



**WILLKOMMEN, BIENVENUE, WELCOME TO CABARET!**  
Interview with Abraham Kostanian, the artistic director of La Parisienne variety show at The Parisian Macao

P4 MDT INTERVIEW



**CTM SUPPORTS COMMUNICATION INTERCEPTION LAW**  
Vandy Poon said he supports the new communication interception law on the sidelines of an event where CTM announced 5G by 2020

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**OPEN SECRET: CRYPTO'S MULTIBILLION DOLLAR VOLUME IS SUSPECT**

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A LETTER TO GAMING REGULATOR ET AL.

# US engineer's union looms over Macau again

P3 EXCLUSIVE

## WORLD BRIEFS



**VIETNAM** Thousands of people lined the streets of Hanoi on Thursday to pay their last respects to Vietnam's late President Tran Dai Quang. Many were using smart phones to catch glimpses of his flag-draped coffin as it passed by on a truck-drawn artillery carriage. Quang died last week at age 61 with what a government doctor said was a rare viral illness. *More on p13*

**INDONESIA** A critically endangered Sumatran tiger pregnant with two cubs was found dead in the Indonesian province of Riau after being caught in a pig trap, authorities said yesterday, in the latest setback to a species whose numbers are estimated to have dwindled to about 400.

**JAPAN** A senior Japanese whaling negotiator said yesterday that Tokyo will continue to push for a resumption of commercial whaling despite the recent defeat of its proposal by the International Whaling Commission.

More on backpage



## Donizetti opens FIMM 2018

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## Tourists to be texted about human flow during Golden Week



During the upcoming Chinese National Day holiday, the Macau government will be carrying out a new method to remind tourists about crowds across the city. The Public Security Police will first inform the Macao Government Tourism Office (MGTO) regarding human flows in the main tourism attractions. MGTO will send an SMS to tourists who are located in heavily crowded areas, therefore reminding them to temporarily avoid going to these areas. MGTO will also enhance inspections during the holidays across all border gates and tourist attractions, and will combat illegal accommodation.

## Ip Sio Ka expects occurrence of interest rate hike cycle

The Chairman of the Macau Association of Banks, Ip Sio Kai, expects that Macau will soon step into an interest rate hike cycle. According to a report by Cheng Pou, the bank industry expects that the U.S. is likely to increase interest rates, which in turn will create an opportunity for Hong Kong to also increase interest rates, eventually causing Macau to do the same. Ip, who is also a lawmaker, has warned the public to be mentally prepared for the possible interest rate hike cycle. He expects that the interest rate hike cycle, once it starts, will not end within a short period of time. In Ip's opinion, increased interest rates will only pose a limited influence over Macau, but potential continuously increasing interest rates might influence many different aspects.

## Guangdong combats cheap SARs package tours

Guangdong province's tourism authority reported that, this year, until September 24, the department received 40 reports involving unscrupulous travel agencies and tour guides and shops. According to Guangdong's tourism authority, most cases involving gangs and negative incidents were related to cheap Hong Kong and Macau group tours. In Zhuhai alone, 35 people have been arrested for alleged involvement in these scams, with all seven related shops in Zhuhai being closed. Four big shops in Foshan were closed as well. In total, 21 shops were closed in Guangdong province due to package tour scams. Recently, the province received 40 reports involving unscrupulous tour guides and travel agencies, eight concerning illegal shopping spots, two involving civil servants, and 17 related to unruly behaviors in tourism attractions.

## BIG BROTHER

# Information Bureau stirs controversy after calling Chui 'On Gor'

**T**HE Government Information Bureau (GCS) has triggered a public discussion due to the new way it addressed Chief Executive Chui Sai On in one of its Facebook posts.

On September 19, the GCS released a statement on its official Facebook page, expressing Chui's thanks to all Macau residents and Macau's civil servants.

"On Gor [meaning 'older brother'], on behalf of the MSAR, is issuing an open thank you letter to all Macau residents and all civil servants," the statement's lead reads.

Below the lead, three paragraphs referred to Chui as On Gor, instead of the typical formal language such as Chief Executive.

Until press time, the post received 383 likes, 94 comments and was shared 113 times.

The main discussion among the public targeted the proficiency of the bureau, along with some jokes about the meaning of the term On Gor, in particular, Gor [older brother].



In Chinese, when addressing non-biologically related people with the term Gor, it generally means that that person is in a higher position and should be respected and followed more than others.

This week, director of GCS

Chan Chi Ping responded to the controversy by saying that the bureau uses different expressions on different information platforms, and that such practice is intended to make it easier for the various audiences to receive

information.

Chan also believes that only a small number (less than 10) of users had different opinions on the term On Gor. He also noted that this was not the first time GCS used the term. **JZ**

## Sands donates nine service vehicles to NGOs

**S**ANDS China Ltd. donated nine new service vehicles to four non-governmental organisations in the region yesterday, as part of its relief aid following the aftermath of last year's typhoon Hato.

Caritas Macau, Macau Special Olympics, the Association of Parents of the People with Intellectual Disabilities of Macau, and the General Union of Neighbourhood Associations of Macau (UGAMM) were the four beneficiaries.

The donation of the nine new vehicles totals a



tax exemption of MOP4 million, and includes buses, 7-seater vans and other vehicles, with some being

modified for reduced mobility users.

Beneficiaries of the services provided by these vehi-

cles include the elderly, and the physically or mentally disabled.

Six of the nine vehicles are ready for immediate service, while the remaining three will be ready at a later date.

"Sands China is pleased to be able to offer long-term support to the community as it continues to recover from typhoon Hato," said Dr. Wilfred Wong, president of Sands China Ltd.

"The delivery of these new service vehicles is the culmination of our efforts to keep the operations and services of these local NGOs running smoothly, after having provided ongoing transportation assistance after the storm," he added. **LV**

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EDITOR-IN-CHIEF (DIRECTOR) Paulo Coutinho paulocoutinho@macaudailytimes.com  
MANAGING EDITOR Paulo Barbosa paulo.barbosa@macaudailytimes.com  
CONTRIBUTING EDITORS Eric Sautedé, Leanda Lee, Severo Portela

NEWSROOM AND CONTRIBUTORS Albano Martins, Annabel Jackson, Daniel Beitler, Emilie Tran, Ivo Carneiro de Sousa, Jacky I.F. Cheong, Jenny Lao-Phillips, João Palla Martins, Joseph Cheung, Julie Zhu, Juliet Risdon, Lynzy Valles, Renato Marques, Richard Whitfield, Viviana Segui  
DESIGNERS Eva Bucho, Miguel Bandeira | ASSOCIATE CONTRIBUTORS JML Property, MdME Lawyers, PokerStars, Ruan Du Toit Bester | NEWS AGENCIES Associated Press, Bloomberg, Financial Times, MacauHub, MacauNews, Xinhua | SECRETARY Yang Dongxiao arry@macaudailytimes.com

A MACAU TIMES PUBLICATIONS LTD PUBLICATION

ADMINISTRATOR AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Kowie Geldenhuys kowie@macaudailytimes.com

SECRETARY Juliana Cheang juliana@macaudailytimes.com

ADDRESS Av. da Praia Grande, 599, Edif. Comercial Rodrigues, 12 Floor C, MACAU SAR Telephone: +853 287 160 81/2 Fax: +853 287 160 84

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EXCLUSIVE

# US-based union requests DICJ to tender reports on IGT Asia

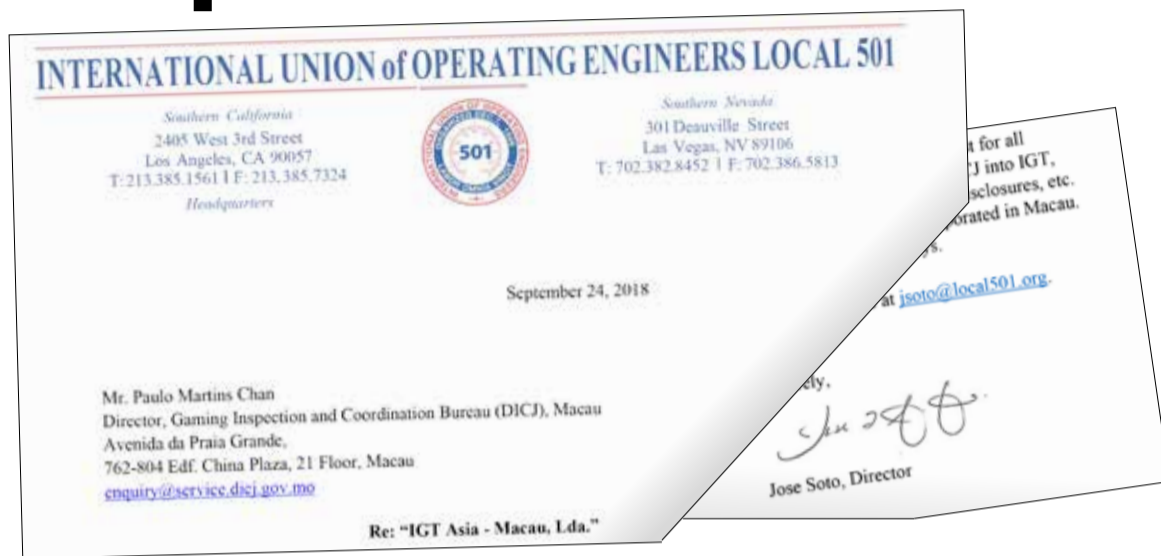
Lynzy Valles

**T**HE International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 501 has requested that the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) submit documentation related to regulatory oversight conducted by the bureau into International Game Technology (IGT) Asia – Macau, following reports of malpractice by its Illinois branch.

IGT provides gaming equipment, including slot machines, to casino operators in the city since 2005. Thus, the firm falls under the regulatory supervision of DICJ.

In a letter to DICJ director, Paulo Martins Chan, director of the union Jose Soto, noted that its ongoing research review of IGT's global gaming operations has found litigation cases including malpractice and "erroneous jackpots."

Chief Executive Chui Sai On, and current and former lawmakers,



were copied in the letter dated September 24.

"Our review has identified numerous litigation cases involving IGT, including a proposed "class action" lawsuit filed by customers against IGT in the U.S. state of Illinois," Soto noted in the letter to which Macau Daily Times had access.

"As well as a lawsuit, IGT itself filed against an insurance agent

in U.S. federal court wherein IGT details a series of "erroneous jackpots" totaling hundreds of millions of U.S. dollars."

IUOE Local 501 represents over 2,000 maintenance engineers and slot machine technicians in Las Vegas, Nevada.

A tribunal investigation in the U.S. previously found that Northstar Lottery Group, co-formed by IGT, who manages the Illinois

Lottery, cheated players and lottery vendors by misrepresenting the odds of winning scratch-off games.

Illinois Lottery was reported to collect hundreds of millions of dollars from selling tickets to instant games in which it did not hand out all of the grand prizes.

