



FILIPINO COMMUNITY CELEBRATES CHRISTMAS

P7 MDT REPORT



KENYAN ATHLETES DOMINATE MACAU MARATHON

Felix Kiptoo and Mercy Jerotich Kibarus were the winners of the Macau International Marathon, which took place yesterday

P7



RIOT DEBRIS COVERS PARIS STREETS

Paris police said that 133 people had been injured and 412 had been arrested as protesters trashed the streets of the capital

P14 FRANCE

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WORLD BRIEFS



VIETNAM A court in northern Vietnam has jailed two former police generals for protecting a multimillion-dollar online gambling ring as the Communist government steps up its crackdown on graft. *More on p13*

INDONESIA About 300 West Papuan demonstrators calling for independence for the restive Indonesian region faced off with counterprotesters in the country's second-largest city. *More on p13*

KOREA A North Korean soldier fled across a heavily fortified border to defect to South Korea, the military in Seoul said, just as the rivals began taking steps to reduce military tensions.

INDIA Police say an explosion in a train coach in India's insurgency-hit northeastern region has left at least four people injured. No one claimed responsibility for the blast. Dozens of rebel groups have been fighting the government and sometimes each other for years in the seven states in northeast India.



SAUDI ARABIA All eyes were on Saudi Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the Group of 20 summit as he made his first major overseas appearance since the killing of a dissident journalist in his country's consulate in Istanbul.

More on backpage

US, China put brakes on trade dispute

P11



Groups oppose embalming of BoBo bear

P2

Times

Green Book

IFFAM SUPPLEMENT INSIDE

THE Civic and Municipal Affairs Bureau (IACM) intends to proceed with the plan of embalming BoBo, the Asian black bear who passed away recently, Bureau president José Tavares said on Friday during the IACM's meeting.

This decision goes against the values of some residents and a group of them decided to gather signatures in a petition, by the initiative of local association Abandoned Animals Protection Association of Macau (AAPAM). The petition calls for the suspension of the project.

According to some residents, as reported by TDM at the Flora Garden gathering where the bear had been kept in captivity for over 30 years, there are many ways of teaching children about the animal without the need to embalm it and put it on display.

Yoko Choi, president of AAPAM, told TDM that the petition, as well as several other activities in the area of the memorial wall at Flora Garden, have the purpose of alerting the government and "making them know that we don't want Bobo to be a sample [embalmed] and be [on display] in a place." Choi added that the animal already suffered for many years in captivity alone, asking "why should we continue to keep his body alone in a place [after death]?"

One of the dozens of people present at the signature collection event at Flora Garden was lawmaker Sulu Sou, who also told TDM that, "We didn't know anything about the [supposed] house-museum in Coloane. The government never told anyone about these plans and seems like now everything is happening too fast which is not a normal procedure for the Macau SAR government."

According to information from

IACM to proceed with embalming of BoBo, citizens oppose



Radio Macau, Tavares added that the new museum space receiving BoBo is located along the seaside in Coloane village in a building which will be restored.

"We are trying to launch the public tender during the first quarter of the next year. We hope everything will be ready by the last quarter [of next year]," he said. Tavares also said that the date to be inscribed on the plaque near the black bear cage is going to be changed to "mid-eighties".

According to the story on the memorial, the bear was rescued by a Leal Senado staff (the municipal authority of the time) in the summer of 1984. However, as the Times reported earlier, the first reports on the baby bear appeared in TDM and Va Kio Daily in 1986. RM

ONE SHOT NEWS



The 13th edition of the Thai Cultural Festival was held over the weekend at Rua de Abreu Nunes. Thousands of people attended the event, which included gastronomy, music, Muay Thai performances and even a Thai massage stall. On Saturday afternoon, many elderly queued for hours to benefit from the offer of 2,500 packs of rice.

ASK THE VET

by Dr Ruan Du Toit Bester

QUESTIONS ABOUT BREEDING CATS

BREEDING cats can be a wonderful experience. However, unless you are prepared to learn how to take care of a breeding cat and have homes for all the kittens, you should spay your cat. There are already many unwanted kittens in Macau, and unspayed cats are at more risk for several diseases, so usually spaying your pet cat is the best option. If you want to investigate responsible breeding practices, however, here are some commonly asked questions.

At what age can cats be bred?

Cats may become capable of pregnancy at as early as four months of age, but they should not be bred until they are at least one year old. If your kitten becomes accidentally pregnant at a very young age, you may need to take her to the vet get the fetuses removed.

How long does a cat's heat cycle last?

A cat will go into heat for one to two days or longer, every few weeks until she has been mated. In the northern hemisphere, these cycles will usually last from around January until around August. While in estrus (heat), female cats will try very hard to escape and find a mate, and may be very vocal. They will also attract male cats.

How can i mate her to a particular tom?

Cats are capable of having kittens from different fathers in the same litter, so if you want your cat to only have kittens with one father cat, you should lock them up together for at least 24 hours, or up to four days to make sure. A female cat will continue to try and mate until her estrus cycle is over, regardless of whether or not she has already been made pregnant, so keep her away from other cats until she has finished her cycle.

How can I tell if she is pregnant?

The gestation period lasts between 60-65 days. The first sign of pregnancy will be that your cat's heat cycles have stopped, but this in itself is not a sure sign of pregnancy. Her nipples may swell slightly and turn pink, and she may begin to eat a little more. At around the three week mark, your vet should be able to feel the kittens with palpitation. At five weeks, your cat's stomach will start to swell.

What food should i feed my cat before and during pregnancy?

It can be tempting to overfeed a pregnant cat, but generally they only need a slight increase in meals until the final few weeks of pregnancy. Simply feed them normally, with a high quality food. Overfeeding her may be harmful, as it can make her unfit and less able to deal with the stress of birth. Three weeks before the birth, switch to kitten food, and give her small, frequent meals. You might also want to add calcium supplements at this time. Breeding cats is not difficult if you have thoroughly researched the process and anticipated



any problems. Take the time to make sure that your cat is happy and healthy and her kittens will be as well.

Hope this info helps
Till next week
Dr Ruan Bester

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POLICY ADDRESS

Au and Wong argue over police lawsuit

Julie Zhu

LAWMAKER Au Kam San had a round of face-to-face discussions with Secretary for Security, Wong Sio Chak, regarding the former being accused of slander by the police.

During the second day of the police address presentation for the security sector, Au indicated that if the police wants to stop other people from accusing the police authority of illegal interception by filing a lawsuit against them, then he is "not afraid of threats." Au believes that the police's accusation will lead to more people paying attention to police interception practices.

"If a lawmaker can get himself in lawsuit trouble because he openly expressed doubts, then how can the ordinary residents and journalists, or professional people speak more?" Au questioned.

Au pointed out that, in reality, there are quite a few people who are not criminals yet have a strong feeling that they are being intercepted. Au remarked that there were even people from the Chief Executive's office who had to "move the phone to another room" before they could talk freely about social issues.

Au also pointed out that some of the public fiercely opposes illegal interceptions, while others believe that if the police do not conduct illegal interceptions, then they could not figure out a single case.

However, regardless of what kind of opinion people have, they are not having a single



Au Kam San



Wong Sio Chak at the AL

doubt about part of the police actions involving illegal interceptions.

Should I claim the Judiciary Police intercepted me?

WONG SIO CHAK

The veteran lawmaker believes that if the government wants to extend interceptions, the police force has to build a mechanism to increase transparency.

Responding to Au, Wong star-

ted by saying that he does not understand why there are people complaining about interceptions having to be conducted by the police authority. He also said that, while in the middle of a meeting, he would also "move to another room" to answer his phone call.

"Should I claim the Judiciary Police intercepted me?" Wong asked.

Regarding Au's case, Wong noted that everybody should be responsible for their behavior and words.

"Even if you do not need to be responsible today, you cannot shoot your mouth off," said Wong.

"If you would do such thing on purpose, and then you tell people that you are not afraid

of threats, and that you are not afraid of lawsuits, [then that person would be] actually telling people deliberately in order to become famous. I don't know if this is true. I am not daring to say it. But if it really is true, and the person doing it is a lawmaker, I feel I will be so unhappy deep in my heart," said Wong.

Wong noted that the Judiciary Police has already handed out prosecution letters to the prosecution office. He believes that the prosecution authority will handle the case fairly.

Wong further noted that he feels something is amiss about Au having received information about the arson but not reporting it to the police, yet still accusing the police of interception. Wong said that he is really un-

comfortable with this.

"Actually, if you don't mention it, I will not mention it. But you mentioned it. Therefore, if I don't mention it, I feel like I should say sorry to you [...]. These two days, my handshakes with you have all been sincere," said Wong.

Two months ago, the Judiciary Police urged lawmaker Au to apologize to the police authority over a false accusation.

According to the PJ's statement, Au accused the police of illegal interception of a resident who had planned to burn himself inside a police station while he was being interviewed by a local Chinese newspaper. Eventually, the lawmaker did not apologize, and the police filed the lawsuit against Au.

Secretary wants to establish national security educational facility

SECRETARY for Security, Wong Sio Chak, said that national security education within the security forces will become a trend in Macau.

During Friday's debate at the Legislative Assembly, lawmakers Angela Leong, Lam Lon Wai and Chui Sai Peng asked about national security matters.

Leong focused on the training of talented people for collecting information on national security.

Chui suggested using part of the Pac On ferry terminal, or the old infor-

mation bureau located at R. de São Domingos, for the opening of a national security education complex. Chui also proposed providing national security training courses to prisoners and police to inform them of their responsibilities in terms of protecting national security.

Lam proposed the establishment of a permanent and regular national security education system aimed at residents and young people.

Replying to the lawmakers, Wong agreed with their proposal regarding the opening of a

permanent national security education facility. However, the Secretary worried that the difficulty lies in finding a proper location. He declared that the topic is worth discussing once the city has met the conditions to open such a facility.

Furthermore, Wong said that, in the past, although national security exhibitions were actively attended, and exhibitions could be reviewed online, having a physical entity can provide a more vivid image to students while teaching them important matters about national security,

and deems a permanent facility to be vital. Most noticeably, having a permanent facility featuring national security will allow local schools to better distribute students

during visits.

As for the location at the Pac On ferry terminal, Wong said that the issue needs to be discussed between the security forces and other governmental

departments, and it has to be coordinated by the Chief Executive.

In addition, Wong said that including national security within the police force's education "must become the trend in the future."

Regarding the education of prisoners on national security, Wong believes it is unnecessary at the current stage. **JZ**

NG KUOK CHEONG CALLS FOR NEW DEPARTMENT

NG KUOK Cheong suggested that a new department should be established to accept specific complaints and to conduct disciplinary investigations. Secretary Wong disagreed, explaining that such work will result in the incomplete leadership of security force leaders. Wong voiced that "it is impossible in the entire world" for a person in charge to lack the rights of disciplinary supervision and investigation. In addition, he pointed out that if such a depart-

ment had the right to investigate, then it could only be led by the Chief Executive. This, in turn, would harm the concerned party's right of appeal. According to Wong, in the first month of this year, 268 disciplinary investigations were recorded and involved the punishment of 295 people. Wong explained that if half of these people appeal, then the administration court, which only has two judges, will not be capable of handling the large number of cases.

