



CE TO LEAD NATIONAL SECURITY COMMISSION

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CHOCOLATE GALORE
Chocolate can be bought cheaper in Macau than in the Philippines. Many migrants stock them before returning home

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BEIJING DEFENDS 'NEW SILK ROAD'
Officials defended Beijing's initiative to build a "New Silk Road" of railways and other infrastructure across Asia

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AD

Join the fight against Dengue Fever

Vases or saucers under potted plants should be scrubbed, cleaned and have water changed at least once a week

MSARG Dengue Fever Prevention Working Group

Casino in the midst of Thai crypto scandal

P6 MACAU

WORLD BRIEFS

PHILIPPINES A Roman Catholic priest who was one of the earliest critics of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte's deadly crackdown on drugs has gone into hiding due to what he says were signs he's being targeted by motorcycle-riding hitmen.



MYANMAR Investigators working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said yesterday that Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya Muslims. *More on p12*

AUSTRALIA The first asylum seeker boat has reached Australia in more than four years, as new concerns were raised in the government about the psychological state of children who arrived earlier and were banished.

PAKISTAN's senate has passed a resolution condemning an anti-Islam cartoon contest planned by a far-right Dutch lawmaker, in one of the first actions taken by the assembly since last month's elections.

More on backpage



HONG KONG

World's priciest home market pushes millennials beyond the law

P9

Unemployment rate stable at 1.8pct

The general unemployment rate and the unemployment rate of local residents from May to July remained at 1.8 percent and 2.4 percent respectively. Information from the Statistics and Census Service indicated that the underemployment rate was 0.6 percent, up by 0.1 percentage point. The total labor force was 392,600 and the labor force participation rate was 71.1 percent. Total employment was 385,500 and the number of employed residents totaled 284,300. The proportion of fresh labor force entrants searching for their first job increased by 5.3 percentage points to 16.1 percent of the total unemployed.

Retail sales increase in Q2

Macau's retail sale value for the second quarter increased by 23.7 percent year-on-year to MOP18.01 billion, the Statistics and Census Service (DSEC) revealed. Although the retail increased year-on-year, it fell by 13.4 percent as compared with the revised figure in the first quarter this year. DSEC added that Watches, Clocks and Jewelry accounted for 21.1 percent of the total retail sales, followed by Goods in Department Stores (15.8 percent), Leather Goods (13.4 percent) and Adults' Clothing (12.4 percent). Among the major retail activities, sales value of Communication Equipment (65.3 percent), Leather Goods (36.9 percent), Goods in Department Stores (34.2 percent), Adults' Clothing (26.7 percent) and Motor Vehicles (24.7 percent) registered notable year-on-year increases.

ARTmusing Summer concludes

The ARTmusing Summer held its grand finale on Sunday with "ARTmusing Fun" and a film carnival. From August 23 to 26, the "ARTmusing Film Carnival" brought together over 1,100 attendees, who witnessed on the silver screen a wide range of motion pictures, from imaginative animations to meaningful documentaries, and featured a series of topics, the Macao Cultural Center noted in a statement. On Sunday, the "ARTmusing Fun" event gathered children and parents together for another celebration of family, love and the arts. Children were invited to discover the land of fairytales by engaging with creative activities and games. "ARTmusing Fun" also featured workshops, backstage tours, indie animations and lively performances.

THE Public Security Police Force implemented crowd control measures on Sunday around the Ruins of St Paul to manage the overflow of visitors visiting tourist spots in Macau.

Until 6 p.m. on Sunday, some 600,000 people had crossed different checkpoints of the SAR, implying a large influx of tourists visiting the city before the summer holiday ends. The crowd control measures only lasted for about an hour.

The Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) is expecting a 5 percent growth in visitor arrivals during the summer holiday as the occupancy rate of the hotels has exceeded 90 percent during this peak season.

The bureau is also expecting that this surge will continue after mid-September.

"We believe that the upcoming four months will be a relatively busy time. Traditionally speaking, things will slow down a little bit after the summer holidays. But a stable growth will start again after mid-September," MGTO head, Helena de Senna Fernandes said, as cited in a TDM report.

MGTO expects increase in visitor arrivals

Since package tours were suspended for a period of time

A stable growth will start again after mid-September.

HELENA DE SENNA FERNANDES



due to the deadly Typhoon Hato last year, Fernandes suggested that the growth in visitor arrivals this month would be more significant compared to the same time last year.



Traffic drives along a road as a MRT train, operated by Taipei Rapid Transit, travels overhead

Taipei's MRT stations add Japanese language

TAIPEI MRT stations have begun to broadcast instructions in Japanese, an addition to Mandarin, English, the Taiwanese dialect and Hakka.

The Taipei Rapid Transit Corporation announced that Japanese will be added on the Taipei metro with a trial period at 13 stations near tourist hotspots, where passengers take elevators, escalators and trains.

Forty-seven percent of the 3.47 million Asian tourists that visit Taiwan each year

come from Japan.

The next largest group of tourists come from Southeast Asia, at 14 percent, followed by Hong Kong and Macau at 11 percent, and South Korea at 8 percent.

Taiwan's latest visitor statistics showed that there had been a decrease in the number of tourist arrivals from Hong Kong and Macau in May, which was down by 4.33 percent.

Currently, the Taipei Metro website provides information in

Chinese, English, Japanese and Korean, while its MRT station ticket machines provide services in 11 languages, including Chinese, English, Japanese, Korean, Malaysian, Thai, Vietnamese, Indonesian, German, French, and Spanish.

Netizens on the popular Taiwanese online forum PTT were supportive about the news, yet others complained that having five languages made the announcements drag on for too long, as cited in Taiwan News.

Local banks involved in issuing Special Bonds for Greater Bay

THE Industrial and Commercial Bank of China (Macau), Luso Bank, and the Bank of China, Macau Branch will distribute special bonds worth 5 billion renminbi (RMB) issued by the government of Guangdong Province.

A statement from the Macao Monetary Authority (AMM) said the bonds will also be marketed by the Industrial and Commercial Bank of China, the Bank of China, the Agricultural Bank of China and the China Construction Bank, all from mainland China, which will later launch products for management of personal fortunes among Macau residents.

The Land Reserve Special Bond for the Guangdong, Hong Kong and Macau Greater Bay Area, launched on 16 August, are the first project in which institutions financial institutions from Macau are involved in distributing local bonds from the Chinese mainland.

According to the AMM,

the Macau Special Administrative Region (MSAR) is also the first region outside mainland China, with local financial institutions involved in the distribution of this type of bonds for cities in China.

In the future, the three banking institutions from Macau will market these bonds to the residents of Macau in the form of wealth management products, thus allowing residents to participate in the Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macau Greater Bay investment projects.

The funds raised will be used for projects of the Land Reserve of the Guangdong - Hong Kong - Macau area in the cities of Zhuhai, Foshan, Dongguan and Zhongshan.

Macau's financial institutions invested in the bonds following the establishment of the "Guangdong-Macau Cooperation and Development Fund" in May of this year. **MDT/Macauhub**

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Julie Zhu

EXCO

CE and police chiefs to form national security commission

THE Chief Executive (CE) and a contingent of leaders from the security sector will form the region's future National Security Commission, according to an administrative regulation draft announced yesterday by the Chief Executive Council (ExCo).

The regulation proposes to establish the Macau SAR's National Security Defense Commission (CDSE).

"The commission is the organization which assists the CE in making decisions related to national security defense, and is the responsible organization for the implementation of the commission's policies related to national security defense matters," the CE Council spokesperson Leong Heng Teng revealed.

The commission will also be responsible for "studying the implementation of relevant instructions and requirements from the CE; analyzing situations related to national security and to society's stability, with consequent drafting of relevant plans; assisting in making policies for the SAR's national security protection; pushing forward the establishment of Macau's legal system related to national security."

According to the proposal, the commission will be chaired by the CE, with the Secretary for Security taking the role of the vice-chairman.

Other members of the CDSE include the Secretary for Administration and Justice, Commissioner-General of the Unitary Police Service, chief of the Office of the Chief Executive,

Chief of the Office of the Secretary for Security, the Director of the Legal Affairs Bureau, Director of the Judiciary Police, one advisor of the Office of the Chief Executive, and one advisor of the Office of the Secretary for Security.

The establishment of the Office of the Macau SAR State Security Defense Commission (GCDSE) has also been proposed. The office will be a permanent department within the commission. GCDSE's main duties will consist in implementing, assisting and following up the commission's decisions.

The GCDSE's chief and deputy chief will be the Secretary for Security and the Chief of the Judiciary Police, respectively.

Since the draft is an administrative regulation, it will not go through the Legislative Assembly (AL), and will come into effect 30 days after its official publication.

When questioned by the media, Leong claimed that "the commission is not the law enforcement agency, nor is it a consultative organization. The commission makes decisions."

According to Leong, the CDSE will have meetings at least once every half-year to discuss the



implementation of national security protection works in Macau.

As to the reasons that prompted the government not to make this regulation a law bill which would need AL's approval, Leong said nonetheless that "it has all been handled according to Macau's law."

In the past, different government principal officials said that the city would need to make changes to face new national security challenges.

Yesterday, the ExCo spokesperson also stated that "in the past, state security was only about military. Now, national security [has] changed from its traditional norms into a new normal, therefore it [the law] needed to catch up."

"It is a part of the commission's function to set up an operation system and mechanism. I cannot say which part will be done first," said Leong regarding the first step the CDSE would take.

Last week, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said that he believed Low was "probably in China" but admitted that he did not raise the issue during his recent state visit to Beijing.

China's Foreign Ministry said that they have no information on the case but were willing to cooperate with Malaysia on such judicial matters.

The 1MDB, a state development fund established in 2009, is embroiled in a scandal that saw billions of dollars go missing, and partly led to the downfall of the Malaysian government.

FOOD SAFETY REGULATION ANNOUNCED

THE EXECUTIVE Council completed discussion on the city's 10th regulation of limitation on levels of metallic contamination in food. The administrative regulation set the maximum levels

of metallic contaminants in food. The local government referred to both international and local standards, in particular to mainland China's standards, during the process of the establishment.

Malaysia brings eight money laundering charges against Low

MALAYSIAN police authorities formally charged billionaire fugitive businessman Jho Low with money laundering on Friday, saying that the charges would facilitate his arrest overseas.

Simultaneously, a court in the country issued arrest warrants for both Low and his father, who are accused of being connected to the controversial 1Malaysia Development Bhd (1MDB) scan-

dal that saw billions of US dollars disappear.

Low now faces eight charges of money laundering while his father, Low Hock Peng, faces one.

The charges cover approximately USD260 million in funds that Low is accused of receiving between December 2013 and June 2014. His father is accused of transferring \$56.5 million to his son in February 2014.

Each account of money

laundering carries a maximum fine of approximately USD1.2 million, a jail term of up to five years, or both.

Low, who was last said to be seeking refuge in mainland China after fleeing Hong Kong and Macau in turn, has proved difficult to track down. Malaysian police authorities said on Friday that the charges would help pressure other countries into extraditing

Low, but did not specify whether or not they were referring to mainland China.

Cited by the Wall Street Journal, a spokesperson for the Malaysian billionaire said that Low maintains his innocence. He is refusing to accept extradition back to Malaysia as it is "where his guilt has been predetermined by politics" and where he would not receive a fair trial.



16 parking lots to close during strong typhoons

Sixteen public parking lots under the management of the Transport Bureau (DSAT) will close one hour after the hoisting of typhoon signal number 8, the third level (orange), or above storm warning. According to a dispatch published yesterday in the Official Gazette, the 16 parking lots are: Fai Tat car park, Pak Lok car park, Rua de Malaca car park, Alameda Dr. Carlos car park, Praca de Ferreira do Amaral car park, Jardim das Artes car park, Cheng I car park, Iao Hon garden car park, Taipa Central Park car park, Rua da Tranquilidade car park, Lido car park, Taipa Ferry Terminal car park, Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge car park (two car parks), Bairro da Ilha Verde car park, and the Macau Science Museum car park.

DSEJ instructs schools on textbook selection

The Education and Youth Affairs Bureau (DSEJ) has reportedly been instructing local schools as to the selection of textbooks. Yesterday, the head of the division of Research and Education Reform of DSEJ, Vong Iat Hang said, during Forum Macao, that DSEJ issued instructions to local schools to guide them through the procedure of selecting school textbooks. Vong highlighted that local schools are free to organize their teaching practices. Furthermore, he also stated that local schools can select their own teaching materials if they meet DSEJ's requirements in terms of course structure.

