



**COOK CAUGHT STEALING FROM TAXIS**  
A local 22-year-old cook allegedly robbed a series of taxis at a car park in the Fai Chi Kei area

P2 CRIME



**CAESARS FOR SALE**  
Caesars Entertainment is under pressure from shareholders to boost returns or find a buyer

P8 GAMING



**JABBAWOCKEEZ IGNITES MGM'S ENTERTAINMENT LINEUP**

P10-11

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TRADE WAR SIDE EFFECTS

# Foreign investment leaving Guangdong

P6-7 MDT REPORT

WORLD BRIEFS

**CHINA** Official media accused two Canadians detained in China of acting together to steal state secrets, just days after Canada announced it will proceed with a U.S. extradition request for a senior Chinese tech executive.



**CHINA** Prominent human rights lawyer Jiang Tianyong (pictured) who recently completed a two-year prison sentence on national security charges has returned to his parents' home in central China after he briefly went missing upon his scheduled release. More on p12



**SOUTH KOREA** has proposed semiofficial three-way talks with the United States and North Korea as it struggles to put nuclear diplomacy back on track after the collapse of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un. More on p14

More on backpage



## Xi firmly in charge for legislative season

P9 ANALYSIS

## CRIME

# Mainland gambler finds 'blue card' much more convenient for casino visits

Renato Marques

A 32-year-old mainland man has been accused of document forgery in a case that the Public Security Police Force (PSP) received in the form of a complaint from an anonymous woman. PSP spokesperson Cheong Heon Fan informed yesterday at a joint press conference held at the Judiciary Police (PJ) headquarters.

The case began with a complaint from an anonymous source, who told the PSP that a certain man had bought a quota for a non-resident worker (a blue card) from a local restaurant, where he had never in fact worked. The man had been using the document to easily enter and exit Macau for gambling purposes.

After an investigation and several attempts to find the man, the PSP finally located him at the restaurant last Saturday.

When taken for questioning, the man confessed to having acquired the document via the restaurant for gambling purposes, in order to avoid the process of an individual visa (and its limitations) every time he wanted to enter Macau to play in the local casinos.

He said to police that he had paid RMB20,000 for the processing of the document.

The PSP have already forwarded the case to the Public Prosecutions Office (MP) on charges of



document forgery. No information was disclosed on whether the authorities are doing their due diligence in order to seek accountability from the establishment owners.

## COOK CAUGHT STEALING FROM TAXIS

In a separate case, a local 22-year-old man who works as a cook in a restaurant has been accused of performing a series of thefts at a car park in the Fai Chi Kei area.

According to PSP spokesperson Cheong, the man had knowledge of a common proce-

cedure among several taxi drivers who would park their cars in a certain parking lot while changing the driver's shift, leaving the cars unlocked.

He made use of the knowledge last Saturday at around 10:15 a.m., entering the car park and checking which taxis were open one by one, searching the cars' interiors for cash and valuables.

According to the police report, the man stole at least MOP230 and HKD400 in cash from several vehicles, money he was said to have spent immediately thereafter.

He was presented to the MP for theft yesterday.

## FINDERS, (SHOULD NOT BE) KEEPERS

A 33-year-old mainland man wanted by local authorities was caught by the PSP reentering Macau at the Border Gate on Sunday at around 4 p.m.

The man is wanted for appropriation, in respect of finding goods in a case that goes back to January 31, when the suspect, after having a meal at a restaurant located inside a Cotai casino, noticed that a red bag had been left behind by customers

seated at a table next to him.

According to the PSP spokesperson, the man decided to take the bag and left Macau almost immediately.

After being questioned by the police force, the man admitted to the crime, explaining that he took the bag and then emptied the cash from inside (HKD4,000 and RMB200) before returning to the mainland.

As for the bag and its contents, he is said to have dumped it in a garbage bin.

He was presented to the MP on the charges of appropriation yesterday.

## Motorcyclist dies in traffic accident involving suspected illegal driver

A 22-year-old woman died due to severe injuries resulting from a traffic accident that occurred in Cotai on Friday afternoon. According to the police report on the case, the woman was riding a light motorcycle at the Avenida Marginal Flor de Lotus in the direction of Coloane and collided with the car that was performing a U-turn in front of Hotel Okura.

What initially appeared

to be a serious infraction to the Road Traffic Law, turned out to be an even more complex case. The car, a seven-seater van owned by a local junket operator was being driven by a non-resident worker without a relevant work permit for the profession. The hiring of non-locals as professional drivers is strictly forbidden by law, being one of several jobs exclusively reserved for local residents.

Due to the finding, the

Public Security Police Force (PSP) said it transferred the case to the Labor Affairs Bureau (DSAL) for a follow-up investigation.

According to the PSP spokesperson, the driver, a 40-year-old male, is officially employed as an assistant accountant.

On Sunday, the DSAL issued a statement noting that the preliminary investigation had revealed that the driver was performing a job other than the one he had been hired to

do by the company.

According to the Macau labor law, when an employee is found to be performing a job that is different from the one he had been hired to do, the employer may incur a fine that ranges between MOP5,000 and MOP10,000.

For the time being, the PSP noted that the driver has been transferred to the Public Prosecution Office (MP) under the charge of homicide by negligence. RM

RENATO MARQUES



PSP spokesperson

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The Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief Executive Election

# Neto Valente favors a contested run for CE

**T**HE president of Macau Lawyers Association (AAM) Jorge Neto Valente said he favors having more than one candidate for the Chief Executive (CE) post in the upcoming election. In Neto Valente's opinion, a contested election would be preferable and a sign of vitality within political institutions.

"It is always healthy to have competition," the lawyer, who has run successively unopposed as head of the Macau Lawyers Association, told TDM Radio on the sidelines of a seminar on the Land Law. Nonetheless, he said that it was still "too early" to anticipate whether the much-speculated scenario will happen.

For the time being the two names most widely touted as potential candidates to the post are the president of the Legislative Assembly, Ho Iat Seng, and the Secretary for Economy and Finance, Lionel Leong. However, Neto Valente suggested there were more possibilities, alluding to the Secretary for Social Affairs and Culture, Alexis Tam, as another of the potential candidates.

The last Chief Executive election to see more than a single candidate for the post was Macau's very first in 1999, which resulted in the first mandate of Edmund Ho.

The procedures for the CE election have already started with several meetings of Electoral Affairs Commission for the Chief

Executive Election having been held. The Commission is chaired once more by judge Song Man Lei.

The body informed that the submission of registration forms by candidates is scheduled to happen between April 8 and 23, and that legal voters should register their representatives authorized to nominate candidates for the Chief Executive Election Committee.

After that the candidates for the Chief Executive Election Committee have until May 7 to submit their applications to the Electoral Affairs Commission.

Principal officials of the government, members of the Chief Executive



Council, judges, judicial assistants, members of the Commission, members of the Committee, and public administration staff may be nominated as candidates unless they have resigned or retired by the nomination date.

The Electoral Affairs Commission is responsible for coordinating the process to choose the 400-member Chief Executive Election Committee, and thereafter to coordinate the actual election of a new Chief Executive. This must be determined by June 16.

Neto Valente has been an active participant on the Election Committee in previous elections. **RM**

## Mak Soi Kun asks for education system review

Lawmaker Mak Soi Kun has asked the government whether Macau's education system needs to be reviewed, in view of the fact that several school bullying cases have been reported. Mak expressed, as a wake-up call for education in Macau, that school bullying is in a serious condition, and that it is likely that bullying has become widespread on individual campuses. He also pointed out that as of December 2017 there had been 171 social workers stationed in local schools. Mak asked whether or not government-sponsored social workers were aware of unusual situations on campus.

## Fewer mentions of SARs in 13th CPPCC report

The 13th Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) Standing Committee work report has reduced the number of chapters concerning the SARs. Wang Yang, chairman of the CPPCC, delivered the report on Sunday, according to which, CPPCC Hong Kong and Macau members have not been requested to proactively participate in the SARs' affairs. As usual, the report mentioned the One Country, Two Systems policy, Macau People Governing Macau and Hong Kong People Governing Hong Kong. In addition, the report also mentioned the implementation of the Greater Bay Area development as well as the enhancement of youth exchange between the mainland and the SARs.

# Catholic official visits the SAR

**T**HE Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in the Roman Curia, Cardinal Fernando Filoni, has spent two days in Macau as part of his pastoral visit.

The cardinal – an expert in Chinese affairs – travelled to Taiwan as a Special Envoy of the Holy Father to conclude the celebration of the IV National Taiwan Eucharistic Congress.

He was also part of a meeting with the Bishops of the Chinese Regional Episcopal Conference, amongst a series of visits he conducted in Taiwan.

During his visit to the SAR, the cardinal held a solemn mass at Sé Cathedral which was attended by a significant

number of Catholic devotees.