Ex-justice official travelled to Macau to help Low funnel dirty money

Greg Farrell, Tom Schoenberg and David Voreacos

A bizarre scheme to pressure the U.S. to go easy on Malaysians involved in one of the biggest financial scandals in years relied on an unlikely middleman - a Justice Department employee.

In court papers Friday, the Justice Department laid out evidence showing how one of its own used shell companies to funnel USD74 million into the U.S. at a time when no banks would handle deposits from the Malaysians involved.

The official, George Higginbotham, pleaded guilty Friday to conspiring to lie to banks about the source and purpose of those funds. Higginbotham, who left the department in August, admitted he worked with two unidentified co-conspirators in early 2017 to get the money into the country under false pretenses. According to court papers, that money was to pay for a lobbying effort that sought to influence an investigation into the looting of the Malaysian state investment fund. The same filing identifies the source of the money as Jho Low, who has been accused of money laundering and diverting hundreds of millions of dollars from Malaysia's 1MDB fund.

Higginbotham, 46, is cooperating with prosecutors, who said their investigation of Low and the fund's embezzlement was unimpeded by the plot. A Justice Department forfeiture complaint describes evidence involving "Individual 1," who isn't identified but matches the description of Elliott Brody, a friend of President Donald Trump whose emails were leaked to the media this year after his money-management firm was hacked. The lawsuit references a cyber-intrusion of Individual 1 and describes an email from that hack. The text of that email matches one sent by



Jho Low

Broidy and reviewed by Bloomberg News.

The trove of hacked documents shows that Brody, a Republican fundraiser, and his wife engaged in contract negotiations to represent Jho Low in 2017, after Trump became president. The emails included talking points to be used with the White House explaining why the U.S. should drop its probe. One draft contract called for Brody's wife's firm to make \$75 million if it succeeded. That number closely matches the amount the government is seeking from Higginbotham-related accounts in its forfeiture lawsuit.

A lawyer for Brody, Christopher Clark, said the court filing doesn't refer to Brody and "anything other is pure speculation."

The U.S. claims a small coterie of Malaysians led by Low moved money from the fund, formally known as 1Malaysia De-

velopment Bhd., into personal accounts disguised to look like legitimate businesses, and also kicked back some funds to officials. Malaysian prosecutors say some money ended up with former Prime Minister Najib Razak and his family. Low and two former Goldman Sachs Group Inc. bankers have been charged by the U.S. with conspiracy; one of the bankers pleaded guilty.

SENIOR SPECIALIST

The new allegations are spelled out in the lawsuit Friday seeking to seize \$74 million from Higginbotham's law firm account and two other entities. The filing takes the 1MDB scandal inside the Justice Department where Higginbotham worked as a senior congressional affairs specialist for two years beginning in July 2016, according to prosecutors.

The U.S. describes an elaborate and at times disorganized

campaign by Low to move money into the U.S. to pay people claiming they could quash the Justice Department probe -- specifically, forfeiture cases filed in California seeking more than \$1 billion in assets tied to the alleged 1MDB embezzlement.

The effort was led by entertainer and businessman Pras Michel, according to the lawsuit. In September 2017, Michel and Higginbotham traveled to Macau to meet with Low to discuss ways to continue moving money into the U.S. to pay for the lobbying campaign. Low and Michel agreed that the best way to avoid U.S. detection would be to claim to banks that the funds would be used for entertainment purposes, the U.S. said. Michel couldn't be reached for comment on Friday.

Higginbotham later offered to have money deposited into his attorney escrow account with Citibank in Washington, and \$41 million was then wired into the account, the U.S. said.

In September 2017, Michel and Higginbotham traveled to Macau to meet with Low to discuss ways to continue moving money into the US

FALSE EXPLANATIONS

When the financial institutions sought explanations for the various wire transfers, Higginbotham came up with several false

explanations, according to prosecutors.

He told Citibank that the \$41 million was a corporate investment for a media consulting venture. He told City National Bank in California, which received tens of millions in deposits, that the money was from a company that manufactured souvenirs and that he was hired to represent it in a highly complex civil matter. He told Morgan Stanley that the funds came from an investor in a slate of projects, the U.S. said.

Michel passed money on to Individual 1, identified as an investment firm owner in the court filing, and his associate, a longtime political fundraiser identified as Individual 2.

The lawsuit doesn't describe how Michel came to know Higginbotham, though the two allegedly developed the code name "Wu Tang" for Low in email messages.

In pleading guilty, Higginbotham admitted he helped arrange the transfer of tens of millions of dollars from foreign bank accounts to the U.S. to finance a lobbying campaign to resolve criminal and civil matters related to 1MDB. He also said he worked on fake loan and consulting documents, and admitted he aided a lobbying campaign aimed at having another foreign national living in the U.S. on a temporary visa removed and sent back to his country.

At the Justice Department, he wasn't part of the U.S. investigation of 1MDB and had no influence on its outcome, the U.S. said.

U.S. District Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly said she wouldn't set a sentencing date yet because of Higginbotham's cooperation. He faces as long as five years in prison but would probably receive far less in exchange for his cooperation. **Bloomberg**

Authorization request by Banco Sino-Atlântico yet to be analyzed

THE authorization process of Banco Sino-Atlântico, owned by Macau businessman David Chow, has yet to be analyzed and decided upon because the application is incomplete, the Bank of Cape Verde (BCV) said in a statement released on Tuesday.

The Cape Verdean central bank has disputed claims published in the press last week that "the BCV is at present making itself an insurmountable obstacle to the founding of the Banco Sino-Atlântico."

In a statement, the BVC said, "Unlike what was said in the report, the

authorization process of Banco Sino-Atlântico is incomplete, as it does not contain all the legally required elements, which is why, to date, it has not been possible to analyze it or for a decision to be made by the Banco de Cabo Verde."

The BCV said that the original application was

submitted by the promoter on February 16, 2017, with numerous official and material shortcomings and that, after a quick examination, the bank replied to the interested party on March 2, informing them of the incomplete state of the documentation.

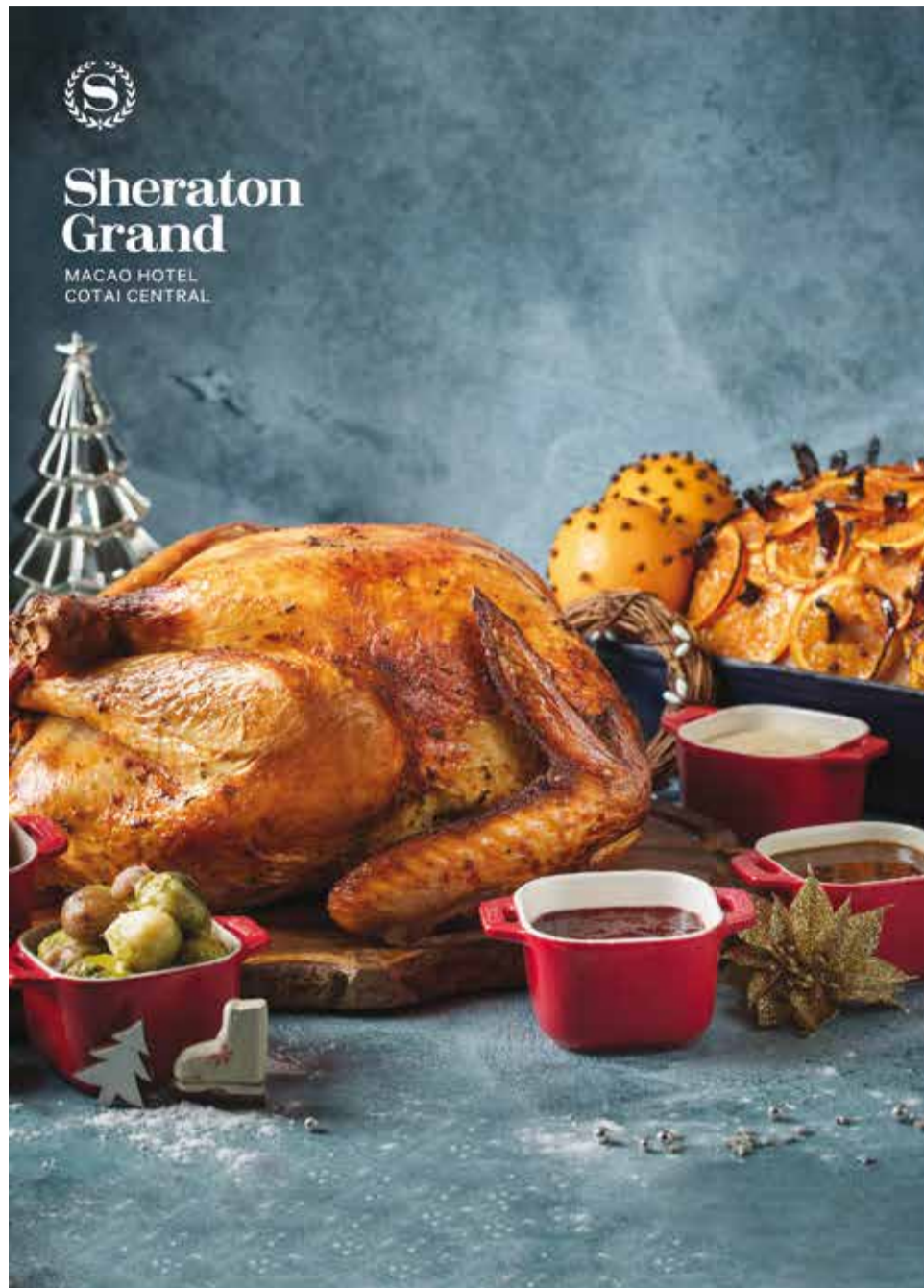
"The shortcomings of a

strategic, economic, operational and prudential nature that do not make it possible to assess the sustainability of Banco Sino-Atlântico project were pointed out," the central bank said.

About five months later, the promoter provided some of the missing elements, pledging later to add the others, which are essential for the conclusion of the analysis. This never occurred, despite the BCV reiterating the need to send the missing items in November 2017.

"This is not an issue of obstruction, as Bank of Cabo Verde is simply carrying out its responsibilities and functions as a regulator and supervisor," it said.

The statement further clarified that the BCV reserves the right to refuse authorization when an extensive set of requirements is not met, particularly when the application for authorization is not accompanied by all necessary information and documents. **MDT/Macauhub**



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“ THE TIMES THEY ARE A-CHANGIN’ ”

Migrant workers 'disappointed' with exclusion in Sulu's proposal

Lynzy Valles

A number of migrant groups were disappointed with lawmaker Sulu Sou's new minimum wage proposal.

The bill does not address some of the most vulnerable groups among Macau's working population – domestic workers and workers with disabilities – citing a lack of consensus on this matter.

The migrant groups described the move as "unfair," noting that they are upset with his decision, recalling that Sou had previously showed support to migrant workers – particularly domestic workers.