Operators granted exemption of complementary income tax

An extension of the exemption of the complementary income tax related to casino gaming profits for a period of over three years has been granted to Galaxy Casino, S.A. and Venetian Macau, S.A., according to a dispatch published in the Official Gazette. The exemption begins in 2019 and ends on June 26, 2022. The dispatch is effective as of the date of promulgation and will have effect from January 1, 2019. Previously, both Galaxy and The Venetian were granted an exemption of complementary income tax starting on January 1, 2014.

‘Pasalubong’ culture still exists within PH community

Lynzy Valles

MANY migrant workers in the city have a habit of bringing goods back home as presents.

For Filipinos, this tradition is called “pasalubong” and it is widely practiced as a symbol of thoughtfulness.

Handing out presents upon returning home is a way of showing that they have remembered those at home even if they were away for a long period of time.

These migrants are willing to spend hundreds of patacas on chocolates and other items, including canned goods, toiletries or clothes that cannot be bought or are difficult to find in the Philippines.

In Macau, many purchase these goods from a supermarket near St Lawrence Church, where most imported chocolates are said to be cheaper compared to other local supermarkets.

Rose Licay is one of the many who hoard chocolates to bring back to her family. According to her, one main factor is that the price of such merchandise is much cheaper in Macau.

LYNZY VALLES



“They prefer those imported ones and they really request chocolates whenever we go back home,” said Licay, who has been working in the region for several years.

“Even though there are also several imported chocolate brands in the Philippines, it’s still a lot cheaper if we buy them here, especially when they are on sale, which they usually are,” she added.

This tradition fulfills certain cul-

tural concerns, such as reintegrating the traveler back to the community and promoting the idea that the giver was thinking of the recipient while away.

“Back home, only those with family or relatives who are abroad can get imported goods as [these] goods in the Philippines are way too pricey, so since we have the access to such goods at a cheaper price, we always bring home different kinds of pasalubong,” Licay said.

Echoing the same sentiments, Jayvee Fontanilla, who has been working in the SAR for over two years, said, “I grew up with this tradition so now that I work overseas, I do the same.”

Fontanilla stressed that chocolates and other goods can be bought at a lower price in city, and that it is easier for migrants to purchase them here than back home.

“Prices are way cheaper here. For example, a 100g Toblerone

only costs MOP9 here, while in the Philippines it costs PHP135, which is a bit over MOP20,” he compared.

The Times is also aware of cases where some have hoarded confectionery from a store in Hong Kong which mainly sells imported chocolates.

Even though there are several imported chocolate brands in the Philippines, it’s still a lot cheaper if we buy them here.

ROSE LICAY

Since the price gap can range from MOP5 to MOP20 and they purchase in bulk, some are willing to purchase such goods in the neighboring region and resell them on social media groups in Macau.

As this remains a steadfast trait within the culture, these migrants are happy to share the benefits of working abroad and are willing to share their resources by bringing an array of “pasalubong.”

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Sands China imparts global vision to SMEs

A local small and medium-sized enterprise (SME) that has been partnering with Sands China for some ten years has told of its massive growth and changes the local firm has undergone since its partnership with the gaming operator.

Digital Color Advertising & Production Co. Ltd., established in 1998, is a professional printing and advertising company, well-equipped with various types of large environmental format printers, along with large-scale cutters in a bid to maintain a fast and diversified service in a one-stop-shop to meet the needs of their clients.

The company – which currently has more than 30 full-time workers – provides services mainly in internal media production and service to SCL properties including light box films, wall banners, lamp posts, billboards and tower wraps, among many others.

With Sands China's commitment to supporting local enterprises, Patrick Wong, director of the local firm, explained how such assurance brought significant changes in terms of how his business ran.

Acquiring a series of referrals from the gaming operator, Wong remarked, "we have benefited from these referrals and

have seen our profits rise. We can contribute more by purchasing the right equipment to service promotion items for other enterprises."

According to Wong, along with the expansion of Sands China over the last decade, the local printing company has expanded its global vision in the business, seeing higher turnover.

"That is why we have invested more to improve in our hardware and software," said the director.

"We have globalized our vision [due to] the long-term business relationship that we have with Sands China," Wong remarked.

The company, which has increased its offices to three, has invested millions in eco-friendly printing machines, as inspired by Sands China's global sustainability strategy.

The local firm are keen to adhere to the company's environment standards.

"We are always learning from Sands China's procurement team. We have received training to improve management skills and we follow Sands China's guidelines on corporate social responsibility," said Wong.

Thus, we offer good benefits to our staff and provide them with a better working environment. We bought environmentally-friendly printers instead of old

style ones to also safe-guard their health," he added.

Supporting local SMEs is part of Sands China's supplier relationship management strategy. The strategy guides the company's long-standing effort to support local suppliers, whom it views as strategic partners.

Thus, the gaming operator offers selected companies a series of training courses, particularly to improve business management skills.

Wong recollected that Sands China's procurement team would regularly visit the office to maintain a close relationship with the local company.

"They encouraged us to keep high standards in the company. The way we provide our services

“We have globalized our vision due to the long-term business relationship that we have with Sands China.”

PATRICK WONG
DIRECTOR OF DIGITAL COLOR

is similar to Sands China, which values and prioritize efficiency and quality," the director said.

Through the series of training courses and programs tailor-made for SMEs, the company owner explained that Sands China services a platform to expand the horizons of SMEs in the city – giving them additional opportunities to reach out to other clients.

The array of programs benefit SMEs by giving them direct access to business opportunities with customers.

"We usually cannot get in touch with overseas vendors but by participating in the events at The Venetian Macao, we can make contact with other companies, which allows us to expand our business," said Wong.

The director implied that he is willing to send more of his staff to attend the Sands Procurement Academy, which is specifically geared toward local SME enterprises.

With the academy's tailor-made practical training modules that help develop suppliers by sharing business knowledge and skills, the director believed that such programs would significantly benefit his team members.

In the program, Sands China encourages them to gain experience and build capability to work with large-scale interna-

tional organizations.

Our staff needs training not only for our company but also for our clients in order to meet their standards," Wong said.

The academy's coursework is facilitated by lecturers with various areas of expertise, and covers seven topics: effective warehouse operations, quality assurance, logistics management, procurement processes and system overview, procurement contracts, supplier code of conduct, and 8D problem solving.

Wong also praised the gaming operator's procurement team, highlighting that the team had encouraged the company to continually excel in the products and services they provide.

"They have well-regulated policies and an organized team. We love working with them as they have such strong and good management," Wong said.

"They have also helped us to learn about international regulations including compliance and similar matters," he added.

The SME – which only operated with three employees a decade ago – provides services to all Sands China properties and is looking forward to the gaming operator's expansion with The Londoner.

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Thai police extend probe into crypto scandal involving Macau

THAI authorities this week are expected to step up their investigation of a financial scam involving the alleged theft of about USD25 million worth of bitcoins from a Finnish investor who police say was bilked with promises of high returns from investments in a casino in Macau and in another cryptocurrency.

The case, which surfaced with the arrest in a shopping mall parking lot of a young soap opera actor suspected of colluding with his sister and brother, has prompted Thailand's central bank to warn investors against bitcoin-related scams, underscoring the challenge for regulators trying to keep up with fast-growing cryptocurrency markets.

Police have issued arrest warrants for several other people, including actor Jiratpisit Jaravijit's elder brother, Parinya Jaravijit, who has left the country. Police have indicated they will question more suspects this week. Yesterday, they questioned the siblings' parents about money they had received in their bank accounts suspected of having come from the alleged scam. Jiratpisit turned himself in yesterday to formally hear fraud charges.

Court documents say the siblings and others are suspected of conspiring to commit fraud and engage in money laundering with 5,564.4 bitcoins — worth roughly



Actor Jiratpisit Jaravijit (center) is escorted by Thai police officers to leave the Crimes Suppression Division in Bangkok

USD25 million at the time — obtained from 22-year-old Finnish investor Aarni Otava Saarimaa.

The police arrest warrant says Saarimaa and a Thai business partner, Chonnikarn Kaewsalee, filed a complaint in January over having not received any return on the promised investment.

Saarimaa did not respond to an emailed request for comment.

According to court documents cited by Thai newspapers, Parinya Jaravijit and an associate

convinced Saarimaa and his partner to transfer their bitcoins to an e-wallet of one of the suspects on several occasions, promising the funds would be invested in a company called Expay Software Co. and in a new cryptocurrency, called Dragon Coin, to be used at a casino in Macau.

The documents say that the three, along with a prominent local stock investor, were supposed to have formed a partnership.

Instead, the bitcoins were

cashed into Thai baht and deposited into 51 bank accounts belonging to seven people, with some of the money used by the Jaravijits to buy land in and near Bangkok, the court documents say.

Funds would be invested in a new cryptocurrency, called Dragon Coin, to be used at a casino in Macau

Police and financial documents showed that in some cases Saarimaa did gain ownership of shares in those companies. But he complained to police that he did not obtain the investments or returns promised to him. The status of the promised investments

in Dragon Coin remains unclear. The Thai government has stepped up efforts this year to control the largely unregulated field of digital currency.

In March, it enacted a decree aimed at imposing controls and stipulating rules on taxation of bitcoin transactions. But experts say there are loopholes and it's been loosely enforced.

Anti-money laundering officials say bitcoin are attractive for scams because encrypted transactions can be hard to trace, although officials have emphasized that this case did not involve that kind of cybercrime.

"In every investment, it's very important to understand what type of asset you are investing in and what types of risks are associated with that asset," Veerathai Santiprahob, Thailand's central bank governor, told reporters after the case became public. "It's crucial that anyone who wants to invest in high-risk assets such as digital currencies and bitcoin educate themselves and fully understand it." MDT/AP

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Fanny Vong speaks during the event

EDUCATION

IFT to offer its first Master's program

Julie Zhu

THE Institute for Tourism Studies (IFT) 2018/2019 Degree Program Student Orientation Ceremony was held last week.

President of IFT, Fanny Vong, welcomed 512 new students. "Career opportunities in tourism and hospitality continue to expand. The tourism industry is growing worldwide and that translates into rewarding careers, particularly in Asia," Vong said in her speech. "In China, the soon-to-be unveiled development plan for the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area will play a pivotal role in unlocking even greater tourism growth."

In addition, IFT held its first national flag raising ceremony on campus "to strengthen the sense of national identity and foster the love for the motherland." More than 400 participants attended the ceremony, which was not mandatory.

On the sidelines of the ceremony, Vong said that IFT will launch its first master's degree in 2019.

"All the designs for the master's degree in hospitality management are ready, and we will try to deliver the design to the relevant department as soon as possible. In 2019, we will launch our first master's degree," said Vong. "The first master's degree will be a hospitality management degree. There is a huge demand for hospitality management. Ma-

cau's hotel industry is developing very well and there are many high-class management personnel. I believe that many people from the industry and from the society will be interested in this degree."

Besides planning to launch the master's degree in hospitality management, IFT also plans to launch a master's degree in cuisine.

"Macau is a gastronomy city; besides [good food], Macau also needs to do research about cuisine," said Vong.

Previously, IFT had offered cuisine courses. According to Vong, these courses have been popular.

"This year, students who have been admitted to the courses have performed very well in both their graduate exams and college entrance exams. I am really confident in those students who are majoring in cuisine," said Vong.

The IFT president said that these students are in high demand by local companies.

Regarding the master's degree in cuisine, Vong said that each class plans to accept 25 to 30 students.

The cuisine master's degree will not focus on cooking skills but cooking related theories.

"The master's degree in cuisine does not talk about the practice, but it is more about the theory," said Vong.

In addition, the IFT president said that the institute is currently looking for a place near the old campus of the University of Macau to open a cuisine center.

Conman spends millions on gambling hubs

A former professional poker player will face a 12 year prison sentence over his participation in a fraud of AUD76 million, in which millions were spent on gambling junkets in Las Vegas and Macau.

The court described the offences of convicted conman Bill Jordanou as "prolonged fraud of breath-taking proportions."

The 60-year-old will serve nine years before he is eligible for parole.

His co-accused, Robert Zaia, 54, was also sentenced after pleading guilty to the massive scam, which involved the use of fraudulent documents to obtain loans on behalf of clients, usually for

property developments.

