



ELEKRON SHOW TO DEBUT DEC. 14

Studio City Macau will present the 'world's first all-electric indoor theatrical stunt show'

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LEONG PRAISES LOCAL MICE INDUSTRY

P7 MIF



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XINHUA

INAUGURATION NEXT WEEK

Xi expected in Zhuhai to open bridge

P3



WORLD BRIEFS

CHINA Emergency services said yesterday that about 6,000 people were evacuated after a landslide in Tibet blocked the flow of one of the region's key rivers, creating a lake that could endanger downstream areas in India.

VIETNAM A prominent Vietnamese blogger sent into exile in the United States says her reunion with her family after two years in prison is proof she is not alone in speaking for freedom.

More on p13

AP PHOTO



PHILIPPINES Close allies of President Rodrigo Duterte have resigned from his Cabinet to run in elections next year that will test his popularity and could determine his future political influence. Among those running in the May 13 elections are Duterte's former foreign secretary, his spokesman (pictured), his political adviser and a longtime aide. More on p12

More on backpage

AP PHOTO



Man linked to Saudi prince at consulate when writer vanished

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ENTERTAINMENT

'Elektron' show to debut Dec. 14

RENATO MARQUES



Frederic Winckler



Aspect of the show

Renato Marques

STUDIO City Macau's new entertainment show "Elektron" is set to debut on December 14, the organizers announced yesterday at a media event held at Studio City's Event Center.

Presented as the "world's first all-electric indoor theatrical stunt show" and held at the Event Centre, the show promises a 75-minute-long ride of emotions and an adrenaline rush, following the path created by the "House of Dancing Water."

The show is produced in colla-

boration with the entertainment company Stufish. The company has organized events such as the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games opening and closing ceremonies, and created stage designs for musical stars such as Elton John, Madonna, Jay-Z, U2, The Rolling Stones, Beyoncé and Lady Gaga.

During the media event, the chief marketing and brand officer of Melco Resorts and Entertainment, Frederic Winckler, said, "it will be all-electric. Why? First because it is the future! But also because from today we going to prove that being responsible does not have to be bo-

ring anymore. We will continue to offer our guests more world-class experiences that they won't get anywhere else, not just in Macau, not just in Asia, but in the world!"

"Elektron is aiming to bring a whole new audience, not just here to Studio City, but to Macau," Winckler said, adding, "we are building icons for Asia here in Macau."

In the words of Melco's marketing chief, one of the secrets to their entertainment success is the company's partnerships with creative and talented teams, including their new partnership with Stufish.

One of the show's highlights is that the action will be very close to the audience. "I know there will be people watching this show with their heart in their mouth because these guys and girls do one thing on one, two, three or four wheels that challenge gravity and common-sense. All things that you shouldn't try at home," said Winckler.

The chief executive officer and design director of Stufish, Ray Winkler, said that the company "is no stranger to the city, neither the region." He noted that Stufish has a studio based in Hong Kong and an extensive portfolio in China.

"We understand logistics, we understand art, we understand architecture and together will all our collaborators, we create memories for millions of people," Winkler said. "Over 70 percent of world's population has seen Stufish's work in some shape or form, either by attending live performances or seeing events in the media."

According to Winkler, the show is the product of the top quality work of the selected team and the joint efforts of the company's staff from Macau to London. "The extraordinary efforts of our team here in Macau, Hong Kong and London are fused together in a blend of cutting-edge technology with high-end stunts" that pair with an "international cast of 36 people from different countries, including some Guinness [World] Record-holders, who will demonstrate some daredevil and breathtaking stunts."

There will be a cast of over 150 people paired with 70 specially transformed electric-powered vehicles to create the show.

The organizers also announced that in order for the show to come to life, the arena had to be transformed. Safety barriers were installed and the backstage area was transformed to accommodate the vehicle charging station and a permanent garage.

All the vehicles were designed from scratch and are powered by Tesla motors' custom-designed control system. The show will premier December 14 and will run until March 31 next year. Tickets will go on pre-sale from November 30.

FILM

'Pé San Ié – The Poet of Macau' to premiere in Lisbon today

The world premiere of the movie "Pé San Ié – The Poet of Macau" from director Rosa Coutinho Cabral and producer Maria Paula Monteiro, inspired by the life and work of Macau poet Camilo Pessanha, will be in the symbolic Manoel de Oliveira room of Lisbon's São Jorge Cinema today during the film festival DocLisboa.

The movie, which was entirely filmed in Macau in 2017 and finalized this year, focuses on the per-

sonality, life and work of poet Camilo Pessanha, especially during Pessanha's so-called "voluntary exile" period in Macau and her journey in the territory. As noted by the producers, one of the highlights of the film is the special narration made by the director with the collaboration of Carlos Morais José, a local writer, journalist and self-confessed aficionado of Pessanha's life.

The movie will be screened in the category "From

the land to the moon," a section that premieres the most recent films of key directors in the international documentary scene. Besides the main festival event in Lisbon, the film will also make its premier in Macau on November 5 at the Cinematheque Passion in DocLisboa, an event organized by the Portuguese Oriental Institute (IPOR) which is being extended to the region. The movie includes poems and visual metaphors ex-

tracted from Pessanha's famous "Clepsydra" poem, as well as attempts to recreate the poetic scenes which will be displayed with English subtitles. A documentary called "Camilo Pessanha - 150 years," produced and directed by the same team, will also be screened during the film festival.

This screening will take place at Dr Stanley Ho's Auditorium of the Consulate General of Portugal in Macau. **RM**

RENATO MARQUES



Pessanha's grave in Macau

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Times

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HKZMB

Xi Jinping to visit Zhuhai next week, open Delta bridge

CHINESE President Xi Jinping is expected to visit Zhuhai on October 23 to officiate the inauguration of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge (HKZMB), which will formally open to the public next week. Several media outlets are reporting that it is unlikely Xi will extend his visit to either Macau or Hong Kong.

Having faced numerous delays in its decade-long construction, the 55-kilometer monumental structure and longest sea-crossing bridge in the world will finally open this month.

The HKZMB is expected to enhance logistics and transportation between the 66 million people living in the Greater Bay Area, heralding a period of deeper economic integration between nine cities in the Pearl River Delta area and the two special administrative regions of Hong Kong and Macau.

Although Beijing's Liaison Office has not issued an official clarification, it is widely believed that the bridge will open on October 23, the day of the ceremony.

XINHUA



Xi Jinping inspects the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau bridge

The South China Morning Post (SCMP), citing an unidentified source, said that local authorities in the Pearl River Delta were "still awaiting confirmation from the mainland authorities," adding that "there may be a last-minute change."

The short notice ahead of the bridge's opening ceremony is likely due to security concerns in relation to the president's visit. Security officials in Zhuhai have reportedly been preparing for Xi's visit for several weeks.

However, the timing of the announcements has caused some irritation in Hong Kong. Coach operator One Bus Hong Kong Macau, which runs land transport services between the two

special administrative regions, complained to the SCMP about the short notice ahead of the opening.

"At about 5 p.m. today, we received notice from the government that there would be a ceremony in Zhuhai," a spokesperson from the company told the Hong Kong newspaper. "We've asked [Hong Kong] Transport Department officials whether it means the bridge will open the same day. They had no clue."

"This is a mega project. All the stakeholders have been expecting it with great anticipation. We hope to have ample time to make manpower arrangements and to promote our new coach services," the spokesperson said. "At such

short notice and without any details, how can we make the necessary logistic arrangements? It will cause chaos and great inconvenience to the passengers."

Xi's exact travel details remain unknown at this stage, though media reports suggest that his visit may begin as early as Saturday and could include other parts of Guangdong province, reportedly Sun Yat-sen University in the provincial capital of Guangzhou. There has been no indication that Xi intends to visit the special administrative regions of Macau and Hong Kong.

Xi previously inspected the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macau Bridge in July last year, concluding a three-day visit to Hong Kong to mark the 20th anniversary of Hong Kong's handover to China and attend the swearing-in ceremony of Chief Executive Carrie Lam's government.

Xi last visited Macau in December 2014 for the 15th anniversary of Macau's handover, during which time he stressed the need for the gambling enclave to diversify into other economic sectors. **DB**

100 affordable house buyers receive properties

Fai Chi Kei Edificio Fai Ieng affordable housing candidates have been receiving their housing units since yesterday. In total, there are 100 eligible buyers who are paying through installments, and they can now get the keys to their new properties and sign the property management contract. Edificio Fai Ieng provides a total of 436 house units divided into two apartment designs: one featuring two bedrooms and another including three bedrooms. House prices range from MOP800,000 up to MOP1.2 million.

Gongbei seizes 69,000 batches of prohibited items

In the first three quarters of this year, Gongbei Customs has seized 69,000 batches of prohibited items, an increase of 1.5 percent year-on-year, according to statistics released by Gongbei Customs. The items weigh 57,000 kilograms in total, an increase of nearly 10 percent. The main items intercepted were fruit, meat, seeds and dairy products, of which 4,601 items were detected to contain pests. Gongbei Customs issued a reminder that prohibited seeds may pose a great threat to the domestic ecological and environmental safety of mainland China.

AD



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China's tax policy guaranteed not to affect residents

China's Minister of Finance, Liu Kun, said that the tax bill amendment in mainland China will not increase tax burdens for Macau residents. Recently, the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong, met with Liu in Beijing. During the meeting, Leong expressed the concerns of some of Macau residents regarding the mainland's legislative changes over personal income taxes. Liu assured Leong that there would be no impact on Macau residents, having also claimed that China will continue to make beneficial arrangements for Hong Kong and Macau residents.

Former Viva Macau president denies relation to bankruptcy

The former president of Viva Macau, Ngan In Leng, claims that he has not been questioned by government departments regarding Viva Macau's bankruptcy case, according to a report by Exmoo. The case is being investigated by the Commission Against Corruption. Recently, the company's former president was asked by the media whether or not a government department had requested his assistance in the investigations. Ngan declared that he has no relationship to the incident, nor is he aware of the investigation progress.

AL PLENARY

Cyber security law approved with just three against

The government-proposed cyber security law was yesterday approved at its first reading at the Legislative Assembly plenary session, with just three lawmakers opposed – Pereira Coutinho, Sulu Sou and Ng Kuok Cheong.

Under the new law, private and public institutions in some sectors will be required to introduce and enforce select cyber security measures. These sectors include media and communication operators, banking and finance, as well as operators in the gambling industry.

According to its proponents, the bill aims to bolster the security of the city's information technology infrastructure, in part by monitoring communications for the purpose of detecting any irregularities in the flow of data.

But critics warn that the now-approved law will enable the government to violate individual freedoms under the guise of security-related concerns.

They say that the provisions



Wong Sio Chak (center) pictured yesterday at the AL

of the law may allow police authorities to abuse the system and arbitrarily monitor the content of electronic data and communications.

The government argues that the new bill will not contravene existing data protection and privacy laws in Macau. Secretary for Security Wong Sio Chak said yesterday that cyber authorities will only be permitted to access the personal data

of individuals after the relevant judicial authorization has been granted.

The Secretary previously said that the cyber security law will not lead to the government monitoring online content.

Also yesterday, the Legislative Assembly approved a bill granting new powers to the Public Security Police Force, with only lawmaker Sulu Sou voting against on the basis of it being

a missed "opportunity to revise the oversight of the PSP."