Since then, the firm has been criticized for failing to deliver the profits to the state which it had

projected when it won the Illinois bid.

Presently, the Illinois State Lottery Lawsuit is seeking "class-action status," compensating players who were affected by Northstar's fraudulent lottery scheme.

IGT is also facing a lawsuit against Illinois National Insurance Co. for an alleged breach of contract.

Thus, as part of the continuing contract negotiations between workers represented by Local 501 and IGT, Soto is requesting DICJ to submit documents related to the activities of IGT in the region.

"As part of our ongoing research efforts, we are submitting to you a records request for all publicly-available documentation related to all regulatory oversight conducted by the DICJ into IGT, including but not limited to suitability reviews, investigations, annual reports, standard disclosures," Soto stated.

"We ask that said request for documentation date back to May 2005 – when IGT incorporated in Macau. We ask that you contact us and/or produce said information within 10 business days," the letter concluded.

The Times contacted DICJ yet no reply was given by press time, while contacts provided by IGT Asia – Macau online could not be reached.

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**Q&A** ABRAHAM KOSTANIAN  
ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

# Cabaret show creator says theatre is vital to fledgling entertainment sector

Daniel Beitler

**A**BRAM Kostanian is the artistic director behind La Parisienne Cabaret Français, a variety show at Sands China's Parisian Macao, which this month entered its third phase after two prior extensions.

The entertaining and fast-paced show, which began its residency at the Cotai hotel in March, combines elements of dance, figure skating, graphic mapping, acrobatics, motor stunts and – of course – cabaret. The production is the 64th in the prolific Kostanian's portfolio.

Kostanian, who retains strong links to his Armenian heritage despite never living there, was born in Syria and has worked worldwide for about 35 years. Today he is based in Berlin but has been staging productions in East Asia since the 1990s, starting initially in Singapore and Malaysia before extending his reach to Japan, Korea and China.

Following the show's two extensions, gaming operator Sands China recently acquired the show and will be responsible for marketing it to Chinese audiences. This is exciting news for Kostanian, who wants La Parisienne Cabaret Français to become a permanent feature of the integrated resort, and views the production as integral to developing the local entertainment industry. He sat down with the Times this week to share his history of the production and where he sees it going.

**MDT – Why did you decide to work on this variety show and how does a producer like yourself manage to juggle the different genres involved?**

**AK** - I have been involved in this business for about 35 years, 25 of which I have spent in East Asia. So, I know this market very well. I know that whenever I invite artists to work with me, they will follow my direction but bring in their expertise. I love to hear everyone's ideas, but in the end, I do my own thing. It's my vision.

In my previous productions, we have staged many types of shows. Some of them, for example, are pure acrobatics or pure magic, or ice skating, or dance or a musical. For this show, I tried to bring in all the most attractive aspects from all my other shows to create a variety of shows. But we are continually developing this show. In every extension, we introduce new elements and

DANIEL BEITLER



changes. The times change, and we need to keep up with those changes - but the concept stays the same; it is a variety show and a family show.

**For [La Parisienne], I tried to bring in all the most attractive aspects from all my other shows**

**MDT – You say that your Armenian identity has been a large part of your life. Has this impacted your career in any way?**

**AK** - Yes, I see part of my job as a way to develop and support Armenian culture abroad. The Armenians have a very rich culture and history, going back almost 4,000 years. But today, Armenia doesn't have a lot of [commodities] to sell. We are surrounded by hostile countries without a link to the sea. What we have is a service industry and our culture. And a lot of Armenians are very famous in the cultural world, for example the composer Aram Khachaturian and the pop artist Cher Sarkisian [commonly known as just Cher].

But we are a small country. There is a joke [among the over-

seas Armenians] that when we show people on the map where Armenia is, people remark that it is small. We say, 'well, this is just our office.'

**MDT – How do you adapt the show for Chinese audiences? Is there a language barrier for the performers, most of whom are not Chinese speakers?**

**AK** - My consultants advised that the Chinese audience will like a very action-oriented production. If you give them a show, you cannot give them a chance to look at their watch or their smartphone. If you see anyone looking at his phone or watch – that means you failed.

Sometimes we lose a bit of the real art in order to make the show more appealing [mainstream]. There is a compromise. Because, if the gate of the culture is too high for the audience, then you've failed. You need to educate an audience step-by-step. In the short period we have been holding shows [at the Parisian Macao], we have seen the audience grow.

As for the language, we try to adapt to wherever we perform and use a bit of the local language.

Our audience are mostly from mainland China, but some are from Hong Kong. There is a challenging moment when deciding when to use Mandarin or Cantonese... we don't know who the audience is exactly, so we try to use a bit of both. But mostly Mandarin.

**will this partnership develop in the show's latest extension?**

**AK** - The marketing part and the financial part of the show have been purchased by Sands China. I retain the artistic part, but they own the production. This is the normal way [a show operates] and it is a better way, because they are also invested in the show's success.

As an artistic director and producer, I see that the audience, once they are inside the theatre, are very happy. But I need people to handle the other side of that – people who can bring the audience to the theatre. A company like Sands China has all the resources to support us in marketing the show.

My aim is to make this show a permanent show in the Parisian Theatre. The show's run, which is until February, will enable everyone to assess if this [collaboration] works.

**MDT – Having worked extensively in Macau for around six months, what is your take on development of the local entertainment scene?**

**AK** - Some people in Macau are very interested to change the view of Macau, as it has an image of being a pure gambling industry. That's the policy of the Chinese government and the Macau government. They want to change this from being a gambling industry to a family-friendly tourist industry. Part of that is culture, entertainment and theatre.

But the international show industry in Macau is still at a very low level. We need to have many theatres operating in Macau in order to develop this industry. You cannot just have a few shows; the industry will never grow like that. But this is not a secret. I don't know why the hotel-casinos have many theatres in this city but very few shows. It's like all of their doors are shut. I think one day the Macau government will ask them why they have theatres without shows and will encourage them to bring permanent shows to Macau.

In this [climate], you need pioneers to be the first before it can become a tradition. So, we take the challenge – be the first - and we are pleased that it is starting to take effect. [...] To be the first is always very challenging, but one day people here might remember that it was an Armenian who really got things started. [laughing]

**MDT – Cabaret is not exactly known for being 'family-friendly', and yet this is how the show is marketed. How do you reconcile this?**

**AK** - In the beginning, the management was hesitant to take the risk [with such a show], but cabaret is part of the Parisian culture and society. You cannot imagine a hotel Parisian without a cabaret show or the can-can. [...] It's part of their culture and life, so it makes sense to bring the show to this hotel.

In Paris, there is a different view of what makes a cabaret show. If you look at our show, you cannot say that is a cabaret show – this is a family variety show with elements of cabaret. That's a completely different direction.

If you visit France and go to Moulin Rouge [...] that is part of the Parisian nightlife culture. But I am against the idea of bringing that culture to countries where they are fighting for family shows. That is not suitable for family shows. This is why if you watch my show, we take a very soft, elegant and age-appropriate approach to the cabaret [element]. I think we have struck the balance right.

It's about bringing cabaret as a cultural [icon] to Macau and leaving the more vulgar parts behind.

**MDT – Sands China has decided to purchase the show and become more involved in marketing it to Chinese audiences. How**



# High-Spirited Fundraising Extravaganza – Galaxy Got Talent 2018

**F**ROM dances to musical performances to magic shows, a variety of team member talents were on display Thursday on the Broadway Theatre stage for the Grand Final of the Galaxy Got Talent competition. The evening was a spirited team-building event for the employees of Galaxy Entertainment Group (GEG), as well as a successful outreach and fundraiser to benefit Caritas Macau, with several of the organization's elderly service receivers staging an elaborately choreographed dance in advance of the showdown between the 10 performing groups in the Grand Final.

GEG organized the first Galaxy Got Talent competition in 2009. The event was welcomed with great enthusiasm, becoming a highly anticipated annual item on the GEG calendar, as well as a meaningful fundraiser for a worthy charitable cause. With increasing interest year by year, the event was moved from the small venue of its humble beginnings to Broadway Theatre, where this year's Grand Final drew an audience of over 2,000 people.

On this, the 10th installment of Galaxy Got Talent, special emphasis was placed on the importance of community outreach and team member peer support. "We have long encouraged team members to

practise work-life balance. Galaxy Got Talent is not only a platform for them to display talents, but also a staff activity that aims to strengthen the bonds between team members. Over the past decade, many team members have attended the event with their families in support of their colleagues and charity. I appreciate their strong support and active involvement," said Ms. Eileen Lui, Group Director of Human Resources and Administration, GEG.

Over 800 GEG employees from diverse backgrounds participated in the Galaxy Got Talent competitions over the past decade, and

**Galaxy Got Talent is not only a platform for them to display talents, but also a staff activity that aims to strengthen the bonds between team members.**

- Ms. Eileen Lui, Group Director of Human Resources and Administration, GEG.

nearly 300 of them made it through to the final rounds. However, only the 10 best performances were admitted to Thursday's Grand Final round. Throughout the evening, cheers of delight echoed through the

theatre as the performers did their utmost to rouse the audience and charm the judges with routines striking chords of sentimentality, drama, comedy and whimsy.

Taking the top spot at Galaxy Got Talent 2018 was Mr. Leong Chan Hong, who works in the Transportation Department of Galaxy Macau™. Leong's Mongolian dance, which he performed in striking red and black traditional attire, evoked the sorrow and nostalgia of a tribute to loved ones lost.

Second place was taken by the high-energy performance of rapper-songwriter Mr. Tong Kin Hong of the Organization Development & Training Department at GEG's Corporate Office. Tong's lyrics exploring life as part of the GEG team brought him special recognition as the most creative performer of the night.

An elegant dance duet earned the third-place award. Ms. Wong Chong Hei, of the Public Relations Department at GEG's Corporate Office, and Ms. Ng Un Wa, of the Gaming & Loyalty Marketing Department at Galaxy Macau, blended classical ballet and modern dance in a stunning achievement of technique and synchronization.

Capping off the evening, a surprise comedic appearance by 26 GEG executives dressed as various famous singers, actors, characters, and entertainers put the audience in stitches. Seeking

to bond the entire GEG team in a shared experience of self-expression and creativity, the event was hailed as a resounding success.

Funds raised from ticket sales, together with a grant from GEG, were awarded to Caritas Macau to support their valuable community work. Mr. Robert Drake, Group Chief Financial Officer of GEG and Ms. Eileen Lui, Group Director of Human Resources and Adminis-

tration of GEG presented a cheque for MOP100,000 to Mr. Paul, Pun Chi Meng, Secretary General of Caritas Macau. "We are pleased to be more than a beneficiary of this year's Galaxy Got Talent, with our Sunshine Center service receivers enjoying the chance to participate on stage. I indeed appreciate GEG's great support for us all along," said Pun.



