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Interview with Edith Mak, a representative of Seac Pai Van residents who oppose the building of hazardous materials depots

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## NEW REGULATIONS

# Locals may apply for China residence

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## WORLD BRIEFS

AP PHOTO



**VIETNAM** A court sentenced an activist to 20 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of attempting to overthrow the Communist government, his lawyer said, in a case decried by international rights groups. [More on p12](#)

**CAMBODIA** Final results showed the ruling party swept elections last month for the National Assembly, ensuring long-ruling Prime Minister Hun Sen another term but reinforcing skepticism of the vote's legitimacy. [More on p13](#)

**MYANMAR** Members of a commission established by Myanmar's government to investigate human rights violations in western Rakhine state addressed critics yesterday with a pledge to be impartial. [More on backpage](#)

AP PHOTO



## KIM JONG NAM TRIAL EXTENDED

# Judge finds evidence of a 'well-planned conspiracy'

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Extra

Google that!

Google wants to know where you go so badly that it records your movements even when you tell it not to

Extra times  
weekend Guide  
INSIDE



**Q&A** EDITH MAK  
REPRESENTATIVE OF SEAC PAI VAN RESIDENTS

# 'We cannot tolerate any risk of accidents happening'

Lynzy Valles

**R**EPRESENTATIVES of Seac Pai Van residents are still disappointed that the building of warehouses to store hazardous materials near Cotai residential areas is proceeding.

A representative of the residents, Edith Mak, spoke to the Times, noting that those living near the area will continue urging the government to build the hazardous materials warehouses only at the reclaimed areas of Zone E1 in the future.

Mak also noted that there might be some kind of underhanded business going on, citing the Chief Executive's explanation for the choice of the location.

The CE previously explained that the location at Concordia Industrial Park will avoid unnecessary storage and transportation across the city.

With no replies yet from the government to the petition letter, which acquired 7,426 signatures, the representative said that they are in talks with the neighborhood on their next actions.

**Macau Daily Times (MDT) - The Chief Executive last week announced that the construction of a dangerous goods warehouse will proceed despite the group's petition. What are your current plans?**

**Edith Mak (EM) -** The government is actually going to build a public school there, which had already been planned, as well as a recreational cycling area. That is why we hope that the government will also withdraw the building in that location, because there will be students in the community. In view of these two urban plans to build a school and recreational cycling area, we think that it's not sensible to build the storage facility in that location as well.

The government has to stand



up and commit to not building those warehouses in the nearest location to the residential area. Also, there are over 3,000 bottles of flammable gasses and chemicals there. We want to tell the government that since they already had plans to relocate the temporary storage, why not just go ahead and accelerate the process and build it on the reclaimed area instead of building one here now and then having to relocate? It's redundant. Eventually it will be moved, so why don't they just stick to the location and build

a permanent storage there instead of fighting with the people and convincing [us] that it is a safe location.

**We are starting to suspect that there's something behind this.**

EDITH MAK

**this statement contradict his most recent announcement on the warehouse plans?**

**EM -** Totally. I think the residents agree [and] all are laughing about it. It's a total contradiction. The most contradictory is how they name the public housing area with four Chinese characters: 和諧廣場 [meaning live happy, work happy]. It's totally not reflective on what the government is trying to do now.

**MDT - Aside from the two recent activities that included a petition delivery and an assembly, what is next?**

**EM -** We will try to give some time for the government to respond to our request. We have not received any positive or satisfactory response, which we have been waiting on for almost two weeks. We are starting to suspect that there's something behind this. Also, the community is also asking what is behind all this. In spite of so many people's resistance, the government still insists on building the warehouse there. We're all suspecting that there is something behind all this. They already explained that the reason why they chose that location in Colane is to make the gasoline supplies reduce their logistical costs.

Why would they [the government] want to help these business operators or the companies, while giving up the safety of the public? In other words, they are sacrificing our safety to benefit these companies and business owners.

**MDT - With that being said, what options is the group considering?**

**EM -** We are examining possibilities of escalating these issues to reach more public awareness. At this stage I cannot reveal that much because we are all in planning [with] other petition representatives. The ball is in the government's court now but we won't stop planning further actions.

**MDT - So the group is not confident in the government's promise of ensuring safety measures when these warehouses are built?**

**EM -** Nobody from the government can come up and say that no accidents will happen.

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**T**WO women on trial for the brazen assassination of the North Korean leader's half brother were told yesterday to make their defense after the judge found evidence of a "well-planned conspiracy," extending their murder trial until next year.

Indonesia's Siti Aisyah and Vietnam's Doan Thi Huong are accused of smearing VX nerve agent on Kim Jong Nam's face in an airport terminal in Kuala Lumpur on Feb. 13, 2017.

High Court Judge Azmi Ariffin said there was inadequate proof to show it was a political assassination. He said he wasn't persuaded by defense argument that the women thought they were taking part in a prank for a hidden-camera show. But enough evidence had been presented in the six-month trial to infer the women and four North Korean suspects at large had meticulously engaged in a "well-planned conspiracy" to kill Kim "systemically," he said.

"I must therefore call upon them to enter their defense," the judge said after reading his ruling for more than two hours.

Indonesian Ambassador Rusdi Kirana told reporters outside the court that he was shocked by the decision but his government will abide by it.

In Huong's village in Vietnam, her family said they were sad to hear she was not acquitted. Her father, Doan Van Thanh, said he could not sleep last night, anxious to hear the ruling.

"I had hoped the court would announce that she is innocent but now we are really worried for her," he said. Huong's brother, Doan Van Binh, said the family hopes she will receive a fair trial.

Aisyah, 25, and Huong, 29, told the court they would testify under oath in their defense. Aisyah, who will be the first to take the stand when the trial resumes Nov. 1, later cried and was consoled by her lawyers and Indonesian officials. Huong was calm. The judge set hearing dates that extend until next February.

The women are accused of colluding with four North Korean suspects who fled the country the same morning Kim was killed. Aisyah and Huong are the only suspects in custody and face the death penalty if convicted.

According to the case presented so far, the four men known to Aisyah and Huong by code names recruited, trained and supplied the women with the banned chemical weapon that they

# Judge orders women to begin defense in Kim Jong Nam's murder



Vietnamese Doan Thi Huong



Indonesian Siti Aisyah

smear on Kim's face.

Airport security footage shown in court captured the moment of the attack and prosecutors also said the camera images linked the women to the four male suspects. Shortly after Kim arrived at the airport, Huong was seen approaching him, clasping her hands on his face from behind and then fleeing. Another blurred figure was also seen running away from Kim and a police investigator testified that it was Aisyah. Kim died within two hours of the attack.

Defense lawyers have said the prosecution failed to show the two women had any intention to kill — key to establishing they are guilty of murder.

But the judge said their intention to kill can be inferred from targeting Kim's eyes, where the nerve agent would penetrate faster. He said evidence pointed to a "simultaneous act" by the women and that their subsequent hurrying to separate washrooms was not a "mere coincidence" but established their intention to cause Kim's death.

"There is no slightest doubt in my mind that it can be inferred that their desperate act of rushing to the toilet was solely for the purpose to decontaminate the poisonous VX on their hands," Azmi said. He said they

## The onus is on the accused to explain their conduct.

AZMI ARIFFIN  
HIGH COURT JUDGE

seemed worried and tense before washing their hands, but relaxed afterward.

"The onus is on the accused to explain their conduct," he added.

Lawyers for the two women have said their clients were pawns in a political assassination with clear links to the North Korean Embassy in Kuala Lumpur.

The judge said the four North Koreans played a "substantial role" and were "part of the chain that led to the murder" of Kim. The defense has argued the real culprits are the four North Korean suspects and have pointed to an embassy employee who

helped arrange their travel as evidence of embassy involvement.

Azmi said he "cannot rule out that this could be a political assassination," but found no concrete evidence of one.

Malaysian officials have never officially accused North Korea and have made it clear they don't want the trial politicized.

Kim, the eldest son in the family that has ruled North Korea since its founding, had been living abroad for years after falling out of favor. It is thought he could have been seen as a threat to North Korean leader Kim Jong Un's rule. **AP**

## A FLIGHT BOUND TO MACAU

**KIM JONG NAM** lived in Macau for around a decade after he fell out of favor with the North Korean regime, which is now controlled by his half-brother Kim Jong Un. At the time of his murder, Kim's teenage daughter attended the

Macau Anglican College after having transferred from an international school nearby. Other close relatives also lived here. Kim Jong Nam was preparing to board a flight bound to Macau when he was killed.

## ONE SHOT NEWS



Many of the members of the Macau delegation to the Asian Games have arrived in Jakarta, Indonesia, where the competition will officially kick off tomorrow, although some tournaments have already started.





## Ng Lap Seng says US law 'misapplied' to United Nations

Macau billionaire Ng Lap Seng's defense is now reportedly calling on the Second Circuit Court of Appeals to void his conviction on the basis that U.S. law was "misapplied" to cover an intergovernmental organization like the United Nations (UN). According to Inner City Press, Secretary General of the United Nations Antonio Guterres has shown support for the argument. The real estate mogul was sentenced to four years in prison earlier this year for his role in a scheme to bribe UN officials to obtain support for the development of a conference center in Macau. He has previously argued that he is afflicted by a number of illnesses and pains and requested a postponement to his prison sentence.

## International student applications open

Macau students enrolled in universities abroad can apply to the "International Student Card Programme," which offers products and services to tertiary education students abroad as well as in Macau. For this year, the applications for the card are available from August 15 to October 31. The International Student Identity Card is a global identification card that has been issued by the International Student Travel Alliance for over 40 years and is the only card certified by UNESCO, with a global membership of around 45 million users. At present, there are as many as 42,000 travel discounts for members in over 130 countries, such as air tickets, train tickets, accommodation, shopping, cultural venues and free entry to museums.

