S 2018-19 SEASON
FEATURES VERDI, WOODY ALLEN

The storied La Scala opera house announced that it will open the 2018-19 season with a new production of Verdi's "Attila," continuing the tradition of Italian opera, while introducing some novelty, including Woody Allen directing Puccini's "Gianni Schicchi."

General manager Alexander Pereira said he himself will appear in Richard Strauss' "Ariadne auf Naxos," in a speaking role that he has reprised elsewhere and that he quipped would be non-paying at La Scala.

Next year's season will feature 15 operas, mostly Italian, including nine new productions and two productions making their La Scala debut.

"Attila" will be the second gala premiere dedicated to Verdi's more youthful compositions, written when he was just 33 years old, following "Giovanna d'Arco" in 2015, said music director Riccardo Chailly, who will complete the trilogy in the future with Verdi's "Macbeth." The three were composed between 1845 and 1847.

Russian bass Ildar Abdrazakov will sing the title role opposite soprano Saioa Hernandez as Odabella, singers that Chailly described as ideal for the parts.

Allen is expected to personally follow the direction of "Gianni Schicchi," alongside Kathleen Smith Belcher, who restaged the 2008 production in Los Angeles in 2015-2016. Allen's "Schicchi" will play alongside a new La Scala production of Antonio Salieri's "Prima la Musica Poi le Parole."

"Everyone loves [Allen's] films, maybe we can do a small festival," with a cinematic institute, Pereira said.

The two short operas are part of La Scala's focus on bringing back Italian bel canto tradition, which next season also will include Rossini's "La Cenerentola," or Cinderella, Donizetti's "L'elisir d'amore," conducted by Michele Gamba making his La Scala debut. As previously announced, Cecilia Bartoli will sing in Handel's "Giulio Cesare," part of a new three-year Baroque music program.

The symphonic season is comprised of eight concerts, including Chailly conducting two Mahler symphonies, the 5th and the 10th, while Zubin Mehta will conduct Anton Bruckner's Symphony No. 5.

Pereira noted that the opera house had increased tickets sales by 8 million euros from 2014-2018 thanks to the addition of dozens of performances in the traditionally quiet fall months.

cinema



CINETEATRO

31 MAY - 06 JUN



SOLO: A STAR WARS STORY

ROOM 1

2:30, 4:45, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Ron Howard

Starring: Alden Ehrenreich, Woody Harrelson, Emilia Clarke

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 135min



THE WALL

ROOM 2

2:30, 9:30pm

Director: Doug Liman

Starring: Aaron Taylor-Johnson, John Cena

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 119min

WHEN SUN MEETS MOON

ROOM 2

4:15, 6:00, 7:45pm

Director: Benny Lau

Starring: Kathy Yuen, Daichi Harashima, Aimee Chan

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 149min

LOVE CHUNIBYO AND OTHER DELUSIONS

ROOM 3

2:30, 4:30, 9:45pm

Director: Tatsuya Ishihara

Language: Japanese (Chinese)



DESTINY: THE TALE OF KAMAKURA

ROOM 3

7:15pm

Director: Takashi Yamazaki

Starring: Masato Sakai, Mitsuki Takahata

Language: English (Chinese)

this day in history

1970 BRITISH PRIME MINISTER
HIT BY FLYING EGG

The Prime Minister, Harold Wilson, has been hit in the face with an egg thrown by a Young Conservative demonstrator.

The raw egg, thrown at close range, hit him on the forehead and bounced onto his jacket where it broke.

It was thrown by Tory supporter Richard Ware. He had waited nearly an hour to make his protest, outside the Wealdstone Labour Hall in north-west London, over the cancellation of the South African Springboks cricket tour.

The tour was called off on Home Secretary James Callaghan's orders after he raised fears of mass demonstrations against apartheid. During the 1969 rugby tour, matches were frequently interrupted by protesters.

The Labour leader shrugged off the incident as a sign the cost of living could not be as high as the Tories were suggesting if people could afford to throw raw eggs.