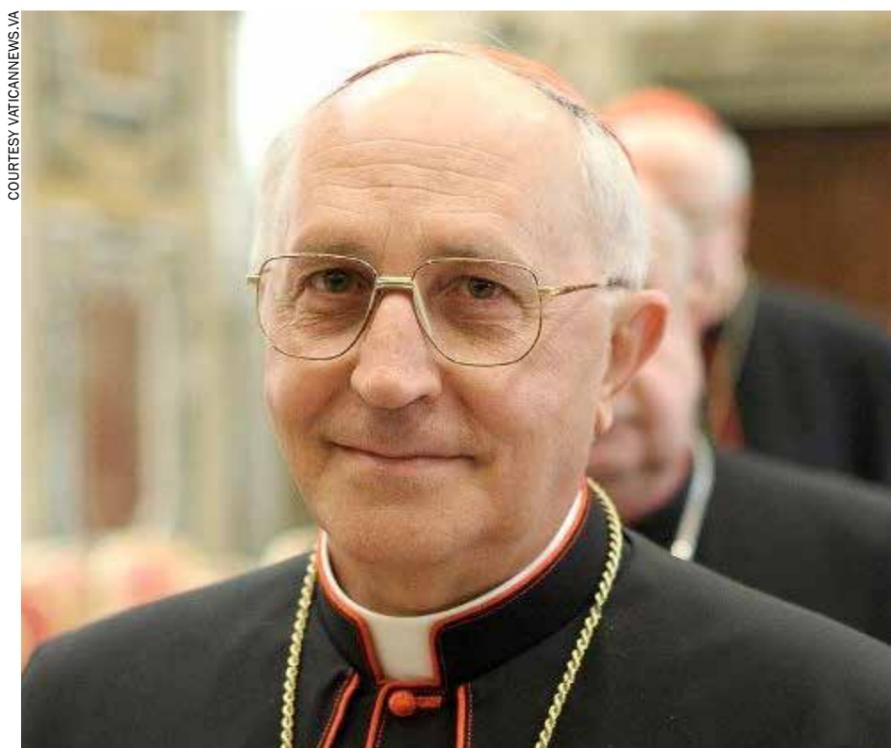
He also took part in a meeting with local priests and affiliates of the diocese on Sunday, according to reports.

Yesterday, the cardinal visited the University of St. Joseph to celebrate mass and meet with professors and students.

Cardinal Filoni has been the Prefect of the Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples in the Roman Curia since May 2011, following the appointment of Pope Benedict XVI.

The Catholic official is currently in Hong Kong visiting the region's Holy Spirit seminary.

He is set to leave for Rome tomorrow. **LV**



Cardinal Fernando Filoni

## New vehicle registrations plummet 28pct

As of the end of January 2019, the total number of licensed motor vehicles amounted to 240,600, similar to that of a year earlier, according to the latest information from the Statistics and Census Bureau (DSEC). The number of light motorcycles (26,100) dropped by 9.4 percent, whereas light automobiles (108,700) and heavy motorcycles (98,100) rose by 1.4 percent and 1.3 percent respectively. Meanwhile, new registration of motor vehicles in January plummeted 28 percent year-on-year to 1,228, with heavy motorcycles (642) and light automobiles (538) falling 24.6 percent and 28.8 percent respectively. The number of traffic accidents decreased by about a quarter compared to a year earlier to 934, involving 299 victims.

TEDxSENADOSQUARE

# Organizers hoping for 2020 return



António Leong



Tamara Solski (left) and Venus Loi

**N**INE speakers from fields such as education, philosophy, music and conservation shared their stories, projects and ideas to an enthusiastic and young crowd at the first TEDxSenadoSquare, held on Sunday at the Dom Pedro V Theater. Organizers already say they are hoping to bring the event back to Macau next year.

According to organizers, under the theme of "Ripple", TEDxSe-

nadoSquare "strived to increase local cultural consciousness, raise awareness on local affairs and introduce innovative ideas through multiple talks."

The speakers at this year's event included Kwong Chun Man, founder of philosophy group "Corrupt the Youth", Italian architect Tamara Solski and António Leong, a local photographer from Macau, who shared how he became quickly

engrossed in his hobby.

They were joined in the afternoon sessions by Pasu Ng, chairman of Hong Kong Life and Death Studies Association, Anna Choi, head of Digitalization for Schindler, Lin Hsiang-chun, owner of Júbilo 31 books, Viena Mak, a member of the Hong Kong Dolphin Conservation Society, Cheang Chi Meng, residential fellow of Chao Kuang Piu College at the Uni-

versity of Macau, and Burnie Lam, an electronic musician.

"It was great to witness the collaboration of good ideas at TEDxSenadoSquare," event curator Venus Loi told the Times. "I am overwhelmed by the positive support from the organizing team, volunteers, speakers, performers and the audience."

"The talks were inspiring and I am thrilled to hear so many dis-

cussions between participants and speakers during break time," added Loi. "It really connects the people in our community [... and] I am very happy to be able to provide this platform for the participants."

There were about 100 attendees when the Times attended the event during the morning session, however organizers say double that number were involved over the course of the day.

TEDxSenadoSquare provided sign language interpretation to allow those with impaired hearing to participate in the activity. The talks were either in Mandarin, Cantonese or English, with both English and Chinese subtitles.

Loi told the Times by email yesterday that the organizing team intend to bring the event back to Macau next year following its successful debut Sunday.

TEDxSenadoSquare is held by Attic Association, founded by a group of young volunteers, which aims to inspire and initiate positive action, to encourage youth participation on social affairs, strengthen local connection and stimulate contributions to society.

TEDx is a local, self-organized and independent event that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. The TEDx format was created by TED to include local elements into the curating process. **DB**

## Casinos and regulator join hands against money exchange gangs

**L**AST week, the Gaming Inspection and Coordination Bureau (DICJ) met with 14 representatives of the six gaming concessions for a discussion on matters concerning illegal money exchange syndicates.

During the meeting, representatives of the ga-

ming industry agreed on the importance and urgency of combating these groups.

The representatives also pointed out that a series of previous crackdowns by police had been effective, further claiming that recent money exchange

activities have been significantly reduced.

The representatives promised to actively cooperate with police and send additional security personnel to conduct inspections in casinos and hotels.

The law enforcement department of the security sec-

tor was also present at the meeting and stated that it will continue to strengthen relevant crackdowns, conduct intelligence exchanges with law enforcement agencies in mainland China and coordinate with the gaming industry to establish closer communication.

A government representative at the meeting suggested that the gaming industry should share relevant information and inform the law enforcement department in a timely manner.

Money exchange gangs have been present at various casinos in Macau for years, impacting Macau's social security system and the normal operation of the casinos.

In 2018, the Judiciary

Police and the Public Security Police Force conducted several large-scale operations against money exchange syndicates. Over 3,000 people were detained and deported due to the actions of these bodies.

In 2019, the two bureaus have strengthened their inspections. As a result, in the first two months of the year more than 1,000 people have been detained due to their involvement. **JZ**

AD



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CHINA-US TRADE WAR

# 44 percent of foreign companies in southern

Julie Zhu

DANIEL BEITLER

**A**S the China-U.S. trade dispute continues to deepen, polarized opinions have emerged concerning its impact on the economies of Guangdong and Macau.

There is an undeniable fact that many foreign-invested companies have shifted their investment to other Asian countries.

The American Chamber of Commerce in South China, which is mainly focused on Guangdong but has some members in Fujian and Hunan provinces, has published its 2019 Special Report on the State of Business in South China. The AmCham conducted its 13th annual study of companies with established operations in China through simple random sampling. Some 256 companies participated in the study, and questionnaires from 240 companies were finally analyzed.

As the research was conducted shortly after the U.S. and China announced a temporary 90-day ceasefire to deescalate



Shenzhen, the Greater Bay's established tech center

trade tensions, the research is said to shed light on the influence of the trade dispute on businesses in southern China.

According to the survey, 44 percent of the surveyed fo-

reign-owned companies have shifted some of their planned reinvestment in China to other jurisdictions. When it comes to their Chinese counterparts, 30 percent have shifted some

of their reinvestment to other countries.

Contacted by the Times, Joe Rocha III, the Governor of AmCham South China, commented, "I think we have al-

ready seen a lot of the shift, and this happened prior to the trade dispute."

As explained by Rocha, the reinvestment has shifted to Asian countries such as Viet-

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# China shifting investment elsewhere

nam and Indonesia, while some companies have been able to relocate to the U.S.

According to the AmCham survey, 17 percent of respondents favored Vietnam and Thailand when the companies considered moving some or all of their production lines away from China.

While the vast majority of companies – some 63 percent – believe that the U.S.-China trade dispute is likely to escalate in 2019, about one-quarter of the respondents hold the opposite view. American companies are also said to be more optimistic on bilateral relations than their counterparts from other countries.

“We have seen that 82 percent of businesses are going to increase [their] investment amount [into] China this year,” Rocha told the Times, adding that in regards to the impact of the trade dispute in southern China, companies “are hopeful for further negotiation.”

Naming some of the big U.S. players in southern China, Rocha referenced Procter & Gamble and Mead Johnson,

which are both headquartered in Guangzhou.