Chairperson of the Green Philippines Migrant Workers Union, Nedie Taberdo, explained, "When Sou won as a legislator, he mentioned his support to the domestic workers so we were expecting that he was with us on this fight for migrant workers' rights."

"So when he created this proposal that did not include do-



estic workers and the disabled, we were very disappointed. It's upsetting and disappointing because we expected that he will also fight for our rights," Taberdo added.

Several migrant groups in the city have been fighting for protection rights, along with an established minimum wage law for

domestic workers.

Yet for them, the region has no progress towards this matter, recalling that even the housing allowance, which currently stands at MOP500, has not changed for over a decade.

Although the decision not to include domestic workers on the bill was based on public con-

sultation, Taberdo argued that those who participated from the public are likely to be employers only, noting that they are not permitted to participate in such consultations.

"Maybe the consultation should be from people from all walks of life, even migrant workers, who are also a part of the growing so-

ciety," Taberdo said.

Meanwhile, president of the Progressive Labour Union of Domestic Workers, Jasmine Santos, echoed the same sentiments, stressing that they are still looking for ways to be heard by the government in a bid to establish a minimum wage law for the vulnerable groups.

"We were expecting that Sou would include the domestic workers in the proposed bill. When we weren't included, along with the disabled, we were dismayed but we will keep on looking for ways to speak with the government," said Santos.

Both Taberdo and Santos, along with other groups and individuals, are working on ways to create dialogues with the Labour Affairs Bureau, which they are hoping to occur in January.

"Just so they can hear our side and we're really hoping that something would come out of this," said Santos.

"I know they've been hearing our complaints because they themselves have their helpers, so we just need to continually call on them and remind them of the actions that should be taken," she added.

The groups are calling for changes to their standard contracts, minimum wage law and the removal of the six month ban when workers are fired.

Filipino community gathers to celebrate Christmas

The Philippine Consulate General has ushered in the month by holding its annual Christmas Party for the members of the Filipino community, attracting over 500 migrant workers.

Held yesterday at Chan Meng Kam Theater, the event, "Paskong Pinoy," which means "Filipino Christmas," featured a series of performances, games, raffle draws and food sharing.

The event is held annually every first Sunday of December. Consul general Lilybeth Deapera explained that the consulate aims to gather the Filipino community to feel the spirit of Christmas, as the date is heavily celebrated in the Philippines.

"Paskong Pinoy is an annual event for the members of the Filipino community where we celebrate Christmas for them. [...] We hold it in the first week of December because a lot of members of the Filipino community will go back home before Christmas day," the official explained.

Although several migrant groups and associations are also set to hold their own



Christmas events, the official noted that the event held by the consulate shows the cooperation between the several migrant groups in the city.

According to Deapera, the annual event is recording a yearly increase.

"When I first welcomed the participants, [I noticed] there were a lot of first timers and I liked it especially because it means that there are more and more members of the community who get to know their compatriots," said the official.

"It's a good testimony of the unity amongst the members of the community," she added.

Meanwhile, several members of the community recalled how they celebrate Christmas in the Philippines, noting that the event is the closest to home this festive season.

"We are far from our families so we want to experience the spirit of Christmas and experience Christmas with [our fellow compatriots] in Macau. We feel happy because we are gathered today," said a worker who attended the event for the first time.

"It's important for us because we usually feel sad [during this season] being away from our families, so these kinds of events help

to remove our homesickness," she added.

Echoing the same sentiments, another migrant worker said, "We miss Christmas back home but we feel it here too during these kinds of gatherings, so we really appreciate this event as a way for us to gather and to show unity."

A lot of members of the Filipino community will go back home before Christmas day.

LILYBETH DEAPER
CONSUL GENERAL

Held from 12 p.m. to 5 p.m., the event also attracted a growing number of sponsors from the Filipino businesses in the city and in Hong Kong. **LV**

SPORTS

Kenyan athletes dominate Macau Marathon



The 37th Macau International Marathon took place yesterday morning. The male champion of the 42.195 kilometer course was Kenyan athlete Felix Kiptoo, who finished with a time of 2 hours 15 minutes and 18 seconds. Kiptoo won the USD45,000 cash prize. The second and third places of the male race went to Kenyan athletes, Joseph Kyengo Munywoki and Samwel Kiptanui Maswai respectively.

Also from Kenya, the female champion was Mercy Jerotich Kibarus, who finished the course with a time of 2:35:16. Kim won a cash prize of

USD40,000. Ri Kwang Ok from North Korea finished second and Ukrainian Oleksandra Shafar was third. The winners of the main competition included in the half-marathon were also from Kenya.

The marathon started at 6 a.m. and was followed by the half-marathon, which started at 6.15 a.m. Around 12,000 participants from 50 countries and regions participated.

A special prize was awarded to the oldest athlete, 81-year-old Kuan Kam Tong, who completed the marathon. The Hong Kong senior athlete won the same prize previously.

GAMING

Nov. revenue growth tops analysts' estimates

MACAU gaming revenue growth topped analysts' estimates in November, as casino operators regained some momentum following months of weakness tied to China's economic slowdown.

Gross gaming revenue rose 8.5 percent in November to MOP25 billion (USD3.1 billion) from a year earlier, according to data released on Saturday by the Gaming Inspection & Coordination Bureau. That beat the median analyst estimate for growth of 4 percent.

November's result is a welcome signal for investors. It represents a 28th straight month of growth in the world's biggest gambling hub. Yet it's not quite a recovery. This is the third month in a row of single-digit growth, with September and October notching the weakest showings in more than two years. Analysts are debating the prospects for the industry as rich gamblers pull back amid an economic slowdown in China. Profits are still climbing



and are forecast to hit a record next year, but the rate of growth is seen slowing as casinos face stiffer competition and emerging new hot spots in Asia. The data come as Macau is pushing

out the timeline for casino operators to bid for licenses, a move that adds further uncertainty on top of concerns about the impact of the trade war between China and the U.S. **MDT/Bloomberg**

Nordic innovation body opens branch in HK to tap Greater Bay opportunities

NORDIC Innovation House, an organization of Nordic countries aiming to promote cross-border cooperation on innovation, launched its branch in Hong Kong last week, hoping to tap business opportunities in the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

Nordic Innovation House aims to combine Nordic companies' innovations in life science, clean-tech, EdTech and smart cities with Hong Kong's strategy of being a world-class innovation hub and smart city. It will also encourage more Nordic innovative startups to seek opportunities in the Greater Bay area.

Nordic Innovation House operates under the Nordic Council of Ministers, the official body for inter-governmental cooperation in the Nordic region. "We see Hong Kong as a special blend of the West and the East and a good platform for Nordic companies. And

it's a good time [to establish a Nordic Innovation House branch in Hong Kong] because of the development of the Greater Bay region," Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers Dagfinn Hoybraten told Xinhua after the opening ceremony for the Hong Kong branch.

"Our doors are wide open and welcoming to entrepreneurs and startups from Nordic countries. Nordic Innovation House can only enhance your connections to Hong Kong opportunity," Carrie Lam, chief executive of China's Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, said at the ceremony.

The opportunity has been brought by "the fast-emerging Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area" and Lam affirmed that "Hong Kong the Nordic companies that connect with Hong Kong will be at the heart of the Greater Bay Area. I am confident that we will excel working together." **MDT/Xinhua**

AD

Sam, I left a copy of my ID documents and itinerary with the family. I've also prepared a list of emergency contacts.

Ann, and I've prepared enough cash, credit cards and took care of the travel insurance too!

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 Select activities that are within your capabilities
 Make sure the equipment for your activities are in good condition
 Make sure that the safety equipment is complete

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Marriott security breach exposed data of up to 500m guests

HACKERS stole information on as many as 500 million guests of the Marriott hotel empire over four years, obtaining credit card and passport numbers and other personal data, the company said Friday as it acknowledged one of the largest security breaches in history.

The affected hotel brands were operated by Starwood before it was acquired by Marriott in 2016. They include W Hotels, St. Regis, Sheraton, Westin, Element, Aloft, The Luxury Collection, Le Méridien and Four Points. Starwood-branded timeshare properties were also affected. None of the Marriott-branded chains were threatened.

The crisis quickly emerged as one of the biggest data breaches on record. "On a scale of 1 to 10 and up, this is one of those No. 10 size breaches. There have only been a few of them of this scale and scope in the last decade," said Chris Wysopal, chief technology officer of Veracode, a security company.

By comparison, last year's Equifax hack affected more than 145 million people. A Target breach in 2013 affected more than 41 million payment card accounts and exposed contact information for more than 60 million customers.

Security analysts were especially alarmed to learn that the breach began in 2014. While such failures often span months, four years is extreme, said Yonatan



Striem-Amit, chief technology officer of Cyberason.

It was unclear what hackers could do with the credit card information. Though it was stored in encrypted form, it was possible that hackers also obtained the two components needed to descramble the numbers, the company said.

For as many as two-thirds of those affected, the exposed data could include mailing addresses, phone numbers, email addresses and passport numbers. Also included might be dates of birth, gender, reservation dates, arrival and departure times and Starwood Preferred Guest account information. Marriott set up a website and call center for customers who believe they are at risk.

The hackers' access to the reservation system could be troubling if they turn out to be, say, nation-state spies rather than con artists simply seeking financial gain, said Jesse Varsalone, associate professor of cybersecurity at

the University of Maryland University College.

Reservation information could mean knowing when and where government officials are traveling, to military bases, conferences or other destinations abroad, he said.

"There are just so many things you can extrapolate from people staying at hotels," Varsalone said. The richness of the data makes the hack unique, Wysopal said. "Once you know someone's arrival, departure, room preferences," that could be used to incriminate a person or for a reputation attack that "goes beyond your traditional identity theft or credit-card theft," he said.

It isn't common for passport numbers to be part of a hack, but it is not unheard of. Hong Kong-based airline Cathay Pacific Airways said in October that 9.4 million passengers' information had been breached, including passport numbers.

Passport numbers are often requested by hotels ou-

tside the U.S. because U.S. driver's licenses are not accepted there as identification. The numbers could be added to full sets of data about a person that bad actors sell on the black market, leading to identity theft.

And while the credit card industry can cancel accounts and issue new cards within days, it is a much more difficult process, often steeped in government bureaucracy, to get a new passport.

But one redeeming factor about passports is that they are often required to be seen in person, said Ryan Wilk of NuData Security. "It's a highly secure document with a lot of security features," he said.

When the merger was first announced in 2015, Starwood had 21 million people in its loyalty program. The company manages more than 6,700 properties across the globe, most in North America.

While the first impulse for those potentially affected by the breach could be to check credit cards, security experts say other information in the database could be more damaging.

The names, addresses, passport numbers and other personal information "is of greater concern than the payment info, which was encrypted," analyst Ted Rosman of CreditCards.com said, citing the risk that thieves could open fraudulent accounts.

Email notifications for those who may have been affected begin rolling out Friday.

MDT/AP

Deutsche Bank CEO doesn't expect to become target in probe



DEUTSCHE Bank AG Chief Executive Officer Christian Sewing said he doesn't expect to be personally targeted in a money laundering probe by German authorities that led to raids in several of its offices last week, including those of the management board.