Later in the plenary session, the Assembly also approved new offshore regulations that follow the guidelines issued by the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development. Offshore institutions will only be allowed to have special tax-free status and stamp duty exemptions until June 2021.

AD

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FASHION

First 'Walk on Water' to feature Nuno Lopes' collection

Julie Zhu

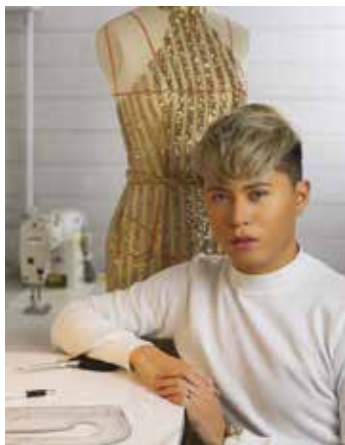
THE first "Walk on Water" show of Sands Macao Fashion Week will feature local designer Nuno Lopes' debut Spring/Summer 2019 (SS 2019) collection.

Lopes is the first local fashion designer to participate in London Fashion Week and be featured in Vogue magazine.

Speaking to the Times prior to his show today, Lopes said that he will be bringing more neutral colors to his first Macao Fashion Week show.

"Recently, I have been inspired by YouTube [videos], such as make-up tutorials, which I have watched quite a lot. Since I am quite inspired by cosmetics, there will be many neutral colors in this collection, such as pink and glittering pink. I used these colors in menswear, hoping to create juxtaposition," Lopes told the Times.

Lopes will bring 40 looks to his show in total, with over 100 pieces from his SS 2019 col-



Nuno Lopes

lection being presented. This year, the designer also produced some ready-to-wear and commercial pieces.

The young and up-and-coming designer, who was born and raised in Macau, was approached by Sands for Fashion Week. He was given three to four months to prepare the collection, so as to be part of the second Sands Macao Fashion Week in the first half of this year.

"I truly appreciate that Sands has given us [local designers] such a platform, because the thing Macau designers lack the most is a good platform," said the 27-year old. "I'm very honored to represent Macau designers while presenting at the first 'Walk on Water.' It is very meaningful to me."

Last year, the group runway shows were extremely popular amongst the public. This year, the group runway shows will once again be brought to life at the Venetian and the Parisian.

In Lopes' opinion, both the Venetian and Parisian provide good locations for fashion shows, as travellers from all around the world are gathered at these places.

The local designer hopes that in the near future he can bring his collection to the Shanghai Fashion Week.

At the age of 15, Lopes branched out into the fashion world and pursued his education and passion for the arts in London, successfully graduating with

a BA Fashion Design from London Middlesex University. Upon completion of his degree, Lopes was shortlisted by the industry panel judges at Middlesex University's internal fashion show. Lopes was given the chance to showcase his ubiquitous collection at the graduate press show during Graduate Fashion Week 2015.

Lopes recommends those interested in the fashion industry to pursue fashion education abroad in order to receive first-hand information and also to try to challenge themselves.

He also has confidence in Macau's fashion industry and believes that local designers will have greater opportunities in the future, after the development of the Greater Bay Area in particular.

Following last year's inaugural event, Sands Resorts Macao is holding the second Sands Macao Fashion Week from October 18 to 24, with seven days of fashion shows and other special events.

New themed resort announced

A new themed resort located in Cotai was presented yesterday. Lisboeta, a HKD5 billion resort, will be developed by Macau Theme Park and Resort Limited. The company's directors include SJM executive director Angela Leong and her son Arnaldo Ho. Occupying a land plot of over 100,000 square meters, the project includes three hotels, a cinema and indoor skydiving, among other attractions. "At this moment the project does not have gaming elements. That is because I'm not a gaming operator. At this moment this land is for hotel purposes," Arnaldo Ho said during the presentation.

MGM suspends planed resident show

Destiny, one of the planed resident shows at MGM Cotai, was suspended. Earlier this year, the show had been described by an MGM China press release as "an electrifying, action-packed immersive theatrical production that is inspired by the concept of TV game shows and adventure video games." Grant Bowie, chief executive officer and executive director of MGM China, confirmed the decision yesterday. "The show has been suspended. The challenge for us is to try and make sure we do something that's significant and actually adds value," he said.



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23RD MIF KICKS OFF

Lionel Leong praises local MICE industry

THE 23rd Macao International Trade and Investment Fair (22nd MIF) and 2018 Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau) (2018 PLPEX) opened yesterday at The Venetian Macao. It marked the congregation of senior government officials, entrepreneurs and businesspeople from Macau, mainland China, Portuguese-speaking countries, countries and regions along the "Belt and Road", European countries and the United States.

MIF is organized by the Macao Trade and Investment Promotion Institute and co-organized by 15 economic and commercial departments as well as business associations from Macau, mainland China, and Hong Kong. This year's MIF is themed "Cooperation – Key to Business Opportunities." The exhibition covers an area of 24,000 square meters and has over 1,500 booths.

The Secretary for Economy and Finance of Macau SAR, Lionel Leong, noted in his speech that Macau has made considerable progress in its efforts to integrate itself into the national development, is supporting the building of the Belt and Road initiative, the construction of the Greater Bay Area and accelerating its development as a World Center of Tourism and Leisure and the Commercial and Trade Co-operation Service Platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries.

"In terms of the MICE in-



Lionel Leong

dustry [meetings, incentives, conferences and exhibitions], Macau has been committed to nurturing a number of signature local exhibitions and has worked proactively to introduce new conferences, seizing thousands of attendees," said Leong.

"At present, large international conferences held in Macau are growing steadily in number. The international and professional levels of these conferences are also improving," said Leong.

"Looking ahead, Macau will continue to leverage its function of precise liaison as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries. The city will endeavor to fulfill its historic missions endowed by the new era and seize development opportunities to serve the needs of our country and deliver the strengths of Macau," said Leong.

According to the secretary, from January to August, a total of 19 quality conferences attended by thousands of visi-

tors have been introduced in Macau, more than double the eight conferences that were held during the same period last year.

Under the theme "Cooperation – Key to Business Opportunities," this year's MIF invited Mozambique and Fujian as its Partner Country and Partner Province respectively.

A diverse array of forums will be held, including the Mozambique-Fujian-Macao Trade and Investment Forum, the Jiangsu-Macao-Portuguese-speaking Countries

Business Forum, the 4th Young Entrepreneurs Forum of China and Portuguese-speaking Countries, and the 15th World Summit of Chinese Entrepreneurs, as well as the 9th Asia Trade Promotion Forum (ATPF) Joint Exhibition.

In addition, the 2018 Portuguese-speaking Countries Products and Services Exhibition (Macau) (2018 PLPEX) will continue simultaneously, alongside this year's MIF.

With a bigger scale and more diverse activities organised, the 2018 PLPEX has attracted more than 250 exhibitions from mainland China, Macau, Hong Kong, and the eight Portuguese-speaking countries and regions.

Activities such as the Portuguese-speaking Countries Wine and Food Business Matching Seminar and the Portuguese-speaking Countries Food Experience Zone will be staged to further capitalize on Macau's role as a platform between China and Portuguese-speaking countries and its Three Centres, especially as the food product distribution center for Portuguese-speaking countries.

This year, PLPEX is rolling out the Brazil Unmanned Shop Experience Zone (Brazil Center) to showcase assorted Brazilian products with an innovative retailing approach and promote Brazilian products through interactive experiences.

HKZMB'S OPENING WILL BENEFIT THREE CITIES

ON THE sidelines of the MIF opening ceremony, Secretary for Economy and Finance Lionel Leong said that the opening of the Hong Kong-Zhuhai-Macao Bridge will benefit the three cities [more on page 3]. Recently, Liu Cigui, Communist Party Secretary of Hainan province, said that opening casinos in Hainan is absolutely out of question. In

response to Liu's announcement, Leong said that the international competition for Macau's gaming industry will not slow down just because Hainan will not open casinos. In addition, when talking about next year's budget within his secretariat, Leong revealed that his sector might increase investment in infrastructure in its 2019 budget.

Studio City takes USD359m in US IPO

Studio City International Holdings Ltd. raised USD359 million in its U.S. initial public offering, pricing its shares at the top of the Macau casino and resort company's targeted range.

Studio City sold 28.75 million American depositary shares for \$12.50 each Wednesday after pricing them at \$10.50 to \$12.50, according to data compiled by Bloomberg. The listing may provide a lift for Macau's gaming industry, which has been beset by increased government scrutiny, potential economic fallout of China-U.S. trade tensions and, in September, Typhoon Mangkhut.

An index of six Macau gaming companies has fallen 29 percent this year. Las Vegas Sands Corp., the biggest gaming company on U.S. exchanges, has fallen more than 17 percent, while second-ranked MGM Resorts International is down 16 percent and Wynn Resorts Ltd. has plunged 30 percent.

The Studio City casino in Macau has 250 gaming tables and about 970 machines, as well as VIP gambling facilities, a hotel, family entertainment center, nightclub and 5,000-seat arena, according to the company's IPO filing with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. The company lost \$15 million on revenue of \$282 million in the first half of the year, compared with a loss of \$47 million on revenue of \$254 million for the first six months of 2017, according to the filing.

The public listing will be accompanied by a private placement to Melco International, an affiliate of the company that operates Studio City. The American depositary shares will represent four ordinary Class A shares, according to the filing. After the IPO, Melco Resorts, through another entity, will control at least 50.1 percent of the shareholder voting interest of Studio City.

The offering was led by Deutsche Bank AG, Credit Suisse Group AG and Morgan Stanley. The shares are expected to begin trading yesterday on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol MSC. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

OKTOBERFEST MACAU AT MGM CELEBRATES 10TH ANNIVERSARY



MGM kick-started Oktoberfest Macau at MGM Cotai yesterday. Marking its tenth anniversary, the event is being hosted for the first time at MGM's newest integrated resort, MGM Cotai.

The event is being held by MGM in co-operation with the Consulate General of the Federal Republic of Germany in Hong Kong and Macau

and the German Macau Business Association, and with the continued support of the Macao Government Tourism Office. The event officially kicked off with a beer keg tapping by Alexis Tam, Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture.

During the opening event, Pansy Ho, co-chairperson and executive director of MGM China Holdings

Ltd., expressed her appreciation to government departments, other supporting units and guests for their overwhelming support of Oktoberfest Macau at MGM. She said: "The Oktoberfest Macau at MGM is marking its 10th anniversary at the Macao Year of Gastronomy. Over the past decade, it has become a talk-of-the-town event in Macau every October. As a food-and-wine themed event featuring culture and heritage, Oktoberfest Macau demonstrates the synergies between gastronomy, creativity, culture and tourism, elevating Macau as a UNESCO Creative City of Gastronomy. With Macau's competitive advantages of unique culture and tourism, we will continue to offer more diversified experiences, and we look forward to creating more signature events to our guests."

Oktoberfest Macau will be held until October 29 (excluding October 21).

MELCO STAFF ENTERTAIN ORPHANED CHILDREN AT HAC SA BBQ



With autumn now well under way, Melco Resorts & Entertainment initiated an event for volunteers to spend time with children from the community and enjoy a barbecue at Hac Sa, Coloane, according to a statement from the gaming operator.