A report issued by the Sydney Morning Herald stated that the funds were siphoned from clients' accounts without their consent and transferred between accounts to avoid suspicion.

Police have been unable to trace most of the money that had been stolen, yet they noted that millions were spent on jewelry, luxury cars and on gambling junkets in the gambling hubs Las Vegas and Macau, among others.

Australia's Commonwealth Bank approved over AUD58 million in fraudulent loans. Although they were aware of the scam in 2007, the case was only referred to the police in 2011.

Melco: healthy gaming for a better community

DESPITE recent policies to diversify the economy, gaming remains Macau's bread and butter. Even as operators like Melco Resorts & Entertainment roll out new leisure and entertainment offerings, they are constantly striving to develop their core gaming business in a sustainable and healthy manner that benefits the community and the region.

Melco has always been a strong proponent of corporate social responsibility (CSR), and one of its core focus areas is promotion of responsible gaming (RG). Its dedicated steering committee – led by Chairman and CEO Lawrence Ho – has been developing and executing RG initiatives since its formation in 2007.

The committee's strategic framework focuses on three key areas of RG culture: employee education, community engagement, and processes and technology. These ground-breaking RG initiatives – many of which were the first of their kind in Macau – resulted in Melco becoming the only operator to net two Gold prizes for CSR at the prestigious Business Awards of Macau.

EMPLOYEE EDUCATION

Within the local industry, Melco is the only company which requires all employees from gaming and non-gaming departments, management and

non-management to undergo mandatory RG training as part of their new hire orientation. Additionally, to strengthen and update knowledge, all employees receive 2.5 hours of RG enhancement training to cover topics including the symptoms and effects of gambling disorders as well as the company's own policies, which emphasise how every employee has a role to play in RG.

It is essential for Melco to ensure that its leaders are at the forefront of RG development. Last year, it organised a leadership forum to educate more than 600 management employees, with Mr. Paulo Martins Chan, Director of the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ), UM Professor Davis Fong and addiction psychologist Mr. Lawrence Lee as guests of honour and event speakers. The company reinforces the RG message to employees through regular activities such as game booths and quiz competitions. RG activities in May and June alone saw over 7,300 employee participants.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Melco sponsors various public service messages to promote RG culture, the latest of which was a video released this June and aired on TDM (Teledifusão de Macau). Produced in collaboration with a local filming company and the Gaming Em-

ployees Home of Macau, the short film, titled "Our Wishes", explored the impact of gaming habits on familial relationships and the importance of staying in control.

Melco works closely with government regulators to ensure compliance with industry standards. It financed the establishment of the MPI-Melco Gaming and Entertainment Information Technology Research and Development Center in 2008, and donated to the Macau University Development Foundation to support research into local gaming management.

PROCESSES AND TECHNOLOGY

Innovation and safety are key elements of RG implementation. In 2016, Melco became Macau's first operator to install real-time facial recognition security systems at all entrances to gaming areas. This state-of-the-art technology keeps out patrons who opt for self-exclusion or who had previously committed infractions on the premises.

Melco is continually refining the accuracy and efficiency of its security systems to offer a safer gaming experience for all, underscoring its commitment to raising the bar for RG not just on its premises, but in the wider community.

This article is sponsored by Melco Resorts & Entertainment.



Ostrich skin and Neo-Viagra? A shopping guide to North Korea

Eric Talmadge, Pyongyang

OSTRICH skin ready for tailoring, huge flat-screen TVs, “Neo-Viagra” and a cure for cancer? North Korea’s official shopper’s guide is glossy and full of testimonials from satisfied customers and phone and email contact information for the dozens of companies pitching their latest products — though good luck reaching any of them.

The “2018 Korea Commodities” catalog, produced by the North’s Committee for the Promotion of International Trade, reflects a side of North Korea often lost in the shadow of its nuclear weapons. Leader Kim Jong Un and many other North Koreans firmly believe their country needs to make more and better consumer goods and sell them to the outside world if it is ever going to have a strong — or even sustainable — economy.

More goods with the “made in North Korea” label are available than ever before, though international sanctions mean most can’t be sold abroad.

A look at what North Korea sees as some of its most promising products:

ENERGY DRINKS AND CHEESE-FLAVORED ESKIMO PIES

Coke and other foreign brands are relatively rare and expensive in North Korea.

But the O-Il General Processing Factory has tried to fill the gap.

A surprising amount of shelf space in Pyongyang grocery stores, and increasingly stores elsewhere, has been taken over by sugary soft drinks, much of which is produced by O-Il and other well-known brands. Air Koryo,



A page showing a boombox of the “2018 Korea Commodities” catalog

the country’s flagship airline, also has its own line of drinks.

O-Il, which means May Day, has 12 pages in the 207-page 2018 commodity catalog introducing its line of nine energy drinks. Two are sold in plastic bottles shaped like barbells. A happy boy is shown lifting them over his head, while a rainbow-colored list of the drinks’ benefits includes the “stimulation of growth in height” and “greater spiritual exertion.”

O-il also produces dozens of yogurt and milk-flavored drinks, fruit juices, tea, jellies and dozens of flavors of ice cream cones, popsicles and ice cream sandwiches, collectively known here as “Eskimo.” There’s chocolate and strawberry, of course, but also cheese, fermented bean and lactobacilli. One of O-Il’s latest offerings is “Hydrogen Water,” which it calls the “wonder health water of the 21st century.”

“With an antioxidant power 176 times that of vitamin C, 431 times vitamin E and 863 times

more than coenzyme Q10,” its ad claims, “the hydrogen water is effective in avoiding mental and physical fatigues, retarding the aging process, neutralizing all kinds of poisons, preventing radioactive and oxidant damages, improving immunity, fighting cancer and treating arteriosclerosis through purification of blood.”

MIRACLE CURES FOR CANCER?

Traditional “Koryo” medicines dating to ancient times are widely used in North Korea, in part because of the scarcity of modern Western medicines, and have long been popular with Chinese tourists.

North Korea sees big potential for exports. Leading the charge is the Pugang Pharmaceutic Co., Ltd, a pioneer both in making health supplements and in using advertising to sell them, a tricky undertaking given that such capitalist practices are still officially frowned upon. Posters for its best-known product — Royal

Blood-Fresh — can be seen in department stores in Pyongyang and at souvenir shops catering to foreigners. It’s also featured in infomercials on Air Koryo flights from Beijing.

So what is it? According to the catalog, Royal Blood-Fresh is a supplement made primarily from beans that’s recommended for long flights to help prevent or cure deep vein thrombosis. Posters targeting foreign tourists say, “Fly safe with Royal Blood-Fresh” and “Who says you can’t grow younger and cleverer?”

Another heavily hyped supplement is Pugang’s “Kumdang-2 Injection,” a vegetable-based medication its producer says is exported to a dozen countries. It caused a buzz in the Western media a few years ago when it was advertised as an effective treatment for both cancer and tuberculosis, with no side effects, no less.

Some of the best testimonials in the catalog come from the medicines section.

“When I was diagnosed at the

hospital, I knew I had a tumor of 3x4 centimeters in size in the left lung,” reads a testimonial for the Tongbong Anticancer Drug by satisfied customer Ri Kum Jon, identified as a Pyongyang resident. “After I took three cartons for three months my appetite returned to normal — and more — I got weight by 3 kilograms. The tumor was killed ... I had cured cancer using the single remedy of Tongbong Anticancer Drug. It is the greatest of the elixirs that brings life back to people.”

BOOM BOXES, CEMENT BAGS AND NANODIAMONDS

Sony, Samsung and Huawei don’t need to lose any sleep over it, but North Korea has several brands of electronics.

The Hana Electronics Trading Co., which began in 2003 as a joint venture with Phoenix Commercial Ventures in Britain, is one of the best known. It is promoting karaoke boom-boxes, flat-screen TVs and DVD players. Other well-known brands, like Achim and Pyolmuri, are pitching TVs — 3D compatibility appears to be a hot extra these days — along with laptops and tablets.

It’s unclear if the products are fully produced in North Korea or just assembled and rebranded.

But they do basically work. Some of the guidebook’s ads — for bags of cement, for example, and medicinal stone tiles for use in saunas — are clearly directed at industrial buyers.

But it also has sections for lipsticks and skin creams by the Pyongyang Cosmetics Factory, lingerie from the Korea Ponghwa General Group, herbal toothpaste, brassware and Neo-Viagra-Y.R., which is touted as “the best sexual function activator at the moment.”

The Kangan Trading Co. is advertising nanodiamonds, useful for quantum computers and for chemotherapy.

Purity: 99-plus percent. **AP**

corporate bits

ANNUAL SJM SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS 41 CHILDREN OF STAFF



Sociedade de Jogos de Macau awarded scholarships to 41 children of staff, including new scholarships to 10 outstanding students of Year 2018 and the renewal of scholarships for 31 recipients of Year 2017, 2016, 2015 and 2014.

The 14th annual SJM Scholarship Awards Ceremony was held on Wednesday at the Grand Ballroom of Grand Lisboa.

Out of 48 applicants, 10 outstanding students were selected by the SJM Scholarship Selection Committee this year.

Each student will be awarded MOP20,000 per year until they finish their university studies.

Ambrose So, chairman of the SJM board of direc-

tors and SJM Scholarship Selection Committee, emphasized the importance of analytical thinking in his speech, as students have access to a wealth of information on the internet nowadays, hence the ability to analyze things carefully and from a wider perspective becoming crucial to solving problems and making sound judgments.

Angela Leong, managing director and chief administrative officer of SJM, remarked that the SJM Scholarship illustrates SJM’s emphasis on employee welfare, including the education of their children.

U Choi San thanked SJM for their support in nurturing talent on behalf

of this year’s recipients.

The SJM Scholarship program awards outstanding children of staff and furthers their university studies. Children of SJM and STDM staff who are first-year undergraduates are eligible for application.

The program awards 10 scholarships annually to children of staff, who are each awarded MOP20,000 per year (for up to five years) until they finish their university studies.

Renewal of scholarships is based on assessment of the recipient’s academic results by the SJM Scholarship Selection Committee annually.

Since its establishment in 2005, the program has seen the graduation of 91 children of staff.

HONG Kong's stratospheric property prices are pushing some residents beyond the law. A small, but significant, number of younger people are living in industrial buildings, trading comfort and convenience for cheap rent. Along with irritations such as rust-tainted water and intermittent blackouts, there's one major drawback: Such living arrangements are illegal.

It's a risk 32-year-old photographer Wah Lee is willing to take. While he shares his building near the Sha Tin racecourse with a Chinese herbal-oil storage unit and a commercial kitchen pumping out roast meats, he and his roommate pay about HKD11,000 (\$1,400) a month rent, less than half what a residential unit in the area goes for.

Along with a small kitchen and private bathroom, the 1,000-square-foot apartment features high ceilings and large windows, unusual by the standards of Hong Kong's often poky apartments. "The rents nowadays are very unreasonable," Lee said. "There's no way for me to afford those residential units." Another advantage: He's able to store his photography gear and shoot pictures at home because of the generous space.

This version of industrial chic is just another way Hong Kong residents are trying to beat the world's most expensive housing pri-

HONG KONG

World's priciest home market pushes millennials beyond the law

ces, with the average home costing 19.4 times the city's median annual income, according to Demographia. Sky-high prices have given rise to the micro-apartment and dormitory style "co-living" spaces. Demand for units smaller than two car-parking spaces has surged this year as costs continue their relentless climb.

While the government has been reviewing 18 options to increase land supply in a bid to tame housing prices and avert social unrest, allowing people to legally live in industrial buildings isn't on the list. Instead, proposals range from reclaiming more land near Victoria Harbour to building homes on top of a container terminal.

"Industrial buildings are not designed to be lived in," Chau Kwong Wing, Chair Professor of Real Estate and Construction at the University of Hong Kong and a member of the task force on land supply, said in an interview. "It involves safety concerns." Those risks were highlighted when a fire ripped through a unit



BLOOMBERG

in an industrial building in the New Territories in August last year, killing three people. The apartment was found to be one of 17 subdivided units on the floor.

An estimated 12,000 people lived in industrial buildings in 2016, according to the Society for Community Organization, an advocacy group. The organization hasn't updated its estimate in recent years but expects the number to have dwindled due to heightened inspections by the government, according to Ange-

la Lui, a community organizer at the group.

While building owners and tenants are currently required to end any domestic use if found to be renting industrial buildings for residential purposes, the government last year proposed introducing criminal sanctions. The plan, if finalized, can be put forward for approval at the earliest in the coming legislative year starting in October.