# Gov't considers regulating online food supply

**T**HE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) intends to tighten food safety regulations for online food stores.

Currently, the government is implementing a voluntary scheme called the Food Industry Registration Program for online food stores.

According to IACM's president José Tavares, IACM is aiming to make this program mandatory, requiring all online food stores to be assisted by a physical store.

The change is intended to make the supervision of online food suppliers easier for the government.

In addition, Tavares highlighted that food safety management will be gradually tightened. He expressed his understanding of the public's worries about online food.

The IACM president also remarked that the government will establish a law to set up mandatory registration.

Upon implementation of the related regulations and laws, food stores will be allowed to operate online businesses only if they also



have a physical store.

It is said this measure will assist the city's food safety center to supervise the food production process, and locate responsible personnel and sites.

Currently, online stores (with or without physical premises), social media or internet users and groups which are involved in the production, supply or sale of food in Macau are required to register. Also required to register are stores (with or without physical premises), social media or

internet users or groups which act as shopping agents or provide group-shopping services for food products, and takeaway stores involved in the preparation or sale of food available to the public, including shops which provide homemade beverages, stewed soups and sweet soups, siu mei (roast meat), pastries and bread, snacks, braised foods (e.g. fish balls, beef offal, sour and spicy noodles), chilled desserts, shopping agent services, and other forms of takeaway food.

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# New regulation to allow SARs citizens to apply for China residence permits

A new regulation will allow residents of Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan to apply for residence permits in the Chinese mainland.

A document issued at a press conference held by the State Council Information Office yesterday said the regulation is to be promulgated by the State Council General Office, and will take effect from September 1.

According to Xinhua, the document said residents from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan who hold a China residence permit will enjoy more rights, basic public services and other conveniences related to study, work, business opportunities and life on the mainland.

Vice Minister of Public Security, Shi Jun, deputy director of the Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office of the State Council Huang Liuquan and deputy director of the Taiwan Affairs Office of the State Council Long Mingbiao attended a press conference yesterday to present the new regulation.



According to the officials, it aims to alleviate the inconveniences people from Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan may encounter on the mainland when they purchase tickets online, check-in at hotels or use financial services.

The new residence permits will enable them to enjoy essentially the same public services and conveniences as mainland residents, such as employment rights, social security, the housing provident fund, as well as the benefits of compulsory education, health and medical

services, legal assistance and other legal services.

Moreover, Hong Kong, Macau and Taiwan residents with mainland residence permits will be allowed to register their vehicles, apply for driver's licenses and take professional qualification exams. Xinhua reported that "their shopping and other entertainment activities will also be expedited."

Eligible applicants need to work on the mainland for at least six months, after which they may apply for this permit on a voluntary basis, according

to the officials.

The report to the 19th National Congress of the Communist Party of China pledges to formulate and improve policies and measures to make it more convenient for people from Hong Kong and Macau to develop careers on the mainland. It also said efforts will be made to ensure that over time, people from Taiwan will enjoy the same treatment as mainland residents when they pursue their studies, start businesses, seek jobs or live on the mainland.

## Hac Sa Beach contains Vibrio cholerae

A water sample taken from Hac Sa Beach tested positive for *Vibrio cholerae*, the Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau informed the Marine and Water Bureau. This bacterium can cause diarrhea, vomiting and dehydration, and when severe, can cause death. As cited in a TDM report, authorities have already put up notices at the beach and hoisted the red flag, warning residents and tourists not to enter the water. Lifeguards will approach visitors and ask them to stay away from the sea. The Macau Centre for Disease Control and Prevention has already been informed by the Marine and Water Bureau, and the relevant departments will continue to monitor the situation.

## Chui's wife denies Canidrome interference

Chief Executive (CE) Chui Sai On's wife, Winnie Fok, has denied her involvement in the Canidrome greyhound incident. Fok was said to have co-operated with the Canidrome Yat Yuen and animal rights association Anima. Fok is currently the honorary chairman of Anima. Fok claimed she had never been in contact with Anima's chairman over the greyhound issue. The CE's wife declared, "I'm not a member of the government, therefore I will not interfere in governmental matters." Fok further denied that other government officials had been involved in Yat Yuen and Anima's negotiations.

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## CIVIL PROTECTION

## Emergency centers able to hold up to 25,000 people

RENATO MARQUES



Renato Marques

**T**HE establishment of emergency refuge centers run by the Social Welfare Bureau (IAS) was one of the measures taken by the government as part of their prevention and response to catastrophes.

The 16 locations use schools and other public and private venues to support residents and tourists in cases of extreme need, catastrophes or incidents that require the evacuation of large numbers of

people from their residences.

According to IAS Vice President Hon Wai, the 16 shelters have the capacity to house a total of 24,872 people for a short period, with almost 13,000 of the places being on mattresses.

Hon was speaking during a media tour of the shelter facilities located at Tap Seac Multisport Pavilion, a venue that holds two of the 16 emergency refuge centres established by the government.

According to Hon, factors taken into account when choosing the

locations for the temporary shelters includes the space and conditions, as well as the fact that the venues would need to be near areas likely to be more affected, in other words, venues less than a 15 minute walk from areas of severe flooding.

"When all the 16 shelters enter into operation, we will also have a total of around 600 staff members [from IAS] to pay support to the people in need," said Hon.

"The centers will enter into operation according to the needs, that

is, only above Yellow Storm surge level, when the water level surpasses 1.0 meters above road level," he explained, remarking that in "normal situation[s], we will only keep the wind shelters operational."

Besides the shelters, the government also established four "meeting-points" that people in need can use to shelter themselves or receive emergency help, before being transferred to one of the emergency shelter venues with the help of the IAS. These are located at the "Ilha Verde Wind Shelter," and at three local markets: "São Lourenço", "Patane" and "São Domingos Municipal Market."

During the media tour, IAS representatives explained several services that people can receive at

the centers, such as water, food and first-aid.

In order to manage all their resources, IAS also established an online platform for internal use and communication with the Unitary Police Services. The platform provides the services with real-time access to the status of the centers, how many people and who is seeking help at the centers, and the quantity of food, water and other resources available.

When questioned on the topic, Hon said, "we are working on a different platform that will provide a number of information to the public, such as the status of the venues managed by the IAS such as nurseries and others, creating an immediate information disclosure to the public and avoid hassles." But for the time being, he said that is too early to disclose an exact date for the operation of the service.

Upon questioning by the media, Hon also said that for establishing the refuge centers, the Bureau has spent some MOP3.2 million on equipment, operation platform, and vehicles for transportation.

## IAS RECEIVED NINE PEOPLE DURING 'BEBINCA'

**THE IAS** received a total of nine people in the shelters that entered operation during the recent passage of typhoon "Bebinca" last Tuesday, IAS Vice President Hon Wai informed on the sidelines at yesterday's presentation. According to Hon, only two of the centers (at Ilha Verde and Taipa Island)

were open during the passage of the typhoon. He noted that these are just wind shelters and were not yet operating as Emergency Refuge Centres. Although the passage of the typhoon did not cause any incidents of note, IAS mobilized a total of 170 staff members for duty that day.

## GREATER BAY AREA

## CE pledges to further regional integration policies

**T**HE Chief Executive announced that the government plans to introduce a greater number of policies and pilot schemes to accommodate the development needs of the Greater Bay Area.

Chui Sai On was speaking in Beijing on Wednesday on

the sidelines of the first plenary meeting of the leading group for the development of the Greater Bay Area.

According to him, the SAR would update the city's Five-Year Development Plan in line with the development plan of the Greater Bay

Area.

In a statement issued by the Government Information Bureau, the Central Government will launch more measures to support integration between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau in the near future.

These include the Natio-

nal Development and Reform Commission strengthening its co-ordination efforts regarding the creation of a "global technology and innovation hub" in the Greater Bay Area. There are also plans to reduce roaming charges for telecommunications servi-

ces between Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau, with authorities from the mainland leading co-operation efforts between telecommunications networks. The statement also noted that the appropriate public departments on the mainland would draft a protocol

enabling Hong Kong and Macau residents to enjoy mainland's services associated with employment and entrepreneurship.

Additionally, the meeting reviewed documents concerning the promotion of closer exchanges between the three regions.

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## AirAsia launches ticket sales for direct flight to Sabah

**AIRASIA** launched sales for a new direct route from Kota Kinabalu to the SAR, operating four weekly flights commencing November 2.

Spencer Lee, AirAsia Malaysia head of Commercial, said in a statement that Kota Kinabalu is one of the company's largest hubs after Kuala Lumpur. AirAsia is committed to growing further by expanding its network to local and international cities.

"We recently launched a direct flight from Kota Kinabalu to Bangkok, and we are delighted to connect Sabahan to Macau and the Pearl River Delta," said Lee.

"With Sabah strategically located in the northern part of Borneo island, we hope to bring the world to Sabah by linking Sabah with Asean, Nor-

th Asia, Australia and beyond," the executive added.

Earlier this year, Celia Lao, CEO of AirAsia Hong Kong and Macau, disclosed that the company was considering the launch of three to four new routes to Macau this year, adding that there was the possibility of using the airline's Airbus A330.

Lao noted that the move depends on the city's economic situation and how the airline can further connect to the Pearl River Delta.

The new direct route will operate on Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Sunday, with one flight per day.

The budget airline is offering special introductory fares from MOP288 until August 19, for flights from November 2 to March 29.