Over 25 Melco volunteers watched the sun set with 15 young beneficiaries from ECF Fellowship Orphanage Inc. Together with staff members from the

non-profit organization, the group spent time playing treasure hunt and ball games as well as enjoying good food.

ECF Fellowship Orphanage Inc. is home to orphans aged five to 18, as well as those whose parents are not able to provide full-time care. Aside from food and shelter, the organization offers beneficiaries education, vocational training and spiritual support.

REAL ESTATE MATTERS

What is rent control and does it work?

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

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SAM LEE

In Macau, we often hear stories of landlords raising rents to incredulous heights and forcing existing tenants to move at the end of the tenancy agreement. Some say that it's just the market doing what the market does and that we should just deal with it, while others say that the government should intervene to protect the tenants. The latter is often voiced much louder, and with the recent introduction of the 3-year tenancy contracts, it looks like the government has been listening.

An idea that is sometimes suggested is the introduction of 'rent control', where the maximum rent a landlord can set in a specified area is capped or controlled by the law to protect tenants from being priced out. Rent control is actively practiced in places like New York and California, but not without controversy from both sides. The question remains: Does it work?

At the risk of oversimplifying the issue, the argument against rent control

says that the policy ends up hurting the very tenants it seeks to protect by reducing the supply and quality of rental properties. Firstly, the lower rents potentially mean the additional costs and inconveniences of having tenants outweighs the benefits and stops the landlord from putting the property on the market in the first place. Even if the landlord does rent the property, he would not be motivated to maintain the property to the standard of the market rate X, and would likely allow the property degenerate to match the lower rent rate of Y. One way to address this would be to place a tax on vacant apartments as Hong Kong recently did, but as you can see this would lead us down a policy rabbit hole where one is plastered over the next. Another way that rent control could limit housing supply is by disincentivising property developers from building new stock. A common practice for developers is to presell the newly developed residential stock and

keep the commercial spaces to rent out. If rental prices are capped, this strategy becomes less attractive and sales more difficult.

The arguments from the other side are both moral and economic. The obvious moral argument is that it is unfair to suddenly hike the rent and force the tenant out given that housing is a basic human need, especially if the tenant is in a disadvantaged economic or demographic position. The economic argument is that by allowing rents to soar without limits, certain types of business activities become unviable due to prohibitive commercial rents and this takes away from the entrepreneurial stock of the city.

There is no one-size-fits-all answer to this question, and each market will need to find its own balance between laissez-faire economics and interventionism. Other common alternative or supplements to rent control are the provision of public housing, housing vouchers or subsidies.

Disney bets USD20m to ensure Florida isn't the next Vegas

A Florida ballot initiative this November would give voters the power to block any expansion of casino gambling, a move some argue would effectively crush gaming companies' long and costly efforts to expand into the Sunshine State.

If approved, Amendment 3 of the Florida Constitution would require 60 percent state-wide support for any new casinos. That threshold would protect the local hegemony of the Seminole Tribe of Florida, which operates gambling establishments under federal law allowing Native Americans to do so, and entertainment giant Walt Disney Co. Together, Disney and the Seminoles have given about \$36 million to bolster the measure.

"The Seminole Tribe of Florida is trying to buy a monopoly," said Dan Adkins, who chairs Citizens for the Truth About Amendment 3, Inc., a political committee fighting the measure and funded by casinos and racetracks, among others. "Their arguments are all self-serving."

In fact, both sides' arguments are muddled by the corpo-



rate interests funding their campaigns. Indeed, Adkins himself has a day job at the Hallandale Beach, Florida, Big Easy Casino, a recently renamed greyhound racing venue that offers gaming options it would love to expand. Other opponents include MGM Resorts International and the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers. The football teams declined to comment on whether their opposition to the amendment had any connection to a U.S. Supreme Court ruling in May that opened the door for states to legalize sports gambling within their borders.

The "yes" campaign has benefited significantly more from corporate money. Disney alone has spent \$20 million supporting the initiative, compared with about \$7 million total for Adkins' committee and about \$1 million for another opposition group, Vote NO on 3.

The efforts of Disney and its allies seem to be creating an advantage. In a Florida Chamber of Commerce poll conducted Sept. 19-24, 54 percent of respondents planned to vote "yes," 28 percent planned to vote "no," and 18 percent were undecided, with a 4.4 percentage point margin of error. The Florida Chamber supports the measure.

The vote is far from a foregone conclusion, though, because the measure itself needs 60 percent approval.

If successful, the measure would put up another obstacle for expanding gambling, requiring companies to actively campaign for 60 percent voter approval. That would in effect insulate Disney's brand of Florida tourism, while the Seminole Tribe would maintain its gambling industry preeminence. **Bloomberg**

AD

Interns Become Team Members: Valuable Additions to the GEG Family

SINCE 2008, the GEG Integrated Resort Internship Program has been bringing local students onto its properties to get real-world experience in the integrated resort business. Over the past ten years, many ambitious and aspiring young people have taken this opportunity to become familiarized with an array of departments at GEG's properties. From the engineering feats behind Galaxy Macau's spectacular Diamond Show to the meticulous care of Broadway Hotel and StarWorld Hotel's housekeeping to the work of

business administration and marketing in the corporate offices, student interns experience various facets of GEG's business. Always seeking ways of becoming more inclusive, GEG reached out to Escola Lusó-Chinesa Técnico-Profissional (ELCTP) in 2012 to invite its students with special needs to join the internship program. Many of the program interns have been offered positions at GEG. One such successful intern is Lam Si Yuen, who participated in the internship program twice during his school years. Lam joined

GEG's Housekeeping and Environmental Services Department after his graduation from ELCTP. "The internship program showed me how important it is to keep a positive attitude at work and not give up. I get a lot of confidence from working with my colleagues, who always stay by my side. This department feels like a second family to me," he said. Cecilia Chu, the Executive Manager in the department Lam works in, said that Lam has been very capable in his position. "My company assigns tasks based on each employee's strengths and personality, and I totally support GEG in employing differently-abled people. We don't treat them differently. Patience and support are what it takes for them to succeed in their workplace." "They are indeed diligent and committed, and take their duties seriously," said Joey Fong, Assistant Vice President of Mass Recruitment. "GEG is always in close contact with local organizations for the challenged, offering their members working and internship opportunities. We are also devoted to nurturing them, by providing a variety of vocational training." It was the reason for the strong bonds



The GEG Integrated Resort Internship Program has been bringing many aspiring young people onto its properties to get real-world experience in the integrated resort business.

between GEG and its challenged employees, who have served the company for years. Some of them also made significant progress in their careers.

is happy to see that gaming companies proactively provide differently-abled individuals and students with working and internship opportunities in order

to promote social integration in this city. The Macau Special Olympics, many of whose members have joined the GEG family through job referral services, also says, "We appreciate DSAL and GEG's efforts to improve our members' confidence and

social skills by allowing them to work with people from various backgrounds."

With the help of the Labour Affairs Bureau (DSAL), this year's GEG Integrated Resort Internship Program increased its intake of interns with special needs. DSAL says it



Lam joined GEG's Housekeeping and Environmental Services Department after two internships during his school years.

MAKE A DIFFERENCE BY MAKING A COMMITMENT



銀娛GEG

Hannah Elliott

THIS week, Rolls-Royce unleashed its USD325,000 Cullinan on the back roads and double-diamond ski runs of Wyoming's Grand Teton mountain range.

The press launch was the first time the 6,000-pound SUV had been driven publicly in North America, timed to get out word of the vehicle's off-road skills right before November's chill—and January's first deliveries.

Torsten Müller-Otvös was there, too. Rolls-Royce's long-time chief executive officer has shepherded the brand to a 13.5 percent sales increase this year to date, and this month the company announced it added 200 jobs in an effort to meet Cullinan demand. (That gain means Rolls-Royce will expand its workforce to more than 2,000 people for the first time, a six fold increase since the British automaker's headquarters and manufacturing facility in Goodwood, West Sussex, opened in 2003.)

Müller-Otvös, an accomplished fly fisherman who prefers the Cullinan in magma red, sat down with Bloomberg to discuss why it's so important for it to go off-road, its prospects for getting an electric drivetrain, and what he says to the Cullinan's critics.

- The emphasis for this launch has seemed to emphasize the off-road capability of Cullinan above all else. Is that true? Did you feel the need to make a statement in this way with this launch?

Torsten Müller-Otvös (TMO) - It is. First of all, you don't need to be convinced that our cars drive perfect on roads, flat on land. That's given. That's the Rolls-Royce brand promise. And Cullinan delivers that in perfection. But of course we wanted to showcase to you what the car is capable of. We sent all the test cars all over the world, into the desert, into the mountains, just to showcase what the car is capable of and what it can deliver, so that customers also understand the car is a true SUV. But it's also a Rolls-Royce SUV: You can drive up in style in front of the opera building, you can go out for dinner with all your friends. This car brings you up to your chalet. It can carry lots of loads, it can carry the whole family, load your dogs into the car, go down to the harbor. So it is for all purposes in life.

- After Bentley's Bentayga and Lamborghini's Urus, this is just about the last of the large and very expensive luxury SUVs to hit the market.

TMO - We took our time. After we announced that we would bring such a type of car into the market, we took our time to make it—we know that. But

Q&A TORSTEN MÜLLER-OTVÖS
ROLLS-ROYCE CEO

Rolls-Royce will never make a hybrid car: CEO



we wanted to engineer it in a way that it would deliver practicality and functionality. When people are asking for that type of car, of course it still needs to have that type of serenity when you go up into the mountains. That's the importance of the 4x4.

Almost all of our clients want to use the cars off-road.

- Rolls-Royce is so closely associated with cosmopolitan refinement. What percentage of your buyers do you believe will actually use it off-road on any regular basis?

TMO - It's early days now, and for that reason I would not be able to tell you the truth [about the specific percentage]. So far, I think that's the whole psychological expectation embedded in the SUV proposition—that you can go wherever you want to go, even if you don't do it very often in life. But almost all of our clients, be it in the Middle East or Asia or North America, want to use the cars off-road going to certain remote parts in the road. Going

to their chalet in the Swiss Alps, to their weekend retreat in the desert in the Middle East. And so for that reason, the car needs to deliver the capability to do so. Our clients enjoy these kind of freedoms to use their cars in these situations, particularly on weekends.

- That has certainly been what I've seen in my reporting—that modern luxury is heavily related to the idea of freedom. To the wealthiest people in the world, freedom is very important.

TMO - Very much.

- This car weighs more than 6,000 pounds and gets less than 20 miles per gallon. It looks like an elegant tank, if I can put it like that. Call it unapologetic. Polarizing, even. In an era of hybrids and electric cars, and as environmental concerns continue to rise, will you have trouble selling it?

TMO - No. Rolls-Royce needs presence. Our customers love that. It's the same when very impressive people enter a room. Suddenly, silence. That's exactly what happens when a Rolls-Royce turns up. Yes, you might see people who are saying, "The car is too big, I don't like it, it carries too much presence." But I think if you want to please everybody, you don't please anybody.

- What percentage of Cullinan buyers will be new to the Rolls-Royce brand?

TMO - [There will be] quite some conquest [buyers crossing over from other brands]. We see that already today in our order books. And I'm also positively surprised by our loyal clients who are adding Cullinan into their existing garage today just for the pure sake that this car is convincing, size-wise.