That hasn't deterred 23-year-old Ting Li, who lives with her

boyfriend in a 200-square-foot apartment inside an industrial building in Sha Tin. In addition to potential eviction, the couple has to deal with problems regular Hong Kong residents don't come across. "The running water will somehow come out yellowy on the weekend, so we have to drink bottled water," she said.

Not only that, power occasionally cuts out after working hours, meaning the air-conditioning won't operate in a city known for its hot and steamy weather. "It's more comfortable to live around people in a residential area," Li said. "I used to wake up and hear chirping of birds, now I only hear people coming into their offices."

But the young couple aren't planning on moving out anytime soon, as they pay just HK\$5,000 a month rent, or just 15 percent of their combined income. Getting a residential apartment elsewhere would chew up 40 percent of their wages. "I have looked into other places in residential areas, but they are too expensive," she said. **Bloomberg**

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Joe McDonald, Beijing

FACED with plunging U.S. orders, surgical glove maker Ren Jiding is hunting for new markets amid Chinese government calls to reduce reliance on the United States. But none can absorb the 60 percent of his sales that went to American customers last year.

"Other countries import much less than the United States," said Ren, a co-owner of Hongyeshangqin Medical Science and Technology Co., Ltd. in the eastern city of Zibo.

From medical products to smartphone chips to soybeans, Beijing is responding to President Donald Trump's tariff hikes by pushing companies to trade more with other countries. But there are few substitutes for the United States as an export market and source of technology for industries including telecom equipment makers Chinese leaders are eager to develop.

Beijing has announced tariff cuts and other changes while rejecting U.S. demands to scale back plans such as "Made in China 2025," which calls for state-led creation of Chinese champions in robotics, biotech and other fields. American leaders say those violate Beijing's market-opening promises and might erode U.S. industrial leadership.

The response highlights the cost the ruling Communist Party is willing to pay in lost sales and jobs to stick to plans that are fueling conflict with Washington, Europe and other trading partners.

"China sees its technology and industrial policies as fundamental to its growth," Tianjie He of Oxford Economics said in an email. "It is thus hard to see China's leadership committing to significant changes."

Trump has raised duties on a total of USD50 billion of Chinese imports including ultrasound scanners and industrial components that Washington says benefit from improper policies. China retaliated with similar penalties.

The U.S. is poised to raise duties on \$200 billion of imports including the gloves made by Ren's company. Beijing has issued a list of American goods for retaliation.

The impact on China is "small and is containable, at least for the time being," said Vincent Chan of Credit Suisse. He said the "worst case" outlook if all threatened U.S. tariff hikes go ahead would cut China's growth by 0.2 percentage points this year and 1.3 percent in 2019.

Chinese leaders have tried to cushion the blow to their own economy by targeting American goods its importers can get from other countries — soybeans from Brazil, gas from Russia, cars from Germany and fish from Vietnam.

Beijing has promised to use



China in struggle to curb reliance on US market, suppliers

revenue from the higher tariffs to help struggling exporters and has ordered banks to lend more freely to them.

The biggest jolt so far came from Beijing's cancellation of orders for soybeans, the biggest American export to China at \$21 billion last year. That hammered farm states that voted for Trump in the 2016 election. It also pushed up prices for Chinese farmers that use soybeans for animal feed and food processors that crush them for cooking oil.

“The impact on China is] small and is containable, at least for the time being.”

VINCENT CHAN
CREDIT SUISSE

That could be a windfall for Brazil. But China already is its top market and consumes two-thirds of the global supply. Chinese total imports last year of 95 million metric tons were 50 percent more than the South American giant's entire exports.

"The Chinese can talk all they

want about finding other sources of soybeans," but 80 percent come from the United States, Brazil and Argentina, said Michael Cordonnier, president of Soybean & Corn Advisor, Inc., a U.S. research firm.

"If you want to import soybeans, it generally must be from one of those three countries," said Cordonnier in an email.

Regulators also cut import duties on automobiles on July 1 but raised them on vehicles from the United States. That helps luxury brands that import from Germany and Japan.

Replacing markets for Chinese exporters that support tens of millions of jobs will be harder.

The United States bought \$430 billion of China's exports last year, or 20 percent of the \$2.2 trillion total. The No. 2 market was the 28-nation European Union at \$370 billion.

"We can't afford to lose the U.S. market," said David Hu, general manager of Sinohood Bags Factory Ltd. in the southeastern city of Yiwu.

Americans bought 40 percent of his canvas tote bags last year, including the most profitable customized versions with Christmas and other designs.

"What we export to Europe is lower-end products with lower prices," said Hu. "We could explore the Indian, Vietnamese or Philippine markets. But the

prices they offer would be too low."

Chinese officials point to potential markets in the "Belt and Road," a multibillion-dollar initiative led by President Xi Jinping to boost trade by building ports, railways and other infrastructure across Asia to Europe.

That has brought a flood of contracts to Chinese state-owned builders but complaints about costs have hurt its appeal. Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad of Malaysia announced this month the cancellation of plans for Chinese-built projects including a \$20 billion rail line.

"There is potential for development in areas such as central Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and South America. But their problems are development imbalance and economic instability," said Li Yong, a senior fellow at the China Association of International Trade, an industry group.

Local officials have met with exporters to exhort them to "diversify markets," according to the state press.

Authorities in the central city of Jingzhou visited exporters to help with customs forms, financing and other details, the website China Industry and Commerce News said.

Ren, the surgical glove maker, said his 300-employee company was looking at Europe

and developing countries but demand was sluggish.

Some companies are confident of keeping their U.S. market share. That reflects the possible success of official efforts to develop higher-tech goods instead of competing on price alone.

The general manager of Yihua Electronic Equipment Co. in southern China's Guangdong said the tariffs should not affect sales of its digital soldering guns, one fifth of which are sold to the United States.

"With the 25 percent tariffs, ours still are cheaper than similar German- or Japanese-made products," said the manager, who would give only his surname, Gou. "We are not producing something like shoes and clothing that could be easily replaced."

Trump's pressure is likely to backfire by encouraging Beijing to throw even more resources at nurturing its own technology creators.

China's search for non-U.S. suppliers could help companies such as Taiwanese chipmaker MediaTek Inc. But redesigning a phone or network gear and then gaining regulatory and customer approval can take a minimum of three to five years.

"For now," said He of Oxford Economics, "China remains technologically dependent on the U.S." AP

Nissan launches China-focused electric car

NISSAN'S first electric sedan designed for China began production yesterday at the start of a wave of dozens of planned lower-cost electrics being created by global automakers for their biggest market.

Manufacturers including General Motors and Volkswagen are poised this year to launch a flood of electric sedans, minivans and SUVs designed for Chinese tastes and budgets. Nissan, Tesla, GM and others sell imports or electrified versions of models made by Chinese partners, but the market is dominated by low-cost local rivals including BYD Auto.

China's government sees electric cars as a promising industry and a way to clean up its smog-choked cities. Government subsidies have built China into the biggest market for electrics, but Beijing is shifting the burden to automakers with sales quotas and tougher fuel efficiency standards.

The Sylphy Zero Emission, based on Nissan's Leaf, is being produced by Nissan Motor Co. and a Chinese partner, Dongfeng Motor group.

The Sylphy costs 166,000 yuan (USD25,850) after government subsidies, or just over half the sticker price of the Chinese version of the Leaf sold by Nissan and Dongfeng's joint venture Venucia brand. Nissan says the Sylphy can go



338 kilometers (210 miles) on a charge.

"We're confident that the Sylphy Zero Emission rolling off the production line today will become a main player in the EV market," said Nissan CEO Hiroto Saikawa. "We're going to roll out a range of EVs that will appeal to customers within all market segments."

Sales quotas that take effect next year require every brand to sell electrics or buy credits from competitors that do. That puts pressure on automakers to create affordable models Chinese consumers want.

China accounted for half of global electric car sales last year, but almost all were Chinese models that start as low as 140,000 yuan (\$22,000). BYD Auto, the biggest global brand by number sold, said its first-half 2018 sales doubled from a year earlier to 71,000.

"Basically, all these international giants are testing the

water. They have not really launched their heavyweight models in China yet," said industry analyst Yale Zhang of Automotive Foresight.

"By the end of this year, things will be different," Zhang said. "We really will see the market become more competitive and consumers will have more to choose."

Sales of pure-electric and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles in the first half of 2018 rose 111.5 percent over a year earlier to 412,000. Total electric sales last year were 770,000.

Government plans call for total annual sales of 2 million electric and gasoline-electric hybrid vehicles by 2020.

Despite official support, electrics still are a fraction of Chinese passenger vehicle sales, which totaled 11.8 million in the first half of 2019, up 4.6 percent from a year earlier.

Nissan and Dongfeng announced plans in February to

develop 20 electric models as part of a \$10 billion, five-year investment program. They said that would include three models this year and three "affordable EV" compacts in 2019.

GM says it will roll out 10 electric and hybrid models in China from 2016 to 2020. It says by 2025, all its Buick, Cadillac and Chevrolet models in China will offer hybrid or pure-electric versions.

Tesla says China is its second-largest market. But a high sticker price has limited sales by other foreign brands to a few hundred vehicles.

Beijing announced in April it would end restrictions on foreign ownership of electric vehicle manufacturers this year in an effort to promote development.

Producers had been reluctant to transfer manufacturing to China due to the requirement to share technology with Chinese partners that might become rivals.

Freed of that requirement, Tesla Inc. announced in July it would build its first factory outside the United States in Shanghai, becoming the first wholly foreign-owned automaker in China.

Other automakers are working through ventures with Chinese partners, hoping to take advantage of their experience in developing lower-cost vehicles. **AP**

BELT & ROAD

Beijing defends 'New Silk Road' against debt complaints

CHINESE officials yesterday defended Beijing's initiative to build a "New Silk Road" of railways and other infrastructure across Asia against complaints it leaves host countries with too much debt after Malaysia canceled two high-profile projects.

The officials said President Xi Jinping's signature foreign policy initiative is creating assets that are needed by developing countries but might take time to pay off.

The deputy chairman of the Cabinet planning agency, Ning Jizhe, rejected what he said were foreign news reports that blamed the initiative for debt problems.

"People's livelihoods and economic development have been boosted," Ning said at a news conference. "No 'debt trap' has been created."

Other governments welcomed Xi's initiative in 2013 in a region the Asian Development Bank says needs more than USD26 trillion of infrastructure investment by 2030 to keep economies growing.

The initiative, called "One Belt, One Road" in Chinese and the "Belt and Road Initiative" in English, is a business venture, not aid. Chinese officials say financing is on commercial terms. Beijing wants to attract non-Chinese investors but that has happened only on a few of the hundreds of railway, power plant, highway and other projects.

Some governments including the United States, Japan and India worry Beijing is trying to build a China-centered structure that will erode their influence.

Some Chinese-led projects have run into complaints that they are too costly and give too little work to local contractors. Some governments including Thailand, Tanzania, Sri Lanka and Nepal have scrapped, scaled back or renegotiated projects.

This month, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad canceled projects including a \$20 billion railway he said his country cannot afford. Last December, Sri Lanka sold control of its port of Hambantota to a Chinese state-owned company after falling behind in repaying \$1.5 billion in loans from Beijing.

Chinese authorities choose projects "very carefully" and examine host country finances to make sure they can repay loans, said a deputy commerce minister, Qian Keming. However, he said they would welcome the participation of developed countries and international organizations to improve transparency and guarantee "high quality" projects.

"These physical facilities will play a long-term role," said Qian. "But we don't necessarily see a return in the short run."

"Belt and Road" is a loosely defined umbrella for Chinese-built or financed projects across 65 countries from the South Pacific through Asia to Africa and Europe. **AP**

TIBET

Wang Yang calls for 'anti-separatism efforts' in Tibet

A top Chinese leader has called for "advancing anti-separatism efforts" in Tibet, in a sign of continued high-pressure tactics in the Himalayan region.

Wang Yang, the ruling Communist Party's No. 4 ranking official, was quoted yesterday in state media as stressing the importance of tight control over Tibet's Buddhist institutions, urging "preparedness and precautions for danger in times of safety."

Religious figures must "be courageous to battle all separatist elements" in the name of preserving national unity and social stability, Wang

was quoted as saying in Tibet's regional capital of Lhasa during a visit there on Sunday.