## GAMING

# Chinese punters flocking to Cambodia's 'Macau Number Two'

**AS** Chinese punters look further into Southeast Asia to satisfy their gambling desires, some observers are beginning to describe the Cambodian coastal city of Sihanoukville as "Macau Number Two", according to the UK's Sunday Telegraph.

Home to around 150,000 people, the city is located at the tip of an elevated peninsula in the country's southwest. Already, it has transformed into one of Asia's major gambling hubs, with around 80 newly-built casinos, attracting 120,000 tourists per year.

This is modest compared to Macau, but the growth of 100 percent in arrivals over the past two years is a telling sign that the destination is booming among Chinese gamblers looking to travel further afield than Macau.

The city is located on Cambodia's only deep-water port, and some suggest that it could play a role in President Xi Jinping's Belt and Road development initiative. Cam-



Motorbike taxis wait outside the New Meigao Mei casino in Sihanoukville

bodia has historically had closer relations with the People's Republic of China than its other neighbors, namely Vietnam, due to a lack of competing territorial claims in the South China Sea.

China may also use the Sihanoukville development – and separate policies for outbound Chinese tourists – as a way to exert pressure on Cambodia to back China regarding such territo-

rial disputes. Cambodia has previously been accused of "watering down" ASEAN declarations and agreements regarding Chinese policy in the South China Sea.

While relations might be robust between Chinese President Xi Jinping and Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, things are not so strong on the ground at Sihanoukville.

The rapid development of

Sihanoukville into a casino city, catering exclusively to Chinese patrons, has created mutually-exclusive social bubbles in the city that rarely intermix.

The development has forced many locals from property and led to businesses being priced out by Chinese money. It has also reportedly spurred a rise in crime and violent crime, including kidnapping and weapon-assisted assault.

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## REAL ESTATE MATTERS

## Why you should invest in real estate

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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SAM LEE

Dating as far back as the ancient Mesopotamian times, private property has always played an essential role in human society. While it was used primarily to serve and provide physical protection from the elements, the role of private property has now evolved to give individual persons and companies a form of economic as well as physical security and control over their immediate environment and finances. Here are three reasons why everyone should invest in real estate:

## CONTROL OVER VALUE

Unlike stocks and other forms of investments which depend heavily on the market, real estate allows the owner added control over his property. Instead of just hoping that an abstract number on the stock market index ticks up, owners can get involved directly and can add value to their property. Addition-

nally, the combination of the finite nature of land and increasing population and demand almost necessitates appreciations in value, which makes real estate unique among other assets available in the marketplace.

## PATH TO FINANCIAL FREEDOM

No one who is bound to pay rent at the end of each month can claim to be completely free. You can achieve passive income through real estate, meaning money that comes in every month regardless of the work that was put out. This can cover any rents you might have to pay for yourself if you are not an owner-occupier already. This also grants the option of not having to work for somebody else and depend on a job to survive. While personal income can be valuable as a means to an end, investments in real estate create wealth. What would you do

if you didn't have to worry about putting in those long hours at work?

## LESS RISK

Over the long run, real estate is considered to be one of the safest investment options out there. It appreciates in value over the long run, much the same way as quality wine. Of course, there are cases where speculative projects can lose money, but due to the inherent value of real property there is a baseline level of security.

When real estate investing is done right it is one of the best vehicles to generating wealth out there. While different investment strategies have their own merits such as stocks, bonds and funds I believe real estate wins in the end due to the 3 points mentioned in this short article of 1) owner's control 2) financial freedom and 3) investment security.

## INDONESIA

## Forests group halts plan to endorse paper giant



**T**HE main global group for certifying sustainable wood has suspended plans to give its influential endorsement to Indonesian paper giant Sinarmas after revelations it cut down tropical forests and used an opaque corporate structure to hide its activities.

The Forest Stewardship Council said yesterday that it had halted a process that could have enabled the Asia Pulp & Paper arm of Sinarmas to be readmitted to the organization.

The group said it is awaiting information from the conglomerate "related to its corporate structure and alleged unacceptable forest management activities" by companies thought related to it and wants full disclosure.

Three months ago, the council had sent a come clean

ultimatum to Sinarmas, one of the world's largest paper companies, and its billionaire Indonesian family owners.

The conglomerate said yesterday that it has hired an accounting firm to carry out a "comprehensive assessment" of all industrial forest plantation companies in Indonesia that would be supervised by The Forest Trust, a corporate backed group that says it promotes transparency in supply chains. Its members include Asia Pulp & Paper. The assessment would resolve "ongoing and unsubstantiated allegations of using opaque ownership structures," Sinarmas said.

The FSC mark, a stylized tree, is sought by paper producers and other wood users as an endorsement they can use in the marketplace to promote their products as

"green" and charge a premium. It is especially crucial for access to the lucrative North American market.

The group's suspension of its endorsement for Sinarmas comes after investigations by The Associated Press and the environmental news site Mongabay showed extensive ties between Sinarmas and plantation companies that the conglomerate had either denied any involvement with or described as independent suppliers.

One of those companies was cutting down tropical forest in West Kalimantan that was a habitat for critically endangered Bornean orangutans, a violation of the conglomerate's 2013 vow to end deforestation. Greenpeace, which had been advising Sinarmas on conservation, cut ties with the conglomerate.

Separately, on Wednesday, conservation groups released a report based on government wood utilization data that showed Asia Pulp & Paper had purchased wood from two plantation companies that have cleared a combined 32,000 hectares of natural forest since 2013. It also said another Indonesian conglomerate, Asia Pacific Resources International, usually known as April, had done the same. **AP**



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**W**HEN Pan Su-tong, the billionaire chairman of Hong Kong investment conglomerate Goldin Group, splashed out a reported HKD2.5 billion (USD318 million) for a home in the exclusive enclave of Deep Water Bay last year, he saved himself a cool HKD370 million in tax.

How? The three-story mansion with swimming pool was held via a shell company, meaning the purchase incurred just 0.2 percent in stamp duty. Assuming Pan, a permanent Hong Kong resident, already owns property there, he would have paid a 15 percent levy in a regular transaction.

In Hong Kong, that's a perfectly legal route wealthy people are increasingly cottoning on to. When a property is held by a company, its sale is considered a share transfer and taxed at 0.2 percent, the same levy that applies to everyday stock trades.

As the government raised property stamp duties in a so far fruitless effort to tame runaway prices, the loophole has become more popular at the top end of the market, particularly for deep-pocketed mainland Chinese buyers. The trend is somewhat jarring in a city plagued by a yawning rich-poor divide - one increasingly defined by who can and who can't afford a home.

According to Hong Kong's Companies Registry, the company holding the Deep Water Bay property had a change in directors in August last year. Pan, who according to Bloomberg calculations is worth about \$2 billion, and an offshore firm were listed as the only directors in the entity.

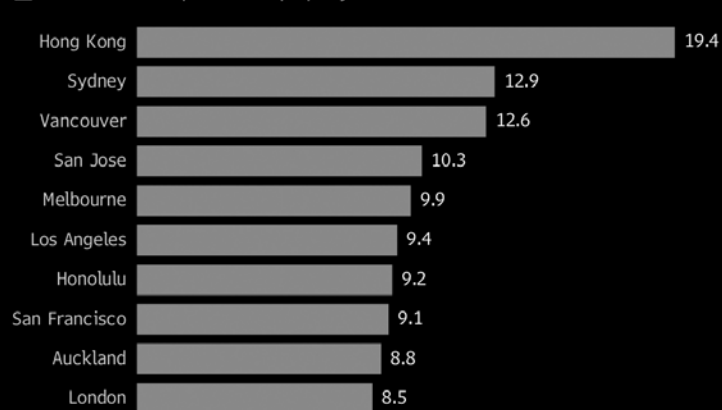
The purchase price was reported in September by several local newspapers, which cited anonymous sources. A spokesman for Goldin Financial Holdings Ltd. said Pan wasn't immediately available

# Ultra-rich save millions exploiting Hong Kong home loophole

## Mission Impossible: Buying a Home

Hong Kong is the world's least affordable housing market

■ Years it takes to purchase a property with median income

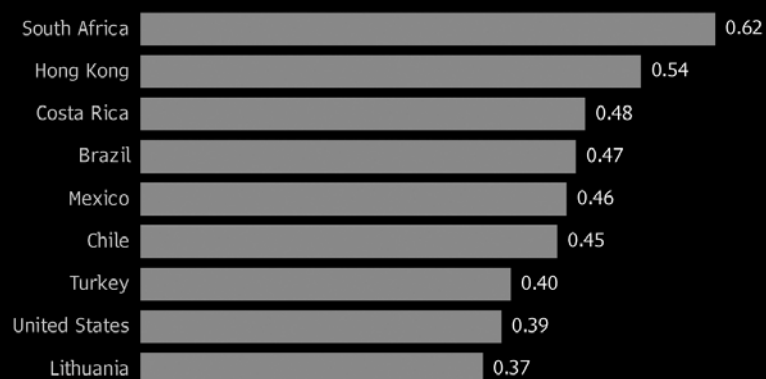


Source: Demographia

Bloomberg

## City of Inequality

Hong Kong has the second highest Gini coefficient



Note: 0 = complete equality; 1 = complete inequality

Source: OECD, Hong Kong Census and Statistics Department

Bloomberg

for comment.

The proportion of property transactions made via company share transfers on the Peak and the south side of Hong Kong island - where prices can easily run into the hundreds of millions of dollars - has jumped to 27 percent this year from 13 percent in 2013, according to Midland Realty. That was the year after the government introduced the Buyer's Stamp Duty levied on companies and non-Hong Kong permanent residents buying properties.