- We've talked about the surprisingly young average age of Rolls-Royce owners. Where will Cullinan buyers fit into the mix, age-wise?

TMO - Cullinan [buyers] will be younger customers, that's for sure. Our youngest car in the portfolio is Wraith, particularly in the Black Badge edition, followed by Dawn. I think Cullinan will sit in that league of average age, around 40. We also foresee still the ongoing trend that ultrahigh net worth individuals are getting younger. That will stay on for a number of years.

- Where are most of the preorders for Cullinan coming from?

TMO - North America is the No.1 market by far. It's really quite impressive to see that. Followed by Asia. Quite strong is also Europe. And then the Middle East, of course, following behind.

- Talk to me about electric. Is there an electric future for Cullinan?

TMO - There is an electric future for Rolls-Royce. We have not made our plan about what comes first, and what comes when, but we know that we will go full electric. We will not do hybrids or whatever. Our proposition is full electric. It will come in the next decade, step by step by step. But I can also tell you we will stick with our beloved 12-cylinder as long as we can.

- How closely do you watch what [parent company] BMW as a group does and announces? For instance, the news surrounding the BMW Vision iNext SUV that just debuted.

TMO - It's a great advantage to be part of the BMW Group. We are a small manufacturer—we are selling 4,000 cars and some more with Cullinan—so for that reason I am superglad we are part of the BMW Group. BMW Group is educated and well-understanding enough to say Rolls-Royce needs to sit on a different architecture. They understand we are super-exclusive and able to give our customers true luxury, which is not an X7 camouflaged as a Rolls-Royce. We wouldn't do that.

No.2, it's great that BMW Group is so forward-looking and -thinking on iNext and so on. I'm glad that I'm part of the bigger group, because we profit from that. Our engineers are embedded enough in the overall organization to grab into the shelf and say, "That's great, we'll use that for Rolls-Royce." And the BMW Group is more than happy to help. Otherwise we would not be capable to get our brand electrified. If we would need to do that on our own, completely alone, that's quite a task.

- Will we ever see a V-8 engine in a Cullinan?

TMO - No. That is for the pure sake of volume, Hannah, and that is what we are not doing. We are not launching lower engines with lower price points. This is volume-chasing. That's not the game of Rolls-Royce. We stay highly exclusive.

- It must be so refreshing to be able to be so clear-minded and focused in that way.

TMO - I think you need to be clear-minded. When you do real luxury, you need to be clear-minded. If you mess this around, you can be dead in the water within moments. And for that reason, Hannah, I think you need to have a really sharp mind on that. Customers will tell you the same thing that I am telling you, that they expect from us limitation. Limitation in volume. They don't want to see their own cars all over the place. And they are more than happy to pay our prices, make no error. They are clear: "Don't go volume, please." And I tell them, "We aren't going to, ever." **Bloomberg**

Mattis meets his Chinese counterpart, but no new agreements

Robert Burns, Singapore

U.S. officials say they sense that relations with the Chinese military, after a rocky few months, may be stabilizing, although face-to-face talks between their respective defense chiefs yesterday produced no new agreements.

U.S. Defense Secretary Jim Mattis met for nearly 90 minutes, 30 minutes longer than scheduled, on the sidelines of an Asian security conference with his Chinese counterpart, Gen. Wei Fenghe. A participant, Randall Schriver, the Pentagon's top official for Asia-Pacific affairs, said Mattis described the talks as "straightforward and candid" and asserted that high-level talks are especially valuable during times of tension.

Schriver said the discussions covered numerous issues but focused especially on the disputed South China Sea, where Chinese military activity is viewed by Washington as irresponsible and Beijing complains of an inappropriate U.S. military presence. Mattis asserted that the U.S. view is widely shared in the region and beyond.

"That's an area where we will continue to have differences and talk through," Schriver told reporters after the meeting.

Mattis and Wei discussed an existing U.S. invitation for Wei to visit the U.S., but details remain to be worked out, Schriver said.

"There was a commitment on both sides to try to find a time" for such a meeting, he added.

China did not immediately comment to U.S. media outlets at the conference after the meeting between Mattis and Wei.



Jim Mattis (left) meets Chinese Defense Minister Wei Fenghe

Just weeks ago, Mattis had planned to travel to Beijing for talks with Wei, but that fell through when the Chinese made it known that Wei would be unavailable, one of several signs that tension in the overall U.S.-China relationship was spilling over into the military arena.

Wei and Mattis were in Singapore this week for an Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Schriver had told reporters on Wednesday that the Chinese had requested the Singapore meeting with Mattis. He said U.S. officials took this as a sign that the Chinese are interested in stabilizing the military relationship.

Speaking to reporters traveling with him earlier this week, Mattis acknowledged that the relationship has been difficult in recent times. "We're two large

powers, or two Pacific powers, two economic powers. There's going to be times we step on each other's toes, so we're going to have to find a way to productively manage our relationship," he said. "And the military relationship is to be a stabilizing force in the relations between the two countries."

As recently as June, when Mattis was in Beijing for his first visit to China as Pentagon chief, President Xi Jinping called the U.S.-China military relationship the "model component of our overall bilateral relations."

Since then, however, a series of irritants have shaken military-to-military ties. Schriver said the trigger for recent tensions was the Trump administration's decision in September to sanction the Chinese military for buying Russian fighter planes and mis-

siles. That action was taken under the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act passed by Congress in 2017. Beijing also strongly criticized a U.S. announcement of further arms sales to Taiwan, the self-governed island that Beijing insists is part of China.

China responded to these events with strong criticism, followed by a decision to cancel a planned visit to the Pentagon by the head of the Chinese navy and a confrontation in the South China Sea between a Chinese warship and a U.S. Navy destroyer, the USS Decatur. The Chinese also denied a request for a U.S. Navy ship to visit Hong Kong.

"That may turn out to be a relatively short bump in the road," Schriver said Wednesday, suggesting that the Singapore meeting between Wei and

Mattis could nudge things back in the right direction, although the U.S. administration remains concerned that the Chinese have achieved a key goal by militarizing disputed land features in the South China Sea that Washington warned against.

China views Washington's criticism of its activities in the South China Sea as unnecessary meddling in internal Chinese affairs.

“We’re going to have to find a way to productively manage our relationship.”

JIM MATTIS

Earlier this year, Mattis cited China's military presence on some land features in the South China Sea as his reason for disinviting the Chinese military from an international naval exercise in the Pacific.

As part of a U.S. effort to enlist support for countering and limiting China's militarization of the South China Sea, Mattis earlier this week visited Vietnam, which has its own disputed territorial claims there. Schriver noted that smaller nations like Vietnam, with limited naval and economic power, have reasons to express their concerns about China privately rather than in public.

"They do face potential risk angering China," Schriver said. **AP**

HK hit by rush-hour chaos after glitch delays trains

HONG Kong's metro trains suffered delays due to a rare, simultaneous signaling glitch on four of its lines, causing chaos at stations and inconveniencing thousands of commuters during the morning peak-hour rush.

The Asian financial hub's rail operator, MTR Corp., said three major lines and a fourth one had to be operated manually early Tuesday, slowing down trains and extending journey times by as much as 40 minutes. Around midday, the company said all services have been restored to their normal schedules after a temporary fix



to the issue.

The MTR is the backbone of the city's transportation, carrying an average of about 5.8 million passengers on a weekday,

according to the company's website. The delays resulted in packed trains, forcing commuters to look for buses and taxis. Singapore, another Asian

city known for its efficient public transport services, received a knock in August last year when faulty signaling resulted in disruptions.

Lau Tin-shing, director of operations for MTR, told reporters that switching to manual controls reduced the frequency of the trains to once every 12 to 15 minutes.

"It only provides around 20 to 30 percent of the services we normally provide during peak hours," Lau said, apologizing to the public. MTR, which is still investigating the cause, will make sure the network remains stable when commuters head back home later Tuesday, he said.

MTR's Island, Kwun Tong, Tsuen Wan and Tseung Kwan O lines were affected. At some stations,

the operator halted escalators to curb further inflow of passengers into crowded platforms, as people waited for more than 30 minutes with umbrellas in hands and hunched over their mobile phones.

Under an agreement between MTR and Hong Kong's government, the operator needs to pay a fine if there are delays of more than 31 minutes. A 10-hour service disruption on the Kwun Tong line last year, again the result of a signaling fault, led to a HKD2 million (USD255,225) penalty. The government is MTR's biggest shareholder. **Bloomberg**

Tesla secures land in Shanghai for first factory outside US

AP PHOTO



Elon Musk, CEO of Tesla Motors

Joe McDonald

ELECTRIC auto brand Tesla Inc. said it signed an agreement Wednesday to secure land in Shanghai for its first factory outside the United States, pushing ahead with development despite mounting U.S.-Chinese trade tensions.

Tesla, based on Palo Alto, California, announced plans for the Shanghai factory in July after the Chinese government said it would end restrictions on full foreign ownership of electric vehicle makers to speed up industry development.

Those plans have gone ahead despite tariff hikes by Washington and Beijing on billions of dollars of each other's goods in a dispute over Chinese technology policy. U.S. imports targeted by Beijing's penalties include electric cars.

China is the biggest global electric vehicle market and Tesla's second-largest after the United States.

Tesla joins global automakers including General Motors Co., Volkswagen AG and Nissan Motor Corp. that are pouring billions of dollars into manufacturing electric vehicles in China.

Local production would eliminate risks from tariffs and other import controls. It would help Tesla develop parts suppliers to support after service and make its vehicles more appealing to mainstream Chinese buyers.

Tesla said it signed a "land transfer agreement" on a 210-acre (84-hectare) site in the Lingang district in southeastern Shanghai.

That is "an important milestone for what will be our next advanced, sustainably developed manufacturing site," Tesla's vice president of worldwide sales, Robin Ren, said in a statement.

Shanghai is a center of China's auto industry and home to state-owned Shanghai Automotive Industries Corp., the main local manufacturer for GM and VW.

Tesla said earlier that production in Shanghai would

begin two to three years after construction of the factory begins and eventually increase to 500,000 vehicles annually.

Tesla has yet to give a price tag but the Shanghai government said it would be the biggest foreign investment there to date. The company said in its second-quarter investor letter that construction is expected to begin within the next few quarters, with significant investment coming next year. Much of the cost will be funded with "local debt" the letter said.

Tesla's USD5 billion Nevada battery factory was financed with help from a \$1.6 billion investment by battery maker Panasonic Corp.

Analysts expect Tesla to report a loss of about \$200 million for the three months ending Sept. 30 following the previous quarter's \$742.7 million loss. Its CEO Elon Musk said in a Sept. 30 letter to U.S. securities regulators that the company is "very close to achieving profitability."

Tesla's estimated sales in China of under 15,000 vehicles in 2017 gave it a market share of less than 3 percent.

The company faces competition from Chinese brands including BYD Auto and BAIC Group that already sell tens of thousands of hybrid and pure-electric sedans and SUVs annually.

Until now, foreign automakers that wanted to manufacture in China were required to work through state-owned partners. Foreign brands balked at bringing electric vehicle technology into China to avoid having to share it with potential future competitors.

The first of the new electric models being developed by global automakers to hit the market, Nissan's Sylphy Zero Emission, began rolling off a production line in southern China in August.