Beijing's forces occupied Tibet shortly after the 1949 communist revolution and security there has been ratcheted up significantly in the decade since anti-government protests spread through Tibetan areas in 2008.

The tactics in Tibet are largely aimed at reducing the influence of the region's spiritual leader, the Dalai Lama, who lives in exile in India. China claims Tibet has been part of its territory for more than seven centuries and re-

gards the Dalai Lama as a dangerous separatist.

Many Tibetans insist they were essentially independent for much of that time.

Wang has broad responsibility for religious policy as head of the government's top political advisory body. In his comments Sunday, he also echoed Beijing's calls for the sinicization of religion, shorthand for adherence to the dictates of the officially atheist party.

Among recent tightening security measures in Tibet, students were required to sign agreements to "not take part in any form of religious



Wang Yang, a member of the Standing Committee of the Political Bureau of the Communist Party of China (CPC) Central Committee and chairman of the National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC), visits the Tibet Buddhist Theological Institute

activity" during the summer school holidays.

Young Tibetan monks have also reportedly been forced to leave one of the biggest monasteries in a Tibetan region of western China as part of a drive to replace monastic life with

secular education.

Recent months have also seen sweeping crackdowns on traditional Muslim culture among the Uighur ethnic minority group in the northwestern region of Xinjiang and among Christians in eastern China. **AP**



MYANMAR

UN team: Military chiefs should face 'genocide' case

Jamey Keaten, Geneva

INVESTIGATORS working for the U.N.'s top human rights body said yesterday that Myanmar military leaders should be prosecuted for genocide against Rohingya Muslims, taking the unusual step of identifying six by name among those behind deadly, systematic crimes against the ethnic minority.

The call, accompanying a first report by the team of investigators, amounts to some of the strongest language yet from U.N. officials who have denounced alleged human rights violations in Myanmar since a bloody crackdown began last August.

The three-member "fact-finding mission" and their team, working under a mandate from the U.N.-backed Human Rights Council, meticulously assembled hundreds of accounts from expatriate Rohingya, as well as satellite footage and other information to assemble the report.

"The military's contempt for human life, dignity and freedom — for international law in general — should be a cause of concern for the entire population of Myanmar, and to the international community as a

whole," said fact-finding mission chair Marzuki Darusman, a former Indonesian attorney-general, at a news conference.

The council created the mission in March last year — nearly six months before a string of deadly rebel attacks on security and police posts set off a crackdown that drove Rohingya to flee into neighboring Bangladesh. The U.N. estimates that more than 700,000 have fled.

The team compiled accounts of crimes including gang rape, the torching of hundreds of villages, enslavement, and killings of children — some before their eyes of their own parents. The team was not granted access to Myanmar and has decried a lack of cooperation or even response from the government, which received an early copy of the report.

The team cited a "conservative" estimate from aid group Reporters Without Borders that some 10,000 people were killed in the violence, but outside investigators have had no access to the affected regions — making a precise accounting elusive, if not impossible.

Above all, the investigators said the situation in Myanmar should be referred to the In-

ternational Criminal Court, and if not, to a special tribunal. Last week, Myanmar's government rejected any cooperation with the ICC, to which it is not a party. China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power over whether the issue will be brought before the ICC, has been reticent about condemning Myanmar's government during the crisis.

U.N. leaders, foreign government officials, and human rights watchers have for months cited evidence of genocide in Myanmar, and the United States late last year said that "ethnic cleansing" was occur-

■ **The team compiled accounts of crimes including gang rape, the torching of villages, enslavement, and killings of children**

ring in Myanmar. But few experts have studied the issue as in-depth, and in such an official way, as the fact-finding mission with a mandate from the 46-nation council.

The United Nations does not apply the word "genocide" lightly. The team's assessment suggests the crimes against the Rohingya could meet the strict legal definition, used to highlight and condemn state-supported abuses in places like Bosnia, Rwanda and Sudan's Darfur region.

Human rights watchers say that determining "genocidal intent" is perhaps the most difficult criteria to meet: In essence, it's the task of assessing the mindsets of perpetrators to determine if ethnicity, race, religion or another attribute had motivated them.

"The crimes in Rakhine state, and the manner in which they were perpetrated, are similar in nature, gravity and scope to those that have allowed genocidal intent to be established in other contexts," the report said, alluding to a region of Myanmar that is home for many Rohingya.

Adding into their assessment: The extreme brutality of the crimes; "hate rhetoric" and specific speech by perpe-

trators and military commanders; policies of exclusion against Rohingya people; an "oppressive context;" and the "level of organization indicating a plan for destruction."

The investigators cited six Myanmar military leaders as "priority subjects" for possible prosecution, including Commander-in-Chief Min Aung Hlaing. A longer list of names is to be kept in the office of the U.N. human rights chief for possible use in future judicial proceedings. The United States and European Union have already slapped sanctions on some Myanmar military leaders, though Min Aung Hlaing is not among them.

"The main perpetrator, the people that we want the spotlight on, is the Tatmadaw," said mission member Radhika Coomaraswamy, a Sri Lankan former U.N. undersecretary-general, referring to Myanmar's military.

Christopher Sidoti, an Australian human rights expert, acknowledged that no "smoking gun" linked the six military leaders directly to orders to carry out genocide, but pointed to inferences of their role based on a strict chain of command in Myanmar.

They called for the creation of a special body, or "mechanism," to keep watch on the still-evolving human rights situation in Myanmar. They said the United Nations' own role in the country since 2011 should be reviewed to see if the world body did all it could to prevent such a crisis.

They also faulted Aung San Suu Kyi for not using her role as head of Myanmar's government, nor her "moral authority" — she is a Nobel peace prize laureate — to stop the events in embattled Rakhine state.

Forum-Asia, an advocacy group, called the report "significant" and said the United Nations needed to heed its call.

"If the U.N. fails to adequately address these findings it will be a monumental failure for the world body, which has already been criticized for not doing enough," said R. Iniyan Ilango, UN advocacy program manager for the group.

Praise also came from the ground in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh, where refugee camps have taken in hundreds of thousands of Rohingya from across the border.

"We are happy for this. If these army people are punished the world will take note of it. They are killers. They must be punished," said Mohammed Hasan, 46, who lives in the Kutupalong refugee camp.

"They killed thousands, we have seen that. They torched our homes, that's a fact, they raped our women, that's not false," he said. **AP**

Janie Har, San Francisco

Race-based school criteria roils Asian-Americans - again

TIME and again, Chinese-American students consistently delivered top academic scores, only to be denied admission to their dream school. Parents bemoaned what they saw as an unfair racial advantage given to black and Latino children while their own children were overlooked.

“Every year hundreds of Chinese-American parents would be in anguish,” said Lee Cheng, a 46-year-old intellectual property attorney, who sought to end the practice. “I remember the disappointment in some of my friends who were the kids of immigrants, of very, very poor people who worked in Chinatown.”

This may sound like the fights going on today over testing in elite public schools in New York City or lawsuits against prestigious universities such as Harvard over affirmative action.

But the scenario played out more than three decades ago on the other side of the country over a public high school, demonstrating the enduring nature of a controversy in which Asian-Americans have played a key role despite some feeling shut out of the broader conversation.

In the 1980s, San Francisco's prestigious Lowell High School



required Chinese applicants to score higher on an admissions index than whites, blacks and even other Asians as part of a legal mandate to diversify its schools.

Cheng, a Lowell graduate, couldn't believe that was fair or even legal. But when he turned to Asian-American civil rights groups, they were of no help.

“These organizations, which all came of age largely as the ‘yellow’

affiliates of the NAACP and civil rights establishment, they said, ‘Hey there's nothing to see here,’ Cheng said.

So he helped form a legal foundation and sued.

Race-based affirmative action has long polarized Asian-Americans, with critics feeling demonized and advocates chagrined by the attention to what they call minority-within-minority views.

Now, critics of the policy sense an opening for change, led by a White House hostile to the idea of considering race in admissions.

The U.S. Department of Justice is backing a 2014 lawsuit against Harvard University by Asian-American applicants, who say the Ivy League college unlawfully suppresses the number of Asians admitted. The DOJ also said last year it would investigate a May

2015 complaint filed against Harvard by a coalition of Asian-American groups.

The 2014 lawsuit, led by conservative strategist Ed Blum, is being closely watched as it goes to trial in October. It could wind up before a more conservative U.S. Supreme Court that only narrowly affirmed the use of race in school admissions in a case that Blum lost two years ago.

Other cases have raised the ire of Asian-Americans, even ones who consider themselves progressive allies. In 2009, the University of California plowed ahead with new admissions criteria that analysts said would boost white enrollment at the cost of Asian students.

More recently, New York City Mayor Bill de Blasio vowed to get more blacks and Latinos into specialized public high schools where Asians make up the bulk of students. Asian-American politicians said they were blindsided by the June announcement. AP

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US Neil Simon, Broadway's master of comedy, dies at 91

Mark Kennedy, New York

PLAYWRIGHT Neil Simon, a master of comedy whose laugh-filled hits such as "The Odd Couple," "Barefoot in the Park" and his "Brighton Beach" trilogy dominated Broadway for decades, has died. He was 91.

Simon died Yesterday [Macau time] of complications from pneumonia at New York Presbyterian Hospital in Manhattan, said Bill Evans, a longtime friend and spokesman for Shubert Organization theaters.

In the second half of the 20th century, Simon was the American theater's most successful and prolific playwright, often chronicling middle class issues and fears. Starting with "Come Blow Your Horn" in 1961 and continuing into the next century, he rarely stopped working on a new play or musical. His list of credits is staggering.

The theater world quickly mourned his death, including Tony Award-winning actor and playwright Harvey Fierstein, who tweeted that Simon "could write a joke that would make you laugh, define the character, the situation, and even the world's problems."

Matthew Broderick, who in 1983 made his Broadway debut in Simon's "Brighton Beach Memoirs" and his movie debut in Simon's "Max Dugan Returns," added: "I owe him a career. The theater has lost a brilliantly funny, unthinkably wonderful writer. And even after all this time, I feel I have lost a mentor, a father figure, a deep influence in my life and work."

For seven months in 1967, he had four productions running at the same time on Broadway: "Barefoot in the Park," "The Odd Couple," "Sweet Charity," and "The Star-Spangled Girl."

Even before he launched his theater career, he made history as one of the famed stable of writers for comedian Sid Caesar that also included Woody Allen, Mel Brooks and Carl Reiner.

Simon was the recipient of four Tony Awards, the Pulitzer Prize, the Kennedy Center honors (1995), four Writers Guild of America Awards and an American Comedy Awards Lifetime Achievement honor. In 1983, he had a Broadway theater named after him when the Alvin was rechristened the Neil Simon Theatre.

In 2006, he won the Mark Twain Prize for American Humor, which honors work that draws from the American experience. The previous year had seen a popular revival of "The Odd Couple," reuniting Nathan



In this Nov. 23, 1981, file photo playwright Neil Simon (left) and actor James Coco pose for a photo in New York during the New York announcement of a Broadway bound musical comedy, "Little Me"

Lane and Matthew Broderick after their enormous success in "The Producers" several years earlier.

In a 1997 interview with The Washington Post, Simon reflected on his success: "I know that I have reached the pinnacle of rewards. There's no more money anyone can pay me that I need. There are no awards that can give me that I haven't won. I have no reason to write another play except that I am alive and I like to do it," he said.

Simon had a rare stumble in the fall of 2009, when a Broadway revival of his "Brighton Beach Memoirs" closed abruptly after only nine performances because of poor ticket sales. It was to have run in repertory with Simon's "Broadway Bound," which was also canceled.

The bespectacled, mild-looking Simon (described in a New York Times magazine profile as looking like an accountant or librarian who dressed "just this side of drab") was a relentless writer — and rewriter.

"I am most alive and most fulfilled sitting alone in a room, hoping that those words forming on the paper in the Smith-Corona will be the first perfect play ever written in a single draft," Simon wrote in the introduction to one of the many anthologies of his plays.

He was a meticulous joke smith, peppering his plays, especially the early ones, with comic one-liners and humorous situations that critics said sometimes

came at the expense of character and believability. No matter. For much of his career, audiences embraced his work, which often focused on middle-class, urban life, many of the plots drawn from his own personal experience.

"I don't write social and political plays because I've always thought the family was the microcosm of what goes on in the world," he told The Paris Review in 1992.