Some HK\$14.5 billion of luxury homes sold in the two districts have involved the method since the beginning of 2017, Midland Realty's data shows.

"Many buyers say they will only look at properties through special purpose vehicles," said Koh Keng-shing, the chief executive officer of Landscape Realty, a member of Christie's International

Real Estate.

Non-permanent residents can save even more through this route because they pay 30 percent stamp duty. Also, if the shell company is registered offshore, then the stamp duty can be as little as zero.

While the method helps rich buyers avoid multimillion-dollar tax bills, it deprives Hong Kong of revenue. Research by land concern group

■ **The loophole has become more popular at the top end of the market, particularly for deep-pocketed mainland Chinese buyers**

Liber Research Community found that between November 2010 and May of this year, the government lost out on at least HK\$9.4 billion of taxes because of the method.

"The stamp duties are made ineffective because there's a back door to avoid paying these," Liber Research Community's researcher Henry Chan said. The body has urged the government to make it mandatory for companies owning residential properties to declare changes in beneficial ownership.

It's also a back door that's pretty much reserved exclusively for the ultra-rich. That's because buyers using a shell-company structure generally aren't permitted to take out a mortgage to finance the purchase. In a city where Demographia estimates that it takes 19.4 years of income for the average person to buy a home, that's a nonstarter for regular earners.

People can't just set up a new company for the purposes of evading tax, however. A few years ago, Hong Kong's government cracked down on the creation of new shell companies to buy property, which are taxed at 15 percent now. Still, the pre-existing shell companies only pay 0.2 percent.

For those who can afford it, it might seem the perfect way to save a bundle, but there are some risks. Purchasers may not be aware of liens, or debts owed on a property that must first be discharged before a sale can take place, or other hidden liabilities that can come with shell companies.

"While special-purpose vehicles can lower stamp duty tax obligations, the due diligence process can be quite time consuming," Denis Ma, JLL's head of research for Hong Kong, said. "That can add to the overall transaction costs." **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### SANDS CHINA KICKS OFF SUMMER ACTIVITIES FOR TEAM MEMBERS



Sands China Ltd. launched Sands China Amazing Summer 2018, an initiative encouraging team members to enjoy work-life balance, and activities with friends and family.

Sands China Amazing Summer 2018 comprises of three events: Sands China Hunter, "SCL Town" Walker and Sands China Painter.

On August 6, team members participated in the

Sands China Hunter activity with their family and friends, exploring iconic locations throughout The Venetian Macao, Sands Cotai Central and The Parisian Macao, according to a statement issued by the gaming operator.

In the "SCL Town" Walker activity, family and friends of team members visited The Venetian Macao's back-of-house area and took part in two child-friendly activities: a Venetian mask painting activity on August 15 and Grado mini-golf at The Venetian Macao on August 23.

On August 31, team members will also collaborate with their family and friends to create drawings that combine to form a giant picture, which will then be exhibited at the back-of-house area at The Venetian Macao.

### CEM HOLDS SEMINARS TO RAISE AWARENESS ON ELECTRICITY SAFETY



Representatives from CEM visited various local associations and held seminars to promote the importance of electricity saving and safety, attracting a total of 520 participants.

Topics included CEM customer service, responsibilities,

the importance of regular inspections and maintenance of communal electrical installations, and household energy safety and saving tips.

During the seminars, CEM representatives reminded customers to pay attention

to the maintenance and management of communal electrical installations, in order to avoid fires and other accidents.

From July to October 2018, residential customers who save 5 percent or more on their electricity consumption compared to the same period last year will be eligible for the Lucky Draw once registered.

According to a statement issued by the electrical company, prizes include more than 150 electrical appliance gift coupons and rebates on electricity bills.

The three grand prize winners will receive MOP10,000 electrical appliance gift coupons each.

Customers are eligible for the Lucky Draw from now till 30 September.



**C**HINA is sending a trade envoy to Washington in a renewed effort to end a worsening tariff dispute that has raised worries it will chill global economic growth.

The delegation led by Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen will visit in late August to discuss "issues of mutual concern," the Commerce Ministry announced yesterday. It gave no details of a possible agenda.

The two governments are poised to impose a new round of tariff hikes on USD16 billion of each other's goods next week in their worsening conflict over Beijing's technology policy.

The Commerce Ministry said Beijing "reiterates its opposition to unilateralism and trade protectionism and does not accept any unilateral trade restrictions."

## TRADE WAR

# China sending envoy to Washington for talks



US National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow



China Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen

Wilbur Ross and Vice Premier Liu He ended with no settlement.

Following that, Washington imposed its first round of 25 tariffs on \$34 billion of Chinese goods on July 6 in response to complaints Beijing steals or pressures foreign companies to hand over technology. China responded with similar penalties on American imports.

The Trump administration is due to impose similar increases on an additional USD16 billion of Chinese imports on Tuesday. China's government has issued a list of American goods for retaliation.

## DON'T UNDERESTIMATE DONALD TRUMP

Donald Trump's top economic adviser welcomed China saying it will send Vice Commerce Minister Wang Shouwen to the U.S. for low-level

talks in late August, while also adding that the president's determination on trade shouldn't be underestimated.

"It's a good thing that they're sending a delegation here - we haven't had that in quite some time," National Economic Council Director Larry Kudlow told CNBC yesterday.

"The Chinese government in its totality must not underestimate President Trump's toughness and willingness to continue this battle to eliminate tariffs and non-tariff barriers and quotas to stop the theft of intellectual property and to stop the forced transfer of technology."

He said the Chinese economy and currency "are slipping, as you all know, but let's just see what happens." Talks can produce better outcomes than expected, and talking is better than not talking, he added.

The Chinese delegation led

by Wang will meet with an American group led by David Malpass, under secretary for international affairs at the Treasury Department, at the invitation of the U.S., China's Ministry of Commerce said in a statement on its website.

"This will be 'talks about trade talks,'" said Gai Xinzhe, an analyst at the Bank of China's Institute of International Finance in Beijing. "Lower-level officials will meet and haggle and see if there is a possibility for higher-level talks."

Before an earlier deal collapsed in May, China agreed to "significantly" increase purchases of U.S. goods and services, and that may provide a guide for the next round of discussions.

To restart trade negotiations with the U.S., China must offer a package of measures, according to Jacob Parker,

the vice president for China operations for the U.S.-China Business Council in Beijing. China needs to make an offer that slashes the bilateral trade surplus, lowers import tariffs, provides better protection for intellectual property and stops forced technology transfers, Parker said earlier this month.

Caution is warranted, according to Gai. "Even if the senior officials reach a deal, things could still change, as President Trump can easily flip-flop. We have been there."

China's equity market has suffered declines and the yuan has been on a losing streak for more than a month. Chinese authorities, bracing for economic fallout, have introduced measures to support growth ranging from shifting toward a more accommodative monetary policy to boosting fiscal spending.

The two nations had appeared to have reached a deal in May after Chinese Vice Premier Liu He - President Xi Jinping's top economic adviser - led a group of officials to Washington. But Trump backed away from the agreement soon afterward, and ever since the two sides have been locked in a trade standoff as they slapped tariffs on billions of dollars of each other's goods.

The commerce ministry reiterated in the statement that China is against trade protectionism and won't accept any unilateral trade restrictions. "China welcomes communications and dialogue on the basis of reciprocity, equality and integrity," it said.

MDT/Agencies

**It's a good thing that they're sending a delegation here - we haven't had that in quite some time.**

LARRY KUDLOW

This month's meeting would be the first between senior U.S. and Chinese officials since June 3 talks in Beijing between Commerce Secretary

## Vice governor, mayor fired over vaccine scandal



**A** Chinese provincial deputy governor and the mayor of a major city were fired Tuesday as the ruling Communist Party tried to defuse public outrage over revelations of misconduct by a major vaccine producer.

The officials were among four people ordered dismissed following a meeting of the party's ruling Standing Committee led by President Xi Jinping. It ordered a criminal investigation of a fifth official, a former national drug regulator.

The revelation in July that Changchun Changsheng Life Sciences Ltd. falsified production records for an anti-rabies vaccine added to a string of politically damaging scandals over deaths and injuries due to fake or shoddy drugs, food and other products.

Public anger was fueled by disclosures regulators found possible misconduct by the company last year but failed to take prompt action.

Dismissed yesterday were a deputy governor of Jilin province, where Changsheng Life Sciences is headquartered; a deputy chairman of a government advisory

body who was a deputy governor in 2015-17; the mayor of the drug maker's home city of Changchun; and the party secretary and deputy director of the national drug regulator. The party ordered an investigation of a former deputy director of the drug agency.

Changsheng Life Sciences' CEO and 14 other officials were reported detained by police earlier.

There have been no reports of injuries, but authorities impounded vaccines and suspended production at the company's plant. They announced a recall of products from foreign markets but gave no details of where those were.

The country's No. 2 leader, Premier Li Keqiang, ordered a nationwide investigation of China's vaccine industry following the disclosures.

Later disclosures showed the company blended expired fluid into vaccines as early as April 2014.

The government has set up a panel of experts to review vaccine safety in China's USD122 billion-a-year pharmaceutical industry. **AP**



# Yao Ming, Clarkson keen observers at Asian Games basketball

**CLEVELAND** Cavaliers guard Jordan Clarkson watched from the bench, not quite able to make it to the Asian Games in time to play in the opening game for the Philippines.

Yao Ming was there, too, also keeping a close eye on the Philippines' opening 96-59 win over Kazakhstan.