The economy has been one of the central issues of this election campaign.

Earlier in the day Mr Wilson had faced heckling from a crowd of around 500 gathered to greet his arrival at the Holborn and St Pancras South constituency in north London.

One woman shouted: "He's even put a tax on ant eggs for goldfish."

Another man retorted: "Goldfish are a luxury."

When Mr Wilson was later hit by the egg, he quipped: "If they are fighting the cost of living in Harrow, obviously eggs must be cheap enough to throw about."

"If the Tories get in, in five years no-one will be able to afford to buy an egg."

Although his government has been dogged by economic crises, culminating in the devaluation of sterling three years ago, there have been signs of recovery recently.

Chancellor Roy Jenkins introduced a series of indirect taxes in 1968 and a pay rise ceiling of 3.5% which have helped improve the economy to the extent Mr Wilson felt it was safe to call an election for 18 June.

The polls have all been predicting an easy victory for Labour and Mr Wilson.

The campaigning so far has focussed firmly on the two main party leaders, Mr Wilson and Conservative Edward Heath.

Although Mr Wilson has developed a reputation for one-liners at the daily news conferences, it was Mr Heath who got the better of him this time.

Asked about the egg incident, Mr Heath replied: "This was a secret meeting on a secret tour which nobody is supposed to know about. It means that men - and perhaps women - are walking the streets with eggs in their pockets, just on the off-chance."

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

Four days after the egg incident, Harold Wilson's wife was hit by a flour bomb as the couple waited for the prime ministerial car after a visit to the local Labour Party in Battersea, south London.

Asked afterwards if he felt the police should be given increased powers to deal with violent demonstrators, Mr Wilson said freedom was part of a democracy and a respect for the rights of others.

He went on to lose the election to the Conservatives - after what was generally regarded as a very lack-lustre campaign.

The Tories took 330 seats, with Labour on 288 and the Liberals won just six seats. The Scottish Nationalists also gained their first Westminster MP.

This was the first election in which 18-year-olds were entitled to vote - but turnout was down on previous years to 72%, the lowest since 1935.

YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Your energy is high, but you will be out of sync with most people. While things are crystal clear to you right now, other people are still in the dark. And try as you might, you won't be able to get them to understand.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

Everyone around you is so busy right now that you may be wondering what's left for you - but if you take a moment to look around, you'll see a few loose ends that need to be tied up.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

In a quiet conversation you will reveal more about yourself than you had planned, but don't worry - you're in very trustworthy company. Confessing your ideas and secrets will feel liberating.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

They'll want to call an informal meeting of your friends, family, and assorted loved ones - at your place, of course. Tonight, of course. You won't mind; truth be told, you'll be tickled.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Anytime you begin a new route on this road of life, you need to lighten your load. With less on your mind (and in your heart), you'll be able to move a lot faster - and reach your goal a lot more quickly.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Once every month, for at least a day or so, we all have no choice but to reveal exactly what we're feeling. The universe absolutely insists on it and won't allow it to be any other way. It's your turn now...

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Luckily, your day offers no disappointments; as a matter of fact, you should expect a few nice surprises in the romantic department. Someone's been thinking of you...

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

It's a perfectly good idea to plan things out before you move forward. After all, there's no sense in doing something before you fully understand what you're doing. But everything is where it needs to be.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

The shopping bug has bitten and it's not letting go - but this fascination with material goods is not going to be good for you right now. All signs still point to save, save, save!

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Saying goodbye to someone you love (or letting go of something that was once precious in your life) is just a part of living. If you need to say goodbye, treat it like a celebration!