■ In the second half of the 20th century, Simon was the American theater's most successful and prolific playwright

Simon received his first Tony Award in 1965 as best author — a category now discontinued — for "The Odd Couple," although the comedy lost the best-play prize to Frank D. Gilroy's "The Subject Was Roses." He won a best-play Tony 20 years later for "Biloxi Blues." In 1991, "Lost in Yonkers" received both the Tony and the Pulitzer Prize. And there was a special achievement Tony, too, in 1975.

Simon's own life figured most prominently in what became

known as his "Brighton Beach" trilogy — "Brighton Beach Memoirs," "Biloxi Blues" and "Broadway Bound" — which many consider his finest works. In them, Simon's alter ego, Eugene Morris Jerome, makes his way from childhood to the U.S. Army to finally, on the verge of adulthood, a budding career as a writer.

Simon was born Marvin Neil Simon in New York and was raised in the Bronx and Washington Heights. He was a Depression-era child, his father, Irving, a garment-industry salesman. He was raised mostly by his strong-willed mother, Mamie, and mentored by his older brother, Danny, who nicknamed his younger sibling, Doc.

Simon attended New York University and the University of Colorado. After serving in the military in 1945 and 1946, he began writing with his brother for radio in 1948, and then for television, a period in their lives chronicled in Simon's 1993 play, "Laughter on the 23rd Floor."

The brothers wrote for such classic 1950s television series as "Your Show of Shows," 90 minutes of live, original comedy starring Caesar and Imogene Coca, and later for "The Phil Silvers Show," in which the popular comedian portrayed the conniving Army Sgt. Ernie Bilko.

Yet Simon grew dissatisfied with television writing and the network restrictions that accompanied it. Out of his frustration came "Come Blow Your

Horn," which starred Hal March and Warren Berlinger as two brothers (not unlike Danny and Neil Simon) trying to figure out what to do with their lives. The comedy ran for more than a year on Broadway. An audience member is said to have died on opening night.

But it was his second play, "Barefoot in the Park," that really put Simon on the map. Critically well-received, the 1963 comedy, directed by Mike Nichols, concerned the tribulations of a pair of newlyweds played by Elizabeth Ashley and Robert Redford, who lived on the top floor of a New York brownstone.

Simon cemented that success two years later with "The Odd Couple," a comedy about bickering roommates: Oscar, a gruff, slovenly sportswriter, and Felix, a neat, fussy photographer. Walter Matthau, as Oscar, and Art Carney, as Felix, starred on Broadway, with Matthau and Jack Lemmon playing the roles in a successful movie version. Jack Klugman and Tony Randall appeared in the TV series, which ran on ABC from 1970-1975. A female stage version was done on Broadway in 1985 with Rita Moreno as Olive (Oscar) and Sally Struthers as Florence (Felix). It was revived again as a TV series from 2015-17, starring Matthew Perry.

The play remains one of Simon's most durable and popular works. Nathan Lane as Oscar and Matthew Broderick as Felix starred in a revival that was one of the biggest hits of the 2005-2006 Broadway season.

Besides "Sweet Charity" (1966), which starred Gwen Verdon as a goodhearted dance-hall hostess, and "Promises, Promises" (1968), based on Billy Wilder's film "The Apartment," Simon wrote the books for several other musicals.

"Little Me" (1962), adapted from Patrick Dennis' best-selling spoof of show-biz autobiographies, featured a hardworking Sid Caesar in seven different roles. "They're Playing Our Song" (1979), which had music by Marvin Hamlisch and lyrics by Carole Bayer Sager, ran for more than two years. But a musical version of Simon's movie "The Goodbye Girl," starring Martin Short and Bernadette Peters, had only a short run in 1993.

Many of his plays were turned into films as well. Besides "The Odd Couple," he wrote the screenplays for movie versions of "Barefoot in the Park," "The Sunshine Boys," "The Prisoner of Second Avenue" and more.

Simon also wrote original screenplays, the best known being "The Goodbye Girl," starring Richard Dreyfuss as a struggling actor, and "The Heartbreak Kid," which featured Charles Grodin as a recently married man, lusting to drop his new wife for a blonde goddess played by Cybill Shepherd. **AP**

PRESIDENT Donald Trump said he intends to terminate the North American Free Trade Agreement and call its replacement “the United States-Mexico Trade Agreement” — a name that would exclude the third NAFTA partner, Canada.

Trump made the comments after announcing an “understanding” with Mexico that could lead to an overhaul of the 24-year-old trade pact, which Trump has called a job-killing “disaster.”

Details of the U.S.-Mexico agreement were expected to be unveiled today [Macau time].

The president says he will be calling Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau. Trump says, “If they’d like to negotiate fairly, we’ll do that.” He also threatened to tax Canadian auto imports to increase the pressure on Canada’s government.

Trump says: “We could have a separate deal [with Canada] or we could put it into this deal.”

U.S. Trade Rep. Robert Lighthizer and Mexican Secretary of Economy Idelfonso Guajardo walked together into the White House without talking to reporters. The delegation also included Jesus Seade, a World Trade Organization veteran tapped by Mexican President-elect Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador as his future chief trade negotiator.

“A big deal looking good with Mexico!” Trump tweeted yesterday.

THE END OF NAFTA?

US and Mexico near deal that would set path for treaty revamp

day. Earlier, Guajardo told reporters, “There is one very important issue to finish.”

U.S. and Mexican negotiators worked over the weekend to narrow their differences.

“There likely will be a deal today,” said Daniel Ujcz, a trade attorney with Dickinson Wright PLLC who has followed the NAFTA talks closely.

Once they reach an agreement, the third country in NAFTA — Canada — would be brought back in to finalize a revamp of the 24-year-old pact. But the countries still must resolve difficult issues, including U.S. complaints about Canada’s protection for its dairy farmers and the way disputes are resolved under NAFTA.

Adam Austen, a spokesman for Canadian Foreign Minister Chrystia Freeland, said: “Canada is encouraged by the continued optimism shown by our negotiating partners. Progress between Mexico and the United States is a necessary requirement for any renewed NAFTA agreement.”

Austen said the Canadians had

AP PHOTO



been regular contact with the NAFTA negotiators.

“We will only sign a new NAFTA that is good for Canada and good for the middle class,” he said, adding that “Canada’s signature is required.”

NAFTA reduced most trade barriers between the three coun-

tries. But Trump and other critics say it encouraged U.S. manufacturers to move south of the border to exploit low-wage Mexican labor.

Talks to overhaul the agreement began a year ago and have proven contentious. The Trump administration wants a higher percentage

of auto production to come from within the NAFTA bloc before qualifying for duty-free status.

Talks have also been stymied by the Trump administration’s insistence on a “sunset clause” that would end NAFTA in five years unless all three countries agreed to continue it. **AP**

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what's ON



SCULPTURE – A JOURNEY, EXHIBITION BY ANTONIO LEÇA

TIME: 3pm-8pm (Mondays)
12pm-8pm (Tuesdays to Sundays)

UNTIL: October 21, 2018

VENUE: A2 Gallery, Albergue SCM

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2550

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

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

UNTIL: August 30, 2018

VENUE: Kun Iam Ecumenical Centre

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2875 1516

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

Offbeat

BURNING MAN ORGANIZERS STRESS THE IMPORTANCE OF CONSENT



The #MeToo movement is making its way to Burning Man. Organizers are reminding attendees that just because the counter-culture festival in the Nevada desert is known for occasional nudity and kinky landmarks like the "Orgy Dome," it doesn't mean it's a free-for-all when it comes to touching or nonconsensual sex, the Reno Gazette Journal reported. This year's event started this weekend.

While the festival doesn't have official guidelines, it does have a set of informal rules.

Tex Allen, a 13-year Burner, doubts many newcomers to the playa are reading those.

The festival's on-site Sexual Assault Services department receives five and 20 reports of alleged sexual assault each year, said Burning Man spokesman Jim Graham.

Many of those reports involve leering or grabbing, which aren't considered sexual assault under Nevada law. A few reports each year require involvement from law enforcement.

Last year, two people were arrested on suspicion of sexual assault without substantial bodily harm.

No arrests related to sexual assault or rape were made the year before.

Despite the low arrests, Donna Rae Watson, director of the Bureau of Erotic Discourse, a large camp at Burning Man that teaches people about sex, still hears stories of harassment at the festival from dozens of people each year.

"Scandalous costumes and nudity might be considered inviting. [Others] automatically think consent is implied, but implied consent doesn't exist," she said.

The organization is doing more to educate participants about consent, what it means and what it applies to.

Watson said her group was founded in 2005 after a woman was sexually assaulted at the festival the previous year.

The camp, which is not a part of the Burning Man organization, tapes posters inside port-a-potties that define consent.

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
18:40	Miscellaneous
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	Documentary
21:45	Portuguese Handmade
22:20	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Miscellaneous
00:45	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

23 AUG - 29 AUG



HOTEL TRANSYLVANIA 3: A MONSTER VACATION

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30pm

Director: Genndy Tartakovsky

Starring: Adam Sandler, Andy Samberg, Selena Gomez

Language: Cantonese (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 & English)

THOMAS & FRIENDS

BIG WORLD! BIG ADVENTURES! THE MOVIE

ROOM 1

9:15pm

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 SPY WHO DUMPED ME

ROOM 2

2:30, 7:15, 9:30pm

Director: Susanna Fogel

Starring: Mila Kunis, Kate McKinnon, Justin Theroux

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 117min

L STORM

ROOM 3

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

Director: David Lam

Starring: Louis Koo, Julian Cheung, Kevin Cheng

Language: Cantonese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 90min

THE DARKEST MINDS

ROOM 3

7:30pm

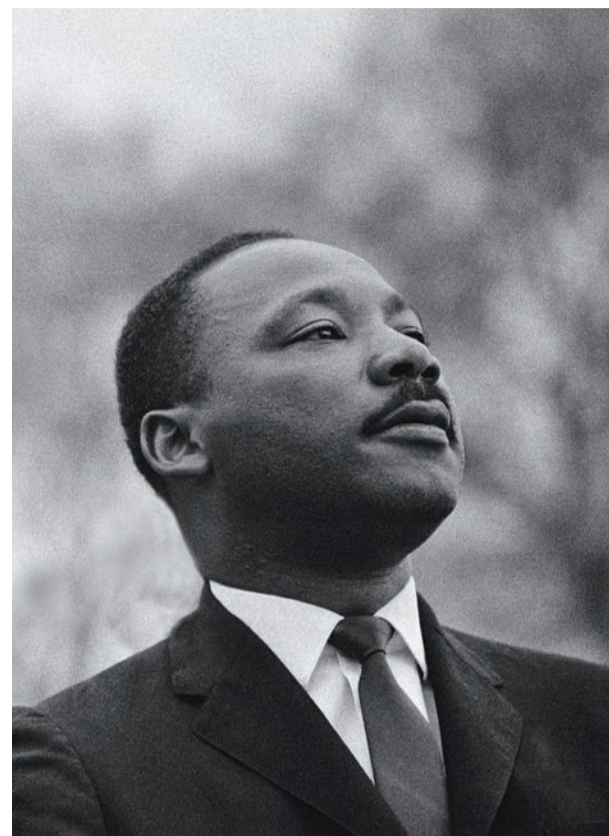
Director: Jennifer Yuh Nelson

Starring: Amandla Stenberg, Mandy Moore, Harris Dickinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 104min

this day in history



1963 KING'S DREAM FOR RACIAL HARMONY

The fight for racial equality in the United States moved a step closer to victory today as Martin Luther King spoke of his dream for freedom in an address to thousands of Americans.

Reverend King was greeted with rapturous applause as he delivered his heart-felt words to a 250,000-strong crowd of civil rights protesters at the Lincoln Memorial in Washington DC.

He spoke of the need "to rise from the dark and desolate valley of segregation to the sunlit path of racial justice".

He promised that the struggle for equality would continue until "justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream".

Rev King, who has worked tirelessly for an end to racial discrimination through non-violent means, spoke repeatedly of his dream for equality.

"I have a dream," he said. "I have a dream that my four little children will one day live in a nation where they will not be judged by the colour of their skin but by the content of their character.

"I have a dream today.

"I have a dream that one day every valley shall be engulfed, every hill shall be exalted and every mountain shall be made low, the rough places will be made plains and the crooked places will be made straight and the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and all flesh shall see it together."

Dr King, who is president of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) first came to prominence in 1955 when he led a 382-day bus boycott in an attempt to end segregation on city buses.