After getting a special exemption from the NBA to play for the Philippines in Jakarta, the US-born Clarkson should be ready to suit up for the next game against China. And that has the attention of ex-Houston Rockets and Chinese all-star center Yao.

Clarkson, one of three NBA players given an exemption by the league to play in Jakarta, said he had a frustrating time while his status for the tournament was being considered. The NBA also granted exemptions to Houston Rockets 2.17-meter center Zhou Qi and Dallas Mavericks forward Ding Yanyuhang to play for China.

"We went back and forth so

many times, saying I was going to play, then I wasn't going to play," the 1.96-meter Clarkson told Philippines' reporters after Thursday's game. "Now, being able to participate is awesome."

"I'm very excited to know that I'm finally getting to do this, being able to play ... for the country. It's definitely something that I've been looking forward to."

Clarkson, who qualifies to play for the Philippines through his maternal grandmother, has four days to get familiar with "fun style of play."

"I feel the support, the love all the time," he said. "My grandma is real proud I'm able to do this now."

The Philippines is playing a tournament for the first time since 10 players and two coaches were suspended following a wild brawl in a World Cup qualifier against Australia on July 2. Three Australian players were also suspended.

Video of the brawl was widely played around the world, with punches thrown, chairs tossed at players, and security needed to restore order. **AP**

AP PHOTO



Yao Ming

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## AUSTRALIA

## Sex abuse victim settles with Catholic order

A 74-year-old man with terminal cancer said yesterday he could die happy after reaching a 1 million Australian dollar (USD727,000) landmark settlement against a Catholic religious order for sexual abuse he suffered in Australia more than 50 years ago.

Paul Bradshaw was to testify on Thursday in the Western Australia state District Court about his ill treatment at Castledare Junior Orphanage and Clontarf Orphanage run by the Irish Christian Brothers order in the 1950s and '60s.

But instead, a settlement was reached with the Trustees of the Christian Brothers for the abuse he suffered at the hands of Brothers Lawrence Murphy, Bruno Doyle and Christopher Angus, who are all dead.

Bradshaw is the first victim to claim damages for historical child sex abuse under laws that recently came into effect in Western Australia, removing the time limit for such cases.

He cried outside court, explaining his 60-year fight and said he was relieved his family would receive his compensation money. He said doctors had advised that he only had six months to live.

"I lived on the street most of my life and I don't want them to go through the same thing I went through," he told reporters. "I'm just hoping now that this has been settled and I can get on with my last six months in peace."

"I will die happy now knowing that I can care for my family," he added.

The Catholic Church, Australia's largest denomination, in May became the first non-go-

AP PHOTO



Australian church abuse victim Paul Bradshaw, 74

vernment institution to commit to a AU\$3.8 billion (\$2.9 billion) national redress plan for victims of child sex abuse in Australian institutions over decades.

The Catholic Church estimates it alone will be liable for about AU\$1 billion in compensation.

Former Archbishop of Adelaide Philip Wilson was this week

sentenced to 1 year in home detention after becoming the most senior Catholic cleric to be convicted of covering up child sex abuse.

Pope Francis' former finance minister, Cardinal George Pell, faces trial on sexual assault charges in Australia. The exact details and nature of the charges have not been disclosed to

the public, though police have described them as "historical" sexual assaults, meaning they are alleged to have occurred decades ago.

The national redress plan was recommended by the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse, which made its final report in December.

Australia's longest-running royal commission — which is the country's highest form of inquiry — had been investigating since 2012 how institutions responded to sexual abuse of children in Australia over 90 years. The inquiry heard the testimonies of more than 8,000 survivors of child sex abuse. Of those who were abused in religious institution, 62 percent were Catholics.

Bradshaw said his case was never about money.

"I just wanted the apology of the Christian Brothers and I would have been happy with that," he said.

His lawyer Michael Magazanik told reporters it was a landmark case in Western Australia.

"If it weren't for recent changes in WA law, none of this was possible," Magazanik said. "Now WA law is the fairest and certainly the most progressive for survivors like Paul."

Magazanik said the orphanages housed the most vulnerable children who had no families to go home to, nobody to complain to and nobody outside the orphanages to protect them.

"They were utterly vulnerable and the orphanages were a magnet for the very worst of the brothers, the violent pedophiles," Magazanik said.

Magazanik said 10 years before Murphy abused Bradshaw, he was reported for child sex abuse but nothing was done about it.

Twice as a child, Bradshaw reported his abuse and both times he was dismissed.

When he left Clontarf, Bradshaw told a judge his allegations but was labelled a liar and admitted to a psychiatric hospital, Magazanik said. AP

## VIETNAM

## Court finds activist guilty of anti-government charges

A court in central Vietnam sentenced an activist to 20 years in prison yesterday after finding him guilty of attempting to overthrow the Communist government, his lawyer said, in a case decried by international rights groups.

The court also sentenced Le Dinh Luong, 53, to five years of house arrest, said his lawyer Ha Huy Son. Son said Luong was convicted of encouraging others to join the Viet Tan group in exile in the United States. Vietnam brands the group a terrorist organization.

"I think the sentence against Mr. Luong is too harsh," Son said after the half-day trial in Nghe An province.

Despite sweeping economic reforms over the past 30

years that opened Vietnam to international trade and investment and made it one of the fastest growing economies in the world, Vietnam tolerates no challenge to its one-party rule. Luong's sentence was the toughest in years for national security crimes.

The online version of the Nghe An newspaper reported that Luong was a "particularly dangerous" member of Viet Tan and that he had called on people to boycott National Assembly elections in 2016.

Luong had also participated in and instigated others to join protests against environmental pollution by a steel complex owned by Taiwan's Formosa Plastic Group in several central pro-

vinces in 2016.

The pollution, released in one of Vietnam's worst environmental disasters, killed tons of fish along 200 kilometers of coastline in four central provinces and caused big losses for the region's fishing and tourism industries.

International human rights groups called for Luong's immediate release.

"Vietnam's systemic crackdown against critics and activists has not deterred brave activists like Le Dinh Luong from campaigning for human rights and democracy," Phil Robertson, deputy Asia director at Human Rights Watch, said in a statement yesterday. "The government should understand that locking people up for simply

AP PHOTO



Activist Le Dinh Luong (center) stands trial in central province of Nghe An yesterday

exercising their rights isn't working, and more activists will continue to step forward to speak their mind and hold protests against government injustices."

Meanwhile Clare Algar, Amnesty International's director of global operations, said Luong was being targeted for simply "peacefully campaigning on behalf of fishermen affected by an environmental

disaster."

"This is a patently unjust and politically motivated case that should be dropped and Le Dinh Luong must be released immediately and unconditionally," Algar said.

Amnesty International says 97 people are serving prison sentences in Vietnam for violating national security laws, while Human Rights Watch counts 119. AP



# Australian filmmaker goes on trial in Phnom Penh



**A**N Australian filmmaker went on trial in Cambodia yesterday on charges of endangering national security after he was arrested last year for flying a drone to capture images of an opposition political rally.

James Ricketson was taken in an orange prison uniform to the Phnom Penh Municipal Court for a hearing on the charges, which in legal terms are tantamount to espionage, for which he could be sentenced to five to 10 years in prison. Ricketson's lawyer applied for his release on bail, as he had unsuccessfully done several times previously, but was again turned down by the judge.

The 69-year-old documentary maker was arrested in June last year after he used a drone to film the final rally of the opposition Cambodia National Rescue Party before local elections. The party has since been dissolved as part of a sweeping crackdown on the opposition and media critical of Prime Minister Hun Sen's government.

The crackdown was widely seen as preparation for ensuring a victory by Hun Sen's ruling party in last month's general election, in which it won all 125 seats in the National Assembly. With Hun Sen's extension of power accomplished, there has been speculation the courts — widely seen as under government control — might allow Ricketson to walk free. Ricketson had been seen as sympathetic to the opposition party.

Despite his extended pre-trial detention, the official start of Ricketson's trial has been twice postponed at his request, the first time to inspect further evidence and the second to acquaint a new lawyer with the case. According to his family, Ricketson has been detained in a 6-by-16-meter cell along with 140 other prisoners, and in May he reportedly became ill with a chest ailment and was moved to the prison hospital.

When taken to court in June, he reiterated to reporters his insistence that he was innocent of any wrongdoing and was dismissive of the accusation of espionage.

But in a July 1 letter to Hun Sen published in the pro-government Khmer Times newspaper, he apologized for his "mistake" in his statements about his situation.

"May I please, respectfully, send my sincerest apologies to yourself and the Cambodian government. I now realize that my statements I have made in the press and other media are disruptive and ill informed. These statements were made from a place of foreign naivety and ignorance about the complexities and difficulties of governing Cambodia," he wrote.

"I apologize unreservedly and without condition for any distress I may have caused as a result of my ignorance of Cambodian issues. If there is anything I can do to remedy my mistake, please let me know as I only want the best for you and Cambodia," the letter said. **AP**



Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen

## CAMBODIA

# Ruling party swept seats, official results show

Sopheng Cheang, Phnom Penh

**F**INAL results showed Cambodia's ruling party swept elections last month for the National Assembly, ensuring long-ruling Prime Minister Hun Sen another term but reinforcing skepticism of the vote's legitimacy.

The National Election Committee confirmed this week the Cambodian People's Party won all 125 seats in the National Assembly in the July 29 vote. The only credible opposition force, the Cambodia National Rescue Party, was disbanded last year by the courts, seen as aligned with Hun Sen, and the 19 parties that did compete in the vote were almost all vanity vehicles or meant to give the illusion of democracy.