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

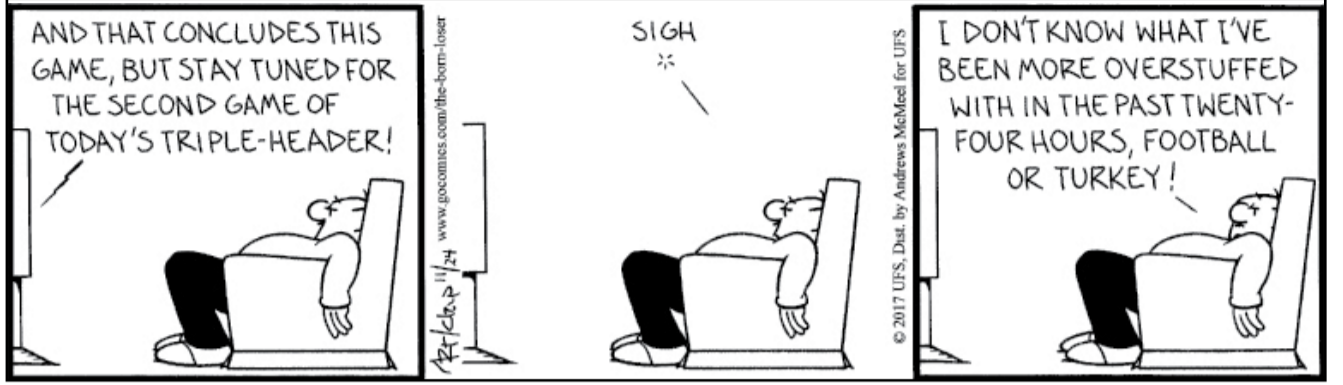
Without realizing it, someone may come awfully close to spilling one of your biggest secrets. Find the potential leak (you know who it is), and remind them to keep your confidence.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

After a little slip, you'll regain your footing admirably. A physical challenge is going to be tougher than you expected, and it should force you to rethink some health goals you're aiming for.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

9x9 grid for Easy Sudoku puzzle.

Easy+

9x9 grid for Easy+ Sudoku puzzle.

Medium

9x9 grid for Medium Sudoku puzzle.

Hard

9x9 grid for Hard Sudoku puzzle.

WEATHER

CHINA

Table of weather conditions for various Chinese cities including Beijing, Harbin, Tianjin, etc.

WORLD

Table of weather conditions for various world cities including Moscow, Frankfurt, Paris, etc.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- ___ Golden Horde member; 6- Strike; 11- Sugary suffix; 14- Stage play; 15- Kind of kitchen; 16- Solo in space; 17- Metal-shaper; 18- Concerning; 19- From ___ Z; 20- Gossip; 22- Rustic; 24- Becomes visible; 28- Tropical fruit; 29- Thin soups; 30- Chart; 32- Suffix with concession; 33- Brother of Moses; 35- ___ mater; 39- Ale, e.g.; 40- San Francisco's ___ Hill; 41- Racetrack boundary; 42- Org.; 43- Door handles; 45- Short skirt; 46- Steel girder; 48- General tendencies; 50- River in N South America; 53- Noisiest; 54- Renter's sign; 55- Nestling pigeon; 57- Place for a bath; 58- Freshwater fish; 60- Cultivate; 65- Peer Gynt's mother; 66- Desi's daughter; 67- Computer key; 68- Cartoon Chihuahua; 69- Les ___-Unis; 70- Speed contests;

DOWN: 1- NFL scores; 2- Upper limb; 3- Mai ___; 4- Invoice no.; 5- Enthusiastic; 6- Fashion lines; 7- Look ___ hands!; 8- Roman road; 9- Metal, often used as a container; 10- Snare; 11- Butler's love; 12- The devil; 13- Name on a bomber; 21- Bear in the sky; 23- Unscathed; 24- Addis ___; 25- Gets nosy; 26- Skin openings; 27- Perpetuate; 28- Outlaw; 30- Brush a horse; 31- Former Virginia senator Charles; 34- Sigmund's daughter; 36- "Mule Train" singer; 37- Tends; 38- Elite group; 43- Barbie's beau; 44- Greek portico; 47- Liquid container; 49- Eraser; 50- Rose oil; 51- Small rodent; 52- Truman veep Barkley; 53- Old stringed instruments; 55- Caribbean dance music; 56- Throw in the towel; 59- Groove; 61- Genetic material; 62- And so on: Abbr.; 63- Wide shoe width; 64- AMA members;



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FOOTBALL

Zidane quits as Real Madrid coach after third Champions League

AT least as a coach, Zinedine Zidane is going out on top. After ending his playing career by headbutting an opponent in the 2006 World Cup final, Zidane is closing out his stint with Real Madrid with the fresh image of him lifting the Champions League trophy.