Police searched the bank's headquarters in Frankfurt and surrounding offices over two days in an investigation relating to a cache of documents known as the Panama Papers. They show a business based in the British Virgin Islands provided customers with a means to launder money, the bank has said. The inquiry touches the private wealth unit, part of the private and commercial bank run by Sewing before he rose to chief executive officer in April.

"Since the Panama Papers were published in 2016, we examined the entire matter in close cooperation with the supervising authorities," Sewing said in an interview with Bild am Sonntag. "As far as we were concerned, the matter was closed."

In commenting on the raids, officials said they were targeting two suspects identified only by their age and may add other suspects in the course of the investigation. Sewing told Bild am Sonntag that the two employees had helped investigate the issues detailed in the Panama Papers, and that the presumption of innocence should apply to them.

One of the two suspects works in the bank's anti-financial crime unit, a person familiar with the matter said. The other suspect identified by age works in the private wealth unit, according to the person. It's part of Deutsche Bank's private and commercial bank now, which was led by Sewing from 2015 until early this year.

News of the probe pushed Deutsche Bank's share price to a fresh low, limiting strategic options for the lender as Sewing tries to lift revenue after years of cuts to the investment bank.

Sewing told Bild am Sonntag he sees no indication that Deutsche Bank is becoming a takeover target because of the low share price. The lender is well on track to post its first annual profit in four years and it's only a matter of time until that will be reflected in the stock, he said. **Bloomberg**

corporate bits

SANDS CHINA CO-HOSTS CELEBRITY MENTOR WORKSHOP



Motivational speaker and entrepreneur Brian Cha conducted a workshop on sales and consumer behavior last week at The Venetian Macao, as part of the Celebrity Mentor Workshop Series, co-organized by the Macao Government Tourism

Office and Sands China Ltd. Launched last month, the new training program invites celebrity mentors to conduct customer service workshops for retailers in Macau, including employees of the retail outlets at Sands Shoppes.

According to a statement issued by the gaming operator, the workshops give retail employees a chance to learn from experts in their respective fields.

Around 120 retail professionals attended Cha's session at The Venetian's Adelson Advanced Education Center, where he covered topics such as using the latest sales techniques and attracting customers to take a proactive approach while shopping. Four workshops have been planned for the Celebrity Mentor project and each session intends to train around 120 participants. The first workshop in the series was conducted last month by Hong Kong actress and UK-accredited trainer Astrid Chan on the topic of personal branding.

WYNN DONATES MOP600,000 TO TUNG SIN TONG



To support Tung Sin Tong's annual fundraising campaign, Wynn has contributed MOP 600,000 this year to support

its charitable efforts and nourish the spirit of local philanthropy.

The gaming operator orga-

nized for 1,300 team members and their families to take part in the annual charity walk "Walk for a Million."

This donation is made to support the expansion of Tung Sin Tong's social welfare services, providing much-needed assistance to the underprivileged in the community.

Several of the gaming operator's executives led by Ian Michael Coughlan, president and executive director of Wynn Macau, held a cheque presentation ceremony at Wynn Palace.

According to the gaming operator, it has been actively encouraging its team members to participate in the fundraising campaigns of the Charity Fund.

Party agents watch over Uighur funerals, weddings

Dake Kang, Yanan Wang

THE two women in the photograph were smiling, but Halmurat Idris knew something was terribly wrong. One was his 39-year-old sister; standing at her side was an elderly woman Idris did not know. Their grins were tight-lipped, mirthless. Her sister had posted the picture on a social media account along with a caption punctuated by a smiley-face.

“Look, I have a Han Chinese mother now!” his sister wrote. Idris knew instantly: The old woman was a spy, sent by the Chinese government to infiltrate his family.

There are many like her. According to the ruling Communist Party’s official newspaper, as of the end of September, 1.1 million local government workers have been deployed to ethnic minorities’ living rooms, dining areas and Muslim prayer spaces, not to mention at weddings, funerals and other occasions once considered intimate and private.

All this is taking place in China’s far west region of Xinjiang, home to the predominantly Muslim, Turkic-speaking Uighurs, who have long reported discrimination at the hands of the country’s majority Han Chinese.

While government notices about the “Pair Up and Become Family” program portray it as an affectionate cultural exchange, Uighurs living in exile in Turkey said their loved ones saw the campaign as a chilling intrusion into the only place that they once felt safe.

They believe the program is aimed at coercing Uighurs into living secular lives like the Han majority. Anything diverging from the party’s prescribed lifestyle can be viewed by authorities as a sign of potential extremism.

Under Chinese President Xi Jinping, the Uighur homeland has been blanketed with stifling



An Uighur woman rests near a cage protecting heavily armed Chinese paramilitary policemen on duty in Urumqi

surveillance, from armed checkpoints on street corners to facial-recognition-equipped CCTV cameras steadily surveying passers-by. Now, Uighurs say, they must live under the watchful eye of the ruling Communist Party even inside their own homes.

“The government is trying to destroy that last protected space in which Uighurs have been able to maintain their identity,” said Joanne Smith Finley, an ethnographer at England’s Newcastle University.

The Associated Press spoke to five Uighurs living in Istanbul who shared the experiences of their family members in Xinjiang who have had to host Han Chinese civil servants. These accounts are based on prior communications with their family members, the majority of whom

have since cut off contact because Uighurs can be punished for speaking to people abroad.

Uighurs abroad said their loved ones were constantly on edge in their own homes, knowing that any misstep — a misplaced Quran, a carelessly spoken word — could lead to detention or worse. In the presence of these faux relatives, their family members could not pray or wear religious garbs, and the cadres were privy to their every move.

The thought of it — and the sight of his sister, the old woman and their false smiles — made Idris queasy.

“I wanted to throw up,” said the 49-year-old petroleum engineer, shaking his head in disgust.

“The moment I saw the old woman, I thought, ‘Ugh, this per-

son is our enemy.’ If your enemy became your mother, think about it — how would you feel?”

Tensions between Muslim minorities and Han Chinese have bubbled over in recent years, resulting in violent attacks pegged to Uighur separatists and a fierce government crackdown on broadly defined “extremism” that has placed as many as 1 million Muslims in internment camps, according to estimates by experts and a human rights group.

Uighurs say the omnipresent threat of being sent to one of these centers, which are described as political indoctrination camps by former detainees, looms large in their relatives’ minds when they are forced to welcome party members into their homes.

Last December, Xinjiang authorities organized a “Becoming Family Week” which placed more than 1 million cadres in minority households. Government reports on the program gushed about the warm “family reunions,” as public servants and Uighurs shared meals and even beds.

Becoming Family Week turned out to be a test run for a standardized homestay program. The Xinjiang United Front Work Department said in February that government workers should live with their assigned families every two months, for five days at a time.

The government is trying to destroy that last protected space in which Uighurs have been able to maintain their identity.

JOANNE SMITH FINLEY
ETHNOGRAPHER

Not all “Become Family” pairings involve Han Chinese visitors. A Uighur cadre named Gu Li said she regularly pays visits to a Uighur household, staying three to five days at a time.

“We’ve already started calling each other family,” she said in a telephone interview from Xinjiang. “China’s 56 ethnic groups are all one family.”

Gu said civil servants of many ethnicities — Uighur, Han and Kazakh — participate in the program.

All government employees in the region are required to conduct such visits in order to better understand villagers’ needs, according to Gu: “Because we’re always sitting in our offices, we don’t know what they really need. Only through penetrating the masses can we truly serve them.” AP

Snooker players handed big bans for fixing matches

TWO Chinese snooker players were handed long bans on Saturday for fixing matches in one of the sport’s biggest corruption scandals.

Yu Delu and Cao Yupeng admitted to manipulating the scores of matches they played in certain ranking tournaments from 2015-17, following an investigation resulting from suspicious betting patterns in

the Far East.

Yu, ranked No. 52, was handed a suspension of 10 years and nine months, and ordered to pay costs of 20,000 pounds (USD25,000). He was involved in fixing five matches across five tournaments over a period of 2½ years to earn money for himself and friends, and also admitted to lying to investigators and be-

having on snooker when banned from doing so.

Cao, ranked No. 44, was banned for six years — with 3½ years of that ban suspended — for fixing the outcome of three of his matches in 2016, including one at the prestigious UK Championship. His suspension was reduced from six years because he showed remorse. He had to pay costs of

more than 15,000 pounds (\$19,800).

They are the longest suspensions for fixing since English player Stephen Lee was banned for 12 years in 2013. Yu would have received a ban of the same length had he not decided late in the investigation to plead guilty.

The disciplinary panel of the World Professional Billiards and Snooker

Association, which announced the bans, said Yu took “the initiative in offering match-fixing services” and, in one match, “the stakes placed on the result were 65,000 pounds and would have generated a profit of 86,000 pounds.”

“The misconduct of Mr. Delu represents a scourge to the game of snooker,” the panel said.

Yu won two of the five matches he agreed to fix, having arranged for the correct score to be 4-3 in frames to either player. Cao lost all three of the matches he agreed to fix.

“It is very sad,” WPBSA chairman Jason Ferguson said, “when talented players are attracted to the opportunity to make money from fixing matches.” AP



Donald Trump with Xi Jinping and members of their official delegations during their bilateral meeting at the G20 Summit

US, China put brakes on trade dispute with cease-fire

THE United States and China reached a 90-day cease-fire in a trade dispute that has rattled financial markets and threatened world economic growth. The breakthrough came after a dinner meeting between President Donald Trump and Chinese leader Xi Jinping at the Group of 20 summit in Buenos Aires.

Trump agreed to hold off on plans to raise tariffs Jan. 1 on USD200 billion in Chinese goods. The Chinese agreed to buy a “not yet agreed upon, but very substantial amount of agricultural, energy, industrial” and other products from the United States to reduce America’s huge trade deficit with China, the White House said.

The truce, reached after a dinner of more than two hours Saturday, buys time for the two countries to work out their differences in a dispute over Beijing’s aggressive drive to supplant U.S. technological dominance.

“It’s an incredible deal,” Trump told reporters aboard Air Force One, adding, “if it happens it goes down as one of the largest deals ever made.”

Trump said: “What I’ll be doing

is holding back on tariffs. China will be opening up, China will be getting rid of tariffs. ... China will be buying massive amounts of products from us.”

In a long-sought concession to the U.S., China agreed to label fentanyl, the deadly synthetic opioid responsible for tens of thousands of American drug deaths annually, as a controlled substance. And Beijing agreed to reconsider a takeover by U.S. chipmaker Qualcomm that it had previously blocked.

The White House announcement framed a victory for Trump and his unflinching negotiating tactics, securing a commitment from China to engage in talks on key U.S. economic priorities, with little obvious concession by the U.S. Notably, however, the White House appears to be reversing course on its previous threats to tie trade discussions to security concerns, like China’s attempted territorial expansion in the South China Sea.

“It’s great the two sides took advantage of this opportunity to call a truce,” said Andy Rothman, investment strategist at Matthews Asia. “The two sides appear to have had a major change of heart to move away

from confrontation toward engagement. This changes the tone and direction of the bilateral conversation.”