Lower-priced electric models from GM, Volkswagen and other global brands are due to hit the market starting this year, well before Tesla is up and running in Shanghai. **AP**

AD

SANDS MACAO FASHION WEEK

Macao's most glamorous week of the year is here! Sands Macao Fashion Week launches at Sands Shoppes today. Head down to enjoy fashion-forward runway shows, style-centric exhibitions and a host of other hot happenings.

**FRIDAY
19 OCTOBER**

Nuno Lopes Show,
Shoppes at Venetian
11.30

Boutique Show,
Shoppes at Parisian
13.30, 16.00, 18.00 and 20.00

Walk on Water Show,
Shoppes at Venetian
15.00, 17.00 and 19.00

**SATURDAY
20 OCTOBER**

Walk on Water Show,
Shoppes at Venetian
12.00, 14.00, 16.00 and 18.00

Boutique Show,
Shoppes at Parisian
13.00, 15.00, 17.00 and 19.00

**SUNDAY
21 OCTOBER**

Walk on Water Show,
Shoppes at Venetian
12.00, 14.00, 16.00 and 18.00

Boutique Show,
Shoppes at Parisian
13.00, 15.00 and 17.00

CPTTM Designer Runway Show,
Shoppes at Parisian
19.00

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PHILIPPINES

Key allies quit Duterte Cabinet to run in elections

Jim Gomez, Manila

CLOSE allies of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte have resigned from his Cabinet to run in elections next year that will test his popularity and could determine his future political influence.

Among those running in the May 13 elections are Duterte's former foreign secretary, who staunchly defended him from international criticism of his deadly anti-drug crackdown, his spokesman, his political adviser and a longtime aide. Wednesday was the final day for aspirants to register as candidates.

More than 18,000 government posts are up for grabs, including 12 seats in the 24-member Senate, which stymied efforts by Duterte allies this year to rapidly open the country's constitution to amendments and allow a shift to a federal system of government. All the seats in the larger House of Representatives are to be contested.

Duterte, 73, has remained generally popular since he won a



Former political adviser for President Rodrigo Duterte, Francis Tolentino

six-year term in June 2016 on a promise to eradicate crime and long-entrenched corruption, despite international and domestic criticism of his bloody crackdown on illegal drugs, which has left nearly 5,000 suspects dead in clashes with law enforcers.

"If you think the president is doing his job, vote for us," said Duterte's long-time aide, Christopher "Bong" Go, who is

seeking a Senate seat along with two other Cabinet members. Duterte accompanied Go as he registered for his first political contest.

While Duterte's allies overwhelmingly dominate the House, the Senate has posed a challenge with the presence of vocal opposition members as well as Duterte allies who have taken critical positions on touchy issues such as changing the

1987 constitution.

Jean Franco, a University of the Philippines political science professor, said it's crucial for Duterte's candidates to win more seats in the Senate although many of his candidates face an uphill battle partly due to their lack of political experience.

"If you can't control the Senate after the midterm elections in terms of numbers, federalism may really be out and of course the other crucial issues," Franco said.

Congress' repeated failure to pass a law to enforce a constitutional ban on political dynasties allowed prominent political names to again grab the spotlight ahead of next year's polls.

Imee Marcos, a provincial governor and the daughter of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, filed her candidacy for the Senate, while the offspring of other politicians who fought the Marcos dictatorship in the 1970s and 1980s are also seeking Senate seats. Ferdinand Marcos' 89-year-old widow and outgoing House member, Imel-

da Marcos, is planning to replace her daughter Imee as governor of northern Ilocos Norte province.

An army-backed "people power" revolt ousted Marcos in 1986. He and his wife were accused of plundering government coffers during years of rule that were also marked by massive human rights violations. The Marcoses, who backed Duterte's presidency, have denied any wrongdoing.

"I think the new generation, particularly the millennial generation, are ready to hear our side of the story," Imee Marcos told reporters.

Jose Manuel Diokno, dean of a law school and son of a nationalist politician jailed by Marcos in the 1970s, said he would help strengthen the country's judiciary if he wins a Senate seat. Followers of Diokno and Marcos heckled each other when the two registered for the elections Tuesday. "We don't have accountability because we don't have a working justice system. We have lots of corruption and there are many syndicates and organized crime because of our weak justice system," Diokno said.

Duterte's daughter, Sara, is running for re-election as mayor of southern Davao city while two of his sons are seeking to become Davao vice mayor and a House representative. **AP**

AD

MAKE-UP

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Ashok Sharma, New Delhi

INDIA

Protesters stop females ages 10 to 50 from entering temple

A temple in southern India and one of the world's largest Hindu pilgrimage centers opened its doors to females of menstruating age on Wednesday to comply with a Supreme Court ruling, but women weren't able to enter as hundreds of protesters fought street battles with police to keep them out.

As the gates of the Sabarimala temple were flung open, a crowd of male devotees surged toward the temple. About 1,000 police used batons to try to control the protesters, who attacked them with stones and damaged police and TV vehicles and bullied female devotees to turn back.

The protesters ran after the media vehicles, pounding them with hands and kicking to stop them from reaching the temple site.

The state Industry Minister, E.P. Jayarajan, told the Press Trust of India news agency that at least 10 reporters and photojournalists were injured and their equipment damaged.

Police arrested 11 protesters when they tried to block the path of some females.

The temple will remain open for five-day monthly prayers until Oct. 22.

Pooja Prasaanna of Republic TV said the protesters hurled stones at a police van where she and her crew members had taken shelter after their car was targeted, and snatched away officers' batons when they tried to shield them.

The New Delhi Television channel reported that about 20 protesters surrounded a bus in which a reporter of The News-minute channel was traveling and tried to pull her out. Angry protesters kicked and hurled

AP PHOTO



Protesters who are opposed to allowing women of menstruating age from entering the Sabarimala temple chant devotional hymns

abuses at her, NDTV reported.

The entry of females between the ages of 10 and 50 to the centuries-old temple was banned informally for many years, and then by law in 1972.

In 1991, the Kerala High Court confirmed the ban. India's Supreme Court lifted the ban last month, holding that equality is supreme irrespective of age and gender.

Temple management and the protesters argue that the celi-

bate nature of the temple's presiding deity, Lord Ayyappa, is protected by India's Constitution. Some religious figures consider menstruating women to be impure.

Meghna Pant, a female activist, said the celibacy of the deity was not more important than the equality of women. "Who are men to decide where women can go or not?" she said.

Supporters of the ban are angry with the state government's

decision not to seek a review of the Supreme Court's ruling.

Rahul Easwar, an attorney for the temple, appealed to the female devotees not to enter the temple and give temple authorities until next week to file a petition for review with the Supreme Court.

Sabarimala is surrounded by mountains and dense forests in its location at the Periyar Tiger Reserve. Up to 50 million devotees visit the temple each year.

A number of temples in India have banned women, saying the policy is intended to preserve the purity of their shrines. The operators of a temple in the northwestern state of Rajasthan believe the Hindu god Kartikeya curses women who enter the temple, instead of blessing them.

India's secular courts have intervened recently in cases in which a religion's gender beliefs were seen as discriminatory. AP

VIETNAM

Popular blogger freed on condition she leave for US

VIETNAM has freed a well-known blogger after two years in prison on the condition that she leave for the United States. Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh, known as "Mother Mushroom," was arrested in October 2016 and sentenced to 10 years in prison on charges of defaming the Communist government. The conviction of the popular blogger, who wrote about human rights and industrial pollution, drew criticism from some Western governments and international human rights groups.

Friends of the 39-year-old blogger said she was on her way to the U.S. with her mother and two

AP PHOTO



Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh (center) stands trial in the province of Khanh Hoa

young children. "After numerous efforts, the family of Nguyen Ngoc Nhu Quynh was reunited in a free country," her friend Nguyen Tin wrote on his Facebook page. "Congratulations to her small family."

Quynh's lawyer, Ha Huy Son, said her release was good news but did not

lift the obstacles faced by people who fight for democracy in Vietnam. Nicholas Bequelin, Amnesty International's Regional Director for East and South East Asia, said in a statement, "While Mother Mushroom is no longer imprisoned, the condition for her release was exile and there are over one hundred people languishing in jail because they peacefully spoke their mind — in public, on blogs or on Facebook."

In June, Vietnam's Communist authorities released prominent human

rights lawyer Nguyen Van Dai and exiled him and another dissident to Germany. Quynh's release came as U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis visited Vietnam.

Meanwhile, a court in southern Binh Duong province sentenced an activist to seven years in prison on Wednesday after finding him guilty of producing 3,300 leaflets calling on workers to protest against a proposed law on special economic zones.

Nguyen Dinh Thanh, 27, was convicted of conducting propaganda against the state in the one-day trial.

Protests took place across the country in June against the proposed law, which critics say would

favor Chinese investors. The government has since delayed passage of the law by the National Assembly.

Vietnam has stepped up a crackdown on dissent over the past two years with dozens of activists and bloggers put on trial for national security law-related offenses.

Despite sweeping economic reforms since the mid-1980s that opened Vietnam to foreign investment and trade and made it one of the fastest-growing economies in Asia, Communist authorities tolerate no challenge to their one-party rule.

There are more than 100 "prisoners of conscience" in Vietnamese prisons, according to Amnesty International. AP

■ Quynh's release came as U.S. Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis visited Vietnam

As Canada legalizes pot, other countries likely to follow

Gene Johnson, Seattle

MORE than two dozen countries have relaxed their marijuana or other drug laws, and a number could consider legalizing in the not-too-distant future. The South American nation of Uruguay was first to legalize marijuana in 2013. Canada became the second on Wednesday and its size and global standing likely will encourage others to follow. Here's a look at other nations that could be influenced by Canada's legalization:

NEW ZEALAND

The government announced late last year that medical marijuana would be allowed, and the country is due to hold a national referendum by 2020 on whether to legalize and regulate adult use of marijuana. The exact language and scope of the referendum question remain unclear.

"That they've agreed to have a referendum shows how far the debate has come in New Zealand," says Steve Rolles, a senior policy analyst at Transform, a global drug law reform organization based in England. "And the fact they have a model in Canada — a country they have good relations with, that they're quite similar to culturally — can only help the reform cause."

For now, recreational cannabis remains illegal, with possible penalties ranging from a USD500 fine for possession to a 14-year jail term for its growth or distribution.



Matthew Dahl celebrates being the first person to buy at a cannabis store in Winnipeg, Manitoba

MEXICO

Ravaged by drug war violence and corruption, Mexico decriminalized the possession of small amounts of marijuana and other drugs in 2009. A series of Mexico Supreme Court rulings beginning in 2015 began laying the groundwork for marijuana legalization by holding that people should have the right to grow and distribute marijuana for personal use.

The country's incoming interior minister, Olga Sánchez Cordero, participated in some of those rulings as a Supreme Court justice and has said she will push for broad marijuana legalization. She has the blessing of incoming President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador, who won office in July and whose party controls both houses of Mexico's Congress.

"Mexico is really the significant comer in this debate," says John Walsh, of the advocacy group Washington Office on Latin America. "It's likely they'll be debating legislation to regulate their national cannabis market next year."

Former President Vicente Fox, who calls himself a soldier in the global campaign to legalize marijuana, earlier this year joined the board of directors of venerable cannabis publication High Times to advance his agenda.