Zidane made the surprise announcement that he was leaving Madrid yesterday, less than a week after leading the team to its third straight Champions League title.

"You have to know when to quit," said the 45-year-old Zidane, who was Madrid's coach for two and half seasons. "This is the right moment. I am a winner and if I don't see it clearly that we will keep winning, it's time for a change."

It was an unexpected move by the former great who won nine titles as Madrid coach, including the three Champions League titles, one Spanish league title, one Spanish Super Cup, two UEFA Super Cups and two Club World Cups. "This club needs a change to keep winning," Zidane said. "With me



it would have been complicated to keep winning."

Zidane also thrived as a player. He helped France win the 1998 World Cup, but his career ended after the 2006 World Cup final, when he was sent off in disgrace for headbutting Italy defender Marco Materazzi.

His decision to quit as Madrid coach suddenly left the Spanish club's future in limbo.

Cristiano Ronaldo hinted after the Champion League final he may leave as well, and Gareth Bale, unhappy with his lack of playing time, could be on his way back to the Premier League.

"It was a completely unexpected decision," Madrid president Florentino Perez said of Zidane's departure. "Today is a sad day for me, for the fans and for all the people who work at the club. I wish

we could always have Zidane by our side, but we know that when Zizou makes a decision, the only thing we can do is to accept it and respect it."

Zidane spoke little about his future but said he is not immediately looking to coach another club. Perez also didn't talk much about the club's search for a new coach, although several names are being talked about in local media, including Mauricio Pochettino, Antonio Conte, Joachim Loew and Arsene Wenger.

Zidane said there wasn't a specific reason that led him to his decision, but apparently he saw enough signs to know things were not all perfect despite the good results.

"After three years, [the club] needs a change in speech, a new work methodology," he said.

Zidane mentioned the struggles the team faced this season, including in the Spanish league and the Copa del Rey. Madrid finished third in the league — 17 points behind champion Barcelona — and was eliminated at home by

Leganes in the quarterfinals of the Copa del Rey, a moment which Zidane said was the worst of his coaching career with the club.

"We went through good moments but also complicated ones, and I don't forget them," Zidane said. "I want to leave when everything is going well. This is a good moment to end it well."

Zidane said his best moment with Madrid was when he was signed to play for the club in 2001. He won the Champions League with the club in 2002, scoring an amazing volley in the final against Bayer Leverkusen.

"As a coach, there were a lot things, like winning the Champions League, but if there was one specific moment, it was to win La Liga [in 2017]. It was the greatest thing," the Frenchman said.

Zidane was hired in January 2016 for what was his first major head-coaching job. The former star player arrived surrounded by doubts because of his lack of coaching experience but quickly surpassed expectations.

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OF EGGS AND PAPER PLANES

In 1970, Prime Minister Harold Wilson was being harshly attacked by the opposition Conservative Party and by many people because of unpopular tax measures he had implemented, which had increased the cost of living in the UK.

On this day, June 1 in that distant year of last century, Wilson was hit by a young Tory supporter with a raw egg while the incumbent PM was campaigning in West London for the reelection of the Labour Party.

His comments became legendary: "Eggs must be cheap enough to throw about," he said teasing those who complained against the rising costs.

Four days after the egg incident, Harold Wilson's wife was hit by a flour bomb, in South London.

Asked afterwards if he felt the police should be given increased powers to deal with violent demonstrators, PM Wilson said "freedom was part of a democracy and a respect for the rights of others."