The Star of GGT – Gold: Leong Chan Hong



The Star of GGT – Silver: Tong Kin Hong



The Star of GGT – Bronze: Wong Chong Hei & Ng Un Wa



26 GEG executives surprised audience with a comedic appearance.

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XU YINGZHEN

# China and Portuguese-speaking countries should take advantage of Macau platform

CHINA and the Portuguese-speaking countries should take full advantage of the Macau platform, said the Secretary-General of the Permanent Secretariat of Forum Macau, who called for cooperation in the area of traditional Chinese medicine.

"I hope that the countries concerned will constantly strengthen medical technology, scientific studies, training of qualified staff and protection of legislation and strengthen cooperation in the field of traditional medicine," Xu Yingzhen said at the closing ceremony of a colloquium on the subject.

The "Colloquium on Traditional Medicine for Portuguese-Speaking Countries" was organised by the Forum Macau Training Centre in collaboration with the Development Company of the Chinese Traditional Medicine Scientific and Industrial Park for Cooperation between Guangdong and Macau.

The colloquium was held from



Macau Forum Secretary General Xu Yingzhen

September 13 to 26 in Macau, Hengqin and Guangzhou, with the participation of 23 officials and technicians from Angola, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, São Tome and

Principe and East Timor in their respective areas.

Thematic talks, visits and exchanges related to the role of Macau as a platform between China and the Portuguese-

speaking countries were held during the visit to Macau and the progress made in developing the traditional medicine industry in Macau was relayed to participants. **MDT/Macauhub**

## DSI, DSAJ cooperate to speed up BIR application process for newborns

THE Identification Services Bureau (DSI), in collaboration with the Legal Affairs Bureau (DSAJ), has launched a simplified procedure to facilitate citizens to apply for the Macau Identity Card (BIR) for newborns, DSI informed in a statement.

From yesterday, citizens are no longer required to show the Birth Registration Certificate issued by the Civil Registry Office to apply for newborns' Resident Identity Card. This procedure is replaced by presenting the Birth Record Card, as long as the necessary requirements are met.

The measure applies to all those who cumulatively meet the conditions of having been born in Macau; having one parent being a resident of Macau SAR and having declared their birth with the Macau SAR Identity Card; and the application being made within 90 days from the date of birth.

For others who do not meet the conditions stated, the previous procedure still applies. **RM**

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Julie Zhu

# CTM expects commercial use of 5G in 2020

**L**OCAL telecom operator CTM announced yesterday that if the 5G license and spectrum arrangements are progressing well, CTM is confident that 5G in Macau will be launched in 2020 commercially.

Vandy Poon, CEO of CTM, noted that the company is confident that 5G in Macau will synchronize with the neighboring regions and will be launched for commercial use in 2020 where it will introduce various 5G applications and services that suits Macau.

"I believe that 5G will be 100 times faster than 4G," said Poon, who also noted that "in

the future, cellphones will be able to use 4G and 5G simultaneously."

Following the introduction of the global 5G standard in June 2018, CTM proceeded with 5G network testing and actively engaged in close communications with the government on 5G licenses and spectrum arrangements in Macau.

The result has formed a useful basis of reference for the estimation of spectrum resources and cell sites deploy-

ment arrangements required for the construction of 5G in Macau.

"The whole plan [5G development] takes 13 months. If the license can be issued next year, it will provide us with basic conditions to develop 5G in Macau," said Declan Leong, vice president of Network Services of CTM.

"We recommend the government issue the license next year, so that we can launch the service in 2020. Otherwi-



Vandy Poon

## Poon supports communication interception law

**C**EO of CTM, Vandy Poon, is supportive of the city's new communication interception law.

"We think that legislating the security law is a good thing because it helps protect the society. I think, as we put it before, we trust that the government will legislate a balanced approach to protect the privacy and the freedom of communication, and at the same time to protect the territory from all sorts of cyber dangers," Poon said on the sideline of yesterday's press conference.

The law proposes that telecom operators should

keep the customers' records for one year.

"In the past, we have also kept our records. This is not a new thing for a business or for an operator to keep the records. [...] It is definitely longer than what we are currently doing. We will study it."

"This law, I personally believe, is consolidating some of the pieces, then making them more modernized and inclusive of the new elements of the society that were not previously in existence," said Poon. **JZ**

se, we will be slower than the neighboring regions," warned Leong.

According to Leong, the challenges of building 5G in Macau are mostly spectrum resources and cell sites deployment. The higher transmission rate and low latency of 5G networks indicates that higher spectrum segments are required. The number of 5G cell sites will be more than 4G.

As explained by Leong, due

to the objective conditions of Macau, it will be a great challenge to operators in the deployment of 5G cell sites.

Therefore, CTM has also made recommendations to the government on relevant issues, and hopes to present a better solution to the problem of 5G cell sites.

Huawei is also providing technology and human resources to support CTM in developing the 5G network.

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THE PARISIAN MACAO

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

How to read real estate news

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



SAM LEE

www.JMLProperty.com info@JMLProperty.com

Real estate news is often put in the spotlight in the press. It is a subject that is both emotionally charged and highly technical, and is often overly politicized. Because of this, it can be very confusing to consume real estate related news, especially when it comes from so many different sources. As property agents, we have to keep a close eye on property news, and sometimes we come across two articles that are direct contradictions of each other. We also spot biases, exaggerations and charlatan propaganda. The reader of will realize the irony given that it is also a real estate related article, but I would urge you to look beyond this irony and think about how we can all become more intelligent consumers of property news.

The minority is not the majority

One common mistake we easily make is to generalize

the actions or characteristics of a minority as that of the majority. We sometimes see general headlines such as "Macau Landlords Selling Off Their Properties", when in reality only certain landlords who have properties in a certain area within a certain price range just happened to be selling. This error usually arises from bad sampling or selective sampling which distorts reality and can lead one to false conclusions. Even if the majority of a small sample of sellers are selling their homes, it doesn't necessarily mean that the remaining sellers are.

Be wary of emotional language

Another point of caution for the intelligent consumer of media is to look out for emotional and bold claims and phrases. The use of emotive language is a very effective tool to catch your attention, and can sometimes lead you

to make irrational financial decisions. This can be very evident in any magazine or article on the stock market where you will find both scare mongering and charlatan propaganda. One smart and easy trick to counter this bias is by rephrasing the title's and headlines with simpler and more accurate descriptions and look out for dramatic words like 'crisis', 'surge' and 'plummet'.

Read broadly, even if it hurts your head

Lastly, always apply some skepticism. Don't rely on one source only but read from multiple sources. Have a devil's advocate mentality and try to read from the opinions of people who work in the field and put their reputation behind their content, instead of just casual commentators with no skin in the game. Be skeptical and question what you read, starting with this article.

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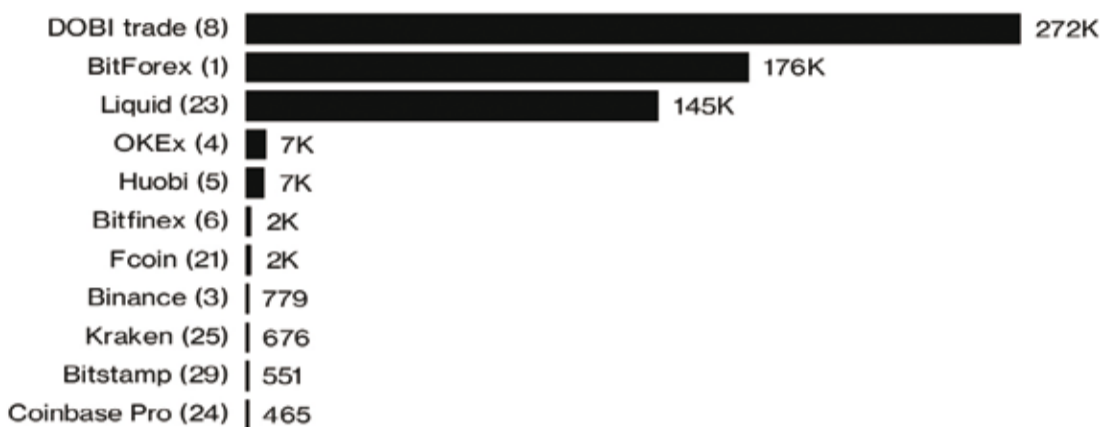


# Crypto's open secret: its multibillion-dollar volume is suspect

## Red Flag

Some exchanges report volumes that far exceed their web traffic.

■ Reported 30-day volume / Monthly website visits



Note: Numbers in ( ) indicate place in CoinMarketCap's 30-day volume ranking. Data as of Sept. 24 for selection within top 30 exchanges by volume.

Source: CoinMarketCap and Similar Web, using exchanges' websites listed on CoinMarketCap. Monthly visits is three-month average.

Bloomberg

**F**OUR months ago, BitForex was just one of many obscure exchanges offering users the ability to trade cryptocurrencies like Bitcoin.

Today, the Singapore-based platform is regularly reporting daily transactions that exceed USD5 billion - nearly matching turnover on London's 217-year-old stock exchange.

How did BitForex - and other startups like it - expand so quickly despite tumbling digital-asset prices and slowing activity on more established venues?

Many market participants say they suspect these fast-growing exchanges are either offering incentives that encourage users

to inflate volumes, or not doing enough to stop abuse on their platforms. One red flag at BitForex: Its reported volume is by far the biggest among 219 platforms tracked by CoinMarketCap.com, despite traffic on its website amounts to a tiny fraction of most peers.

For individual investors lured to exchanges with inflated volumes, the risk is that cashing out at prevailing market rates may prove much harder than the reported figures suggest. Doubts about the integrity of crypto markets have deterred some professional money managers from investing in virtual currencies and prompted regulators to take a closer look at exchanges, even as some

venues go to great lengths to avoid manipulation.

"Some exchanges will say 'everyone's doing it, so I'm doing it,'" said Neil Woodfine, a former crypto exchange executive who now runs Clavestone, a Bitcoin key management service. "New traders will get feedback very quickly from engaging with the market on trades not executing at the price they want."

Trading has surged on BitForex because of the exchange's so-called transaction mining system, Garrett Jin, vice president at BitForex, said in an emailed response to questions.

Transaction mining, also known as trade mining, is a controversial practice. On BitForex, users earn

the equivalent of \$1.20 in digital tokens issued by the exchange for every \$1 they pay in transaction fees. It's a system that critics say is tailor-made to encourage wash trading - in which a trader, or a team of traders, buy and sell the same asset repeatedly to inflate market activity.

If the coins distributed by BitForex retain their value, customers can effectively earn free money by using automated programs, known as "bots," to swap cryptocurrencies back and forth between accounts under their control. (Not all trade-mining exchanges offer rebates that exceed the value of trading fees paid by customers). **Bloomberg**



## AVIATION

# Congo Airline, China's Comac in talks to buy three aircraft

**S**OCIETE Nouvelle Air Congo, a state-owned carrier, is in talks with Commercial Aircraft Corp. of China Ltd. to buy three new aircraft as it prepares to begin offering regional flights, a director said.