The Trump-Xi meeting was the marquee event of Trump’s whirlwind two-day trip to Argentina for the G-20 summit after the president canceled a sit-down with Russian President Vladimir Putin over mounting tensions between Russia and Ukraine. Trump also canceled a Saturday news conference, citing respect for the Bush family following the death of former President George H.W. Bush.

Trump said Bush’s death put a “damper” on what he described as a “very important meeting” with Xi.

The United States and China are locked in a dispute over their trade imbalance and Beijing’s tech policies. Washington accuses China of deploying predatory tactics in its tech drive, including stealing trade secrets and forcing American firms to hand over technology in exchange for access to the Chinese market.

Trump has imposed import taxes on \$250 billion in Chinese products — 25 percent on \$50 billion worth and 10 percent on

the other \$200 billion. Trump had planned to raise the tariffs on the \$200 billion to 25 percent if he couldn’t get a deal with Xi.

China has already slapped tariffs on \$110 billion in U.S. goods.

Under the agreement reached in Buenos Aires, the two countries have 90 days to resolve their differences over Beijing’s tech policies. If they can’t, the higher U.S. tariffs will go into effect on the \$200 billion in Chinese imports.

U.S. officials insist that the American economy is more resilient to the tumult than China’s, but they remain anxious of the economic effects of a prolonged showdown — as Trump has made economic growth the benchmark by which he wants his administration judged.

A full-blown resolution was not expected to be reached in Buenos Aires; the issues that divide them are just too difficult.

Growing concerns that the trade war will increasingly hurt corporate earnings and the U.S. economy are a key reason why U.S. stock prices have been sinking this fall.

Joining other forecasters, economists at the Organization for Economic Co-operation and

Development last week downgraded their outlook for global economic growth next year to 3.5 percent from a previous 3.7 percent. In doing so, they cited the trade conflict as well as political uncertainty.

The U.S. and China also made progress on the regulation of fentanyl, which is 50 times more powerful than heroin. U.S. officials for years have been pressing the Chinese government to take a tougher stance against fentanyl, and most U.S. supply of the drug is manufactured in China.

White House press secretary Sarah Sanders said China’s decision to label the drug as a controlled substance means that “people selling Fentanyl to the United States will be subject to China’s maximum penalty under the law.”

The White House also said that China’s government is “open to approving” the purchase of Dutch semiconductor manufacturer NXP by American chipmaker Qualcomm.

What I’ll be doing is holding back on tariffs. China will be opening up, China will be getting rid of tariffs.

DONALD TRUMP

China nixed the proposed takeover earlier this year, citing antitrust concerns, after U.S. and European regulators approved the deal. China’s decision came amid a period of heightening tensions between the U.S. and China over trade and intellectual property issues.

Qualcomm announced it was dropping plans to proceed with the deal after it failed to receive Chinese government approval. It is unclear whether the transaction could be revived even with China’s acquiescence.

In other developments, Trump announced aboard Air Force One on his return to Washington from Buenos Aires that his next meeting with North Korea’s Kim Jong Un would likely happen in January or February. He said there were three sites under consideration, but he declined to name them.

Trump also said he would shortly be providing formal notice to Congress that he will terminate the North American Free Trade Agreement, giving lawmakers six months to approve the replacement he signed Friday. He said lawmakers can choose between the replacement, the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, or nothing. **AP**

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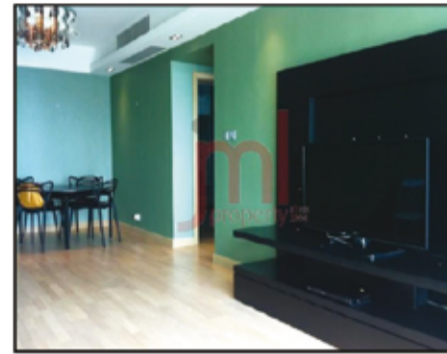
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Office for Rent

(Ref: 18090200)
1,200 sq.ft. HKD 18,000

Leal Senado Square. Located in the Centre of Macau. Commercial office space. 2 Private Executive Offices. Open Plan meeting room / reception. Private bathroom & small meeting room. Walk up 2nd Floor. Currently furnished. Possible to rent with or without furniture.



Macau One Central High Floor

(Ref: 18100693)
1,269 sq.ft. HKD 23,000

A beautifully furnished, 2 bedroom apartment in the famous and luxurious One central of Macau. Rent inclusive of management fee which will allow you to make full use of the clubhouse facilities-indoor and outdoor pool, gym, tennis courts and other extensive recreational facilities. Directly linked to the shopping center. Walking distance to MGM, Wynn, Mandarin Oriental etc. Available from December 1st, 2018



Va Long, Central Macau

(Ref: 18100694)
1,750 sq.ft. HKD 23,000

Luxuriously renovated 2-bedroom apartment near the business district of Macau. Fully fitted out with beautiful furniture, the bright ambiance of the unit is enhanced by the stunning partial sea views. Kitchen has separate washer, dryer, air-conditioning and both electric and gas cooktops. Perfect for professionals working in the area. Available immediately.

FOR SALE



WA BAO, TAIPA

(Ref: 18115568)
1,020 sq.ft. HKD 8.5 M
Rate: HKD 8,333

Taipa, fabulous and bright two bedroom apartment with two bathrooms. Lovely views one the Taipa Stadium, Galaxy and across to Hengquin are just stunning. Well designed kitchen. Very convenient for all types of transportation and within walking distance to Taipa village and Cotai.



Hellene Garden, High Floor Carnation Court

(Ref: 18085559)
1,663 sq.ft. HKD 9.8M
Rate: HKD 5,893

Beautiful apartment in the Hellene Garden complex. Located on high floor. Nicely renovated with an open kitchen and two balconies (one facing the sea and another facing the hills).



Va Fat Taipa

(Ref: 18115566)
550 sq.ft. HKD 4.58M
Rate: HKD 8,327

Great two bedroom apartment in Taipa. Basic upgrades conducted on the property four years ago. The property has a long term tenant who would prefer to stay in the property. Open plan kitchen living area. Two double bedrooms. Excellent location within 15 minute of Cotai and 5 to old Taipa village. Good option for an investor to purchase.



Lakeview, Macau

(Ref: 18105565)
3430 sq.ft. HKD 29 M
Rate: HKD 8,454

Bright and spacious 3 bedrooms, 1dressroom and 1utility room apartment in Macau. Furnished Partly. Front balcony with the great view of Macau skyline and Nam Van Lake. Convenient location, close to Grand Lisboa and Senado square.



Ocean Garden Elm Court

(Ref: 18105563)
1,610 sq.ft. HKD 11.88M
Rate: HKD 7,378

A beautiful modern stylish apartment in the popular Ocean Garden complex in Taipa. This 3 bedroom apartment with an en-suite on the master bedroom. The apartment is bright and spacious with a lovely living/dining room, balcony and modern kitchen, plenty of built in storage and ready to move into.



Jou Fai Kuok, St Pauls Ruin's Macau

(Ref: 18055556)
627sq.ft. HKD 3.48M
Rate: HKD 5550

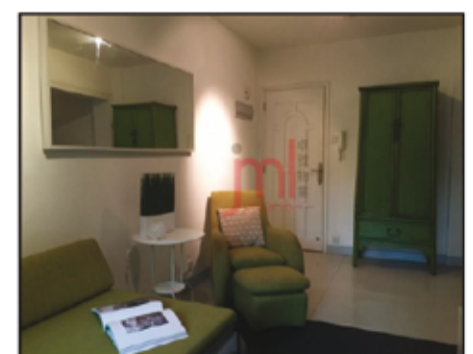
Originally a two bedroom apartment currently converted to one, can easily be converted back. Located in the heritage area of Macau, it's a fabulous property. Just two minutes from the Ruins of St Paul's and 5 to the Leal Senado square.



Calçada da Surpresa, 12, Ching Fai Court, Macau

(Ref: 18035547)
2000 sq.ft. HKD 11.5 M
Rate: HKD 5,750

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Va Fat, Taipa Village

(Ref: 17085533)
638 sq.ft. HKD 4.5M
Rate: HKD 7,053

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VIETNAM

Two ex-police generals jailed for role in gambling ring

A court in northern Vietnam on Friday jailed two former police generals for protecting a multimillion-dollar online gambling ring as the Communist government steps up its crackdown on graft.

Former national police chief Phan Van Vinh and former head of hi-tech crimes police department Nguyen Thanh Hoa were sentenced to nine and 10 years respectively after being convicted of abuse of power at the end of the three-week trial by the People's Court in Phu Tho province.

Two gambling ring leaders, Nguyen Van Duong, former chairman of the private company CNC, and Phan San Nam, former chairman of VTC Online joint stock company, were sentenced to 10 and five years respectively for organizing gambling and money laundering.

The ring had operated from April 2015 until it was broken up in August last year with some USD425 million having been gambled online. The ring



Former police generals Nguyen Thanh Hoa (center front row), and Phan Van Vinh (right second row) are escorted by police

made \$200 million in illegal profits, according to the government.

They were among 92 defendants involved in the case.

"Vinh's acts have caused discontent among the public, reduced the reputation of the police force and people's trust," state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper quoted the verdict as saying. "Vinh had intentionally covered up the crimes committed by Duong and his accomplices."

Vinh, who was general director of the General Department

of Police under the Ministry of Public Security until his retirement two years ago, was arrested in July while Hoa was arrested a month earlier. Following their arrests, the ministry stripped both men of their ranks.

The two allowed CNC company to rent an office from the General Department of Police, which indirectly facilitated the crimes and hindered their staff and other agencies in investigating the gambling ring, the verdict said.

During the hearing, prose-

cutors quoted Duong as telling police investigators that he bribed Vinh with \$2.8 million, a \$7,000 Rolex watch and gave Hoa \$936,000, state media reported.

The verdict, however, said there has been no evidence to prove the two former police generals were involved in bribery.

The foreign media were not allowed to cover the trial.

Vietnam's unprecedented crackdown on graft had previously focused on corruption at the state energy giant PetroVietnam and the banking sector but appears to be spreading to the police force.

Scores of PetroVietnam senior officials and bankers have been brought to trial, the most high-ranking of them being Dinh La Thang, a former Politburo member who was sentenced to a total of 31 years in prison for mismanagement in two separate cases earlier this year dating to his time leading PetroVietnam.

He was the first Politburo member to be jailed in decades. AP

INDONESIA

West Papuans demand independence at rally



ABOUT 300 West Papuan demonstrators calling for independence for the restive Indonesian region faced off with counterprotesters Saturday in the country's second-largest city.

The demonstrators in Surabaya chanted "Freedom Papua" and held banners demanding a referendum for independence to mark Dec. 1, which many West Papuans consider the anniversary of what they say should have been their independence.

"We are demanding the truth of our history," a speaker shouted at the crowd at the rally, which was organized by the Papua Students Alliance. "Referendum for independence is the right solution for the people of Papua."