Since then he has endured numerous arrests, violent harassment and a bomb attack on his home.

But his struggle continues and it is believed today's speech will have a lasting impact on all who heard it.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Rev Martin Luther King spearheaded the campaign against segregation and racial discrimination in the United States.

But his crusade was cut dramatically short, when he was assassinated on 4 April 1968 in the southern US city of Memphis, Tennessee, aged 39.

He was shot in the neck by a rifle bullet as he stood on a balcony from where he was to lead a march of sanitation workers protesting against low wages and poor working conditions.

James Earl Ray was convicted of his murder and sentenced to 99 years in prison.

But he later retracted his confession and said he had been only a minor player in a conspiracy.

However, his appeals for a new trial were rejected and he died in prison in 1998.

YOUR STARS

Aries
Mar. 21-Apr. 19
Your impatience has been growing lately, and today you might feel as if your life is moving at a frustratingly glacial pace. But this change of rhythm is a very good thing.

Taurus
April 20-May 20
If someone doubts one of your choices, stand up for yourself today - remind them that each person has their own journey in life, and you'd rather make your own mistakes than follow someone else's path.

Gemini
May 21-Jun. 21
When you were a little kid, struggling to pedal your bicycle up to the top of a big hill wasn't ever that much fun - but coasting your way down the other side at a breakneck speed was positively thrilling.

Cancer
Jun. 22-Jul. 22
Old, familiar places will take on a new, special significance, and you will find something you thought you had lost. Search the world with an open mind today, and every surprise you find will be a happy one.

Leo
Jul. 23-Aug. 22
Absolutely no one is standing in your way right now, so you are running out of excuses to do what you really want to do. As a matter of fact, you have quite an impressive crowd cheering you on.

Virgo
Aug. 23-Sept. 22
In theory, you can move an entire desert if you consistently move a few grains of sand. This type of thinking will serve you well today when you decide to finally tackle that big goal.

Libra
Sep.23-Oct. 22
What are your plans for the day? If you don't have an answer for that question, you need to get to work! Find out what's up with friends - and then find out how you can get involved.

Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 21
Is there something you have been noticing about yourself that you want to improve? It is admirable to want to rid yourself of bad habits, and best of all - it is always an attainable goal.

Sagittarius
Nov. 22-Dec. 21
After a spurt of doing, you will need a spell of thinking in order to fully appreciate the changes you are going through. So after a busy morning, try to take a long leisurely lunch.

Capricorn
Dec. 22-Jan. 19
If there is a person in your life you are getting a bit sick of... or someone who seems to be outstaying their welcome, today is the day to (gently and diplomatically) tell them your feelings.

Aquarius
Jan. 20-Feb. 18
There is nothing quite as powerful as confident energy... and today you will be bursting at the seams with it. The insight you have right now will put you on a solid foundation in a challenging discussion.

Pisces
Feb.19-Mar. 20
When you are asked to give your opinion today, be very thoughtful about how you reply. The person who asked you what you thought might not really want to hear the truth...

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy Easy+ Medium Hard

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WEATHER

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
CHINA			
Beijing	26	33	thundershower/cloudy
Harbin	23	29	moderate rain
Tianjin	28	36	cloudy
Urumqi	18	28	clear
Xi'an	28	40	clear
Lhasa	12	21	moderate rain/drizzle
Chengdu	25	34	shower/clear
Chongqing	30	40	clear
Kunming	18	26	cloudy
Nanjing	26	35	clear
Shanghai	27	34	cloudy
Wuhan	28	37	clear
Hangzhou	27	36	clear/cloudy
Taipei	26	33	cloudy/overcast
Guangzhou	27	34	cloudy
Hong Kong	28	32	shower/cloudy
WORLD			
Moscow	19	24	drizzle/moderate rain
Frankfurt	17	28	cloudy
Paris	18	27	overcast/drizzle
London	13	22	cloudy/drizzle
New York	19	28	clear

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Stumble; 4- Actor Burton; 9- Yoga posture; 14- Minuscule; 15- Angry; 16- Cut at an angle; 17- Bambi's aunt; 18- Claw; 19- Skirt style; 20- Agent; 23- "___ Tu": 1974 hit; 24- Hog; 25- Frenzied woman; 28- Seemingly forever; 30- Nabokov novel; 33- Map feature; 34- Shipping deduction; 35- Latin love; 36- In spite of; 39- March time; 40- Son of Zeus in Greek mythology; 41- Jack Sprat could ___ fat; 42- Parisian possessive; 43- Life stories; 44- Filthy; 45- Journey segment; 46- Shrivelled, without moisture; 47- Distinguishing feature; 54- Position; 55- Attacked; 56- Bandage brand; 57- Swindler, slangily; 58- Valuable violin; 59- Vespa rider, perhaps; 60- Emo anxiety; 61- Musical sounds; 62- Vane dir.;

DOWN: 1- Decorative pitcher; 2- Russo of "The Thomas Crown Affair"; 3- Gather, harvest; 4- Clerisy; 5- Rubbed out; 6- Valleys; 7- Like ___ of bricks; 8- 1996 Tony-winning musical; 9- Barbed-wire barricade; 10- Baseball commissioner Bud; 11- Tel ___; 12- Hawaii's state bird; 13- Bar order; 21- Continues a subscription; 22- Sleep disorder; 25- Brit's half-note; 26- Battery pole; 27- Adlai's running mate; 28- Alleviates; 29- Scraps; 30- Somewhat; 31- Italian lady; 32- Vacuum tube filler; 34- Comin' ___ the Rye; 35- Sayings; 37- Coniferous evergreen forest; 38- Inflammation of a nerve; 43- Deprived; 44- Add fizz; 45- Shoe ties; 46- Four-door; 47- Scottish social unit; 48- Suspend; 49- FDR's fireside ___; 50- -shanter (Scottish cap); 51- Domesticated; 52- Screen image; 53- Sign away; 54- Links org.;

Yesterday's solution

E	R	R	L	E	V	A	R	A	S	A	N	A		
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Esports into Asian Games; Could the Olympics be next?

ESPORTS is debuting as an exhibition sport at the Asian Games and is targeted for full inclusion in four years at the games in Hangzhou, China.

Kenneth Fok, president of the Asian Electronic Sports Federation, said the long-term aim is getting esports into the Olympics.

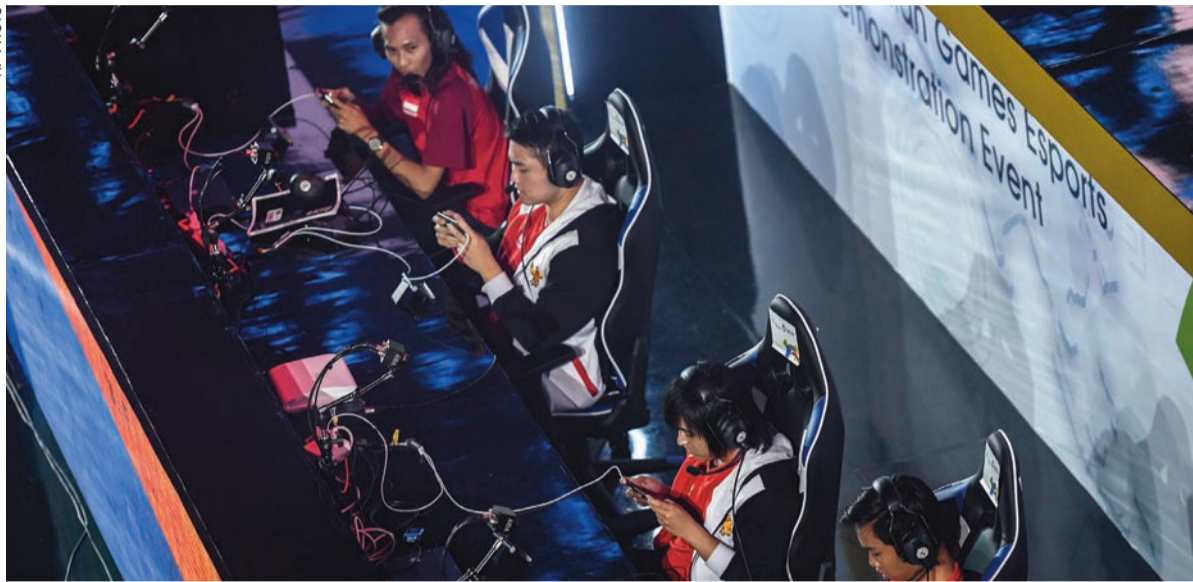
This seems a possibility, given that the International Olympic Committee held a forum on esports just last month at its headquarters in Lausanne, Switzerland.

“Our agenda is to push for the Olympic agenda,” Fok said at the opening of esports at the Asian Games. “This is our work. And this is our passion, this is what drives us. When? I don’t know. When, I do not want to predict.”

Fok described the inclusion of esports as an exhibition in the Asian Games as “a very good first step” and said the goal is to “take down obstacles, step by step.”

Fok has strong Olympic connections. His father, Timothy, was an IOC member from Hong

AP PHOTO



Kong from 2001 until 2016 and he remains an honorary member.

Gamers don’t argue they are athletes, but say they share the same drive to compete. But this could also be said about bridge players — a game also being contested at the Asian Games — or chess, or competitive dancing.

But these pastimes can’t generate much income — not like

esports.

“I think esports shares the same spirit with traditional sports,” said Wang Tianlong of China, speaking through a translator, after taking gold in Arena of Valor. “No matter if we are esports players or athletes, we all fight to win for our country.”

Khien Vuong Trung, a bronze medalist from Vietnam in Arena of Valor, said he met initial

skepticism.

“At the beginning, my parents didn’t want me to be a professional esports athlete,” he said. “But it is growing in my country. And my parents also saw my love for it. So they began to be supportive.”

In addition to Arena of Valor, five other games are being played: Clash Royale, League of Legends, StarCraft II, Hearthstone, and PES 2018.

Eighteen countries are competing led by South Korea, where the gaming craze took off first. Also included are: Indonesia, Laos, Uzbekistan, Malaysia, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Kazakhstan, Vietnam, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Japan, Thailand, India, Kyrgyzstan, Sri Lanka, and Iran.

IOC President Thomas Bach, speaking last month at an IOC-sponsored forum, said there is a growing connection between the Olympics and esports. He stopped short of saying when — of even if — esports might make the Olympics. But he was enthusiastic about the dialogue.

“We feel the same passion for your activity as you feel the passion for our activity,” Bach told professional gamer Jake Lyon. Bach said at the forum that the Olympics and esports shared at least two values — “passion and excellence.”

Bach promised to explore ways the two communities can work together.

“On this solid ground we can build a partnership,” he said.

Esports offers a natural appeal for the IOC, which is looking for a younger audience and revenue. The IOC has already included skateboarding, surfing and sports climbing into the schedule for the 2020 Tokyo Olympics, hoping to draw the younger fan base. **MDT/AP**

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Stephen Wade, Jakarta

AT 16, Jessa Khan has already won a stack of gold medals at state, regional and international competitions. But these are nothing to match her gold medal in jiu-jitsu at the Asian Games.

She won for Cambodia, thrilling for a young woman who was born in Texas, lives in southern California and was competing for the birthplace of her father.

"I won a lot of gold medals before, but this one was very special," she said in an interview Sunday with the Associated Press.

Khan said she visited Cambodia for the first time just two weeks ago, intrigued by the chance to compete for her adopted nation in jiu-jitsu, which is on the Asian Games sports program for the first time.

"It means a lot since it's the first time they are having jiu-jitsu, so I'm glad I was able to win it for Cambodia and — make history," she said.

It's surely special for her father Peter, who escaped Cambodia during the mass killings of the Pol Pot regime. He was born in the Phnom Penh. Khan said her mother, April, has Latin American roots.

"My dad talks about Cambodia a lot and how beautiful it is," Khan said. "He was fortunate."

Khan is one of six children with three sisters and two brothers. Her Facebook page says she took up jiu-jitsu at age 12 and shows her decked out with a vast array of her medals.

AP PHOTO



ASIAN GAMES

Gold for Cambodia by Californian born in Texas

The most recent photo shows a gold medal dangling around her neck in Jakarta with the red and blue Cambodian flag draped over her shoulders.

Khan lives Newport Beach, California, and said she is being homeschooled "because I travel and compete a lot."

Partly thanks to her, Cambodia is on a roll.

"Thank you to all my new followers and to the Cambodian people!" she said on Facebook.