The company, known as SN Air Congo, plans to acquire ARJ21s, Michael Gollo, head of quality, safety and security, said by phone yesterday in the Republic of Congo's capital, Brazzaville. The planes will add to its existing fleet of three Xi'an Aircraft Industry Group MA60s, he said.

SN Air Congo resumed domestic flights on Sept. 10, after halting flights earlier this year because of a lack of government funding. The new aircraft will be supplied to the carrier as part of an agreement reached between Congolese President Denis Sassou Nguesso and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping earlier this month, Gollo said, without providing details.

The airline plans to introduce flights to neighboring Cameroon, the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo as it increases its fleet, Gollo said, without providing a timeframe. It currently flies to 13 domestic destinations, including the port city of Pointe Noire.

Fidel Doumou, Congo's minister of transport and aviation, is in the Central African Republic to among other things discuss with the neighboring nation's authorities plans for SN Air Congo to start plying the Bangui route, maritime transport on the Congo and Oubangui rivers and using the Pointe Noire port, according to Gollo. **Bloomberg**

## corporate bits

### MGM HOLDS SEMINAR ON GREATER BAY OPPORTUNITIES



MGM held another seminar on national education titled "The Development of the Greater Bay Area and the Opportunities for Macau" on

Wednesday.

Dr. Guo Wanda, executive vice president of China Development Institute was invited as the keynote speaker

to speak on both opportunities and challenges of the Greater Bay Area plan for Macau.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, more than 300 MGM team members and teaching staff of local tertiary educational institutions attended the seminar.

MGM has been hosting a series of seminars on national education since 2016, with topics ranging from the economic development of mainland China and Macau, Belt and Road Initiative, to Chinese traditions and culture.

Teaching staff of three local tertiary educational institutions were also invited to attend the seminar.

### HOT POT STREET AT BROADWAY TO KICK OFF ON OCT. 1



Broadway Macau will turn Broadway Food Street into Hot Pot Street from October 1 to February 28, presenting 60 hot pot and clay pot selections.

In addition to classic hot pots such as "Braised Lamb Brisket Casserole" at Lei Ka Choi,

Broadway Macau also introduces 14 new hot pot and clay pot dishes at Chi Sasa Japanese Cuisine, at Katong Corner and at Fong Seng Lai Kei Restaurant.

Last year, more than 7,000 casseroles of "Braised Lamb

Brisket Casserole" at Lei Ka Choi were sold in six months, Broadway Macau notes in a statement.

Chi Sasa Japanese Cuisine will present a Japanese hot pot experience including its "Seafood and Wagyu Beef Hot Pot in Spicy Miso Fish Broth."

Meanwhile, Fong Seng Lai Kei is famous for its traditional Shunde dishes. Thus bringing "Assorted Seafood and Suckling Pig Hot Pot" to welcome the autumn and winter seasons.

Katong Corner's chefs, meanwhile, have hand-picked winter melon, ginseng, coconut and chicken, preparing "Chicken with Ginseng and Coconut Casserole."



## US-China military tensions start to rise as trade war deepens

David Tweed and Jason Koutsoukis

AS a trade war heats up between the U.S. and China, military tensions are also rising.

China on Tuesday refused a U.S. warship entry to Hong Kong next month, according to the U.S. Consulate General in Hong Kong, and Beijing's top naval officer canceled a high-level meeting with his U.S. counterpart after being recalled to China, according to Lieutenant Colonel Dave Eastburn, a Pentagon spokesman.

The moves come as a worsening trade war prompts concern in Beijing over whether President Donald Trump's latest tariffs are part of a master plan to stop China from threatening American dominance of the Indo-Pacific. The Trump administration last week levied unprecedented penalties on a Chinese military procurement agency and its director for allegedly purchasing Russian

combat aircraft, claiming a violation of U.S. sanctions.

"It all adds up," said Jean-Pierre Cabestan, who teaches U.S.-China relations at Hong Kong Baptist University. "It plays into the hands of the conservatives like Xi Jinping in China's leadership that Trump's real intent is to contain China's rise."

Trump's latest assault came Wednesday when he accused China of trying to interfere in coming U.S. midterm elections in November. Trump said he had evidence, but didn't provide any. He also said he and Xi might no longer be friends.

"We do not and will not interfere in any country's domestic affairs," Chinese Foreign Minister Wang Yi said at a session of the United Nations Security Council, through a translator. "We refuse to accept any unwarranted accusations against China."

The U.S. State Department said its sanctions on the Chinese mi-

litary's Equipment Development Department -- which oversees China's defense technology -- weren't intended to undermine the military capabilities or combat readiness of any country, but rather to impose costs on Russia in response to alleged interference in the U.S. election process. Among Russia's arms customers, only China has been targeted by American sanctions.

The list of Chinese grievances against the Trump administration has mounted since the president unleashed his trade war, placing tariffs on hundreds of billions of dollars of Chinese goods.

"In China, they are debating how they can respond and there are hawks who say, 'We have to strike back,'" said Collin Koh Swee Lean, research fellow at Singapore's S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies. The country's military actions this week are a way of "showing

displeasure without crossing the line into something more serious."

China has employed similar messaging in the past. In 2016, Beijing denied a U.S. carrier strike group's request for a Hong Kong port visit during a period of heightened tension with the U.S. over the South China Sea.

Washington has also adeptly deployed the tactic. To protest China's militarization of artificial structures it has created in the waters, the U.S. earlier this year disinvited the Chinese from participating in the 2018 Rim of the Pacific exercises -- drills held in the Pacific every two years that bring together the militaries of two dozen nations.

China will likely continue finding ways to express its dissatisfaction, without derailing its attempts to resolve the trade war via conciliation.

"I expect this kind of thing will continue," said Ian Storey, a se-

nior fellow at the ISEAS Yusof Ishak Institute in Singapore specializing in U.S.-China relations. "It's what the Chinese do when they want to express anger over a particular issue."

Beijing took umbrage in August, when U.S. senators pushed for sanctions against seven Chinese officials and two surveillance equipment manufacturers after reports that China is forcing as many as 1 million Muslims into "re-education" camps in its far western region of Xinjiang. On Monday, China's Defense Ministry issued a sharply worded statement expressing dissatisfaction after the U.S. approved the sale of a \$330 million military equipment package to Taiwan.

Taiwan has been an escalating point of tension between the U.S. and China since Trump's election. Before he took office, he tweeted about his protocol-breaking phone conversation with Tsai Ing-wen, the island's Beijing-skeptic president. He subsequently questioned the One-China policy, which has guided U.S.-China ties since the 1970s.

The British warship HMS Albion sailed by the Chinese-occupied Paracel Islands in the disputed South China Sea earlier this month, adding to China's sense that countries were joining forces with the U.S. to stymie its expansion in the waters - of which Beijing claims more than 80 percent - said Koh. An international arbitration panel in the Hague ruled in 2016 that China's claims have no legal standing.

France's Defense Minister Florence Parly said at June's Shangri-La Dialogue security conference in Singapore that French and British naval forces would sail together through "certain areas" in the South China Sea. The U.S. Navy routinely conducts freedom of so-called freedom of navigation operations to demonstrate its right to sail there.

Japan this month held a submarine exercise in the South China Sea. It led Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Geng Shuang to caution that the "relevant non-regional country" should refrain from undermining peace and security. **Bloomberg**

## Beijing criticizes US B-52 bomber missions as 'provocative'

CHINA yesterday labeled a recent mission by nuclear-capable U.S. B-52 bombers over the disputed South China Sea as "provocative," and said the U.S. was solely responsible for a recent downturn in relations between their militaries.

Defense Ministry spokesman Ren Guoqiang also

reiterated at a monthly briefing China's objections to a recent U.S. arms sale to Taiwan and the imposition of U.S. sanctions over China's purchase of Russian defense equipment.

"As for the provocative action taken by the U.S. military aircraft, we are firmly against it and we

will take all necessary means to safeguard our rights and interests," Ren said.

Two B-52s flew over the strategic waterway, largely claimed by China, earlier this week in what the Pentagon called a routine mission. Separately, two B-52s also flew this week over the East

China Sea, where China has declared an air defense identification zone and claims uninhabited islands controlled by Japan.

China has sought to strengthen its claim to the South China Sea by building seven islands on reefs and equipping them with military facilities

such as airstrips, radar domes and missile systems. Five other governments claim territory in the oil- and gas-rich area through which an estimated \$5 trillion in global trade passes annually.

Asked at the Pentagon on Wednesday about the bomber flights, Defense Secretary Jim Mattis said he wasn't concerned they might raise tensions with Beijing.

"That just goes on. If it was 20 years ago and had they not militarized those features there it would

have been just another bomber on its way to Diego Garcia or wherever," Mattis said, according to a Pentagon transcript, referring to a key U.S. base in the Indian Ocean.

"So there's nothing out of the ordinary about it," Mattis said.

Mattis also said he didn't believe the sides were witnessing a "fundamental shift in anything."

"We're just going through one of those periodic points where we've got to learn to manage our differences," he said. **MDT/AP**

BLOOMBERG



Lui Che Woo

HONG KONG

# Billionaire offers 'Nobel Prizes' with double the money

**A**FTER amassing a USD15 billion fortune from casinos, Lui Che Woo wants to turn vice into virtue.

While Elon Musk is trying to get humans to Mars and Li Ka-shing joined Bill Gates to battle infant malnutrition, Lui, who rose from a rugged childhood in Japan-occupied Hong Kong, has stepped into the shoes of Alfred Nobel.

The gambling tycoon's version of giving back involves awarding prizes that include a dinner-plate-sized trophy depicting Lui in his signature flat cap, together with a cash payout of HKD20 million (\$2.56 million) - double the amount of a Nobel Prize.

Winners also get a dinner-plate-sized trophy showing the "amiable and kind smiling face of Dr. Lui," according to an effusive description on the prize's website, "as if sowing a seed of benevolence in the world."

The benevolence extends to three categories: sustainability, welfare development and positive energy, to be chosen via a three-tier structure that involves a recommendation committee, selection panels and the prize council. The latter consists of "five international personages," including Lui, former U.S. Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice, a former Archbishop of Canterbury and the former Chief Executive of Hong Kong.

This year's winners, who will be honored at a ceremony on Oct. 3, are renewable energy advocate Hans-Josef Fell, a former parliament member for Germany's Green Party; the World Meteorological Organization; and India's Pratham Education Foundation.

It's not the first alternative originating in China. After the 2010 Nobel Peace Prize was awarded to jailed Chinese dissident author Liu Xiaobo, Beijing reacted furiously, breaking diplomatic ties with Norway and embarking on

a six-year freeze that sent Norwegian salmon exports to China plunging. The writer withered away in captivity before his death in 2017.

The month after Xiaobo won the award, a group in Beijing created a rival award, called the Confucius Peace Prize, which stumbled out of the gate. The Taiwanese winner of the prize didn't show up to accept it, and after China's Ministry of Culture tried to shut the award down, some of the organizers reassembled in Hong Kong.