The crowd, including many wearing headbands with the morning star flag as a separatist group symbol, was blocked from marching to the city center by scores of counterprotesters from several youth organizations in Surabaya, the capital of East Java province. Some confronted the pro-independence protesters with sharpened bamboos.

"You may rally to voice your aspiration, but don't bring the separatist issue," said a speaker from the rival group. "Papua is a part of Indonesia forever, and we are willing to die to defend the unitary state of Indonesia."

Members of the two camps pushed each other, but several hundred anti-riot police prevented the two groups from clashing, said East Java police spokesman Frans Barung Mangera.

The protest ended after about two hours. No one was detained by police, Mangera said.

The Free Papua Movement, a separatist group in Indonesia's restive Papua province, declared independence from Dutch rule on Dec. 1, 1961. That was rejected by the Dutch and later by Indonesia.

Papua, a former Dutch colony in the western part of New Guinea, was incorporated into Indonesia in 1969 after a U.N.-sponsored ballot that was seen as a sham by many. A small, poorly armed separatist group has been battling for independence since then.

For years, a low-level insurgency has plagued the mineral-rich region, which is ethnically and culturally distinct from much of Indonesia.

Indonesia's government, which for decades had a policy of sending Javanese and other Indonesians to settle in Papua, is now also trying to spur economic development to dampen the separatist movement. AP

Singapore urged to plug talent gap in money laundering fight

Chanyaporn Chanjaroen

SINGAPORE, which is increasingly using technology to combat money laundering and terrorism financing, faces a shortage of skilled data analysts who can help banks track down illicit cash flows.

The skills gap could be addressed by importing foreign talent and training locals, according to a report released last week by a partnership of banks, the financial regulator and police. Lenders in Singapore have been looking at using data analytics to detect suspicious transactions because current systems yield too many false alerts and manual processes are vulnerable to human error, it found.

"On a national level, the relevant talent pool in Singapore needs to

be grown significantly to meet this demand," the report said. "This can be achieved through the importing of talent from outside Singapore as well as through the 'upskilling' of Singapore's existing workforce."

Singapore is stepping up efforts to tackle white-collar crime as it seeks to build on its status as one of Asia's biggest financial centers. High-profile cases such as the 1MDB embezzlement scandal are increasingly involving large networks of

sophisticated cross-border fund transfers, underscoring the challenge for banks and regulators dealing with thousands of dubious transactions each year.

The Singapore government has recently signaled that it's willing to ease some restrictions on importing labor for the financial-technology industry and other sectors where it's facing talent shortages. The city-state tightened its immigration policy following 2011 elections, when resi-

dents voiced worries that an influx of foreign workers in the past decade had strained services, driven up competition for real estate and threatened jobs.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore "strongly encourages the use of data analytics" in anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism, said Ho Hern Shin, assistant managing director, banking and insurance, at MAS. It "has the potential for bringing about transformative change in our approach to combating financial crime," she said.

Singapore's three major banks - DBS Group Holdings Ltd., Oversea-Chinese Banking Corp. and United Overseas Bank Ltd. - have started using artificial intelligence and data analytics to help enhance their detec-

tion of illicit flows. According to the report, one bank reported a 50 percent to 60 percent reduction in so-called false positives in a test that used AI.

"Any option that improves detection yield from the current situation - where often, nine out of 10 cases is a false positive - should be explored," said Lam Chee Kin, DBS's head of legal, compliance and secretariat. "While we are in early days and making marginal improvements, there is promise," said Lam, who also heads the data analytics working group that wrote the report.

The working group was set up by a government-industry partnership aimed at fighting money laundering and terrorism financing. Formed last year, the partnership includes banks and is co-chaired by the Monetary Authority of Singapore and the Commercial Affairs Department, the white-collar crime unit of the nation's police force. Bloomberg

On a national level, the relevant talent pool in Singapore needs to be grown significantly to meet this demand.

REPORT

US

Bush mourned as a great statesman, a man of uncommon decency

Darlene Superville, John Rogers

FORMER President George H.W. Bush is returning to Washington as a revered political statesman, hailed by leaders across the political spectrum and around the world as a man not only of greatness but also of uncommon decency and kindness.

Bush, who died late Friday at his Houston home at age 94, is to be honored with a state funeral at National Cathedral in the nation's capital on Wednesday, followed by burial Thursday on the grounds of his presidential library at Texas A&M. Before that, his body will lie in state in the Capitol Rotunda for a public viewing from his arrival in Washington Monday until Wednesday morning.

Bush's crowning achievement as president was assembling the international military coalition that liberated the tiny, oil-rich nation of Kuwait from invading neighbor Iraq in 1991 in a war that lasted just 100 hours. He also presided over the end of the Cold War between the United States and the former Soviet Union.

"We didn't agree much on domestic policy, but when it came to the international side of things, he was a very wise and thoughtful man," former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis, a Democrat who lost the presidency to Bush in 1988, told The Associated Press on Saturday. He credited Bush's ability to negotiate with former Soviet

AP PHOTO



Premier Mikhail Gorbachev as playing a key role.

"It was a time of great change, demanding great responsibility from everyone," Gorbachev told the Interfrax news agency. "The result was the end of the Cold War and nuclear arms race."

During that time and after, Gorbachev said, he always appreciated the kindness Bush and his family showed him.

In Washington, the former Republican president won praise from leaders of both parties.

Republican House Speaker Paul Ryan lauded him for leading the nation with "decency and integrity," while Democratic House Leader Nancy Pelosi said it was a "privilege to work with him."

Republican Sen. Bob Corker of Tennessee said Bush "befriended political foes, reminding Americans that there is always

more that unites us than divides us."

At the G-20 summit in Argentina, German Chancellor Angela Merkel, who was raised in then-divided East Germany, told reporters she likely would never have become her country's leader had Bush not pressed for the nation's reunification in 1990.

A humble hero of World War II, Bush was just 20 when he survived being shot down during a bombing run over Japan. He had enlisted in the U.S. Navy on his 18th birthday.

Shortly before leaving the service, he married his 19-year-old sweetheart, Barbara Pierce, a union that lasted until her death earlier this year.

After military service, Bush enrolled in Yale University, where he would become a scholar-athlete, captaining the baseball team to two College World Se-

ries before graduating Phi Beta Kappa after just 2 1/2 years.

After moving to Texas to work in the oil business, Bush turned his attention to politics in the 1960s, being elected to his first of two terms in Congress in 1967. He would go on to serve as ambassador to the United Na-

tions and China, head of the CIA and chairman of the Republican National Committee before being elected to two terms as Ronald Reagan's vice president.

Soon after he reached the zenith of his political popularity following the liberation of Kuwait, the U.S. economy began to sour, however, and voters began to believe that Bush, never a great orator, was out of touch with ordinary people.

He lost his bid for re-election to then-Arkansas Gov. Bill Clinton, who would later become a close friend. The pair worked together to raise tens of millions of dollars for victims of a 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami and Hurricane Katrina, which swamped New Orleans and the Gulf Coast in 2005.

"Who would have thought that I would be working with Bill Clinton of all people?" he joked in 2005. Clinton said he would be "forever grateful" for that friendship. **AP**

TRUMPS TO ATTEND STATE FUNERAL

PRESIDENT DONALD Trump and first lady Melania Trump on Saturday mourned the passing of former President George H.W. Bush, remembering him as a man of "sound judgment, common sense and unflappable leadership." In a statement issued hours after Bush's death on Friday night, the Trumps said that Bush had "inspired generations of his fellow Americans to public service." Trump, who upended the GOP establishment with his

insurgent presidential campaign, has had a fractious relationship with the Bush family over the years. He ran against one of Bush's sons, Jeb Bush, in the GOP presidential primaries in 2016, and he was sharply critical of the presidency of another son, George W. Bush. The White House announced Saturday morning that the Trumps would attend a state funeral for the former president at Washington's National Cathedral.

FRANCE

Riot debris covers Paris streets; 133 injured, 412 arrested

PARIS police said yesterday that 133 people had been injured and 412 had been arrested as protesters trashed the streets of the capital during France's worst urban riot in years.

French President Emmanuel Macron was holding an emergency meeting on security later Sunday with his prime minister and interior minister. He has vowed that those responsible for the violence and the damages will pay for their actions.

A protest against rising taxes and the high cost of living turned into a riot Saturday in the most po-

pular tourist areas of the French capital. Activists wearing yellow jackets torched cars, smashed windows, looted stores, threw rocks at police and tagged the Arc de Triomphe with multi-colored graffiti. Police responded with tear gas and water cannon, closing down dozens of streets and Metro stations as they tried to contain the riot.

Police said 23 police officers were among the injured and 378 of the arrested have been put in police custody.

By yesterday morning, Paris city employees were cleaning up the graffiti on

the Arc de Triomphe. One read: "Yellow jackets will triumph" — a reference to the fluorescent yellow vests that protesters are wearing to demand relief for France's beleaguered workers.

Some of Paris' major avenues near the Arc de Triomphe and streets around the famed Champs-Elysees Avenue and the Tuileries garden were littered with piles of debris and burned cars. Graffiti was also sprayed on many storefronts and buildings.

Government spokesman Benjamin Griveaux said Saturday's violence was due to those who hijacked the pro-

test, people who came "to loot, break and hit police forces." He was questioned why thousands of French police couldn't prevent the damage, especially to the nation's Arc de Triomphe monument. "Yesterday we made a choice [...] to protect people before material goods," Griveaux told French broadcaster BFM TV.

It was the third straight weekend of clashes in Paris involving activists dressed in the yellow vests of a new protest movement and the worst urban violence since at least 2005. The scene in Paris contrasted sharply with protests elsewhere in



France on Saturday that were mostly peaceful.

"It's difficult to reach the end of the month. People work and pay a lot of taxes and we are fed up," said Rabah Mendez, a protester who came to march peacefully in Paris.

The demonstrators say Macron's government does not care about the problems of ordinary people. The grassroots protests be-

gan Nov. 17 with motorists upset over a fuel tax hike, but now involve a broad range of demands related to France's high cost of living.

"[Violence] has nothing to do with the peaceful expression of a legitimate anger" and "no cause justifies" attacks on police or pillaging stores and burning buildings, Macron said in Buenos Aires. **AP**

what's ON



CHAPAS SÍNICAS - STORIES OF MACAU IN TORRE DO TOMBO

TIME: 10am-6pm (closed on Mondays and public holidays)

UNTIL: December 7, 2018

VENUE: Archives of Macau

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2859 2919

TREASURE OF SACRED ART OF ST. JOSEPH'S SEMINARY

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

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

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2835 7911

MANDARIN'S HOUSE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (last admission at 5:30pm; closed on Wednesdays, open on public holidays)

ADDRESS: No. 10, Travessa de António da Silva

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2896 8820

MACAU SCIENCE CENTRE

TIME: 10am-6pm daily (Except on Thursdays; open on public holidays)

VENUE: Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25 (Exhibition Centre)

MOP60 (Planetarium 2D dome or 2D sky shows)

MOP80 (Planetarium 3D dome or 3D sky shows)

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

Offbeat

DC CLERK STALLS MARRIAGE OVER 'FOREIGN' NEW MEXICO ID CARD



Gavin Clarkson

A District of Columbia clerk and a supervisor refused to accept a New Mexico man's state driver's license as he sought a marriage license because she and her supervisor believed New Mexico was a foreign country.