You can relive this extremely educational episode on page 24, but that is beyond my point.

Forty-eight years on in Macau, on Tuesday, two young democracy advocates were given hefty fines for a petty "transgression" in a peaceful demonstration. There were a few paper planes thrown into Chui Sai On's official residence - not at him! - during an assembly of a ridiculously low number of people, but what is that compared to smashing an egg on the forehead of the Prime Minister of Her Majesty the Queen of England?

I can just guess what the local authorities would have done to the young, now very old, conservative. He would have been thrown to jail merciless for many, many years.

What is really sad about this story, besides the apparent connivance of justice with the establishment, is that society has somehow accepted the guilty as charged verdict with a sigh of relief.

As a legal expert told me the other day, "the expectations of justice being served are so low in Macau that people see this as a lesser evil, considering they were not charged with jail time."

Make no mistake, the Court of First Instance ruled that Sulu Sou and Scott Chiang were guilty of a criminal offense, unlawful assembly, when they were simply trying to exert their right to express their voice by handing a petition over to the Chief Executive.

The act of "kindness" of Judge Cheong for not handing out a prison sentence - first-time offenders, no prolonged standoff, no violence involved - is but rubbing sand in our eyes.

"The ruling indicates the judiciary is adhering to an authoritarian attitude towards demonstrations and minor incidents that naturally occur during demonstrations," scholar António Katchi told the Times on Wednesday. "A peaceful attempt to resist police orders in such a heated atmosphere, especially when those orders are perceived as arbitrary, is something so natural that it is usually tolerated in a free society."

Other opinion-makers voiced their support for the "independence" and "fairness" of the court, adding to the generalized illusion that justice was served. It was not.

As Scott Chiang said to reporters after the court sentence, in a Chinese parable, "We believe that we are the chicken killed to scare the monkey."

And that sums it up: this court ruling was an act of dissuasion to the young people at home and their parents, to show that taking part in demonstrations may be a bad idea. Not to mention throwing an egg at Chief Chui, who is no Harold Wilson.

PS: This is the 11th anniversary edition of the Macau Daily Times. Eleven years on, the Times reach has increased significantly, namely online. Among media outlets in Macau, our website ranks second only to Ou-Mun Daily, according to Alexa.com. That shows how important the English press is, and will be, in a multicultural place that aims to be recognized as an international city.

THE BUZZ SPAIN'S GOV'T POISED TO FALL, SOCIALISTS PREPARE FOR POWER

Spain's conservative government yesterday appeared doomed to lose a no-confidence vote in parliament, with the center-left Socialist party poised to take power.

A Basque nationalist party's decisive announcement that it would vote in favor of the motion spelled the almost certain end of Prime Minister Mariano Rajoy's mandate and foretold the stunning collapse of his minority government in a parliamentary vote today, when it will be short of support to survive.

The impending downfall of Rajoy's government after ruling for nearly eight years came just days after his Popular Party's reputation was badly damaged by a court verdict that identified it as a beneficiary of a large kickbacks-for-contracts scheme.

The unexpected development injected a new element of tension into European Union politics and global financial markets, already unsettled by Italy's struggles to install a government since a March 4 election.

SCIENCE SAYS

Ambien's odd side effects don't include racism

AMBIEN and similar sleep aids are well-known for sometimes causing some weird behavioral side effects, but changing one's political or cultural views is not one of them.

Roseanne Barr partly blamed the insomnia drug in explaining a tweet that led ABC to cancel her show: "It was 2 in the morning and I was Ambien tweeting," she wrote.

Until this week, Ambien's most headline-grabbing behavioral side effect was "sleep-driving," essentially sleepwalking except getting behind the wheel and going for a drive with no memory of doing so.

But people also have reported making phone calls, eating meals, having sex and doing other things that they don't remember after taking so-called "sedative-hypnotic" medications. People charged with crimes occasionally even have tried "the Ambien defense."