The vote itself also has been questioned since the CNRP had called for a voter boycott, but the official turnout was a high 83 percent. Hun Sen's party also won more than two-thirds of the vote in every province.

The new parliament is to convene on Sept. 5, and the next government is to be installed on Sept. 6. Hun Sen, who has held power for 33 years, will receive another five-year term.

"This result shows that our compatriots fully believed in the right leadership of the Cambodian People's Party which is led by Prime Minister Hun Sen," Hun Sen said on his Facebook page after the announcement of the official results, adding that voting for his party meant voting for peace and development for the entire country.

He called the July 29 election free and fair and said it was conducted according to the principle of democracy.

In a speech to garment workers, Hun Sen said he wanted to offer prominent government posts to the leaders of the 19 other parties that contested the elections.

Sam Rainsy, the self-exiled founder of the opposition CNRP and Hun Sen's chief political nemesis, said the official voting results were fraudulent.

On his Facebook page, he said the vote totals were inflated by 2 million — purportedly cast in the names of non-voters but counted for the ruling party.

He said the National Election Committee was able to play tricks because the election body is under the ruling party's control.

Several established poll-watching groups — as well as national con-

tingents from the United States and the European Union — declined to take part because they felt the polls were not legitimate. One of the bigger Cambodian groups participating in poll-watching was led by one of Hun Sen's sons.

Hun Sen's party was alarmed by the results of the last general election in 2013, when the race was close enough for the opposition to claim that it would have won had it not been for manipulation of the voter registration process.


Cambodia's Supreme Court last November ordered the opposition CNRP dissolved on the pretext that it had conspired with the United States to overthrow the government. It banned its leaders from holding office for five years and expelled its members from the elective positions they held. Sam Rainsy already was in exile and the other party founder, Kem Sokha, was in jail awaiting trial on the treason charge.

Hun Sen's government also silenced critical voices in the media. Over the past year, about 30 radio stations shut down and two English-language newspapers that provided serious reporting were gutted, one forced to close and the other put under ownership friendly to the government. **AP**

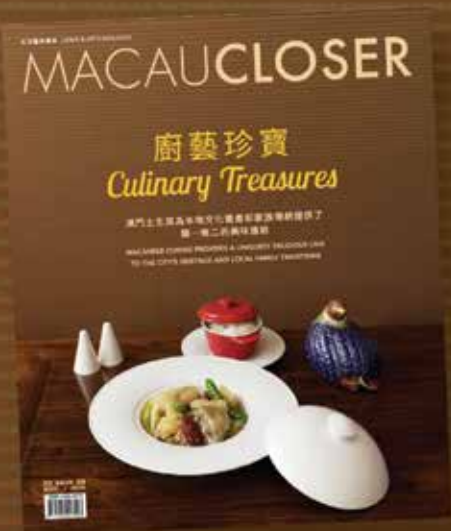



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**P**RESIDENT Donald Trump has acted on a threat to revoke the security clearance of former CIA Director John Brennan, citing a constitutional responsibility to protect classified information. Brennan, who served in the Obama administration, had become an increasingly sharp critic of Trump's.

Trump says he is reviewing security clearances for nine other individuals. Some have been publicly critical of the president, while others are linked to special counsel Robert Mueller's investigation into Russian election interference, which Trump calls "a witch hunt."

A look at the 10 individuals:

#### JOHN BRENNAN

In a written statement, Trump cited "erratic conduct and behavior" by President Barack Obama's CIA director as justification for revoking Brennan's security clearance. Trump also accused Brennan of "lying" and "wild outbursts." At a news conference last month in Finland, Trump stood alongside Russian President Vladimir Putin and openly questioned U.S. intelligence agencies' conclusions that Moscow tried to influence the 2016 election in his favor. Afterward, Brennan criticized Trump's performance as "nothing short of treasonous" and accused him of being "wholly in the pocket of Putin."

Yesterday, Brennan tweeted a response to Trump's decision to revoke his security clearance: "This action is part of a broader effort by Mr. Trump to suppress freedom of speech & punish critics. It should gravely worry all Americans, including intelligence professionals, about the cost of speaking out. My principles are worth far more than clearances. I will not relent."

#### JAMES CLAPPER

Clapper served Obama as director of national intelligence and has held key positions in the U.S. intelligence community. He has been critical of Trump and told CNN yesterday [Macau time] that he has no plans to stop speaking out when he's asked for his views on the Trump administration.

"If they're saying that the only way I can speak is to be in an adulation mode of this president, I'm sorry. I don't think I can sign up to that," Clapper said.

#### JAMES COMEY

Trump fired Comey from his post as FBI director in May 2017 over the bureau's Russia investigation. Comey had also announced in July 2016 that the FBI would not recommend charges against Democratic presidential nominee Hillary Clinton for her email practices as Obama's secretary of state. Trump believes the investigation was handled unfairly because of what he alleges is political bias against him at the FBI. Comey does not have a security clearance; Trump said Comey may not be able to have it reinstated.

On Wednesday, Comey tweeted a statement that said, in part: "Once again this president is sending a message that he will punish people who disagree with him and reward those who praise him. In a democracy, security clearances should not be used as pawns in a petty political game to distract voters from even bigger problems."

#### MICHAEL HAYDEN

The veteran U.S. intelligence official is a former director of the National Se-

#### TRUMP'S LIST

# Those who might lose their security clearance



Top row from left: former CIA Director Michael Hayden, former FBI Director James Comey, former acting FBI director Andrew McCabe and former national security adviser Susan Rice. Bottom row from left are former FBI Deputy Assistant Director Peter Strzok, former FBI lawyer Susan Rice, former Deputy Attorney General Sally Yates and former National Intelligence Director James Clapper

curity Agency, principal deputy director of national intelligence and a past CIA director. He's also been critical of the president. Hayden said last month when the White House first issued the security clearance threat that losing it wouldn't affect what he says or writes.

He published a book this year called "The Assault on Intelligence: American National Security in an Age of Lies."

#### SALLY YATES

Trump fired Yates early in 2017 after she refused to enforce the new president's ban on travel to the U.S. by residents of several mostly Muslim countries. Yates served in the Obama administration and had agreed to stay in the job under Trump. She also had informed the White House that Michael Flynn, Trump's first national security adviser, was potentially compromised because of his contacts with Russian officials. Trump allowed Flynn to keep his security clearance after Yates' disclosure but later fired Flynn, citing misstatements he said Flynn made to Vice President Mike Pence.

Referring to Trump's summit with Putin, Yates tweeted, "Our President today not only chose a tyrant over his own Intel community, he chose Russia's interests over the country he is sworn to protect." Last December she tweeted, "The FBI is in 'tatters'? No.

The only thing in tatters is the President's respect for the rule of law."

#### SUSAN RICE

Rice was national security adviser during Obama's second term and has criticized Trump policies. She wrote an op-ed for The New York Times in July, saying the U.S. had "so much to lose and so little to gain" from the Trump-Putin summit — "given this very atypical US President," she added in a tweet.

#### ANDREW McCABE

McCabe is a former FBI deputy director who led the investigation into Clinton's email practices. Attorney General Jeff Sessions fired McCabe this year after FBI disciplinary officials and the Justice Department concluded he hadn't been candid during an inspector general investigation. Trump has alleged bias in the email investigation because McCabe's wife, Jill, ran as a Democrat for the Virginia state Senate in 2015 and accepted a campaign contribution from a longtime Clinton ally. But McCabe didn't become involved in the Clinton probe until after his wife's bid for elected office.

#### PETER STRZOK

The longtime FBI agent was recently fired from the bureau, his lawyer said this week. Strzok had worked on the Mueller investigation but was removed after anti-Trump text messages that Strzok exchan-

ged with an FBI lawyer became public. Trump has used the text messages to buttress his claims.

Strzok's lawyer, Aitan Goelman, said in a statement that security clearances shouldn't be taken away as a means of "punishing people who have criticized the President, or coercing others into silence." He said by stripping Brennan's clearance and threatening others with the same fate, "the President has taken us down one more step on the path toward authoritarianism."

#### LISA PAGE

Page is the former FBI lawyer who exchanged anti-Trump text messages with Strzok. Trump has begun referring to Page as the "lovely Lisa Page" in his tweets about the Russia investigation.

#### BRUCE OHR

The Justice Department official has come under Republican scrutiny for his contacts with Glenn Simpson, co-founder of Fusion GPS. The opposition research firm hired former British spy Christopher Steele during the 2016 U.S. presidential campaign to compile a dossier of information on Trump and his ties to Russia. Ohr's wife, Nellie, worked for Fusion GPS during the campaign — a fact Trump has tweeted about in recent days to highlight his assertions of political bias as motivation for the Russia investigation. AP



## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:25	Destinies
19:10	World Cup Diary
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Portuguese Mini Serie (100% Portuguese)
22:10	Brazilian Soap Opera
23:00	TDM News
23:50	Movie: Fast & Furious 7
01:20	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
02:05	RTPi Live

## SATURDAY

10:30	Comedy
11:35	Miscellaneous
12:30	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast (PT)
15:00	Miscellaneous
18:35	Miscellaneous
19:10	World Cup Diary
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (PT)
21:15	Grimm Sr. 4
22:45	Miscellaneous
23:15	TDM News
23:50	1 FIMM - Bach "Ich Habe Genug" Cantata BWV 82
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## SUNDAY

10:25	Kids Serie
11:00	Sunday Mass (Live)
12:00	Miscellaneous
13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Miscellaneous
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
23:55	Miscellaneous
00:25	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:05	RTPi Live

## Offbeat

## BABY ELEPHANT JOINS HERD AT SAN DIEGO ZOO SAFARI PARK



The newest elephant at San Diego Zoo Safari Park has joined the rest of the herd.