Vath Chomreun, secretary general of the national Olympic committee, told AP the govern-

■ Khan said she visited Cambodia for the first time just two weeks ago

ment pays \$20,000 to gold-medal winners. He said the prime minister also distributes something extra to medal winners.

"We are happy and proud for what we have done at the Asian Games," he said.

Cambodia, with a population of about 15.5 million, won its first-ever gold medal at the Asian Games four years ago in Incheon, South Korea. This time in Indonesia it has two

gold medals in the first week — Khan's in jiu-jitsu, and another in jet ski by On Moeut Saly. Saly also won a bronze in jet ski.

The Asian Games end Sept. 2. Khan said she doesn't speak the Cambodian language, only a few "food words." She suggested her victory might help promote jiu-jitsu, which she believes should be in the Olympics.

"I hope the sport keeps on growing and that now people know Cambodia," she said. **AP**

China's Su Bingtian wins 100 meters in Asian Games record

John Pye, Jakarta

SU Bingtian gave world junior champion Lalu Muhammad Zohri a taste of what it's like to race against the fastest men on the continent.

The Asian record holder from China was the hot favorite for the Asian Games gold medal in the 100 meters, but the crowd in Jakarta was there to support their 18-year-old local hope from the earthquake-ravaged island of Lombok.

Su took command early and controlled the race with 40 meters to go, finishing in a games record 9.92 seconds — one-hundredth outside his continental mark.

"I don't mind about the time, it was about getting the win," Su said. "I knew

if I got a good start, no one [here] can beat me."

He didn't get a great start, but had the experience to keep his cool.

"I felt a lot of more pressure here," he said. "I don't think I'll feel that much at the world championships."

Tosin Ogunode, younger brother of 2014 champion Femi Ogunode, got silver for Qatar in a photo finish from Japan's Olympic relay silver medalist Ryota Yamagata after they both finished in 10.00.

Su and Zohri progressed steadily into Sunday night's final, posting matching times in their opening heats, and progressing comfortably into the final through the semis.

That's where the similarities ended. Zohri, who won the 100 at the world

juniors in Finland in July to become an instant star in Indonesia ahead of the games, was slow out of the blocks and never made it up before placing seventh.

Still, his 10.20 was a personal best and an important learning experience.

In a surprising women's 100 final, Nigeria-born Bahrain sprinter Edidiong Odiong dipped late to finish in 11.30 and edge India's Dutee Chand (11.32) and 2014 champion Wei Yongli of China (11.33) in a photo finish.

World championship silver medalist Salwa Naser won the women's 400 in 50.09, improving the meet record she set in the heats. Her win was at the expense of another junior world champion. India's Hima Das, who won the world junior title in Fin-

land in July, collected silver in 50.79.

China picked up other titles with Olympic silver medalist and world champion Gong Lijiao defending her Asian Games shot put title with a best mark of 19.66 meters and Wang Jianan, a bronze medalist at the 2015 world championships, setting a games record 8.24 meters in the long jump.

Sudan-born world championship bronze medalist Abdalelah Hassan won the men's 400 for Qatar in 44.89 seconds from Muhammed Anas Yahya of India.

World champion Rose Chelimo won the women's marathon for Bahrain in 2 hours, 34 minutes and 51 seconds, and Hassan Chani led Abraham Cheroben in a 1-2 finish

AP PHOTO



Su Bingtian

for Bahrain in the men's 10,000, finishing in 28 minutes, 35.54 seconds. Lakshmanan Govindan finished third but was later disqualified for stepping onto the infield during the race and the bronze went to Zhao Changhong of China.

The chants of "Indonesia, Indo-ne-sia" grew louder when local hope Emilia Nova finished second to South Korea's Jung Hye-lim in the women's 100-meter hurdles.

The cheering intensified for the local hope after Japan's Keisuke Ushiro

completed his win in the decathlon and the women's 100 finished.

Zohri got left behind at the start of the final and didn't have the strength of the older athletes to make it up, but notched it up to experience as he looks forward to the world championships next season and the 2020 Tokyo Olympics.

"I was not disappointed," he said. "I was happy to be running here in front of the home fans and I learned from Su Bingtian — He has very good technique."

opinion

Macau Matters

Richard Whitfield



ANOTHER EFFECT OF RISING ATMOSPHERIC CO2

To me, the modern world is largely a product of the Enlightenment – the European intellectual movement that emerged in the late 17th and 18th centuries and that emphasizes reason, progress and individualism rather than tradition. During this period humanity made great strides in defining the scientific method and technological progress, ethical behaviors and democratic social structures. We see the ongoing fruits of these ideas all around us today in the huge improvements in the quality of life that ever more people have enjoyed in the last few centuries.

These dramatic improvements in human living conditions have not come without significant costs, and rising atmospheric CO2 levels is one existential concern. The resulting global warming is here for all to see, and in my view only the most ignorant Luddites imaginable can deny it – people with no understanding of the ideas of the enlightenment. It is simply a scientific fact that atmospheric CO2 levels have risen by 44% since the early 1800s and the only plausible explanation is that this change results from human actions; the burning of fossil fuels and so on.

I recently learned that this atmospheric change is actually doing more than raising global temperatures and thus affecting the ice caps, sea levels and weather patterns. Plants use photosynthesis, whereby water drawn up through their root systems combines with CO2 drawn in from the atmosphere, to create the carbohydrates needed to increase their body mass, with oxygen given off as a waste product. Plant stomata (pores) open to facilitate this reaction – the open pores draw up water from the roots where it transpires to the atmosphere. The open pores also let in CO2 for photosynthesis to occur.

It has been scientifically proven that higher concentrations of CO2 in the air allow photosynthesis to progress faster so that plants grow faster and transpire less water. This can increase plant growth by 20%-60%. Unfortunately, the resulting plants are poor in nutrients (Iron, Phosphorus, other minerals and, especially, Nitrogen) because these are drawn from the soil and into plant tissues by the transpiring water and in the presence of excess CO2 plants transpire about 20% less water.

From our perspective, the biggest problem is Nitrogen deficiencies in plants. All herbivorous and omnivorous animals (including people) need to eat plants containing Nitrogen to be able to convert the carbohydrates they are made up of into amino acids, which are the major constituent of animal body tissues. To counter the reduced water transpiration by plants in CO2 rich environments you need to raise soil Nitrogen levels, which can be done by adding fertilizers or by planting (and eating) more legumes. Legumes, which are particular kinds of plants, exist symbiotically with bacteria called Rhizobia in their root systems which have the ability to absorb atmospheric Nitrogen and allow it to be easily taken up by the plant during transpiration. Therefore, legumes are especially rich in Nitrogen even at low water transpiration rates and so are exceptionally good animal feedstock.

So, rising atmospheric CO2 levels creates many more problems than just warming the atmosphere. The natural world has had billions of years to develop incredibly complex and interdependent systems (unless you are a creationist who believes the world was created 4,000 odd years ago by some super-being without leaving any supporting scientific evidence). These systems are often finely balanced and small changes can lead to dramatic shifts in equilibrium. Our world will continue to exist until the Sun eventually explodes or shrivels up from a lack of Hydrogen, but if we mess too much with the current equilibrium state, it will dramatically shift to another equilibrium state that does not support Homo Sapiens – this has happened many times in the past, just think asteroids and dinosaurs.

THE FRANCE'S MACRON CALLS FOR WORLD TRADE DISCUSSION IN PARIS

French President Emmanuel Macron has called for trade discussions to be held between the U.S., Europe, China and Japan in November in Paris.

In a speech to French ambassadors yesterday, Macron said world trade rules aren't currently working but "unilateralism and trade war is the worst response."

He proposed to organize a meeting on the issue on the margins of World War One com-

memorations on Nov. 11 in Paris, since he has invited dozens of world leaders to the event including U.S. President Donald Trump, who said he would come.

"I think we can build a fairer and more efficient system. I think we should not give in to one's hegemony and everyone's division", Macron said in a reference to Trump's trade policies to impose tariffs on countries like China.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	40-60 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS

IRAN went to the United Nations' highest court yesterday in a bid to have U.S. sanctions lifted following President Donald Trump's decision earlier this year to re-impose them, calling the move "naked economic aggression."



UGANDA To chants of "People power! Our power!" Ugandan pop star turned government critic Bobi Wine was freed on bail yesterday, ending days of incarceration during which he and some of his co-accused allege they were tortured by security forces.

RUSSIA-TURKEY Relations between Turkey and Russia are cozy, prompting worries in the West of a potentially critical rift in the NATO alliance.



GERMANY Authorities in the eastern German city of Chemnitz were braced for rival protests yesterday amid tensions over the killing of a German man for which an Iraqi and a Syrian have been arrested on charges of manslaughter.

SPAIN Dutch police say a man suspected of involvement in the slaying 20 years ago of an 11-year-old boy has been detained in Spain following an appeal to the public for help tracking him down.



COLOMBIA An anti-corruption referendum in Colombia drew millions to the polls but fell just short of a required participation threshold to push forward measures aimed at improving transparency and stiffening penalties for white-collar criminals.

US-MEXICO U.S. and Mexican negotiators are preparing to announce a deal that will set the stage for an overhaul of the North American Free Trade Agreement. More on p15

Detroit saying farewell in royal fashion to Queen of Soul



Jeff Karoub, Detroit

ARETHA Franklin had admirers the world over, but there's no doubt the flame burned brightest in Detroit – the place she was raised and remained for most of her life.

It's difficult to separate the singer from the city, so you better think that her town is saying farewell in royal fashion to its Queen of Soul, with a concert, public viewings and a funeral that's expected to be attended by at least one former president, civil rights leaders and many other musical luminaries.

Here are some of the events and ways in which Detroit is paying respect to Franklin, who died Aug. 16 of pancreatic cancer at the age of 76:

RESPECT

Public viewings are planned Tuesday and Wednesday at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History, which is also where civil rights icon Rosa Parks lay in repose after her 2005 death.

Thousands of mourners are expected to come to the museum, which had been the largest black museum in the United States until the National Museum of African American History and Culture opened in Washington, D.C., in 2016.

AMAZING GRACE

The Friday funeral at Detroit's Greater Grace Temple is billed as an event for

friends and family only.

The all-star lineup of performers includes Stevie Wonder, Faith Hill, Jennifer Hudson, Fantasia and Shirley Caesar. Also slated to perform are Ron Isley, Chaka Khan, Yolanda Adams, Jennifer Holliday and Franklin's son, Edward Franklin.

The service will reflect Franklin's strong gospel roots. Among the gospel voices expected to fill Greater Grace include Marvin Sapp, the Clark Sisters and Vanessa Bell Armstrong.

VIPs aren't expected to be limited to the musical kind: Scheduled to speak at the service is former President Bill Clinton, whose inaugurations featured performances by Franklin. Others include the Revs. Jesse Jackson and Al Sharpton, Bishop T. D. Jakes, Cicely Tyson, former U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder, Clive Davis and Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder.

Smokey Robinson also plans to pay tribute with words, not music. The Motown "Miracle" and Franklin grew up together and delivered a spine-tingling duet on Soul Train in 1979.

The Rev. Jasper Williams Jr., pastor of Atlanta's Salem Baptist Church, will deliver the eulogy.

It's expected to be a marathon service, perhaps lasting five hours or more.

The church also hosted Parks' funeral, at which Franklin sang.

FREEWAY OF LOVE

Greater Grace Temple is calling on people with pink Cadillacs to line up before the funeral in an effort to create a "Freeway of Love" in tribute to Franklin. That's a nod to her funky '80s tune of the same name that prominently featured the car in the lyrics and video.

Those who line the route get a special perk: The driver of the Caddy and one extra person will be admitted to the funeral.

I SAY A LITTLE PRAYER

After the funeral, Franklin will be entombed at Woodlawn Cemetery in Detroit, along with her father, Rev. C.L. Franklin; brother Cecil Franklin; sisters Carolyn Franklin and Erma Franklin; and nephew, Thomas Garrett. Woodlawn also is the final resting place for Parks and many of the Motor City's musical elite, including members of the Four Tops.

ROCK STEADY

The night before the funeral, a riverfront amphitheater will rock and roll with musical tributes to Franklin.

Chene Park will host the genre-spanning Thursday evening concert, which is scheduled to feature Gladys Knight, Johnny Gill, Dee Dee Bridgewater, Angie Stone, Keith Washington and many others. The free tickets were all claimed shortly after going on sale Monday morning. AP