“The [report’s] findings were that American companies continue to be hurt as a result of the combined tariff,” Rocha told the Times. “Thirty-three percent of the Chinese companies, and 22 percent of companies from other countries also report being hurt by the tariff.”

Some commentators worry that the dispute, which is impacting the views of business leaders on the mainland, will negatively influence Macau’s economy because of its heavy reliance on external economic environments.

Others are more optimistic, arguing that Macau’s gaming industry will likely be unaffected by the trade dispute.

Peng Chun Vong, Director of the University of Macau’s Business Research and Training Center, told the Times that

“there will be some impact to the gaming industry, but not that much.”

According to Vong, Macau’s economy involves a large number of trade activities, and even if the trade dispute harms Guangdong’s economy, the influence on Macau will still remain small.

Last week, Chinese Vice Premier Han Zheng encouraged efforts to promote the development of the Guangdong-Hong Kong-Macau Greater Bay Area.

According to Han, cooperation in technology and innovation between the mainland, Hong Kong and Macau ought to be promoted. A series of measures would be adopted to facilitate customs clearance of personnel and goods in the Greater Bay Area, as well as the exit and entry of samples for scientific research, laboratory reagents and genetic

resources, he said.

Aside from Shenzhen, the Greater Bay’s established tech center, Zhuhai has also been advertising its Hengqin district as a new technology and innovation center.

Commenting on the impact of the trade dispute on Guangdong’s technology industry, Rocha said that China “still has a long way to go.” “I think that, in terms of technology, we have seen a lot of investment from the Chinese government’s standpoint. As for investment in AI [Artificial Intelligence] and [other] high tech, the results – if you have seen the return and investment and performance of some of these companies – still has a long way to go.”

“If you see some of the big high-tech companies, a lot of them are still largely dependent on foreign technology,” added Rocha.

“As the trade dispute between the two countries has continued for quite a long time, more companies expect that its impact will last longer than in our previous study,” the AmCham survey says.

## US firms are said to be more optimistic than their Chinese counterparts

## Two killed in HK bus crash

A double-decker bus has crashed into a broken-down truck at the entrance to a harbor tunnel in Hong Kong, killing the drivers of both vehicles. Along with the two fatalities, 15 people aboard the bus and one inside the truck were injured in Monday morning’s collision in the semi-autonomous Chinese region’s Kowloon district. Police said the 59-year-old bus driver, identified only by his surname, So, apparently failed to brake in time and slammed into the truck, which was sitting in a middle lane awaiting a tow truck. They said So had worked as a bus driver for 17 years, while the truck driver, identified by his surname, Lam, was self-employed.

## New Guangzhou-Vienna route via Xinjiang

A new flight from the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou to Vienna via Urumqi, capital of northwest China’s Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region, will open on June 18. It will be the first direct flight linking Urumqi and a western European city. The service will be operated by China Southern Airlines on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays. The new flight will save time for passengers traveling between northwestern China and Vienna, capital of Austria. The return flight will leave Vienna at 18:55, arrive in Urumqi at 7:55 for a 90-minute stopover and arrive in Guangzhou at 14:35.

## Over 1,500 turtles intercepted in Manila

A total of 1,532 live turtles inside four pieces of luggage were intercepted on Sunday at Manila’s main international airport, Philippines airport authorities said. Bureau of Customs officer Carmelita Talusan told reporters that the checked-in luggage arrived on board a Philippine Airlines (PAL) flight from China’s Hong Kong. No passenger claimed the luggage, she said. The unclaimed suitcases contained several species of turtles such as star tortoises, sulcata tortoises, red-footed tortoises, and red-eared sliders. Some were even duct-taped. The bureau is coordinating with the airline company to determine the owner of the abandoned luggage who apparently attempted to smuggle the reptiles into the country.

### FORUM

MDT/Macauhub

# Hengqin to have supporting role in Macau’s Lusophone charms

**P**ORTUGUESE-speaking countries will play a key role in the future of Macau, as outlined in the Greater Bay Area Plan of the Central Government of China, but Hengqin will also be involved.

The Greater Bay Area consists of the two SARs – Macau and Hong Kong – and nine cities in Guangdong province: Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Foshan, Dongguan, Zhaoqing, Jiangmen, Zhongshan, Zhuhai and Huizhou. With a gross domestic product of USD1.5 trillion in 2017, it is the most developed area of China, with the highest levels of foreign investment and per capita incomes.

Together with Hong Kong, Shenzhen and Guangzhou, Macau is one of four “key cities” and “core engines for regional development,” with its own designation as a tourism hub and platform for trade with Portuguese-speaking countries.



The Plan says Macau should establish itself as a training base for bilingual talent proficient in Chinese and Portuguese and help the tourism industry, but that neighboring Hengqin will also play an important part in this initiative.

The Plan also says that Macau should leverage its distinctive characteristics as a place where diverse cultures from both the East and the West have long integrated and co-existed, as well as expediting the development

of cultural industries and cultural tourism to develop as a cultural exchange center between China and the Lusophone countries.

Another area of cooperation is trade and financial services. In detail, the Plan says that Macau should study the feasibility of establishing a platform for Sino-Lusophone financial services. “Macau should develop into a world-class tourism and leisure center, and a commerce and trade cooperation platform between China and Portuguese-speaking

countries to promote an appropriate level of diversified economic development,” the Plan outlines.

Macau should essentially serve as an entry point for the Lusophone world into the mainland market, according to the Plan.

One important place for this is Hengqin, part of the neighboring city of Zhuhai. Beijing has designated it as a special area, with preferential policies not available in other cities.

“Hengqin and Macau should jointly develop the China-Latin America eco-

economic and trade cooperation platform,” the plan says.

“Hengqin should provide a pivot for Macau’s development of cross-boundary e-commerce industries and facilitate the convenient entry of products from Portuguese-speaking countries into the mainland market via Macau. A proposal to give authority to Hengqin to issue residence permits to foreigners is under study.”

Students from Portuguese-speaking countries are an important part of higher education in Macau. The aim is to turn the Greater Bay Area into an international demonstration zone for education, bring in world-renowned universities and specialized colleges, and pursue the establishment of world-class universities and academic programs. The Plan wants to attract students from all over the world, including the Portuguese-speaking countries, and contemplates that universities in Macau may offer them the additional benefit of being able to take courses in Portuguese.

GAMING

# Caesars gives Icahn three board seats, making sale likelier

Scott Deveau & Christopher Palmeri

**CAESARS** Entertainment Corp. gave Carl Icahn three seats on its board, putting the billionaire in position to influence the choice of a new chief executive officer and push harder for a sale of the gambling giant.

The Icahn-backed candidates, Keith Cozza, Courtney Mather and James Nelson, will replace three existing board members effective immediately, Caesars said in a statement Friday. Icahn has the right to appoint a fourth member if a CEO amenable to the new directors isn't chosen within 45 days.

"The best path forward for Caesars requires a thorough strategic process to sell or merge the company to further develop its already strong regional presence," Icahn, whose group holds a 9.8 percent stake in the casino company, said in the statement.

Caesars, the largest owner of casinos in the U.S., is under pressure from shareholders to boost returns or find a buyer. In recent weeks, investors including Icahn, Canyon Partners and Oppenheimer Funds have

AP PHOTO



all urged the company to consider a sale. CEO Mark Frissora is slated to step down at the end of April and the company has been searching for his replacement.

The Las Vegas-based company, whose properties include the flagship Caesars Palace and the Harrah's chain, is still coping with the fallout of a 2008 leveraged buyout led by Apollo

Global Management and TPG that left it with a mountain of debt. The company engineered a bankruptcy of its largest unit two years ago that brought in new board members and shareholders, including distressed-debt investors.

The three members leaving the board are former Ameristar Casinos Inc. CEO John Boushy,

Franklin Mutual Advisers' Matthew Ferko and Williams Capital Group's Christopher Williams.

The shares rose 4.1 percent to USD8.97 in New York trading Friday. They have climbed 32 percent this year, more than twice the gain in the S&P 500 Index.

Golden Nugget owner Tilman Fertitta proposed merging his restaurant and casino empire

with the company last year, an offer that was rejected by Caesars. He is said to be still interested in a deal.

Eldorado Resorts Inc., a much smaller casino operator, considered making a bid for Caesars last year, according to a people familiar with the company's thinking.

On a conference call with investors Wednesday, Eldorado CEO Tom Reeg said his company continues to look at deals in the industry, without commenting on Caesars specifically.

## Caesars is under pressure from shareholders to boost returns or find a buyer

The Icahn appointment move is similar to one that MGM Resorts International, another casino operator, made in January, giving a board seat to Corvex Management's Keith Meister. He is also participating in a strategic review at the board level. Meister used to work for Icahn.

Icahn sold a casino business, Tropicana Entertainment Inc., to Eldorado last year. He began building his stake in Caesars this year, according to a public filing. **Bloomberg**

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AP PHOTO



# Xi firmly in charge as country turns to legislative season

Christopher Bodeen, Beijing

**A** year since effectively making himself China's leader for life, Xi Jinping appears firmly in charge, despite a slowing economy, a trade war with the United States and rumbles of discontent over his concentration of power.