Lui said his philanthropic vein stems from his childhood, when he was denied a formal education during the Japanese invasion. He's a big donor to Peking University, where he's an honorary trustee after pledging \$18 million. Macau has been less lucky with charitable donations, as the top six casino operators donated less than 0.1 percent of their revenue, according to a recent report by Macau University of Science and Technology.

Born in Guangdong province, Lui's family fled to Hong Kong when he was 4. He became a breadwinner for his five younger sisters and made his first fortune by buying WWII-era U.S. military equipment in Okinawa and reselling it in Hong Kong. In 1955 he founded K. Wah Group, quarrying construction materials. He then moved into real estate and in 2002 started Galaxy Entertainment, which won one of six gaming concessions in Macau and is now valued at \$29 billion. Galaxy, which bought shares in Wynn Resorts after Steve Wynn stepped down as chairman, is the biggest casino operator in Macau.

Lui's prize "is not serving any political function," the tycoon said. "If it gets involved with politics, it will become complicated." He declined to comment on the case of Liu Xiaobo. **MDT/Bloomberg**

AD

## FALL INTO AUTUMN

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## INDIA

# Clashes erupt around Kashmir after troops kill man

**ANTI-INDIA** protests and clashes erupted in several places in disputed Kashmir yesterday after Indian troops killed a young man, officials and residents said, and an Indian soldier and a rebel were killed in a separate gunbattle.

Residents in Indian-controlled Kashmir's main city, Srinagar, said government forces shot and killed the young man during a raid early Thursday. The man worked as a shepherd and he was attending to his sheep when troops fired at him, they said.

Police have yet to make a statement.

The killing triggered protests and clashes as hundreds of people poured into streets at several places in downtown Srinagar calling for the end of Indian rule. They chanted slogans like "Go India, go back" and "We want freedom" as some of the



Kashmiri men shout pro freedom slogans during the funeral procession of Mohammad Saleem Malik, a civilian in Srinagar

residents barraged police and paramilitary soldiers with stones.

Government troops fired tear gas and shotgun pellets to quell the protests while authorities

restricted movement in old quarters of the city.

Later thousands attended the man's burial.

Elsewhere, India's army said a soldier and a rebel were killed

yesterday in a gunbattle in southern Qazigund area.

Col. Rajesh Kalia, an army spokesman, said the troops raided a village in the area on a tip that some militants were hiding

there, leading to exchange of gunfire. He said the operation was ongoing.

Also on Thursday, at least two militants were trapped in a mosque after troops laid a siege around it in Panzan village, police said.

As the siege continued, villagers tried to march toward mosque in solidarity with the rebels, leading to clashes between stone-throwing protesters and government forces who deployed tear smoke shells and pellets.

No one was immediately reported injured in both the clashes.

Most Kashmiris support the rebel cause of unifying the divided region either under Pakistani rule or as an independent country, while participating in civilian street protests against Indian control. In recent years, mainly young Kashmiris have displayed open solidarity with rebels and sought to protect them by engaging troops in street clashes during military operations.

Rebels have been fighting Indian control since 1989. Nearly 70,000 people have been killed in the uprising and the ensuing Indian military crackdown. **AP**

## MALDIVES

# President attempting to stay in power, says opposition

**MALDIVES** President Yameen Abdul Gayoom is working on how to stay in power despite having conceded defeat in this week's election, the opposition alliance said Wednesday.

Joint opposition spokesman Ahmed Mahloof told The Associated Press that government officials say Yameen is planning to complain to the Maldives Election Commission about the conduct of the vote and pressure the commission to delay releasing the final results, due Sunday. Mahloof said



Maldivian President Yameen Abdul Gayoom

Yameen is also trying to get police officers loyal to him to prepare intelli-

gence reports saying the election was flawed.

"It's serious. After con-

ceding the election he is trying to play dirty," Mahloof said of Yameen.

Provisional results released Monday showed joint opposition candidate Ibrahim Mohamed Solih decisively defeated Yameen with about 58 percent of the vote in Sunday's election.

Presidential spokesman Ibrahim Hussain Shihab noted that Yameen had conceded the election in a speech Monday. He said Yameen accepted the results and pledged to ensure a smooth transition when his term ends

Nov. 17. However, Shihab did not comment on whether Yameen's stance has changed since then.

The election outcome surprised many given opposition warnings that the voting could be rigged. The European Union didn't send election observers because the Maldives failed to meet conditions for monitoring, and few foreign media were allowed into the country to cover the vote. The U.S., which earlier threatened sanctions if the elections were not free and fair, urged calm while

the election results were being finalized.

Maldives became a multiparty democracy in 2008 after decades of autocratic rule.

However, after Yameen became president in 2013 the country lost many of its democratic gains. He jailed almost all of his political opponents following allegedly flawed trials and forced some into exile. Yameen also consolidated power by exerting control over the courts, bureaucracy, police and the military. **AP**

AD

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Rosmah Mansor (right) wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak, arrives at Anti-Corruption Agency for questioning

## MALAYSIA

# Wife of ex-PM grilled for 13 hours in 1MDB case

**T**HE wife of former Malaysian Prime Minister Najib Razak was grilled by the anti-graft agency for nearly 13 hours over alleged theft and money laundering involving the 1MDB state investment fund.

Rosmah Mansor arrived at 10 a.m. after being summoned for a second time since June 5

and left the agency's building at about 10:40 p.m. She smiled to reporters as she emerged from the building, escorted by her lawyers and police.

"I am OK," she said, but declined to comment further.

It was unclear why Rosmah was questioned at this time. The chief of the anti-graft agency, Mohamad Shukri Abdull, said

earlier this week that the agency had completed its probe of Rosmah and had submitted its investigation report to the attorney-general's office for further action.

Her husband, Najib, has pleaded not guilty to multiple counts of money laundering, corruption, abuse of power and criminal breach of trust over

the scandal involving the 1MDB state fund and is to face trial next year.

Rosmah, 66, is widely reviled for her opulent lifestyle and penchant for expensive jewelry and designer Birkin bags that led to her being compared with former Philippine first lady Imelda Marcos and her extravagant collection of shoes.

Police found hundreds of luxury handbags, jewelry and cash — worth more than \$266 million — during raids on apartments linked to the family shortly after Najib's shocking electoral defeat in May. Seized were 567 handbags, 423 watches and 12,000 pieces of jewelry including 1,400 necklaces, 2,200 rings, 2,800 pairs of

earrings and 14 tiaras. Najib has said the items were mostly gifts to his family.

In a biography in 2013, Rosmah said it was common for a prime minister's wife to receive expensive jewelry and gifts. She also said she had earned millions of ringgit from her own music album, which wasn't released to the public but was bought by government ministers who were fans of her singing talent.

Najib set up the 1MDB fund when he took power in 2009 but it accumulated billions in debts and is being investigated in the U.S. and several other countries. U.S. investigators say Najib's associates stole and laundered \$4.5 billion from the fund from 2009 to 2014, some of which landed in Najib's bank account. They say \$27.3 million was used to buy a rare diamond necklace for Rosmah.

Public anger over the scandal eventually led to the ouster of Najib's long-ruling coalition in May 9 elections that ushered in the first change of power since Malaysia's independence from Britain in 1957.

New Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad reopened investigations into 1MDB that were suppressed under Najib's rule. He has also banned the couple from leaving the country.

Police have said investigations show that \$972 million was transferred into Najib's bank accounts from three companies linked to 1MDB. Najib, 65, has accused Mahathir's government of seeking political vengeance against him and his family. **AP**

## INDONESIA

# Blasphemy woman endures cramped cell, bad food

**A** rights group says the Indonesian woman imprisoned for blasphemy after complaining about noise from a mosque is sharing a cramped cell with 16 other women and given "terrible" food.

Human Rights Watch researcher Andreas Harsono said the ethnic Chinese woman, Meiliana, was emotional but tough when he and other supporters visited her in prison in Medan this week.

"She was sobbing when talking to us," Harsono said yesterday in a statement about the visit. "The cell is about 30 square meters. The food is terrible," he said.

The case has highlighted how Indonesia's blasphemy law has become a tool for Islamic

hardliners to persecute followers of minority religions.

Meiliana, who uses one name, was sentenced to 18 months in prison last month. She was charged in May, nearly two years after her comments sparked riots in Tanjung Balai, a Sumatran port town.

Her husband and two sons feared for their safety and moved to Medan, said Gomar Gul-tom, secretary general of the Communion of Churches in Indonesia.

He wrote on Facebook after visiting Meiliana that she was a "great person who dared to voice something that has been buried in the hearts of many people, maybe even in the hearts of some rational-minded Muslim friends."

Indonesia's largest Muslim organization, Nahdlatul Ulama, has criticized the conviction and said the complaint wasn't blasphemous. A civil society group is raising funds for an appeal.

Meiliana's ordeal began in July 2016 when she asked if the volume of the loudspeakers at her neighborhood mosque could be lowered.

Rumors spread in Tanjung Balai that she wanted to stop the five-times-a-day call to prayer. Days later mobs attacked her home and burned and ransacked at least 14 Buddhist temples.

"The police were busy dealing with the riots. But they also questioned Meiliana. She was not charged but needed to report to the poli-

ce once a week for two years," said Harsono. "But the case did not go away. Pressure from Islamists made the police hand over the case to the blasphemy law office."

Since 147 people have been imprisoned under blasphemy or related laws since 2004, according to monitoring by Human Rights Watch. The number of cases has slowed since 2014 under President Joko "Jokowi" Widodo's administration.

Last year, former Jakarta governor Basuki "Ahok" Tjahaja Purnama, a Christian, was imprisoned for two years after being found guilty of blasphemy for comments made during his re-election campaign. **AP**

## VIETNAM

# People line streets of capital to mourn president

**T**HOUSANDS of people lined the streets of Hanoi yesterday to pay their last respects to Vietnam's late President Tran Dai Quang.

Many were using smart phones to catch glimpses of his flag-draped coffin as it passed by on a truck-drawn artillery carriage.

Quang died last week at age 61 with what a government doctor said was a rare viral illness.

In a eulogy, Communist Party Chief Nguyen Phu Trong said Quang's passing was a great loss to the country and praised his contributions to the nation.

Trong said Quang, who was public security minister before becoming president, had helped to "uncover and prevent many sabotage plots of the hostile and reactionary forces and other criminals."

As president, Quang, along with other leaders, sped reforms to develop Vietnam's socialist market-oriented

economy and worked to heighten Vietnam's international role, Trong said.

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen and South Korean Prime Minister Lee Nak-yeon were among dignitaries who paid their respects as Quang's body lay in state at the National Funeral House.

He was to be buried in his home village in northern Ninh Binh province later Thursday in accordance with his family's wish instead of the Mai Dich Cemetery in Hanoi where most of the high-ranking officials were buried.

Quang became minister of public security in 2011 and was elected by the National Assembly as the nation's president in 2016.