Video posted by the zoo this week shows Umzula-zuli taking his first tentative steps in the elephant enclosure — under the watchful eye of his mother, Ndula.

Zookeeper Mindy Albright says the other 12 elephants sniffed the new baby and trumpeted their welcome.

The healthy male African elephant calf was born Sunday, which happened to be World Elephant Day.

Umzula-zuli — or Zuli, for short — tipped the scales at 270 pounds — making it the largest elephant ever born at the safari park.

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

16 AUG - 22 AUG



## HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1

2:15, 4:00, 7:30pm

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 97min

## ALONG WITH THE GODS:

THE LAST 49 DAYS

ROOM 1

9:30pm

Director: Kim Yong-hwa

Starring: HA Jung-woo, JU Ji-hoon, KIM Hyang-gi

Language: Korean (Chinese &amp; English)



## THOMAS &amp; FRIENDS

## BIG WORLD! BIG ADVENTURES! THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

5:45pm

Director: David Stoten

Starring: Dona Adwera, Peter Andre, Richie Campbell

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 85min

## DORAEMON THE MOVIE:

## NOBITA'S TREASURE ISLAND

ROOM 2

2:30pm

Director: Kazuaki Imai

Starring: Wasabi Mizuta, Megumi Ohara, Yumi Kakazu

Language: Cantonese (Chinese)

Duration: 109min



## THE MEG

ROOM 2

4:30, 7:30, 9:30pm

Director: Jon Turteltaub

Starring: Jason Statham, Bingbing Li, Rainn Wilson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 113min



## THE DARKEST MINDS

ROOM 3

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

Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Starring: Amandla Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Harris Dickinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

## this day in history



## 1998 CLINTON ADMITS LEWINSKY AFFAIR

President of the United States Bill Clinton has admitted having an inappropriate relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

In a televised address Mr Clinton told the American people that he took full responsibility for his actions.

He said: "Indeed I did have a relationship with Ms Lewinsky that was not appropriate. In fact, it was wrong."

Aides close to the president now hope the confession will bring an end to the investigation into Mr Clinton's affairs, brought by independent prosecutor Kenneth Starr.

Mr Starr's four-year inquiry began as an investigation into land deals by Hillary and Bill Clinton when he was governor of Arkansas.

It moved onto his personal life when Mr Starr began to investigate allegations that Mr Clinton had had sexual relations with Monica Lewinsky and then lied about it under oath in a sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones in 1994.

The president's confession follows months of denial. On 26 January this year, Mr Clinton categorically denied having sexual relations with Miss Lewinsky.

Appearing serious and contrite, Mr Clinton told the American people: "I misled people, including my wife. I deeply regret that."

He concluded: "This matter is between me, the two people I love most - my wife and my daughter - and our God."

He said he had not come clean earlier because he was embarrassed but he denied he had asked anyone to lie about the relationship.

He also criticised Mr Starr and the investigation, which so far has cost £25m.

On 6 August this year Ms Lewinsky told the jury that she had an 18-month sexual relationship with the President and that the pair had discussed ways of concealing the relationship.

She also presented one of her dresses as evidence, stating it had been stained with Mr Clinton's semen during one of their sexual encounters.

If it is proved that he lied he faces possible impeachment hearings on Capitol Hill.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

On 21 September President Clinton's Grand Jury testimony was released to the public.

On 9 December 1998 the House Judiciary Committee proposed four articles of impeachment against the president.

Ten days later - after a bitter debate between republicans and democrats - the House of Representatives voted to confirm the recommendation.

Bill Clinton became only the second president in American history to face such an indictment, but he refused to resign.

His trial began on 7 January 1999 and ended on 12 February when senators voted to acquit him of the impeachment charges of perjury and obstruction of justice.



YOUR STARS

Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

Be darned sure everything at your place is exactly where you want it, and how you want it. By the end of the week - and it's been a busy one - you may have company you weren't expecting.

Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

Blowing all your loot before the weekend gets underway means it will be a fairly uneventful one. Set the plastic aside so you can brandish it later on some spur-of-the-moment fun.

Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

When you least expect it, the irresistible urge to share a secret fantasy will arrive - and turning it off may be more than you can handle. What are you going to do about it?

Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Hang tough, though. If you give in and get nasty, you'll be letting them win, and while you do have a reputation for being fair, you don't like to lose. Do what comes best - and easiest. Kill 'em with kindness.

Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

That's not your style, is it? You're used to facing things head on, and there's no reason for you to do anything differently now. Show up, as usual, with a grin and a wise comment.

Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

Telling you not to let your mouth get away from you just doesn't work. Never has, never will. You've always said exactly what's on your mind, and you'll probably never quit.

Taurus

April 20-May 20

It's time to end this nonsense - to mend fences, bury the axe, break bread, etc. Whatever you want to call it, just be sure you do it. A minor dispute has turned major, and it's been going on for long enough.

Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Emotions are pouring out of you - even more so than usual. They're not arriving in a sniffling, sentimental way, though. You're feeling downright adamant about what you feel.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Get busy, then - in a different way - and use this time to your advantage. Call every playmate you know you should have called weeks ago, make plans and resolve that there will be absolutely no work.

Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

At the moment, though, in the mood you're obviously in, should someone refuse to back off, given the warning signs - well, let's just say that they deserve what they get.

Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

Thanks to a truly mixed bag of signals, you're not even close to being sure about what's going on between you and a loved one. It has been difficult, however, and you're not happy about it.

Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

You want to do absolutely nothing but enjoy the company of someone you consider divine, delectable and oh, so dear-- and wisely, you're planning to make the very most of it.

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

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Easy+

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CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- A Chaplin; 5- Editor's note; 9- So far; 14- Excuse me; 15- Prefix with conference; 16- Grassy plain; 17- \_\_\_ Cop; 18- Without a job; 20- Astute; 22- Tax pro; 23- Division of a hospital; 24- Can of worms?; 26- Sow chow; 28- Bearing two branches; 32- New Zealand natives; 36- Officeholders; 37- Swollen part; 39- Penniless; 40- \_\_\_ epic scale; 42- Cassette half; 44- Lamb's pseudonym; 45- Fax forerunner; 47- Subfusc; 49- Ovum; 50- Axilla; 52- Brandy distilled from cider; 54- Intentions; 56- Falsehoods; 57- Daredevil Kniveel; 60- Loser to DDE; 62- Deadly fly; 66- System of rule; 69- Nick Charles's wife; 70- This is only \_\_\_; 71- Arrow poison; 72- RR stops; 73- Hawaiian state birds; 74- Celestial body; 75- "\_\_\_ quam videri" (North Carolina's motto);

DOWN: 1- Crew needs; 2- Yikes!; 3- Wyo. neighbor; 4- One-celled organism; 5- Bookish; 6- Sawbuck; 7- Util. bill; 8- Office subs; 9- Everything; 10- Dawdler; 11- Divine Secrets of the \_\_\_ Sisterhood; 12- Steven Chu's cabinet dept.; 13- Sweeney \_\_\_; 19- Inner surface of the hand; 21- Flaw, so to speak; 25- Bombastic; 27- Western Hemisphere org.; 28- Flora and fauna; 29- Type of sanctum; 30- Sacred song; 31- Like salt; 33- Irritated; 34- English architect Jones; 35- Male deer; 38- Kidney-related; 41- Some Annapurna climbers; 43- Sparkling; 46- Sundial number; 48- Fashion first name; 51- Govt. agent; 53- In \_\_\_ (sort of); 55- Big rigs; 57- Alaska's first governor; 58- Cast a ballot; 59- Tied; 61- Dispatched; 63- Small children; 64- Sp. ladies; 65- Comfort; 67- ACLU concerns; 68- PBS supporter;

Yesterday's solution

O	C	O	M	E		S	S	S		S	P	A	T
R	U	L	E	R		I	L	L		A	L	E	E
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S	T	E	S		E	L	E		S	U	M	E	R

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PJ (Picket) 28 557 775

PSP 28 573 333

Customs 28 559 944

S. J. Hospital 28 313 731

Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

Commission Against

Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

IACM 28 387 333

Tourism 28 333 000

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Tales Azzoni

## FOOTBALL

# Spanish league plans to play regular-season match in US

A regular-season Spanish league game is coming to the United States, possibly as early as this year, but a "clasico" between Real Madrid and Barcelona is pretty much out of the question.

The league said yesterday it is planning to play a match across the Atlantic as part of a new 15-year partnership with sports and entertainment group Relevent to promote soccer in North America.

The group operates the International Champions Cup, the world's largest summer club tournament. Barcelona and Real Madrid faced each other in the tournament in Miami last year.

The league gave few details on the planned regular-season game. League president Javier Tebas, however, dismissed the possibility of taking the "clasico" away from Spain.

The league said it is still making arrangements for the game and there is no timetable for when it will happen, but it could be this season.

The Spanish league has been trying to expand internationally for some time, hoping to grow and keep pace with the powerful Premier League in England.

Tebas last year also talked about the league possibly playing a regular-season match

AP PHOTO



in China, and a few days ago the Spanish Super Cup was held in Tangier, Morocco, marking the first time it was played outside Spain. The league game in the United States would be the first to be played outside of Europe.

"Joining with Relevent to create LaLiga North America is a major milestone in our international expansion strategy," Oscar Mayo, the league's in-

ternational development director, said in a statement. "This agreement ensures not only a bright future for soccer in North America, but also for LaLiga and our clubs."