As China's president and head of the ruling Communist Party, Xi wields more authority than any leader since Deng Xiaoping in the 1980s and looms large over the annual legislative session that starts Tuesday.

Since assuming the party helm in 2012, Xi has eliminated rival factions, gutted civil society and brought the party under his firm control by way of a sprawling anti-corruption campaign and the opening of party committees in private businesses and foreign companies.

Still, with the economy's go-go years firmly in the past and local governments mired in debt, the horizon remains littered with challenges.

"Global sources of turmoil and risks have increased and the external environment is complicated and grim," Xi told officials in a speech last month.

This year's legislative session is

expected to be considerably less dramatic than last year's, when Xi's move to amend the constitution to remove term limits on the presidency opened the way for him to remain head of state for as long as he wants.

The move reversed a trend toward greater restraint on the leadership, advertising Xi's willingness to upend what tenuous rules and structures the party had institutionalized in recent decades.

Chief among them is the tradition that, by his second five-year term, the leader should begin pointing to a likely successor. Xi has made no moves in this area while arrogating to himself ever-greater authority over government, from the economy to foreign policy and the military. As party general secretary, Xi is head of its all-powerful seven-member Politburo Standing Committee.

"To my mind, the most important question now is: Which norm is the next to fall?" Carl Minzner, a professor at Fordham Law School in New York City and author of a recent book on Chinese politics, said in an email.

For now, though, more immediate concerns predominate.

At a wide-ranging news confe-

rence Monday, congress spokesman Zhang Yesui reiterated Beijing's desire to find a mutually acceptable resolution to the tariff dispute with the U.S. and touted the advantages of a draft law that he said would mark a "fundamental change" in how China manages foreign investment.

While the foreign investment law is the only item on the congress' agenda, Zhang said its standing committee would be taking on new legislation in the areas of drug regulation, veterans' affairs and protection of the Yangtze River, China's most important internal waterway.

The standing committee meets every two months to deal with the bulk of the congress' legislative chores.

As with last year, Zhang declined to disclose the planned increase in China's defense budget, the world's largest behind the U.S., but appeared to indicate it would continue the trend of single-digit percentage growth in place since 2016.

"When it comes to whether a country poses a military threat to other countries, the key is that country's military and foreign policies, not how much its defense budget increases," Zhang said.

"China's limited defense spending is for safeguarding the so-

vereignty, security and territorial integrity of the country. It is not a threat to other countries," he said.

**Xi has cast himself as an ardent nationalist and foreign policy hawk, protecting himself from accusations of being too soft toward the West**

China's armed forces have undergone a thorough expansion and modernization program in recent years, raising concerns in Washington and among its neighbors, particularly those sharing overlapping territorial claims in the strategically vital South China Sea. China also claims ownership of East China Sea islands controlled by tradi-

tional rival Japan and threatens to attack self-governing Taiwan to take control of what it regards as a breakaway Chinese territory.

Xi has cast himself as an ardent nationalist and foreign policy hawk, protecting himself from accusations of being too soft toward the West.

Yet while he appears solidly in control, University of Oxford China specialist Patricia Thornton says discontent lies under the surface, citing criticism over the removal of term limits and Xi's heavy-handed management of foreign policy and trade, along with reports showing an erosion of confidence in the economic outlook.

"There have been signs of discontent brewing among political and socioeconomic elites that could translate into some backpedaling on current central policies," Thornton said.

Cheng Li of the Brookings Institution says Xi finds himself in a "delicate situation" and may make a show of including others in the decision-making process, as long as his leadership isn't challenged.

"He will not change the way he is already above the Standing Committee," Li said. "But in some of the other things, Xi may give other leaders more chance."

Independent commentator and veteran observer of Chinese politics Zhang Lifan questions whether Xi may have overplayed his hand, leaving him open to more direct criticism.

"Xi's power peaked at the time of the constitutional revision last year, but the centralization of power may not be as complete as he thinks," Zhang said.

"As more and more problems crop up, questions about his governing ability held in private will be placed on the table," he said.

As with every year, this week's meetings have brought a sweeping security crackdown, with neighborhood committees mobilized to patrol for trouble and construction work suspended to avoid accidents. Known government critics were confined to their homes or taken on what are euphemistically called "holiday trips" by the security forces to ensure they couldn't be contacted.

Such concerns may be heightened because this year marks several sensitive historical dates, including the 70th anniversary on Oct. 1 of the founding of the People's Republic and the 60th anniversary this month of an uprising against Chinese rule in Tibet.

June will see the 30th anniversary of the military's crushing of the 1989 pro-democracy protests centered on Beijing's Tiananmen Square, and the 10th anniversary of deadly anti-Chinese riots in Xinjiang that has led to the interment over the past two years of an estimated 1 million members of Muslim minority groups. **AP**

# Acclaimed hip-hop dance crew debut first-ever Macau



**B**ILLED as the world's most influential dance crew, the Jabbawockeez made their debut at the group's first-ever Macau residency at the MGM Theater on Saturday night — lighting up the stage with their mesmerizing dance moves and personal brand of stage magic.

Being the first wave of residency shows to kick off MGM's entertainment lineup of the year, the resort operator has brought the talented dance group all the way from their current residency at MGM Grand Las Vegas.

A 65-minute show tailored for the MGM Theater, "Jabbawockeez - true to yourself" features a combination of choreography, drama and comedy. The masked men showcase their hip-hop spirit through the universal language of dance, while presenting audiences with an up-close-and-personal experience, utilizing the MGM Theater's cutting-edge audio, visual and lighting technology. Jabbawockeez gained worldwide acclaim as winners on the first season of MTV's hip-hop dance reality competition, America's Best Dance Crew in 2008.

The most notable group to come out of the MTV reality series, Jabbawockeez

# Dance crew Jabbawockeez residency at MGM Cotai



are synonymous with the show and universally recognized as one of America's best dance crews. The crew uses their signature plain white masks and gloves to guide the audience's attention away from individual identities and towards a unified group.

Known for their creativity, choreography, athleticism and intricate synchronization, each member brings a different technique and perspective to form the original style that makes Jabbawockeez so distinct.

"We are so happy to be in Macau! We are excited to present this one-of-a-kind immersive and multi-sensory experience in this state-of-the-art MGM Theater," said Jabbawockeez.

In addition, in a bid to extend the hip-hop experience not only to the theater, but to those who love to dance, MGM will hold a workshop for local dance crews tonight starting at 7 p.m. at the resort operator's Cotai property. The workshop will serve to promote cultural exchanges, to broaden local dancers' horizons, and enhance local dance skills and choreography ability.

"Jabbawockeez - true to yourself" is showing at MGM Theater at MGM Cotai, until March 31, Wednesdays through Sundays.



# Gov't accuses US of 'double standard' over Huawei claims

A Chinese government spokesman took issue yesterday with U.S. claims that telecoms giant Huawei Technologies poses a threat to other countries' information security because of Chinese laws.

The comments by spokesman Zhang Yesui ahead of the annual session of China's rubber-stamp parliament followed news that Huawei executive Meng Wanzhou, who was arrested by Canada at the request of the U.S., is suing the Canadian government over her treatment.

Lawyers for Meng, who is staying at a property she owns in Vancouver after her release on bail, said Sunday she was suing the Canadian government, its border agency and the national police force, alleging she was detained, searched and interrogated before she was told she was under arrest.

The U.S. is seeking Meng's extradition to face charges she misled banks about the company's business with Iran.

The U.S. has been lobbying its allies to shun Huawei's products on national security grounds, saying Chinese law requires the company to provide it with intelligence on its foreign clients whenever requested.

Zhang said U.S. officials were taking China's national security law out of context and "playing up the so-called security risks" associated with Chinese companies.



The 2017 law borrows from other countries' experiences and is designed explicitly to "protect human rights and the lawful rights of individuals and organizations," he said.

"This kind of behavior is interference into economic activities by political means and is against World Trade Organization rules. It disrupts an international market order that is built on fair competition," Zhang told reporters. "This is a typical case of double standards that is neither fair nor ethical."

Washington's accusations have been underscored by Meng's arrest on Dec. 1. Huawei also faces other allegations in the U.S. related to alleged theft of technology.

Meng, Huawei's chief financial officer, is due in court tomorrow to set a date for the extradition proceedings to start. It could be several months or even years before her case is resolved.

Her lawsuit alleges that instead of immediately arresting her, authorities interrogated

Meng "under the guise of a routine customs" examination and used the opportunity to "compel her to provide evidence and information."

Meng's arrest set off a diplomatic furor and has severely strained Canadian relations with China.

China detained former Canadian diplomat Michael Kovrig and Canadian entrepreneur Michael Spavor on Dec. 10 in an apparent attempt to pressure Canada to release Meng.