Vice President Dang Thi Ngoc Thinh has been named acting president, the country's first woman to hold that position. No date has been given for the election of a new president.



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# UN court asked to probe Venezuela; leader defiant in speech

Angela Charlton,  
Matthew Pennington,  
Jennifer Peltz

SIX nations made the unprecedented move of asking the U.N.'s International Criminal Court to investigate Venezuela for possible crimes against humanity, even as President Nicolas Maduro made an unexpected trip to the world body's headquarters to deliver a nearly hourlong speech declaring his nation "will never give in."

Maduro's speech at the General Assembly gathering of world leaders came hours after Argentina, Chile, Colombia, Peru, Paraguay and Canada formally asked the ICC to investigate Venezuela on a range of possible charges, from murder to torture and crimes against humanity.

"To remain indifferent or speculative in front of this reality could be perceived as being complicit with the regime. We are not going to be complicit," said Paraguayan Foreign Minister Andres Rodriguez Pedotti.

The six countries hope the move puts new pressure on Maduro to end the violence and conflict that have sent more than 2 million people fleeing and made Venezuela's inflation and homicide rates among the highest in the world.

Venezuelan officials have widely rejected international criticism, saying they're driven by imperialist forces led by the U.S. to justify launching an invasion. And Maduro sounded a defiant tone, complaining that Washington was attacking his country through sanctions and other means and strong-arming other countries into going along in a "fierce diplomatic offensive."

"[The U.S.] wants to continue just giving orders to the world as though the world were its own property," Maduro said. "Venezuela will never give in."

But at the same time, he said he was willing to talk with Trump.

Wednesday marked the first time that member countries have referred another country to the Netherlands-based U.N. court.

Canada was among nations referring Venezuela to the ICC, and Prime Minister Justin Trudeau seized the moment to defend the idea of global justice the court represents — the day after Trump attacked it in a stinging speech that challenged multilateral organizations.

Its chief prosecutor, Fatou Bensouda, already has opened a preliminary investigation into allegations that Venezuelan government forces since April 2017 "frequently used excessive

AP PHOTO



Venezuela's President Nicolas Maduro addresses the 73rd session of the United Nations General Assembly

force to disperse and put down demonstrations," and abused some opposition members in detention.

## ■ Venezuelan officials have widely rejected international criticism, saying they're driven by imperialist forces led by the US

It is now up to the prosecutor — who didn't immediately comment on the request — to decide what to do next. The six-country referral could broaden the scope of the ongoing preliminary probe to the more serious charges leveled at Venezuela on Wednesday and extend the time frame back to 2014.

Human Rights Watch was among those hailing the request, which was based on two reports: one by the U.N. High Commission for Human Rights that uncovered widespread extrajudicial executions and other violations, and another by an

expert group designated by the Organization of American States that found reason to suspect 11 people, including Maduro, of crimes against humanity.

The request — announced on the sidelines of the U.N. General Assembly — also bolsters the idea that international bodies can hold corrupt or abusive leaders or governments responsible before their citizens.

In an address to the General Assembly on Tuesday, Trump criticized what he called the "ideology of globalism" and said that as far as America is concerned, "the ICC has no jurisdiction, no legitimacy, and no authority."

The ICC was created in 2002 to prosecute war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide in areas where perpetrators might not otherwise face justice. The court has 123 state parties that recognize its jurisdiction.

Trudeau steered clear of direct criticism of Trump and said Canada and the U.S. share concern about the humanitarian crisis in Venezuela. But he also made clear Canada's support for international cooperation to help developing nations "to build a more peaceful, equal and stable world."

"Because that's what Canadians expect: That we stand up not just for ourselves but for

everyone," Trudeau said.

While more world leaders spoke at the General Assembly on Wednesday, most attention was still focused on Trump, whose brash behavior provoked laughter and headshakes from other leaders. He chaired a Security Council meeting on nonproliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

With Trump listening, Bolivia's President Evo Morales accused his administration of meddling in Iran and Venezuela. If the U.S. upheld democracy, Morales said, "it would not have financed coup d'etats and supported dictators" or threatened democratically elected governments as it has in Venezuela with military intervention.

He also charged that the U.S. "could not care less about human rights or justice," citing its alleged promotion of the "use of torture" and separation of migrant parents and children who were put "in cages."

Trump used his Security Council podium to fire off tough words at Iran, saying that a government with Iran's track record "must never be allowed to obtain" a nuclear weapon.

Iran's President Hassan Rouhani called the U.S. withdrawal from the Iran nuclear deal "a mistake," and said sooner or later that the United States will

support it again — notably because so many other countries stand behind it.

Rouhani told a news conference that Iran doesn't want to go to war with U.S. forces anywhere in the Middle East, declaring: "We do not want to attack them. We do not wish to increase tensions."

Trump also made waves by accusing China of meddling in November elections in the United States. China denies any interference.

Other tension points included Russian interference abroad — with Britain's prime minister accusing Moscow of "blatantly" violating international norms, and Russia's foreign minister comparing British accusations to "kindergarten" nonsense.

The top diplomats of both Russia and the United States met Wednesday with North Korea's foreign minister — separately — amid mounting efforts to roll back North Korea's nuclear ambitions.

And Italy's populist leader struck at the heart of Europe's biggest problem, stressing the importance of "shared responsibility" among countries in dealing with migrants, days after Rome deepened its crack-down on those fleeing Africa, the Middle East and Asia for asylum or a better life. **AP**

## TV canal macau



## FRIDAY

13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:50	Pilotos Velozes
16:15	Cenas do Casamento
16:50	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
18:30	Destinos.pt Sr.1
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Missão: 100% Português
22:10	Volta ao Mundo
22:30	Liberdade 21
23:15	TDM News
01:20	Telejornal (Repetição)
02:05	RTPi Directo

## SATURDAY

11:40	Endereço Desconhecido
12:30	Gostos e Sabores
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	A Canção (Repetição)
16:00	Volta ao Mundo
16:35	Janela Indiscreta com Mário Augusto
17:10	Hora dos Portugueses
17:55	Mudar de Vida - Fim
18:20	Lusa Music Box
18:55	Animais Anónimos
19:40	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Grimm Sr.4 - Fim
23:15	TDM News
23:50	2 FIMM
00:35	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:20	RTPi Directo

## SUNDAY

11:00	Missa Dominical
12:00	Visita Guiada Sr.1
12:25	A Essência
12:45	Culinária Portuguesa - Fim
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
16:10	Música Maestro
17:00	Brainstorm
17:45	Got Talent Portugal Sr.4 - Estreia
19:35	Bem-Vindos a Beirais Sr.3
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:20	Banco Asiático De Investimento em Infra-Estruturas
22:45	Sabia Que?
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Reportagem (Repetição)
00:10	Magazine Liga Europa 2018/2019
01:05	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:50	RTPi Directo

## Offbeat

## HAPPY NEWS: BELUGA WHALE IN THAMES EATING, SWIMMING WELL

British officials say the beluga whale spotted in the River Thames seems to be feeding properly and swimming strongly.

The animal welfare group RSPCA said yesterday [Macau time] the whale is "able to move fast in the water and dive." Officials hope it will return to the open sea.

The beluga whale attracted a plenty of attention Tuesday when it surfaced in the River Thames. The unusual sighting happened in the Gravesend area, 50 kilometers east of London.

Belugas are typically found farther north in frigid Arctic waters.

Officials say nearby ships have heeded the call to stay far away from the whale to avoid upsetting it.

RSPCA says "at the moment, there are no major concerns for the welfare of the animal."

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

27 SEP - 28 SEP



## JOHNNY ENGLISH STRIKES AGAIN

ROOM 2

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

Director: David Kerr

Starring: Emma Thompson, Olga Kurylenko, Rowan Atkinson

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 88min



## THE PREDATOR

ROOM 1

2:30, 7:30pm

Director: Shane Black

Starring: Boyd Holbrook, Trevante Rhodes, Jacob Tremblay

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 107min

## GOLDEN JOB

ROOM 3

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

Director: Chin Ka-lok

Starring: Michael Tse, Jerry Lamb, Eric Tsang

Language: Cantonese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 90min



## WHEN I GET HOME, MY WIFE ALWAYS PRETENDS TO BE DEAD

ROOM 3

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

Director: Toshio Lee

Starring: Nana Eikura, Ken Yasuda, Sumika Nono

Language: Japanese (Chinese &amp; English)

Duration: 115min

## this day in history



## 1995 PALESTINIAN SELF-RULE IN WEST BANK AGREED

The Israeli prime minister and the leader of the Palestine Liberation Organisation have signed a deal in Washington giving Palestinians control over much of the West Bank.

Yitzhak Rabin and Yasser Arafat put their names to the 400-page agreement in a low-key ceremony in the East Room of the White House.

They were watched by US President Bill Clinton, Egypt's President Hosni Mubarak and King Hussein of Jordan.

The leaders of Syria and Lebanon were conspicuous by their absence. Mr Rabin and the US president both called on the two Arab nations to resume peace talks with Israel.

The event, which President Clinton hailed as "a new chapter" for the Middle East, was almost derailed by a last-minute disagreement between Mr Rabin and Mr Arafat over policing arrangements in the West Bank town of Hebron. It was resolved just hours before the signing ceremony.

Mr Rabin urged the PLO to resist "the evil angels of death by terrorism" determined to destroy the peace process.

Israel's foreign minister, Shimon Perez, welcomed the deal saying, "Once implemented, no longer will the Palestinians reside under our domination. They shall self-rule and we shall return to our heritage."

Mr Arafat declared there had been "enough killing of innocent people" calling the deal a "peace of the brave" - but he acknowledged it would be opposed by many.

Following the landmark Oslo agreement of September 1993, also brokered by the Clinton administration, Gaza and the West Bank town of Jericho were handed over to Palestinian rule.

But suicide bombings in Israel by Hamas extremists have continued and after each attack Israel closes its borders to Arabs living in Gaza and the West Bank.

Migrant labour is the backbone of the Gaza economy and every closure is a severe financial blow to Palestinians - and the credibility of Mr Arafat as a leader in the eyes of his people.

For this reason Palestinians are not enthusiastic about the new deal, known as Oslo 2, and are sceptical of the chances for long-lasting peace.

From his side, Mr Rabin faces strong opposition from the right-wing Likud party and from Jewish settlers, especially those who live in or near Hebron.

The settlers believe the West Bank - occupied by Israel since the 1967 war - is part of territory handed to Abraham and the Jews by God.

It is expected that the agreement will be passed by a narrow majority in the Israeli parliament (Knesset) next week.

But security experts estimate half of the 140,000 settlers will resist any attempt to evict them and will try to obstruct the deployment of armed Palestinian police in Hebron.

Under the agreement, six Arab cities, including the commercial capital of Nablus, will be transferred to Palestinian rule along with 60% of Hebron.

Israel will also give up police and civil powers in a further 450 Palestinian towns and villages. However it will retain military power there and the Israeli Army will still control 70% of West Bank land overall.