Gavin Clarkson told the Las Cruces Sun-News it happened Nov. 20 at the District of Columbia Courts Marriage Bureau as he tried to apply for a marriage license.

After approaching the clerk for a license and showing his New Mexico ID, Clarkson said the clerk told him he needed an international passport to get the marriage license.

Clarkson said he protested to a supervisor, who also told him that he needed a foreign passport.

The clerk finally concluded New Mexico was a state after Clarkson objected three times. The clerk granted the license to Clarkson and his fiancée.

"She thought New Mexico was a foreign country," Clarkson said of the clerk. "All the couples behind us waiting in line were laughing."

Clarkson, who is an enrolled member of the Choctaw Nation, said if he'd had his tribal identification card he might have had an easier time than showing his New Mexico driver's license.

In a statement, the D.C. courts system acknowledged the staff error to the Sun-News.

"We understand that a clerk in our Marriage Bureau made a mistake regarding New Mexico's 106-year history as a state," Leah H. Gurowitz, spokeswoman for D.C. Courts, said in an email. "We very much regret the error and the slight delay it caused a New Mexico resident in applying for a D.C. marriage license."

New Mexico became a U.S. state in 1912

TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repeated)
13:30	News (RTPi) Delayed Broadcast
15:00	Portuguese Soap Opera
15:50	Cartoons
16:15	Portuguese Comedy
19:00	Portugal Fashion
19:35	Portuguese Serie
20:30	Main News, Financial & Weather Report
21:15	You, Me & Apocalypse
22:00	Funny Things To Know
22:25	Portuguese Serie - Liberty 21
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Documentary
00:15	Main News, Financial & Weather Report (Repeated)
01:30	RTPi Live

cinema



CINETEATRO

29 Nov - 5



THE NUTCRACKER AND THE FOUR REALMS

ROOM 1

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

Director: Lasse Hallstrom & Joe Johnston

Starring: Keira Knightley, Mackenzie Foy, Morgan Freeman

Language: English

Duration: 99min



ROBIN HOOD

ROOM 2

2:30, 4:45, 7:15 9:30pm

Director: Otto Bathurst

Starring: Taron Egerton, Jamie Foxx, Ben Mendelsohn

Language: English

Duration: 130min



MORE THAN BLUE

ROOM 3

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

Director: Gavin Lin

Starring: Jasper Liu, Ivy Chen

Language: Putonghua (Chinese & English)

Duration: 105min

this day in history



1989 MALTA SUMMIT ENDS COLD WAR

The leaders of the two world superpowers, the USA and the USSR, have declared an end to the Cold War after two days of storm-lashed talks at the Malta summit.

At a joint news conference held on board the Soviet cruise ship, Maxim Gorky, the two men announced they had set the stage for big reductions in troops and weapons in Europe.

The Soviet leader, Mikhail Gorbachev, also said: "I assured the President of the United States that I will never start a hot war against the USA."

For his part, US President George Bush said: "We can realise a lasting peace and transform the East-West relationship to one of enduring co-operation. That is the future that Chairman Gorbachev and I began right here in Malta."

The Malta summit is being hailed as the most important since 1945 when Churchill, Stalin and Roosevelt agreed a post-war plan for Europe at Yalta.

The two men have met face-to-face for the first time against a backdrop of fast-moving change in Eastern Europe.

In the past few weeks Hungary has opened its borders with the West, the Berlin Wall has fallen, followed by the government of Czechoslovakia. Only yesterday the fledgling East German government of only seven weeks was also forced to resign.

Both leaders spoke hopefully of the changes sweeping Eastern Europe - but they also spoke of the need for caution, particularly with regard to the future of Germany and the prospect of reunification.

Mr Bush said: "It is not for the United States to dictate the pace of change in Germany or anywhere else."

Mr Gorbachev said: "The world is leaving one epoch and entering another. We are at the beginning of a long road to a lasting, peaceful era."

"The threat of force, mistrust, psychological and ideological struggle should all be things of the past."

The summit was not all plain sailing. High winds and heavy seas yesterday left the American president stranded aboard his cruiser in Marsaxlokk Bay.

An afternoon session of talks had to be abandoned while the Russians waited in vain for Mr Bush to arrive on their ship, the Maxim Gorky, which was moored in a calmer position.

A joint dinner was also cancelled as the president remained marooned.

A final eight-hour round of talks was held today aboard the Maxim Gorky, during which differences emerged over policy on Central America and cuts in naval forces.

Mr Bush is due to brief NATO leaders in Brussels, where he will fly tonight. Mr Gorbachev will address members of the Warsaw Pact tomorrow.

The two men have agreed to hold another summit in June next year.

Courtesy BBC News

IN CONTEXT

The Malta summit is regarded by many as the official end of the Cold War, although little of substance was actually agreed.

The summit followed a series of arms-reduction treaties between the two superpowers, including Salt II in 1979 and the Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces treaty in 1987.

Presidents Bush and Gorbachev went on to sign a treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe in November 1990, establishing parity between East and West, and the first of the Strategic Arms Reduction Treaties (Start) in December 1991.

The collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe continued with the fall of the Romanian government and the reunification of Germany in 1990.

Although Mikhail Gorbachev was seen as a hero by the outside world, within the Soviet Union the slow progress of reform and declining economic conditions eventually led to the break-up of the union and his resignation in December 1991.

YOUR STARS

Aries Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Keep both feet firmly planted on the ground today -- it's not a good time for fantasies or for too much ambition.

Taurus April 20-May 20 Your ideals are tested today -- but your great energy ensures that you find the right way to deal with this.

Gemini May 21-Jun. 21 Someone isn't revealing their true intentions -- is it you? This could be a bad problem or it could be a silly romantic misunderstanding.

Cancer Jun. 22-Jul. 22 A work problem is causing you headaches today, but not so much that you can't deal with them forcefully.

Leo Jul. 23-Aug. 22 This is a better time for listening than for talking -- though you may need to ask some big questions to get the conversational ball rolling.

Virgo Aug. 23-Sept. 22 It's a good time for you to step up and try to get your people to see things your way.

Libra Sep.23-Oct. 22 You're feeling weirder than you have in a long time -- so indulge this side of yourself while it lasts!

Scorpio Oct. 23 - Nov. 21 A conflict arises out of two opposing ideas. You are firmly in one camp, but you may not be able to see a way out of this tussle.

Sagittarius Nov. 22-Dec. 21 Your energy is a bit out of sync today, but you can correct it by pinching off your cash flow.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Something big and wonderful comes your way, and you can tell that it's totally justified.

Aquarius Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Don't struggle against anything but tyranny today -- the normal roadblocks and whatnot that life presents just aren't worth your energy.

Pisces Feb.19-Mar. 20 You can see that a group you're part of is going in a bad direction -- but can you articulate the reason why?

THE BORN LOSER by Chip Sansom



SUDOKU

Sudoku puzzles categorized by difficulty: Easy, Easy+, Medium, and Hard. Each category contains a 9x9 grid with some numbers pre-filled.

WEATHER

Weather forecast table with columns for MIN, MAX, and CONDITION. It lists weather for various cities in CHINA and the WORLD.

CROSSWORDS

ACROSS: 1-Box office hit; 5- Opponent; 9- Surrealist Salvador; 13- Rent-...; 14- Join in wedlock; 16- Dentist's request; 17- Comin' ___ the Rye; 18- This is only ___; 19- 1492 vessel; 20- Before long; 21- Mighty ___ a Rose; 22- Deceive; 24- Hard work; 26- Cracker topper; 27- Gaze intently; 29- Keeper of the Holsteins; 33- Christian writings; 34- South American country, famous for Macchu Picchu; 35- Stuffing herb; 36- Game with Skip cards; 37- Poisonous fluid; 38- Watchdog warning; 39- Ladder step; 41- ___ go brag!; 42- Walk-on role; 44- Stuttering; 46- Pond scum; 47- Adjective-forming suffix; 48- Juan's water; 49- 1992 Wimbledon champ; 52- South American tuber; 53- Wall St. debuts; 57- Very dry champagne; 58- Try to bite; 60- Tree house; 61- "Venerable" English monk; 62- Stare angrily; 63- Garage event; 64- Not "fer"; 65- Corrida cheers; 66- 1982 Disney film;

DOWN: 1- Cave dwellers; 2- Cuatro doubled; 3- Gambling game; 4- A lobe or full type of assault; 5- Charlotte ___, Virgin Islands; 6- Birth-related; 7- Difficult journey; 8- Apr. addressee; 9- Asses; 10- ...baked in ___; 11- Director Riefenstahl; 12- ___ instant; 15- Rare metallic element; 23- Televise; 25- Mined mineral; 26- Member of the nobility; 27- Nasal cavity; 28- Steak order; 29- Fabric of jeans; 30- Molten material; 31- Be of one mind; 32- Adopted son of Claudius; 33- Dinner faux-pas; 34- As such; 37- A thin net for veils; 40- Sparkle; 42- Actor Gulager; 43- Contrary to; 45- Barbell abbr.; 46- Playing marbles; 48- Without ___ in the world; 49- "Dancing Queen" group; 50- Golfer Norman; 51- BMW rival; 52- Aussie gemstone; 54- Fleshy fruit; 55- Capital of Norway; 56- Type of gun; 59- UN agency;

Friday's solution crossword grid with filled-in words.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

- Emergency calls 999
Taxi 28 939 939 / 2828 3283
Fire department 28 572 222
Water Supply - Report 2822 0088
PJ (Open line) 993
Telephone - Report 1000
PJ (Picket) 28 557 775
Electricity - Report 28 339 922
PSP 28 573 333
Macau Daily Times 28 716 081
Customs 28 559 944
S. J. Hospital 28 313 731
Kiang Wu Hospital 28 371 333
Commission Against Corruption (CCAC) 28326 300
IACM 28 387 333
Tourism 28 333 000
Airport 59 888 88



AD

Real estate advertisement for JML Property, featuring 'FOR SALE' and 'FOR RENT' sections with details for properties like Lakeview, Ocean Garden Elm Court, WA BAO, TAIPA, Va Fat Taipa, Va Long, Central Macau, Manhattan F Unit, and Macau One Central High Floor.

Germany and Netherlands to meet in Euro 2020 qualifying

Rob Harris, Dublin

GERMANY will face the Netherlands in a challenging qualifying group for the 2020 European Championship in a swift reunion between the sides after meeting in the UEFA Nations League.

Only one point was collected from two matches against the Netherlands as Germany was relegated from the Nations League last month, capping a miserable year that saw Joachim Loew's side deposed as world champions with a group-stage exit in Russia.

The Netherlands didn't even qualify for the World Cup after also failing to make Euro 2016 despite a jump to 24 teams. But the Dutch are resurgent with a young team coached by Ronald Koeman, with a shot at silverware in the Nations League Final Four tournament in June.