A Chinese court also senten-

ced a Canadian to death in a sudden retrial, overturning a 15-year prison term handed down earlier. Kovrig and Spavor haven't had access to a lawyer or to their families since being arrested.

Also yesterday, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Lu Kang accused Canada and the U.S. of abusing their bilateral extradition treaty. He reiterated Beijing's demand that Washington withdraw its accusations against Meng.

China urges Canada to "im-

**This is a typical case of double standards that is neither fair nor ethical.**

ZHANG YESUI  
SPOKESMAN

mediately release Ms. Meng Wanzhou and let her return to China in safety while ensuring her legitimate and justifiable rights and interests and not repeat [Canada's] mistakes," Lu said at a daily press briefing.

Lu also said China had fulfilled its obligation to access by Canadian diplomats to Kovrig and Spavor, who he said are "suspected of engaging in activities that endanger national security."

China has given no details about those alleged activities and routinely cites vague national security charges to justify restricting suspects' rights to legal counsel. **AP**

## Rights lawyer returns home after 2-year sentence

A prominent Chinese human rights lawyer who recently completed a two-year prison sentence on national security charges has returned to his parents' home in central China after he briefly went missing upon his scheduled release.

Jiang Tianyong defended politically sensitive individuals including blind legal activist Chen Guangcheng and followers of the outlawed Falun Gong spiritual group.

The 47-year-old former lawyer video-chatted with his wife, Jin Bianling, and their 16-year-old daughter Saturday, Jin said on Twitter over the

weekend. She and their daughter live in Los Angeles.

"I cried, he teared up too!" she said. "I see that Tianyong has gotten thinner, and his face is a bit darker."

She added, "He says right now he is still not free."

Jiang was permitted to go to his parents' residence in Henan province two days after he was initially released and escorted elsewhere by police, Jin said.

Jiang's sister and father had gone to meet him Thursday upon his release, but were only allowed to see him briefly with state security agents pre-

sent. Jiang, his sister and father then became unreachable for two days, Jin told The Associated Press last week, saying she feared that they had all been taken into police custody. It wasn't immediately clear where the three were during those two days.

China increasingly places rights defenders and those it considers dissidents under various types of extra-legal detention even after they have served their sentences.

Prior to Jiang's arrest in 2016, he had worked to publicize the plight of lawyers arrested in a sweeping

crackdown on legal advocates that began in July 2015. He was forced to stop practicing law in 2009, after authorities refused to renew his legal license.

Jiang was sentenced in 2017 to two years in prison for inciting subversion of state power, a vague charge often levied against human rights activists. Prosecutors accused Jiang of using social media platforms to denigrate the government and judicial authorities and said he fabricated a claim that another lawyer had allegedly been tortured in custody. **AP**

## Beijing said to plan USD90b cut in VAT for manufacturers

CHINA is planning to cut the value-added tax rate that covers the manufacturing sector by 3 percentage points as part of measures to support the slowing economy, a person familiar with the matter said.

The reduction in the highest of the nation's three VAT brackets could be announced as soon as this week, when political leaders are gathering in Beijing for the annual National People's Congress, the person said, who declined to be named as the matter isn't public.

Premier Li Keqiang is due to deliver his annual report on economic policy on Tuesday, a detailed document that sets targets for gross domestic product expansion as well as objectives for fiscal and monetary policy. A 3 percentage-point cut to VAT could deliver a boost worth up to 600 billion yuan or 0.6 percent of GDP, according

to estimates by Morgan Stanley.

The move helps corporate profits at a time when the economy is facing pressure from the U.S. trade standoff and the impact of a domestic debt cleanup. Officials have increasingly turned to tax policy in their efforts to support growth, as debt-fueled spending and monetary policy become increasingly constrained.

The tax cut is also part of broader, more "proactive" fiscal support. The budget deficit target is said to be widened to 2.8 percent of GDP from 2.6 percent in 2018, and the quota for special bonds is said to be set to 2.15 trillion yuan, a significant rise from 1.35 trillion yuan in 2018.

The Finance Ministry didn't respond to faxed request for comment on the VAT reduction plans. **Bloomberg**

# Indonesia and Australia sign pact eliminating many tariffs

**I**NDONESIA and Australia signed a free trade agreement yesterday that will eliminate many tariffs, allow Australian-owned hospitals to operate in the giant Southeast Asian country and increase work visas for young Indonesians.

Trade ministers from the two countries signed the agreement, negotiations for which first began in 2010, at a Jakarta hotel with Indonesian vice president Jusuf Kalla looking on.

It is subject to ratification in both countries. Indonesian Minister of Trade Enggartiaso Lukita said Indonesia would complete ratification by the end of this year.

Annual trade between Australia and Indonesia in goods and services is valued at USD11.6 billion. Though neighbors, their trade is relatively small, with Indonesia's exports to Australia just 1.5 percent of its total exports. Indonesia, with 260 million people, is forecast to be one of the world's biggest economies by 2030.

Australian Minister of Trade Simon Birmingham said the agreement "will take Australian and Indonesian relations to a new plane, one in which our economic and trade relations will be much deeper, stronger and richer for both our nations."

Major details of the agreement were announced by Australia in

AP PHOTO



Simon Birmingham (left) and Indonesia Minister of Trade Enggartiaso Lukita, during an Indonesia-Australia Ceta signing ceremony and Business forum in Jakarta

September after leaders of the two countries said negotiations had been completed. The text of the agreement is expected to be released after the signing.

Australia says 99 percent of its exports to Indonesia by value will be tariff-free or have improved preferential access by 2020, up from 85 percent under an existing

trade agreement between Australia, New Zealand and 10 Southeast Asian countries. Indonesian exports to Australia will face no tariffs, but it already enjoys substantially tariff-free access to the Australian market under the Southeast Asia agreement.

The Australia-Indonesia agreement will allow Australian com-

panies to have majority ownership of investments in various industries in Indonesia, including health care, telecommunications, energy, mining and aged care.

Separately, Indonesia is considering allowing foreign companies to invest in higher education, which along with hospitals is an area the country is lagging far

behind international standards.

Australia's live cattle exports are set to increase under the agreement, with tariffs to be eliminated and the number of animals exported to Indonesia allowed to increase 4 percent a year until reaching 700,000.

**The agreement will allow Australian companies to have majority ownership of investments in various industries in Indonesia**

Australian working holiday visas for young Indonesians will be increased to 6,000 a year from the current 1,000 over six years. AP

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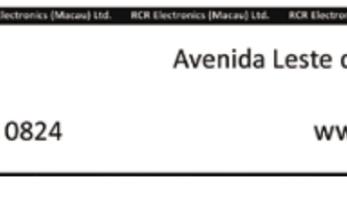


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## DIPLOMACY

# Seoul calls for three-way talks after Trump-Kim collapse

Kim Tong-Hyung, Seoul

**S**OUTH Korea has proposed semiofficial three-way talks with the United States and North Korea as it struggles to put nuclear diplomacy back on track after the collapse of a summit between President Donald Trump and North Korean leader Kim Jong Un.

The proposal for the talks came during a National Security Council meeting yesterday led by South Korean President Moon Jae-in, who said it was Seoul's "outmost priority" to prevent nuclear negotiations between the U.S. and North Korea from derailing.

At the meeting in Seoul's presidential palace, Foreign Minister Kang Kyung-wha said the proposed talks, which could include civilian experts from the U.S. and South Korea, would help settle differences over how much sanctions relief Washington should provide North Korea in exchange for nuclear disarmament steps.

Last week's meeting between Trump and Kim in Vietnam broke down over what the Americans said were North Korea's excessive demands for sanctions relief in exchange for a limited offer to shut down its aging main nuclear complex in Yongbyon. North Korea reportedly has other sites producing weapons-grade uranium hidden around the country.

Kang said the core issue is determining what disarmament steps North Korea could be persuaded to take in exchange for sanctions relief.

Moon lobbied hard for the revival of nuclear diplomacy between the U.S. and North Korea following elevated tensions in 2017 over North Korea's missile and nuclear tests and Trump's threats to bring "fire and fury" on the North. Some experts say the breakdown of the Trump-Kim talks in Vietnam raised further doubts about Moon's claim that Kim is genuinely interested in dealing away his nuclear weapons



South Korean President Moon Jae-in

and about Moon's role as mediator.

"We hope that both countries will continue their dialogue and that their leaders meet again quickly to reach an agreement that was held off this time," Moon said in yesterday's meeting, which was also attended by the prime minister, spy chief and ministers of defense and inter-Korean affairs.

"In the process, our role has become important once again," Moon said. "While I believe the United States-North Korea negotiations will eventually reach

an agreement, it's never desirable for a vacuum in dialogue or stalemate to be prolonged," he said, urging South Korean officials to find ways for the U.S. and North Korea to narrow their differences.

Moon said South Korea will continue to push ahead with engagement with North Korea within the boundaries of U.S.-led international sanctions against the North.

Moon has prioritized stabilizing bilateral relations with North Korea amid the larger nuclear negotiations between the U.S.

and North Korea, saying inter-Korean reconciliation will drive progress in nuclear talks. But his call for partial sanctions relief to encourage nuclear disarmament steps by North Korea has caused disagreements with Washington, which does not want to give up what it sees as its main leverage with the North.