There will also be a phased release of Palestinian prisoners.

Palestinians will also elect an 82-member Council and an executive head.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

Just over a month later Yitzhak Rabin was assassinated by a Jewish extremist on 4 November 1995.

Shimon Peres pushed on with Mr Rabin's efforts to make peace with the Palestinians.

But in the 1996 election he lost to Binyamin Netanyahu who campaigned against the Rabin-Peres peace programme.

Suicide bomb attacks against Israelis and military counterattacks in Palestinian strongholds heightened tensions between the two sides again and peace talks kept stalling.

In February 2000 Yasser Arafat turned down a peace deal offered at Camp David by President Clinton and Israeli PM Ehud Barak.

Israel ended its involvement in Lebanon in May 2000.

But in September that year, opposition leader Ariel Sharon made a controversial visit to the Al Aqsa mosque compound in east Jerusalem, a site which is also holy to Jews.

An effort to revive the peace process resulted in the publication of a new roadmap for peace in April 2003.

Mr Arafat died in November 2004.



**YOUR STARS**

**Aries** Mar. 21-Apr. 19  
You can't indulge in anything selfish anymore, but you can still keep your best qualities polished and in shape. Be charming today, not to get what you want but just for the practice.

**Gemini** May 21-Jun. 21  
If you fancy yourself the intellectual today then give yourself a question to ponder. If you start a lot of projects but never finish them, who gets paid, you or the person who actually does the job? Thoughts?

**Leo** Jul. 23-Aug. 22  
It's been a long hike through the wilderness, and now you deserve a proverbial foot rub. Friendship, a cheap date or both are just what the doctor ordered to get you back on your feet for another round tomorrow.

**Libra** Sep. 23-Oct. 22  
Flirting doesn't necessarily involve the attention of others. You could be flirting with disaster and not even know it. If that makes you want to check your balances, then you're right on target.

**Sagittarius** Nov. 22-Dec. 21  
Communication is good if you keep your mind open. The universe is giving you an insider tip. Acting on it is all fair and by the books, so try to tune in to the big picture.

**Aquarius** Jan. 20-Feb. 18  
Being aloof or intellectual is the wrong approach to take. You can't think your way past a locked door, even though you have some great ideas. But you can find a key by connecting with someone who can help.

**Taurus** April 20-May 20  
There are many positive things about the situation you find yourself in. There's no overindulgence, for one. Now that you can't overdo it even if you wanted to, find constructive ways to use that excess energy.

**Cancer** Jun. 22-Jul. 22  
You can't use the situation you're in today as your model for tomorrow. So just how do you go about getting things to run more smoothly in the future? You'll have to come up with something totally new.

**Virgo** Aug. 23-Sept. 22  
No one is buying, not even you. The impulse just isn't there. If that leads you to more deep and meaningful ways to spend your time and money, then your long, twisted path has finally taken you where you need to be.

**Scorpio** Oct. 23 - Nov. 21  
Thinking is too passive. You need to come up with a more active approach to solving your problem. Find someone willing to toss ideas back and forth with you, for starters, and see how far you can push the bottom line.

**Capricorn** Dec. 22-Jan. 19  
One of the fundamentals of any transaction is mutual value. When all of your energy is focused on making it work and you're just not getting anywhere, remind yourself of what you really have to offer the world.

**Pisces** Feb. 19-Mar. 20  
Throwing the baby out with the bathwater doesn't really help, unless the debts go out, too. It could be time to think of wiping the slate clean. That includes both what you owe and what others owe you.

**THE BORN LOSER** by Chip Sansom



**SUDOKU**

**Easy**

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

**Easy+**

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

**Medium**

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

**Hard**

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

**WEATHER**

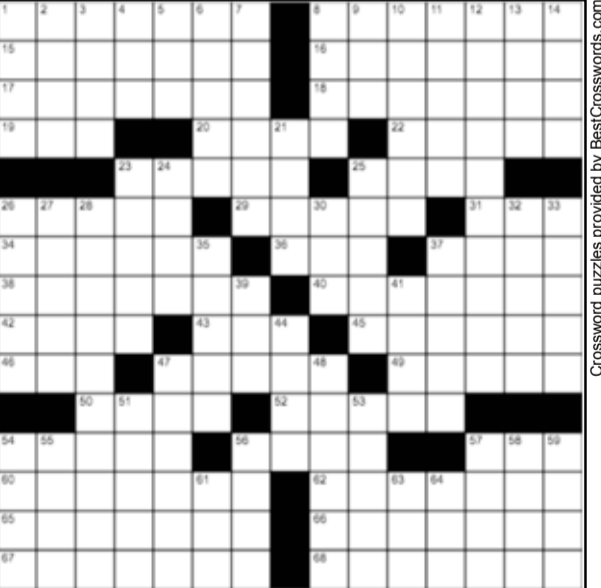
	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>CHINA</b>			
Beijing	12	24	drizzle/cloudy
Harbin	7	20	cloudy/shower
Tianjin	16	24	drizzle/overcast
Urumqi	7	19	clear
Xi'an	11	24	cloudy/clear
Lhasa	10	21	thundershower/cloudy
Chengdu	15	25	shower/clear
Chongqing	18	23	drizzle/cloudy
Kunming	16	23	shower
Nanjing	18	26	cloudy
Shanghai	20	27	clear/cloudy
Wuhan	18	27	cloudy
Hangzhou	18	27	cloudy/overcast
Taipei	25	29	moderate rain
Guangzhou	24	32	clear
Hong Kong	26	32	cloudy/cloudy

	MIN	MAX	CONDITION
<b>WORLD</b>			
Moscow	7	13	drizzle
Frankfurt	7	20	clear/drizzle
Paris	7	21	clear/drizzle
London	11	17	clear/cloudy
New York	17	19	drizzle/moderate rain

**CROSSWORDS**

**ACROSS:** 1- Flattered; 8- Wildcat; 15- Accessory; 16- Another; 17- Entirely; 18- Legendary king of Thebes; 19- Apr. addressee; 20- Ages and ages; 22- Related on the mother's side; 23- Nice days, usually; 25- Textile worker; 26- Nasal tone; 29- Spine-tingling; 31- ABC rival; 34- Ballet's Nureyev; 36- Afternoon social; 37- A formality; 38- Movable cupboard; 40- Mystery; 42- \_\_\_ soup yet?; 43- Surgery sites, briefly; 45- Aden native; 46- USMA grads; 47- Skin of the upper part of the head; 49- Wagons; 50- Large bag; 52- Emollient-yielding plants; 54- Inner self, to Jung; 56- Traditional prayer ending; 57- Director Howard; 60- Male turkey; 62- Assign; 65- In any case; 66- Place in a bank account; 67- Mountain chains; 68- Hits;

**DOWN:** 1- French actor Jacques; 2- \_\_\_ about (roughly); 3- Performs; 4- Cinco de Mayo, e.g.; 5- Sick; 6- Comic DeGeneres; 7- The beginning; 8- Dove sounds; 9- "Wheel of Fortune" buy; 10- Night flight; 11- Nitrogen compound; 12- Joint heir; 13- Stuck in \_\_\_; 14- \_\_\_ majesty; 21- Russian refusal; 23- Snob; 24- Wrinkly fruit; 25- Daybook; 26- Bring up the rear; 27- German sausage; 28- Allowable; 30- "Michael Collins" actor; 32- Main impact; 33- Big rigs; 35- Dress; 37- \_\_\_ boy; 39- Important time; 41- Gospel singer Winans; 44- Close with force; 47- Having only magnitude; 48- Begg; 51- The color of honey; 53- Get-go; 54- Turkish titles; 55- Don't look at me!; 56- Collective word for intellectual pursuits; 57- Hazard; 58- Village Voice award; 59- Takes home; 61- Conductor \_\_\_ Pekka Salonen; 63- EMT's skill; 64- Louis XIV, e.g.;



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- Electricity - Report 28 339 922
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FOOTBALL | LA LIGA

# Stunned: Barca loses to last-place Leganes, Real to Sevilla

Tales Azzoni, Madrid

**F**IRST it was Barcelona. Then Real Madrid. Both Spanish league leaders were stunned yesterday [Macau time], with Barcelona losing 2-1 at last-place Leganes and Madrid falling 3-0 at Sevilla, marking the first time since 2015 that they lost on the same day.

The thrilling night also was marked by Pablo Fornals' beautiful goal from about 45 meters away in Villarreal's 3-0 win at Athletic Bilbao, and by Valencia's winless streak being extended to seven matches after a draw against Celta Vigo.

Barcelona's loss came as Lionel Messi made his 700th appearance with the club, including 55 unofficial games. It was the second consecutive setback for the defending champions.

"We lost five points in three days," Barcelona coach Ernesto Valverde said. "It's difficult to explain."

The Spanish powerhouses have 13 points each after six rounds, two points in front of Atletico Madrid, which defeated Huesca 3-0 for its second straight league win.

Real Madrid and Atletico play the city derby at Santiago Bernabeu Stadium on Saturday.

Alaves could join Barcelona and Real Madrid at the top of the standings if it wins its home match against Getafe today.

**BARCELONA'S DEBACLE**

Messi's celebration of his milestone match with the Catalan club was marred by a



FC Barcelona's Lionel Messi (right) duels for the ball

Leganes team which had only one point from its first five league games and was coming off three straight losses.

The club from Madrid's suburbs had never earned a point against Barcelona in its three seasons in the first division.

The 53rd-minute winner at Butarque Stadium was scored by Oscar Rodriguez, a former member of Real Madrid's youth teams who is on loan with Leganes. It came after a bad mistake by Barcelona defender Gerard Pique, who gave the ball away while trying to clear it from inside the area. Nabil El Zhar had scored the host's first goal a minute ear-

lier to offset Philippe Coutinho's first-half opener for Barcelona, which has conceded seven goals in its first six matches.

Luis Suarez started the match on the bench and couldn't do much when he was brought on in the second half to try to reverse the team's disadvantage.

Messi has 58 fewer matches than Andres Iniesta with Barcelona. Xavi Hernandez holds the club record with 869 games.

**MADRID'S FALL**

Real Madrid entered the match at Sevilla with a chance to take sole possession of first

place for the first time this season, but it didn't take long before it found itself in a deep hole.

Portugal forward Andre Silva scored in the 17th and 21st minutes to take his league-leading tally to six goals, and Wissam Ben Yedder added another in the 39th to leave Sevilla in control at the Ramon Sanchez-Pizjuan Stadium.

"It's simple, we gave it away in the first half," Madrid midfielder Casemiro said. "Then it was impossible to come back."

Luka Modric's goal early in the second half was called off after a video review showed he was offside.

Madrid's only previous setback in the league this season had been a draw at Athletic Bilbao in the fourth round.

Marcelo appeared to injure a muscle midway through the second half but coach Julen Lopetegui had already made all three substitutions.

Sevilla has won three in a row in all competitions, outscoring its opponents 14-3. It moved three points behind Madrid and Barcelona in the league.