THE NETHERLANDS

Hoping to keep pot users away from dealers of harder drugs, the Netherlands in the late 1970s began allowing "coffee shops" to sell marijuana. The shops remain a popular attraction, especially in Amsterdam, but the drug remains illegal elsewhere in the

country and purveyors have long complained about having to resort to the black market to obtain it since cultivation is outlawed. Critics say the system has allowed criminal organizations and money laundering to persist.

That could be changing. The new Dutch government has committed to a trial program by which it will license a producer to provide marijuana in six to 10 cities.

SOUTH AFRICA

South Africa's Supreme Court ruled last month that adults can use marijuana and grow it for personal consumption — in private. It remains a conservative country, but Rolles says the ruling, combined with Canada's move, has "opened the door for a more serious debate about how legalization might proceed in South Africa."

ITALY

Reform advocates have been promoting marijuana legalization in Italy for years, without success. But in late 2016, a law legalizing production of hemp — a very low-THC version of cannabis favored for myriad industrial uses — took effect. Since then, the dried flowers of those plants have been sold in some shops, giving supporters new hope for future legalization efforts.

A marijuana regulation measure has been making its way through Italy's parliament and still needs support from more legislators. Italy could be a "dark horse in the race to be the first country to legalize in Europe," Rolles says.

UNITED STATES

With its northern neighbor legalizing and its southern neighbor mulling it, can the world's most influential proponent of the drug war be far behind?

"I don't think Canada legalizing is going to move the ball with regard to legalization in the U.S., especially with this administration," says Hannah Hetzer, who tracks international marijuana policy for the New York-based Drug Policy Alliance.

While President Donald Trump has said he would likely support a congressional effort to ease the federal prohibition, his attorney general, Jeff Sessions, is a marijuana critic and legalization opponent.

For decades the U.S. required other nations to cooperate in the drug war or risk losing foreign aid, even as some Latin American countries wracked by violence criticized America for failing to curb its appetite for cocaine, marijuana and other drugs. Now, more than 30 states have OK'd the medical use of marijuana, and nine have approved recreational use by adults. Two more states — North Dakota and Michigan — have ballot measures on recreational legalization next month.

Canada's legalization has left proponents in the U.S. calling for Congress to act. Sen. Ron Wyden, a Democrat who represents Oregon, one of the legal marijuana states, called prohibition a "failed policy that wastes resources and destroys lives."

"Now that our neighbor to the north is opening its legal cannabis market, the longer we delay, the longer we miss out on potentially significant economic opportunities for Oregon and other states across the country," he said in a written statement. **AP**

SCIENCE

Oldest fossils on Earth? New look finds might just be rocks

Seth Borenstein, Washington

WHAT were billed as the oldest fossils on Earth may just be some rocks, according to a new study.

Two years ago, a team of Australian scientists found odd structures in Greenland that they said were partly leftovers from microbes that lived on an ancient seafloor. They were said to be 3.7 billion years old, which suggests life formed quicker and easier than thought after Earth formed.

But on Wednesday, the journal Nature, which published the 2016 study, released new research using NASA technology that concludes the structures found on rocks were likely not fossils but more rock. The Australian scientists, however, still maintain they are.

The new work was done by NASA astrobiologist Abigail Allwood, who had found the previously oldest fossil at nearly 3.5 billion years old. When she read the 2016 paper, she thought "there was something not quite right" so she went to Greenland and looked herself.

Allwood found the shapes, the weathering and mostly the interior layers of the structures didn't fit with this type of fossil, called stromatolites. One even was growing in what she called the wrong direction. Then Allwood used a version of an instrument that's being sent to Mars in a few years to create a chemical map of the structure. She said it didn't have the chemical signature of fossilized life.

Three outside experts told The Associated Press they agree with the newest research; none thought they were fossils as suggested by Allen Nutman at the

University of Wollongong in Australia. A claim of such an old fossil requires several lines of evidence, "so scientists were impressed but not convinced by Nutman's work," said University of Connecticut's Pieter Visscher. He said he was persuaded by Allwood's thorough work that it was not a fossil.

Nutman and his colleagues released a statement defending their work. They said Allwood took samples from the far end of one of two sites and didn't test the original specimens when offered.

Said another of the outside experts, Marie Catherine Sforza of the University of Liege in Belgium: "The search for traces of early life is without any doubt a difficult task and often raises controversy." **AP**



Scientists examine rocks in Greenland

Man linked to Saudi prince at consulate when writer vanished

A man who previously traveled with Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman's entourage to the United States entered the Saudi Consulate in Istanbul just before writer Jamal Khashoggi vanished there, according to images published yesterday by a pro-government Turkish newspaper.

The Sabah newspaper's report showed the man also later outside the Saudi consul general's home, checking out of a Turkish hotel as a large suitcase stood by his side, and leaving Turkey on Oct. 2.

The report came as Turkish crime-scene investigators finished an overnight search of both the consul general's residence and a second search of the consulate itself amid Ankara's fears that Saudi authorities had Khashoggi killed and dismembered inside the diplomatic mission in Istanbul.

Saudi Arabia, which initially called the allegations "baseless," has not responded to repeated requests for comment from over recent days. The Sabah report showed the man walking past police barricades at the consulate at 9:55 a.m.



A man previously seen with Saudi Crown Prince's entourage walks outside the Saudi consul general's residence in Istanbul

with several men trailing behind him. Khashoggi arrived at the consulate several hours later at 1:14 p.m., then disappeared while his fiancée waited outside for him.

A report Wednesday by the pro-government newspaper Yeni Safak, citing what it described as an audio recording of Khashoggi's slaying, said a Saudi team immediately accosted the 60-year-old journalist after he entered the consulate, cutting off his fingers

and later decapitating him.

Previously leaked surveillance footage showed consular vehicles moving from the consulate to the consul general's official residence, some 2 kilometers away, a little under two hours after Khashoggi walked inside. The Sabah newspaper showed an image of the man at 4:53 p.m. at the consul's home, then at 5:15 p.m. checking out of a hotel. He later cleared airport security at 5:58 p.m.

Security services in Turkey have used pro-government media to leak details of Khashoggi's case, adding to the pressure on the kingdom. The AP could not immediately verify the man's identity, though he's one of the individuals previously identified by Turkish authorities as being involved in the 15-man Saudi team that targeted Khashoggi.

Images shot by the Houston Chronicle and later distributed by the AP show the same man was in Prince Mohammed's entourage when he visited a Houston subdivision in April to see rebuilding efforts after Hurricane Harvey. The same man wore lapel pins, including one of the flags of Saudi Arabia and America intertwined, that other bodyguards accompanying Prince Mohammed wore on the trip.

The three-week trip across the U.S. saw Prince Mohammed meet with business leaders and celebrities, including Amazon billionaire Jeff Bezos, who now owns the Post.

The searches and the leaks in Turkish media have ensured the

world's attention remains focused on what happened to Khashoggi, a Washington Post columnist who went into a self-imposed exile in the United States over the rise of Prince Mohammed. It also put further strains on the relationship between the kingdom, the world's largest oil exporter, and its main security guarantor, the U.S., as tensions with Iran and elsewhere in the Middle East remain high.

Flying back home after a visit to both Saudi Arabia and Turkey, U.S. Secretary of State Mike Pompeo remained positive Wednesday about an ongoing Saudi probe into Khashoggi's disappearance, but he stressed that answers are needed. "Sooner's better than later for everyone," Pompeo said.

President Donald Trump, who initially came out hard on the Saudis over the disappearance but since has backed off, said Wednesday that the U.S. wanted Turkey to turn over any audio or video recording it had of Khashoggi's alleged killing "if it exists."

Yesterday, the Post published what it described as Khashoggi's last column in honor of the missing journalist. In it, Khashoggi pointed to the muted international response to ongoing abuses against journalists by governments in the Middle East. "As a result, Arab governments have been given free rein to continue silencing the media at an increasing rate," Khashoggi wrote. **AP**

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15:55	Os Craques do Pingue-Pongue
16:20	A Cidade na Ponta dos Dedos
16:40	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:35	Destinos.pt Sr.1
18:00	Depois do Adeus
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Missão: 100% Português
22:25	Dentro
23:15	TDM News
23:50	A Canção de Lisboa
02:25	RTPi Directo

SATURDAY

11:40	Endereço Desconhecido
12:30	Gostos e Sabores
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
14:30	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2 - Compacto
16:45	Janela Indiscreta com Mário Augusto
17:15	Hora dos Portugueses
18:15	Lusa Music Box
18:50	Animais Anónimos
19:35	1986
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Mata o Mensageiro
23:15	TDM News
00:10	Telejornal (Repetição)
00:55	RTPi Directo

SUNDAY

12:00	Visita Guiada Sr.1
12:30	Cozinha em Forma
13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:35	Triângulo Jota
16:25	Música Maestro
17:10	Brainstorm
17:55	Got Talent Portugal Sr.4
19:40	Bem-Vindos a Beirais Sr.3
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	Contraponto
22:15	Birmânia por Simon Reeve
23:15	TDM News
00:10	Magazine Liga Europa 2018/2019
01:50	RTPi Directo

Offbeat

FILM WITH FAN BINGBING, BRUCE WILLIS CANCELED AFTER TAX CASE

The director of “Air Strike,” featuring Chinese actress Fan Bingbing, says the film’s release has been canceled in the wake of her disappearance and conviction on tax evasion charges.

The World War II thriller, also starring Bruce Willis and Adrien Brody, was to have been released Oct. 26.

However, director Xiao Feng posted on his Weibo miniblog Wednesday that it was “time to let go” after eight years of work on the film.

Chinese tax authorities this month ordered Fan and companies she represents to pay taxes and penalties totaling USD130 million, ending speculation over the fate of one of the country’s highest-profile entertainers three months after she disappeared from public view.

State media said Fan evaded taxes by using two separate contracts for her work on “Air Strike.”

Fan has starred in dozens of movies and TV series in China and is best known internationally for her role as Blink in 2014’s “X-Men: Days of Future Past,” a cameo in the Chinese version of “Iron Man 3,” and for star turns on the red carpet at Cannes as recently as May.

Before her disappearance, she had been booked to star with Penelope Cruz in the Hollywood film “355.”

Fan posted an apology on her official Weibo account saying that she accepted the tax authorities’ decision and would “try my best to overcome all difficulties and raise funds to pay back taxes and fines.”

“I am unworthy of the trust of the society and let down the fans who love me,” she wrote in her first update of her Weibo.com microblog since June 2.

Fan’s disappearance coincided with a crackdown by Chinese authorities on high salaries for actors that can eat up much of the cost of a production. In June, regulators capped star pay at 40 percent of a TV show’s entire production budget and 70 percent of the total paid to all the actors in a film. **AP**



cinema



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VENOM

ROOM 1
2:30, 4:30, 7:30 9:30pm
Director: Ruben Fleischer
Starring: Tom Hardy, Michelle Williams, Riz Ahmed
Language: English (Chinese)
Duration: 112min



DESTINATION WEDDING

ROOM 2
2:30, 7:30pm
Director: victor levin
Starring: Keanu Reeves, Winona Rider
Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)
Duration: 130min



PROJECT GUTENBERG

ROOM 2
9:15pm
Director: Felix Chong
Starring: Chow Yun Fat, Aaron Kwok, Zhang Jingchu
Language: Cantonese (Chinese, english)
Duration: 130min

SEARCHING

ROOM 3
2:30, 4:30, 9:30pm
Director: Aneesh Chaganty
Starring: Michelle La, Debra Messing
Language: English
Duration: 88min

this day in history



1987 SHARES PLUNGE AFTER WALL STREET CRASH

The world’s stock market has collapsed after shares on Wall Street suffered a wave of panic selling.