Moon's government plans to hold discussions with the United States over the possibility of restarting operations at a joint Korean factory park in the North Korean border town of Kaesong and tours by South Koreans to

the North's Diamond Mountain resort. These projects provided much-needed cash to North Korea before the South shut them down during past periods of tensions.

While Moon's spokesman said South Korea will see if there's any possible way to restart the projects under the "framework" of current U.N. and U.S. sanctions, experts say that would be impossible.

The U.N. Security Council has so far restricted sanctions exemptions to non-commercial infrastructure projects and would likely need to pass an entirely new resolution on North Korea for inter-Korean economic activities to resume, which is difficult to imagine until Kim takes deeper steps toward completely and verifiably relinquishing his nuclear weapons, said Lim Soo-ho, an analyst at the Seoul-based Institute for National Security.

Under U.S. laws, Trump would need to go through an involved process to soften U.S. unilateral sanctions against the North, which would put South Korean companies doing business in the North under the threat of U.S. boycotts.

Moon helped set up the first summit between Trump and Kim last June in Singapore, where they issued a vague aspirational statement about a nuclear-free Korean Peninsula, without describing how or when it would occur.

Moon said the collapse of the second Trump-Kim summit was "very regrettable," but the talks were still meaningful because they included specific discussions of disarmament steps, sanctions and the possible establishment of liaison offices.

Washington and Seoul announced on Sunday that they will eliminate massive annual springtime military drills and replace them with smaller exercises, in what they called an effort to support diplomacy with North Korea.

Their militaries began a new computer-simulated exercise dubbed "Dong Maeng," or "Alliance," which runs until next Tuesday.

Some analysts say the conversion to smaller exercises and simulations will weaken the allies' military readiness when North Korea has yet to take real steps toward disarmament. **AP**

## AUSTRALIA

## Man admits killing Airbnb guest over \$149 bill

**A** man admitted in an Australian court on yesterday that he choked an Airbnb guest to death over an unpaid AUD210 Australian dollar (USD149) bill.

Jason Colton pleaded not guilty to murder in

the Victoria state Supreme Court but admitted to manslaughter in Ramis Jonuzi's death in 2017.

Colton would face a possible life sentence if a jury convicts him of murder. He would face up to 20 years in prison if the jury

accepts the death was manslaughter.

Prosecutors told the jury that Colton knew his actions were likely to kill or seriously injure Jonuzi.

Jonuzi had been subletting a room in a Melbourne home from Colton,

who was also a tenant.

Jonuzi first rented the room for three nights on Airbnb, but agreed to stay another week for AUD210.

But when the week was up and the rent wasn't paid, Colton threw Jonuzi

against a wall, choked him with his forearm and punched him unconscious, prosecutor Mark Gibson told the jury.

Colton also forced Jonuzi to show that he had less than AUD10 in his bank account.

Gibson said Colton choked or compressed Jonuzi's neck to prevent him from breathing.

Colton told police he only wanted to subdue Jonuzi so he would pass out.

The trial continues today.

HOLLYWOOD

# Spielberg's push against Netflix at the Oscars hits a nerve

Lindsey Bahr, Los Angeles

**W**HEN Steven Spielberg speaks about the business of Hollywood, everyone generally listens and few dissent. But reports that he intends to support rule changes that could block Netflix from Oscars-eligibility have provoked a heated, and unwieldy, debate online this weekend. It has found the legendary filmmaker at odds with some industry heavyweights, who have pointed out that Netflix has been an important supporter of minority filmmakers and stories, especially in awards campaigns, while also reigniting the ongoing streaming versus theatrical debate.

Spielberg has weighed in before on whether streaming movies should compete for the film industry's most prestigious award (TV movies, he said last year, should compete for Emmys), but that was before Netflix nearly succeeded in getting its first best pic-



Director Alfonso Cuarón wins Oscar awards for best director, best foreign language film and best cinematography for "Roma"

ture Oscar for Alfonso Cuarón's "Roma" at last week's Academy Awards. Netflix, of course, did not win the top award — "Green Book," which was produced partially by Spielberg's Amblin Entertainment, did.

Still, Netflix was a legitimate contender and this year, the streaming service is likely to step up its awards game even more with Martin Scorsese's "The Irishman,"

which The Hollywood Reporter said may also gunning for a wide-theatrical release. A teaser ad aired during the 91st Oscars for the gangster drama said "in theaters next fall," instead of the "in select theaters" phrasing that was used for "Roma."

But Netflix also isn't playing by the same rules as other studios. The company doesn't report theatrical grosses, for one, and it's

been vexing some more traditional Hollywood executives throughout this award season and there have been whispers in recent weeks that a reckoning is coming.

Now, Spielberg and others are planning to do something about it by supporting a revised film academy regulation at an upcoming meeting of the organization's board of governors that would disqualify Netflix from the Oscars, or at least how the streaming giant currently operates during awards season.

This year "Roma" got a limited theatrical qualifying run and an expensive campaign with one of the industry's most successful awards publicists, Lisa Taback, leading the charge. But Netflix, operates somewhat outside of the industry while also infiltrating its most important institutions, like the Oscars and the Motion Picture Association of America. Some like Spielberg, are worried about what that will mean for the future of movies.

"Steven feels strongly about the

difference between the streaming and theatrical situation," an Amblin spokesperson told IndieWire's Anne Thompson late last week. "He'll be happy if the others will join [his campaign] when that comes up. He will see what happens."

Some took a more direct approach, questioning whether Spielberg understands how important Netflix has been to minority filmmakers in recent years.

Franklin Leonard, who founded The BlackList, which surveys the best unproduced scripts in Hollywood, noted that Netflix's first four major Oscar campaigns were all by and about people of color: "Beasts of No Nation," "The 13th," "Mudbound" and "Roma."

"It's possible that Steven Spielberg doesn't know how difficult it is to get movies made in the legacy system as a woman or a person of color. In his extraordinary career, he hasn't exactly produced or executive produced many films directed by them," Leonard tweeted Saturday. "By my count, Spielberg does one roughly every two decades."

It's important to note that Netflix didn't produce "Beasts of No Nation," "Mudbound" or "Roma," but rather acquired them for distribution. But if Oscar campaigns are no longer part of the equation in a Netflix-partnership, top-tier filmmakers are likely to take their talents and films elsewhere. AP

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## what's ON



## MASTERPIECES OF RUSSIAN ART FROM THE STATE TRETYAKOV GALLERY

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 22, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## ONENESS: CALLIGRAPHY BY PROFESSOR JAO TSUNG-I

TIME: 10am-6pm (No admission after 5:30pm, closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: September 30, 2019

VENUE: Jao Tsung-I Academy

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2852 2523

## BIOMIMICRY – INSPIRED BY NATURE

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

UNTIL: March 31, 2019

VENUE: Gallery 2, Exhibition Center, Macau Science Center

ADMISSION: MOP25

ENQUIRIES: (853) 2888 0822

## EXHIBITION OF NEW WORKS IN MAM COLLECTION - CHE HO

TIME: 10am-7pm (last admission 6:30pm; closed on Mondays)

UNTIL: April 14, 2019

VENUE: Macau Museum of Art

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 8791 9814

## NO WHERE THERE – WORKS BY TANG JING

TIME: 11am-1pm & 2pm-6pm (closed on Sundays)

UNTIL: March 16, 2019

VENUE: 1844 Macau Photography Art Space

ADMISSION: Free

ENQUIRIES: (853) 6311 1390

## Offbeat

## BIG SEXY FOUND AFTER BOLTING FROM NY FIREFIGHTER SHOOT



Big Sexy the cat went on a five-week romp around New York City, bolting from a photo shoot for a bare-chested firefighter charity calendar.

The big black feline was finally found last week on Staten Island after disappearing from a lower Manhattan firehouse.

The lost pet showed up in the backyard of a woman whose firefighter husband was a 9/11 first responder who died of cancer last year.

The firefighters called the cat Big Sexy, but its real name is Buddy. Staten Island resident Michele Froehlich-Perosi snapped a photo and posted it on Facebook. And the owner, Leslie Silbert, recognized her cat.

The code on the cat's embedded chip confirmed this was, indeed, Big Sexy, aka Buddy.