"Sevilla was better and deserved to win," Lopetegui said. "We didn't start the way we wanted and paid for it by conceding two quick goals."

**LONG-RANGE STRIKE**

Fornals scored one of the goals of the season with his amazing strike in Villarreal's rout of Athletic.

After a clearance by Villarreal's defense in the 65th, Fornals picked up the loose ball a few meters in front of the mid-circle and fired it over Athletic goalkeeper Unai Simon, who couldn't get back in time to make a save.

The goal opened the scoring at San Mames Stadium and Villarreal went on to score twice again for its second win in three matches.

It was the first league loss for Athletic, which was coming off three straight draws.

**VALENCIA'S MISERY**

Valencia couldn't put an end to its early struggles, conceding late in a 1-1 home draw against Celta Vigo to remain winless.

Iago Aspas scored the equalizer in the 82nd minute at Mestalla Stadium after Michy Batshuayi had given the host the lead in the 25th.

The only other winless team in the league is promoted Valladolid, which hosts Levante today.

Valencia is yet to win in seven matches in all competitions this season. **AP**

FOOTBALL

# Hazard's brilliance seals Chelsea win at Liverpool in cup

**I**N a formidable display of skill and speed, Eden Hazard slalomed past Liverpool players before scoring the goal that sealed Chelsea's progress in the League Cup.

The winger's sixth goal in seven appearances ended Liverpool's perfect start to the season with a 2-1 victory on Wednesday at Anfield. And

the teams have a swift reunion, with Chelsea hosting unbeaten early front-runner Liverpool at Stamford Bridge in the Premier League on Saturday.

Emerson Palmieri leveled after Daniel Sturridge gave Liverpool the lead in the 58th minute before Hazard's mesmerizing winner in the 85th minute.

The Belgium winger went past two Liverpool players around the half-way line before sending the ball through Robert Firmino's legs to Cesar Azpilicueta on the right flank. The Spaniard returned the ball to advancing Hazard, who went past three players, cut inside and sent a shot across goalkeeper Simon Mignolet and

into the net.

"For sure it's on top of the list [of goals] also because it's Liverpool," Hazard told broadcaster Sky Sports. "When I received the ball I just looked for one, I see on my own so I just tried to do what I can do and I did well so we can go through."

Dele Alli enjoyed a dream return to Milton

Keynes with Tottenham against Watford.

The home of MK Dons, Alli's former club, is being used by Tottenham in the League Cup because its new stadium at White Hart Lane is not ready yet.

Alli sealed a 4-2 penalty shootout after a lively finish saw the game end 2-2 after 90 minutes, with extra time not being played in the competition.

Watford had gone in front 39 seconds into the second half through Isaac Success but Alli wiped that advantage out from the penalty spot with 10 minutes to

go after being fouled by Christian Kabasele, who was sent off.

Erik Lamela then put Tottenham in front, only for former Spurs player Etienne Capoue to level with a heavily deflected effort. After goalkeeper Paulo Gazzaniga saved from Capoue and Quina, it was left to Alli to send his side through.

Arsenal cruised through with a 3-1 victory over second-tier side Brentford with a double from Danny Welbeck and Alexandre Lacazette netting in stoppage time. West Ham routed fourth-tier side Macclesfield 8-0. **AP**

opinion

**Bizcuits**  
Leanda Lee



**CASINOS INNOVATE IN ZERO-WASTE**

Annie Lao, a fellow plastic-waste activist, and her team petitioned the government to take some baby-step actions to curb Macau's disproportionate creation and mismanagement of solid waste. The group submitted the initial document with 4,700 signatures on 2nd September. Although now losing momentum, over 5,510 have responded; to all these voices, the government has failed to respond publicly.

Then, on 16th September came Mangkhut. Making up for any lack of response elsewhere, Mangkhut dumped tonnes of organic and plastic waste on our streets for the government and the people to clean-up: 3,932 tonnes were reported to have been collected by CSR Macau in the two days after the typhoon, with more collected by IACM and volunteers. Pictures of the filth we humans put on the streets and on Cheoc Van and Hac Sa beaches (of this "world-class travel destination") went viral. As a former colleague posted on social media, "What we throw into the ocean, the ocean throws back to us". Let's bring it one step closer to home, shall we? What we waste in our lives, makes waste of us.

Mangkhut has proven to be the most powerful activist to date. It has been a timely in-your-face, badass aggressor, laying down the gauntlet to anyone that denies we have a waste problem. The authorities, the retailers and producers are not dealing with this. They are either not aware, they don't care, they think someone else will deal with it or they simply do not have the knowhow.

Do not expect the problem to be diminished without concerted community-wide response and individual effort. Each of us plays a role, and herein lies the opportunities: to build awareness of the problem, concern for the consequences of inaction, and to demand leadership from those with the greatest resources.

Education is slow to occur and awareness slow to develop but the best way to educate our community on future sustainability and food security – about where our food comes from, what wastage means to our economy and individual household finances - happens in schools: with one child, and one family, one neighbourhood, then one Macau. "It's just one [plastic] straw," said 7 billion people, or so the meme goes.

As part of their responsibility to the community, the corporations that give and take most from our region are starting to lead in this space. On 13th September MGM announced that single-use plastics would be replaced with environmentally-friendly alternatives in all of their restaurants. Melco is supportive of government initiatives and has received the Green Key award and is focused on water and energy conservation.

Compliance with ISO standards is laudable, but what we currently need is innovative leadership in waste management. I would like to see additional incentives for casino concessionaires to commit to zero-waste processes across the full range of their businesses: not just replacing one throw-away option with another, but by eliminating waste entirely. Here is an opportunity for these corporations to become global leaders in waste-management and circular-economy innovation. Due to their scale they can command change from their suppliers and innovate all along the supply chain.

Corporates can find opportunities to make resourcefulness chic: food waste is being rebranded as surplus food. Just as over-ripe bananas make the most fragrant banana bread, stale bread makes the best bread-n-butter pudding, and apple-scrap ferment into delicious vinegar, the best chefs of the world are competing to use ingredients that are typically thrown away to create unique flavours. The triple Michelin-starred Italian chef, Massimo Bottura invites celebrated chefs from throughout the world to bring their creativity, technical prowess and ingenuity to create new menus daily, entirely dependent on the ingredients available from market surplus. Such projects send strong promotional messages of value, and move us from wastefulness to resourcefulness.

THE #MeToo: BILL MURRAY DEFENDS BUZZ HOFFMAN OVER HARASSMENT ALLEGATIONS

Appearing on the same stage where months earlier Dustin Hoffman faced repeated questions about alleged sexual harassment, Bill Murray praised the actor as a "really decent person."

Murray spoke yesterday [Macau time] at Manhattan's 92nd Street Y. He was interviewing his former agent, Michael Ovitz, whose memoir has just been published. Murray and Hoffman were both Ovitz clients when they worked together

in the 1982 film "Tootsie."

Murray called Hoffman "crazy" and a "Borscht Belt flirt," but a "sweet man." During an event last December at the Y, Hoffman was chastised by interviewer John Oliver over allegations he had groped an intern while making a TV movie of "Death of a Salesman" in the 1980s.

Hoffman denied any wrongdoing and said Oliver was making "an incredible assumption" about him.



**Barbra Streisand to Trump in new song: Don't lie to me!**

Mesfin Fekadu, New York

WHEN Barbra Streisand started writing lyrics for her new political song, "Don't Lie to Me," she initially aimed for "very subtle" references to President Donald Trump. But she couldn't help herself.

"I just went ballistic," she said.

"Don't Lie to Me," released Thursday, finds a passionate Streisand questioning the nation's leader and pleading for change. Lyrics include, "How do you sleep when the world keeps turning?/ All that we built has come undone/How do you sleep when the world is burning?/ Everyone answers to someone."

"I just can't stand what's going on," the Oscar, Grammy and Emmy winner said in an interview with The Associated Press in a phone interview yesterday. "His assault on our democracy, our institutions, our founders – I think we're in a fight. ... We're in a war for the soul of America."

"Don't Lie to Me" appears on her new album, "Walls," her first project of mainly original tracks since 2005. It will be released Nov. 2.

Streisand, a proud and outspoken Democrat who has



campaigned for politicians over the years, said she felt moved to write original music because of what's happening in the world. Of "The Rain Will Fall" – another new song she co-wrote – she says, "You can spell rain several ways."

"But it's my prophecy," she said, laughing. "I hope it comes true."

"Don't Lie to Me" came to life during a road trip. Streisand said listening to the news in the car "was making me sick, listening to lies,

listening to things that are such craziness." So she turned on music and felt motivated to write a new song.

"I wanted to talk about the things that were making me feel so sad, heartbroken," she said. "I'm a kind of fierce American. I don't know who we are anymore as a country. Are we embracing people who flee oppression? Or are we separating children from parents, putting them in cages? I don't know if people care about the planet, the survival of the planet. Do they care about clean air? Clean water? Clean food? If they do, how could they vote for somebody like Trump, who believes it's a hoax?"

Streisand adds, "I'm frightened for this country. And yet, I have hope."

On her 11-track "Walls" album, she also reworked classics like "Imagine," "What a Wonderful World" and "What the World Needs Now."

Streisand, 76, said she "kind of dedicates this album to the young people who are speaking out."

"It's important that people vote. It's important that people believe in the power of their own voice and how much that changes things," she said. AP

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

WORLD BRIEFS



**INDIA** Anti-India protests and clashes erupted in several places in disputed Kashmir yesterday after Indian troops killed a young shepherd who was tending his sheep, officials and residents said, and an Indian soldier and three rebels were killed in two separate gunbattles.

More on p12

**IRAN** Iran's president said yesterday that the U.N. Security Council meeting chaired by President Donald Trump the previous day reflected America's increasing isolation among the international community. "Nobody backed the United States," said Hassan Rouhani, "putting America into a unique historical and political isolation."



**ITALY** Tensions surrounding the spending plans of Italy's new populist government are weighing on the country's stocks and bonds. Some investors appear concerned Italy will break eurozone rules to satisfy election promises.

**FRANCE** A city hall official in the southern French city of Rodez was stabbed to death in a daylight attack yesterday. The Rodez press office said the victim, Pascal Filoe, was killed near the city hall building in the city center. He was in charge of local police services.



**BRAZIL**'s highest court has ruled that 3.4 million people cannot vote in next month's national elections because they failed to register their fingerprints with authorities, a move that could affect the crowded presidential race.

**MEXICO** Aviation authorities in Mexico say 29 people were hurt and 12 of them hospitalized after an airliner hit a pocket of turbulence. The flight operated by the airline Volaris hit the turbulence at an altitude of 34,000 feet about halfway into the flight.

THE DECISIVE MOMENT

AP Photo/Frank Augstein



London dumplings. A woman tries a dumpling during National Dumpling Day in Chinatown in London, yesterday, where seven restaurants gave away a total of 1800 hot, tasty parcels from midday onwards.