The Dow Jones industrial average plummeted by a record 508 points, registering a percentage drop of 22.5%.

On Wall Street itself, share prices crashed across the board in frenzied trading that saw collective losses worse than the infamous “Black Monday” in October 1929.

In London the value of quoted shares fell by £50bn as the FT 30-share index dived 183.7 points to 1629.2.

The previous sharpest one day fall was on March 1, 1974 after Labour’s indecisive election victory, when shares fell 7.1%.

The FTSE index also crashed more than 300 points with a loss of £63bn.

The collapse was triggered by Friday’s fall on Wall Street and a steep drop in Tokyo.

The White House attempted to calm investors by issuing a statement declaring that President Ronald Reagan remained convinced that the US economy was sound.

Dealers marked prices down in an effort to discourage sellers amid scenes close to hysteria.

The percentage drop was the second largest ever next to the 24.4% fall of 12 December, 1914.

Chairman of the New York Stock Exchange John Phelan said: “This is the nearest thing to a financial melt-down I’ve ever come across. I would not want to be around for another one like this.”

But officials warned against comparisons, saying that the situation is dramatically different from 1929.

Trading activity was driven down by growing fears of rising interest rates and a falling dollar.

These were exacerbated by the news that the US had retaliated against Iranian attacks in the Gulf by bombarding an offshore oil rig.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

In the wake of the 1987 crash, which also became known as Black Monday, markets around the world were put on restricted trading mainly because at the time computers were dealing with so many orders that they were unable to keep up.

By the end of October, stock markets in Australia had fallen by 41.8%, Hong Kong 45.8% and the United Kingdom 26.4%.

The effects of the crash were not as crippling as expected because it was not followed by a depression.

Over the next decade interest rates went down and investors showed new faith in the market.

The debate over the cause of the crash continued for many years after the event but economists have never been able to name a single factor that ushered in Black Monday.

YOUR STARS



Aries

Mar. 21-Apr. 19

You need to find an emotional outlet. It could be a therapist, a trainer or an old friend, but you've got to clear out some old baggage that just doesn't seem to move on its own. You can do this!



Taurus

April 20-May 20

Your intuitive side is making the day's activities a little stranger — but a lot easier! You can read people better and find clues you would have missed last week. Make the most of this energy!



Gemini

May 21-Jun. 21

You feel unusually possessive — this isn't a trait you usually like in others, and it's weird to see it in yourself. Go with it for now, as you need to work through this instead of denying its existence.



Cancer

Jun. 22-Jul. 22

Your emotional side is hard at work making life more interesting for you — and easier too! Your family should see a better side of you, and your colleagues are more likely to see things your way.



Leo

Jul. 23-Aug. 22

Your deep warmth is showing someone close that it's okay to open up — and you may find yourself enmeshed in a deep conversation soon! It's a good time to bring your family closer together.



Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

Reach out to friends today — they've got more going on than usual, and you may be able to lend a hand and score some points. Your energy is more stable than theirs, even if that's usually reversed.



Libra

Sep.23-Oct. 22

Your people are clamoring for help today — but you couldn't possibly get to them all! It's a good idea to hear out at least a few before making any decisions about who needs you the most.



Scorpio

Oct. 23 - Nov. 21

Expect good news today — it's a great time to get what you want. You may find that your positive energy helps you to get ahead, though it all fits together as part of a much larger picture.



Sagittarius

Nov. 22-Dec. 21

Your moods can be epic — and today brings both dark clouds and rainbows. Make sure to stay true to yourself and keep up with whatever your emotions are tossing your way. It can be fun!



Capricorn

Dec. 22-Jan. 19

You've got to deal with a few extra-tricky issues today — so block out some time and blow off anything that isn't absolutely vital. Your energy is much better spent on small-scale problems.



Aquarius

Jan. 20-Feb. 18

You need to focus on something that's a pretty big deal — so close yourself off and hunker down, if you must. Things could get a lot more interesting once you unlock this big mystery.

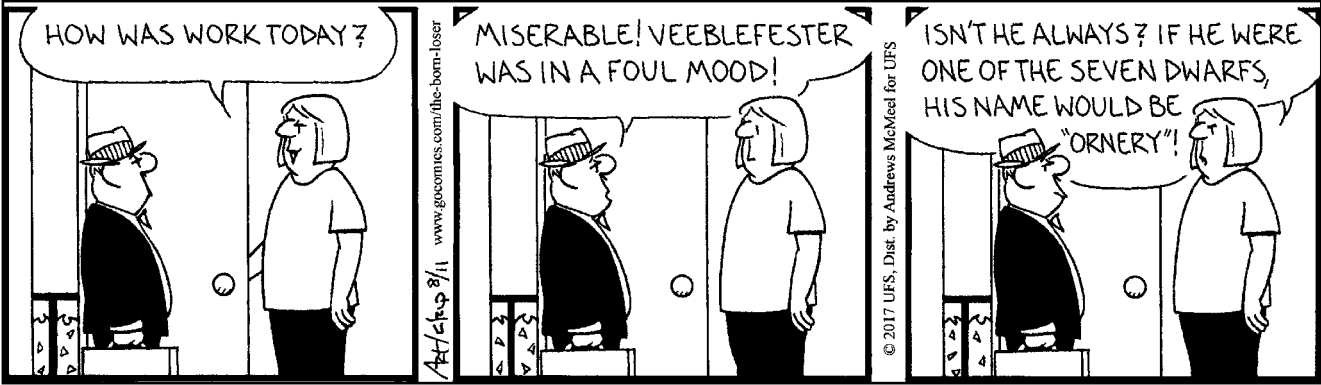


Pisces

Feb.19-Mar. 20

Show someone how you feel today. It doesn't have to be romantic, though that energy is definitely highlighted today. See if you can get your crush to at least look your way — it's not hard!

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Easy

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

Easy+

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

Medium

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

Hard

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

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1- Cut-price retail event; 5- Bit of gossip; 9- Lamb's mom; 12- Ready for business; 13- Roman garments; 15- Pulitzer-winning biographer Leon; 16- Highway; 17- Encourage; 18- Grazing sites; 19- Become visible; 21- Ceylon, now; 23- Cursest; 25- Wall St. debuts; 26- Letters on a Cardinal's cap; 29- How sweet ___; 31- Restaurant; 35- Average grade; 36- Big name in insurance; 38- "Exodus" actor Sal; 39- Literary collection: Abbr.; 41- High-fives; 43- Dressed; 44- It merged with Exxon; 46- "Fear of Flying" author Jong; 48- Broke bread; 49- Fix beforehand; 51- Hydroxyl compound; 52- Proverb ending?; 53- Scarlett's home; 55- Old Pontiacs; 57- Pulp summer refreshment; 61- Bank employee; 65- Actor Epps; 66- Orange Bowl site; 68- Toiletries case; 69- Metropolis; 70- Nuisances; 71- Combustible heap; 72- Man-mouse connector; 73- Bryce Canyon site; 74- 1982 Disney film;

DOWN: 1- Marsh bird; 2- Each; 3- Spring; 4- Finished; 5- Repeats; 6- ___ out (dress up); 7- Breakfast staple; 8- New Zealand native; 9- Perfect place; 10- Not strong; 11- "Born Free" lion; 14- Long-billed sandpiper; 15- Flexible; 20- Met solo; 22- Good earth; 24- Name; 26- Rogue; 27- Andrea Bocelli, for one; 28- Do not disturb; 30- Trap; 32- Zhou ___; 33- Gaucho's rope; 34- Alpine song; 37- Imitating; 40- The aggregate of past events; 42- Pertaining to Scotland; 45- The Tower of Pisa does this; 47- Skin cream ingredient; 50- Hobo; 54- French farewell; 56- Slumbered; 57- Nuts; 58- Bahrain bigwig; 59- ___ Hari; 60- Sunrise direction; 62- Interstellar dist.; 63- Monetary unit of Ireland; 64- Nothing, in Nantes; 67- 1959 Kingston Trio hit;

Wednesday's solution

O	R	E	L	I	E	N	S	L	E	T	G	O
N	O	R	I	S	T	O	O	E	N	G	L	A
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Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333

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Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300

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Taipa
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HKD 7,800sq ft
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Ref: 18095562

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Macau
Commercial Office Space
Park Side Work Space
HKD 72,000 / 3,500 sq ft
Ref: 18070685

Va Nam Top Floor
Taipa
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HKD 5,573sq ft
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Ref: 18045550

Kapok Court, Ocean Gardens
Taipa
Two Bedroom Apartment
Fully Furnished
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Taipa, Nam Long
Taipa
516 sq ft / HKD 4.28M
HKD 8,488 sq ft
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Wednesday, 31/10/2018

The road to disruptive innovations

Speaker: **Mr. David Chung**, Senior Partner of InnoEdge Consulting

FMCC Breakfast Meeting

Introduction: Design Thinking introduces a new way of thinking, to cope with today's fast changing world. Get off the beaten track, and learn to think different, with creativity, innovation and vision. Create groundbreaking solutions that will disrupt industries for the better. Join us and hear David Chung on how Apple, Airbnb, Hong Kong Airlines or P&G make breakthrough innovation a daily habit.

Date: **Wednesday, October 31st, 2018**

Time: **9:00 - 10:30am** (Reception: 8:45am)

Venue: **Sofitel Macau at Ponte 16**

Promenade Meeting Room (6th floor)

RSVP before 2 pm on October 29th
info@francemacau.com or Tel: 8798 9699

- 2018 FMCC members join free-of-charge*
- Guests and non-members @ MOP188*
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* Breakfast included

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Gerard Pique juggles business with football at Barcelona

Joseph Wilson, Barcelona

WITH his plan to revamp tennis' Davis Cup, Barcelona defender Gerard Pique is laying the groundwork for a life after football. Barcelona, however, needs its budding entrepreneur more now than ever to help stop a slump in the Spanish league.

Pique will anchor a defense that has lost two players to injury when Barcelona hosts league leader Sevilla on Saturday. With both Samuel Umtiti (left knee) and Thomas Vermaelen (right leg) unavailable, Pique will start alongside former Sevilla player Clement Lenglet.

Barcelona is in second place — one point behind Sevilla — and under pressure after going four matches without a win.

Pique has played every minute in the league so far this season. But he and his teammates haven't been able to keep a clean sheet in six matches. More will be needed against a Sevilla side that has outscored opponents 14-4 over a four-game winning streak that



Gerard Pique

included a 3-0 win over Real Madrid at Ramon Sanchez Pizjuan Stadium last month.

The 31-year-old Pique has started to reduce his playing commitments by retiring from international competition following the World Cup. But instead of resting during last week's international break, the 2010 World Cup champion with Spain focused on his tennis venture by traveling to China to attend the Shanghai Masters.

Pique practiced with Barcelona on Wednesday morning before traveling to Madrid to make a public presentation of his Davis Cup plan. Pique's scheme is to transform the Davis Cup, which is currently played over four weekends throughout the year, into a season-ending, 18-team tournament whose first edition will be held in November 2019 in Madrid. Pique is founder of the investment group Kosmos, which has developed the new format backed by the

International Tennis Federation. "It will be a one-of-a kind competition," Pique said Wednesday in Madrid.