## TV canal macau



13:00	TDM News (Repetição)
13:30	Telejornal RTPi (Diferido)
15:00	Água de Mar
15:50	Zig Zag
16:10	Viver é Fácil
16:35	Quem Quer Ser Milionário
17:40	Ministério do Tempo
18:30	TDM Desporto (Repetição)
19:35	Os Nossos Dias Sr.2
20:30	Telejornal
21:15	TDM Entrevista
21:50	O Contrato Sr.1
22:35	Escritores a Norte - Vidas com Obra em Casas D'Escritas - Estreia
23:15	TDM News
23:50	Filhos da Nação Sr.2
00:25	Telejornal (Repetição)
01:10	RTPI Directo

## cinema



## CINETEATRO

04 - 07 Mar

## HAPPY DEATH DAY 2U

ROOM 1

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

Director: Christopher Landon

Starring: Jessica Rothe, Israel Broussard, Phi Vu

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 100min



## BEN IS BACK

ROOM 2

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

Director: Peter Hedges

Starring: Julia Roberts, Lucas Hedges, Courtney B. Vance

Language: English (Chinese)

Duration: 103min

## FATE/STAY NIGHT: HEAVEN'S FEEL II

LOST BUTTERFLY

ROOM 1

7:30pm

Director: Tomonori Sudô

Starring: Yu Asakawa, Mai Kadowaki, Hiroshi Kamiya

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 117min



## THE WANDERING EARTH

ROOM 3

42:30, 7:15pm

Director: Frant Gwo

Starring: Chuxiao Qu, Jing Wu, Guangjie Li

Language: Chinese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 123min

## DRAGON BALL SUPER BROLI

ROOM 3

4:45, 9:30pm

Director: Tatsuya Nagamine

Starring: Masako Nozawa, Aya Hisakawa, Ryô Horikawa

Language: Japanese (Chinese & English)

Duration: 100min

## this day in history



## 1953 SOVIET LEADER 'ON BRINK OF DEATH'

Rumours are circulating in Moscow that Joseph Stalin, the long-time leader of the Soviet Union, is near death.

The first official news of Mr Stalin's illness came in a statement on Wednesday.

It said the Soviet leader, who came to power in 1928, had suffered a cerebral haemorrhage on Wednesday night.

An update issued earlier today mentioned "sharp disturbances of the heart functions".

There is speculation that the 73-year-old, born Iosif Vissarionovich Dzhughashvili, in the Soviet republic of Georgia, is now in the final stages of an illness he has been suffering some time.

Soviet newspapers today are clearly preparing their readers for the worst.

Their front pages carry the bulletins on Mr Stalin's health as well as sombre leading articles.

On the inside pages, feature articles praise the Soviet leader both as a man and politician.

World leaders have expressed concern for Mr Stalin's health.

A statement issued by the British Prime Minister Winston Churchill said his private secretary, John Colville, had yesterday called on the Soviet ambassador.

Mr Colville had passed on the prime minister's regret at the news of Mr Stalin's ill-health and asked to be kept informed of his progress, the statement said.

US President Truman also expressed sympathy for Mr Stalin.

"I am sorry just as I would be if such a thing happened to any other acquaintance of mine," Mr Truman said.

If Mr Stalin's death is confirmed, he will be most remembered for instigating political purges in which tens of thousands were killed.

He was also behind the introduction of farming collectives which led to a famine and the death of up to 10 million people.

His death is expected to provoke a power struggle within the ruling Politburo.

Courtesy BBC News

## IN CONTEXT

The death of Joseph Stalin was officially announced at just after 0100 GMT on 6 March.

The statement said he had died at 2150 local time on 5 March.

Hundreds of thousands of people queued to see Joseph Stalin's body lying-in-state.

He was embalmed and put on display alongside the first Soviet leader, Vladimir Ilyich Lenin, in his mausoleum in Red Square in Moscow.

But Nikita Khrushchev, who became Soviet leader after a power struggle, led a move to denounce Stalin as a tyrant who caused millions of deaths.

In 1961 Stalin's body was removed from its place in the honoured Lenin's Tomb.

It was reburied near the Kremlin wall along with other minor figures from the Bolshevik Revolution.



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OLYMPICS

# Russia learns to love ski resorts, but not ski racing

James Ellingworth,  
Krasnaya Polyana

**I**N the five years since the Sochi Olympics, Russians have been flocking south to enjoy their subtropical ski slopes.

The mountains above the Black Sea resort city are full of weekend skiers, with nearly a million visitors making the trip each winter. That's quite a change for a country used to thinking of skiing in terms of grueling cross-country marathons, not exhilarating Alpine speed.

"People who aren't interested in Alpine skiing come to see [the Olympic sites] and tick it off their list, then they see it and put some skis on," Anastasia Popkova, the coach of the Russian women's ski team, told The Associated Press.

Popkova learned to ski in the hills around the coal-mining Siberian city of Mezhdurechensk, a rare enclave of Alpine skiing in Russia. Growing up in the 1990s, there was plenty of passion for the sport, but none of the luxury of Sochi's Rosa Khutor resort, last week's home of Russia's first World Cup event since 2012.

Even before bad weather forced the races to be abandoned, the World Cup was near-invisible in Russian newspapers and the dozen state sports channels on TV. Any airtime not taken up with soccer or the cross-country skiing world championships

— where Russia is a major power — was swallowed up by the University Games in Siberia.

Built as part of Russia's USD50 billion sports and infrastructure spend around the 2014 Olympics, Rosa Khutor is a boom town. The resort's deputy CEO, Alexander Belokobylsky, has worked at Rosa Khutor since 2005, when the Sochi Olympics were still a dream. He claims 920,000 people visited last winter, with growth of 5 to 10 percent expected this season. All but 3 percent were Russians.

Typical Sochi skiers are "government officials, businessmen, employees of big companies," often from faraway Moscow, said Maia Lomidze, head of Russia's Association of Tour Operators. She warned, though, that Sochi could face hard times if the upper middle class gets bored of its new hobby.

"The demand will stay just as high as it is now, at least for the next two, three years," Lomidze said. "After that, they'll need to get creative, to shake things up because people could get sick of it and want something new."

It's far from clear if Sochi's resorts would have made economic sense to build without government support for the Olympics, though Belokobylsky said the resort makes an operating profit.

In the past, Sochi was known almost exclusively as a summer destination. With

its subtropical climate and long beaches on the Black Sea, many Russians spent their vacations swimming in the sun.

An hour away in the Caucasus mountains, Rosa Khutor has a strong family focus, with children making up many of those enjoying the thick powder last week on the slopes. Heavy snowfall meant it was impossible to create the icy, hard surface needed for downhill and super-G racing, but left good conditions for novices. Rosa Khutor management is staking its future on those children bringing their own families in a few decades.

However, Russia's ski tourism boom doesn't translate to a love of racing.

"Alpine skiing isn't our national sport, definitely not," Belokobylsky said. "We've got hockey, that's ours, but not Alpine skiing just yet. However, a lot of our athletes in snowboard and freestyle are getting into the elite. If you don't have good results from the [professional] athletes, then there's not huge interest in that event around the country."

Even before the World Cup races were canceled, many of the weekend skiers had no idea they were even planned. About 50 people gathered to watch a ceremony to promote the event Saturday evening, but the crowd thinned out after some song-and-dance numbers, before 10 of the world's top female skiers

— none of them Russian — took to the stage for the draw.

Russia's enthusiasm for ski holidays doesn't yet mean a new generation of would-be pro racers. For one thing, most of Sochi's skiers live far away from any mountains in flat central and western Russia, though the resort offers programs for talented local kids. Russia's colossal state sports system funds the national team, but if it isn't winning medals, it isn't a priority.

"The state supports sport and that's great, but they need to understand that when a team's going to the Olympics ... that this sport will bring back a medal," said Popkova, the national team coach. "We can't tell them we're targeting world championship medals with 100 percent certainty."

In a country where Mikaela Shiffrin, Bode Miller and Lindsey Vonn are obscure figures rarely seen on TV, hosting a World Cup event is a way to remind the Alpine ski world that Russia's still there.

"It's about being part of a big family," Popkova said. "We have the resources and we can use Olympic facilities, and we have to use them. If we don't do that then it's not clear how we hosted the Olympics with these great conditions and we're not doing anything with them. Maybe we're not interested, that's what people could think." **AP**

FOOTBALL

## South Korea says FIFA approached on WC bid with North



South Korea says it was approached by FIFA about bidding along with North Korea for the 2023 Women's World Cup. FIFA president Gianni Infantino said after a weekend meeting of soccer's lawmakers that he had "been hearing" about the neighbors combining to bid. South Korea soccer association general secretary Hong Myung-bo was quoted by the Yonhap news agency as saying "FIFA first approached us and talked about the joint bid." Hong added that "we've notified our government of this issue." Australia, Colombia, Japan and South Africa have already expressed interest in bidding for the 2023 Women's World Cup. The FIFA Council vote is due in March 2020.

## Budapest replaces Los Angeles as host of World Urban Games



Los Angeles will no longer host the first World Urban Games in September after disagreements with organizers about the sports program. The global group of sports governing bodies, known as GAISF, says Budapest has stepped in to host the event from Sept. 13-15. Budapest has also been offered the 2021 edition instead of Los Angeles. The California city, which will stage the 2028 Olympics, was announced as host of the 2021 World Urban Games four months ago. GAISF senior vice president Raffaele Chiulli says organizers "couldn't agree on a final program" with LA officials, who preferred a street festival event. The World Urban Games competitive program of seven sports includes 3-on-3 basketball, skateboarding and breakdancing.