The league said "the operation will support the league's growth in the U.S. and Canada through consumer related activities including youth academies, development of youth soccer coa-

ches, marketing agreements, consumer activations, exhibition matches and plans to have an official LaLiga Santander match played in the U.S."

A decade ago, the Premier League tried to introduce an additional international match but plans for each team to play a 39th game overseas were abandoned amid opposition from FIFA and fan groups.

The Premier League has more exposure than its Spanish counterpart in the United States, in part because of a six-year TV deal with NBC worth about USD1 billion.

Since 2012, the Spanish league has been on BeIN Sports, which was received by less than a quarter of American English-language television households even before it recently was dropped by the Comcast Xfinity cable system.

Relevent was founded and is owned by Miami Dolphins owner Stephen Ross, who called the partnership "the next giant leap in growing soccer's popularity in North America."

"This unique relationship will create new opportunities for millions of North American soccer fans to experience the most passionate, exciting, and highest level of soccer in the world," Ross said.

The Spanish league called the agreement "an inflection point for soccer in the U.S. and Canada," coming in anticipation of the 2026 World Cup that will be hosted in North America. **AP**

AD

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**Bizcuits**

Leanda Lee



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HR then thinks about the day-to-day experience of 'team members': how well they perform, how to measure it, what the company can do to help staff perform well, after all, it is a two-way street. You invest in training and upskilling, giving your staff the resources to do the job and removing the obstacles and system inefficiencies.

The company considers old methods and current ideas: you try to maximize employee engagement and motivation, job satisfaction, diversity, organisational commitment, building trust, respect, loyalty and well-being, and facilitate work-life balance; you minimize ambiguities of roles, harassment, injustices, stressors, and discrimination... the list goes on.

Or, you don't consciously do any of it.

Somehow through luck, the characteristics and life philosophies of the leaders, legacy systems and workplace norms and culture, the work gets done, people are happy, turnover is low and it all works.

Until, that is, all your hard work is ambushed by a solitary individual, the supervisor.

Much of a company's good HR work and leadership can be undermined by The Supervisor; more precisely, The Abusive Supervisor.

The supervisor-employee relationship is the most important in the company, and a good relationship filters through to staff well-being, performance, and career progression. In a bad relationship, the supervisor (ab) uses the power imbalance with non-physical hostility against their direct reports: derogation, explosive outbursts, and undermining. Staff respond with less conscientiousness — they do less work and are less prepared to help-out and do over-time. More extreme responses include theft, sabotage, insubordination and other deviant behaviour, but these depend on the degree of power-imbalance. The more power the abusive supervisor has, the less visible is the retaliation. It's there, just not where management can see it.

It's not the direct impact on staff alone that makes The Abusive Supervisor so dangerous. All those great HR practices that you have put together and which were designed to nurture and develop staff will lose credibility. If staff are treated with abuse, there is a clear inconsistency in the corporate message. Staff will see the abusive treatment as the fault of the company and the upper levels of management because they are legally and morally responsible for what the supervisor does. If the company does nothing to fix the problem or reduce the abuse, you can tell your staff how much you value them and their well-being until you are blue in the face, but they won't believe you.

If aware of any abuse and you ignore it, it suggests that you are potentially over-estimating the levels of staff tolerance or underestimating their professional sensitivities. Either way, you are doing damage to the company, your employees and your own good name by not dealing with it. The crunch comes when being ignorant is mistaken for ignoring.

What are the signs? A decreasing work ethic and attempts to restore a sense of justice via employee deviance, against both the company and the supervisor, but more so against the supervisor when there is a high intention to quit and when the power imbalance is less. So, check with the most senior underlings and those with greater opportunities and skill-levels to quit, for those are the ones most likely to give you a hint of what might be going down in your work-place.

**THE CUBA AND CANADA SIGN AGREEMENT TO FIGHT SEX TRAFFICKING**

Cuba and Canada have signed an agreement to reinforce cooperation on sex trafficking of minors and women, pledging to track and apprehend citizens from either country engaged in exploitation of children and adolescents for pornography or sexual abuse.

A superintendent of the Canadian Royal Mounted Police charged with tracking sexual abuse of minors by Canadian citizens says the agreement will enhance the efforts by both sides to monitor and impede sexual

crimes against women and minors in both countries.

Marie-Claude Arsenault says it provides a legal framework for pursuing cases leading to prosecution for such crimes.

The agreement signed yesterday [Macau time] calls for greater information sharing, joint investigations, and prosecution of suspects by either country.

A million Canadians travel to Cuba on holiday every year.

**'Queen of Soul' Aretha Franklin dies at 76**

ARETHA Franklin's music quickly climbed the iTunes' charts following her death last night [Macau time].

Her "30 Greatest Hits" album hit the No. 1 spot, replacing Nicki Minaj's new album, while "Respect" reached No. 2 on the songs' charts.

More songs from Franklin, including "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," "Think," "Chain of Fools" and "I Say A Little Prayer," were in the Top 40.

The iTunes charts tracks digital sales and is updated multiple times each day.

Franklin died pancreatic cancer at age 76. She had battled undisclosed health issues



AP PHOTO

in recent years, had in 2017 announced her retirement from touring.

Aretha Franklin was seen as the undisputed "Queen of Soul" who sang with matchless style on such classics as "Think," "I Say a Little Prayer" and her signature song, "Respect," and stood as a cultural icon around the globe.

Publicist Gwendolyn Quinn

told The Associated Press through a family statement that, "In one of the darkest moments of our lives, we are not able to find the appropriate words to express the pain in our heart. We have lost the matriarch and rock of our family. The love she had for her children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and cousins knew no bounds." **AP**

**US newsrooms to Trump: We're not enemies of the people**

David Bauder, New York

THE nation's newsrooms are pushing back against President Donald Trump with a coordinated series of newspaper editorials condemning his attacks on "fake news" and suggestion that journalists are the enemy.

The Boston Globe invited newspapers across the country to stand up for the press with editorials on Thursday (today, Macau time), and several began appearing online a day earlier. Nearly 350 news organizations have pledged to participate, according to Marjorie Pritchard, op-ed editor at the Globe.

In St. Louis, the Post-Dispatch called journalists "the truest of patriots." The Chicago Sun-Times said it believed most Americans know that Trump is talking nonsense. The Fayetteville, N.C. Observer said it hoped Trump would stop, "but we're not holding our breath."

"Rather, we hope all the president's supporters will recognize what he's doing — manipulating reality to get what he wants," the North Carolina newspaper said.

Some newspapers used history lessons to state their case. The Elizabethtown Advocate in Elizabethtown, Penn., for instance, compared free press in the United States to such rights promised but not delivered in the former Soviet Union.



AP PHOTO

The New York Times added a pitch.

"If you haven't already, please subscribe to your local papers," said the Times, whose opinion section also summarized other editorials across the country. "Praise them when you think they've done a good job and criticize them when you think they could do better. We're all in this together."

That last sentiment made some journalists skittish. The Wall Street Journal, which said it was not participating, noted in a column by James Freeman that the Globe's effort ran counter to the independence that editorial boards claim to seek. Freeman wrote that Trump has the right to free speech as much as his media adversaries.

"While we agree that labeling journalists the 'enemy of the American people' and journalism 'fake news' is not only damaging to our industry but destructive to our democracy, a coordinated response from independent — dare we say 'mainstream' — news organizations feeds a narrative that we're somehow

aligned against this Republican president," the Baltimore Sun wrote.

Still, the Sun supported the effort and also noted the deaths of five Capital Gazette staff members at the hands of a gunman in nearby Annapolis, Maryland.

The Radio Television Digital News Association, which represents more than 1,200 broadcasters and web sites, is also asking its members to point out that journalists are friends and neighbors doing important work holding government accountable.

"I want to make sure that it is positive," said Dan Shelley, the group's executive director. "We're shooting ourselves in the foot if we make this about attacking the president or attacking his supporters."

It remains unclear how much sway the effort will have. Newspaper editorial boards overwhelmingly opposed Trump's election in 2016. Polls show Republicans have grown more negative toward the news media in recent years: Pew Research Center said 85 percent of Republicans and Republican-leaning independents said in June 2017 that the news media has a negative effect on the country, up from 68 percent in 2010.

Still, newsrooms are trying to convince them otherwise.

"We are not the enemy," declared the Mercury News in San Jose, California. **AP**

Station	Air quality	
Roadside	30-50 Good	
High Density Residential Area	15-35 Good	
Ambient	30-50 Good	

SOURCE: D5SMG

**WORLD BRIEFS**



AP PHOTO

**AFGHANISTAN** As Shiites mourned their dead and held funeral services yesterday, the Islamic State group claimed responsibility for the horrific suicide bombing in Kabul that targeted a Shiite neighborhood the previous day, killing 34 students.



AP PHOTO

**TURKEY's** finance chief tried to reassure thousands of international investors on a conference call yesterday, in which he pledged to fix the economic troubles that have seen the country spiral into a currency crisis.

**POLAND** The president yesterday vetoed legislation on elections to the European Union Parliament that would have benefited large political parties and made it harder for small parties to reach a threshold to win seats.

**ITALY** Malta says that Italy will take in some of the 141 migrants rescued by the aid ship Aquarius last Friday, in what amounts to a reversal for the hard-line anti-migrant government in Rome that had previously refused to host any.

**COLOMBIA** A panel of self-exiled Venezuelan judges holding a symbolic trial found President Nicolas Maduro guilty of corruption and sentenced him to more than 18 years in prison.



AP PHOTO

**PARAGUAY** Mario Abdo Benitez took over as Paraguay's new president, replacing a seemingly disgruntled Horacio Cartes, who left the inauguration ceremony before it finished.