Business has taken Pique beyond the world of sports. He has started companies that sell eyeglasses, isotonic drinks and organic hamburgers. Pique is also a regular at the Mobile World Congress, the annual wireless trade show held in Barcelona, and in 2016 dined with Facebook's Mark Zuckerberg in a hotel in Barcelona.

After trying to develop video games, Pique shifted into the new industry of esports in 2016 when he founded eFootball.Pro. Barcelona signed an agreement with Pique to join the virtual league in February.

When asked on Wednesday if he had spoken to Barcelona president Josep Bartomeu about his Davis Cup plan, Pique said no.

"Sometimes we meet for other things. For example, the esports, which is going well for us," Pique said.

Pique's off-field activities have also created awkward situations with his employer.

Pique was behind the production company that made a documentary following Antoine Griezmann through his decision-making process on whether to stay at Atletico Madrid or accept an offer to join Barcelona at the end of last season. Griezmann, much to Barcelona's chagrin, stayed put.

Married to pop star Shakira, Pique shares her love for the spotlight. A huge fan favorite at Camp Nou, Pique was often jeered by some of Spain's own fans for his barbs that as a Barcelona player he often fires at rival Real Madrid.

Nor has he shied from taking part in the incredibly tense debate in Spain about Catalonia's secessionist movement, saying that while he doesn't want the wealthy northeastern region to break away, he does support efforts to hold a referendum on independence.

Pique signed a contract extension with Barcelona in January that is good through the end of the 2021-22 season. He will then be 35, and Pique has even flirted with the possibility of moving up into Barcelona's board room by becoming the club's future president. His huge popularity among Barcelona's supporters make him a more than credible candidate.

"I would be an atypical president," Pique said earlier this year. "I don't know. We will see. I would have to be motivated at that time." **AP**

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opinion

Kapok
Eric Sautedé



POLITICAL WILL

Back in December 1997, the Kyoto Protocol was designed as an international agreement — no less — that was supposed to bind 192 parties (191 states) in committing to reduce emissions of the six main greenhouse gases, all deemed the main culprits of global warming.

The treaty, signed under the auspices of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, came into force in 2005 and the first phase of commitments was to run from 2008 to 2012 on the basis of “common but differentiated responsibilities”: contracting parties had a few years to prepare themselves and the reduction of emissions (the reference year being 1990) would affect differently each signatory, with the European Union (made up of 15 members at the time) agreeing to reduce the most (-8% to be redistributed among its members).

The intention was commendable, but right from the start the process was derailed by the non-ratification of the treaty by the United States of America. Reasons were numerous, starting with the traditional reluctance of the USA to have things imposed from the outside, the fact that the Clinton administration could not secure a two-thirds majority in the Senate, and because the American main negotiator, Vice-President Al Gore, had pushed for an even greater reduction effort than the one initially envisioned — going from -5% to -7%.

In effect, what was supposed to be binding was hollowed out by the defaulting of the biggest emitter of greenhouse gases at the time and the weak penalties imposed on non-compliant parties, which could in the end entirely escape their responsibilities as demonstrated by Canada when it withdrew from the protocol in 2011. With the Doha amendment put in place in 2012 and preparing the second stage of commitments (ending in 2020), the protocol went from Charybdis to Scylla, and as of today, the amendment has not gathered enough signatures to become effective.

Thus, it was decided during the 2015 United Nations Climate Change Conference in Paris that instead of going for a treaty with binding obligations and a mechanism of sanctions for non-compliance that proved ultimately unenforceable, contracting parties would sign a general “accord”, one based on voluntary commitments with a common goal for members to reduce their carbon emissions “as soon as possible” and ensure that global warming would be kept over the century “well below 2°C” above pre-industrial levels. Now, even with American President Donald Trump deciding not to honor his predecessor’s pledge, 16 states in the USA and Puerto Rico have formed the United States Climate Alliance to uphold the goals set by the Paris agreement, thus bypassing the federal withdrawal. As of now, volition is thus proving more effective than obligation, despite the initial scorn for norms that would be devoid of might.

Last week the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, the international body providing governments with the scientific basis to develop climate-related public policies, released its latest special report on the impacts of global warming of 1.5°C — not 2°C — above pre-industrial levels. Predictions are bleak, to say the least.

The main conclusion is pretty simple: “global warming is likely to reach 1.5°C between 2030 and 2052 if it continues to increase at the current rate.” And this will amplify the impacts of heat-waves, destabilize marine ice sheet in Antarctica and provoke the irreversible loss of the Greenland ice sheet, and global mean sea level rise (relative to 1986-2005) will range from 0.26 to 0.77m by 2100. Any increase beyond 1.5°C would amplify the impacts on terrestrial, freshwater, and coastal ecosystems and affect negatively their benefits to humans.

For the experts, in order to limit the rise to “only” 1.5°C one would have to reduce the emissions of CO2 by about 45% by 2030 and reach net zero — reaching carbon neutrality — by 2050. If we were to take absolutely no action to limit greenhouse gases emissions, the temperature would then rise by 5.5°C by 2100!

In the words of one of the scientists participating in the Panel, the report points out “the enormous benefits of keeping to 1.5°C” and that moreover “this can be done within laws of physics and chemistry.” Political will is thus the only requirement!

THE CHINA MAY HAVE USD5.8 TRILLION HIDDEN DEBT WITH ‘TITANIC’ RISK

China’s local governments may have accumulated 40 trillion yuan (USD5.8 trillion) of off-balance sheet debt, or even more, suggesting further defaults are in store, according to S&P Global Ratings.

“The potential amount of debt is an iceberg with titanic credit risks,” S&P credit analysts led by Gloria Lu wrote in a report Tuesday. Much of the build-up relates to local government financing vehicles, which don’t necessarily have the full financial backing of local governments themselves.

With the national economy slowing, and a Beijing-set quota for issuance of local-government bonds not being enough to fund infrastructure projects to support regional growth, authorities across the country have resorted to LGFVs to raise financing, according to S&P. That’s left LGFVs “walking a tightrope” between deleveraging and transforming their businesses into more typical state-owned enterprises, the S&P analysts said.

SHANGHAI

Airport automates check-in with facial recognition

IT’S now possible to check in automatically at Shanghai’s Hongqiao airport using facial recognition technology, part of an ambitious rollout of facial recognition systems in China that has raised privacy concerns as Beijing pushes to become a global leader in the field.

Shanghai Hongqiao International Airport unveiled self-service kiosks for flight and baggage check-in, security clearance and boarding powered by facial recognition technology, according to the Civil Aviation Administration of China. Similar efforts are underway at airports in Beijing and Nanyang city, in central China’s Henan province.

Many airports in China already use facial recognition to help speed security checks, but Shanghai’s system, which debuted Monday, is being billed as the first to be fully automated.

“It is the first time in China to achieve self-service for the whole check-in process,”



A security officer stands guard at the Shanghai Hongqiao Airport

said Zhang Zheng, general manager of the ground services department for Spring Airlines, the first airline to adopt the system at Hongqiao airport. Currently, only Chinese identity card holders can use the technology.

Spring Airlines said Tuesday that passengers had embraced automated check-in, with 87 percent of 5,017 people who took Spring flights on Monday using the self-service kiosks, which can cut down check-in times to less than a minute

and a half.

Across greater China, facial recognition is finding its way into daily life. Mainland police have used facial recognition systems to identify people of interest in crowds and nab jaywalkers, and are working to develop an integrated national system of surveillance camera data. Chinese media are filled with reports of ever-expanding applications: A school that uses facial recognition cameras to monitor students’ reactions in class; and hundreds of ATMs in Macau equipped with facial recognition devices to curb money laundering.

But increased convenience may come at a cost in a country with few rules on how the government can use biometric data. “Authorities are using biometric and artificial intelligence to record and track people for social control purposes,” said Maya Wang, senior China researcher for Human Rights Watch. **AP**

NEW ZEALAND

Leader taped speaking inappropriately

New Zealand’s opposition leader has been secretly recorded calling one of his own lawmakers “f---ing useless” and making other questionable remarks as turmoil in the conservative National Party escalated on Wednesday.

Simon Bridges said he’s apologized to lawmaker Maureen Pugh for making the inappropriate comment. Bridges said he has no intention of resigning after a former close colleague accused him of corruption, initiated a police investigation, and posted the embarrassing phone conversation on Facebook.

The events of this week have been startling to many New Zealanders, who are accustomed to a restrained brand of politics.

Lawmaker Jami-Lee Ross resigned Tuesday after saying Bridges was corrupt because he hid a donation from a wealthy Chinese businessman by arranging for it to be split into smaller amounts to avoid it being publicly disclosed. Bridges denies the charge. Ross went to the police Wednesday with what he claimed was evidence before posting the conversation with Bridges.

During the conversation, Ross tells Bridges that two men, including Zhang Yikun, have donated 100,000 New Zealand dollars (USD66,000) and had expressed interest in having another Chinese lawmaker. “Two Chinese would be nice, but would it be one Chinese and one Filipino, or what do we do?” Bridges asks. He talks about a possible “mercenary cull” and how he’d like two or three lawmakers to leave,



Opposition leader Simon Bridges talks to reporters

including Pugh.

Bridges said Wednesday that while he might have been blunt, he was simply trying to reflect the growing diversity in the community. “I’m not perfect, as that conversation shows. Perhaps I’m something of a rough diamond sometimes,” Bridges said. “But I sleep well at night because I’ve got my integrity.” He said Ross had been trying to set him up and may have been secretly recording him for months. “He’s a terrible person,” Bridges said.

Ross said he believed Bridges had broken electoral laws and he’d handed over evidence to police investigators. He said he recorded the conversation because he was uncomfortable about the donations. In a statement, police said they’d received a complaint and would provide any relevant updates in a timely manner. The National Party held power for nine years before being ousted last year by a liberal coalition led by Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern. **AP**

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

SOURCE: DSMG

WORLD BRIEFS



RUSSIA An 18-year-old student strode into his vocational school in Crimea, a hoodie covering his blond hair, then pulled out a shotgun and opened fire, killing 19 students and wounding more than 50 others before killing himself.

AFGHANISTAN Officials say three top Kandahar province officials have been killed by their own guards in an attack at a security meeting that also wounded two U.S. troops.



ISRAEL-PALESTINE A high-level Egyptian delegation has held urgent talks with Gaza’s Hamas rulers, seeking to restore calm after a rocket from the Palestinian area slammed into a home in southern Israel and the Israeli military responded with airstrikes on Hamas targets.

EU European Union leaders agreed yesterday to push ahead with plans to boost cooperation with North African countries and beef up the bloc’s borders in an effort to stop migrants entering Europe.



BRITAIN Prime Minister Theresa May came under attack from across Britain’s political spectrum yesterday after saying she’s considering a European Union proposal that would keep the U.K. bound to the bloc’s rules for more than two years after it leaves in March.

BRAZIL’s presidential candidates are wooing church leaders ahead of a runoff in this deeply religious country with sizable Catholic and evangelical populations.

PERU’s opposition leader Keiko Fujimori was freed by an appeals judge late Wednesday, a week after she was arrested in an ongoing money laundering investigation.