RUGBY

## Japan calls up Mafi despite assault charges in New Zealand

Amanaki Mafi, who is facing assault charges in New Zealand, has been called up to Japan's extended Rugby World Cup training camp. The Japan Rugby Football Union announced the selection yesterday, and said it would reconsider the 29-year-old backrower's involvement depending on how the legal proceedings progress. Mafi was charged with intent to injure former Melbourne Rebels teammate Lopeti Timani after a Super Rugby game against the Highlanders in Dunedin, New Zealand last July. He has pleaded not guilty to the charges.

opinion

**World Views**  
 Karl W. Smith, Bloomberg



**THREE THINGS TRUMP CAN DO TO KEEP ECONOMY HUMMING**

President Donald Trump promised to hit 3 percent growth in 2017 — and the economy just barely made it, according to figures released last week. To keep it going, the administration is going to have to change its approach on the three main issues that will drive future growth: trade, taxes and immigration.

The biggest drag on growth came from changes in international trade, which subtracted \$55 billion from GDP last year. Trump's aggressive trade policy is intended in part to improve economic growth. Despite what you might read on Twitter, however, trade wars are difficult to win.

Some trade actions were matched by counteractions. China's tariffs on U.S. agricultural products, for example, have had a devastating impact on farmers.

But there are two even more powerful negative side effects of the trade war. First, it seems to be exacerbating economic turbulence in China and Europe, where the continent's third-largest economy is already in a recession. As more European nations face a recession and the Chinese economy slows down, consumers on two continents will cut back on purchases of all kinds — including American goods.

A global recession also makes investors more reluctant to start new projects. That compounds the second side effect from the trade war: uncertainty. It's impossible to know how long the trade war will last or which products will be targeted next. In that environment, it makes sense for potential investors to take a wait-and-see approach.

The combination of these two side effects kept investment muted throughout 2018. This is tragic, because the primary goal of the tax reform law of 2017 was to spur business investment. And while it has been quite strong in intangibles such as intellectual property, investment in large physical projects slowed remarkably near the end of the year.

Ideally, a boost to investment will come with a swift end to the trade war. But if that's not in the cards, the administration might consider revisiting that 2017 tax reform.

That law allowed the cost of certain investments to be deducted immediately, which not only encouraged such investment but also reduced business taxes. But the change was temporary and limited — crucially, it doesn't apply to actual physical structures, some of the longest-lived and most important investments in the economy. Democrats and Republicans should work together to make the change broader and permanent. With this single act, Congress could help raise the productivity of the U.S. worker.

Even as Congress works to make Americans more productive, it should also acknowledge that the U.S. is in desperate need for skilled immigrants — especially in technology and health. The relative short supply and resulting high wages for skilled employees is a major contributing factor in the high cost of health care.

That cost is a drag on the rest of the economy, too, making care more expensive for employers and taxpayers. At the same time, it represents an underlying demand that could be a source of growth. The U.S. is also a leader in medical technology, and if the sector had more skilled workers, prices would fall and innovation would rise.

Would the president support such a change in immigration policy? That remains to be seen. But remember that he proposed increasing legal immigration just last month in his State of the Union speech. Democrats should enthusiastically accept his offer.

Admittedly, this blueprint for future growth — end the trade war, extend tax reform and expand legal immigration — may seem unlikely for this administration. Yet most economists would have said the same thing about its goal of achieving 3 percent growth in an economy with already low unemployment. Repeating that performance will be difficult, requiring the administration to stand up to the anti-growth forces within its ranks. But the potential rewards, both political and economic, are worth the effort.

**THE BUZZ KEITH FLINT, SINGER OF ELECTRONIC BAND THE PRODIGY, DIES**

Keith Flint, lead singer of influential British dance-electronic band The Prodigy, was found dead Monday at his home near London, the band said. He was 49. Prodigy co-founder Liam Howlett said in an Instagram post that Flint killed himself over the weekend. "I'm shell shocked [...] confused and heart broken," he wrote. Police confirmed that the body of a 49-year-old man had been found at a home in Brook

Hill, northeast of London. They said the death was being treated as non-suspicious.

Flint was the stage persona of the band, whose 1990s hits "Firestarter" and "Breathe" were an incendiary fusion of techno, breakbeat and acid house music.

Flint was renowned for his manic stage energy and distinctive look: black eyeliner and hair spiked into two horns.



Station	Air quality
Roadside	50-70 Moderate
High Density Residential Area	35-55 Moderate
Ambient	50-70 Moderate

SOURCE: DSI/MG

POPE FRANCIS

**Vatican next year to open archives on wartime Pius XII**



Frances D'Emilio, Vatican City

**DECLARING** that the church "isn't afraid of history," Pope Francis said yesterday he has decided to open up the Vatican archives on World War II-era Pope Pius XII, who has been criticized by Jews of staying silent on the Holocaust.

Francis told officials and personnel of the Vatican Secret Archives that the archive would be open to researchers starting March 2, 2020.

Pius was elected pontiff on March 2, 1939, six months before World War II erupted in Europe. Pius died on Oct. 9, 1958, at the Vatican summer residence at Castel Gandolfo, near Rome.

The Vatican usually waits 70 years after the end of a pontificate to open up the relevant archives. But the Holy See has been under pressure to make the Pius XII documentation available sooner and while Holocaust survivors are still alive.

Vatican archivists had already started preparing the documentation for consultation

back in 2006, at the behest of Francis' German-born predecessor, Benedict XVI.

The Vatican has defended Pius, saying he used behind-the-scenes diplomacy to try to save lives. Francis indicated he, too, embraced that interpretation.

Pius' actions will be scrutinized as part of efforts underway to decide if he should be declared a saint. Francis indicated that the church was confident that the papacy would withstand the findings by historians' studying the archives, saying Pius was "criticized, one can say, with some prejudice and exaggeration."

In Jerusalem, the Yad Vashem Holocaust memorial commended the decision and expressed the expectation that "researchers will be granted full access to all the documents stored in the archives."

It noted that it had for years called for the opening of the archives, saying that will "enable objective and open research as well as comprehensive discourse on issues related to the conduct of the Vatican in particular, and the Catholic church in general, during the Holocaust."

Israel's foreign ministry also expressed hopes that there would be "free access to all relevant archives."

Francis expressed confidence it was the right move.

"The church isn't afraid of history, on the contrary, it loves it, and would like to love it even more, like it loves God," Francis told staff at the archive.

"Thus, with the same trust of my predecessors, I open, and entrust to researchers, this patrimony of documentation."

Francis expressed certainty that historical research would

properly evaluate Pius' legacy "with appropriate criticism."

He said the Pius papacy included "moments of grave difficulties, tormented decisions of human and Christian prudence, that to some could appear as reticence." Instead, he said they could be seen as attempts "to keep lit, in the darkest and cruelest periods, the flame of humanitarian initiatives, of hidden but active diplomacy" aimed at possibly "opening hearts."

Yesterday's announcement followed decades of lobbying by Jewish advocates for access to the documentation to help answer the long-standing question of whether Pius did all he could to save lives during World War II.

In New York, Rabbi Rosen, the international director for interreligious affairs at the American Jewish Committee called Francis' decision "enormously important to Catholic-Jewish relations."

He noted in a statement that he had raised the issue with Francis and his predecessors in meetings.

"It is particularly important that experts from the leading Holocaust memorial institutes in Israel and the United States objectively evaluate as best as possible the historical record of that most terrible of times — to acknowledge both the failures as well as the valiant efforts made during the period of the systematic murder of six million Jews," Rosen said.

Later this week, it said a delegation of the Committee's leadership will be given an audience with the pope at the Vatican. The organization has lobbied for more than 30 years for full access to the archives. AP



In this file photo dated Sept. 1945, Pope Pius XII, wearing the ring of St. Peter, raises his right hand in a papal blessing at the Vatican

**WORLD BRIEFS**



**RUSSIA** President Putin suspended Moscow's participation in a key nuclear arms treaty, following Washington's decision to withdraw from it. Putin's decree means Russia is suspending its obligations under the 1987 Intermediate-Range Nuclear Forces treaty and will continue to do so "until the U.S. ends its violations of the treaty."



**BREXIT** Senior European Union and British officials are set to hold more Brexit talks less than a month before the United Kingdom is scheduled to leave the bloc, as U.K. officials denied yesterday that attempts to seal a divorce deal are deadlocked. EU and U.K. officials said the bloc's chief negotiator, Michel Barnier, will meet U.K. Brexit Secretary Stephen Barclay and Attorney General Geoffrey Cox today.



**UK** The royal family warned yesterday that it will block internet trolls posting offensive messages on its social media channels — and may report offenders to police. Buckingham Palace, Clarence House and Kensington Palace spelled out the policy banning offensive, hateful and racist language.



**HOLLYWOOD** When Steven Spielberg (pictured) speaks about the business of Hollywood, everyone generally listens and few dissent. But reports that he intends to support rule changes that could block Netflix from Oscars-eligibility have provoked a heated, and unwieldy, debate online this weekend. More on p15