Before then, qualifying begins in March for the first continent-wide European Championship that sees no host nation guaranteed a spot. Two teams qua-



The Netherlands coach Ronald Koeman (center) arrives for the qualifying draw

lify from each of the ten groups. Also drawn yesterday in Group C alongside the Netherlands and Germany are Northern Ireland, Estonia and Belarus.

Usually staged in one or two nations, UEFA has distributed games across Europe to celebrate 60 years of the competition after finding it tough to find a single suitable host.

The tournament will open in

Rome on June 12 before ending in London at Wembley Stadium, which will stage both semifinals and the final on July 12.

England has a seemingly smooth path to the finals, when it could host two games in the group stage at Wembley. Gareth Southgate's side was drawn in Dublin alongside Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Montenegro

and Kosovo, which is in qualifying for the first time for a European Championship.

France, which won the World Cup in July and lost the Euro 2016 final on home soil, is in qualifying with Iceland, Turkey, Albania and Moldova.

Defending European champion Portugal was drawn in Group B alongside Ukraine, Serbia, Lithuania and Luxem-

bourg.

Italy, which failed to qualify for the World Cup, is in Group J with Bosnia-Herzegovina, Finland, Greece, Armenia and Liechtenstein.

Belgium, FIFA's top-ranked team which reached the World Cup semifinals, will return to Russia in Group I and also face Scotland, Cyprus, Kazakhstan and San Marino.

■ UEFA has distributed games across Europe to celebrate 60 years of the competition

Spain, the 2008 and 2012 European champion, is in Group F with Sweden, Norway, Romania, Malta and the Faeroe Islands.

Croatia, which reached the World Cup final for the first time in July, is in Group E with Wales, Slovakia, Hungary and Azerbaijan.

Group D consists of Ireland, Switzerland, Denmark, Georgia and Gibraltar. AP

FOOTBALL

River plate refuses to play final match in Madrid

THE title match of South America's club football championship was thrown into disarray again when Argentina's River Plate refused to play the rearranged final in Spain.

River doesn't want to play the match in Madrid's Santiago Bernabeu stadium because it will hurt fans who originally paid to watch the Nov. 24 game at River's El Monumental stadium, the club said in a

statement on its website. It will also make the match less competitive.

The Copa Libertadores match with Buenos Aires rival Boca Juniors was canceled after River fans attacked a bus carrying the opposition team. It was rescheduled for the following day on Nov. 25, then scrapped by the regulatory body for South American football.

Conmebol eventually

arranged for the game to be played Dec. 9 in Madrid. The timetable is tight, partly because of this weekend's G-20 summit in the Argentine capital and partly because the draw for the first round of the 2019 championship is due to take place later this month.

FIFA President Gianni Infantino said he wasn't aware of the club's decision. Speaking on Saturday on the sidelines of the G-20

meeting and shortly after the club's statement came out, he said Conmebol will need to make a decision.

"My personal opinion is that the game always needs to be played," Infantino told journalists. "Football can't stop, the ball can't stop - we'll see how we make it happen."

The two teams tied the first game of their two-match final 2-2 at Boca Juniors' stadium. Bloomberg



AD



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opinion

Insight
Paulo Barbosa



WHERE ARE THE POETS,
THE WILD ONES?

Looking at the Chinese literary scene, one wonders, where are the poets, the non-conformists? Where are, as Kerouac put it, "the mad ones, the ones who are mad to live, mad to talk, mad to be saved"?

From my readings, I found an interesting writer who is currently living in China: Su Tong, the pen name of Tong Zhonggui, who wrote the elliptical book "The Boat to Redemption".

I'm aware there are other great authors in China, such as Beijing-based Yan Lianke and Sheng Keyi. Certainly, there are other good writers who haven't been translated or remain unpublished. They tend to stay low-profile (few interviews or public interventions, no criticism of governmental policies) and are almost invisible. Considering that China has a population of around 1.4 billion persons, the fact that there aren't thousands of relevant writers is a clear sign that something is wrong.

It seems that some of the best Chinese artists and writers are in exile or simply remain silent. Like Ma Jian (who recently faced trouble speaking in Hong Kong) those believe that "free speech is the foundation of civilization." Some others publish heavily censored novels or craftily became experts in self-censorship. The others risk being arrested for crimes against the state or are accused of some dubious misdemeanor (Ai Weiwei comes to mind).

In the essay "The Prevention of Literature", George Orwell explained how in 1946 "the idea of intellectual liberty" was under attack from all directions. With the benefit of hindsight, I say some things don't change.

"From a totalitarian point of view, history is something to be created rather than learned. A totalitarian state is in effect a theocracy, and its ruling caste, in order to keep its position, has to be thought of as infallible. But since, in practice, no one is infallible, it is frequently necessary to rearrange past events in order to show that this or that mistake was not made, or that this or that imaginary triumph actually happened," Orwell wrote, going on to argue that literature has sometimes flourished in despotic regimes, but never in those with an efficient "repressive apparatus." Such rule "can never afford to become either tolerant or intellectually stable. It can never permit either the truthful recording of facts, or the emotional sincerity, that literary creation demands."

When freedom of speech is stifled, "the mere prevalence of certain ideas can spread a kind of poison that makes one subject after another impossible for literary purposes." If the inventiveness of the poet can perhaps survive, the prose writer may have no choice between silence and death, the British author argued.

Here and elsewhere, an intolerant mindset is gaining weight. Using the Orwellian expression, in societies where groups of people have adopted the totalitarian outlook, a "newspeak" takes hold: Words can mean exactly their opposite, meaning can change according to convenience. Laws can be twisted and reinterpreted by sneaky prosecutors. Hollow slogans fade to be replaced by others.

If only free and fair societies can lead, a contradiction arises: How to expect people to be creative if they are not allowed to think and are taught to reproduce and obey? Innovation can only thrive if there's tolerance for views that are not ours and there is a free flow of ideas.

Recent history shows that there's an equation between the level of totalitarianism of a society and the probability of its decay, or even destruction. The Nazi foolishness lead to the annihilation of the Germany; decades of purging the "enemies of the people" doomed the Soviet Union. In China, only the reforms spearheaded by Deng Xiaoping avoided such fate.

In his famous "Gulag Archipelago", which remained underground in the Soviet Union for almost 30 years, Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn wrote about the psychological effects of thought control in the Iron Curtain: "By now, we are even unsure whether we have the right to talk about the events of our own lives."

But times change. In 2009, the Russian Education Ministry decided that excerpts of the book that exposed the Gulag system should be included in the school curriculum as mandatory reading. This is an example where truth and decency has prevailed after all.

THE AIRPORT WORKERS' BUS HITS TAXI ON
BUZZ HONG KONG ROAD, KILLING FIVE

A bus ferrying workers to Hong Kong International Airport slammed into a stopped taxi on a highway Friday, killing five people and injuring more than 30, police said.

Four bus passengers, including three who were thrown from the coach, and the taxi driver were killed. The injured included the bus driver and a German tourist in the taxi.

The bus, carrying 36 airport employees, ran into the taxi shortly before 5 a.m., Superintendent Michael Yip of the Hong Kong Police traffic headquarters said at a news briefing. He said the taxi



was stopped in a highway lane with its emergency flashers on about 19 kilometers from the airport.

ENTERTAINMENT

Netflix tiptoes into theaters, demands secrecy

Anousha Sakoui

NETFLIX Inc. has an Oscar contender on its hands with "Roma," a drama about a Mexico City family from Academy Award-winning director Alfonso Cuaron.

The company thought enough of the film to break with one of its foremost traditions: Netflix released "Roma" in theaters last week ahead of its online debut - anathema for the world's biggest paid video-streaming service. But since then, the company hasn't followed the typical playbook for promoting a likely Oscar winner.

The film's run in a handful of theaters went largely unremarked in the past week, and that was intentional. Netflix asked Comscore Inc. - the main company that gathers box-office data - not to monitor its impact. Comscore collects raw sales data directly from theaters, which is then confirmed and distributed to studios and the press. Netflix specifically asked for that data not to be harvested with "Roma."

Giving "Roma" a theatrical run is expected to help improve its Oscar chances, since the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences doesn't usually consider films that debuted online. But it's



clear that Netflix isn't prepared to operate like a typical Hollywood studio. The company also doesn't share figures on how many people view its films online, forcing the industry into a guessing game.

Netflix's secrecy haven't stopped industry watchers from trying to gauge the theatrical success of "Roma." Over the Thanksgiving weekend, it was estimated to have grossed USD200,000, or \$66,600 per screen, trade publication Deadline estimated.

According to online ticket seller Atom Tickets, last week's "Roma" shows were nearly sold out. New York was the best performing market for the film, followed by San Francisco and Los Angeles.

"Roma" was never expected to be a U.S. blockbuster: It's a black-and-white drama that draws on the childhood experiences of Cuaron, who won an Oscar for "Gravity." The movie is showing in independent theaters, such as Landmark and IFC. (Major exhibitors like Cinemark

Holdings Inc. typically don't show films unless they abide by the two- or three-month exclusive theatrical window the industry has set.)

Netflix has put out ads promoting the movie's run, which began on Nov. 21 in Los Angeles, New York and Mexico. "Roma" also opened in London this week, and it's set to expand further in early December. It then will land on Netflix's digital service on Dec. 14. Over the weekend weekend, Netflix said the theater count is 18 in the U.S., one in Canada, one in the U.K. and 14 in Mexico.

Cuaron, who is a favorite to win an Oscar for directing "Roma," said he's thrilled with Netflix's distribution plan. Nabbing such a prestigious filmmaker was a coup for Netflix's film ambitions. The question now is whether the "Roma" experience will draw more directors to the fold - or put up fresh divisions between Netflix and Hollywood traditionalists. **MDT/Bloomberg**

THE DECISIVE MOMENT



An installation for the Hong Kong Pulse Light Festival is lit up against the Victoria Harbour Saturday. A similar event kicked off yesterday in Macau.

Station	Air quality
Roadside	70-100 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	55-75 Moderate
Ambient	70-100 Moderate

WORLD BRIEFS

ISRAEL Police yesterday recommended indicting Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on bribery charges related to a corruption case involving Israel's telecom giant, prompting immediate calls for his resignation.



ROMANIA Despite freezing temperatures, tens of thousands of Romanians turned out to celebrate 100 years since their nation became a modern-day state, with some noting concerns now about the rule of law and the state of democracy in the Balkan nation.

MALTA Eleven migrants rescued by a trawler last week have been handed over to the Maltese coast guard and will soon reach port in Malta, a Spanish aid group said yesterday.

BRAZIL Brazil's president-elect said Friday that under his government the military will not be in charge of security forces in Rio de Janeiro state. Jair Bolsonaro told reporters he will not extend the military intervention that began in February amid a spike in violence.



MEXICO Leftist politician Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador assumed Mexico's presidency with a promise - to profoundly transform Latin America's second-biggest economy and to lead a government free of corruption.

CANADA The Supreme Court of Canada has ruled a Vice Media reporter must give Canada's national police force material he gathered for stories about an accused terrorist in a case that pitted press freedoms against the investigative powers of police.