Doctors call these "complex sleep behaviors." On its official Ambien labeling, manufacturer Sanofi calls the side effects "abnormal thinking and behavioral changes" - changes that can include decreased inhibition.

"It's behavior that's done when the individual is in a sense both asleep and awake at the same time," explained University of Pittsburgh sleep



Roseanne Barr participates in the "Roseanne" panel during the Disney/ABC Television Critics Association Winter Press Tour in January

While all pharmaceutical treatments have side effects, racism is not a known side effect.

DR. MARC SCHLOSBERG

medicine specialist Dr. Daniel Buysse. It's not so different from how people sometimes behave under the influence of alcohol, he added, and it can be hard to tell if the behavior really was due to the drug.

And while it's not clear how common such side effects are, Ambien's instructions clearly state: Take it right before you get into bed, and only if you plan to stay there for 7 or 8 hours.

"You should take it and lie down. Read a book or something" but don't wander around

or get on the computer or do other things waiting for the medicine to kick in, said Dr. Marc Schlosberg, a sleep medicine specialist at MedStar Washington Hospital Center.

Sanofi said yesterday [Macau time] in a tweet that "while all pharmaceutical treatments have side effects, racism is not a known side effect of any Sanofi medication."

Barr later tweeted that she has had odd experiences while taking the drug late at night. "I blame myself, not Ambien," she tweeted. **AP**

Harvey Weinstein indicted on rape, criminal sex act charges

HARVEY Weinstein was indicted on rape and criminal sex act charges, furthering the first criminal case to arise from a slate of sexual misconduct allegations against the former movie mogul.

Manhattan District Attorney Cyrus R. Vance Jr. said the indictment brings Weinstein "another step closer to accountability" for alleged attacks on two women in New York.

Weinstein's lawyer, Benjamin Brafman, said he would "vigorously defend" against the indictment and ask a court to dismiss it. He called the allegations "unsupported" and reiterated that Weinstein strongly denies them.

The indictment came hours after Weinstein's lawyer said the film producer would decline to testify before the grand jury because there wasn't enough time to prepare him and "political pressure" made an indictment unavoidable.

"Regardless of how compelling Mr. Weinstein's personal testimony might be, an indictment



was inevitable due to the unfair political pressure being placed on Cy Vance to secure a conviction of Mr. Weinstein," the statement said.

Weinstein, 66, learned of the specific charges and the accusers' identities only after turning himself in Friday, according to his lawyers. Brafman said that with a deadline set for Wednesday afternoon for Weinstein to testify or not, prosecutors denied his request for more time.

Station	Air quality	Icon
Roadside	25-45 Good	😊
High Density Residential Area	25-45 Good	😊
Ambient	45-65 Moderate	😞

SOURCE: DSI/MG

WORLD BRIEFS



INDIA-PAKISTAN Pakistan and India have agreed to stop trading fire, including artillery and small weapons, along the highly militarized frontier in the disputed Himalayan region of Kashmir and uphold a cease-fire accord dating back 15 years.

UAE Leading Emirati rights activist Ahmed Mansoor has been sentenced to 10 years in prison and fined 1 million dirhams, or about USD272,000, for criticizing the government in social media posts.



ROMANIA-LITHUANIA The European Court of Human Rights ruled yesterday that Romania and Lithuania allowed the detention and abuse of a Saudi and a Palestinian at secret U.S. prisons.

ITALY Financial markets calmed yesterday amid increasing signs that Italy may avoid imminent elections after the president gave two populist parties time to figure out whether they can agree on an alternative to a euroskeptic economy minister.

BRITAIN A leading campaigner for Britain's exit from the European Union was accused of hypocrisy yesterday after applying for permanent residency in France.



BRAZIL Oil workers have begun a 72-hour strike on the heels of a crippling nationwide truck drivers' strike that has started winding down after 10 days.

BOLIVIA A federal judge has overturned a jury decision that found a former president of Bolivia and his defense minister responsible for government killings during 2003 unrest.